



Solano Local Agency Formation Commission

675 Texas St. Ste. 6700 • Fairfield, California 94533
(707) 439-3897 • FAX: (707) 438-1788

Staff Report

DATE: October 17, 2022
TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
FROM: Rich Seithel, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: **Response to the Cordelia Fire Protection District (CFPD) staffing and response crisis**

Recommendation:

RECEIVE update and APPROVE Executive Officer administrative action that allows the City of Fairfield Fire Department (FFD) to form a short-term arrangement with CFPD for the provision of 9-1-1/emergency calls for service in the CFPD service area while a long-term solution to the CFPD issue is resolved.

Background:

Fire services contracts are governed by Govt. Code Section 56134. This section is very specific on fire agency contracts and contracting for services covering 25% or more of their service area. However, Govt. Code Section 56134 does not contemplate fire contracts based on immediate and critical service deficiencies but is focused on long-term and permanent contracts.

However, Govt. Code Section 56133 offers an exemption where a public health and safety issue is determined. CFPD is in a critical state and unable to provide services within its jurisdiction, thereby creating a public health and safety issue in a failure to provide services. A short-term and temporary arrangement for fire/ems services will reduce the public health and safety issues within CFPD.

Discussion:

The CFPD is facing a serious issue in the delivery of fire/ems service within their service area. This issue is due to staffing and retention issues as a result of the highly competitive market for qualified fire personnel. The 2020 Citygate report noted that:

Commissioners

John Vasquez, Chair • Nancy Shopay, Vice-Chair • Ron Rowlett • Harry Price • Jim Sperring

Alternate Commissioners

Robert Guerrero • Ron Kott • Mitch Mashburn

Staff

Rich Seithel, Executive Officer • Christina Love, Deputy Executive Officer • Aaron Norman, Analyst II

“The Districts are very exposed to single points of failure if they were to lose a few career personnel or highly responsive volunteers. They lack ‘strength in numbers’ to be resilient and have redundancy”¹.

Currently, the CFPD lost 50%+ of their resident firefighters and does not have enough career safety personnel to meet their staffing model of 24/7-7 days a week. Due to these staffing and retention struggles, the CFPD is no longer able to provide 24/7-7 emergency response within its jurisdiction.

The City of Fairfield Fire Department entered into discussions with CFPD to assist in covering the breach of this safety emergency. On October 4, the Fairfield City Council approved a short-term arrangement that the FFD would provide 9-1-1/emergency calls for service with Fairfield fire apparatus response and chief officer coverage. The short-term agreement does not include prevention, administration, or any other auxiliary functions of the FFD.

It is important for the Commission to know that the Solano County Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff’s Office Dispatch Center, and Solano County Communications have been working with the City of Fairfield in advance of this transition.

In the short term, the FFD is willing and equipped to accommodate the CFPD’s roughly 50 calls per month under a “fee per call” model (est. \$475/call) while maintaining service levels in its own jurisdiction.

Staff is recommending the Commission receive this update and allow the LAFCO Executive Officer to administratively approve the FFD assuming the emergency call responsibility of the CFPD on a short-term basis, while the CFPD reaches a long-term solution.

Attachment:
Attachment A – City of Fairfield Fire Department letter

¹ Finding #13 – page 88 of the 2020 Citygate report.



CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Founded 1856 - Incorporated December 12, 1903

FIRE DEPARTMENT

September 19, 2022

Rich Seithel
Executive Officer
Solano LAFCO
675 Texas Street
Suite 6700
Fairfield, California 94533

Re: Short-Term Contract for Service between City of Fairfield Fire Department & Cordelia Fire Protection District

Dear Mr. Seithel:

The City of Fairfield Fire Department (FFD) is seeking Solano LAFCO approval to enter a short-term contract for service with the Cordelia Fire Protection District (CFPD) under Government Code section 56133(c) on the grounds that the Cordelia Fire Protection District is facing a public health and safety emergency.

The desired arrangement is limited to 9-1-1/emergency calls for service (fee per call), to include FFD apparatus response and chief officer coverage. The short-term agreement will not include prevention, administration, or any other auxiliary functions of FFD. In the short-term, FFD is willing and equipped to accommodate the CFPD's roughly 50 calls per month under a 'fee per call' model while maintaining service levels in its own jurisdiction. FFD currently has two fully staffed advanced life support (ALS) crews deploying from Fire Station 35, located at 600 Lopes Road which is currently the station with quickest response to the majority of CFPD's response area.

Rich Seithel

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FFD has already started response coverage upon request when CFPD is unable to adequately staff its units and would like to formalize the relationship as soon as possible in an effort to recover some costs. Ideally the short-term agreement will remain in effect no later than June 30, 2023 or until a long-term solution has been reached.

Regards,



MATT LUCKENBACH
Fire Chief

TA

cc: John Sturdee, Deputy Chief of Operations
Robb Herrick, Deputy Chief of Support Services
Steven Conti, Fire Marshal
Taylor Armour, Administration Division Manager