

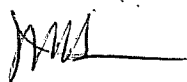


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Fire
Department No.: 031
For Agenda Of: 3/13/07
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 3/20/07
15-20 min
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department John M. Scherrei, Fire Chief x5507 
Director(s)
Contact Info: John M. Scherrei, Fire Chief x5507
SUBJECT: Consolidation of Fire Services between Santa Barbara County and City of Solvang

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- A) Receive a report on a consolidation of fire services with the City of Solvang.
- B) Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the City of Solvang regarding the consolidation.
- C) Adopt the Personnel Resolution adding 3 (three) Fire Captain Staff/Shift positions (3530/3531), 3 (three) Fire Engineer/Inspector Staff/Shift positions (3545/3546), and 3 (three) Firefighter Trainee/ Staff/Shift positions (3574/3575/3576) effective March 26, 2007.
- D) Direct County Fire in cooperation with the City of Solvang to initiate the application to LAFCO for the annexation of Solvang into the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District.

Summary Text:

The 2002 Fire Critical Needs Assessment Board Report identified areas within the Santa Ynez Valley where fire response standards and fire response performance measures could not be met. The distance between staffed fire stations was too great. However, responding from the station located at the City of Solvang would improve both arrival times of first responders in the central Santa Ynez Valley and allow a greater number of first responders to arrive on-scene.

Recently, the City of Solvang approached County Fire and asked for assistance in order to staff the Solvang fire station 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. This consolidation would replace the on-call paid volunteers with full-time County staff including a Captain, an Engineer/Inspector and a Firefighter on duty 24 hours a day in Solvang. This would result in a total of 9 positions (three positions x 3 shifts) to achieve 24 hour coverage 7 days per week.

Solvang and County Fire have negotiated an agreement that includes cost-sharing, facility usage, code enforcement, apparatus and equipment transfers, a transition plan for Solvang staff and a plan to add Solvang into the Santa Barbara County Fire District for long term inclusion.

Background: The City of Solvang currently operates with paid on-call firefighters, a paid fire chief and a paid fire captain. The 2006-07 budget is \$665,000. When a request for emergency assistance occurs, generally the paid call firefighters respond from locations other than the fire station. The City of Solvang recognized the need and benefits of 24/7 coverage directly from the fire station and has been working with County Fire to craft a mutually beneficial agreement. Under this agreement, County Fire will lease the station from Solvang (located at 1644 Oak Street in downtown Solvang) for a cost of \$1.00 per year and respond from within the City of Solvang. The current Solvang fire chief will serve as an inspector for the County. The Solvang fire captain and three other firefighters will enter County Fire's training academy beginning on March 26, 2007.

For a period of 12 weeks (during the time of the training academy in 2007) County Fire and Solvang will pay for 24/7 temporary staffing of the Station 30 with County firefighters in order to cover emergencies during the training period. This will cost approximately \$510,000. The cost is included in the MOU and borne by the County Fire District and City of Solvang. This amount was included in the Fire Department's Five Year Forecast received by the Board on February 27, 2007

Beginning fiscal year 2007-08 the MOU has a provision to staff Station 30 with a County Fire Captain, Engineer and Firefighter 24/7. This is referred to as 3 post positions. The cost estimate for fiscal year 2007-08 to staff, maintain and operate the fire station is \$1,800,000. Under this provision, Solvang will contribute approximately 1/3 of the cost. Both the City of Solvang and the County Fire Department will apply to LAFCO prior to July 1, 2007 for inclusion of the City of Solvang in the County Fire District. Once Solvang is part of the County Fire District, the City will no longer make direct payments to County fire for the 1/3 cost share. However, the incorporation of Solvang into the District should result in a stable funding source to pay for this consolidation.

The fire apparatus used currently by Solvang will be absorbed into the County fleet. County Fire will also receive \$105,000 of the existing Solvang apparatus replacement fund. Future on-going apparatus replacement funding has been included in the MOU.

Upon approval, both the citizens of Solvang and the surrounding unincorporated area will enjoy quicker response times for emergency responses. County Fire will be able to meet response standards both in the City and in the surrounding unincorporated area, and firefighter safety will be enhanced because more firefighters will be able to arrive on-scene sooner. In order to accomplish the staffing, 9 positions (FTEs) will be added to County Fire without any additional cost to the general fund

Performance Measure:

1. Arrive on scene at 90% of an estimated 10,000 requests for emergency services within 5 minutes.
2. Control/Contain 90% of 250 structure and wildland fires with a first alarm assignment.
3. Confine 80% of an estimated 60 structure fires to the room of origin.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
City of Solvang	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	
Fire District	\$ 340,000.00	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 160,000.00
Total	\$ 510,000.00	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ 160,000.00

Narrative:

County Fire will absorb a portion of the FY 06/07 costs within its existing budget. A budget revision will be submitted to appropriate additional expenditures and recognize unanticipated revenues for FY 06/07, associated with the period 3/26/07 – 6/30/07.

The firefighters will be housed at Station 30 in Solvang which is being leased by the County from the City of Solvang for the sum of \$1 per year. It is anticipated that building modifications will be completed within the first year of the agreement at an approximate cost of \$160, 000.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

9

FTEs:

9

Special Instructions:

Please send copy of the signed MOU and a certified copy of the minute order to Fire Dept.,
attn. Rose Pueschel

Attachments:

1. MOU with Exhibits A, B. and C
2. HR Resolution adjusting staffing

Authored by:

John Scherrei

cc:

City of Solvang Council Members
Bob Braitman, Executive Director, LAFCO
Joe Holland, Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
Bob Geis, Auditor-Controller
Ray Aromatorio, Risk- Management