

# Agenda Item

DATE: 2/7/2017  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Fire Chief Bill White  
SUBJECT: 2016 Fire Department Annual Report

---

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** The Board of Directors, by motion, receives and files the annual report and utilizes the information contained as a bench mark to monitor fire and emergency service response and program management on an annual basis.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

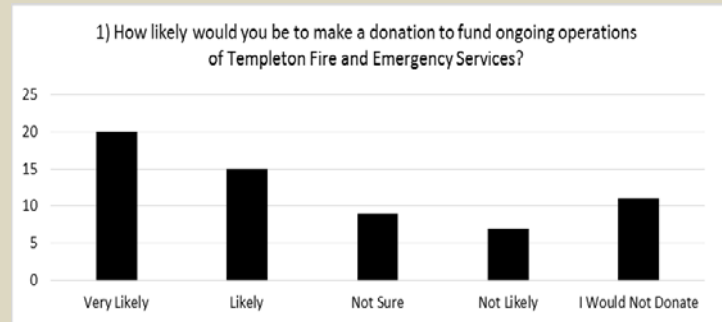
**BACKGROUND:** Templeton Fire and Emergency Services continually strives to move towards providing a sustainable and reliable fire and emergency services delivery model. We continue to explore and further secure a permanent funding mechanism which will handle the current and future needs of the Department. The following programs are currently being researched for possible revenue generation:

- 1) Pursue San Luis Obispo County for an increase in property tax allocation. We have had a number of meetings with both the County CAO and individual Board of Supervisors regarding this issue. We have had favorable responses from each of the current Supervisors we have discussed our funding problems and look forward to getting on the Board's agenda in 2017.
- 2) Create a Community Facilities District (CFD) Program which would be applied for any new or proposed development in the District. The District has been working with David Taussig & Associates, Inc. and San Luis Obispo County to research, design and implement a CFD for Templeton Fire and Emergency Services and Templeton Recreation. The CFD should be implemented early to mid-2017.
- 3) Develop a grass roots effort to provide public education opportunities to inform the public on the needs of the Fire Department. The formation of a "Friends of Templeton Fire and Emergency Services" is being advertised. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to find the necessary time to further this endeavor. It is our hope, to work more aggressively in 2017 to establish a core group of supporters who can spread the information about our issues to the community in a positive and proactive way.
- 4) Create donation mechanisms which would be placed on District water bills for individuals wishing to donate to the Department. The District mailed out surveys to

community inquiring as to whether or not, they would be willing to donate to the Department on a regular basis. The survey also asked residents to donate, if they so desired. Below is a matrix which shows the survey's results:

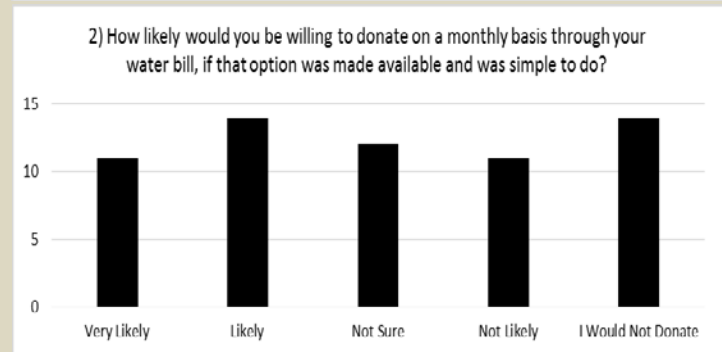
1) How likely would you be to make a donation to fund ongoing operations of Templeton Fire and Emergency Services?

20	Very Likely
15	Likely
9	Not Sure
7	Not Likely
11	I Would Not Donate



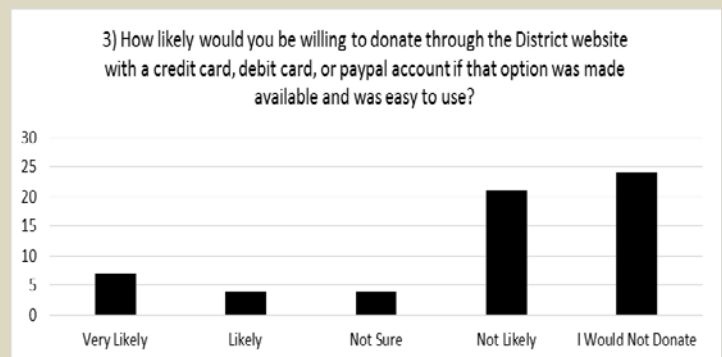
2) How likely would you be willing to donate on a monthly basis through your water bill, if that option was made available and was simple to do?

11	Very Likely
14	Likely
12	Not Sure
11	Not Likely
14	I Would Not Donate



3) How likely would you be willing to donate through the District website with a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account if that option was made available and was easy to use?

7	Very Likely
4	Likely
4	Not Sure
21	Not Likely
24	I Would Not Donate



Amount of Donations

1	\$5.00	\$5.00
4	\$10.00	\$40.00
1	\$15.00	\$15.00
8	\$25.00	\$200.00
1	\$30.00	\$30.00
9	\$50.00	\$450.00
7	\$100.00	\$700.00
1	\$250.00	\$250.00
		<b>\$1,690.00</b>

As you can see from the survey results, residents were not interested in donating via our District website. However, looking at the nearly \$1,700 in donations we received, just from the survey, it would be in our best interest to annually request donations in the water bill.

Over 2016, we were incredibly successful in our efforts to seek donations from the community. Our residents donated more than \$6,500 which was utilized to purchase much needed wildland firefighting equipment.

Working towards securing the financial future of the Department remains the highest priority and Department, teamed with other District staff members, we are working diligently to help resolve the challenges faced with providing a stable response model for the Community of Templeton. Fire and Emergency Services and District will need the community's assistance to overcome our financial issues.

**Response Information:**

The Department ended 2016 with 807 calls for service. This is an increase of 22 calls from 2015. The trend across the nation will be for Departments to continually see annual increases in emergency and non-emergency response. Although structural fires have decreased through aggressive fire prevention and building code amendments, structure fires are our community's highest risk response and have the potential for large dollar loss and business interruption. The most blaring example of this fact occurred when the large medical office complex located at 225 Posada Lane suffered significant fire damage. To date, the complex is still undergoing fire restoration and each of the businesses were forced to find new locations to operate. The damages incurred because of structure fires within the District of Templeton in 2016 were estimated to be \$760,225. The following is a break down by call type.

Call Type	2016	2015	2014	2013
1) Fires (all types):	47	56	43	69
2) Rescue/Medical:	496	473	425	443
3) Hazardous conditions:	12	13	10	7
4) Public service:	97	107	93	75
5) Good intent:	118	89	98	8
6) False alarms:	36	45	59	66
7) Severe Weather:	0	2	0	0
Total:	807	785	729	668

- Cal Fire entered a run number for our training burn. Actual responses were 806.

Note: Public service and good intent calls include lift assists, smoke or carbon monoxide detector battery service or other service calls that cannot be classified under standard reporting types.

Improving our reaction and response times to the various calls for service remains a top priority. These times have shown improvement when we are covered through the nighttime per diem program. Under our current system, we have two full time captains scheduled to cover the District from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., seven days a week. The full time staffing is augmented with paid call

firefighters (PCF's) so there is a three person engine company scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours, the District relies on PCF's and occasionally full time personnel who cover the station through the nighttime per diem program. The nighttime per diem allows for two PCF's to stay through the night from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Those who stay are given a dinner and breakfast stipend and an hourly rate if they respond to an after-hours call. Reliance on qualified Paid Call Firefighters remains critically high for this system of deployment to work. When nights are covered, the per diem program has improved our response times to calls for service because the station is covered and personnel are available to respond quickly. Without coverage, there is a significant response delay because off-duty personnel would be responding to the station from their homes. Once they arrive at the station, they would need to grab their gear and equipment and then respond to the call. The major concerns with this staffing model are the unpredictable coverage between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and individuals willing to give up their nights for the per diem stipend of \$35.00.

The program for nighttime coverage was implemented in late 2014 and for the first year (11 months) there were 13 nights which went uncovered. In 2016, we saw a frightening increase in the number of uncovered nights. With a full year of the program implemented in 2016, there were a total of 133 nights not covered. Of those 133 uncovered nights, there were 105 calls which required a station response for an emergency. The following breakdown shows the number of calls received when there was no nighttime coverage and personnel responded from home. The breakdown also shows the increased response time due to lack of coverage.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Average Response Time:</b>	<b>Average Arrival Time:</b>	<b># of Calls</b>
Jan	00:04:00	00:08:10	1
Feb	00:02:54	00:08:06	2
Mar	00:03:17	00:05:36	2
Apr	00:02:40	00:04:55	1
May	00:03:55	00:06:29	8
Jun	00:06:07	00:11:19	15
Jul	00:05:49	00:10:43	12
Aug	00:06:10	00:09:41	14
Sep	00:04:44	00:07:47	7
Oct	00:05:49	00:11:11	13
Nov	00:05:01	00:09:22	19
Dec	00:06:33	00:11:15	11

Total # of nights uncovered	133
Total # of nights uncovered with a response:	71
Total # of weekend nights uncovered with a response:	34
Total # of Calls:	105

Total Average Reaction and Response Times for in District calls is under review.

**Fire Training:**

The training of our personnel remains primarily focused on basic firefighting, rescue and emergency medical skills. The Department also sends personnel annually to the Fresno Training Symposium, where they are introduced to new techniques and California State Fire Marshal classes. We also work to qualify personnel in the proper maintenance and operations of emergency vehicles. Having more individuals available to respond on our apparatus allows more equipment to be available for emergency response and also makes coverage more effective.

The Department hosted a live fire training drill on January 16, 2016. The residence was donated to the Department by the Templeton Unified School District to clear the way for increased parking at the high school. Several north county fire departments were represented and received excellent training.

Below are the cumulative training hours of our personnel for the past 4 years.

2016:	2,023
2015:	2,163
2014:	2,505
2013:	2,803

**Fire Prevention Activities:**

The Department continues to provide Will Serve letters for new development and remodels of both commercial and residential projects. The Department also inspects said projects to confirm required work has been accomplished per code. The following is a list of each area the Department oversees.

<u>Type:</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Rough Inspections:	13	18
Final Inspections:	11	25
Fire Letters:	44	53

The Department is revamping the engine company inspection program with the goal of inspecting every business in the District once a year. Through consistent, knowledgeable and aggressive education, we can help prevent costly fire loss and business interruption. The Department continues to collect and update data received from the County and should have a program operating in 2017.

**2016 Accomplishments:**

Refurbished and placed into service E7195

Began the formulation of a Community Facilities District for fire and recreation

2 Paid Call Firefighters obtained full-time positions with Camp Roberts, but remain valuable employees of the Department and District

1 Paid Call Firefighter was sworn in and badged

4 Personnel attended wildland fire control burn training at Camp Roberts

7 personnel were sent to the Fresno Training Symposium

Purchased wildland firefighting equipment with community donations

Purchased new structure turnouts

Received grant to purchase additional wildland personal protective equipment

Received new hose and miscellaneous donated equipment from Santa Clara Fire Department

Received a \$3,500 donation for volunteering at the Templeton Haunted House

Applied for FEMA SAFER Grant

Applied for FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase breathing apparatus air fill station

Templeton Firefighters participated in the Scott Stair Climb event held in Seattle, Washington to raise money for cancer research

Hosted a successful training burn with cooperation of Templeton Unified School District

### **Templeton Firefighters Association Activities:**

Successful 4th of July Pancake Breakfast

Templeton Firefighters participated in the annual Relay for Life and Muscular Dystrophy "Fill the Boot" campaign

**SUMMARY:** The Department continues to make strides towards a reliable and sustainable response system. We focus our time, energy and efforts towards making sure the financial stability remains in focus so further improvements to our response model is secured. Partnering with our community and developing public relations campaigns to show, where our Department needs their help, will build trust and a working relationship which will prove invaluable in solidifying our future. We will work diligently in providing highly trained and motivated emergency service personnel. Through engine-company fire prevention and inspection programs we will help keep our community safe and reduce the potential for high dollar loss fires. Our personnel are looking forward to meeting the challenges and meeting the needs of our community.