

Agenda Item

DATE: 2/9/2016
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Fire Chief Bill White
SUBJECT: 2015 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 benchmark to monitor fire and emergency service response and program management on an annual basis.

Motion: _____/_____.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

BACKGROUND: The Templeton Fire Department has been steadily moving toward providing a sustainable and reliable fire and emergency services delivery model. Over the course of 2015, several policies were implemented to proactively and financially meet these goals with available funding. Along with the changes to the Fire Department's response capabilities, several ideas are being explored to 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.
- 2) Create a Community Facilities District (CFD) Program which would be applied to any new or proposed development in the District.
- 3) Develop a grassroots effort to provide public education opportunities to inform the public on the needs of the Fire Department. The formation of a "Friends of the Templeton Fire Department" is currently being publicized.
- 4) Build upon the existing Fire Capital Fees collection program with language which allows more flexibility in spending.

- 5) Create donation mechanisms which would be placed in District water bills for individuals wishing to donate to the Fire or Recreation Departments.

Securing the financial future of the Fire Department remains the highest priority. In conjunction and coordination with the Fire and Emergency Management Committee and District staff members, we are working diligently to help resolve the challenges faced by providing a stable response model for the Community of Templeton. The Fire Department and District will need the community's assistance to overcome our financial issues.

Response Information:

The Fire Department ended 2015 with 785 calls for service. This is an increase of 56 calls from 2014. The trend across the nation will be for Departments to continually see increases annually 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 damages incurred because of structure fires within the District of Templeton in 2015 were estimated to be \$988,000. The following is a break down by call type for 2015, 2014 and 2013.

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

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. The Department will now be combining the good intent calls into the public service categories.

The Fire Department has also been working on improving our reaction and response times to the various calls for service. Where we were seeing delays

in our response, we have improved through the nighttime per diem program. Under our current and improved 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 (PCFs) 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 PCFs and occasionally full time personnel who cover the station through the nighttime per diem program. The nighttime per diem allows for two PCFs 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. The nighttime per diem has improved our response time to after-hours calls for service because the station is covered and personnel are available to respond. If the station was not covered with nighttime per diem personnel, there would be a significant response delay because off-duty personnel would be responding to the station from their homes. Since the implementation of the program in early 2015, 14 nights out of the 11 month program were not covered. Reliance on qualified Paid Call Firefighters remains critically high for this system of deployment to work. The major concern with this staffing model is the unpredictable coverage between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. The lack of coverage during these time frames is because PCF's are either getting off work or leaving for their regular employment.

Average Reaction and Response Times:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Reaction Time:</u>	<u>Response/Travel Time:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
2015:	1 min. 59 sec.	3 min. 57 sec.	5 min. 16 sec.
2014:	2 min. 8 sec.	4 min. 51 sec.	6 min. 59 sec.
2013:	2 min. 3 sec.	4 min. 51 sec.	6 min. 54 sec.

The reaction time indicated above represents the time it takes crews to receive the call information and respond with the appropriate apparatus. The response time is the amount of time it takes emergency service responders to arrive at the scene of the call. These times represent only District responses and do not take into account automatic and mutual aid. The reaction time is also an average of a 24 hour clock. Meaning, the times take into account calls received after hours. As shown, the Fire Department has made significant strides toward reducing our overall reaction and response times.

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 makes coverage more effective.

Below are the cumulative training hours of our personnel for the past 3 years.

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.

Rough Inspections:	18
Final Inspections:	25
Fire Letters:	53

The Department began looking at 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 is collecting updated data from the County and should have a program operating in 2016.

2015 Accomplishments:

- 3 personnel graduated from the Allan Hancock College Fire Academy
- 7 personnel were sworn in and badged
- 2 personnel were promoted to engineer
- Tony Broom was promoted to captain
- Bill White was hired as interim fire chief
- Board approved a new fireworks ordinance
- Personnel attended wildland fire control burn training at Camp Roberts
- Personnel attended structure fire training at Fort Hunter Liggett
- 4 personnel were sent to the Fresno Training Symposium
- Doors were added to the training facility props
- Purchased Paso Robles E220 for refurbishment and replacement of E7195
- New staffing option was approved and implemented by the Board
- Purchased new structure turnouts

Received grant to purchase additional wildland personal protective equipment

Implemented cadet firefighter program with the coordination of Templeton High School

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

Templeton Firefighters Association Activities:

Successful 4th of July Community Pancake Breakfast

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

SUMMARY: The Fire Department continues to move toward a reliable and sustainable response system. As we have made changes to our service delivery model, response times have improved and the number of hours the station is not covered has diminished. We will focus our time, energy and efforts towards making sure the financial stability remains in focus so further improvements to our response model are secured. Partnering with our community and developing public relations campaigns to show where our Department needs its 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 needs of our community.