

**CONFIRE**

STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 13, 2026

FROM: Joe Barna
Deputy Executive Director
Administration

TO: EMS Division Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Fire Ambulance Replacement and System Resiliency

Recommended Action

1. Recommend replacement of the three Chino units with three staffed 24-hour fire department ambulances and determine the specific number of additional 24-hour fire ambulances, from zero to three, and priority coverage areas to recommend to the Administrative Committee, based on staff input and agency capacity.
2. Solicit agency interest and direct staff to confirm resource commitments, proposed locations, and implementation conditions, including additional units in service within three months of authorization and earlier deployment through overtime while agencies hire where staffing capacity allows and required agreements are approved.

Background Information

The Subcommittee is asked to recommend three Chino replacements and to decide whether up to three additional 24-hour fire ambulances are needed, for a total of six. The recommendation should identify the number of additions, interested agencies, priority coverage areas, and implementation conditions for Administrative Committee action later in the joint meeting.

Initial operating experience indicates approximately 20,000 more annual calls than the System Status Plan (SSP) planning assumption. That assumption was already 30,000 calls above the RFP estimate. The preceding SSP item addresses the redesign for higher volume and provides the basis for this placement discussion.

The 24-hour fire layer strengthens coverage in harder-to-reach areas and keeps high-performance ambulances available in busier areas. When nearby resources are committed, covering those areas can pull high-performance units away from areas with greater call demand.

Each proposed addition must address an identified coverage need and be supported by an agency able to provide it. The proposal covers three replacements plus zero to three additions, for three to six resources.

Staff will identify the most effective locations within interested agencies' service areas using the revised SSP and agency operational input. Agencies should identify unit capacity, vehicle availability, staffing needs, service dates, and any effect on first-response availability. The placement review will consider call demand, travel times, geographic access, and nearby ambulance availability.

Additional units must be in service within three months of authorization, with earlier deployment through overtime where agencies have staffing capacity. Agencies should identify the earliest start date and the hours and duration they can sustain through overtime while hiring. Staff will confirm costs and reimbursement arrangements before implementation.

Financial Impact

The resources will be funded through cost recovery from ambulance billing services. Staff will confirm replacement, expansion, and overtime costs, any offset from the Chino units, and the remaining Fiscal Year 2026-27 and ongoing annual cost once agency commitments and staffing arrangements are established.

The Board will receive a mid-year budget amendment reflecting increased call volume, expenditures, and revenue, including the adopted fire ambulance deployment.

Attachments

None.