

MEETING DATE: January 23, 2024

FROM: Fire Chief Matthew Balzarini

RE: Fire Chief Report

BACKGROUND:

Please see the attached report provided by Chief Balzarini.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

RECOMMENDATION:

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

A. JAN 2024 FIRE CHIEF REPORT



Chester Fire Department Update

January 2024

History

- 2004 = Chester Fire Protection District Measure A
- 2005 = Chester FPD assumed control of the ambulance with high reimbursements
- 2007 = Incident Management Team Program started
- 2009 = Chester FPD merged with CPUD and became Chester Fire Department
- 2010 = Affordable Health Care Act – reimbursements would diminish to 25%
- 2015 = California Fire Assistance Agreement established
- 2022 & 2023 = low wildfire deployments

Current Budget Full-Time Paid

Revenue	
Ad valorem property taxes	\$195,000
Existing parcel tax assessment	\$135,000
EMS billing revenue	\$300,000
Other	\$69,000
	\$699,000

Expenses	
Wages, taxes, benefits, insurance, retirement	\$1,487,000
Supplies, utilities, repairs, services, training	\$275,000
Vehicle maintenance, repairs, fuel	\$125,000
Liability Insurance	\$102,000
	\$1,989,000

Current
Operational
Staffing

- “A” Shift – (1) Captain
~~(1) Firefighter Paramedic~~
- “B” Shift – (1) Firefighter / EMT
- “C” Shift – (1) Captain
(1) Firefighter Paramedic
- 1 employee on leave

A red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, containing the text 'December 2023 Daily Staffing'. The bubble has a tail pointing towards the bottom left.

December 2023 Daily Staffing

- Dual ALS (with paramedic) = 20 days
- Dual BLS (no paramedic) = 7 days
- Single BLS (no paramedic) = 4 days

A red speech bubble graphic with a tail pointing towards the bottom left. The text "Department Status:" is written in white inside the bubble.

Department Status:

- **CFD Ambulance ceased operations
1/1/24 at 0800 hours.**
- **Transition to Volunteer Department
2/28/24 at 0800 hours.**

Volunteer Model

- 1 Full Time Position to manage the day-to-day operations and serve as the training officer for the department
- Part Time Fire Chief for admin duties, oversight, budget, Teams coordination
- Reserve Firefighters – from outside the area, certified Firefighter I, will work in the firehouse for a shift and respond to incidents.
- Volunteer Firefighters – Local, will train to the Firefighter I level and then respond to the station from home to staff apparatus and respond to incidents.

Tax Assessment

- Election in May to determine our future
- Return to a full-time paid department
- Maintain a volunteer department
- Cease all operations within a year if no additional revenue is received
- Waiting on BOS approval for ballot measure
- Still owe sewer 1.5 million