



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  
**Department No.:** 031  
**For Agenda Of:** May 12, 2020  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Mark Hartwig, Fire Chief, 805-681-5500  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Shawna Jorgensen, Chief Financial Officer, 805-681-5506  
Woody Enos, Deputy Fire Chief, 805-681-4202

**SUBJECT:** Fire Protection District Sikorsky HH-60L 964 Donation, Acceptance of Cash Donation Greater than \$10,000

---

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Fire Department to accept a cash donation of \$1,151,500, from Direct Relief International, a non-profit organization; and
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request #BJE-0006816 (Attachment A); and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are the creation of a governmental funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The recommended action by the Board of Supervisors to accept the referenced cash donation is in accordance with California Government Code Section 25355, and Policies & Procedures for the Acceptance of Donations and Gifts to the County. The Fire Protection District received a generous

donation from Direct Relief International (DRI) in the amount of \$1,151,500. The donation funds will be used to offset the budgeted capital improvement costs for the Sikorsky HH-60L Firehawk. The scope of work includes de-modification of military-specific equipment, major airframe maintenance, mission-specific airframe modifications, replacing avionic equipment, and painting the aircraft.

**Background:**

In December 2018, the County Board of Supervisors authorized the Fire Protection District to procure a used Sikorsky HH-60L Firehawk, to increase the Fire Protection District’s effectiveness in limiting the spread of wildland fires, provide rescue and medical transport to the most critical and otherwise inaccessible victims, and provide a greater safety margin for the employees who work via this platform. In addition to the multi-mission capabilities, the Firehawk has superior lifting capacity and can fly almost 50 percent faster than current County Aviation Unit helicopters.

On March 28, 2019, Direct Relief hosted a fundraiser in support to assist with the overall funding of the capital improvement costs associated with the Firehawk. Direct Relief’s dedicated efforts resulted in raising a total donation of \$623,900 to be used for the Firehawk retrofit. In February 2020, Direct Relief received three additional donations to support the Firehawk helicopter project, totaling \$527,600, of which \$500,000 was awarded from the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation, \$25,000 was awarded from The Towbes Foundation, and \$2,600 awarded from other various donations.

In addition to the receipt of \$1,151,500 in donations, the Fire Protection District is requesting to increase the FY 2019-20 budgeted capital amount for the Firehawk from \$1,110,000 to \$1,861,500. When the Firehawk was acquired, it underwent a thorough inspection along with maintenance work, as is required for all non-military helicopters to be declared airworthy. During the inspection and maintenance work, additional replacement parts, modifications, and associated tax on materials were required that exceeded the capital amount budgeted for the current fiscal year by \$751,100.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Line Item	FY 19/20 Adopted Budget	Requested Budget Revision	Total with Budget Revision
<b>Sources:</b>			
Donations	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 751,500.00	\$ 1,151,500.00
<b>Uses:</b>			
Capital	\$ 1,110,000.00	\$ 751,500.00	\$ 1,861,500.00

**Narrative:**

In FY 2019-20, the District budgeted \$400,000 in anticipated donations specifically related to the Firehawk and the remaining funding needs in budgeted draws of Allocated Capital Outlay Fund Balance. However, once the donation materialized, it exceeded the estimated donation budget by \$751,500. As such, the referenced donation will be a \$1,151,500 increase in one-time appropriations of Miscellaneous Revenue-Capital Donations.

In addition to the receipt of these donations, the Fire Protection District is requesting to increase the FY 2019-20 budgeted capital amount by \$751,500 to fund additional replacement parts, modifications, necessary change orders, and associated tax on materials that is in excess of the current year budget. The associated Budget Revision is attached.

In December of 2018, the Fire Protection District estimated the total cost of the Blackhawk conversion to a mission-ready Firehawk to be \$3,232,850. The updated total cost has increased by \$430,000. This is primarily due to change orders, mechanic and pilot training performed by Arista, and Sales and Use Tax. The Fire Protection District will return to the Board to request an amendment to the Agreement for Services between the County of Santa Barbara and Arista Aviation Services, LLC (BC 19-282), for the additional items within the scope of work that are required to complete the Firehawk project.

**Special Instructions:**

Please provide a certified copy of the minute order to Shawna Jorgensen, Fire Protection District

**Attachments:**

- A. Budget Revision Request #BJE-0006816

**Authored by:**

Shawna Jorgensen, Chief Financial Officer, Santa Barbara County Fire Department

**cc:**

Rob Heckman, Deputy Chief of Administration  
Woody Enos, Deputy Chief of Operations  
Anthony Stornetta, Air & Wildland Battalion Chief