



STAFF REPORT

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE FIRE SERVICES IN THE CITY OF BELMONT, PUBLIC MEETING #3

Honorable President and Board Members:

Summary

Currently, Fire and Emergency Medical Services are provided to the City of Belmont by the South County Fire Authority, a joint powers authority (JPA) with the City of San Carlos. The City Councils of the two underlying jurisdictions have voted to terminate the JPA effective June 30, 2006. Both Belmont and San Carlos are now in the process of soliciting proposals from Fire services providers to replace the South County Fire Authority by July 2006. A comprehensive report and associated consultant report was presented to the Board at two meetings in October, October 11 and October 25. At the second meeting, the Board removed Menlo Park from further consideration and directed that a third meeting be scheduled in November to hear a presentation on the proposal submitted by Firefighters Local 2400. Tonight, staff, consultants and firefighters Local 2400 will present information on the Firefighters proposal. The Council may wish to take additional public testimony.

No decision is being requested at this meeting. The next policy decision by the Belmont Fire Protection District Board (BFPD) will be requested at public meeting number five on February 14, 2006.

This is the third of a series of five public meetings planned in Belmont regarding alternative proposals for providing Fire Service to the City of Belmont. The remaining tentative schedule for additional public meetings is as follows:

- Meeting #4- January 24, 2006 (Status of contract negotiations with providers and final staff recommendation)
- Meeting #5- February 14, 2006 (Final selection decision)

Background

Five reports are attached:

- Staff reports dated October 11, 2005 and October 25, 2005 for detailed background on the original four proposals submitted to the City.
- Revised Maze & Associates consultant report dated November 15, 2005
- Firefighters Local 2400 proposal
- Firefighters Local 2400 Supplemental information

Subsequent to the completion of the original Maze report (dated September 15, 2005); Firefighters Local 2400 submitted a proposal late in the City's evaluation process. Because the City's consultant had not had an opportunity to evaluate the Local 2400 proposal, the Board directed staff to have the City's consultant, Maze & Associates, evaluate the Local 2400 proposal utilizing the same criteria as was used in evaluating the original four proposals. This has been done and is transmitted herein in a new consultant report dated November 15, 2005. Be advised however, that fiscal information related to Chief Officer staffing and support costs were not available at the time Maze did their analysis.

Discussion

The attached revised Maze report dated November 15, 2005 compares San Mateo, Redwood City and CDF with the benchmark South County Fire Authority. The Firefighters Local 2400 proposal is included in the new comparison from a scope of services standpoint, but is excluded from the cost analysis because it did not include sufficient cost information to determine total costs. Specifically, the Local 2400 proposal excluded chief officer and support function costs. Staff has requested additional information from Local 2400. This information was not available at the time this report was being written. However, some information was received as we were going to press and is attached to this report (Attachments E). Staff will present our analysis at the November 22 Board meeting.

The Firefighters Local 2400 proposal will also be presented at the December 14 South County Fire Authority Board meeting.

Next steps call for staff to:

- 1) Continue discussions with Local 2400
- 2) Develop a cost estimate of a standalone City of Belmont Fire Department (Feierbach)
- 3) Conduct additional meetings with the Belmont Fire Subcommittee (Warden & Feierbach)
- 4) Conduct meetings with the three proposers to negotiate final contracts with each based on the service configuration previously approved by the Board. This service configuration includes:

- Two advanced life support/basic life support engine companies
- A portion of a truck company to be determined in negotiations with providers
- Other services such as Fire Marshall, inspections, plan check and prevention services to remain unchanged
- Termination of the Countywide HazMat unit. This function would then become a responsibility of the County. Belmont would continue to pay its fair share of the Countywide costs
- Fire Marshall, fire prevention, building inspection and plan check services equivalent to what currently exists in the City of Belmont.
- Term of contract to be a minimum of five years with an 18-month cancellation clause

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact to this report. Funds necessary for legal counsel and other expenses related to terminating the JPA have been accounted for in the Mid Year Budget Review. The estimated annual cost of the alternative proposals contained in this report can be found in the Maze & Associates report attached. More refined cost estimates will be developed during contract negotiations with each of the providers.

Public Contact

A copy of this report was sent to the three proposers, Firefighters Local 2400, the South County Fire Chief, the Battalion Chiefs, the Fire Marshall, and the City of San Carlos. The item was posted on the agenda as required by law. Copies of the proposals to serve Belmont were made public at a South County Fire Authority Board meeting. Articles appeared in local newspapers following the South County meeting.

Recommendation

- 1) Receive the Maze & Associates consultant report dated November 15, 2005
- 2) Receive the Firefighters Local 2400 proposal and related supplemental information. Provide staff with further direction regarding the Firefighters local 2400 proposal and supplemental information, including whether or not to direct Maze and Associates to perform further analysis; and
- 3) Direct staff to negotiate final agreements with each of the three providers during the months of November and December

Alternatives

1. Creation of a City of Belmont stand alone fire department
2. Re-engineer the South County Fire District JPA in accordance with the Local 2400 proposal
3. Pursue regional consolidation of Fire Service with other entities

Attachments

- A. Staff report dated October 11, 2005
- B. Staff report dated October 25, 2005
- C. Revised Maze & Associates consultant report dated November 15, 2005
- D. IAFF Firefighters Local 2400 report October 3, 2005
- E. IAFF Supplemental material received November 16, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Jack R. Crist
Interim District Manager