

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: CEO/Office of Emergency Services G. HINSLOW BOARD AGENDA # \*B-1

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE December 15, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Reduction-In-Force of One Filled Full-Time Position in the Chief Executive Office County Fire Service Fund Effective January 16, 2010

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the reduction-in-force of one full-time position in the County Fire Service Fund budget as outlined in the Staffing Impact section of this report effective January 16, 2010.
2. Amend the Salary and Position Allocation Resolution to reflect the changes as outlined in the Staffing Impact section of this report effective January 16, 2010.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Chief Executive Office County Fire Service Fund budget is primarily funded by property tax revenue collected as the Less Than Countywide Fire Tax. In Fiscal Year 2007-2008, the Less Than Countywide Fire Tax revenue reached its highest level at \$1,296,286. In Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the tax revenue collected was \$1,171,871, a reduction of nearly 10%. Revenue for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 is projected at \$1,068,897, for a two-year reduction of over 17%. (Continued on Page 2)

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-825

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Grover

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

**FISCAL IMPACT (Continued):**

The Fire Special Operations Coordinator (Manager III – Safety) position was authorized by the Board of Supervisors on April 24, 2007 and is funded by the Less Than Countywide Fire Tax. The elimination of this position will result in approximately \$66,000 savings in Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and \$159,000 in Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Additionally, the elimination of the 4% inflation factor in the remaining fire service contracts will result in an additional \$52,000 savings in Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Fire Special Operations Coordinator (Manager III – Safety) position, in the Fire Warden's Office is funded through the Less Than Countywide Fire Tax. Property tax revenue for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year is expected to decline over 8% from the 2008-2009 collections, with an additional 8% loss this year due to the Proposition 1A Property Tax Shift. Property tax revenues for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year are also uncertain.

The Stanislaus County Fire Authority, made up of representatives of every fire agency in the County, acts as an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors and makes recommendations on the expenditure of the Less Than Countywide Fire Tax through the County Fire Service Fund. The Fire Authority members identified and prioritized six services that are necessary to support the fire service on a regional basis. Those services, in priority order, are:

- 1) Fire Prevention,
- 2) Fire Investigations,
- 3) Training,
- 4) Fire Communications,
- 5) Finance and Administrative support, and
- 6) Special Operations.

The functions of Fire Prevention, Finance and Administrative support, and Special Operations are performed by County staff. The remaining functions of Fire Investigations, Training and Fire Communications are provided through contract agreements with the City of Modesto Fire Department (Fire Investigations) and Salida Fire Protection District (Training and Fire Communications).

The Special Operations Coordinator (Manager III – Safety) is responsible for compiling data on current resources and capabilities available in Stanislaus County with respect to swift water rescue, confined space rescue, hazardous materials response, and other aspects of special operations. Additionally, the Special Operations Coordinator identifies codes, regulations, training standards and requirements, and develops policies for County-wide adoption by the fire service. The Special Operations Coordinator position also assists in the Fire Warden's Office in the Fire Resource

Approval of the Reduction-In-Force of One Filled Full-Time Position in the Chief Executive Office County Fire Service Fund Effective January 16, 2010

Page 3

Officer program and assumes 24-hour on-call status for a minimum of 10 days per month.

In an effort to maintain fiscal accountability and to ensure the success of the Fire Authority long term, the Chairman of the Fire Authority appointed a Budget Committee to analyze and evaluate long term financial projections to include the sustainability of all the programs in view of the current downturn in the economy and property tax revenue. The initial funding plan for the contracted services included the use of a portion of departmental fund balance, which was derived from prior years' savings. With the downturn in current property tax revenues and fees, existing fund balance appears insufficient to sustain all of the service contracts through the end of the contract period. The Budget Committee made three recommendations which were approved by the Fire Authority membership at the September 3, 2009 meeting. These recommendations were:

- 1) Suspend the annual vehicle replacement allocation of \$80,000,
- 2) Suspend the 4% inflation factor that was included in the contracts for services, and
- 3) Eliminate the Special Operations position within the County Fire Warden's Office.

Although the elimination of any of the six support services will be detrimental to the fire service, the Special Operations Coordinator was the lowest prioritized service and was the last position filled.

**POLICY ISSUE:**

The Board of Supervisors should determine whether this action meets the priority of *Efficient delivery of public services.*

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Currently there are six full-time allocated positions in the Chief Executive Office County Fire Service Fund budget, included are two unclassified Manager III – Safety positions. This report includes the recommendation to delete one filled unclassified Manager III – Safety position. This recommended deletion requires approval of a reduction-in-force action effective January 16, 2010.

It is recommended that the Salary and Position Allocation Resolution be amended to reflect the deletion of one Manager III – Safety position number 11970.