



CONFIRE

STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 24, 2024

**FROM: Nathan Cooke
Interim Director**

TO: Administrative Committee

SUBJECT: Creation of CONFIRE Fire/Rescue Division

Recommendation

Authorize the creation of the CONFIRE, Fire/Rescue Division.

The Third Amended and Restated CONFIRE Joint Powers Agreement defines its' purpose and method as the following:

*the purpose of CONFIRE and this Agreement is, for the benefit of those persons served by the Parties and those persons served by other agencies who contract with CONFIRE for services, to engage in any lawful act or activity that arises out of or relates to the operation of a regional public safety communications system and **cooperative program of fire protection, rescue and emergency medical services system.***

The CONFIRE Administrative Committee approved Resolution 2023-05, identifying the terms and conditions for fire department response away from their official duty station and assigned to an emergency incident. The resolution authorized CONFIRE to participate in the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Fire Rescue Division.

Through the current CFAA agreement, CONFIRE is authorized to deploy Fire Communications response personnel, Director, Finance Personnel, MIS personnel, GIS personnel, EMS personnel, and administrative personnel to an emergency incident, in support of an emergency incident, or prepositioned for emergency response to provide fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services.

The CFAA agreement provides CONFIRE a reimbursement mechanism that offsets the costs associated with such deployments.

By creating the Fire/Rescue Division, CONFIRE can provide professional and skilled assistance to any organization or agency in need during a disaster or other incident. The CONFIRE Director or designee, will be responsible for the Fire/Rescue Division administration, operations, training, and reimbursement activities.

The Fire/Rescue Division will further enhance our regional public safety communication system and cooperative program of fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services system.

It is recommended that once the Fire/Rescue Division is created, additional fire protection, rescue, and EMS positions such as, but not limited to, retired annuitant Firefighters, Paramedics, Captains, Battalion Chiefs, and Division Chiefs be added to the program and CFAA.

The Big Bear and La Verne Fire Departments, along with several other agencies across the state, have similar long-standing programs that have been extremely successful and have provided a tremendous benefit back to their respective agencies in the way of experience, training, and succession planning.

Fiscal Impact

The costs associated with the Fire/Rescue Division will be fully reimbursed through the CFAA and will include an administrative rate, offsetting the costs associated with administering the program.