



Date: May 24, 2022

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Judy Price, Communications Director Town Clerk.,

Title: Cooperative Agreement with the Truckee Fire Protection District to jointly execute a Wildland Fire Contract with Cal Fire to assure the availability of State resources to fight wildland fire within the Town of Truckee

Approved By: Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 2022-21 authorizing the Town Manager to execute jointly with the Truckee Fire Protection District the Wildland Fire Agreement with Cal Fire for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to provide wildland fire fighting resources within the Town of Truckee in the amount of \$234,746.08.

Discussion: The initial requirement for the Town to participate in funding wildland fire protection was established at the time of the incorporation of the Town. The incorporation order from Nevada County LAFCo established condition 21 which reads:

Wildland Fire Mitigation: The new Town shall pay to the Truckee Fire Protection District an annual wildland fire protection fee in the amount of \$112,000 and the fire district, shall, in exchange, agree to assume certain responsibilities for wildland fire prevention and suppression within the boundaries of the Town as set forth in the letter attached as Exhibit "C" hereto and made a part hereof. Said fee may be adjusted from time to time through negotiations between the Town and the fire district, to reflect changes in cost and desired service levels.

This condition was based upon the referenced letter from the Truckee Fire Chief which articulated the District's concern that with incorporation, the state's responsibility for wildland fire protection within the Town boundary terminates and the "wildland responsibility becomes that of the newly formed City". Staff notes, in retrospect, that it is not entirely clear why this responsibility wouldn't rest with Truckee Fire but Truckee Fire was upfront about their concern with the loss of State wildland fire suppression resources with the incorporation of the Town. The \$112,000 payment to Truckee Fire was intended to cover the cost of a seasonal fire captain, 3 firefighters and a wildland fire engine for the 6-month fire season to assist in backfilling the lost state resources. Since the first year of incorporation, the LAFCo required Town payment to Truckee Fire transformed into an annual contract with Cal Fire for wildland protection. Although the cost and acreage have varied from 1994 to the present day, there has been a contract with Cal Fire each year.

The proposed agreement reduces the cost per acre for the first time in recent history to \$34.52 per acre, reducing the overall cost to \$234,746.08. The reduction allows for a \$8,550 in funding that can be applied to smooth out potential increases in the future without having to reduce the number of acres covered.

Staff will continue to work with Truckee Fire and Cal Fire annually to keep the cost generally in line with the LAFCo require obligation. The Town execution (and funding) of the contract will be based upon a

written acknowledgment from Truckee Fire that the execution and funding of this contract fulfills our obligation to Truckee Fire as established by LAFCo.

Recent History of Truckee Wildland Fire Contract Costs:

Year	Acreage	Total cost/acre
06/07	2720	14.42
07/08	11,077	16.85
08/09	11,077	20.12
09/10	11,077	21.30
10/11	10,285	22.46
11/12	8095	22.59
12/13	7791	24.15
13/14	7791	22.43
14/15	7791	25.76
15/16	7791	25.96
16/17	7791	27.54
17/18	6800	30.50
18/19	6800	33.55
19/20	6800	36.95
20/21	6800	36.95
21/22	6800	37.53
22/23	6800	34.52

Priority:

<input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Core Service

Fiscal Impact: The cost of the proposed contract is \$234,746. This amount is under the LAFCo identified amount adjusted by Consumer Price Index (CPI) (San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, February 21 to February 22,) by over \$8,550.

The Town maintains a Truckee Fire Fee Designation. The savings for this designation occur when the proposed amount is less than the amount would be if it were adjusted by the CPI. The designation savings are used when the annual amount is more than the amount would be if only adjusted by the CPI, rather than the amount the Fire District needs to effectively provide the requested level of fire protection. The Town will include \$8,550 of savings in the Truckee Fire Fee Designation as part of fiscal year 2022/23 operating budget inline with this savings plan, which will be available to offset future years should the annual cost come in greater than the CPI adjusted annual amount.

Public Communication: This staff report.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution 2022-21

Attachment B: Proposed Contract with Cal Fire