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**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBMITTAL DATE:
December 7, 2010

SUBJECT: REPORT ON APPLICATION OF FIRE STATION CLOSURE CRITERIA

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and file the attached report from the County Fire Chief on the application of fire station closure criteria.
2. Direct the County Executive Officer to immediately proceed, with the cooperation of the Fire Chief, to begin station closures and ensure fiscal solvency.

BACKGROUND: As a part of the Board's approval of the FY 2010/11 First Quarter Budget report (3.24 Nov. 9, 2010) the Board approved criteria that would be used to determine which fire stations would be closed in order to realize budget savings during the current fiscal year. The attached report contains the resulting recommended actions to achieve cost savings. Closure of fire stations, while difficult, is necessary to ensure the Fire Department operates within a balanced budget.

ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

County Executive Office Signature

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent

Dept't Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.24 11/9/10

District: ALL

Agenda Number:

3.11



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

John R. Hawkins ~ Fire Chief
210 West San Jacinto Avenue ~ Perris, CA 92570
(951) 940-6900 ~ www.rvcfire.org

PROUDLY SERVING THE
UNINCORPORATED AREAS
OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY
AND THE CITIES OF:

BANNING
BEAUMONT
CALIMESA
CANYON LAKE
COACHELLA
DESERT HOT SPRINGS
EASTVALE
INDIAN WELLS
INDIO
LAKE ELSINORE
LA QUINTA
MENIFEE
MORENO VALLEY
PALM DESERT
PERRIS
RANCHO MIRAGE
RUBIDOUX CSD
SAN JACINTO
TEMECULA
WILDOMAR

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November 24, 2010

Mr. Bill Luna, County Executive Officer
Riverside County Executive Office
4080 Lemon Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Mr. Luna:

As a follow up to previous direction from the Executive Office and the Board of Supervisors, I am submitting recommended budget reductions for the Riverside County Fire Department. We feel the reductions represent the best choice of bad alternatives; there is no simple answer to the gap between public safety expectations and funds available to deliver those services. We have followed Board adopted direction on closure required criteria for fire stations. Of course, if times were not as dire as they are and if revenues were matching cost expenditures, we would never bring forward these suggested reductions. We also hope the recommendations will be considered temporary so when the economy recovers we can request reinstatement of reduced services.

Since the reductions won't be effective until about January 1, 2011, we have estimated savings at 5.5 months for the duration of FY 10-11. The suggested reductions are, in reality, equal to double the impact due the effective implementation date. We feel carrying the cost reductions forward into FY 11-12 will possibly cover the expected 5% reduction for the next fiscal year.

The following represents a brief summary of services proposed for reduction. More in-depth information immediately follows this cover letter specifically detailing reductions by program and location.

- Reduce three fire stations (FS 51, El Cariso; FS 63, Poppet Flats; FS 77, Lake Riverside) from career staffed paramedic engine companies to Reserve Volunteer Firefighter staffed engine companies. Paramedic service would no longer be provided. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$1,310,208.
- Close one 3-person career staffed paramedic engine company (FS 43, Blythe) and staff two contiguous fire stations (FS 44, Ripley & FS 45, Blythe Airport) with 4-person paramedic firefighter service. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$299,141.

- Close one 3-person paramedic engine company (FS 15, El Cerrito) and contract with an adjacent city to protect the area. Paramedic service would be provided. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$171,945.
- Close one 3-person career staffed paramedic engine company (FS 18, W. Riverside) and instead staff a 2-person firefighter paramedic squad at the same fire station. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$160,294.
- Close one 3-person career staffed paramedic engine company (FS 42, Oasis) and instead staff a 2-person firefighter paramedic squad at the next nearest fire station (FS 40, Mecca). Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$213,181.
- Convert one single person breathing support unit (FS 90, N. Perris) from career staffing to Reserve Volunteer Firefighter staffing and relocate the other career staffed breathing support unit (FS 35, Roy Wilson) to the Pass area (FS 24, Cabazon). Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$82,925.
- Replace CAL FIRE staffing of two Fire Captains in Strategic Planning Bureau with County personnel. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$43,041.
- CAL FIRE adjustments to assist partner County with budget reductions. Approximate total savings for FY 10-11 is \$1,260,445.
 - Move 2nd CAL FIRE engine from FS 1, Perris, to FS 9, Goodmeadow, and close County 3-person paramedic engine company at FS 9. County to add firefighter paramedic to reassigned CAL FIRE engine. Three person staffing and paramedic service would remain. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$278,454.
 - Move 2nd CAL FIRE engine from FS 10, Lake Elsinore, to FS 96, Glenoaks, and close County 3-person paramedic engine company at FS 96. County to add firefighter paramedic to reassigned CAL FIRE engine. Three person staffing and paramedic service would remain. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$371,537.
 - Move 2nd CAL FIRE engine from FS 20, Beaumont, to FS 22, Cherry Valley, and close County 3-person paramedic engine company at FS 22. County to add firefighter paramedic to reassigned CAL FIRE engine. Three person staffing and paramedic service would remain. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$278,454.
 - Close 2-person paramedic squad at FS 28, Sage, and assign one paramedic firefighter to CAL FIRE engine at FS 28. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$166,000.
 - Close 2-person paramedic squad at FS 29, Anza, and assign one paramedic firefighter to CAL FIRE engine at FS 29. County to fund paramedic firefighter. Approximate savings for FY 10-11 is \$166,000.

These reductions approximate \$4.38 million. Our budget reduction target was about \$4.3 million.

CAL FIRE has really assisted by agreeing to allow the reassignment of State fire engines to closed county fire stations. This will be a win-win fiscal and operational partnership for a 2-3 year trial period. It will be re-evaluated in the short term for long term advantages. The movement of CAL FIRE personnel and equipment will provide better service for the State mission while maintaining service to the county.

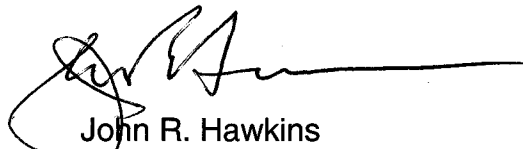
Mr. Bill Luna
November 24, 2010
Page Three

All reductions involving CAL FIRE personnel will require a labor relations meet and confer session between CAL FIRE management and CDF Firefighters, Local 2881. The meet and confer will consider impact bargaining.

Throughout this entire budget reduction process, we sought to retain, as much as is operationally and fiscally possible, community fire and medical emergency response requirements. Our entire plan is based on continuing to deliver service to the public without complaining about required budget reductions.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



John R. Hawkins
County Fire Chief

JRH:db

c: Diana Grant
Dreana Brethorst

Riverside County Fire Department
10/11 Budget Reduction Plan

Fire Station Closure Criteria adopted by the Board of Supervisors:

- Emergency incident workload both within the first due area of the fire station and in nearby backup response areas however just because a fire station runs fewer alarms doesn't mean it will have less impact on the regional delivery of services
 - Proximity to other system fire stations using the existing Fire Department criteria for response based on community population density and land use.
 - Current density response criteria
 - 5 minutes, Heavy Urban (large commercial industrial zone & 8-20 dwelling units/acre)
 - 7 minutes, Urban (Light industrial zones & 2-8 single family dwelling units/acre)
 - 11 minutes, Rural (Very low density & 1 dwelling unit/acre)
 - 17 minutes, Outlying (Rural mountain & desert, agricultural & 1 dwelling unit/5 acres)
 - Redundancy of services at a fire station.
 - Ability of available Volunteer Firefighters or other, non-system fire departments to fill the void under contract.
 - Status of fire station infrastructure.
 - Not excessively passing County responsibility to city partner fire stations beyond their normal cooperative, integrated response areas.
-

County Fire Reductions

Convert RVC FS 51, El Cariso, from Career Staff to Volunteer/Reserve Staff

- Reduces 3 Fire Captains
- Reduces 3 Fire Apparatus Engineers
- Reduces 2 Firefighter/Paramedics

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$464,880

Convert RVC FS 63, Poppet Flats, from Career Staff to Volunteer/Reserve Staff

- Reduces 1 Fire Captain
- Reduces 2 Fire Apparatus Engineers
- Reduces 5 Firefighter/Paramedics

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$419,290

Convert RVC FS 77, Lake Riverside, from Career Staff to Volunteer/Reserve Staff

- Reduces 1 Fire Captain
- Reduces 2 Fire Apparatus Engineers

Riverside County Fire Department
10/11 Budget Reduction Plan

- Reduces 5 Firefighter/Paramedics

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$426,038

Close RVC FS 43, Blythe, and upgrade RVC FS 44, Ripley, and RVC FS 45, Blythe Airport, 4-person daily staffing. (Currently with 3 stations in Blythe there are 9 firefighters on duty each day. This conversion will leave 8 firefighters on each day.)

- Reduces 3 Fire Captains
- Reduces 4 Fire Apparatus Engineers
- Adds 1 Firefighter/Paramedic

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$299,141

Close RVC FS 15, El Cerrito, and contract with Corona City Fire to cover El Cerrito response area

- Reduces 2 Fire Captains
- Reduces 2 Fire Apparatus Engineers
- Reduces 2 Firefighter/Paramedics
- Requires a payment of \$600,000 annually to Corona Fire to service the area (\$300,000 for remainder of 10/11)

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$171,945

Convert RVC FS 18, West Riverside, E-18 from a 3-person medic engine to a 2-person medic Squad. Fire engine coverage will be provided by the CAL FIRE engine from April – December.

- Reduces 1 Fire Captain
- Reduces 2 Firefighter/Paramedics

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$160,294

Close RVC FS 42, Oasis, and shift personnel to staff a Medic Squad at FS 40, Mecca.

- Reduces 3 Fire Captains
- Reduces 1 Fire Apparatus Engineers
- Adds 1 Firefighter/Paramedic

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$213,181

Convert RVC West Breathing Support Unit from Career Staff to Volunteer/Reserve Staff & Move East Breathing Support to Central County Location.

- Reduces 3 Fire Apparatus Engineers

Riverside County Fire Department
10/11 Budget Reduction Plan

- This represents a savings of \$165,949 but half of this will be passed on to our partner cities.

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$82,925

Remove the RVC Fire Captains from the Strategic Planning Bureau and replace with one County Fire Facilities Planner and one Air Conditioning Technician.

- Reduces 2 Fire Captains
- Adds one Fire Facilities Planner
- Adds one Air Conditioning Technician

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$43,041

County Fire Station Reductions & CAL FIRE Engine Relocations

Un-staff RVC FS 9, Goodmeadow, E-9 and reassign a CAL FIRE Engine from FS 1, Perris, to cover the area. Place county funded Paramedic Firefighters on the CAL FIRE Engine.

- Reduces 1 Fire Captain
- Reduces 2 Fire Apparatus Engineers
- Reduces 2 Firefighter/Paramedics

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$278,454

Un-staff RVC FS 22, Cherry Valley, E-22 and reassign a CAL FIRE Engine from FS 20, Beaumont, to cover the area. Place county funded Paramedic Firefighters on the CAL FIRE Engine.

- Reduces 1 Fire Captain
- Reduces 2 Fire Apparatus Engineers
- Reduces 2 Firefighter/Paramedics

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$278,454

Un-staff RVC FS 96, Glen Oaks, E-96 and reassign a CAL FIRE Engine from FS 10, Lake Elsinore, to cover the area. We will place county funded Paramedic Firefighters on the CAL FIRE Engine.

- Reduces 3 Fire Captains
- Reduces 3 Fire Apparatus Engineers

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$371,537

Riverside County Fire Department
10/11 Budget Reduction Plan

County Fire Medic Squad Reduction & Reassignment of Medic to CAL FIRE Engine

Un-staff RVC Medic Squad 28 at FS 28, Sage, and reassign county funded Paramedic Firefighters to the CAL FIRE Engine.

- Reduces 3 Fire Apparatus Engineers

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$166,000

Un-staff RVC Medic Squad 29 at FS 29, Anza, and reassign county funded Paramedic Firefighters to the CAL FIRE Engine.

- Reduces 3 Fire Apparatus Engineers

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$166,000

Miscellaneous Budget Adjustments

Operating Cost Savings. With the staffing conversions and station closures listed above we expect to see a reduction operating costs of approximately \$500,000 annually and about half of that amount this fiscal year.

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$300,000

Service Mitigation Reimbursement. We are scheduled to receive approximately \$500,000 of additional revenue that can be allocated for operations. This revenue is being generated from two commercial solar energy plants being build in Eastern Riverside County.

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$500,000

Total FY 10/11 Savings = \$4,380,886

**Riverside County Fire Department
10/11 Budget Reduction Plan**

CAL FIRE Position Reductions

PLAN A	Probable Budget Reductions - Positions	Probable Perm Employees Affected	Current Perm Position Vacancies	Probable Perm EE Reduction	Probable LT EE Release
FC	-18	17	23	0	-9
FCPM	-3	2	1	-1	-3
FAE	-21	21	8	-13	-8
FAEPM	-9	9	9	0	-5
FFII	-24	24	12	-12	-18
FFIIPM	6	5	74	0	0



Bill Luna
County Executive Officer

Jay E. Orr
Assistant County Executive Officer

Executive Office, County of Riverside

January 6, 2011

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Riverside
Robert T. Andersen Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, California 92501-3651

Subject: **Agenda Item 3.11 – Fire Station Closure Criteria FY 2010/11**

Board Members:

At the Board's regular meeting on December 7, 2010 item 3.3, a report describing criteria for closure of fire stations was reviewed by the Board. Several alternate suggestions were made to resolve the Fire Department budget dilemma. The item was continued until January 11, 2011 and the Executive Office was directed to review these suggestions and report back to the Board:

1. SAFER Grant Funds – The County was initially denied the opportunity to apply for these funds because we contract with CAL FIRE for our fire services. Another contract county appealed this decision and it was determined that they could apply. We have appealed and it is under review. However, should we be allowed to apply, the application opportunity would not occur until August thru September 2011. We would also be constrained by the grant rules stipulating that if funds are received we must guarantee there would be no reduction in staffing during the two year grant period.
2. TASIN (Special Distribution Funds) – County Fire did not apply for funds last year and there is no anticipated second call for applications during this grant period.
3. District Attorney Investigators Reduced by 25% - The assumption is that this action would free up \$4 million which could be used to solve the Fire Department budget shortfall. First call on any funds will need to be used to help relieve the current DA budget shortfall.
4. Community Improve Designation Funds and General Fund Reserves – Either of these actions would be at the discretion of the Board.

We will further report in the mid-year budget review on February 1, 2011 that the Fire Department continue to take all cost cutting measures possible, short of closing stations and any year end shortfall will be a policy issue for the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,



BILL LUNA

County Executive Officer

Calfireitem3.11