



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:** Santa Barbara County  
Fire Department  
**Department No.:** 031  
**For Agenda Of:** April 15, 2014  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Michael W. Dyer, Fire Chief (805) 681-5507  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Eric Peterson, Deputy Fire Chief (805) 681-5554

**SUBJECT:** **Donation of \$75,000 Worth of Equipment for the Fire Department Arson Dog Program**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: No

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the Fire Department to accept a donation of approximately \$75,000 worth of equipment from the Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance (SBFA) for the Arson Dog Program.

**Summary Text:**

The SBFA has presented to the Fire Department a 2014 Black Chevrolet Suburban to be used for the transport of the Department's arson dog and its specialized equipment (cabinets/crate, temperature detection control system, lights and radio etc.). Because the canine unit is highly specialized and unique, a vehicle dedicated to the arson portion of the Department's Inspection/Investigations Section makes for a smoother and more efficient transport as needed when responding to arson investigations. It is anticipated that this vehicle will last 10 years.

The Fire Department has also received commitments from various community members and contributors to provide donations for items such as veterinary services and food, and the Department anticipates that additional ongoing services and supplies costs will be funded through donations.

**Background:**

The SBFA is a California Non-Profit Benefit Corporation organized for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Over the years, the County Fire Department has received many valuable equipment donations from the SBFA which has enhanced the Department's ability to provide emergency response, prevention and public education services to the community.

In 2013, the Department received a State Farm Arson Dog Program scholarship. State Farm has been a sponsor of this program since 1993 and works in conjunction with Maine Specialty Dogs and the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to train ten canines and handlers per year. Over 300 teams have been placed in departments and law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and Canada.

The recent vehicle donation from the SBFA and future donations of goods and services from local community members and organizations will help the Fire Department to sustain this valuable tool as we strive to reduce costly and deadly arson fires in our community.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The donated vehicle has an estimated value of \$50,000. Additional equipment for the dog and the vehicle will be donated at a value of approximately \$25,000. Ongoing services and supplies costs are anticipated to be approximately \$13,000 annually and donations are expected to offset these costs. This includes items such as veterinary services, evidence supplies, training aids, training/travel costs for annual certification, fuel and maintenance for the vehicle.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions: 0**

**FTEs: 0**

**Special Instructions:**

Please send a certified copy of the minute order to the following:

Linda Khachek, Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Purchasing Agent

Auditor-Controller

**Attachments:**

**Authored by:**

Eric Peterson, Deputy Fire Chief

**cc:**