



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMO

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED BY	DATE
Fire	Aaron Jonke - Fire Chief	September 16, 2024

AGENDA ITEM

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 a long-standing partnership in providing fire safety services to the community. This updated Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), last amended in 2014, aims to modernize the operations between the two organizations.

The primary goal of the new IGA is to address current operational challenges and bring the agreement to modern standards. Notably, SAFPd will provide critical funding at a time when city revenues are limited, contributing \$250,000 annually. In addition, they will invest \$150,000 toward the construction of a live burn facility, support structural apparatus acquisition, and provide \$15,000 for firefighter fitness equipment.

Key issues addressed in this IGA include:

- Clear definition of roles and financial responsibilities*
- Workforce housing provisions*
- Sustainable funding for structural apparatus through an Apparatus Reserve Fund*
- Cost-sharing for independent fire department studies*
- Maintenance of staffing levels*
- Consolidation of fire apparatus at the new fire station*
- Addressing wage discrepancies to retain and attract firefighters*
- Establishing career advancement opportunities for firefighters*
- Compensation for Medical and Swiftwater trainers*
- Creation of the Engineer rank for certified driver/operators*
- Limited funding for a Post Employment Health Plan*
- Discuss the potential of consolidation into a single fire protection district for efficiency*

REQUESTED DIRECTION FROM COUNCIL

We are requesting the City Council's support for the updated Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Salida and the South Arkansas Fire Protection District (SAFPD). This agreement addresses current operational challenges, ensures proper funding, and modernizes fire safety operations. Your approval is essential to ensure the continued safety of our community and the stability of our fire department. Thank you for your consideration.