



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Jason Simpson, City Manager

Prepared by: Shannon Buckley, Assistant City Manager

Date: May 23, 2023

Subject: Cooperative Agreement to Provide Fire Protection, Fire Prevention, Rescue, and Medical Emergency Services for the City of Lake Elsinore

Recommendation

Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the County of Riverside to provide Fire Protection, Fire Prevention, Rescue, and Medical Emergency Services for the City of Lake Elsinore through June 30, 2026, subject to County Counsel approval.

Background

The City contracts with the County with a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide fire services. The contract provides the City with three fire stations, thirty-two full-time fire personnel, firefighting, and suppression apparatus, three full-time fire prevention personnel, one full-time administrative assistant personnel (to be cost-shared with the City of Menifee), and participation in the regional fire protection system.

On May 25, 2021, the City Council approved a Cooperative Agreement to Provide Fire Protection, Fire Prevention, Rescue, and Medical Emergency Services for the City of Lake Elsinore (Fiscal Year 2020/21 Through 2022/23).

The Cooperative Agreement provided the City of Lake Elsinore with a full range of fire protection, fire prevention, rescue, fire marshal, and medical emergency services. In addition to these citywide services' general terms and conditions, the Cooperative Agreement also committed the County to contribute toward staffing Station #97.

Discussion

The City has contracted with the County of Riverside for fire services. The existing cooperative Agreement expires on June 30, 2023. The term of the proposed Agreement will be from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026, and it will increase contracted services from the existing Agreement by adding an administrative assistant that will be cost-shared with the City of Menifee. The City of Menifee will pay 60%, and the City of Lake Elsinore will pay 40% of the salaries and benefits.

The Public Safety Subcommittee has proposed a new Quint at the Lake Elsinore Fire Station 97 to replace the existing Quint, approaching its life cycle of 15 years of service or 120,000 miles, whichever comes first. Quint #97 was placed in service in 2014 and has approximately 107,500 miles. The current build-out time for a new fire truck is approximately three years. When the Quint Fire Truck was placed in service, the County agreed to fund three Fire Captain positions. The City will fund three Engineers, three Firefighters IIs, and three Medic Firefighter IIs.

The new vehicle will cost approximately \$1,900,000, funded through Measure Z. Measure Z was approved by Lake Elsinore voters in November 2020 and became effective on April 1, 2021. It established a 1 percent transaction tax on the gross receipts of any retailer from the sale of tangible property sold within the city limits.

The Cooperative Agreement provides the County, through its Cooperative Fire Programs with Cal Fire, to provide the City of Lake Elsinore, with a full range of fire protection, fire prevention, rescue, fire marshal, and medical emergency services.

Formalization of this Agreement is required every two to five years to renew the required contract appropriately. The County has provided the City with a schedule of contract staffing costs (Exhibit "A") to the Fire Protection Agreement for City Council approval, which reflects the estimated service costs for the Fiscal Year 2023/24 through the Fiscal Year 2025/26.

Fiscal Impact

This Agreement costs approximately \$10,573,885 for fiscal year 2023/2024 (adjusts annually); however, the cost is offset by a fire tax credit of approximately \$4,215,482 for fiscal year 2023/2024 (adjust annually). The sources of revenue for the fire tax credit are property taxes on parcels within the City and revenues paid through Redevelopment Pass-Through agreements. While Redevelopment has been dissolved in California, the State continues to permit implementation of pre-existing Redevelopment Pass-Through agreements, and the revenue will fund this service.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Cooperative Agreement
Exhibit A – CalFire Cost Estimate
Exhibit B – Additional Terms
Exhibit C – Fire Engine Use Agreement
Exhibit D – Office of the Fire Marshall Agreement