

No.	Councilmember	Comment/Question	Response
01	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>The response to AB 6283's Q&amp;A question #12 acknowledges that Bellevue's Model #2 proposal calls for a reduction of on-duty on-island personnel from 7 to 6. The response to Q&amp;A question #2 claims that the safety of Mercer Island residents would not be impacted. Would you please explain to me how there can be no impact to the safety of Mercer Island residents when reducing on-island on-duty personnel from 7 to 6?</p>	<p>The staff do not believe there will be an impact to safety under a shared Battalion Chief model, if that is something the City Council chooses to consider. Bellevue's model 2 as proposed <u>may</u>, over time, reduce Mercer Island on-duty personnel from 7 to 6 through the implementation of a shared Battalion Chief position. No recommendation or decision has been made to adopt this model.</p> <p>For context, the span of control for Battalion Chiefs is typically 5 to 7 Fire Stations and this level of service is successfully deployed by many fire service providers in our region. The current level of service on Mercer Island is one Battalion Chief per two fire stations.</p> <p>It is also incorrect to assume that the Mercer Island fire personnel are on island at all times. Mercer Island Fire personnel routinely provide medical transports off-island and work collaboratively with nearby fire and emergency medical teams to respond to calls on <u>and</u> off-island. The Mercer Island Battalion Chief often responds to off-island calls as regional support is customary in this role as well.</p> <p>Level of service decisions related to Mercer Island Fire Services will be determined by the City Council and would be subject to negotiation with the regional fire service provider.</p>
02	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>If the two 3-person companies on Mercer Island are both out on aid calls and a CPR call comes in, it's the 7<sup>th</sup> person – the Battalion Chief – who grabs the AED and saves that life. In this scenario:</p> <p>What is the likely response time difference between the Battalion Chief responding from Station 91 vs Factoria?</p> <p>What is the reduced likelihood of that CPR patient's survival resulting from that additional response time?</p>	<p>No staff response provided due to the speculative nature of this question.</p>

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		<p>Considering the frequency and average duration of aid calls per year and the frequency of CPR calls, what is the mathematical likelihood of this scenario occurring at least once over a 10-year period?</p>	
<p>03</p>	<p>Councilmember Weinberg</p>	<p>AB 6283's Q&amp;A question #22 asks:</p> <p>"Bellevue's proposal included two different staffing models, what is the difference between 'Model 1' and 'Model 2'? Why is Model 2 the only option being evaluated?"</p> <p>The response provided in AB 6283 is:                      "Model 1 was included to represent preservation of the Mercer Island staffing positions exactly as they exist today – same rank and same positions.</p> <p>Model 2 proposes a staffing model consistent with Bellevue's staffing model, which includes different positions and ranks as compared to Mercer Island. For example, the roles of "Captain" and "Engineer" are included in Model 2 and these positions do not exist in the Mercer Island Fire Department today.</p> <p>City of Mercer Island staff, upon analyzing these options, do not believe that Model 1 is viable as it would not align with Bellevue's CBA.</p> <p>If Bellevue is selected to provide regional fire services to Mercer Island, current staff would be integrated into the Bellevue staffing model, which is "Model 2" and that was used for the purposes of the staff analysis."</p> <p>My follow-up question:                      As noted in AB 6283's response to question #12, there is a net reduction in on-island on-duty personnel in Model 2,</p>	<p>Bellevue's model 2 as proposed <u>may</u>, over time, reduce Mercer Island on-duty personnel from 7 to 6 through the implementation of a shared Battalion Chief position. No recommendation or decision has been made to adopt this model.</p> <p>The cost estimate for Model 2 includes retention of the Battalion Chief position on-island and was accurately reflected in the City Council packet materials.</p> <p>Level of service decisions related to Mercer Island Fire Services will be determined by the City Council and would be subject to negotiation with the regional fire service provider.</p>

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		<p>from 7 personnel to 6. Shouldn't that key difference also be noted in the response to question #22?</p>	
<p><b>04</b></p>	<p>Councilmember Weinberg</p>	<p>Staffing level modifications.                      In the questions I submitted on 5/16/23, I asked:</p> <p>“The last paragraph of section 3.3 says: ‘Eastside reserves the right to temporarily modify staffing levels from time to time as circumstances may require in its sole reasonable discretion.’                      What length of time does Eastside consider to be the boundary between temporary and permanent?”</p> <p>AB 6283’s Q&amp;A question #52 asks a similar question:</p> <p>“What is meant by section 3.3 of the Eastside proposal saying: ‘Eastside reserves the right to temporarily modify staffing levels from time to time as circumstances may require in its sole reasonable discretion?’”</p> <p>The response to question #52 is:                      “The purpose of this section is to address instances when Eastside needs to send crews for training, staffing large events within the EFR service area which requires increased staffing, etc. This is not intended to result in decreased staffing levels on Mercer Island.”</p> <p>My follow-up question:</p> <p>What length of time does Eastside consider to be the boundary between temporary and permanent?</p>	<p>The word “temporary” is not defined in the RFP response. Generally, temporary staffing changes would be the responsibility of the leadership of the regional fire service provider.</p>
<p><b>05</b></p>	<p>Councilmember Weinberg</p>	<p>Will each responding organization commit in writing to having a combined total of 7 on-duty personnel stationed on the island? Yes or no?</p>	<p>Level of service decisions related to Mercer Island Fire Services will be determined by the City Council and would be subject to negotiation with the regional fire service provider.</p>

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06	Councilmember Weinberg	[Bellevue] Section 2a offers two “models”, but then section 2c states, “Over time Mercer Island’s fire stations will transition to the Bellevue Fire Department’s staffing model.” Does this mean that even if we chose the 7-people-on-island model (which is what I think Model 1 was meant to convey), that Bellevue would eventually transition that to 6 people (i.e. Model 2)?	Level of service decisions related to Mercer Island Fire Services will be determined by the City Council and would be subject to negotiation with the regional fire service provider.
07	Councilmember Weinberg	Why does Bellevue’s Model #2, with 6 on-island personnel, offer 8 promotions to Mercer Island’s Lieutenants and Firefighters while Model #1 has no such promotions?	Model 1 was included to represent preservation of the Mercer Island staffing positions exactly as they exist today – same rank and same positions. City of Mercer Island staff, upon analyzing this option, do not believe that Model 1 is viable as it would not align with Bellevue’s CBA. See question #22 in AB 6283 Exhibit 2 for more information.
08	Councilmember Weinberg	Considering our three options – staying with our own fire department, outsourcing to Eastside, or outsourcing to Bellevue – which do we expect to have positive or negative impacts on how long Fire personnel work on the island?	Staff did not prepare an answer to this question as it requires a considerable amount of speculation related to the individual choices employees will make about their future employment.
09	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Bellevue’s RFP response claims on page 3 that switching to Bellevue will improve response times due to Bellevue’s proximity and increased ladder staffing levels. Bellevue already provides ladder services to Mercer Island in exchange for MI providing marine patrol. If MI already has access to Bellevue ladders, would you please explain how contracting with Bellevue would improve response times?</p> <p>Note: Question #33 in AB 6283 does not address this question.</p>	<p>The City of Bellevue’s proposal on page 3 indicates “[Effective response force] ERF response times would improve due to Bellevue’s proximity and increased ladder staffing levels. It is also notable that all ten of Bellevue’s Fire Stations are the next closest Zone 1 Stations to Mercer Island”.</p> <p>Information needed to further respond to this question is not included in Bellevue’s RFP response, but staff can follow-up with Bellevue if the City Council desires.</p>

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10	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>EF&amp;R's RFP section 8.1 says Eastside will represent MI's interests in the renegotiation of any mutual and automatic aid agreements and that MI City Council shall not have approval authority. I'm not sure I fully understand the purpose of this section. I presume Eastside would not rescind the ILA with Bellevue and require MI to use Eastside ladder trucks, thus lengthening response times. Could you elaborate on the scenario that this clause of the RFP response envisions?</p> <p>Note: Question #33 in AB 6283 does not address this question.</p>	<p>Question #33 in AB 6283 Exhibit 2 was not drafted to respond to this question. It addresses a different question.</p> <p>EFR included a sample contract in their proposal, which is merely a template.</p> <p>Under a regional services model, Interlocal Agreements may be negotiated by the leadership of the regional fire services agency but matters directly related to the City of Mercer Island remain subject to approval by the City Council. Fire Service operations include a number of Interlocal Agreements and Mutual Aid Agreements, all of which will be subject to negotiation with the regional fire services provider.</p>
11	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>As EF&amp;R and Bellevue provide their CORE and CARES services across a large number of constituencies, how much improvement in MIH-related service would MI residents experience?</p> <p>Note: AB 6283's Q&amp;A question #13 does not address the question of whether there would be an <i>improvement</i> in MIH.</p>	<p>The City does not intend to adopt either entities' MIH program and would maintain the current YFS led MIH program. Any changes or enhancements to the current program would be subject to negotiation.</p>
12	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>According to the response to question #31, Bellevue staff are currently forecasting the 2024 COLA to be "anywhere from 4 to 6%." If the COLA for Eastside is expected to be lower (4%) than Bellevue's (4-6%), why was Bellevue's lowered to 4%?</p>	<p>As described in question #31 in AB 6283 Exhibit 2, Bellevue's policy for establishing COLAS is 90% of the CPI-W annual average from July to June. This number is released in July and Bellevue staff are currently forecasting it to be anywhere from 4 to 6%.</p> <p>Mercer Island staff discussed the situation and decided it was best to leave the 2024 escalator at 4%, which provides a consistent comparison for both proposals. Staff recognize that the actual 2024 COLAs could be higher or lower than this assumption.</p>

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13	Councilmember Weinberg	Would you please provide us with a line graph comparing the COLA's for each of the 3 departments for each of the past 10 years?	If a majority of the City Council supports development of this additional material, staff will prepare the analysis and present it at a future City Council meeting.
14	Councilmember Weinberg	Based on the COLA's of the past 10 years, what do you project the annual COLA's to be for each option looking forward 10 years?	If a majority of the City Council supports development of this additional material, staff will prepare the analysis and present it at a future City Council meeting. Support from a consultant with expertise in long-term inflationary forecasts and modeling may be needed.
15	Councilmember Weinberg	Based on the projected COLA's for the next 10 years per department, which of the 3 options has the highest and lowest total cost over 10 years to the City?	See answer to question 14 above.
16	Councilmember Weinberg	Does the list of positions in the response to AB 6283 Q&A question #24 represent the positions before Bellevue's proposed 8 promotions or after?	<p>The answer to question #24 in AB 6283 Exhibit 2 represents the staffing model proposed by the City of Bellevue in Model 2, inclusive of 8 promotions compared to the current Mercer Island Fire Department staffing model.</p> <p>The Bellevue Model 2 includes the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Battalion Chiefs</li> <li>• 2 Captains</li> <li>• 4 Lieutenants</li> <li>• 6 Firefighters/Engineers</li> <li>• 13 Firefighters</li> </ul>
17	Councilmember Weinberg	Would you please provide the spreadsheet used to calculate this \$571,905 line item and explain what each entry in the spreadsheet means?	<p>The staff will walk through the entire spreadsheet at the City Council meeting on June 6.</p> <p>The \$571,905 cost reflects the end of the ILA with Eastside Fire and Rescue and the return to a staffing model that includes a full-time Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief.</p> <p>The Excel spreadsheet will be sent as a separate attachment</p>

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18	Councilmember Weinberg	What actual dollar amount has the City has actually paid Eastside over the past 12 months for the Chief and Deputy Chief?	City paid \$356,400 in 2022 for the ILA with EFR for fire leadership.
19	Councilmember Weinberg	Does this \$571k line item assume that the Chief and Deputy Chief will work and bill full time, or does it assume that they will continue to bill the same average number of hours per week that they have been billing under the EF&R contract?	The \$571,905 reflects an end to the agreement with Eastside Fire & Rescue for Fire Leadership and the restoration of a full-time Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief.
20	Councilmember Weinberg	Does this line item assume that the EF&R contract providing Chief and Deputy Chief services would continue, or does it assume that we will be discontinuing that contract and hiring our own?	The financial analysis presented in AB 6283 Exhibit 1 assumes the current EFR agreement for Fire Department leadership will end in December 2023.
21	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Bellevue includes a 5% Administrative fee, while Eastside’s is 10%. The resulting \$360k difference between the Administrative Fees of the two bids accounts for over 99% of the \$363k total cost difference between the two bids.</p> <p>Would each provider please describe their reasons for using a flat percentage instead of accounting for and charging us actual costs for their administrative work?</p> <p>Would each provider please itemize their Administrative Fees, showing how much of their Administrative Fee would go to each department or leadership role?</p> <p>Would each provider please provide reasons why each item in that itemized list is truly proportional to the <i>total cost</i> of Personnel + Operations and not just proportional to the <i>count</i> of personnel?</p>	Staff will submit this additional research request to Eastside Fire & Rescue and the City of Bellevue if the majority of City Council supports making this request.

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22	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Would you please explain why there is a \$50,000 "Legal Costs" line item associated with staying with MI and why there are no such legal costs associated with the other two options?</p>	<p>The \$50,000 legal cost is an estimate of the expected annual costs of bargaining with the union in 2024 should the City choose to retain a stand-alone Mercer Island Fire Department.</p> <p>Should the City choose to adopt a regional fire service model, bargaining would be managed by the regional fire service provider and not the City.</p>
23	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>In the 5/16/23 questions I sent to the City Manager, I asked:</p> <p>"Can MI expect its overall insurance costs to be reduced proportional to having 29 of our employees leave to work for another organization?</p> <p>If so, how much do we estimate that savings to be?</p> <p>Will the savings amount be the same whether we go with Bellevue or EF&amp;R?"</p> <p>Question #16 in AB 6283's Q&amp;A section responds:</p> <p>"The exact changes (if any) to insurance costs are not known at this time and will be a component of the negotiations with the selected regional fire service provider."</p> <p>My follow-up question:</p> <p>As the City's insurance costs are significant, and considering how the potential savings in insurance costs may well turn out to make a material difference between the cost of outsourcing the Fire Department versus keeping the Fire Department on-island, would you please estimate the difference in insurance costs, include an estimated margin of error, and explain the reasoning behind both the estimate and the error margin prior to asking the City Council to choose a Fire services option?</p>	<p>The exact changes (if any) to insurance costs are not known at this time and will be a component of the negotiations with the selected regional fire service provider.</p>



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24	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Public Information Officer. In the questions I submitted on 5/16/23, I asked:</p> <p>“For both RFP responses, how does the presence of their PIO result in any net gain of safety to MI residents over the communications provided today by Mercer Island’s Communications Manager?”</p> <p>In the AB 6283 agenda bill published on 5/31/23, Q&amp;A question #17 responds:</p> <p>“The availability of a PIO at each agency would add an additional resource for the Mercer Island Communications Manager to coordinate and partner with. The added depth of coverage will provide an increase in capacity for fire and emergency management related communications.”</p> <p>My follow-up questions:</p> <p>Between how many other cities and fire districts would the time of each respondent’s PIO be split?</p> <p>By how much does the fraction of the PIO’s time made available to Mercer Island exceed the amount of time that Mercer Island’s Communication Manager would need to expend communicating and coordinating with the PIO?</p>	<p>The exact details of the relationship between Mercer Island’s Communication Manager and the PIO for a regional service provide would be subject to negotiation.</p> <p>Staff will submit this additional research request to Eastside Fire &amp; Rescue and the City of Bellevue if the majority of City Council supports making this request.</p>
25	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>HR and Legal department savings. In the questions I submitted on 5/16/23, I asked:</p> <p>“If ~15% of the workforce of the City of Mercer Island moves to a regional fire authority, would the savings to MI’s human resources and legal departments be along the lines of 15%, 5%, or less than 1%?</p> <p>If there would be HR/Legal cost savings, could we get a ballpark dollar figure?”</p>	<p>Staff anticipate some cost savings among shared services, as detailed in question #18 in AB 6283 Exhibit 2. Staff do not have exact figures at this time.</p> <p>Much will depend on the outcome of a negotiation with a regional services provider and the confirmation of how work plan items and management of other tasks will be assigned. For example, there are outstanding questions related to management, maintenance, and replacement of equipment, vehicles, apparatus, and facilities that would be subject to negotiation.</p>

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		<p>AB 6283's Q&amp;A question #18 asks a similar question:</p> <p>"Are there anticipated cost savings to Mercer Island for internal services if the City moves to a regional fire service model?"</p> <p>AB 6283's response to Q&amp;A question #18 was:</p> <p>"Preliminary estimates identify cost savings in legal services and a reduction in some functions of payroll and benefits management. Other internal services that will see a workload reduction on fire-related issues include finance, human resources, customer service, legal, IT, GIS, fleet, and facilities."</p> <p>My follow-up questions:</p> <p>For each department – HR, Legal, IT, GIS, and Facilities – in what percentage <i>range</i> would you estimate the City will realize savings from this 15% reduction in overall City staff, with the range options being: 0%, &lt;1%, 1-5%, 5-10%, 10-15%?</p> <p>What are your reasons for the range selection for each department?</p>	
26	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>IT costs. In the questions I submitted on 5/16/23, I asked:</p> <p>Are both Bellevue and EF&amp;R proposing to take ownership of all the IT systems associated with MI Fire?</p> <p>Are they both taking responsibility for the ongoing maintenance, operations, and replacements of the Fire IT systems?</p> <p>Bellevue: The RFP response estimates it would charge MI \$50,000 to create an integration between its Operative IQ asset</p>	<p>There are a variety of scenarios regarding IT integration that would be considered in negotiations with the regional fire service provider.</p> <p>The proposed charge by EFR of \$33,600 to align critical safety equipment is an estimated cost to upgrade the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) masks to ensure uniformity with those used by EFR operations personnel, see question #46 for more information. Per the EFR proposal there are no specific costs anticipated to integrate IT systems.</p>

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		<p>management software and MI's. What asset management software does MI use today?</p> <p>If the asset management software integration project takes more than \$50k, who covers the overage?</p> <p>Eastside: In the Information Technology bullet point in the 5<sup>th</sup> page of the RFP response it states, "A seamless transition to on-board additional facilities and apparatus can be anticipated." Does this mean that all the one-time costs involved with integrating or migrating asset management and other IT systems between MI and Eastside will be covered by the \$33K "Costs to align critical safety equipment"?</p> <p>If the on-boarding and transition of IT systems exceeds the estimated \$33K, who covers the overage?"</p> <p>In the Q&amp;A section of AB 6283 published on 5/31/23, the following similar questions were included:</p> <p>Question #20: "How will technology needs be met under a regional fire services model? Who will provide computer equipment? And IT support?"</p> <p>Question #27: "What expenses are included in the 'MI Interfund Computer Replacement?'"</p> <p>In AB 6283, the following responses were provided to those questions:</p> <p>Answer to question #20: "The details of equipment ownership (including computers), maintenance / replacement, and staff support would be negotiated and agreed to with a regional services provider.</p>	

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		<p>The cost to maintain and operate the equipment is included in the proposals.”</p> <p>Answer to question #27:                      “The MI Interfund charge for Computer Replacement is the current financial model used by the City to pay for computer and related technology replacement. Every Mercer Island owned computer and related computer equipment has a depreciation and replacement cycle, and our financial models produce the necessary funds needed each year to, over time, replace every computer at the end of its useful life.</p> <p>The Bellevue proposal assumes the City will continue to fund the replacement of computers and technology through this funding mechanism. Additional discussions are needed to clarify the ownership and administration of technology under a regional services model, and this would be negotiated and agreed to prior to implementation.”</p> <p>My follow-up question:                      As the costs of integrating IT systems could easily run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars and could become a significant factor in the Council’s decision of whether to outsource the Fire Department, would you please respond to each of my aforementioned questions from 5/16/23 and provide the community with enough time to receive and consider your responses before asking Council to decide whether or not to outsource the Fire Department?</p>	
27	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Union contract renewal schedules. In the questions I submitted on 5/16/23, I asked:</p> <p>For each of the 6 unions involved:                      When were their salaries and benefits last negotiated?</p> <p>When are they due for re-negotiation?</p>	<p>The Bellevue proposal (Model 2 adjusted to 2024 dollars) includes \$5,922,128 of personnel expenses out of a total modeled 2024 cost of \$7,886,026, thus personnel expenses are roughly 75% of the costs of the proposed budget.</p> <p>The EFR proposal did not split out personnel costs from operations costs.</p>

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		<p>What percentage of the fire service provider’s overall budget does each of its union’s wages &amp; benefits represent?                      In AB 6283 published on 5/31/23, Q&amp;A question #21 was similar: “What is [the] current term for the Bellevue Fire and Eastside Fire &amp; Rescue Collective Bargaining Agreements?”</p> <p>The response to question #21 in AB 6283 was:                      “At the City of Bellevue, the captains collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for Firefighters expires at the end of 2023. The Battalion Chief and Fire Marshal CBA’s have expired and the City of Bellevue is currently bargaining new agreements.</p> <p>Eastside Fire &amp; Rescue has a firefighter and support staff (e.g., Fire Marshal) CBA through the end of 2024 and a Battalion Chief CBA through the end of 2026.”</p> <p>My follow-up questions:                      What percentage of the fire service provider’s overall budget does each of its union’s wages &amp; benefits represent?</p> <p>Do each of the current (or just expired, if currently expired) CBA’s include an annual COLA?</p> <p>If so, what are those COLA’s?</p>	<p>The <a href="#">2023 Bellevue Firefighters CBA</a> included a 8.89% COLA.</p> <p>The <a href="#">2022 Bellevue Battalion Chief CBA</a> (2023 CBA currently under negotiation) included 6.5% COLA</p> <p>It is staff’s understanding that the relevant CBA for Bellevue assistant fire marshal’s is undergoing significant changes and there is not comparable previous CBA to compare to.</p> <p>The <a href="#">2021 through 2024 Eastside Fire &amp; Rescue Firefighters, Engineers, and Company Officers CBA</a> included a 9.50% COLA on January 1, 2023 based on the preceding Seattle-Tacoma Bellevue June (2022) CPI-W. Per the CBA these members will receive an additional COLA January 1, 2024 by the preceding Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue June (2023) CPI-W.</p> <p>The <a href="#">2021 through 2026 Eastside Fire &amp; Rescue Battalion Chief CBA</a> bases its COLA on the firefighter’s CBA. For example, per the CBA, “Effective January 1, 2023, the Battalion Chief Base Monthly Rate shall be 146.5% of the First Class Firefighter Base Monthly Rate effective January 1, 2023, as established in the Firefighter, Engineer, and Company Officer CBA.” This policy continues in 2024, but in 2025 and 2026 the COLA shall be established by the preceding Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue June CPI-W “except that in no event shall the Battalion Chief Base Monthly Rate be increased by less than 2.5% or increased by more than 5%”.</p> <p>The <a href="#">2021 through 2024 Eastside Fire &amp; Rescue Support Staff CBA</a> (inclusive of Fire Marshal position) included a 9.50% COLA on January 1, 2023 based on the preceding Seattle-Tacoma Bellevue June (2022) CPI-W. Per the CBA these members will receive an additional COLA January 1, 2024 by the preceding Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue June (2023) CPI-W. Staff’s</p>

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			<p>understanding is EFR conducted a wage study in 2023 that adjusted pay rates slightly, including a slight increase in the Fire Marshal wage.</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>Councilmember Weinberg</p>	<p>Vehicles and apparatus. In the questions I submitted on 5/16/23, I asked:</p> <p>“How much of MI’s current Fire annual budget is set aside for vehicle &amp; apparatus maintenance, repair, and replacement?</p> <p>Does EF&amp;R’s RFP response include what MI is currently paying them for vehicle and apparatus maintenance and repair, or would that remain a separate contract?”</p> <p>In the Q&amp;A section of AB 6283 published on 5/31/23, the question #25 was similar:</p> <p>“Exhibit 1: What expenses are included in the City of Bellevue ‘Apparatus Repair and Maintenance’ line item?”</p> <p>The answer provided to question #25 was:</p> <p>“The City of Mercer Island currently contracts with EFR for apparatus repair and maintenance. The Bellevue proposal assumes Mercer Island will continue this agreement with EFR even if regional fire services are provided by the City of Bellevue.</p> <p>Mercer Island staff reached out to EFR leadership to confirm this was possible. EFR stated that in the short-term, it is likely the arrangement could continue. However, EFR is evaluating the capacity of the EFR Mechanic Team to continue to provide services to outside entities. While EFR has made no final policy decision, this means there is some risk in the coming years that EFR would no longer be able to</p>	<p>The City has budgeted \$108,200 for the costs of the ILA with EFR for apparatus repair and maintenance in 2024.</p> <p>The City paid \$37,471.46 for the costs of the ILA with EFR for apparatus repair and maintenance in 2022.</p> <p>EFR stated that in the short-term, it is likely the ILA could continue should the City go with the City of Bellevue. EFR is evaluating the capacity of the EFR Mechanic Team to continue to provide services to outside entities. While EFR has made no final policy decision, this means there is some risk in the coming years that EFR would no longer be able to provide apparatus repair and maintenance services to the City of Mercer Island.</p> <p>Given this information, staff chose to include the \$108,200 cost estimate for vehicle and apparatus maintenance, but did highlight the high risk of a cost increase in future years should the City remain a stand-alone fire department or choose Bellevue as a regional fire service provider.</p>

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		<p>provide apparatus repair and maintenance services to the City of Mercer Island.</p> <p>Mercer Island asked Bellevue staff to provide a cost estimate for the City of Bellevue to perform this service and they responded with an estimated cost of \$380,000 annually, but indicated this was likely a high estimate and would be further refined.”</p> <p>My follow-up questions: Does the \$108,200 on line 2 of the MIFD estimate on page 4 of AB 6283 represent the current (i.e. last 12 months) of actual costs paid to EF&amp;R to repair and maintain MIFD’s apparatus?</p> <p>If not, what were our trailing-12-months actual costs paid to EF&amp;R for Apparatus Repair and Maintenance?</p> <p>Does the \$108,200 represent 2023 dollars or 2024 dollars?</p> <p>Why does line 2 of the Bellevue estimate on page 4 of AB 6283 show as \$108,200 and not the \$380,000 that Bellevue quoted us?</p>					
29	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Facilities maintenance. The response to question #42 in AB 6283’s Q&amp;A section states:</p> <p>“The EFR Equipment Replacement Fund pays for bunker gear, computers, PT equipment, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), etc. (See Exhibit A of Proposal for full list). This will replace the current Mercer Island computer interfund charge and CIP Minor Tools and Equipment. Also includes facilities preventative maintenance costs.”</p> <p>The quote from EF&amp;R shown on page 4 of AB 6283, however, contains the following two line items:</p>	<p>The cost of the two referenced funds in the EFR proposal are as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="1207 1128 1785 1193"> <tr> <td>Equipment Replacement Fund</td> <td>\$114,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Facilities Maintenance Fund</td> <td>\$ 30,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>After seeking clarification from EFR, facilities preventative maintenance is included in the “Capital Facilities Maintenance Fund.” The staff incorrectly attributed those costs to the Equipment Replacement Fund in the City Council packet materials.</p>	Equipment Replacement Fund	\$114,000	Capital Facilities Maintenance Fund	\$ 30,000
Equipment Replacement Fund	\$114,000						
Capital Facilities Maintenance Fund	\$ 30,000						

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		<p>Equipment Replacement Fund 114,000 Capital Facilities Maintenance Fund 30,000</p> <p>My follow-up question: If facilities preventative maintenance is covered in the Equipment Replacement Fund, does that mean the 30,000 line item above is part of the 114,000 line item above it?</p> <p>Would this reduce EF&amp;R's estimate by \$30k, or just increase the Equipment Replacement Fund to \$144k?</p>	
30	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>The response to question #51 in AB 6283's Q&amp;A section states:</p> <p>"It is anticipated that fire personnel will wear the patches and uniforms associated with Eastside Fire &amp; Rescue. There will certainly be an opportunity to discuss branding, use of logos, and other forms of agency representation prior to implementation of a regional services model. The cost of patches and uniforms is included in the proposal."</p> <p>My follow-up question: What line item in the EFR proposal on page 4 of AB 6283 includes the cost of uniforms?</p> <p>Is it part of the \$114k Equipment Replacement Fund?</p>	The costs for uniforms are included in the operational costs in the Eastside Fire and Rescue proposal.
31	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Annual fees.</p> <p>Neither RFP response places any limit on the service provider's ability to increase the primary component of its charges, Personnel costs, in future years. What language can be added to the contract to ensure that the service provider is properly incentivized to negotiate market-competitive personnel costs in MI's best interest?</p>	The methodology for addressing annual increases in any component of the regional fire services model would be subject to negotiation.



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		<p>Is Bellevue open to setting a fixed escalation cap on Operations, Equipment, and Capital Facilities Maintenance costs in years 2-10 of the contract?</p> <p>What commitment are the service providers willing to make to ensure that, when City revenues decline during an economic recession, the provider will bear their fair share of the burden of the economic downturn?</p> <p>Is either service provider open to making its Administrative fee a fixed amount with a fixed cost escalation percentage?</p>	
32	Councilmember Weinberg	In section 3g of Bellevue’s response, it says Bellevue intends to retain the City of Mercer Island’s current branding on all apparatus and vehicles owned by the City of Mercer Island. But in section 4 Bellevue includes a \$363k charge for new uniforms. Shouldn’t we use the existing uniforms and replace them when they’re due?	As described in Q&A question #32 in AB 6283 Exhibit 2, Bellevue’s one-time cost of \$363,327 for uniforms assumed they would need to replace all of the uniforms. This is the cost estimate for the worst-case scenario should every Mercer Island employee require a new uniform. The number is likely to be lower based on the actual condition of uniforms.
33	Councilmember Weinberg	In section 3f of Bellevue’s response, it says MI will retain ownership of equipment. Then in section 4 it includes a \$50,000 charge for new equipment. Can you help me understand how to reconcile these two statements?	As described in Q&A question #32 in AB 6283 Exhibit 2, the \$50,000 charge for new equipment is to cover the cost of procuring new equipment to ensure there is uniformity in the type of equipment being used across the Bellevue Fire system, especially uniformity in equipment on the apparatus. Mercer Island would retain ownership of this equipment, as Mercer Island funds would be used for procurement.
34	Councilmember Weinberg	Section 4.4.1.a of Eastside’s RFP response indicates in its last sentence that it is “subject to the adjustments described in Sections 4.3(b) and 4.3(c) below.” But there is no section 4.3(c). To which section was this intended to refer?	Staff believe there is missing text in the proposal. This section of missing text was in the sample agreement provided. The terms of adjustments would be subject to negotiation.

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35	Councilmember Weinberg	Both Bellevue and Eastside include in their responses that MI would have to pay them for MI employees' accumulated leave, but Bellevue estimates that to be \$490,202 and Eastside estimates it to be \$1,207,806. If in fact these figures are measuring different costs, could we get a more detailed description of what each service provider is including in each number?	<p>As described in Q&amp;A questions #32 and #46 AB 6283 Exhibit 2, for Bellevue, the \$490,202 charge covers the cost of the liability of accrued vacation and sick leave. The Bellevue policy is to have funds covering 100% of vacation time at the average cost of pay rates. Bellevue Fire provides 10% of accrued sick leave as cash payout upon separation, the value of which is included in this one-time transition fee. Bellevue calculated this value using the accrued leave values Mercer Island provided and based it on the projected Bellevue pay rates of each employee.</p> <p>For EFR, the charge of \$1,207,806 is for covering the cost of the liability of accrued vacation and sick leave. EFR policy is to cover 100% of vacation time liability. There is also a sick leave incentive in the EFR CBA for both individuals and workforce. This includes the possibility of a variable sick leave payout at separation. There is also a sick leave cap in the EFR CBA. See Q&amp;A question #47 in AB 6283 Exhibit 2 for more information.</p>
36	Councilmember Weinberg	Section 3.5.a of Eastside's RFP response claims, "Eastside shall have no direct responsibility for code enforcement, which shall remain the responsibility of the building, planning, and/or code enforcement officers of Mercer Island." Does the Fire Marshal have to hand enforcement over to CPD today?	<p>The Fire Marshal does not take direct civil code compliance actions. Potential cases are referred to, and any subsequent actions are completed by, the Code Compliance Official. For any case involving the fire code it is expected the Fire Marshall avail themselves to the Code Compliance Official and other staff including but not limited to the City Attorney for consultation and to provide technical input as necessary.</p> <p>The text quoted from the EFR proposal does not appear to be a material change from current practice, but the details may be a subject of negotiation.</p>

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37	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Section 10 of EF&amp;R’s RFP response explicitly states that “Eastside shall provide insurance coverage for all of Eastside and Mercer Island’s operations, facilities, equipment, and personnel.” Is the cost of this insurance included as part of the \$7.15M personnel and operations fees or as part of the \$715k administrative fees?</p> <p>Does Bellevue intend to include operations, facilities, equipment, and personnel insurance? If so, is this part of the existing amounts quoted in its section 4 “Cost of Services”?</p>	<p>Both Bellevue and EFR include insurance costs as part of their operations costs.</p>
38	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Section 3e of Bellevue’s response offers to let MI continue to receive its Fire related revenue streams or let Bellevue manage it for them. Considering past revenues received and costs incurred, what percentage of Bellevue’s overall annual fee for fire services do we anticipate these revenues would cover? 1%? 10%? 100%?</p>	<p>The Federal and County fire related revenue streams are available as general fund dollars to be used to fund fire department operations. County funding for MIH must be spent on MIH programs and services.</p> <p>The City currently uses these revenue streams to cover a portion of Fire Department operations cost. The City could arrange with either Bellevue or EFR to receive those funds directly, but that would be subject to negotiation. It is important to note staff anticipate such an arrangement would be cost neutral.</p>
39	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>Bellevue: Is the Preventative Maintenance described in section 3f of Bellevue’s RFP response part of their \$1.14m/year operational expense estimate, or would this maintenance work be in addition to that?</p>	<p>Preventative maintenance is included as part of the quoted operational expenses.</p>
40	Councilmember Weinberg	<p>What are the key differentiators between the definitions of equipment, apparatus, and vehicles?</p> <p>Into which category would you place the \$118K motorized stretchers that MI recently purchased?</p>	<p>Neither proposal provides definitions of equipment, apparatus, or vehicles.</p> <p>Staff would categorize motorized stretchers as equipment. At Mercer Island, staff consider fire trucks to be “apparatus” and all other fire department related vehicles to be “vehicles”.</p>

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41	Councilmember Weinberg	Section 3g of Bellevue’s RFP response status that MI “will continue to maintain the fire department staff vehicles that it owns.” Would you please define the difference between a vehicle and a staff vehicle?	The Bellevue proposal does not define “staff vehicle”.  The current ILA with EFR for apparatus repair and maintenance includes maintenance of fire vehicles and apparatus.
42	Councilmember Weinberg	To what measurable extent do the races, ethnicities, and genders of each responding organization’s workforce reflect that of the communities it serves?	The Mercer Island City staff did not perform a demographics analysis on the proposals. The staff will perform this type of analysis at the direction of the majority of the City Council.
43	Councilmember Weinberg	What goals and timelines has each organization set for achieving parity between the demographics of its workforce and that of the communities it serves?	This question was outside the scope of the RFP. The staff will request this information from each agency at the direction of the majority of the City Council.
44	Councilmember Weinberg	Does Bellevue Fire have an overall sustainability plan with measurable and time-based goals and policies in place to achieve those goals?  Has Bellevue set a date for achieving 100% electrification of its light-duty vehicles? If not, does intend to set such a date within the next 2 years?  Does Bellevue intend to make solar and/or ground water heating and cooling a required component of all station replacements going forward, like it did with station 10?  Does Bellevue’s CARES program use 100% EV’s? If not, have they set a date by which its fleet will be 100% EV’s? If not, do they intend to define such a target date within the next 2 years?	This question was outside the scope of the RFP. However, see Appendix B of Bellevue’s proposal which included some of this information.  The staff will request additional information as needed from each agency at the direction of the majority of the City Council.
45	Councilmember Weinberg	Does EF&R have a plan consisting of measurable and time-based sustainability goals and policies in place to achieve those goals?	This question was outside the scope of the RFP. The staff will request additional information as needed from each agency at the direction of the majority of the City Council.

No.	Councilmember	Comment/Question	Response
		<p>If there is no such plan yet, on what timeline does EF&amp;R plan to have a plan with measurable and time-based goals and policies in place to support achieving those goals?</p> <p>If there is such a plan, does one of those goals involve setting a target date for electrifying the entire light-duty vehicles?</p> <p>Is there a separate target date for electrifying the heavy-duty vehicles?</p>	
46	Councilmember Weinberg	In what year did Bellevue receive its Class 2 WSRB rating?	This was outside the scope of the RFP. The staff will request this information from Bellevue at the direction of the majority of the City Council.
47	Councilmember Weinberg	Appendices D and E of Bellevue’s RFP response describe Bellevue’s advanced training and special operations capabilities. Are these services Bellevue would offer to MI today if the need for such a specialized service were to arise?	Yes, these specialty services may be received through mutual aid agreements. Joining a regional fire service model would allow Mercer Island fire personnel to be trained and certified on these services.
48	Councilmember Weinberg	On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> page of Exhibit D in Eastside’s RFP response, the row for Type “MDC” indicates an item that needs replacing every 5 years starting in 2025, but there are no numbers in the 2025, 2030, or 2035 columns. What is MDC? How much does it cost to replace?	<p>MDC stands for Mobile Data Computer. The City also replaces this equipment on a 5-year schedule. Replacement costs vary based on the device and would be subject to a replacement schedule and future negotiation.</p> <p>Appendix D in the sample agreement provided by EFR refers to the EFR Capital Facilities fund, which will support pre-planned capital facilities maintenance projects for Stations 91 and 92. Items shown in Appendix D are meant as an example, as it only includes projects at EFR fire stations and facilities.</p>
49	Councilmember Weinberg	Does EFR have a WSRB rating?	EFR ratings range from 4 – 9. Nine is common in rural areas where there are no fire hydrants.