

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
SUBJECT: SHARED FIRE SERVICES DISCUSSION UPDATE

STAFF PRESENTER: MARK MCCORMICK, FIRE CHIEF  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

AGENDA ACTION: NONE

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ISSUE(S)

Fire Department Staff will provide an update regarding the Shared Fire Services discussions between the City and Central Fire Representatives



COUNCIL GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Goal 2: Promote a City Organization that is Sustainable and Maintains Employee Morale, Productivity, and Effectiveness

Goal 6: Committed to Making Santa Rosa a Community Where People Feel Safe to Live, Work, and Play

BACKGROUND

January 2012, Fire representatives from the City and Central Fire (Rincon Valley and Windsor Fire Protection Districts) began discussions to look at additional opportunities to share services to provide operational efficiencies. Central Fire and Santa Rosa currently share services through an automatic aid response agreement providing for the response by the closest available resource rather than by agency. We also share services for our fire station equipment and mail delivery service.

In July 2012, Council approved a policy authorizing the City Manager to explore and pursue sharing services between local government agencies in Sonoma County.

Committee's were formed to identify opportunities and review options to share services between the fire agencies. Key areas included the sharing of a second Battalion to provide management oversight of day to day operations of fire crews. Fire Prevention and Fire Training were also reviewed for efficiencies.

Representatives agreed that an independent consultant review was needed to review the information and to identify the feasibility of the different options. A Facilitator met with management and labor stake holders to obtain input for the scope of service for the consultant.

## ANALYSIS

1. Staff has received input from management and labor stakeholders regarding engaging a consultant to study shared fire services between the agencies.
2. The proposed Consultant Scope of Services would include:
  - a. Determine the need, examine configurations and recommend options for a second Fire Battalion to serve the agencies.
  - b. Assess and evaluate the current boundary-drop sharing of services among the three agencies in regard to impacts and added cost to each agency. Identify equity gaps with recommendations for obtaining equity with current agreements.
  - c. Review feasibility and options for Rincon Valley and/or Windsor Fire Protection Districts to contract for services with Santa Rosa.
  - d. Identify additional opportunities for shared services and a recommendation for equitable sharing to include:
    - i. Training
    - ii. Shared Radio and Vehicle Maintenance
    - iii. Shared Administration
    - iv. Fire Prevention – including CUPA
    - v. Common policies and procedures
    - vi. Full Zone 7 “Department” (include considerations regarding Bennett Valley FPD & Mountain VFC)
    - vii. Analyze capital outlay needs of agencies
    - viii. Identify related interests that the Town of Windsor may have
    - ix. Identify any unique services that should be preserved
  - e. Review the fiscal stability of the agencies towards the goal of preserving any shared services we implement.
  - f. Review the replacement funding needs for Capital Assets taking into consideration future service sharing options.

3. Central Fire will issue the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the consultant. It is proposed that the City participate in the funding of the study. The City will enter into a funding agreement with Central Fire to fund the fair share percent of the study. The total study cost is estimated at \$45,000 based on similar studies in other jurisdictions. Actual cost proposals will be provided in response to the RFP. The projected funding is available within the Fire Department budget and is within the City Managers signature authority.

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Attachments: None