



CONFIRE

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 26, 2026

FROM: Nathan Cooke, Interim Executive Director

BY: Damian Parsons, Finance/Administrative Director
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TO: CONFIRE Administrative Committee

SUBJECT: Reimbursement to San Bernardino County Fire Protection District for Consulting Services from Division Chief Joe Barna

Recommendation

Authorize the reimbursement of salary and benefits costs in the amount not to exceed \$535,692 to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District for the services of Joe Barna retroactive to May 2, 2026, for a twelve-month term ending on May 1, 2027.

Background Information

Effective May 2, 2026, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District agreed to assign Division Chief, Joe Barna to CONFIRE to provide consulting services in support and the administration and implementation of the Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Services, Interfacility and Critical Care Transport Services for Exclusive Operating Areas in San Bernardino County contract (EMS Contract).

Division Chief Barna was previously assigned to the Ground Ambulance Services implementation team where he performed a critical role in establishing the administrative and financial policies and processes for the ambulance services.

On May 6, 2026, the State Superior Court lifted the injunction, allowing CONFIRE to re-establish the implementation process and proceed toward system deployment.

The implementation team has already begun working on the project. Chief Barna will resume the implementation of administrative and financial policies and processes in support of the Ground Ambulance Services contract.

The current contract (No. 23-1183) between the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and CONFIRE allows for each entity to pay for the provision of additional services, therefore a new agreement for these services is not necessary. CONFIRE will reimburse San Bernardino the not-to-exceed amount of \$535,692 for the twelve-month period.

Fiscal Impact

The total current year costs for these services for two months is approximately \$89,282 and will be paid by the balance of the loan to the EMS fund 5020 from the General Reserve Fund (5010).

All costs for these services for budget year 2026-27 will be paid from the EMS Fund 5020 operating budget.