



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Identify the terms of reimbursement and other conditions for the fire department response away from their official duty station and assigned to an emergency incident as part of the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA).

CEQA: Not a project

Recommendation: That Council 1) adopt Resolution No. 2026-31, identifying the terms and conditions for the fire departments response away from their official duty station and assigned to emergency incidents as part of California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA); 2) approve revisions to the applicable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a side letter outlining a fifteen percent (15%) portal-to-portal incentive for eligible employees assigned to (CFAA) strike team, single resource, and overhead assignments when such costs are reimbursable to the City, subject to legal review.

Prepared by: Mark Buttron, Fire Chief

Council Meeting Date: 06/09/2026

Date Prepared: 06/04/2026

Agenda: Consent

Discussion: The California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) is utilized for response to incidents within California requiring significant resource commitments under the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System. These deployments are most commonly experienced during the wildland fire season when Grass Valley Fire Department fire engines and personnel are assigned throughout the State in support of local government, state, and federal partner agencies.

The CFAA serves as the negotiated reimbursement mechanism for local government fire agency responses under the Mutual Aid System. The agreement establishes the terms, conditions, and methods of reimbursement and is intended to provide consistency in business practices and compensation related to emergency mutual aid deployments.

In compliance with CFAA requirements, participating agencies must provide the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Resolution establishing that employees are compensated portal-to-portal, meaning from the time of dispatch to the incident through return from the assignment. The proposed compensation revision would authorize a fifteen percent (15%) portal-to-portal incentive for eligible employees assigned to approved reimbursable deployments under CFAA or other applicable interagency agreements. Portal-to-portal compensation means the incentive applies continuously from the time an employee departs their assigned duty station until they return from the deployment

assignment.

The proposed incentive would apply only in instances where reimbursement is received through CFAA or other applicable interagency reimbursement mechanisms.

Council Goals/Objectives: This action supports the City Council's Strategic Plan goal of Exceptional Public Safety by ensuring the Grass Valley Fire Department remains eligible to participate in the California mutual aid system, provide emergency response resources throughout the State, and receive reimbursement for deployment-related costs.

Fiscal Impact: The proposed fifteen percent (15%) portal-to-portal deployment incentive will result in additional compensation costs for eligible employees assigned to California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) strike team, single resource, or overhead assignments. These costs are anticipated to be fully reimbursed to the City through CFAA or other applicable interagency reimbursement mechanisms. While the incentive may generate a minimal amount of additional Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) overtime liability, any such costs are expected to be covered by the administrative reimbursement received as part of the deployment billing process. Therefore, the proposed incentive is not expected to have a material impact on the General, Measure E, and Measure B Funds. Actual reimbursement and associated expenditures will vary based on the number, duration, and type of deployment assignments occurring during the fiscal year.

Funds Available: N/A

Account #: N/A

Reviewed by: Interim City Manager

Attachments: Resolution 2026-31

Side Letter Agreement - IAFF Local 3800

Side Letter Agreement - Public Safety Management

Side Letter Agreement - Local 39