



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 12, 2022

TO: City Council

FROM: FIRE CHIEF LOPEZ
CITY MANAGER PRO TEMPORE VIDES
ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST MEYER
ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST ZAVALA

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDS OF
COVERAGE AND SERVICE FOR THE WATSONVILLE FIRE DEPT
BY FITCH & ASSOCIATES

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

A community risk assessment and standards of coverage to ensure the Watsonville Fire Department's ability to provide a safe and effective response force to the City of Watsonville had not been conducted since 2006. The Public Safety Sales Tax Measure (Measure Y) was adopted in October 2019. Measure Y established that the City must commission an independent third-party fire facility and operational needs assessment at least once every decade, no later than two years after final decennial census data is available.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that, by motion, the City Council accept the Community Risk Assessment & Standards of Coverage & Service Report prepared by Fitch & Associates, LLC and provide direction to staff regarding any changes or policies that may be necessary to implement the recommendations contained in the Report.

DISCUSSION:

On April 14, 2021, a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Coverage for the City of Watsonville Fire Department was released. Proposals were due on May 12, 2021. Interviews with successful bidders were conducted and a contract was signed with Fitch & Associates, LLC on July 14, 2021.

Fitch & Associates began their assessment on August 17, 2021. During this time, they have met with various stakeholders, City staff, and Watsonville Fire Department (WFD) staff and have been gathering data from City GIS, Santa Cruz Regional 911, and WFD as part of their research.

Fitch & Associates has now completed a Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Coverage and Service for the City's Fire department to satisfy that requirement established by

the voters. The assessment is to be used to update the Fire Department's short and long-term facility and operational needs. Fitch & Associates' overall evaluation of the Fire Department operations includes staffing, deployment, the risk associated with resource allocation, station locations, and performance. They are now ready to share their findings and recommendations with the Council.

Staff is recommending that the Council receive and accept the Community Risk Assessment & Standards of Coverage Report. Additionally, on page 142 of the Report, Fitch & Associates makes various Observations and Recommendations. Staff is seeking direction from Council on any changes or policies that may be necessary to address the recommendations in the Report in order to best serve the Watsonville Community.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report relates to Strategic Plan goals:

5-Community Engagement & Well-Being

6-Public Safety

7-Efficient and High Performing Government

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no current financial impacts. Any future impacts will be based on the direction of the City Council.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

No reasonable alternatives are known at this time.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None.