



TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date: November 19, 2019

DATE: October 11, 2019

TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
Phone: (775) 328-6123 Email: cmoore@tmfpd.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a retroactive 3 year contract with Sierra County, California in an amount of \$48,000 per year to provide fire suppression and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) in certain areas as outlined in the attached map; if approved the contract will be effective July 1, 2019 expiring on June 30, 2022, with an automatic renewal provision for an additional three years unless either entity opts out. This agreement is intended to reimburse or cover the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) for the costs it incurs in providing fire services to communities in Sierra County, California, in the area of Verdi and Long Valley. It does not require paramedic transport by TMFPD. (Commission District 5) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve a retroactive 3 year contract with Sierra County, California in an amount of \$48,000 per year to provide fire suppression and EMS in certain areas as outlined in the attached map; if approved the contract will be effective July 1, 2019 expiring on June 30, 2022, with an automatic renewal provision for an additional three years unless either entity opts out.

PREVIOUS ACTION

June 24, 2008, the Board of Fire Directors, Sierra Fire Protection District, approved an agreement between Sierra County, California and the Sierra Fire Protection District and an identical agreement between Sierra County Fire Protection District One and the Sierra Fire Protection District for structure fire and EMS response.

January 16, 2018 the Board of Fire Commissioners discussed the cost methodology provided by staff and recommended that staff review and increase the cost proposal presented.

October 16, 2018, the Board of Fire Commissioners directed staff to negotiate an agreement for Protection Services with Sierra County to include fair compensation to the District.

BACKGROUND

An agreement ratified in 2008 for services to Sierra County, California requires updating. The fee for services under that agreement totaled approximately \$16,000 for portions of Verdi that extend into California and portions of Sierra County, California northwest of Cold Springs. These areas can only be practically served by TMFPD.

Staff has met with officials in Sierra County, California requesting that a new fee and updated contract be established for emergency services to include structural fire suppression and emergency medical service (excluding wildland fire protection and paramedic transport/ambulance services) to the California portion of Verdi and north of Cold Springs. Sierra County has acted to establish a zone for special assessments to collect funds to pass through to the District for services.

Sierra County, California is willing to apply a special assessment to the developed parcels located in the Verdi area and requests a methodology. This special assessment would be passed through to the District for fire and EMS services. The District has met with officials in Sierra County, California regarding a new agreement and discussed formulas for a new fee for the special assessment. Staff believes a new fee that is approximately equivalent to the amount of tax for TM residents based on square footage of parcel improvements would be an appropriate metric for the reason that it is rational; it can be calculated easily and adjusted from time to time.

The original recommendation was based on the average cost per square foot of tax assessed to the Washoe County, Nevada residents of Verdi and Cold Springs and applied to the square footage of taxable parcels within the area of Sierra County requesting the District's services with an additional amount to cover capital costs.

Based on recommendations from the Board, and discussions with the officials in Sierra County, regarding the anticipated cost increase for California, staff recommends an increase to \$48,000 annually for services. This is based on the original review of value and quantity of structures within the area of service plus increased costs for capital and administration.

FISCAL IMPACT

Based on the square footage of structures within the area of Sierra County, California requesting services and the average assessment applied to Washoe County Residents within the same area, the District estimates the fee (via a special assessment approved by Sierra County) would total an estimated \$48,000 annually, an increase of over 300% of current fees.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve a retroactive 3 year contract with Sierra County, California in an amount of \$48,000 per year to provide fire suppression and EMS in certain areas as outlined in the attached map; if approved the contract will be effective July 1, 2019 expiring on June 30, 2022, with an automatic renewal provision for an additional three years unless either entity opts out.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion could be:

"I move to approve a retroactive 3 year contract with Sierra County, California in an amount of \$48,000 per year to provide fire suppression and EMS in certain areas as outlined in the attached map; if approved the contract will be effective July 1, 2019 expiring on June 30, 2022, with an automatic renewal provision for an additional three years unless either entity opts out."