

ADDENDUM MATERIAL

MAYOR
PAUL DIAZ

VICE MAYOR
HERMAN LOPEZ

ACTING MAYOR
RITA ROGERS

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CESAR AGUIRRE
BRIAN FLAGG
ANITA ROMERO
ROXANNA VALENZUELA



DATE 1/23/24

ITEM NO. A005
INTERIM CITY MANAGER
VERONICA B. MORENO

1601 SOUTH 6TH AVENUE
SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA 85713
(520)792-2424
FAX (520) 628-9619

January 23, 2024

Pima County
Supervisor Rex Scott, Vice Chair District 1
Supervisor Dr. Matt Heinz, District 2
Supervisor Dr. Sylvia M. Lee, District 3
Supervisor Steve Christy, District 4
Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair District 5
33 N. Stone Avenue
11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 82701

Reference: BOS Agenda 01/23/2024
IGA with City of South Tucson to support provision of Fire and EMS

On behalf of Mayor Paul Diaz and City Council, thank you Supervisor Dr. Matt Heinz and Chief of Staff David Higuera, Kylie Walzyk, and Shaq McCoy for bringing this item of extreme urgency to the forefront.

The City of South Tucson has been faced with a financial imbalance since before the recession in 2008. This has been the result of decades-long Public Safety Retirement unfunded liability, reduced State Revenue sharing funds, minimal primary property tax values, and lack of increased tax base within our city.

Additionally, we have been struggling to keep the Fire department financially afloat now and foresee the same challenges for the coming years. Current staffing levels for the Fire Department include one full-time fire fighter and approximately 35 part-time Reserve Fire Fighters who help cover shifts for the 24/7 operation. Furthermore, the two-fire apparatus/vehicles owned by the City are 20+ years old, are in poor mechanical condition, and constantly break down.

Since 2010 an IGA with the City of Tucson Fire Department for automatic aid was executed. This automatic aid, a lifeline for our residents that includes "All Hazard Response" assistance, has benefited our community immensely. Through this automatic aid, much property damage and loss of life has been prevented during our most severe fires and vehicular accidents. We are very thankful for the assistance City of Tucson has provided as we continue to work towards a reliable solution, which we are hopeful is a contract with City of Tucson Fire Department who provides A-1 class service.

JAN 22 2 41 PM 0402 PC CLK OF BD

The costs to outsource fire services with the City of Tucson total annual costs of \$2,080,000.00 in addition to \$1.9 Million in one-time costs for station upgrades, hiring/training new fire fighters, training new paramedics and replacing the existing pumper. In Fiscal Year 2023/2024 the City of South Tucson budgeted \$1,600,000.00 as previously estimated for ongoing costs for these services and is facing a shortfall of \$400,000.00 for on-going annual costs.

The City of South Tucson Mayor and Council are dedicated to prioritizing the engagement in economic development opportunities that will ensure the long-term enhancement and stabilization of City sales and property tax revenues.

The City is requesting Pima County consider assisting the City of South Tucson by closing the financial gap that places our community, who is the most marginalized in Pima County, in jeopardy of no reliable fire service protection.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veronica Moreno", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Veronica Moreno
Interim City Manager

Cc: Jan Leshar, County Manager
Michael Ortega, City Manager City of Tucson
David Higuera, Chief of Staff – Supervisor Dr. Matt Heinz District 2