



TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date: April 6, 2021

DATE: March 15, 2021

TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Alex Kukulus, Deputy Fire Chief
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THROUGH: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
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SUBJECT: Presentation and recommendation to continue dispatch agreement with the Washoe County into 2021 and direct staff to explore less costly and/or more efficient alternatives to be presented to the Board at a later date. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Presentation and recommendation to continue dispatch agreement with the Washoe County into 2021 and direct staff to explore less costly and/or more efficient alternatives to be presented to the Board at a later date.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

In 2012, the District entered into an agreement with Washoe County for dispatch services. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office currently manages the dispatch center (PSAP-Public Safety Answering Point) for all 911 calls in unincorporated Washoe County. TMFPD currently receives one full-time staffed dispatch console and channel as part of this arrangement. In February 2021, Washoe County began managing its own call-taking services for 911 calls, which were previously answered by City of Reno dispatch staff and entered into CAD for Washoe County. Because Washoe County had historically conducted Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) functions on all 911 calls received by the center, it was proposed that this practice would continue. However, REMSA had previously conducted EMD services on those calls that were answered by City of Reno call-takers. This change caused some concerns with REMSA and required further analysis before full implementation. Proposed alternatives and resolutions could include alternative dispatch arrangements for TMFPD.

In addition to recent changes with Washoe County PSAP practices, TMFPD was presented with a revised contract for continued dispatch services with Washoe County. In FY 20/21 TMFPD

will pay Washoe County \$875,000 for dispatch services. The revised contract proposed to take effect on July 1, 2021 would increase that fee to \$1,312,492.95. This is an increase of \$437,492.95, or a 50% increase. Part of the increase in costs is due to the newly transferred call-taking functions that Washoe County has assumed from the City of Reno. These costs were previously part of an exchange between Reno and Washoe County for crime lab services and call-taking services.

The proposed increase in dispatch service costs to TMFPD would be significant. TMFPD staff has been exploring alternatives that could address the challenges of EMD with REMSA, and that also create efficiencies, enhance service delivery, and reduce costs. These concepts require further analysis and additional detail prior to making any recommendation. Additional alternatives that are identified may be considered.

TMFPD has discussed its concerns with WCSO staff and WCSO is willing to continue its current dispatch services beyond July 1, 2021 while alternatives are explored. Details of any extension will also be brought back to the Board.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Presentation and recommendation to continue dispatch agreement with the Washoe County into 2021 and direct staff to explore less costly and/or more efficient alternatives to be presented to the Board at a later date.

POSSIBLE MOTION

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

"I move to accept the presentation and recommendation to continue dispatch agreement with the Washoe County into 2021 and direct staff to explore less costly and/or more efficient alternatives to be presented to the Board at a later date."