



TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date: September 7, 2021

DATE: August 2, 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: Recommendation to create 12 additional Firefighter/Paramedic positions which can be permanently underfilled as a Firefighter/EMT, if necessary, to allow for ambulance staffing and to approve a restructured Firefighter/Paramedic District Staffing Plan for 63 Firefighter/Paramedic positions, which includes 3 existing grant-funded positions, 48 existing Firefighter/Paramedic positions and 12 new “flexibly staffed” Firefighter/Paramedic/EMT positions. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to create 12 additional Firefighter/Paramedic positions which can be permanently underfilled as a Firefighter/EMT, if necessary, to allow for ambulance staffing and to approve a restructured Firefighter/Paramedic District Staffing Plan for 63 Firefighter/Paramedic positions, which includes 3 existing grant-funded positions, 48 existing Firefighter/Paramedic positions and 12 new “flexibly staffed” Firefighter/Paramedic/EMT positions.

PREVIOUS ACTION

February 26, 2013, the Board approved increasing the District service level from ILS to ALS.

January 25, 2021, the Board approved a staffing plan which included 51 Firefighter/Paramedic positions to include 3 grant-funded positions and 5 over hire positions.

BACKGROUND

Statutory Authority: NRS 474.470 authorizes the Board to organize the department and provide for payment of salaries of personnel. NRS 474.500 authorizes a district fire chief to hire employees upon Board authorization and coordinate fire protection activities within the District.

This item is conditional upon the Board approving the earlier agenda item related to TMFPD entering into a long-term agreement with REMSA to provide ambulance transport in certain portions of the District. Each ambulance requires a total of 6 new full-time employees to adequately staff each unit (2 per shift x 3 shifts = 6 total). Staff is recommending that the District begin staffing 1 ambulance in Sun

Valley (District 45) and 1 ambulance in Spanish Springs (District 46), requiring a total of 12 additional employees. Staff has already been staffing the Sun Valley ambulance since December 2020 with existing personnel. The District's overtime budget has been used to absorb those additional staffing costs for the past 9 months. If approved, revenues from ambulance transport fees will be generated to offset the personnel costs going forward.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated annual cost for 12 new positions is \$1.6 million increasing annual by approximately 9%. The Fiscal Year 2021-22 estimated cost \$1.2 million. The annual cost is expected to be fully recovered through ambulance billings and Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Funds. However, most of these cost reimbursements are recovered up to one year in arrears. Therefore, the District must fund the first year with other resources. Subsequent years will be covered with billings and GEMT funds. If approved, the District will, at a subsequent date, request that the BOFC approve a resolution to create a new ambulance fund.

The District has determined the following funding options for Fiscal Year 2021-22:

The District has applied for a subrecipient grant through the American Rescue Plan from Washoe County to cover the first year of costs.

If the District is denied their grant application, the District may use current General Fund cash balance to transfer funds to the new Ambulance Fund. Transfers out are exempt from NRS budget violation reporting. The transfer may decrease ending fund balance lower than budgeted Fiscal Year 2021-22 ending fund balance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board authorize the creation of 12 additional Firefighter/Paramedic positions which can be permanently underfilled as a Firefighter/EMT, if necessary, to allow for ambulance staffing and to approve a restructured Firefighter/Paramedic District Staffing Plan for 63 Firefighter/Paramedic positions, which includes 3 existing grant-funded positions, 48 existing Firefighter/Paramedic positions and 12 new "flexibly staffed" Firefighter/Paramedic/EMT positions.

POSSIBLE MOTION

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

"I move to approve 12 additional Firefighter/Paramedic positions which can be permanently underfilled as a Firefighter/EMT, if necessary, to allow for ambulance staffing and to approve a restructured Firefighter/Paramedic District Staffing Plan for 63 Firefighter/Paramedic positions, which includes 3 existing grant-funded positions, 48 existing Firefighter/Paramedic positions and 12 new "flexibly staffed" Firefighter/Paramedic/EMT positions."