

TOWN OF JEROME

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

To: The Honorable Mayor and Council

From: Jerome Fire Department

Date: 3-5-2023

Meeting Date 3-14-2023

TITLE: Jerome Fire Bylaws Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Council Approve Bylaw changes.

ACTION SUMMARY: Updating the current JFD Bylaws to increase the range of membership and change required attendance to include a percentage of calls.

DISCUSSION: JFD has had difficulty with Volunteer retention and participation in recent years. We hope that allowing members to live outside of town limits will increase the number of volunteers we have. Changing the required membership attendance to include calls will assist in increasing participation to not just attend meetings but assist our staff with incidents. Members will still be required to meet attendance minimums in order to maintain membership and pension. In the future we hope to implement 12- or 24- hour volunteer shifts. These will allow us to compensate those who wish to stay in town and assist us during busy times when staff may be limited.

Background/History: see attached Attendance reports. In the last two years we've seen a significant drop in Volunteer attendance, with most responding to incidents already on staff for the town of Jerome. With less open rentals and housing for younger generations within the town, volunteer applicants have begun applying from as far as Tucson to become members of the department.

Key Considerations: Responding to Emergency Incidents is the primary focus of the Jerome Fire Department. With only 3 staffed members, it's important to supplement the paid staff and compensate our dedicated volunteers. This will also assist our staff in allowing for further training, preventing staff burnout, and allowing for greater control of emergency incidents. Often incidents require more than one or two personnel due to the unique situations we encounter within Jerome and surrounding areas. These calls can require multiple personnel to safely protect our crew, provide EMS, extricate patients and transport.

Community Benefits and Considerations: To create better retention and participation for volunteers of JFD, increasing the safety of the town and our personnel.

Community Involvement: None

Financial Implications: None (already budgeted for). Last year we budgeted approximately \$30,000 for our Volunteer per call payouts, and we only paid out about \$16,000 total.

Attachments/Exhibits: