



Fire Department COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- KUYLER CROCKER
District One
- PETE VANDER POEL
District Two
- AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three
- EDDIE VALERO
District Four
- DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: October 15, 2019

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Chief Norman PHONE: (559) 802-9801

SUBJECT: Extra Help Firefighter Program Presentation

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:
Receive a presentation regarding the Extra Help Firefighter Program

SUMMARY:

The Extra Help (Volunteer) Firefighter Program has been in existence in Tulare County since the early formation of County Government services. Until recently, most Volunteer Firefighters performed their duties during a time when community service and volunteerism were high and people joined the program to help within their community. Extra Help Firefighters, previously called "paid on-call firefighters", have always been an essential component of the fire department as they are utilized to supplement full-time staffed fire stations to provide assistance with fire suppression and prevention duties. Over the past ten years, volunteerism has greatly declined as more people have financial stresses and require a full-time job. At present, County Fire is facing challenges with recruitment and retention of Extra Help Firefighters, mainly due to positions being temporary, having unstable schedules, and lack of applicants at remote station locations.

Prior to 2000, the Extra Help Firefighter program training standards were regulated by the employer rather than state law or national standards, and extra help firefighters only required eight hours of initial training. In 2000, mandated training hours increased to 16 hours and currently, the total training required is now 148 hours in order to be in compliance with national standards. Additional training requires completion of a linear academy, use of live fire training props, and various courses to meet certification requirements. Extra Help Firefighters must also

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maintain consistent monthly training and fire drills as required by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The department also offers and encourages advanced training options for Extra Help Firefighters.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

Annually, the County Fire hires about 100 to 150 Extra Help Firefighters to assist with various programs, suppression and prevention duties. One Extra Help Firefighter costs the department approximately \$8,000, including hiring requirements; background, physical/medical testing, academy training, personal protective gear, uniforms, instructor and staff time. On average, the fire department spends roughly \$600,000 annually to hire Extra Help Firefighters for enhanced service delivery.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The Extra Help Firefighter Program has always been an essential component of the fire department. The Program is linked to the Organizational Performance Initiative of the Tulare County Strategic Business Plan which promotes continuous organizational structure to improve service delivery.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Charlie Norman
Fire Chief

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) None

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF EXTRA HELP
FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

)
) Resolution No. _____
)
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

Received a presentation regarding the Extra Help Firefighter Program.