



COASTSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

TO: Volunteer Committee

FROM: Nate Armstrong, Fire Chief

DATE: February 7, 2023

SUBJECT: UPDATED ON PROPOSED PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Staff Recommendation

Recommend to the Board of Directors, at the next regular meeting, to approve two Coastside Volunteer Firefighters to attend Paramedic training at Coastside Fire Protection District (District) expense, with intent to employ candidates as Paramedics within the District upon completion, including authorization for the Fire Chief to make payments/reimbursement to these individuals for the cost of tuition and recommended stipend.

Program Overview

The Coastside Volunteer Firefighters will be attending a full-time Paramedic Program starting in March 2023. This intensive Program will be offered in a three-day, 24 hours a week format on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The Program is comprised of three (3) sequential courses: Core, Clinical, and Internship delivered in four (4) distinct Modules including specialty certifications. The program is being coordinated by South Bay Regional Public Safety Training Center and being taught in Seaside, CA.

The primary goal of the Paramedic Program is to meet or exceed minimum standards in preparing competent entry-level Paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains with or without exit points at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and/or Emergency Medical Technician, and/or Emergency Medical Responder levels. Upon successful completion on the Program, students will be able to apply for State and National paramedic licensure, as well as be prepared to apply and secure gainful employment as an entry-level paramedic. Successful completion of the program and passing of the National Paramedic test will make the Volunteer Firefighters eligible for the CAL FIRE exam, which is used when hiring new entry-level Fire Apparatus Engineer Paramedics within the Coastside Fire Protection District. Participants are anticipated to be fully qualified as licensed Paramedics within 13-15 months, in June/July 2024.

The Program is designed for students who have experience as EMTs and are prepared for the rigor and intense programmatic expectations and demands. The Program will typically require 13-14 months to complete and do not conform to a traditional semester or quarter format. Minimum enrollment requirements include a current certification in CPR for the professional

rescuer; and pass a background clearance and drug screen; and current immunization records (including COVID vaccinations) and certified as basic EMT or equivalent as determined by the Dean of Academy Instruction.

The District has completed a selection process for currently active Coastside Volunteer Firefighters who expressed interest in this training program. Two current Volunteers have been selected and are recommended for enrollment in the program.

If the Board decides to pursue this training program, the participating Coastside Volunteer Firefighters would be provided with accommodation at local nearby fire stations.

Cost

The District will pay the tuition for Coastside Volunteer Firefighters. The program tuition is anticipated to cost approximately \$16,000 per student. In preliminary discussions with NOVAWorks, a San Mateo County nonprofit, federally funded employment and training agency, one student appears eligible for up to \$6,000 in financial assistance to offset tuition.

Additionally, Staff recommends the District consider a stipend of up to \$100/week for each of the participating Volunteers. This stipend would be used to cover the expenses directly associated with participation in the program, such as fuel, personal vehicle wear and tear, and meals. Staff recommends the stipend be paid for weeks that class is in session, and the Volunteer submit a written request for a stipend bi-weekly to the Training Chief. It should be noted that even with a stipend the participating Volunteers will not be employees of the District while attending the paramedic training.

Cost Summary.

	Volunteer #1	Volunteer #2	Combined Total
Tuition	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$32,000
Recommended Stipend	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
NOVA eligibility	(\$6,000)	\$0	(\$6,000)
Total	\$15,000	\$21,000	\$36,000

The current Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget has sufficient funding to cover these costs. If approved by the full board, additional necessary funds will be also included in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget.