



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager
DATE July 16, 2024
SUBJECT: Approval of the FY 2024/25 Local Responsibility Area Wildland Protection Reimbursement Agreement

Description Request to approve the FY 2024/25 Local Responsibility Area Wildland Protection Reimbursement Agreement with CAL FIRE.

Background and Analysis:

The City currently contracts with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE) for fire protection of 1,173 acres of designated wildland area that is within the boundaries of the City. Wildland areas that are within incorporated cities, fire protection districts, and special districts with fire suppression responsibility are referred to as Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). All fire suppression activities and responsibilities within LRA wildland areas are the responsibility of the local agency. The current contract with CalFIRE expired on June 30, 2024. It should be noted that the draft for FY 2025 was received from CalFire after the last City Council meeting.

Wildland fires within the areas incorporated within the City are frequent. Wildland fires are considered one of the highest natural disaster risks that the City faces. The City is in an extremely wind prone area and it is not uncommon for fires to grow beyond the local capability of the resources assigned to protect the City. When a wildland fire grows beyond the ability and capability of local resources, assistance is requested from CalFIRE to provide wildland engine companies, inmate hand crews, bulldozers and aircraft.

Without an agreement for protection of wildlands within an LRA between the City and the State of California, these resources are then considered assistance-by-hire and the City is liable for the cost from the time of dispatch.

Within the City there are 1,173 acres designated as wildlands subject to the LRA designation. To reduce the City's liability for the cost of wildland fire suppression in the LRA area, the City can enter into a Local Responsibility Area Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Agreement) with CalFIRE, for protection of wildlands within the City.

This Agreement will provide state resources to control a wildland fire at no additional cost to the city. CalFIRE will provide fire protection to the LRA as if they were still the sole agency with fire suppression responsibility. This Agreement will provide unlimited use of state engine companies, inmate hand crews, bulldozers and aircraft to supplement the daily level of fire protection provided to the City by the County of Riverside.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost to enter into the Agreement with CAL FIRE is \$42.58 per acre plus a 12.01% administrative charge. The total annual cost for the 1,173 acres covered is \$55,989.85 and was programmed in the Fire department FY2024/25 budget 100-2100-7068-0000.

The estimated cost to prepare this staff report was \$400.00.

Recommended Action:

Waive the full reading and adopt by title only, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Beaumont, California, Approving an Agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for Services from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 for Fire Protection Services within the Local Responsibility Areas within the City," and

Approval of the FY 2024/25 agreement with CAL FIRE for fire protection services within the Local Responsibility Areas within the City in the amount of \$55,989.85.

Attachments:

- A. LRA Wildland Protection Agreement
- B. Resolution for wildland protection services from CAL FIRE