Fire Services Options 2015-16

Needles City Council

April 28, 20015

Fire Service Includes

- Fire Suppression
- Fire Prevention/Inspection
- Burn Permits
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Hazardous Materials
- Medical Response

Fire Service is Mandated

- California Government Code 38611. The legislative body of a city organized under general law shall establish a fire department for the city.
- Needles City Charter Sec. 700. In addition to the council and city manager, the officers and employees of the city shall consist of city clerk, a city treasurer, a city attorney, a director of finance, a director of public utilities, a chief of police, a chief of the fire department and such other officers, assistants, deputies and employees as the council may provide by ordinance or resolution.

Fire Chief

- Sec. 715. Chief of the fire department. The chief of the fire department shall have power and be required to:
  - (a) Act as head of the fire department and supervise all matters relating to the prevention and extinguishing of fires and the protection of all property impaired thereby.
  - (b) Make frequent inspection of all property within the city to enforce fire prevention regulations.
  - (c) During the time of a fire exercise supreme authority over the territory involved therein, and over all persons in the immediate vicinity of the fire during such time, including policemen, who likewise shall be subject to his orders.
  - (d) Perform such other duties consistent with this Charter as may be required of him by the council.

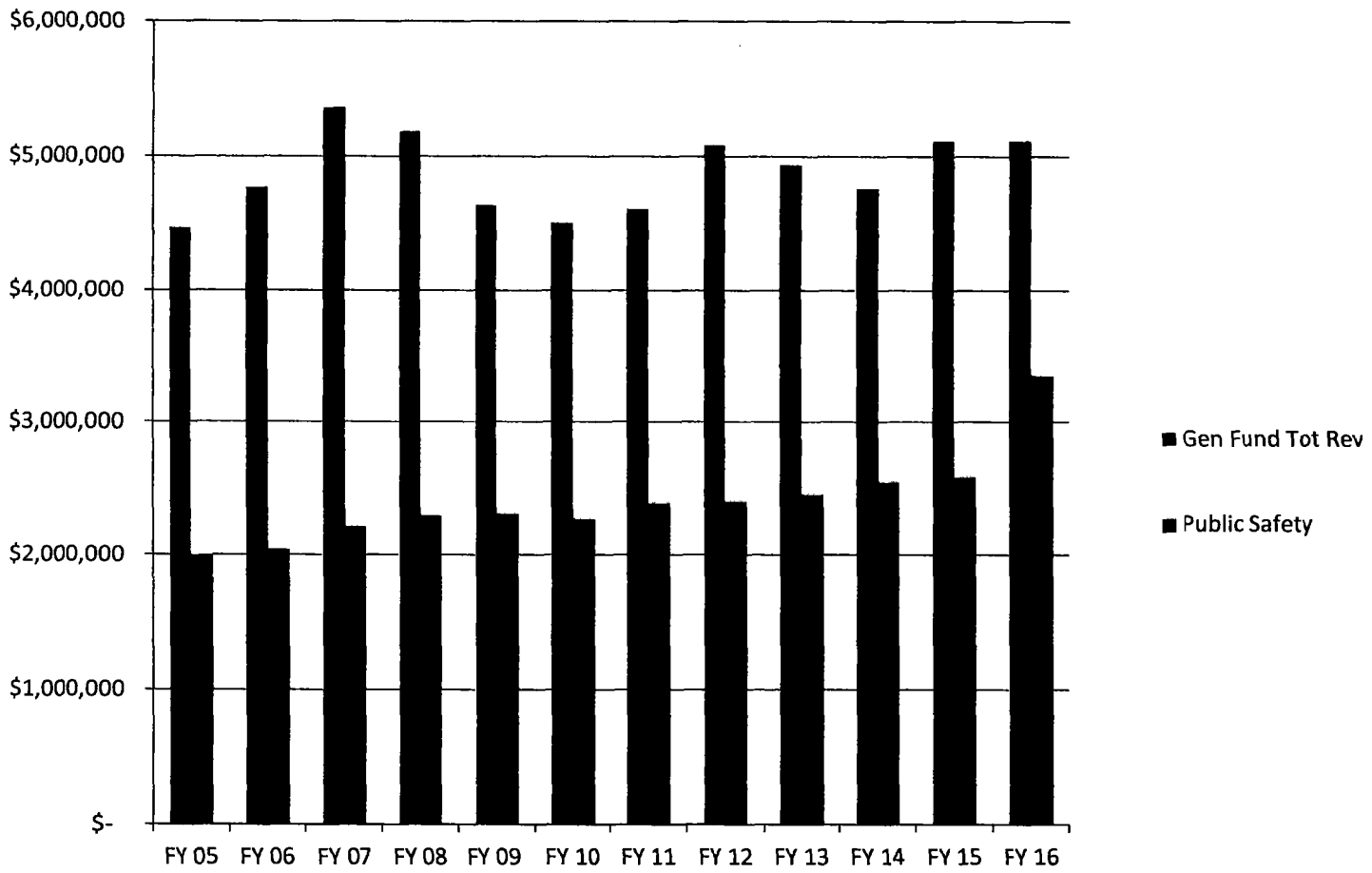
San Bernardino County Fire Department

- 2004 Contract, 2014 Extension
  - Fire Chief
  - Fire Protection
  - Prevention, Investigation, Hazardous Materials, and Rescue Services

Fire Costs

- 2015 $623,565
- 2014 $607,315
- 2013 $575,731
- 2012 $584,070
- 2011 $568,038
- 2010 $584,070

Public Safety Costs



Cost Increase

- 2014 $620,000
- 2105 $1,224,902

Options

- Extend the Current Contract
- Annex City into County Fire District
- Seed an Alternative Provider
- Establish a City Fire Department

Extend the Current Contract

- $1,224,902
  - 6 Firefighters
  - Chief Officers
  - Operating Expenses
  - Administrative

- $50,000
  - Fleet Replacement

Reduced Service Level

- $612,451
  - 3 Firefighters
  - Chief Officers
  - Operating Expenses
  - Administrative

- $50,000
  - Fleet Replacement

Annex City into County Fire District

- $612,451
  - 3 firefighters
  - County Fire District Prepares a Service Plan and Fiscal Analysis Report.
  - May Involve a Permanent Transfer of the City's Tax Base to the District
  - Process Takes up to One Year
  - Transfer All Equipment
  - No Fleet Replacement Fund

Seek an Alternative Provider

- Mohave Valley Fire Department
  - $1,150,000 (estimate)
  - Chief and Full Staff in Existing Station and existing equipment
- Private Provider
  - Cost and Availability Unknown at this time
- $50,000 Fleet Replacement Fund

City Fire Department

- $600,000 (Estimate)
- Existing Station and Equipment
- Fire Chief
- 3 Paid Call Firefighters
- Need Dispatch
- $50,000 Fleet Replacement Fund

Fire Options Summary

Summary Fire Options

Option	Description	Annual Operating Cost	Fleet Replacement	Total
Continue Existing	Extend Contract with San Bernardino County Fire Department 6 Firefighters	$1,225,000	$50,000	$1,275,000
Modify Existing	Modify existing contract,reduce to 3 firefighters	$612,000	$50,000	$662,000
County Fire District	Annex city area into Fire District with tax base transfer	$582,024	0	$582,000
Alternative Provider	Contract with Mohave Valley Fire Dept or seek private proposals	$1,150,000	$50,000	$1,200,000
City Fire	Hire Fire Chief, engage Paid Call Firefighters, Dispatch, Emergency Response	$600,000	$50,000	$650,000

$275,000 @ $10/hour limited benefits
$100,000 Other Payroll Costs
$50,000 Fire chief
$50,000 Dispatch
$50,000 Supplies & Training
$75,000 Contingency

Next Steps

- Circulate the Report
- Conduct Further Research on
  - Impacts to Private Insurance Rates
  - Dispatch
  - California Firefighter Certification Requirements
- Public Hearing on May 12

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Modify Existing	Modify existing contract,reduce to 3 firefighters	$612,000	$50,000	$662,000
County Fire District	Annex city area into Fire District with tax base transfer	$582,024	0	$582,000
Alternative Provider	Contract with Mohave Valley Fire Dept or seek private proposals	$1,150,000	$50,000	$1,200,000
City Fire	Hire Fire Chief, engage Paid Call Firefighters, Dispatch, Emergency Response	$600,000	$50,000	$650,000

$275,000 @ $10/hour limited benefits
$100,000 Other Payroll Costs
$50,000 Fire chief
$50,000 Dispatch
$50,000 Supplies & Training
$75,000 Contingency