



February 20, 2025

**TO:** Emergency Services Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Ron Munds, General Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 4 – 02/20/2025 Emergency Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) Meeting**  
Update on the County/ Cal Fire Contract Negotiations/Emergency Services Strategic Plan.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

*Informational only.*

**DISCUSSION**

During the Cal Fire billing audit process, County Fire indicated that they wanted to review and re-negotiate the emergency services contract with the District. Also, during this period, Cal Fire's labor agreement with their firefighter's union was approved and included salary and benefit increases, as well as decreasing their work week from 72 hours to 66 hours. These two factors are going to significantly increase the costs for the District for fire service.

**Probable Contract Changes**

At this time, it is still too early to fully understand what changes the County will be asking for. The initial indication is for the District to pay a portion of the cost of a Battalion Chief and pay incident dispatch fees.

Currently, the Battalion Chief is paid for by the State and, in the original agreement, was a "trade" for Station 15's responses to Montana de Oro State Park. Dispatch fees have been provided at no charge since the contract was signed in 2004. There is no clear documentation on the reason why this was included at no charge.

It is estimated that the additional cost for a portion of the Battalion Chief salary and dispatch services would be approximately \$180,000 to \$200,000 a year. There may be other components the County may want added to the contract, but this is unknown at this time.

**"Schedule A" Staffing Costs Changes**

The Cal Fire staffing costs are rising significantly due to a combination of cost-of-living, benefit adjustments, and the decrease in work week hours. This change will require additional staff and overtime charges to maintain the staffing level coverage required for safe operations.

The impact to this fiscal year's budget for staffing is \$274,366.00 with an additional \$9,416.00 adjustment in the vehicle maintenance budget. The total increase is \$283,782.00. The estimated cost for next fiscal year's staffing cost will increase by another \$332,735.00 over the amount for this fiscal year. The combined increase for the two years is \$616,517.00. This does not include the probable contract changes discussed above.

**Emergency Services Strategic Plan (ESSP)**

The committee received a report on the progress of developing the ESSP at the November ESAC meeting. It was noted at that time that to complete the plan, staff needed financial information from Cal Fire to finish the fiscal information. Since the contract and cost information is still in flux, staff have not been able to move forward to completing the plan. Hopefully, by the next ESAC meeting, the plan will be ready for review.