

FY 22/23 Contingency Funding Guidelines for Fire District Sustainability

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved a contingency funding set-aside of \$550,000 for fire sustainability with the adoption of the FY22-23 budget on September 21, 2021 (Item # 30). At the September 27, 2022 Board meeting, staff provided an overview of the LAFCo MSR for the rural fire protection districts. At the conclusion of this update, the Board delegated authority to the Fire Protection Sustainability Ad Hoc Subcommittee to approve and distribute the \$550,000 contingency funding. The Fire Sustainability staff working group met on October 21, November 9, and November 10, 2022 and provides the following recommendations for the Fire Sustainability Ad Hoc subcommittee's consideration:

- Funds should only be available to the direct service fire protection districts. An exception should be made for Winters FPD, a contract district that is primarily supported by volunteer fire fighters (4 career staff, 50 volunteer staff).
- Set aside \$50,000 of the \$550,000 for additional services from the Prop 218 consultant. This funding would be used to fund additional support for those FPD's that choose to pursue a Prop 218 election, such as assistance with outreach, balloting, elections, and implementation. Further information provided below. (\$3,000 x 15 FPD's = \$45,000, plus \$5,000 contingency)
- Distribute the remaining \$500,000 amongst the direct service FPD's, with the addition of Winters FPD, as described below.

Fund Additional Assistance for Prop 218 Implementation \$50,000

The Fire Sustainability staff working group has expressed a preference for using a portion of the contingency funds to acquire additional support with the implementation of Prop 218 elections. Staff recommends that the Subcommittee set aside \$50,000 of the allocation for the purpose of funding additional services from SCI Consultants such as outreach materials and messaging, printing and distribution of ballots, running the formal election, and implementing approved new fees/assessments. The representatives from the Yolo County Fire Chiefs' Association have expressed support for this specific proposal. Staff recommends that these funds be made available for all fire protection districts, who choose to pursue an assessment through the Prop. 218 process.

Immediate Long-Term Sustainability Needs \$500,000

Staff recommends that the Committee allocate the remaining \$500,000 amongst the 10 direct service fire protection districts with the addition of Winters FPD, see bullet #1 above. The work group, over the course of three meetings, developed the funding distribution model attached (see page 3). The funding model considers feedback received from the entirety of the Yolo County Fire Chief's Association (YCFCA), which was provided during the November 8, 2022 YCFCA meeting. The formula equally divides 60% of the funding amongst the eligible districts

Authorized expenditures may include, but are not limited to:

- Capital improvement projects and deferred maintenance
- Efforts that ensure or increase firefighter safety
- Apparatus or equipment replacement

FY 22/23 Contingency Funding Guidelines for Fire District Sustainability

- Supplemental operating costs due to inflation/increased fuel costs
- Recruitment and/or training of reserve/volunteer staff
- Staffing costs
- One-time incentive programs for existing volunteer/staff to ensure adequate staff are on-call (per diem/on-call pay)
- Implementation of mutual aid/joint operating agreements that ensure improved response time and/or staffing is available
- PPE's, turnouts, SCBA's, and similar equipment / supplies
- Critical equipment repairs and other similar items
- Matching funds for local, state, or federal grants

All expenditures shall be approved by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee, prior to authorization of funding distribution.