



North County Dispatch JPA NCDJPA Board of Directors Agenda

Staff Report: NCDJPA Board of Directors ITEM NO. 23/07
Date: May 24, 2023
Subject: Escondido Dispatch Services
Action Requested: Discuss and Direct

RECOMMENDATION: JPA Staff recommends the Board of Directors review the proposed financial terms agreed to by the NCDJPA Administrator, designated Chiefs, and City of Escondido staff, and provide direction to enable the City of Escondido City Council to submit a formal request to join NCDJPA as a member agency.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NCDJPA was formed on June 11, 1984. The founding members were the City of San Marcos, the City of Solana Beach, and Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District. Additional member agencies were added:

- 1986 - City of Encinitas
- 1986 - City of Vista
- 2003 - City of Carlsbad
- 2005 - North County Fire Protection District
- 2006 - City of Oceanside

Several non-voting contract agencies have joined, including: City of Del Mar in 2004, Pauma in 2011, Pala in 2012, and Rincon, San Pasqual & Valley Center in 2014.

BACKGROUND: On February 22, 2023, the Board of Directors provided direction to the Administrator and Board of Chiefs to negotiate financial terms with the City of Escondido regarding becoming a member agency of NCDJPA.

On March 9, 2023, the Board of Chiefs designated Carlsbad Fire Chief Michael Calderwood and Oceanside Fire Chief David Parsons to participate in the discussions between NCDJPA and the City of Escondido.

On March 21, 2023, Administrator Christopher Herren, Chiefs Calderwood and Parsons, NCDJPA Division Manager Larissa Patros, and Escondido Deputy Fire Chief John Tenger met and agreed on

terms that would be acceptable to the Board of Chiefs and Board of Directors.

A formal request to join NCDJPA as a member agency is expected to be on a City of Escondido City Council agenda sometime this summer.

CURRENT SITUATION:

If the City of Escondido were to join NCDJPA for FY 23-24, their approximate assessment would be \$1.07M, which is 17.9% of the projected operating budget.

As incentive for joining NCDJPA in 2023, the City of Escondido would receive 12 months of service at no cost, pay no buy-in fee based on NCDJPA assets, and defer startup costs.

- These discounts will offset any transition costs incurred by the City of Escondido.
- The City of Escondido would be a full voting member no later than when service begins.
- The City of Escondido would not be eligible to be included in any apportionment of net assets as outlined in Section 13 of the 2nd Amended and Restated NCDJPA Agreement for a period of 10 years following NCDJPA membership.
 - This is because no buy-in fee is being paid related to NCDJPA assets of \$11.9M as of 06/30/22.

NCDJPA has determined that the increase in telephone calls and dispatched incidents directly related to the City of Escondido joining NCDJPA will require the addition of 3 Fire Communications Dispatcher (FCD) positions, at a cost of \approx \$400,000 in FY 23-24. The average monthly cost, including rollup, for a FCD is \$11,166.

At the end of the City of Escondido's first 12 months receiving service, NCDJPA staff will perform an analysis to determine the actual cost incurred related to the 3 additional FCDs.

- For instance, if the 3 new FCD positions were filled (not vacant) as follows, a total of 22 months of service will have been provided.
 - Position 1 – 9 months
 - Position 2 – 8 months
 - Position 3 – 5 months
- In this example, the actual cost incurred would be \$245,652.

NCDJPA would bill this cost to the City of Escondido as part of Q1 billing in Years 2 through 5 of NCDJPA membership.

This charge of actual cost incurred for the 3 FCD positions would be calculated only for the first 12 months of NCDJPA membership. The cost of these positions in future years would be included in the general

operating budget and assessed to all agencies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct impact to the NCDJPA operating budget other than staff time associated with the work on this project.

Deferring first year costs for the City of Escondido would not increase assessments for existing NCDJPA agencies and it is estimated that when Escondido begins paying for service, other member and contract agencies will see their assessments reduced by an average of more than 12%.

The City of Escondido will be responsible for actual costs of the new FCD positions required to accommodate the workload they add to NCDJPA, as well as technology related costs (e.g. station alerting and mobile computers or tablets).