

DR. MATT HEINZ

Supervisor
District 2



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Pima County Board of Supervisors

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

From: Matt Heinz, Supervisor, District 2

Date: January 18, 2024

RE: BOS Addendum Agenda 1/23/24:
IGA with City of South Tucson to support provision of Fire and EMS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "MH", is written over the "From" and "Date" lines.

Please add this item to the addendum agenda for January 23, 2024. Thank you.

Discussion/Direction/Action:

Directing the County to enter into an IGA with the City of South Tucson to support the provision of Fire and Emergency Medical Services to the businesses and residents of South Tucson, through which the County shall provide the City of South Tucson with \$400,000 this fiscal year for this purpose, from the County's FY24 Contingency Funds; and declaring an emergency.

For FY25 and forward, the level of support from the County shall be negotiated with the City of South Tucson, until such time as their sales and property tax revenues allow them to cover 100% of the costs of Fire and EMS provision for their community. The City of South Tucson is committed to engaging in economic development projects over the next few years that will greatly enhance their sales tax and property tax bases.

With this funding support from Pima County, the City of South Tucson can enter into an IGA with the City of Tucson to take over provision of all Fire and EMS services within the City of South Tucson, per the terms laid out by City Manager Michael Ortega in his letter dated June 13, 2023 (attached). The City of South Tucson will cover the majority of the ongoing costs from their General Fund. The City of Tucson, under this proposal, would be making an in-kind contribution of their administrative overhead costs.

CC:

Jan Leshner, County Administrator
Veronica Moreno, City Manager, City of South Tucson
Michael Ortega, City Manager, City of Tucson



Michael J. Ortega, P.E.
City Manager
(520) 791-4204
Michael.Ortega@tucsonaz.gov

June 13, 2023

Veronica Moreno
City Manager
City of South Tucson
1601 S 6th Ave.
Tucson AZ, 85713

Re: Letter dated April 21, 2023 - IGA for Fire Suppression and EMS Services

Dear Ms. Moreno:

Although I am sending this letter in response to the referenced request, I want to start out by thanking you for the partnership we have strengthened over the past many years. Specifically, we have worked together on many fronts including Housing, Public Safety, and Regional Transportation. We know that this partnership is important for both City of Tucson and City of South Tucson residents alike.

Our response to your request for Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services to be provided by the City of Tucson within the corporate limits of the City of South Tucson (COST) is outlined below. This includes the City of Tucson's funding needs, both one-time and ongoing, to provide the services requested. Details of these services would be outlined in the formal intergovernmental agreement (IGA). Please know the IGA will also need to include specific requirements for the COST to provide ongoing financial assurances.

One-Time and Ongoing Costs:

In order for the City of Tucson to take on the Fire and EMS services outlined in the proposal, there would be several one-time and ongoing costs to adequately meet the requirements of service delivery. Below is the breakdown of the estimated one-time and ongoing costs.



Michael J. Ortega, P.E.
City Manager
(520) 791-4204
Michael.Ortega@tucsonaz.gov

One-Time:

\$100,000*	South Tucson station upgrades
\$532,000	Hiring/Training of new firefighters
\$214,000	Training of new paramedics
\$1,106,425**	New Pumper

* Station upgrade estimates are considered a minimum cost. Costs could rise due to inflation or upgrading additional aspects of the station.

** Existing pumper could be covered by a reserve unit in the short-term. However, long-term, it will need to be replaced. This equipment has a very long lead time.


Ongoing:

\$2,006,000	Personnel (fully loaded costs of positions, averaged at the mid-point)
\$16,795	Maintenance for pumper
\$50,000	Maintenance for station

The training of personnel and ordering of equipment takes time, and it could be as long as 6-9 months before we can be adequately staffed and even longer to receive a new pumper. As mentioned above, the IGA will need to include details of how the COST will provide financial assurances for these ongoing and one-time costs. This will be an important part of moving this arrangement forward and I would appreciate any thoughts on how you propose to provide that assurance. Once you provide your thoughts on this assurance, I will ask the City Attorney to begin crafting an IGA.

I look forward to hearing from you and continuing our partnership to include working through this proposal.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Ortega, P.E.
City Manager