

**ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STAFF REPORT**

For the meeting of: February 10, 2016

To: Board of Directors
From: Mark Mills, Fire Chief *MM*
Subject: Volunteer Firefighter Reimbursement

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board accepts the staff recommendation to increase the Volunteer Firefighter Reimbursement amount from \$10.00 per call to \$20.00 per call.

DISCUSSION:

The current practice and policy of reimbursing the volunteer firefighters dates back to September, 2000. The reimbursement rate was set at \$10.00 per call. Due to the rise in the cost of living and the overall requirements being placed on the volunteers, the rate needs to be increased in order to encourage greater participation.

Staff researched other agencies that had similar programs and discovered that the more common rate of \$20.00 per call was being utilized. Staff also discovered numerous other programmatic changes that would improve the Department's existing volunteer policies.

Most departments have migrated towards a two tier volunteer system comprised of suppression forces and support services. Each tier has its own set of performance criteria and responsibilities. The support services division is comprised of volunteers that want to give back to the community and remain involved with the Department by providing support when /where necessary. The suppression forces will be utilized to augment staffing on emergency responses and are required to meet a higher level of training.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The current budgeted amount for the Volunteer Operations is \$18,800 allotted for drills, supplies, responses and training. Due to the division of the volunteers into two functional groups, the existing budgeted amount will cover the increase in the reimbursement rate from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per call. The total anticipated impact for an

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entire year will be \$13,245 which leaves \$5,555 in the line item. The extra in the line item will remain as a contingency, in case there is a spike in incident responses. There is no fiscal impact for this budget cycle.