



TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SIERRA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date: September 21, 2015

CM/ACM ____
Finance ____
Legal ____
Risk Mgt. ____
HR ____

DATE: September 14, 2015

TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners
Sierra Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
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SUBJECT: Presentation, discussion and possible approval of an Automatic Aid Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the City of Reno Fire Department (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

This item is a presentation, discussion and possible approval of a Cooperative Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Sierra Fire Protection District and City of Reno for automatic and mutual aid.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: *Safe, secure and healthy communities*

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 12, 2012, the Fire Board approved a Cooperative Agreement to include Automatic Aid terms, with the City of Sparks, set to expire in June 2017.

On August 28, 2012, the Fire Board approved a Cooperative Agreement to include Automatic Aid terms, with North Lake Tahoe, set to expire in June 2017.

On March 24, 2015 the Board of Fire Commissioners heard a supplemental report of the Blue Ribbon Committee for Regional Fire Service, presented by the Blue Ribbon Committee Chair, Sarah Chvilicek. The findings of the Blue Ribbon Committee were recapped including the Committee's recommendation for automatic aid.

On May 26, 2015 during a concurrent meeting of the City of Reno, Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the TMFPD/SFPD Board of Fire Commissioners, the Fire Commissioners discussed and requested further information regarding processes to develop an automatic aid agreement including major components of automatic aid, cost, geographic areas and a timeline for implementation.

On June 15, 2015 during a concurrent meeting of the City of Reno and Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the TMFPD/SFPD Board of Fire Commissioners, the Fire Commissioners directed staff to begin work to develop components of an Automatic Aid Agreement.

BACKGROUND

The Nevada State Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 185 that amends Chapter 475 of NRS. The statute requires the emergency fire-fighting vehicle located closest to a structure or brush fire to respond regardless of jurisdiction (paraphrased).

At the previous concurrent meeting, the Board of Fire Commissioners directed staff to develop a framework to implement automatic aid. A copy of SB 185 is attached as "*Attachment 1*". Automatic aid must commence October 1, 2015 whether or not an agreement is approved.

This Cooperative Agreement also addresses mutual aid and replaces any mutual aid protocols and agreements previously approved or enacted.

The legislation only mandates a response to structure and brush fires.

Methodology:

TMFPD staff used an objective methodology to determine the closest fire-fighting vehicle for all potential locations within the District. Although it may seem intuitive that the closest station by geographic proximity would always produce the best response time result, it was determined through careful and extensive GIS analysis that closest fire-fighting vehicle proximate to the incident location, did not in every case, produce the fastest response time. TMFPD staff concluded that it was counter-intuitive to best practice and to the intent of the legislation to not respond the fire-fighting vehicle that produced the best response time result - even if another fire-fighting vehicle was proximate to the incident. It was the conclusion of the study that dispatching the closest fire-fighting vehicle, as defined by fastest response time, should be the benchmark for the design of the automatic aid protocol - and would best serve to meet the intent of legislation.

Travel time was studied to determine if another jurisdiction had the potential to respond in less time. An examination of maps from the GIS analysis was used to determine specific locations where another agency had the potential to respond faster to all points along all roadways, at 30 second intervals (approximately every 500 feet.) Wherever it was determined that another agency provided a faster response, further GIS analysis was performed to predict the boundary (polygon) and define the total automatic aid area. The resulting polygon was labeled as an automatic aid zone and identified as a new response area or "RAM". RAM is computer aided dispatch acronym for "Response Area Management".

Once the RAM was geocoded, decisions were made to determine what fire-fighting vehicles would respond and from what agency. These decisions produce a coded run string referred to as a URM (Unit Response Management) which tells the 911 dispatcher what vehicle type should respond and by what agency. Each URM must be coded into Tiburon CAD and that coding process must be 100% accurate.

Dispatching by automatic vehicle location was considered. All TMFPD vehicles have GPS capability. This means that Washoe County Dispatch is able to see the location of all TM emergency vehicles. Dispatching by automatic vehicle location was not a viable solution for the reason that not all agencies have GPS capability and not all the technological and software components are in place. Dispatch by AVL is possible in the future with additional investment and policy direction.

Costs:

The cost agreement is substantially similar to what is in place with the City of Sparks. Rates for personnel and equipment are similar to all other aid agreements in the region. Costs are attributable to any single incident after a 12 hour operational period and are identified in the exhibits.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is a potential for fiscal impact. Costs may be incurred when operational periods exceed the time threshold identified in the Annual Operating Plan. If that happens, there is sufficient budget authority and funds within the approved 2015/16 budget. TMFPD and SFD have emergency fire funds to pay these expenses. TMFPD has an emergency fire fund balance of \$630,132.17 and Sierra Fire District has a current balance of \$755,385.50.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of a Cooperative Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Sierra Fire Protection District and City of Reno.

POSSIBLE MOTION

A possible motion to staff could be:

“I move to approve the Cooperative Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Sierra Fire Protection District and City of Reno for automatic and mutual aid.”