



DATE: May 11, 2021

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Fire

TITLE: **Increase Appropriations in the Fire Department for Reimbursement of Mutual-Aid Support and Staffing Costs Incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-21 for COVID-19 Testing Project, COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Staffing, and Mobile Vaccination Clinic**

RECOMMENDATION

For reimbursements not received by June 30, 2021, transfer and appropriate from the General Non-Operating Fund Mutual-Aid Support estimated at \$590,683 for California Office of Emergency Services Strike Team deployments, personnel costs incurred as a result of implementing a COVID-19 testing program for suppression members, personnel costs incurred as a result of providing support staff at the Santa Clara County Vaccination Clinic between the months of January and March 2021 and any additional months as applicable, and personnel costs incurred as a result of planning and implementing a Mobile Vaccination Clinic during the month of March 2021 and subsequent months. (Five votes required)

BACKGROUND

The City of Mountain View Fire Department (MVFD) participates in the State of California Mutual-Aid System and deploys staff to assist with wildland fires and other emergency incidents. As a result, the City is reimbursed at agreed-upon rates by the State for personnel hours, administrative costs, travel costs, and vehicle-related costs for participating in strike team/mutual-aid deployments.

In conjunction with Google LLC (Google), a COVID-19 Testing Project was implemented to ensure that Suppression members received frequent COVID-19 tests and timely results. The extent of this project required the administrative assignment of a Suppression member to act as the Manager/Liaison between the Fire Department and Google. This administrative assignment resulted in the incurrence of unbudgeted expenditures.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPH) led vaccination efforts for the County. MVFD personnel provided staffing and support services at the County Vaccination Clinic at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. MVFD has implemented a Mobile Vaccination Clinic for homebound individuals and other vulnerable populations. During the month of March 2021, and as predicted to continue for the next several months, MVFD has incurred unbudgeted personnel hours as a result of working with County representatives on planning and implementing vaccination efforts for the Mobile Vaccination Clinic.

MVFD personnel have also been deployed to several wildland fire incidents as summarized below and to provide COVID-19 hospital staffing/health surge support.

Efforts are currently under way to receive reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the unbudgeted personnel costs incurred. It is possible the reimbursements will not arrive before June 30, 2021. The State has experienced delays in processing reimbursement requests due to a very busy wildfire season last year and the focus of State Office of Emergency Services (OES) staff on COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics. Consequently, it is necessary to appropriate funds to offset the costs the City has incurred while reimbursement is pending.

ANALYSIS

The California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) with the State of California’s OES requires that fire agencies be reimbursed for time and resources expended in the support of California fires requiring mutual-aid fire suppression services. The funds requested reimburse the City for overtime costs associated with strike team deployments, administrative costs, travel expense fees, and vehicle-related expenses in accordance with FEMA’s Code of Federal Regulations. Table 1 shows the funds requested to reimburse the City for overtime costs associated with fire and hospital surge deployments.

Table 1: Fire and Hospital Surge Deployments

| Dates | Fire/ Incident | Total Amount | MVFD Personnel | Vehicle Fees/Fleet | Travel Expense Fees | Admin. and Misc. Fees | Status |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| September 14 2020 to October 3, 2020 | Castle | \$51,072.43 | \$36,613.62 | \$1,288.00 | \$0.00 | \$13,170.81 | Pending, reimbursement not received |

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|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| July 5, 2020 to July 11, 2020 | Crews | \$45,908.13 | \$31,058.37 | \$4,455.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,394.76 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| October 26, 2020 | Hardcover | \$846.98 | \$628.56 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$218.42 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| August 13, 2020 to September 2, 2020 | Lake | \$111,356.37 | \$74,707.79 | \$3,075.00 | \$4,856.45 | \$28,717.13 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| October 20, 2020 to November 1, 2020 | Luna | \$71,896.62 | \$49,362.27 | \$3,498.00 | \$495.29 | \$18,541.06 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| July 15, 2020 to July 20, 2020 | Mineral | \$16,540.33 | \$11,415.18 | \$1,380.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,745.15 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| September 15, 2020 to September 26, 2020 | North Complex US&R Support | \$29,009.22 | \$21,528.18 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,481.04 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| September 4, 2020 to September 5, 2020 | OSC 2020 Staging | \$5,932.23 | \$3,992.40 | \$410.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,529.83 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| July 5, 2020 to July 6, 2020 | Park & SCU Move-Up | \$4,624.60 | \$4,344.60 | \$280.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Pending, reimbursement not received |

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|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| August 14, 2020 to August 29, 2020 | Red Salmon Complex | \$44,025.96 | \$28,992.33 | \$3,680.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,353.63 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| August 16, 2020 to August 17, 2020 | SCU Lightning Complex ABH | \$4,691.44 | \$4,411.44 | \$280.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| September 9, 2020 to September 22 2020 | SCU September Move-Up ABH | \$115,999.38 | \$79,879.38 | \$36,120.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| October 26, 2020 to November 3, 2020 | Silverado | \$107,114.12 | \$77,174.90 | \$2,316.10 | \$0.00 | \$27,623.12 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| January 3, 2021 to February 5, 2021 | Kern Adventist COVID-19 Health Surge Assist | \$90,743.62 | \$61,563.52 | \$4,920.00 | \$858.68 | \$23,401.42 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| January 5, 2021 to January 23, 2021 | Mission COVID-19 Health Surge Assist | \$47,530.95 | \$33,706.53 | \$1,071.00 | \$495.90 | \$12,257.52 | Pending, reimbursement not received |
| TOTALS | | \$747,292.38 | \$519,379.07 | \$62,773.10 | \$6,706.32 | \$158,433.89 | |

The Santa Clara County Finance Lead for the County's COVID-19 response is working with FEMA to ensure that city fire agencies can recoup personnel costs as a result of their support at the COVID-19 testing project, County vaccination clinic, and mobile vaccination clinic. City fire agencies, including MVFD, will be eligible for reimbursement of all regular and overtime personnel expenses incurred as a result of support provided

at the County vaccination clinic. Table 2 summarizes the personnel costs incurred for these activities.

Table 2: COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Costs

| Dates | COVID Testing Project | SCC Vaccination Clinic | Mobile Vaccination Clinic | TOTAL |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Jul. - Dec. 2020 | \$1,162.19 | - | - | \$1,162.19 |
| Jan. 2021 | \$166.03 | \$29,832.44 | - | \$29,998.47 |
| Feb. 2021 | \$166.03 | \$6,441.03 | - | \$6,607.06 |
| Mar. 2021 | - | \$32,347.63 | \$1,188.31 | \$33,535.94 |
| TOTALS | \$1,494.25 | \$68,621.10 | \$1,188.31 | \$71,303.66 |

FISCAL IMPACT

The City will be reimbursed a total of \$519,379.07 in personnel costs by the California OES related to fire suppression efforts during the following incidents: Castle, Crews, Hardcover, Lake, Luna, Mineral, North Complex US&R Support, OSC 2020 Staging, Parks and SCU Move-Up, SCU Lightning Complex ABH, SCU September Move-Up ABH, Silverado, Kern Adventist COVID-19 Health Surge, and Mission COVID-19 Health Surge Assist.

The City also expects to be reimbursed an estimated \$71,303.66 by FEMA for the months of July 2020 to March 2021 for unbudgeted Fire personnel costs related to the COVID-19 testing project, Santa Clara County vaccination clinic, and mobile vaccination clinic.

Staff requests the approval of appropriations totaling \$590,683 associated with Fire personnel hours of the pending reimbursements if not received by June 30, 2021 as the overtime has been incurred and the appropriations are required for MVFD expenditures to remain within budget.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Decline the increase in appropriations for the reimbursement of Mountain View Fire Department personnel hours and allow the personnel cost to exceed the budgeted amount.
2. Appropriate funds in an amount different than the reimbursed amount.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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