



## MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: May 17, 2016

**REGULAR**

ITEM #: 27

**MOTION**

**AGENDA ITEM:** Shared Services and Fire Dept Staffing

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kristina Handt, City Administrator

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### **BACKGROUND:**

In response to the recent reports about delayed fire response and limited staffing available for calls at certain times, Council members Fliflet and Lundgren are requesting staff look into some shared services with other departments and/or staffing changes within Lake Elmo Fire (such as the expansion of duty crews).

As we have done with other issues, staff is bringing this to the Council for direction before embarking on this task.

### **ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Should staff research and prepare info for presentation to the Council and/or Public Safety Committee regarding shared, automatic or direct service agreements and department staffing options?

### **PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:**

Staff is being asked to look into options to address staffing shortages in the Fire Department. This could include reviewing the shared services study from 2011, exploring direct aid agreements with other communities, or automatic aid once the County Tiburon system is finally implemented. In addition, the City could explore different staffing structures such as expanded duty crews, hiring part time firefighters to be at the station as other communities do, or reviewing recruitment efforts. This is not an exhaustive list and staff is not prepared to talk about the details at this time but given Council direction we will research more fully the options.

The results of staff research could be shared with the Council and/or the Public Safety Committee at a future work session or joint meeting.

### **OPTIONS:**

- 1) Direct staff to research shared services or other agreements and staffing options for the Fire Department and report back to the Council
- 2) Direct staff to research shared services or other agreements and staffing options for the Fire Department and report back to a joint meeting of the Public Safety Committee and Council
- 3) Do not direct staff to research these issues

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Per Council members Fliflet and Lundgren, *Motion to direct staff to research shared services or other agreements and staffing options for the Fire Department*