BUDGET DOCUMENT # 4

CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Memorandum

TO: MAYOR REED

FROM: Councilmember Nora Campos
Councilmember Kansen Chu

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 19, 2009

Approved Nora Campos Date 5/19/09

Kansen Chu

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

BACKGROUND

Reinstatement

Program/Project Title: Preserve Fire Department Service Eliminations

Amount of City Funding Required: To be determined

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

By preserving our current level of funding for the Fire Department, the City would maintain its current emergency response and fire prevention capabilities. The City Council should make every effort to preserve Fire Stations 30 and 33, as well as the support medic program.

Funding Source

Program/Project Title: Training for Regional Municipality Firefighters and Civilians in the San José Fire Academy

Amount of City Funding Change: To be determined

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

The City of San José maintains an accredited fire academy that can serve as a training facility for several other local and regional municipalities. The Fire Department currently has several master instructors that teach at various community colleges in the region whose expertise can be utilized to perform this function. The City Administration should immediately explore interest by local and regional cities to take advantage of the fire training resources in the City of San José. In addition, the City Administration should explore opportunities to provide for-cost training to civilians interested in gaining certification in fire and medical emergency response. The City currently has the ability to expand its fire academy services and could potentially serve to generate revenue that can be transferred back into the Fire Department to preserve proposed service elimination and to expand response services in the future. This program may need a minimal amount of up-front, one-time seed funding. To the extent that such funding is needed, the Economic Uncertainty Reserve funds should be utilized, with any revenue generated from this program going towards replenishing the fund before any revenue is then transferred to the Fire Department to support ongoing services.

Program/Project Title: Cost Recovery for EMS Support Services Provided by the Fire Department

Amount of City Funding Change: To be determined

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

The City of San José should follow the model of other municipalities in seeking to recover costs for services provided by the San José Fire Department in support of EMS providers, such as American Medical Response (AMR). The City Administration should immediately explore opportunities to recover funding due to the City of San José for providing these crucial support services and should reallocate any funds received back to the Fire Department to maintain vital services currently proposed for elimination.

Program/Project Title: Recover Costs for Arson Investigations

Amount of City Funding Change: To be determined

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

The City Administration should immediately explore opportunities to recover the costs of arson investigations from private insurance companies in cases where there was a conviction. Any funds received should be earmarked to preserve or augment existing arson investigative services in order to increase the current conviction rate of 22 percent. Currently, the arson unit responds to 500 to 600 calls annually. Of those calls, between 350 and 400 are classified as arson or negligence and carry the potential for cost recovery. If the proposed elimination of one arson investigator is approved by the City Council, the unit's staffing level would drop by 25 percent, which will undoubtedly cause a proportional drop in the conviction rate.

Department or Organization: San José Fire Department

Department or Organization Contact (Please list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation.)

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This change is:

_____ One-time __X__ Ongoing

The City Service Area to which the change best relates:

- ❑ Community and Economic Development Services
- ❑ Environmental and Utility Services
- ❑ Neighborhood Services
- X Public Safety
- ❑ Strategic Support
- ❑ Transportation and Aviation Services