

**October 19, 2010, 6:00 p.m.**

Council Chambers, 333 Civic Center Plaza

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1. Call to Order – Chairperson Thoming called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll call found Directors Abercrombie, Ives, Reece, and Chairperson Thoming present.
3. Items from the Audience – None.
4. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Director Abercrombie and seconded by Director Reece to adopt the regular meeting minutes of April 20, 2010, and July 20, 2010. Voice vote found all in favor; passed and so ordered.
5. **ACCEPT AND FILE THE FIRST QUARTER 2010/2011 RESPONSE PERFORMANCE REPORT** – Germane Friends, Interim Fire Chief, presented the staff report.

During the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2010/2011 the department responded to 76% of all emergency calls in the City within 5 minutes. This is down 1% from the previous year and the same quarter last year. Response performance in the rural area remained the same. During the first quarter of FY 2010/2011 the department responded to 83% of all emergency calls in the City within 10 minutes of receipt. In the Mountain House Community Services District (MHCS D) response performance was down 1% from FY 2009/2010, but was consistent with the performance in FY 2008/2009. The department exceeded its objective to confine moderate risk structure fires to the room of origin or less. In the City this objective is 75%, and in the Rural it is 25%. The department confined working structure fires to the room of origin or less 83% of all moderate risk structure fires in the City and 100% in the Rural. There were a total of 1,529 incidents during the first quarter of FY 2010/2011. Total call volume during the quarter was up 6% in the City, 16% in the MHCS D, and 2% on area freeways. Call volume was down in the Tracy Rural Fire Protection by 6%. The majority of incidents occurred in the City (67%) followed by Rural (15%), Freeways (8%), MHCS D (6%), and other areas outside of the Fire Authority (5%). The number of times each fire company responded to calls remained similar to the same period last fiscal year with the exception of Company 97. Company 97's number of responses was up 11%. Company 97 was also the only company to show an increase in the number of calls that had to be handled by another company because they were already assigned to a call (queuing for Company 97 was up by 1%). The average queuing for all seven stations was down by 1%.

Structure fire loss during the first quarter of FY 2010/2011 was about the same in the City, and down significantly in the rural area compared to the same period last fiscal year. Structure fire losses this quarter were \$113,150 in the City and \$4,000 in the Tracy Rural Fire Protection District. First quarter structure fire losses for last year were \$126,000 in the City and \$501,000 in the Rural. Another notable item was the use of aid from the Defense Logistics Agency Fire Department (DLA). During the first quarter of FY 2010/2011 the South County Fire Authority received assistance from the DLA 68

times. In FY 2009/2010, DLA assisted the department on a total of 54 calls. This increase in assistance is the result of changes in leadership at the Defense Logistics Agency. The newly assigned leadership requested to be added to Tracy Fire calls in exchange for assistance at calls on their facility. DLA's assistance adds a resource to calls the department responds to, but does not reduce the number of Tracy Fire resources that are dispatched.

Interim Fire Chief Friends recommended that the South County Fire Authority accept the First Quarter 2010/2011 Response Report.

Director Thoming asked for the number of responses to the DLA. Interim Fire Chief Friends stated that during the summer responses were approximately once every two weeks. Most were hazardous materials calls; there have been no fire incidents as of this time. Interim Fire Chief Friends added the agreement with DLA is a collaboration that should prove positive regarding response times.

Director Reece asked if there was a reason for the increase in calls to Station 97 during the last quarter. Interim Fire Chief Friends responded the increase was due to traffic accidents and EMS calls.

Director Abercrombie stated calls to 911 have been estimated to take about one minute and a half before they are dispatched to a station and inquired whether there was a way to monitor that time frame, since it could explain the delay in receiving calls. Interim Fire Chief Friends responded that could be confirmed, although the response time is close to what it has always been. However, there has been some turnover in dispatch, and also some queuing incidents regarding direction and how the call was received and dispatched.

Director Abercrombie asked if there had been any thought on having Fire and P.D. dispatched from the same location. Interim Fire Chief Friends responded he had not received any requests, but added it is something that could be considered.

Leon Churchill, City Manager, stated currently a draft report by LAFCO is being reviewed. One issue that has been highlighted is the dispatch performance, which is under-whelming. Mr. Churchill added in the near future an evaluation will need to be completed as to whether Lifecom can get better and if it cannot what options should be pursued.

Director Abercrombie inquired as to the length of the contract. Interim Fire Chief Friends stated he would get back to the Board regarding the length of the contract. Assistant City Attorney Sartor stated the County EMS agency has dictated medical calls have to be dispatched through Lifecom. Fire and police calls could be dispatched from the same location, but medical calls have to go through Lifecom.

Director Abercrombie clarified that if a 911 emergency medical call was received by Tracy P.D. it would have to be sent to the County before Tracy could dispatch an engine. Assistant City Attorney Sartor stated that was correct. In the beginning the City tried to get the County to adopt a more progressive model that has worked in other jurisdictions, but the County went with this one and the City has had to go along. In response to a question from Director Abercrombie regarding how that could be changed, Assistant City

Attorney Sartor responded that would be a political solution which would need to be resolved through the County Supervisors.

Director Thoming asked how many structure fires were represented in the column "Q1 10/11" on the graph entitled "Tracy Rural Fire Protection District - Percentage of Structure Fires Confined to Room of Origin." Interim Fire Chief Friends responded he would get back to the Board with the number.

It was moved by Director Abercrombie and seconded by Director Reece to accept the South County Fire Authority First Quarter Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Performance Report. Voice vote found all in favor; passed and so ordered.

6. Adjournment – It was moved by Director Abercrombie and seconded by Director Reece to adjourn. Voice vote found all in favor; passed and so ordered. Time: 6:14 p.m.

The above are summary minutes. The above agenda was posted at Tracy City Hall on October 14, 2010.

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Secretary