

Commissioner's letter of explanation of his letter

Subject: RE: Commissioner's letter

Susan,

Overtime is not a "non-budgeted expense", it is a line item on the current 2022 budget. There is historical precedent for this definition when taken in full context of paragraph 5.01(d) of the interlocal agreement and based on previous document interpretation of the interlocal agreement. There is money in the overtime budget line item that should get the Fire Department to the end of the year. In the past, in times of emergency, the cities have told the fire department to do what is necessary to protect the health and safety of the citizens of the villages. This letter is just restating this commitment to the VFD to do what is necessary in times of an emergency, but to square the budget at the next commission meeting. This is not creating a new budget item so it is not non-budgeted.

For at least the past 15 years the villages have directed the VFD to not maintain an emergency or contingency fund, as "these funds are held by the cities". Since the election, there has been a change in direction, expressed by a couple of the cities, that now want the VFD to have a contingency fund. This and next year's budgets were not built on the VFD having a contingency fund. The commission can address this new directive, but at this time the VFD must rely on the cities for emergency or contingency funding. Even if the commission establishes a contingency fund, if there are multiple emergencies in a year that deplete the fund, the VFD will still need to come back to the cities for additional funds.

QUOTE FROM INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT PROVIDED BY SUSAN

"All non -budgeted expenditures, regardless of amount, must first be approved by the governing body of each of the contracting cities".