



AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

MEETING NAME:	City Council Meeting
MEETING DATE:	February 3, 2025
ITEM TITLE:	Consider and take appropriate action on increase in contribution rate for Texas Emergency Services Retirement System for eligible first responders
STAFF INITIATOR:	Lance Barrett, Fire Chief

BACKGROUND:

The City of Wolfforth voted to allow Wolfforth Fire EMS to enter the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System in July of 2003. This is a pension system that allows first responders to receive a benefit on behalf of the city for their service to the community. The members must follow the requirements set forth by the pension system and be 55 years of age with a minimum of 15 years of service to the community to be eligible. We entered this pension system with a contribution rate of \$12.00 per person/month. In September of 2006 we increased this contribution rate to \$16.00/person/month. It was increased again in January of 2007 to \$36.00/person/month. This pension system is governed by a local board that meets twice a year to approve the roster of members and ensures that each member meets the requirements set forth for eligibility. All changes to the contribution rate must be approved by the local board before approval by the city council.

With the change of our department structure and operations, our number of eligible members has been reduced significantly. This is because a member cannot be a member of more than one state sponsored pension system for the same duties within the same governing entity. Therefore, members that are in TMRS for firefighting are not allowed to be in TESRS for firefighting.

We currently have budgeted \$14,000.00 for contributions for our current eligible members. We now only have 9 eligible members. The current expense for this is \$3,888.00 annually. Wolfforth Fire EMS would ask the board and council to approve us to have a maximum of 10 eligible members and the contribution rate be increased to \$100.00/man/month. This would be an annual expense of \$12,000.00/year.

EXHIBITS:

City Council Agenda Commentary

COUNCIL ACTION/STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Wolfforth Fire EMS and the TESRS local board would ask the council to approve the maximum number of eligible member to be set at 10 members at a rate of \$100.00/man/month and to allow the local board chairperson/mayor to sign for this increase in contributions.