

Press Release

September 24, 2015

City of Needles seeks Paid Call Firefighter Candidates

For more information, please contact Cheryl Sallis, Assistant to the City Manager at 760-326-2113, ext. 315

The Needles City Council has directed that a determination be made as to if it is feasible to establish a municipal Fire Department in lieu of continuing to contract with the San Bernardino County Fire Department. Earlier this year the City Council appointed a Citizens Task Force to study the options and report their findings and recommendation. The Task Force is scheduled to report during October.

The organizational options being studied are full-time professional firefighters, extra-help, non-regular Paid Call Firefighters, Volunteers only, or annexing into the County Fire District and continued service by the County Fire Department staff.

The least cost option may be utilizing Paid Call Firefighters which would staff the Fire Station 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year with part time, yet fully trained firefighters, engineers and emergency medical personnel. In order to determine if this approach is viable, the City is issuing a draft job description and a call for those who might be interested in serving in this capacity. Generally the wage will be \$10-\$15/hour with limited benefits and requires the following:

- Ability to work a 24 hour shift,
- Participate in fire suppression,
- Respond to fire alarms, rescue alarms, medical emergencies, and other calls to protect life and property,
- Secure and maintain all certifications and licenses required of a professional firefighter and be able to secure additional certifications in Medical Response, CPR, Haz-Mat, Incident Command, Confined Space Awareness, Basic Wildland Fire Behavior, and Wildland Tools and Techniques, and
- Pass a drug screening test.

The minimum qualifications are: be at least 18 years of age; high school diploma or equivalent; a valid Driver's License; and meet the safety, health, and physical conditions standards deemed necessary to perform the duties outlined herein.

For a complete job description and preliminary application, please visit the City's website at www.cityofneedles.com where you will find on the cover page a "fire department task force" picture. Click on the picture for the application package and other available information. In the alternative, please visit City Hall, 817 Third Street, Needles.