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# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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Date: July 5, 2018

Agenda Item No.: 10

Council Action Date: July 23, 2018

**To: Honorable Mayor and City Council**

**From: Dan Paranick, Interim City Manager  
David Endaya, Fire Chief**

**Subject: Fire Department Budget Revision - Roving 40-hour Paramedic Engine**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that City Council:

- a. Approve funding for the reinstatement of the 3-person, roving 40-hour paramedic engine for the Ventura Fire Department.
- b. Authorize three new full-time employees in the Ventura Fire Department to staff the roving paramedic engine: 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Engineer and 1 Firefighter-Paramedic.
- c. Authorize the Finance and Technology Department to increase budget appropriations in the amount of \$462,407 and amend the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Expenditure budget by \$600,000 to provide appropriations for the roving engine.
- d. Direct the Fire Chief to continue working with the City Manager to address Fire Department workload demands and related issues.

## **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION**

**June 18, 2018 - City Council directed staff to return in July 2018, with a funding proposal to reinstate the 3-person, roving 40-hour paramedic engine to the Ventura Fire Department.**

## **DISCUSSION**

The Fire Department is proposing to reinstate a roving, 40-hour paramedic engine company. The engine company will augment the current daily staffing model of six paramedic engines and one paramedic ladder truck, a model which has been in place since July 1988. This

resource will improve emergency response times during most peak incident hours. The engine company will be staffed by one Fire Captain, one Engineer and one Firefighter-Paramedic.

Ventura Fire previously deployed a roving engine from June 2007 to November 2009. The annual calls for service in 2008 totaled 10,510 incidents. During the 21-month deployment of this resource, department emergency response times improved by over 6%, increasing from 53% arrivals in under five minutes to just over 59% arrivals in under 5 minutes. The national standard is to arrive in five minutes or less on 90% of emergencies.

In 2017, Ventura Fire responded to over 16,200 calls for service. Ventura Fire is an “all-hazards” emergency services agency, responding to a multitude of crises requiring our personnel to have highly specialized training, equipment, and response vehicles. The engine company will improve departmental training both in opportunity and quality. It will also provide greater resource availability citywide. The engine company provides the opportunity to improve Community Risk Reduction efforts throughout all community demographics, aimed at preventing emergencies before they occur. The intermittent staffing model provides for improved community and firefighter safety when responding on all-hazard incidents.

In addition to adding the roving engine as recommended, the department is currently conducting an in-depth evaluation of its operations and service delivery in order to meet the challenges of providing “all-hazards” emergency services to the community. These efforts include the review of suppression staff assignments and mandated training requirements, evaluating methods of service delivery, including utilization of resources and assessing the number and types of calls for service in order to provide the most efficient operations possible. Staff recommends that the City Council direct that the evaluation process continue.

### **FISCAL IMPACTS**

The cost of deploying the Roving Medic Engine is approximately \$600,000. The State of California FY 2018-19 budget included provisions for backfill of lost property tax revenues for jurisdictions affected by disasters including those counties and cities affected by the Thomas Fire. The City will receive \$462,407 from the State for lost property tax revenue which wasn't included in the City of Ventura FY 2018-19 budget. In addition to increasing the revenue budget to recognize the property tax revenue, it is recommended \$137,593 be reallocated from fire operations overtime to fully fund the \$600,000 associated with the deployment of the roving engine.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Council may direct staff to fund the Roving Medic Engine from alternative adjustments to the FY 2018-19 General Fund budget.
2. Based on the July 10, 2018 determination of the Measure O Citizen Oversight Committee that the potential expenditures are consistent with the spirit of the Measure O ordinance, Council may direct staff to provide funding from Measure O

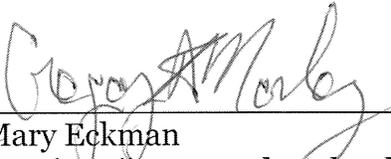
proceeds and increase or adjust the FY 2018-19 Measure O budget; funding available from a deferral into a future year of \$600,000 of Stormwater projects already existing in the approved FY 2018-19 Measure O budget.

Prepared by Victor Dowbusz, Management Analyst II, for:



FOR David Endaya  
Fire Chief

Reviewed as to fiscal impacts



for Mary Eckman  
Interim Finance and Technology Director

FORWARDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL



Dan Paranick  
Interim City Manager