

**ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STAFF REPORT**

For the meeting of January 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Dan Mahoney, Fire Chief  
Jeff Zuba, Finance Director

Subject: 20-Year History of Member Agency Contributions

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Fire Board receive and file the 20-year history of member agency contributions.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ross Valley Fire Department operates as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) serving four member agencies: the Town of Fairfax, Town of Ross, Town of San Anselmo, and Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District. Each member agency contributes annually to fund the Department's operations based on an allocation formula established in the JPA agreement.

This report provides an analysis of Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) member agency contributions over the past 20 years (fiscal years 2006-07 through 2025-26). The analysis includes contribution amounts, year-over-year percentage changes, and the percentage of each member agency's General Fund budget dedicated to fire protection services. Please refer to Attachment #1 - Excel spreadsheet titled 'RVFD 20-Year Member Contributions' for detailed year-by-year contribution amounts, percentage changes, and General Fund budget percentages for all member agencies. The contribution amount by members includes the vehicle replacement, prior authority unfunded liability, prior authority retiree health, and base contribution in total.

**Factors Affecting Contribution Amounts**

Member agency contributions have varied over the 20-year period due to several key factors:

- Personnel and Equipment Changes (Station 18 Closure): The Third Amendment, related to Station 18 closure, reduces annual operating costs through removal of one engine from the vehicle replacement schedule and reclassification of three Captain and three Engineer positions to six Firefighter/Paramedic positions. The

Town of Ross contribution in FY25-26 reflects savings from implementing five of the six planned personnel transitions and the engine removal.

- Department Organization Changes: Transitions between contracted Fire Chief arrangements and a stand-alone Chief position have impacted operational costs and contribution requirements.
- Department Staffing Levels: Changes in staffing complement, including sworn personnel and support staff, have directly affected member agency contributions as the Department has adapted to service demands and operational requirements.
- Labor Agreement Adjustments: Annual contributions are adjusted based on Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with the Chief Officers Association and Firefighters Association, as well as compensation changes for unrepresented employees.
- CalPERS Unfunded Liability: Payments toward the Department's prior authority unfunded liability to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) have impacted contribution amounts as the Department works to address long-term pension obligations.
- Retiree Health Benefits: Changes in prior authority retiree health payment obligations have influenced annual contribution requirements.
- Vehicle Replacement Schedule: Updates to the vehicle replacement schedule have resulted in adjustments to member agency charges to ensure adequate funding for capital equipment needs.

### **Data Limitations**

The percentage of General Fund budget data is incomplete across the 20-year period. Staff compiled available data from member agency websites and published financial documents. Gaps in the data reflect years where this information was not readily accessible through public sources. The Board should note that while contribution amounts are complete for all years, the General Fund percentage analysis is limited to years where member agency budget data was available.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends the Board receive and file this report as informational. This historical analysis provides context for understanding member agency contribution trends and the various operational and financial factors that have influenced these contributions over time.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to receiving this report.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment #1 - RVFD 20-Year Member Contributions