



**TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT**

Board Meeting Date: June 1, 2021

DATE: May 6, 2021
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 and create two separate contract funded positions as of July 1, 2021 to include one newly created job classification and salary range for a Fire Management Officer at \$91,852.80 - \$119,600.00 with Regular Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System with Regular NV PERS categorization and one additional Heavy Equipment Operator Position with a range of \$55,806.40 - \$72,113.60 with Regular NV PERS categorization. (All Commission Districts)
FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve and create two separate contract funded positions as of July 1, 2021 to include one newly created job classification and salary range for a Fire Management Officer at \$91,852.80 - \$119,600.00 with Regular Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System with Regular NV PERS categorization and one additional Heavy Equipment Operator Position with a range of \$55,806.40 - \$72,113.60 with Regular NV PERS categorization.

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.

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 authorized the 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

The Fire Management Officer position coordinates fire response both internal to TMFPD and external to NV Energy-funded resource response to TMFPD and local cooperator fires. This equates to additional oversight and suppression resources on TMFPD fires. The secondary duty is to teach intermediate and advanced ICS and wildland training for TMFPD that will also be open to our cooperators. Third, he/she will aid with project planning and oversight, and the movement of NV Energy funded crews (this week and next there is a Lincoln County Crew and masticator doing work within TMFPD jurisdiction free of charge to the district). Lastly, this position will help with the administrative workload of the new program within TMFPD.

TMFPD has one Heavy Equipment Operator and with the upcoming purchase of the NV Energy skid steer and masticator, TMFPD will have the equipment to support, and the need for, two Heavy Equipment Operators in the field most days. This position will ensure both masticators can be used on most days without removing personnel from the Crew (who are already doing hand, saw, and chipper work). The position of Heavy Equipment Operator also requires a Class A Commercial Driver's License and will help drive chip trucks and haul the dozers when needed.

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.

In April of 2020, the District entered into a 3-year contract between the District and NV Energy is for the purpose of implementing the above-referenced plan by eliminating fire hazards using the hand crews of the District's Fuels Reduction Program. The contract included payment for the annual costs of the first fuels management squad and equipment. The contract contemplated that, as additional projects were identified, additional squads and equipment could be added. All costs associated with personnel and equipment completing the work on NV Energy projects will be paid by NV Energy.

FISCAL IMPACT

The annual estimated Fiscal Year 2021-22 cost, including benefits, is \$268,000. The total increase for the two personnel will not exceed \$600,000 for the next two years of the contract cycle (July 2021-June 2023) and will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management NV Energy program for fire suppression and project work. 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. In the event that the positions perform duties outside of the NV Energy program, any direct District costs will remain within the adopted FY21/22 budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve and create two separate contract funded positions as of July 1, 2021 to include one newly created job classification and salary range for a Fire Management Officer at \$91,852.80 - \$119,600.00 with Regular Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System with

Regular NV PERS categorization and one additional Heavy Equipment Operator Position with a range of \$55,806.40 - \$72,113.60 with Regular NV PERS categorization.

POSSIBLE MOTION

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

"I move to approve and create two separate contract funded positions as of July 1, 2021 to include one newly created job classification and salary range for a Fire Management Officer at \$91,852.80 - \$119,600.00 with Regular Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System with Regular NV PERS categorization and one additional Heavy Equipment Operator Position with a range of \$55,806.40 - \$72,113.60 with Regular NV PERS categorization."