



# CITY COUNCIL ACTION FORM

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED BY	DATE
Fire	Aaron Jonke - Fire Chief	December 17, 2024

## **AGENDA ITEM**

Resolution 2024-75: A resolution adopting an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Salida and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Salida and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District (SAFPD) have maintained a longstanding partnership, formalized through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that predates 2005. Under this agreement, SAFPD contracts with the City of Salida Fire Department to provide comprehensive all-hazards response, including fire suppression, emergency medical services, and specialized rescue operations.

The IGA was renegotiated to provide \$250,000 annually, representing a significant financial improvement over the previous agreement. This updated agreement reflects a \$675,000 increase in funding over the previous IGA.

This enhanced funding supports critical investments in medical response, swift water rescue, and driver/operator/pumper certification, strengthening operational capacity, improving public safety, and reducing liability. Importantly, these improvements are funded without relying on the City's General Fund.

As a dedicated partner, SAFPD plays an essential role in protecting Salida, particularly against the growing threat of wildfires. With a mission focused solely on fire protection within its jurisdiction, SAFPD ensures its resources directly enhance fire services, maintaining accountability and alignment with its core purpose.

This resolution affirms the continued collaboration between Salida and SAFPD in safeguarding the community.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the adoption of Resolution 2024-75 to formalize the updated Intergovernmental Agreement with SAFPD, ensuring continued partnership and enhanced funding for critical fire services

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

This resolution will increase the district's annual contribution to the City from \$80,000 to \$250,000. In addition, it includes a one-time contribution of \$15,000 for exercise equipment and a one-time contribution of \$150,000 for a training facility. The 2025 budget assumes approval of this agreement.

The agreement includes a provision that prevents the City from reducing the fire department's staffing levels and changing the pay or benefits offered to employees. Given the critical role of this department in public safety, it is unlikely the City would ever prioritize cuts to its staffing in the event of budget shortfalls. As such, this provision is expected to have little to no impact on the City.

## **MOTION**

A City Councilmember should state "I move to \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution 2024-75, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Salida and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District. Followed by a second and a roll call vote.