



CAL FIRE – RIVERSIDE UNIT RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEISER - FIRE CHIEF

210 WEST SAN JACINTO AVENUE, PERRIS, CA 92570-1915
BUS: (951) 940-6900 FAX: (951) 940-6373 WWW.RVCFIRE.ORG

PROUDLY SERVING THE
UNINCORPORATED
AREAS OF RIVERSIDE
COUNTY AND THE CITIES
OF:

BANNING

BEAUMONT

COACHELLA

DESERT HOT SPRINGS

EASTVALE

INDIAN WELLS

INDIO

JURUPA VALLEY

LAKE ELSINORE

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MINIFEE

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Elizabeth Gibbs
City Manager
City of Beaumont

February 9, 2024

Subject: Letter Requesting Funding for 4-Person Truck Company

Dear Ms. Gibbs,

I am writing to request that the City of Beaumont fund nine additional positions for a 24/7, 4-person truck company. This investment aligns with policy, CAL FIRE MOU, leading industry best practices, and our unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community.

CAL FIRE Work Week Reduction and Staffing Factor Updates:

The upcoming CAL FIRE Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reduces the firefighter workweek from 72 to 66 hours, effective November 2024. With this change, CAL FIRE has established a minimum staffing factor of 3.0 per seat for firefighting apparatus to maintain adequate staffing with this change. While our current engine companies comply, adding the new 4-person truck company at Station 106 will need to adhere to this standard.

Alignment with Leading Industry Practices:

Organizations like the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) recommend a minimum staffing factor of 4.0 for ladder companies. Implementing a 24/7, 4-person truck company directly aligns with these recommendations. This means faster response times, more efficient handling of multiple emergencies, and the immediate application of specialized skills and equipment, ultimately enhancing community safety and effectiveness.

Furthermore, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors established a policy requiring all new engine companies to have a minimum 3-person staffing, demonstrating the importance of adequate staffing for frontline fire units.

Benefits of a 4-Person Truck Company:

Adding this staffing to the recently ordered truck company will significantly benefit Beaumont by:

Reducing reflex times: Studies by NIST show that 4-person crews significantly decrease reflex times, which is critical for minimizing damage and saving lives.

Enhancing emergency response capacity: With four trained personnel readily available, the company can effectively handle simultaneous emergencies, ensuring comprehensive support for our community.

Bringing specialized skills and equipment: This truck company would be equipped with specialized tools and expertise, enabling swift and effective intervention in diverse situations.

Decreasing reliance on mutual aid: A properly staffed local company can manage most emergencies independently, potentially reducing additional loss waiting for a similar resource to arrive from neighboring communities. It should also be noted that these resources are outside established industry standards for response.

Collaborative Cost-Sharing Solutions:

While we acknowledge the budgetary considerations, we believe the increased safety and efficiency justify the investment. The Riverside County Fire Department remains committed to finding a mutually agreeable cost-sharing solution with the City of Beaumont.

We recognize the County's commitment, through Chief Weiser, to cover the personnel cost of 3 staff positions (25%) for the truck company when it arrives. Additionally, we are open to exploring various collaboration models to make this initiative financially feasible for the city. The county will move forward with this staffing as the truck arrival date is identified in the future months.

Fire Staff Recommendation:

To ensure optimal effectiveness and to comply with MOU and County Policies, we recommend the following staffing breakdown:

- 3 Fire Captains
- 3 Fire Apparatus Engineers
- 3 Fire Fighters II
- 3 Fire Fighter II (Medic)

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Bill Weiser
Fire Chief
Riverside County Fire Dept.
CAL FIRE Riverside Unit

CC; Chief Deputy Geoffrey Pemberton, Deputy Director Diane Sinclair

State of California

Natural Resources Agency

Memorandum

To: Assistant Region Chiefs
Unit Chiefs

Date: February 16, 2023

Website: www.fire.ca.gov

From: David Fulcher DocuSigned by:
David Fulcher
8B7420...
Southern Region Chief

George Morris III DocuSigned by:
George Morris III
2E8CF01E4BC...
Northern Region Chief

Bret Gouvea DocuSigned by:
Bret Gouvea
Deputy Director Cooperative Fire Protection

Subject: Local Government Agreements and Staffing Models

This memorandum memorializes upcoming changes to Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements (Schedule A), including an explanation of personnel staffing factors, apparatus staffing levels, new agreements, and renewal of existing Schedule A agreements spanning through November 1, 2024.

On November 1, 2024, upon approval of the Administration and CalHR, CAL FIRE will adopt a 66-hour workweek aligning with approved Bargaining Unit 8 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shift patterns for Bargaining Unit 8 personnel. All Schedule A agreements will conform to a 66-hour work week consistent with MOU shift patterns beginning on November 1, 2024. Minimum staffing levels in Schedule A agreements will be **2-0 minimum staffing** based on a **3.0 staffing factor**, at minimum, including Amador agreements. Planning efforts to accommodate higher daily minimum staffing levels in collaboration with our local government partners should be on-going to ensure an adequate weight of response.

Please utilize attachments one and two to address the needs of your new or existing agreement. Attachment one provides guidance on current staffing factors to existing agreements. Attachment two provides a visual overview of a staffing factor versus a staffing level.

Staffing Factor

Staffing factor relates to personnel per post-covered position. All post-covered positions will require three full-time equivalent positions at a 3.0 staffing factor

- Example: A 3.0 staffing factor means one seat/post covered position requires 3.0 personnel to staff over a 7-day calendar week.

Staffing Level

Staffing level relates to *daily* minimum staffing on firefighting apparatus (fully trained, professional firefighting personnel)

- Example: Daily staffing can consist of 2-0 (minimum), 3-0 or 4-0 staffing for various firefighting apparatus types.

New Agreements

Policy Section 8551 specifies all new Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements shall meet, at a minimum, a 3.11 staffing factor and a 3-0 minimum daily staffing level.

Renewal/ Successor Agreements

Renegotiating, renewing, or extending the terms of an existing Schedule A or Amador Agreement spanning through the period beginning November 1, 2024, will need to meet or exceed the staffing factors (3.0) and staffing levels (2-0) described on page 1 of this memorandum. While Policy Section 8551 does not apply to renewal or successor agreements, it is CAL FIRE's objective to encourage existing Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements to plan for, and implement, the staffing levels and standards identified in this memorandum.

Amador Agreements

Beginning November 1, 2024, each local government will be required to provide a 3.0 staffing factor for Amador engine coverage. The State will ensure a 3.0 staffing factor for State provided personnel in the agreement. These minimum personnel described above represents a minimum of 2.0 staffing level and 3.0 staffing factor.

CC: Matthew Sully
David Scheurich
Joe Tyler
Chris Anthony
Anale Burlew
Curtis Brown
CNR/ CSR Administration

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: January 17, 2012

SUBJECT: Firefighter Installation on Riverside County Engines (FIRE) Policy

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board embrace the Fire Policy, that ensures that all Riverside County Engine Companies have as a minimum, a 3-person team consisting of:

- 1. Fire Captain;**
- 2. Fire Apparatus Engineer;**
- 3. Firefighter;**

and wherever possible, included within one of these 3 descriptions, should be a firefighter that is an EMT or Paramedic, as well.

BACKGROUND:

Riverside County has always made public safety a top priority, even in these challenging economic times. We all have learned to do more with less, but cannot compromise on a minimum level of fire services that without, not only jeopardizes the health and safety of our constituents, but also, can jeopardize the safety of our valiant firefighters. In order to have a consistent level of expertise when responding to a medical or fire emergency, the County should have as a minimum staffing the formula referenced above.

Jeff Stone
Supervisor
Third District

JS:vc

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Stone, seconded by Supervisor Tavaglione and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Tavaglione, Stone and Ashley
Nays: Buster and Benoit
Absent: None
Date: January 24, 2012
xc: Supvr. Stone, Fire

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By:
Deputy

3.5



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DR. YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ
DISTRICT 5

Elizabeth Gibbs
City Manager
City of Beaumont

October 23, 2023

City Manager Elizabeth Gibbs,

I am writing to address the staffing requirements for the Riverside County Fire Department, particularly concerning the expansion of services at Station 106 in the western area of the city.

As per the Riverside County Board of Supervisors Policy, established by the Board on January 17, 2012, it is mandated that all Riverside County Fire Department engine companies maintain a minimum staffing level. This configuration includes a Fire Captain, a Fire Apparatus Engineer, and a Firefighter, with one of these personnel required to be a Paramedic. Simultaneously, Truck companies must maintain a minimum staffing level of a Fire Captain, Fire Apparatus Engineer, and two Firefighters, with one of the Firefighters holding Paramedic certification. These staffing standards have been integral to our department since the early 1990s and are further supported by a consensual agreement with our CORE staffing standards and CAL FIRE Local 2881.

Additionally, the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) contract between the State of California and CAL FIRE Local 2881 has outlined a reduction in the duty week from 72 hours to 66 hours, effective November 1st, 2024. This necessitates a corresponding adjustment in staffing factors, requiring the deployment of 3.0 persons per staffed position on each fire apparatus.

To maintain compliance with these staffing requirements, the Riverside County Fire Department has historically worked collaboratively with contractual partners to transition to the board-established staffing levels. All new engine companies or equipment staffed must adhere to these established requirements for staffing configurations and staffing factors per seat.

The Riverside County Fire Department expresses its enthusiasm for the expansion of services by the City of Beaumont with the addition of Station 106. We are equally eager to continue the collaborative and enduring relationship between our Riverside County Fire Department and the City of Beaumont.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bill Weiser'.

Bill Weiser
Fire Chief
Riverside County Fire Dept.
CAL FIRE Riverside Unit