



**Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue
Board of Fire Commissioners
Special Meeting Minutes
Joint Meeting – Clark County Fire District 6
911 N 65th Avenue, Ridgefield**

November 9, 2021

Present: Commissioners Stan Chunn, Ken Ayers, Larry Bartel, Bob Johnson, David Town. Chief John Nohr

Also Present: DVCs Mike Jackson and Ben Peeler, Recording Secretary Kathy Streissguth.

Present from Clark County Fire District 6: Commissioners Brad Lothspeich, Chris Pfeiffer, Casey Collins. Fire Chief Kristan Maurer. Administration Chief David Schmitt.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Chunn at 6:01 p.m.

Flag salute.

Commissioner Chunn invited Chief Maurer to present first. She reviewed the report provided and summarized the mutual aid imbalance solutions proposed by FD6. There were two versions of the report – the second was to address formatting and grammatical corrections. She stated that an imbalance of service is gifting of public funds per the State Auditor. Cost per call rate of \$1,421.75 was based on information provided by legal counsel used by both agencies. An alternative to the per call payment is for FD6 to staff the station with a two-person crew with one position paid for by CCFR. She estimated the cost to each agency as \$600,000.

Chief Nohr stated he had not had time to evaluate the information in Chief Maurer's report as he only received the document at about 4:00 p.m. He requested a citation from the SAO regarding mutual aid and gifting of public funds. He advised paring down the number of FD6 units responding into CCFR; he and DVC Peeler will work with CRESA on a solution; though they agency is not sure how or if this may be done at this time. Chief Nohr reviewed the report provided and summarized the mutual aid imbalance solutions proposed by CCFR.

Chief Nohr stated that based on his past experience, joint staffing does not work, but alternating staffing from each agency is an option. Crews may be assigned for months – half the year for each agency – or alternating shifts. Difficult as CCFR and FD6 are not on the same shift schedule. Commissioner Lothspeich suggested CCFR put together a staffing proposal. Chief Nohr advised that CCFR may have personnel available to staff the end of April 2022 (2 person crew). CCFR is considering an EMS levy to run in 2022, which will allow for additional staffing in 2023. Discussion on staffing models and funding. Chief Nohr stressed the importance of doing what's best for the citizens in the area. Commissioner Chunn pointed out the staffing issues need to be discussed by the unions before the Boards may take action.

Commissioner Bartel stated that both Boards seem to want to get staffing into the station ASAP; possibly a two-person crew with a water tender. The goal is to get a full engine company at the station.

Chief Maurer advised the FD6 staffing at the station would expire at the end of 2023 as the crew will move into a truck per their operational plan. Commissioner Lothspeich commented he didn't know if CCFR can afford the proposal.

Chief Maurer stated the FFFB agreement needs review and should be updated to reflect the 50/50 split for shared costs agreed to in previous meetings.

Discussion.

Commissioners Chunn and Lothspeich advised the proposals will be discussed at each agency's next Board meeting.


A follow up joint meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Chief Maurer advised FD6 will need a decision by this time in order to accommodate a hiring timeline. A staffing model will need to be determined and the earliest a crew could be placed is June 2022.

Chiefs Maurer and Nohr will meet with staff to review the FFFB agreements to identify recommended updates.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Consensus of citizens present that they would like to see the station staffed as soon as possible.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.



Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief/District Secretary



911 N 65th Avenue
Ridgefield, WA 98642

phone: 360.887.4609 **fax:** 360.887.0862 **web:** www.clarkfr.org

TO: Commissioners
FROM: Chief Nohr
DATE: November 8, 2021
RE: Station 151 response area options

On Tuesday November 9, 2021 we will hold a joint Board of Commissioners meeting with Fire District 6 to discuss response options in the Station 151 area. While the number of Priority 1 and Priority 2 incidents in the CCFR area that requires a response from Station 62 or Station 63 has slowed somewhat over the past few months, we continue to utilize FD6 resources for Priority 1 and Priority 2 more often than FD6 utilizes CCFR resources.

Chief Maurer and I have met on multiple occasions to discuss ways to address the current imbalance in responses. We both see the need for each district to receive something of value to help minimize the imbalance.

Based on my discussions with Chief Maurer, I propose that CCFR offer the following items of value to FD6:

- CCFR Water Tenders will be added to FD6 response areas that do not have fire hydrants
 - Fire suppression activities will be augmented by having water tenders dispatched sooner, allowing for earlier arrival and utilization at a fire
 - WSRB has indicated that CCFR water tenders on the first-alarm run card will allow FD6 to be recognized as having "tender credit"
 - Tender credit will allow for better WSRB ratings and lower fire insurance costs for FD6 citizens along the NW 179th corridor and other areas without adequate water supply (hydrants)
- CCFR and FD6 will work with CRESA to eliminate having three (3) FD6 units assigned to a first-alarm fire in CCFR
 - There are a few areas in the far southwest corner of CCFR that will pull three FD6 units on a first-alarm structure fire; this action quickly depletes the ability of FD6 to respond to concurrent emergencies in their own area
 - CCFR will utilize a farther-out CCFR unit to round out the first-alarm assignment in these situations

I have attached two maps that show the number of responses in an area that would be served if there was a unit at Station 151. The first shows Priority 1 through Priority 5 incidents. It shows that year-to-date there have been 740 incidents that would be served by a unit in Station 151 (465 in FD6 and 275 in CCFR).

The second map shows the Priority 1 and Priority 2 incidents that would be served by a unit at Station 151. Year-to-date there have been 278 P1-P2 responses, with 165 in FD6 and 113 in CCFR. The P1-P2 incidents in the CCFR area are covered by FD6 if one of their units is closer than a CCFR unit. As I noted in previous discussions, CCFR sends a unit to all incidents in our area, though FD6 may arrive first on some of the P1-P2 incidents.

These maps demonstrate the on-going need for CCFR to work toward staffing a unit in the southern portion of the District. With on-going development in the area, the number of incidents is likely to continue to increase. If we do not staff a unit in the area, the imbalance of mutual aid calls with FD6 is likely to increase.

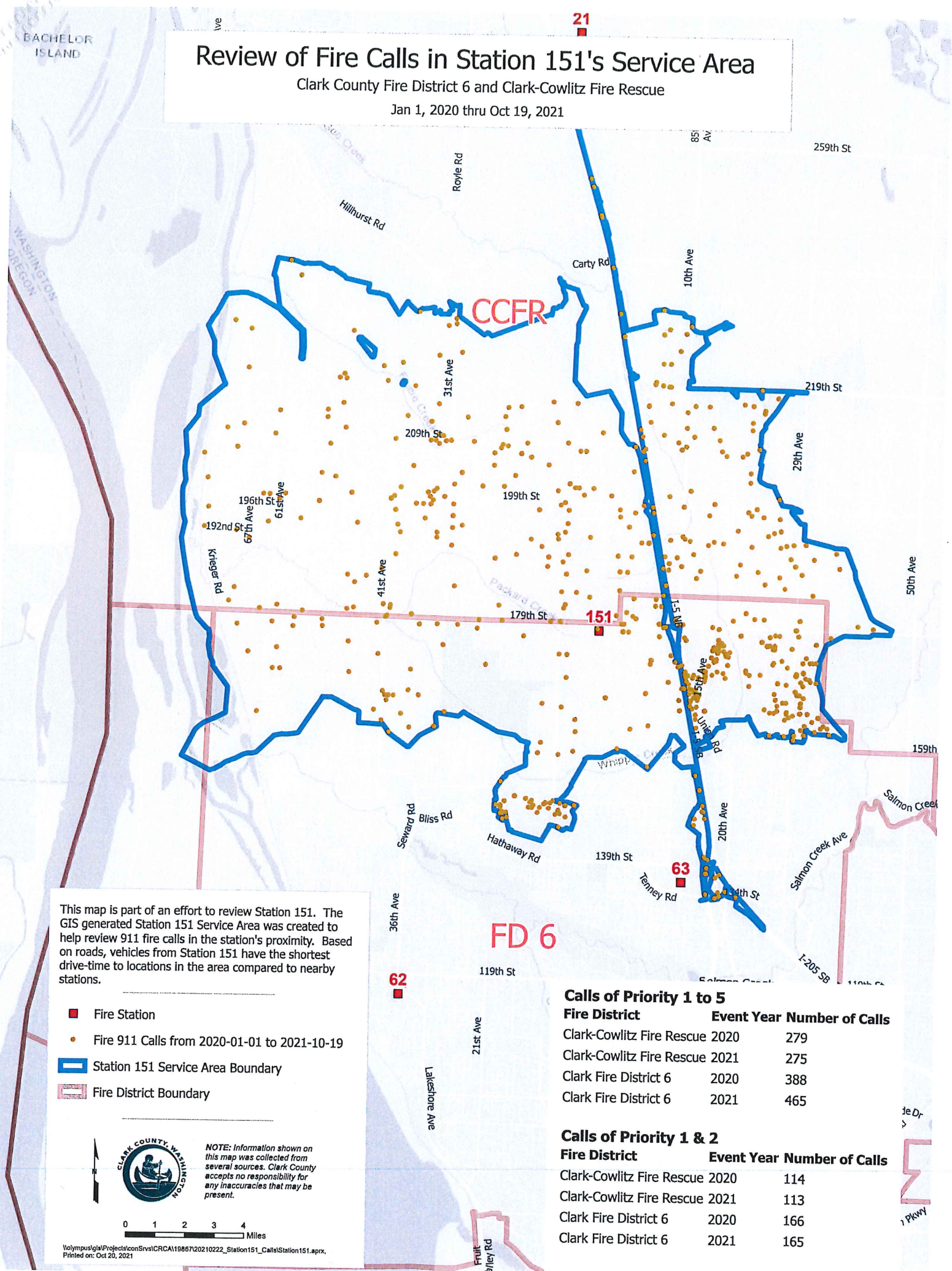
Any agreement for services should likely be outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the districts. I suggest including a provision for a review process at one year after implementation to ensure the needs of both districts is being met.

Chief Maurer and I have put considerable effort into looking for innovative ways to ensure both districts are getting a service of value and we continue to look at other potential ways to support the operations of both districts.

Review of Fire Calls in Station 151's Service Area

Clark County Fire District 6 and Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue

Jan 1, 2020 thru Oct 19, 2021



This map is part of an effort to review Station 151. The GIS generated Station 151 Service Area was created to help review 911 fire calls in the station's proximity. Based on roads, vehicles from Station 151 have the shortest drive-time to locations in the area compared to nearby stations.

- Fire Station
- Fire 911 Calls from 2020-01-01 to 2021-10-19
- Station 151 Service Area Boundary
- Fire District Boundary



NOTE: Information shown on this map was collected from several sources. Clark County accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies that may be present.



Calls of Priority 1 to 5

| Fire District | Event Year | Number of Calls |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue | 2020 | 279 |
| Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue | 2021 | 275 |
| Clark Fire District 6 | 2020 | 388 |
| Clark Fire District 6 | 2021 | 465 |

Calls of Priority 1 & 2

| Fire District | Event Year | Number of Calls |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue | 2020 | 114 |
| Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue | 2021 | 113 |
| Clark Fire District 6 | 2020 | 166 |
| Clark Fire District 6 | 2021 | 165 |



Clark County Fire District 6
8800 NE Hazel Dell Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98665
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To: Board of Commissioners
From: Chief Kristan Maurer
Re: Joint Board Workshop
Date: November 9, 2021

On July 13th, 2021, CCFD6 and CCFR held a Joint Board Workshop to discuss Station 151. The main issue raised at the workshop was the imbalance of responses from CCFD6 into CCFR. From that workshop, three topics were outlined for further discussion. The three topics were:

1. Assessing an incident response fee for CCFR
2. CCFR potential staffing at Station 151
3. CCFR water tender assignment at Station 151

The discussion was scheduled for today, November 9, 2021. The reason for the long period between workshops was to give CCFR time to evaluate the cost and operations of a water tender. In general, CCFD6 responds into CCFR 75% to 25%. The chart below illustrates the responses into both districts. According to the Washington State Auditor, if mutual aid is not even or reciprocated by agreement, it is gifting of funds. Therefore, we need to explore options to ensure we are complying.

| Responses | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 YTD | Total |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| CCFR into CCFD6 | 72 | 57 | 41 | 55 | 34 | 259 |
| CCFD6 into CCFR | 189 | 151 | 172 | 139 | 143 | 794 |
| TOTAL | 261 | 208 | 213 | 194 | 177 | 1053 |

To calculate how much it costs CCFD6 to respond a company, we took our total budget and divided it by the number of responses. Some expenditures that were not directly related to emergency response were removed. See Attachment A. The average of the four years of data per response was \$1,421.75. The average annual cost to cover responses from CCFD6 into CCFR for this inequity is \$126,769.54. The discussion is not that we want to place a financial hardship on another agency, but that there is a cost to our District to continue to support this level of response. This calculation answers the question of what the estimated fee per response is.

CCFR had planned to evaluate staffing for Station 151. They have a need for a response location in the southern end of their District and Station 151 is currently functional and paid off. If CCFR were to staff Station 151 with career personnel, this would raise issues with the Locals that represent both Districts' firefighters. CCFR has stated they would staff Station 151 and not respond into CCFD6 if that is the issue with the Local. Obviously, this is a political quagmire and not good business. To consider any staffing at Station 151, the Districts and Locals will have to negotiate potential staffing. This process is time consuming and long term.

The last item the Boards asked us to evaluate was purchasing and placing a water tender at Station 151. Chief Nohr estimates a new water tender to be approximately \$400,000.00. We differ on this estimate

and the estimates we are looking at are in the low \$200,000.00 range. However, we did not compare specifications so we may be looking at different options. Either way, the discussions between Chief Nohr and myself do not include the purchase of a new water tender but do include the use of CCFR water tenders for CCFD6. The discussion was that CCFR water tenders would be placed on our response cards for areas that do not have adequate hydrants in CCFD6. This has potential to reduce the WSRB Rating for several of our citizens.

In discussions with WSRB if a water tender and Station 151 were staffed with a full time crew, areas in the NW of CCFD6 would be covered sufficiently and some residents who are currently a Class 8A would be reduced to a Class 5. Depending on the capacity and type of water tender, there is potential that all CCFD6 would be adequately covered.

The following chart illustrates estimated insurance premium savings based on Protection Class.

| Protection Class | 4&5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Estimated Premium | \$1,506.00 | \$1,707.00 | \$1,771.00 | \$2,016.00 | \$2,620.00 |
| Estimated Annual Savings From a Class 8 to Class 5 | \$510.00 | | | | |

If a water tender were not to be located at Station 151. CCFD6 and CCFR would have to enter into an agreement to place water tenders at Station 21 and Station 26. These would have to be staffed and not dependent on volunteer response. However, they could be crossed staffed. This would equate to a WSRB Class adjustment from 8A to 5 for any residence in CCFD6 that does not have adequate hydrants and is within 5 miles of a response station. See Attachment B.

While the placement of a water tender does help in some areas of CCFD6, the question is, does it provide reciprocal service? To adjust these response cards and reflect this change is an easy process with CRESA.

One other area that Chief Nohr and I explored was to limit the number of apparatus that could be called from CCFD6 into CCFR. This would alleviate all our response units being depleted for a response in CCFR. This is a harder change with the response cards and CRESA is not sure this can be done.

There are some things that would assist in the equitable coverage of the Station 151 area. To ensure we bring these things to fruition there need to be timelines attached.

Immediate Actions Completed by December 31, 2021:

- Add water tender response from CCFR to CCFD6 in areas that it is required.
- Explore adjusting response cards to limit the amount of CCFD6 response into CCFR.
- Re-draft the Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board Agreement to reflect the 50/50 split that will take effect January 1, 2022.

Mid Term Actions Completed by January 31, 2022:

- Apply for water tender credit and complete testing process through WSRB.

These actions are just beginning steps in the remedy process. The Boards will still need to evaluate if a fee for service is required. The response estimate is one method of doing a calculation and can be adjusted.

Solid Solution Completed by June 1, 2022:

CCFD6 is scheduled to hire four new fire suppression positions in January of 2023. We have the flexibility to move that hiring process up. Generally, you would need to hire four people to staff one position on a 24/48 schedule. If we were to move that process to early 2022, we could place one firefighter at Station 151 beginning June 1, 2022. If CCFR were to commit to compensating one CCFD6 position, we could staff a squad and water tender at Station 151 starting June 1, 2022.

Both Districts would have to agree to financially supporting one new position each. Both positions would be with CCFD6 however one would be paid for by CCFR. If CCFR could place a water tender at Station 61, CCFD6 would commit to placing a squad unit. The estimated financial impact to both agencies is \$600,000.00. This staffing model would end December 31, 2023, when CCFD6 places a truck company in service.

What this does is addresses the current response issues. It balances the inequity, and it buys time for both agencies to evaluate their response plans and adjust.

ATTACHMENT A

Cost Basis Per Response

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Suppression Budget | 6,488,417 | 6,839,415 | 12,917,094 | 11,925,694 |
| [Less Capital] | <u>36,920</u> | <u>53,452</u> | <u>4,250,000</u> | <u>3,500,000</u> |
| Net Suppression Budget | 6,451,497 | 6,785,963 | 8,667,094 | 8,425,694 |
| EMS Budget | 3,348,102 | 3,006,601 | 3,792,393 | 4,731,056 |
| Legislative Budget | 26,858 | 41,457 | 68,614 | 76,864 |
| Administration Budget | 1,361,413 | 1,464,915 | 1,777,315 | 1,859,232 |
| Training Budget | <u>67,839</u> | <u>100,773</u> | <u>139,000</u> | <u>146,000</u> |
| Total Costs* | 11,255,709 | 11,399,709 | 14,444,416 | 15,238,846 |
| | | | | |
| Total Responses CCFD6 | 8866 | 8993 | 9958 | 8974 |
| | | | | |
| Cost Per Response (Total/Volume) | \$ 1,270 | \$ 1,268 | \$ 1,451 | \$ 1,698 |
| | | | | |
| CCFR Response to CCFD6 | 52 | 42 | 32 | 40 |
| CCFD6 Response to CCFR | <u>155</u> | <u>116</u> | <u>132</u> | <u>118</u> |
| Difference | -103 | -74 | -100 | -78 |
| | | | | |
| Cost Per Year for Response Coverage Differential | \$ (130,762.24) | \$ (93,803.90) | \$ (145,053.38) | \$ (132,452.64) |

*Budget expenditures not included in per call basis:

- Prevention
- Facilities
- Technical Rescue
- FFFB Operations/Inter Governmental
- Debt Service

ATTACHMENT B

WSRB TENDER CREDIT (Dwelling Properties Only)

Approved tender operations are recognized in areas where fire hydrants are not available by the application of Tender Credit to the Protection Class rating of dwellings. Tender Credit will result in an improved protection class at risk for dwelling properties within 7 road miles of a recognized responding fire station in a community grading Protection Class 8 or better.

Criteria:

The features evaluated for Tender Credit are as follows:

1. The ability to develop and maintain, uninterrupted for 30 minutes, a fire flow of 250 gpm at any dwelling site in the district within 7 road miles of a fire station, resulting in a total water requirement of 7,500 gallons.
2. The ability to maintain a minimum of four firefighters on site once the flow starts. This represents 2 in / 2 out (one of these can be the pump operator). Additional personnel may be required to coordinate the tender shuttling operations.
3. The minimum staffing requirement and initiation of the flow requirement must be achieved within 5 minutes of the first engine's arrival.

Applying for Tender Credit:

To be evaluated for WSRB Tender Credit, a fire department must submit a written request to WSRB, including the following information:

A detailed written explanation of how the fire department has met the above criteria in tender operation drills previously conducted by the fire department. Please be specific on the apparatus used to flow water, how the pumper was supplied with water, apparatus used to supply the water, personnel participating in the drill, and water capacity of apparatus. Please provide enough training drill records to show all firefighters have been trained in tender operations.

Any assistance from other fire departments must be on an automatic aid basis (first alarm), including a signed written agreement and run cards documenting the response procedure. Please contact WSRB and we will let you know which automatic aid agreement we have on file for your department.

The location of water supply points shall also be submitted. Please contact WSRB and we will provide you with a map of your community with the location of fire hydrants we know about. If there are other water supply

points in your community we will need information about these water supplies including location, description of water supply, and accessibility. If it is necessary to draft water, the water must be obtained from a source that is accessible year-round.

After evaluating the information submitted, WSRB will respond back and request additional information, detailing why WSRB feels the fire department is not meeting the Tender Credit criteria or set up a tender test drill for the fire department.

Tests:

WSRB will no longer conduct full tender tests at locations in your community. Alternatively, WSRB will test one or more aspects of the criteria listed above and use 35 mph as an average speed to determine drive time between fire stations, water supplies and areas without hydrants in the community. The drive time of apparatus to area without hydrants will be used to determine the time water arrives at a site and the uninterrupted flow of water. Drive time will be calculated by using the following formula.

$T = 0.65 + 1.7D$, where T is time in minutes to the nearest tenth of a minute, 0.65 is a vehicle acceleration constant for the first 0.5 mile traveled, 1.7 is a vehicle-speed constant, and D is distance traveled.

Tests that can be required include set up and flow time drill, tender fill drill and tender emptying drill. All of these tests can be conducted at the fire station or department drill ground and will be timed by WSRB. These drills will be conducted as follows:

Fire Site Set Up Drill – Drop Tank:

From a starting point 200 feet away, the fire site engine and tender will pull into the test site. Timing of the drill will start at the wheel stop of the engine and end when water starts flowing from the hose line. When apparatus have stopped and the wheels chocked the following actions shall be completed by four firefighters or by the average number of firefighters responding from the station, whichever is less, within 5 minutes:

1. Personnel will deploy 100 feet of 2.5-inch hose.
2. Deploy the water drop tank and begin filling the tank from the tender.
3. Hose line personnel shall don their PPE's and SCBA's
4. Begin pumping 250 gpm from the deployed hose line using the water on the engine.

After water flow has been established the pump operator shall switch from flowing engine tank water to drafting from the drop tank without interrupting the 250 gpm flow rate.

Failure to complete the required actions within 5 minutes or to maintain an uninterrupted flow of 250 gpm will mean the fire department has failed the drill and Tender Credit will not be applied to the Protection

Class rating of dwellings within the department's jurisdiction. Fire departments that fail the drill can request another drill in six months.

Fire Site Set Up Drill – Nurse Tender:

From a starting point 200 feet away, the fire site engine and tender will pull into the test site. Timing of the drill will start at the wheel stop of the engine and end when water starts flowing from the hose line. When apparatus have stopped and the wheels chocked the following actions shall be completed by four firefighters or by the average number of firefighters responding from the station, whichever is less, within 5 minutes:

1. Personnel will deploy 100 feet of 2.5-inch hose.
2. Deploy the supply line from the nurse tender and connect it to the engine.
3. Hose line personnel shall don their PPE's and SCBA's
4. Begin pumping 250 gpm from the deployed hose line using the water on the engine.

After water flow has been established the pump operator shall switch from flowing engine tank water to flowing water from the nurse tender without interrupting the 250 gpm flow rate. Failure to complete the required actions within 5 minutes or to maintain an uninterrupted flow of 250 gpm will mean the fire department has failed the drill and Tender Credit will not be applied to the Protection Class rating of dwellings within the department's jurisdiction. Fire departments that fail the drill can request another drill in six months.

Tender Fill Drill

From a standing starting point 200 feet away, the tender shall pull into the fill site. The tender shall connect to the water supply, fill the water tank to overflow, disconnect fill lines and travel 200 from the fill site. Timing of the drill will start at the standing starting point and end when the full tender drives 200 feet from the fill site. The tender driver shall make any applicable connects and disconnects to the water supply during this drill.

Tender Emptying Drill

From a standing starting point a tender shall drive 200 feet and pull into the drill site. The tender shall discharge the water load into a drop tank or into a nurse tender, depending upon the operation, then drive 200 feet from the drill site. Timing of the drill shall start at the tender standing starting point 200 feet from the drill site and end when the empty tender is 200 feet away from the drill site. The tender driver shall make any applicable connects and disconnects to the water supply during this drill.

Tender fill drill and tender emptying drill have no time requirements, but their timed results will be added to the drive time of tender shuttling operations and will be used in the evaluation of the fire department maintaining an uninterrupted fire flow of 250 gpm for 30 minutes.

The date and time of any drill will be scheduled with the fire department and the drill procedures will be reviewed in detail with the department, so that everyone knows what to expect. If a test cannot be completed because of unforeseen, non-failure related circumstances, such as an actual emergency call, the test can be rescheduled.

Evaluation Results:

After the required drills are completed WSRB will use the data acquired to complete its evaluation of Tender Credit. If the Tender Credit criterion has been met, WSRB will inform the fire department of when credit will be effective. If the Tender Credit criterion has not been met, WSRB will inform the fire department the reasons why the credit will not be applied.

Continuance of Credit

In order to retain Tender Credit, fire departments shall conduct physical training drills simulating the type of tender operations likely to be needed in their communities at least annually. The drills detailed under the Tests section of this document are encouraged to be used as components of the physical training drills. For those fire departments that have achieved Tender Credit, WSRB will reevaluate this credit when the community is reevaluated for its' Protection Class Grading. At that time WSRB will check training records for annual tender operation drills and will check that the other Tender Credit criteria is still being met. Additional Tender Credit information and test drills may also be required as situations in the community change.

Credit:

Fire departments which meet the criteria for Tender Credit, will have the credit applied to the Protection Class rating of dwellings protected by the fire department as follows:

| Protection Class of Community | Protection Class of Dwelling without a fire hydrant within 1,000 feet and within 5 road miles of a recognized responding fire station | Protection Class of Dwelling 5 to 7 road miles to a recognized responding fire station |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 8 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 |
| 4 or better | 5 | 9 |

Tender Credit improves the Protection Class rating for dwellings without fire hydrants 1 to 4 Protections Classes depending on the specific dwelling location.