



# Agenda Report

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021

**TO:** Revenue Measure Oversight Committee

**FROM:** FIRE CHIEF LOPEZ  
ROSA MEYER

**SUBJECT:** STAFFING AND OPERATIONS REPORT FROM WATSONVILLE  
FIRE FROM JANUARY 1 THRU JUNE 30, 2021

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## **STATEMENT OF ISSUES:**

This is a report from the Watsonville Fire Department (WFD) on operations and staffing as they relate to the Public Safety Revenue Measure.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive Staffing and Operations Report from Watsonville Fire from January 1 thru June 30, 2021.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Background**

On June 3, 2014, Measure G was approved by Watsonville voters. The new tax went into effect on October 1, 2014. On March 3, 2020, Watsonville voters renewed the Public Safety Sales Tax Measure (Measure Y) which will only expire if repealed by voters.

The WFD has utilized the funds received from the Public Safety Sales Tax Measure to increase staffing, replace fire engines and an aerial ladder truck which had completed their service life, replaced personal protective equipment, purchased uniforms, and replaced various fire and rescue equipment. In addition to equipment and supply needs for fire personnel, the WFD also utilized the funds to improve outreach to the youth in the community by holding the first Watsonville Youth Academy in 2019.

Prior to the Measure, the WFD had to borrow fire engines from other local agencies due to engines that were out of service; firefighters had to use equipment that was unreliable on calls; and had to use equipment that was beyond its service life. The WFD also did not have funds available to provide outreach beyond class visits, station tours and attending local events.

### **Measure Y Update**

During this reporting period, Watsonville Fire Department (WFD) reports the following:

## **Staffing**

Measure Y funding is being used to hire and retain seven (7) additional personnel which consists of six (6) firefighters and one (1) administrative staff person. All positions are currently filled. Due to vacancies in the General Fund and requirements in the firefighters MOU in regards to paramedic staffing, there has been an increase in overtime costs in both Measure Y and the General Fund. The WFD is currently holding a fire academy for two recruits in the General Fund. Both are anticipated to graduate on May 28<sup>th</sup> which will alleviate some of the staffing overtime costs. To further meet staffing needs, the WFD is currently recruiting for additional firefighters for an academy to be held late August or early September and also holding an internal recruitment for Fire Engineer to fill that vacancy. Both recruitments are in the General Fund.

## **Apparatus and Equipment**

In 2019, the WFD was able to purchase a new Rosenbauer Tiller Ladder Truck with Measure Y funds. The third of five payments was made in March 2021. Two payments remain of \$286,306.82 each to pay off the tiller ladder truck.

In addition to payments on the tiller ladder truck, funds were also used to pay for maintenance repairs, vehicle maintenance tracking, training supplies and firefighting supplies.

## **Personal Protective Equipment and Uniforms**

Measure Y funds were used to help keep our firefighters as safe as possible through the safety gear they wear. Funds have been used to clean, repair and disinfect their personal protective equipment as needed or to replace their gear if necessary. The current Firefighter MOU also requires that new uniforms be purchased twice a year and Measure Y funds have helped tremendously with this.

## **Building Maintenance**

Measure Y has also helped fund much needed repairs at both fire stations. During this reporting period, repairs on the concrete and asphalt at Fire Station 1 were completed. Bids are currently in process for the roof repairs at both fire stations. WFD is working closely with Public Works staff on various repair projects: window replacement at both stations; painting/sealing at both stations; a gate and fence at Fire Station 2; and concrete and asphalt repairs at Fire Station 2. We anticipate the roof repairs will be completed by the end of the year and we will continue to work on completing the various projects as time and funding allows.

## **Community Risk Assessment & Standards of Cover**

A request for proposals (RFP) was released on April 14, 2021. After the selection process is completed, the contract will be awarded June 22, 2021 after which time the work will commence. This assessment will include the following:

- General Summary of the Community Served
- Analysis and Summary of the Services Provided by the WFD
- Examine the Effectiveness of Inter-jurisdictional Response
- Analysis and Summary of the Community Risk

- Review of Areas Involved in or Affecting Service Levels and Performance
- Provide Performance Objectives and Measures
- Methodology that will allow the WFD to continually measure future performance
- Evaluation, Conclusions and Recommendations to Policy Makers

This analysis will provide guidance for strategic planning, operational and budgetary needs. It will help WFD determine any adjustments that are needed with regards to staffing, response areas, station locations, and how to best serve the community. This analysis will help to guide the department for the next 10 years.

### **Upcoming Projects and Programs**

In addition to the projects already in progress, there are additional programs planned that will benefit the community and also create a bond between WFD staff and community members.

#### Paramedic Training Program for EMTs

WFD staff is working on a paramedic training program for local EMTs who may not be able to afford paramedic school. The classes are not always easily attainable for a lot of young adults in our community who are working and support their family. This program will give local young adults an opportunity to get training that will help them get a better job and also serve in their own community.

#### CPR Classes for Spanish Speakers

WFD staff will also be working with California Fire Prevention Organization and/or the American Red Cross Central Coast Chapter to establish a CPR program in Spanish.

#### Senior Fire Safety Classes

Also in partnership with California Fire Prevention Organization and/or the American Red Cross Central Coast Chapter, WFD staff will provide Fire Safety classes to seniors by holding the classes in their neighborhoods.

#### Summer Youth Academy.

WFD staff will hold two youth academies this summer. Each session will be for two weeks and it will be open to youth 15 to 17 years of age. Session #1 will be held June 21st-July 2<sup>nd</sup> and Session #2 will be held July 26th-August 6<sup>th</sup>. Information has been sent out through social media and to local schools.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN:**

- 03-Infrastructure & Environment- Measure Y funds are used to address the needs to repair the infrastructure necessary for fire department operations.
- 05-Community Engagement & Well-Being- Measure Y funds are used to increase community engagement with all members of the community.
- 06-Public Safety - Measure Y funds are used to ensure adequate staffing and equipment needs are being met for fire department operations.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Measure Y funds are being utilized as directed by the voters.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION:**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):**

None