


ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STAFF REPORT

For the meeting June 12, 2013

To: Board of Directors
From:  Roger Meagor, Fire Chief
Subject: Firefighter Apprentices Program

RECOMMENDATION:

That the considers the two options and provides direction to staff.

DISCUSSION:

At the May Board meeting, in consideration of the pending decision by the Ross Town Council to no longer fund the Firefighter Apprentices program for Engine 18, the Board directed staff to investigate options for creating a Department wide program.

At the April Board meeting, the Board authorized the position of a firefighter trainee. The firefighter trainee is a temporary position with the same salary and benefits of a firefighter apprentice. The primary objective the position is directed toward firefighter and engineer training rather than augmenting engine company staffing. On June 1, Adam Van Dyke began his recruit firefighter training and is currently working a 40 hour workweek.

Staff has developed two options for the Board's consideration.

Option 1: That the Department hire three apprentice firefighters and provide 24/7 staffing of one apprentice firefighter; this would increase the engine company staffing on one of the Department's four fire engines from two personnel to three personnel. The engine to be staffed would be based on Department need, which would be determined by the Fire Chief. The annual cost for the program is \$183,500.

Option 2: To expand the firefighter trainee position, as needed, to meet future expected needs to fill firefighter vacancies. The firefighter trainee focus would be receiving the necessary training to fill a fulltime position as a firefighter/engineer. The firefighter trainees would also augment staffing levels during their training. They would not however, provide fulltime staffing of an additional on duty firefighter. The monthly cost of the firefighter trainee is estimated at \$5,100. These costs would likely be offset by reduced training time as vacancies occur and the trainees are hired to fill firefighter/engineer positions.

If either of the two options is chosen, it would take at least 60 days to fill the positions.

AGENDA ITEM # 6
Date 6/12/13

FISCAL IMPACT:

If Option 1 is chosen the annual cost is \$183,500 and for FY 13/14 the cost is estimated at \$152,900. Option 1 would require additional funding by the member agencies in FY13/14 and in future years. If Option 2 is chosen, one additional firefighter trainee could be hired, utilizing existing allocations, and would likely result in overall savings in FY 13/14.