



**TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
STAFF REPORT**

**Board Meeting Date: June 1, 2021**

**DATE:** May 18, 2021

**TO:** Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners

**FROM:** August Isernhagen, Division Chief  
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**THROUGH:** Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief  
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**SUBJECT:** Recommend authorizing the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of one (1) F-250 Command Vehicle and three (3) new F-550 Command Tow Vehicles with vendor to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management and Standby Services Agreement with NV Energy for fire suppression and project work. (All Commission Districts) **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

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**SUMMARY:**

Recommend authorizing the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of one (1) F-250 Command Vehicle and three (3) new F-550 Command Tow Vehicles with vendor to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management and Standby Services Agreement with NV Energy for fire suppression and project work

**PREVIOUS ACTION**

April 28, 2020, the Board approved a 3-year contract between the District and NV Energy for the purpose of eliminating fire hazards. This agreement pays the District on a “time and materials basis” for fuels reduction services. The contract includes payment for the annual costs for the first squad of the Fuels Reduction Program and needed equipment. The contract provided that, as additional projects were identified, additional squads and equipment could be added. All the costs associated with completing the work on the NV Energy projects will be paid by NV Energy.

June 16, 2020, the Board approved the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount of \$249,200 for the purchase of 1 Type V Engine, which was needed to perform the hazardous fuels reduction under the contract with NV Energy. The purchase amount is to be reimbursed by NV Energy pursuant to the above-referenced contract

October 6, 2020, the Board accepted a grant in the amount not to exceed \$1.2 million dollars from the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) for the purpose of increasing fire suppression work

in accordance with NRS 474.580 and authorization for Fire Chief to execute necessary documents. The grant will be used to expand the fire suppression work TMFPD performs with NV Energy by increasing personnel and equipment. The equipment and personnel will also be used to assist with TMFPD's firefighting mission

## **BACKGROUND**

Statutory Authority - NRS 474.500 authorizes a District Fire Chief to coordinate fire protection activities within the District. NRS 474.580 requires control and elimination of fire hazards on private property. The District is authorized to remove the hazard and charge the landowner for the performance of that work.

Necessity and Benefits of Fuels Reduction Program - Prior to its consolidation with TMFPD, the Sierra Fire Protection District managed a 20+ person hand crew that conducted fuels management projects and wildfire hand crew work. That program was tremendously successful and operated largely off of grant funds. TMFPD is developing a similar, but more robust, Fuels Reduction Program to address the fire hazards within the wildland-urban interface that surrounds most of the District.

Government - Private Partnership to Reduce Fuel Hazards - In the Fall of 2019, NV Energy began working with the State of Nevada and local government fire agencies to develop a program to reduce the risk of fires related to NV Energy's electrical infrastructure such as removal of vegetation around power poles and within their easements as required by NRS 474.580. A long-term plan was established to identify areas of highest fire risk and prioritize elimination of fire hazards.

During the 80th Special Session, the Nevada Legislature allocated \$5 million in funds for pre-fire suppression work across the State. Subsequently, NV Energy partnered with, and provided \$5 million in matching funds to NDF, creating a fund of \$10 million for pre-fire suppression work. NDF has agreed to provide a grant not to exceed \$1.2 million to TMFPD. The grant will be used to expand the fire suppression work TMFPD performs under the NV Energy contract by increasing personnel and equipment. The equipment and personnel will also be used to assist with TMFPD's firefighting mission.

Request for Authorization for the Payment of Up-Front Expenses for the Purchase of Equipment - The District is seeking authorization for the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of three (3) F-550s/Command/Tow Vehicles and one (1) F-250 Command Vehicle. Thus far, towing of the District owned masticator has been performed by a District owned F-550 from the current fleet. The Crew Boss working for the Fuels Division is also driving a District owned fleet pickup truck not designed for crew oversight jobs or hauling equipment. The District is currently in the process of hiring a second Heavy Equipment Operator to run the newly NV Energy purchased masticator. This totals the three (3) needed F-550s to return committed vehicles to the general fleet. Also before the Board this month is a proposal to add a "Fire Management Officer". This position will provide more overhead to NV Energy Crews on projects and fire responses. NV Energy often stands up numerous fire suppression resources (sometimes seven or eight) funded exclusively by NV Energy. This position augments staffing to maintain oversight of those suppression resources. The addition of the F-250, is to

supply the “FMO” Position with a command vehicle for emergency response and project oversight.

These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management NV Energy program for fire suppression and project work and will be purchased through a bid process or contracted as allowed by NRS 332.195 Joinder of Mutual Use Contracts.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The total estimated cost is not to exceed \$500,000. All costs will be reimbursed through the NV Energy Agreement or NDF subgrant. The District will present a budget augmentation to match expenses to reimbursements to the Board of Fire Commissioners at a future date for a public hearing.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends authorizing the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of one (1) F-250 Command Vehicle and three (3) new F-550 Command Tow Vehicles with vendor to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management and Standby Services Agreement with NV Energy for fire suppression and project work

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a potential motion could read:

*“I move to authorizing the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of one (1) F-250 Command Vehicle and three (3) new F-550 Command Tow Vehicles with vendor to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management and Standby Services Agreement with NV Energy for fire suppression and project work”*