



Rescue Fire Protection District

· P.O. Box 201 Rescue CA, 95672 · Phone: (530) 677-1868 · Fax: (530) 677-9609

www.rescuefiredepartment.org

Date: 5/31/2022

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane Placerville, Ca 95667

From: Rescue Fire Protection District

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The Rescue Fire Protection District is presenting a proposal for the use of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), for FY 2022-2023.

Background

The Rescue Fire Protection District encompasses 36 square miles of the western region of El Dorado County with a district population of Approximately 7,500 persons. Through the closest resource agreement, Rescue's first in response area expands to approximately 65 square miles. RFPD provides an advanced life support engine company.

Rescue's central location allows us to not only cover the unincorporated area of Rescue but also to provide first unit response into the Coloma/Lotus and the Gold Hill areas. In addition, RFPD also frequently travels to Pilot Hill, Cool, Georgetown, and Garden Valley as initial response to any specialty rescue or fire.

Throughout the spring and summer on a weekly basic, RFPD has hundreds of bicyclists and motorcyclists that travel through the district. RFPD contains the main travel route for all camping and water recreation in the Coloma/Lotus area, as well as, the traffic related to the equine and walking trails in the Cool/Pilot Hill Area.

Lastly, any specialty rescue or fire where RFPD is not dispatched directly to the incident; the District provides the primary move and cover engine for these responses.

Impacts

The trend for the last five years demonstrates an ever increasing call volume. (Please refer to the response matrix section at the end of the document.) The five year trend illustrates that approximately 50% of the calls for service do not occur within the district boundaries. Furthermore, of this 50% representing the out of district calls, 20%-30% of these calls are generated by non-county residents. We did not include out of district county residents, who often enjoy and participate tourism based activities locally. As of May 2022, the district is trending at 45% of the out of district calls being for non-county residents. We are just entering the summer months when tourism is highest in our district.

It is important to note that these calls are not only driven by tourism, by non-residents but are also occurring outside of the district boundaries. These two aspects of these calls make these incidents some of the most expensive responses. Not only are these calls more expensive, as costs are driven by distance, but also they are not funded at all. These calls are out of district and supported through RFPD participating in the automatic and mutual aid system. RFPD has always been a good partner with other agencies in the county. RFPD finds great value for its residents and neighbors, in the automatic and mutual aid, drop border system. These calls for service continue to have an ever increasing cost.



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Our current first out engine, is a type III engine that was purchased in 2006. This engine was not designed to be a first out apparatus. The department had a type I in service when the current type III was purchased. Unfortunately, the type I was in a traffic collision returning from a fire and proved to be unrepairable. These tourism based, out of district incidents, range from medical aid, to traffic accidents, to water rescue, and remote area rescue. RFPD modified the type III engine to make it more effective, to address this distribution of calls. However, there are certain core components that cannot be updated; pump capacity, storage, and hose bed capacity.

The increase in these out of district responses, composed of these varied types of calls, requires a more versatile unit capable of addressing the nature of the calls. The tourists visiting our county and the residents of our county deserve appropriately delivered services. The public safety of our visitors has become increasingly difficult to provide. Rural districts are stretched to cover jurisdictions which provide no tax base. Rural districts are also home to the tourism opportunities that draw visitors to our county. We cannot continue to financially absorb over half the call volume with no funding, nor can we continue to support over 20% of the operating costs being driven by tourism. The county cannot afford to not have effective emergency response to outdoor tourism centers because rural districts are financially forced to retreat from the automatic aid system, nor does RFPD have the desire to retreat from this system. To reiterate our commitment, RFPD finds great value for its residents and neighbors, in the automatic and mutual aid, drop border system.

Proposal

RFPD goal is to purchase a properly outfitted first out engine providing for greater countywide public safety. This purchase will allow RFPD to return the type III engine to its core mission, wildland fire response.

RFPD has demonstrated its commitment for many years to the countywide mutual aid system. The district is requesting the county continue to be a strong partner and join with RFPD by funding 50% of the projected costs of replacement totaling \$288,750.00.

Budget

Engine Replacement Cost Cost-\$541,000

Equipment Cost-\$36,500

Rescue FPD-\$288,750

County of El Dorado TOT Funds-\$288,750



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Response Matrix Statistics

Year	Total Calls	Out of District Calls	Non- resident Involved Calls	Medical	Traffic Accident	Specialty Rescue	Fire	Cover Assignments
2022 (as of 5/31)	404	173 42.8%	78 19.3% of total calls 45.1% of out of district	31	11	5	10	21
2021	1014	524 51.7%	143 14.1% of total calls 27.3% of out of district	76	29	14	24	58
2020	967	533 55.1%	134 13.9% of total calls 25.1% of out of district	47	17	11	20	49
2019	974	507 52.1%	128 13.1% of total calls 25.2% of out of district	52	15	9	21	41
2018	971	445 45.8	103 10.6% of total calls 26.3% of out of district	46	20	15	22	40

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Supervisor Lou Paulin