

Groveland Fire Department- Planning for the Future



Presented by:



FIRE SERVICES IN GROVELAND TODAY

- GCSD provides the **ONLY** local engine dedicated specifically to the Groveland community
- GCSD provides fire protection through a Schedule A partnership contract with CAL FIRE
- Other fire engines in the region have a broader mission responsibilities:
 - CAL FIRE (Merrell Rd) prioritizes the State's wildfire mission
 - County engine serves a wider response area outside of District boundaries
- GCSD also worked collaboratively with Tuolumne County to secure placement of a County engine in the Groveland area, currently co-located at the GCSD Fire Station

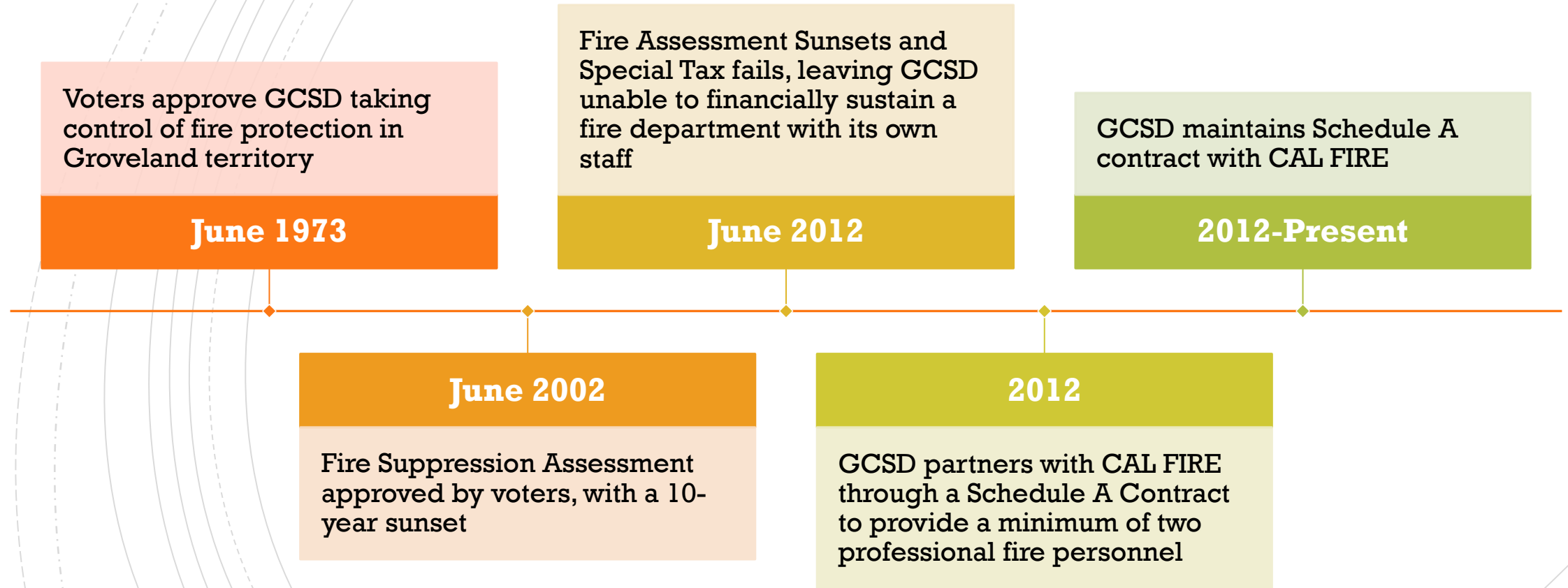


UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGE

- Fire protection and emergency response are essential services our community relies on **every day**
- Like many rural communities, Groveland is facing increasing challenges in sustaining long-term funding for these services
- **Tonight's discussion is about:**
 - Providing information and start a community conversation
 - Understanding the issue
 - Department structure and services
 - How local fire protection services impact homeowner's insurance



BACKGROUND



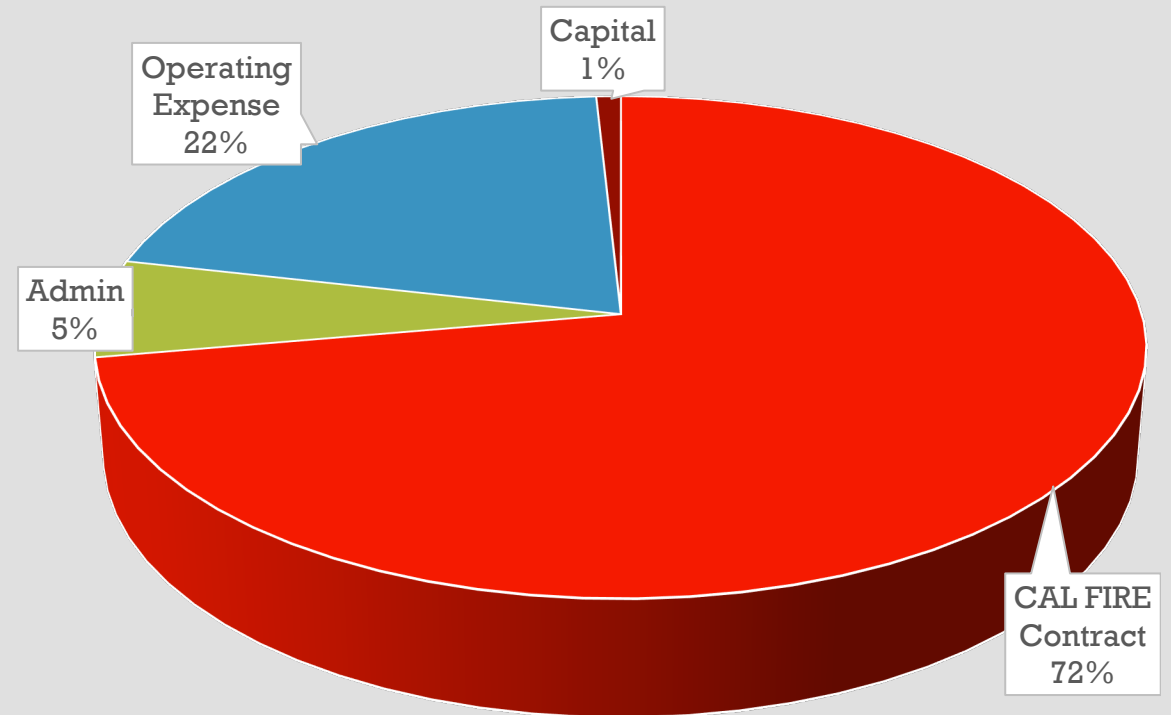
WHY FIRE PROTECTION MATTERS

- Fire protection and emergency response are essential services
- Critical for:
 - Life safety
 - Emergency medical response
 - Wildfire response
 - Property protection
- Also connected to homeowners insurance availability



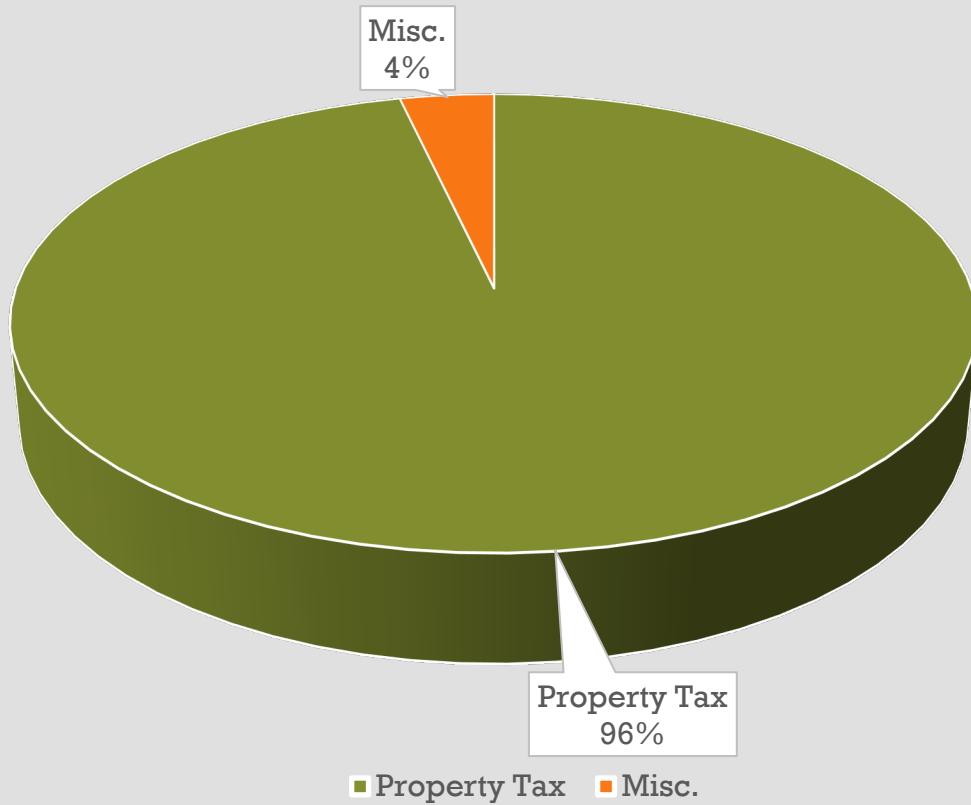
THE COST OF PROVIDING FIRE PROTECTION

- **CAL FIRE Contract**
- **Utilities, equipment, fuel, insurance**
- **District Administration expense**



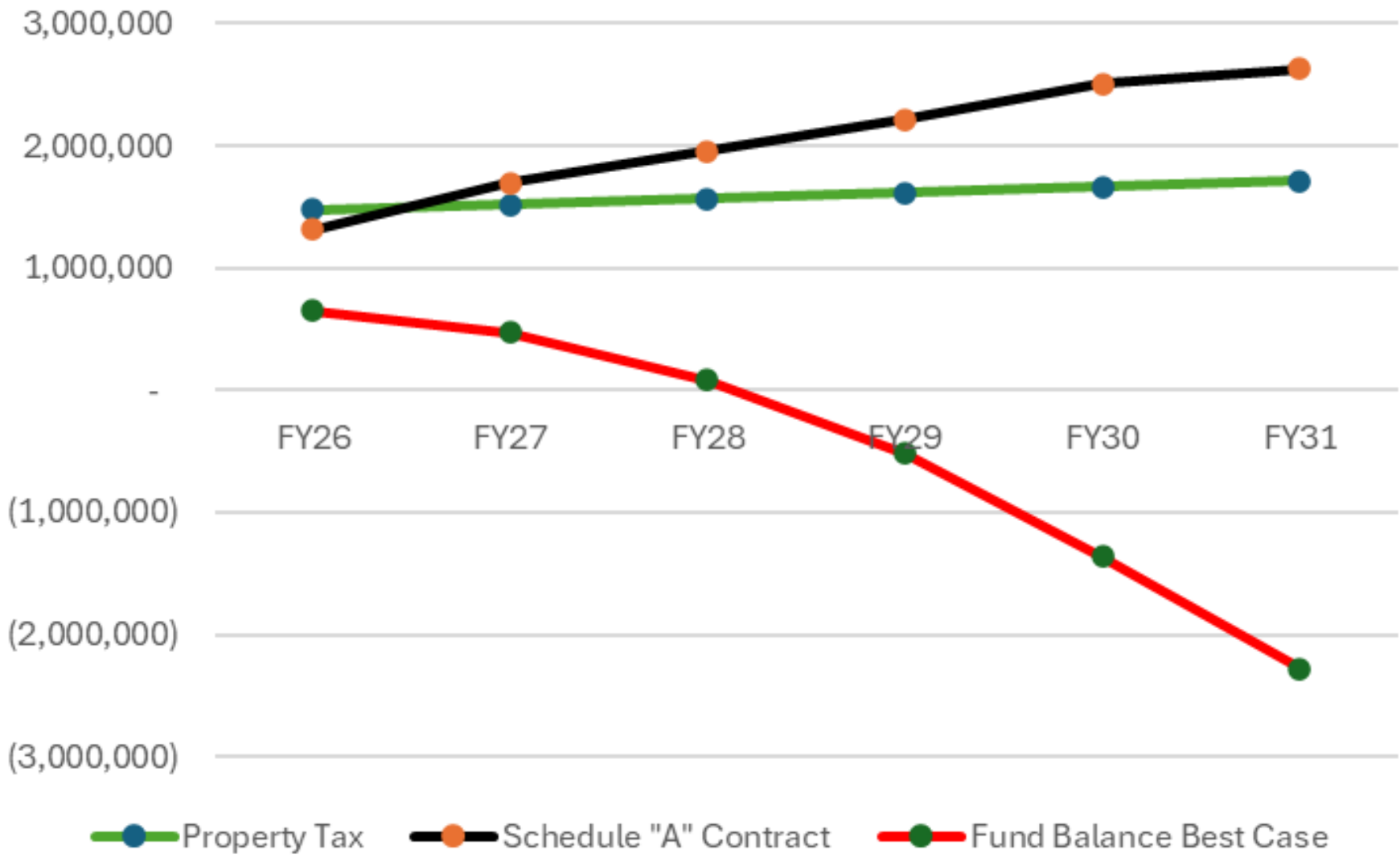
■ CAL FIRE Contract ■ Admin ■ Operating Expense ■ Capital

HOW FIRE SERVICES ARE FUNDED TODAY



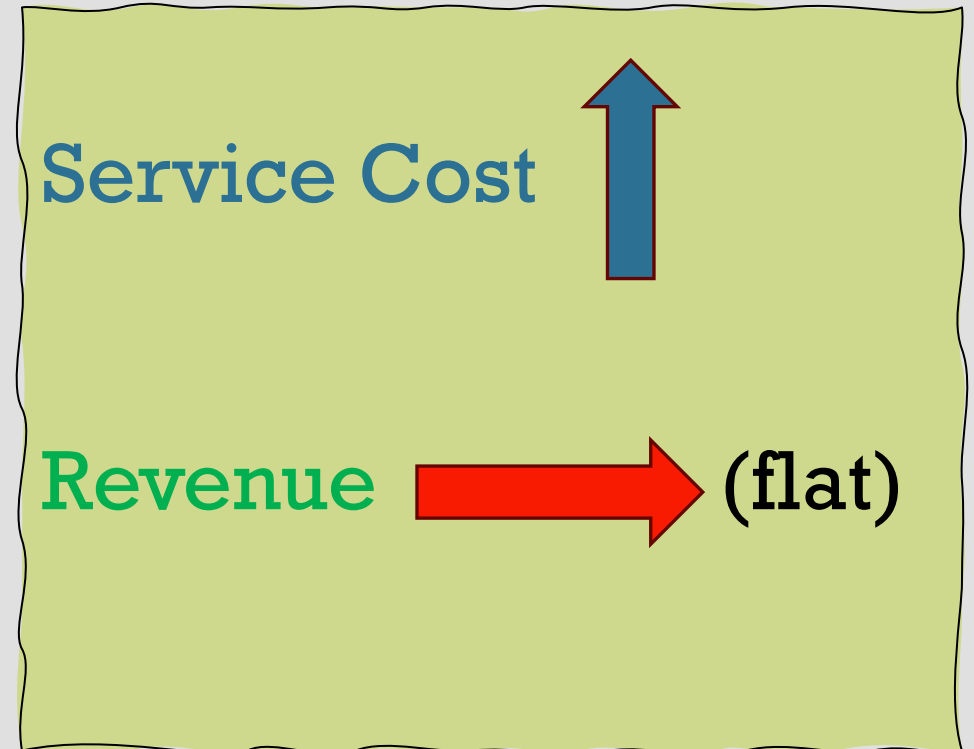
- **Ad Valorem taxes** (property taxes)
- **Misc.**
 - Equipment rental

ANTICIPATED
PROPERTY TAX AND
FUND BALANCE
VS
CAL FIRE CONTRACT



THE FUNDING CHALLENGE

- Operating expense has exceeded available operating revenue for years
 - Budgeted CAL FIRE Contract = \$1,615,147
 - Property Tax= \$1,475,554
 - In the hole before gas is put in the tank
 - Fund balance drawn down to cover shortfall
 - ZERO Fund balance for FY 2027/28
- Limited revenue growth
 - ≈2% annually
- No money to set aside for equipment replacement
 - New fire engine cost \$1.3 MILLION
 - 3 years delivery time after order placed



WHAT GCSD HAS DONE

- Secured County engine in Groveland
 - For response outside GCSD boundaries
- Evaluated all revenue options
 - Established new revenue source to offset the impact of new development
- Grants
 - **\$790,204** over last 5 years
 - Equipment, fuel reduction projects, CERT
- Supported County Measure V
- Fees for services



BENEFITS OF CAL FIRE PARTNERSHIP

- Highest quality service
 - Access to extensive, trained personnel and equipment resources
- Predictable and stable not-to-exceed contract expense
 - Lower overall costs through economies of scale
 - Historically, final annual expense lower than budgeted
- No pension or work comp volatility

Partnering with CAL FIRE allows GCSD to deliver predictable, high-quality fire protection while maintaining financial stability



WHY THIS MATTERS TO RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

- Response times
- Reliability of service
- Wildfire readiness
- Homeowners insurance availability
- Long-term sustainability of services



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF FIRE PROTECTION

- Engaged third part professional municipal finance consultant specializing in fire services funding analysis and planning
- Completing an objective, third party evaluation of fire protection service costs, and options for long-term sustainability
- Will present results to the GCSD Board in April – May 2026



Next Presentations



CAL FIRE Assistant Chief Nathan Gorham



John Kiefer with Kiefer's Insurance Agency

LIC 0D77765