

Board Action Request

SUBJECT: Emergency Services Program for TFD Nonresidents

DATE: 12/16/2020

FROM: Chief Horvath

Background: As members of the fire board are aware, there are approximately 450 land parcels adjacent to District boundaries, primarily to the east of Station #3, that are not within the TFD boundaries. A majority of the parcels are situated in the Salero Ranch and Tubac Foothills developments. Most of the parcels are not developed but there are some parcel owners with residential homes established on their property.

A Community Meeting was conducted at Station #3 on November 14, with approximately 40 residents in attendance. The meeting was intended to gauge interest in a possible annexation effort for the nonresidents, as well as to explain the District's new policy for non-resident responses. The last petition annexation effort was conducted in 2009/10 in the Salero Ranch area. That effort was unsuccessful.

Recently staff became aware of an opportunity to enter into emergency services agreements with non-residents for fire and public assist services, similar to what occurs around the state of Arizona with other fire districts. The attached draft, Emergency Services Contract (ESC), would allow Tubac Fire District to enter into a contractual agreement with specific property owners who are nonresidents of District boundaries. Key points in the contract include:

- The annual contract fee for service would be determined using the same method as a District resident's taxes are calculated by the Santa Cruz County Assessor.
- There will be an additional \$50 fee added to the contract since TFD will have to administer and monitor each of these contracts.
- The parcel owner entering into the contract with the District agrees to support the District's annexation efforts at such time as the annexation is legally permissible.
- The parcel owner entering into the contract would not be charged any additional fees for emergency response in relation to fire suppression or public assist beyond the annual contract fee.

The TFD Emergency Services Contract draft was prepared by the District's attorney.

District staff are currently working with the District's attorney to develop processes for parcel and petition annexations for a future board presentation.

Fiscal Impact: This is not currently a budgeted revenue source but any contracts initiated through this program will bring additional revenue into the District.

Alternate Option: Board recommendation

Staff Recommendation: Recommend approval of the proposed Emergency Services Program for District non-residents.

Proposed Motion: Move to authorize staff to initiate Emergency Service Contracts for non-residents of the Tubac Fire District.

See Attachments

- TFD Emergency Services Contract Draft