



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: May 10, 2022

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6C: Discussion and Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding Between the District and Tuolumne County for Funding an Additional Fire Apparatus and Associated Staffing Co-located with the Groveland Community Services District Fire Department, and Related Fire Station Improvements

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

I authorize the General Manager to Negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding Between the District and Tuolumne County for Funding an Additional Fire Apparatus and Associated Staffing Co-located with the Groveland Community Services District Fire Department, and Related Fire Station Improvements.

BACKGROUND:

The county Board of Supervisors on Tuesday May 3rd, 2022 authorized staff to proceed with development above memorandum of understanding with GCSB for the placement of an additional fire apparatus and staffing, Co-located in the GCSB fire station on Main Street. This welcomed County action is the culmination of three years of discussions on this matter with County staff and strong support from District 4 supervisor Kathleen Haff. The county action further accomplishes the objectives outlined in our 2020 fire masterplan, by adding additional firefighting personnel available to immediately respond in Groveland.

This additional staffing will be covered under the county's Schedule A Cooperative Fire Protection agreement with CALFIRE. This will guarantee that the county funded engine will be in place to fulfill our local emergency response mission, and to be able to respond under our mutual aid agreement. The additional staffing will allow for the availability of the second engine locally in Groveland when one of the engines responds to another call either inside or outside the district boundaries, providing a significant benefit to the community.

We very much appreciate the cooperation of the county and the support of the Board of Supervisors and look forward to quickly working out the details of a memorandum of understanding and agreement with the county related to the operation and financing of the personnel, equipment and facility improvements. The personnel could be in place as early as mid summer 2022. This action of your board is requested to show support for this arrangement with the County and to authorize your general manager to proceed and working out the details of the agreement with the county.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impacts of the proposed arrangement with the County will be estimated and described in the Memorandum of Understanding and related agreements for future consideration by the Board. The County will be covering the cost of the capital, operating and maintenance costs for the additional fire apparatus, as well as staffing for the second engine; presumably through amendment of their current Schedule A Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement. The cost of fire station improvements necessary to house the additional staffing as well as housing expenses will be proportionally allocated to the County and GCSD in some agreed upon manner.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Tuolumne County Fire Services Memo from their May 3, 2022 Meeting



County Administration Office

“We Support the Board of Supervisors in achieving their goals through service & collaboration with the County Departments and the Community”

Tracie M. Riggs
County Administrative Officer

April 24, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tracie M. Riggs, County Administrative Officer
Nick Casci, Tuolumne County Fire Chief
Andy Murphy, Tuolumne County Assistant Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Fire Services Groveland Area

Over the last several years, concerns related to fire services along Highway 120 have been brought up during Board meetings and fire safety is one of the Board’s primary priorities. These concerns are elevated due to several large development projects approved in this area. In FY 20/21, the County took on the cost of the “Amador” station (described in more detail below), which provides some fire services to the Groveland area in winter months. However, it is clear a higher level of services is needed.

The current fire protection services in the Groveland area are comprised of both local Groveland Community Services District (GCSD) resources staffed through a Cooperative Agreement with CAL FIRE and CAL FIRE resources stationed at the State CAL FIRE Station in Groveland. Through the cooperative agreement with Tuolumne County, allowed by Public Resource Code, Tuolumne County pays for what is referred to as an “Amador” plan staffing model. What that means, is that during the winter months when the CAL FIRE resources are typically down staffed and permanent personnel are re-assigned to other fire stations, the Groveland CAL FIRE Station remains staffed with one fire engine to provide emergency response on behalf of Tuolumne County, in the Groveland area. This requires Tuolumne County to pay a portion of the personnel and operating costs for the state resource, and the resource serving both the county and state mission.

Assistant County
Administrator
Eric Erhardt

Capital Projects
Director
Maureen Frank

Senior Administrative
Analysts
Liz Peterson

Office of Emergency
Services Coordinator
Dore Bietz

Homeless Services
Coordinator
Michael Roberson

Purchasing &
Contract Analyst
Simi Bhangoo

Administrative
Analysts
Mervet Mitri
Tracey McKnight

Executive Assistant/
Deputy Clerk of the
Board
Christina Cunha

Board Clerk
Heather Ryan

The overall current staffing model in the Groveland area is as follows:

Entity Funding Service	Current System	
	Summer	Winter
GCSO-Staffing	2/Per Shift	2/Per Shift
GCSO-Equipment	1-Type I Engine 1-Type II Engine 1-Type III Engine	1-Type I Engine 1-Type II Engine 1-Type III Engine
CALFIRE-Staffing	6/Per Shift	
CALFIRE-Equipment	2-Type III Engines	
County-Staffing		2/Per Shift
County-Equipment		1-Type III CALFIRE Engines
Total Equip & Personnel	8/Per Shift 5 Engines 1 Type I, 1 Type II, & 3 Type III	4/Per Shift 2 Engines 1 Type I, 1 Type II & 2 Type III

These resources, through automatic and mutual aid, respond to GCSO, TCFD, and state jurisdiction calls regardless of which agency has primary jurisdictional authority.

Through the "Amador" Agreement, the CAL FIRE engine, is partially funded by Tuolumne County. It is available for all emergency calls, including state mission needs, which may require it to respond greater distances than a fully funded Cooperative Agreement Engine. Essentially, this means the CALFIRE engine may be pulled to incidents occurring in other areas outside of Groveland. Although every measure is taken to provide backfill coverage when the resource

responds out of the area, and the instances of this occurring are not necessarily frequent, there is no guarantee that backfilling is an option based on resource draw down.

During the summer months, as both CAL FIRE engines are staffed and 100% funded by the State, they are available for statewide response. This means these two engines could be directed to an incident outside of the county. Under the current staffing model, there may be times during both the summer preparedness period and winter months that the GCSD Schedule "A" engine may be the only fire engine in the Groveland area, if incident activity has a substantial draw on resources.

To increase the level of service by providing dedicated resources to address the emergency needs of the Highway 120 corridor, it is recommended for Tuolumne County to amend the current CAL FIRE Cooperative Agreement to withdraw from the "Amador" staffing option at the Groveland CAL FIRE Station and add a Schedule "A" engine to that area. By adding a TCFD funded fire engine to the County's current Schedule "A" Agreement, with the co-location of this engine at GCSD Station 78, Tuolumne County is securing a dedicated fire engine to the area with the primary mission of providing all risk response to that area of Tuolumne County, as well as GCSD. Although this resource will respond to the appropriate response areas to serve the public interest in closest resource concept, it is dedicated in support of that area of Tuolumne County (Groveland). It also increases the total number of staffed fire engines in the Groveland area from (3) to (4) during the summer months which is typically the time of year that poses more of a wildfire risk, as well as summer tourist visitor numbers that increase the risk of other types of emergencies.

The recommended model is below:

Entity Funding Service	Recommended System	
	Summer	Winter
GCSO-Staffing	2/Per Shift	2/Per Shift
GCSO-Equipment	1-Type I Engine 1-Type II Engine 1-Type III Engine	1-Type I Engine 1-Type II Engine 1-Type III Engine
CALFIRE-Staffing	6/Per Shift	
CALFIRE-Equipment	2-Type III Engines	
County-Staffing	2/Per Shift	2/Per Shift
County-Equipment	1-Type 1 County Engine	1-Type 1 County Engine
Total Equip & Personnel	10/Per Shift 6 Engines 2 Type I, 1 Type II & 3 Type III	4 Per Shift 2 Type I, 1 Type II & 1 Type III

With this new model, the typing of the resource would change as well. The schedule "A" fire engine would be Type 1 fire engine with the capacity and capabilities to offer the appropriate equipment for vehicle accidents such as extrication equipment, as well as increased pumping capabilities for commercial type structure fires. The CAL FIRE Type III "Amador" engine is equipped to handle all risk calls as well but is also built for the primary mission of wildland firefighting which limits space on the apparatus as well as pump capacity. With collaboration between all cooperators, this combination of resources gives a higher level of service to both the residents and visitors the Groveland area.

Comparison chart of current level and recommended level of services:

Entity Funding Service	Current System		Recommended System	
	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
GCSO-Staffing	2/Per Shift	2/Per Shift	2/Per Shift	2/Per Shift
GCSO-Equipment	1-Type I Engine 1-Type II Engine 1-Type III Engine	1-Type I Engine 1-Type II Engine 1-Type III Engine	1-Type I Engine 1-Type II Engine 1-Type III Engine	1-Type I Engine 1-Type II Engine 1-Type III Engine
CALFIRE-Staffing	6/Per Shift		6/Per Shift	
CALFIRE-Equipment	2-Type III Engines		2-Type III Engines	
County-Staffing		2/Per Shift	2/Per Shift	2/Per Shift
County-Equipment		1-Type III CALFIRE Engines	1-Type 1 County Engine	1-Type 1 County Engine
Total Equip & Personnel	8/Per Shift 5 Engines 1 Type I, 1 Type I, & 3 Type III	4/Per Shift 2 Engines 1 Type I, 1 Type II & 2 Type III	10/Per Shift 6 Engines 2 Type I, 1 Type II & 3 Type III	4 Per Shift 2 Type I, 1 Type II & 1 Type III

Currently, the County's cost of funding the "Amador" station is approximately \$250,000 a year. This amount varies depending upon the fire season. The longer the fire season, the shorter the number of winter months the county pays for the "Amador" contract.

The cost to move from the current system to the recommended system is approximately \$1,2 million. The annual increase of providing a fully staffed and dedicated engine in the Highway 120 area is \$1 million. Details would need to be worked out regarding any cost sharing for co-locating with GCSO at Station 78.

The Board can fund this increase in a couple of different ways. First, staff can provide an analysis of current costs that could be eliminated in order to pay for the difference; or the Board could allocate ARPA funds for the next several years which would provide time needed to continue development of a few known projects that could provide some of the ongoing funding needed to maintain services. This would also provide time to continue discussions about the creation of a Community Facilities District, which would also provide ongoing funding for these services.

Supervisor Haff and staff met with the GCSD General Manager, Pete Kampa, on Monday April 25th to discuss this proposal and gain insight as to whether he felt his Board would support this proposal. The conversation was very positive and collaborative. Mr. Kampa welcomed the opportunity to have such a conversation. Should the Board decide to move forward with this recommendation, Supervisor Haff and staff will schedule a meeting with Pete Kampa and a member of his Board to begin developing a plan for moving forward.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that your Board provide direction on staff recommendation to co-locate fire services with GCSD fire station.