



2.7A

DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

1231 I STREET
SUITE 401
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-2979

June 19, 1991

916-449-5266

GARY COSTAMAGNA
FIRE CHIEF

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

Subject: **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT BACK FROM BUDGET HEARING, MAY 22, 1991**

SUMMARY

These questions were asked by the Council at the Fire Department 1991-92/92-93 Budget Hearing on May 22, 1991:

- 1) What would the cost savings be if Station 25 is closed down. (Robie)
- 2) Review Local 522 proposal for alternative reductions. (Serna and Kastanis)
- 3) Put EMS calls on a separate chart for comparison. (Robie)
- 4) Look into the CIP options, which projects can be held? (Chinn) **Budget Office is responding**
- 5) Examine Cost Recovery - full or subsidized (inspections and false alarms). (Serna)
- 6) Response to request from Councilmember Mueller re: Insurance rates

Following are the department's responses.

- 1) **WHAT WOULD THE COST SAVINGS BE IF STATION 25 IS CLOSED DOWN?**

BACKGROUND

The Fire Department budget includes a total of **\$8,720 annual expenditures** for the Fire Reserves. This amount is composed of \$5,655 for supplies and services, \$1,557 for utilities and telephone at the Arica Way Station (25), and \$1,508 fleet costs for the Commissary (which responds and provides food for firefighters at multiple alarm fires). For this annual outlay, the city receives **6,288 volunteer hours** providing supplemental staffing, equipment and expertise when additional resources are needed, food and drink provided to firefighters and victims, participation in fire prevention activities, including Community Fire Awareness Days, and community service functions such as First Aid Service provided

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at the Jazz Festival, Fourth of July, providing assistance at the Special Olympics, local Trash Balls and other community events.

Bruce Alei, Real Property Agent in the City's Construction Section has completed an informal appraisal of the property at 1910 Arica Way (used by the reserves as Station 25). The estimated market value of the property as of June 4, 1991 is \$100,000. He stated "Due to the uniqueness of the facility, a longer than normal time period for market exposure could be necessary, possibly up to one year, for the sale of the property."

FINANCIAL DATA:

The sale of Station 25 would result in a one-time source of revenue of \$100,000 for the City and an annual savings of \$1,557 in utility costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

The use of this location by the Fire Reserves is an integral part of their operation. It provides them with a meeting and training site, a place to store equipment and supplies, a department reserve engine and the Commissary. Since 1953, the Fire Reserves have provided a valuable, volunteer force supporting the Fire Department, the City and the citizens of Sacramento. The return on this investment is too great to jeopardize for a one-time fix of \$100,000.

2) REVIEW LOCAL 522 PROPOSAL FOR ALTERNATIVE REDUCTIONS.

BACKGROUND

The alternative budget reductions proposed by the bargaining unit are understandable from a day-to-day operational basis. However, they fail to recognize the support required to maintain the diversified functions of the department. If adopted, these reductions would severely handicap the management and administration of the Fire Department. In order for the personnel in the field to operate most efficiently for the citizens of the community, the management functions of organizing, directing, coordinating, evaluation and planning are essential.

As the City grows and the Department is faced with increasing mandates from the federal and state governments, the need for management and administration is evident. Only in the past few years has the Department been able to begin to bolster the Administrative staff to a point where top management has been able to move beyond the "crisis of the day" with an eye to planning ahead, using existing resources to the best advantage and addressing issues in a proactive instead of reactive manner. If these cuts were to be made we would lose all advantage we have begun to gain, leaving us unable to deal effectively with the continuing growth of the city, resulting eventually in a less efficient operation-costing more money. Failure to maintain a basic foundation of support today will take several years of "catch-up" to return to the current level of operation.

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OPERATIONS:

DEPUTY CHIEF - \$113,000
ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST I - \$50,000

As a member of the Senior Staff of the Department the Deputy Chief of Operations has overall responsibility for the Suppression Division, including the department's daily staffing (for three shifts), fleet management (\$1.5 million budget-84 pieces of equipment), facility management (23 locations), hose inventory and purchase and all safety equipment requirements. The Analyst position provides the administrative support for the Deputy Chief.

His responsibilities also include establishment of department policy, the Fire Operations Center, coordination with the Fire Reserves, supervision of three Division Chiefs and nine Battalion Chiefs, response to all 3-alarm or greater fires, and preparation and management of the fire suppression budget.

BATTALION CHIEF (3) - 4TH BATTALION - \$315,000

Currently there are four Battalion Chiefs on duty per shift, managing 21 stations, 31 companies and 143 sworn personnel. Each battalion chief is in charge of an average of 34.75 square miles and 90,021 citizens. Battalion Chief 1 (also the Division Chief) manages seven companies with the other three Battalion Chiefs managing eight companies each. The recommended span-of-control is set at

five. The elimination of the 4th battalion would magnify the present imbalance. It is not uncommon for a Battalion Chief to be *out-of-service* managing a fire scene, haz-mat, rescue or other serious incident. Providing haz-mat coverage to all of Sacramento County may tie up a Battalion Chief for extended periods of time. Presently, three Battalion Chiefs are available when one is managing an incident. With the elimination of the 4th Battalion, the management of the entire city would be left to only two Battalion Chiefs. During greater alarm incidents, one Battalion Chief would respond to the Communications Center, leaving no Battalion Chief to respond to any additional incidents.

DIVISION CHIEF - COMMUNICATIONS - \$105,000

The Communication Division Chief's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, ongoing analysis of the department's radio voice, data and telecommunication needs, management information and data processing needs, evaluation of existing systems, recommendations on operational policies and procedures, procurement of new hardware and software, training, documentation, budget preparation, system security and coordination with the Police Department's Communication Center and Data Services Staff, liaison with City Data Management Staff and compliance with Federal, State and local reporting statutes and ordinances.

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The rapid growth in the size and technical complexity of the fire department's communication network and records management system in the last few years requires a full time dedicated manager. The fire department's telecommunication system is comprised of a multi-channel voice receiver communication network with fire station base stations, mobile and portable radios, fire station dispatch and alerting systems, vehicle intercom systems, a wide area computer network linking computer terminals at fire headquarters, the training division, and all of the fire stations into the records management information system, and mobile data terminals for on-line access to data base information regarding building construction, storage of hazardous materials, and owner/occupancy information to aid firefighting operations at the scene of emergency incidents. In addition, the Communications Director is responsible for the 35 P.C.'s and the department's links to the City mainframe.

PREVENTION:

PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICER - \$69,000

This position is responsible for the planning, development and coordination of the Department's prevention programs including all fire and life safety programs for the public and training firefighters in fire prevention and fire safety.

Fire statistics indicate that 75% of fire incidents are residential fires, with 50% of those incidents involving children and senior citizens. Within the last year, programs developed or initiated include: Juvenile Fire-Setter Program and Counseling, Fire Buster Program, Learn Not to Burn, Escape Drills In The Home (E.D.I.T.H.), and Community District Awareness Days. This is our most progressive proactive program - although the statistics to prove its effectiveness are really the lack of statistics-in loss of life and fire loss.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST II - \$60,000

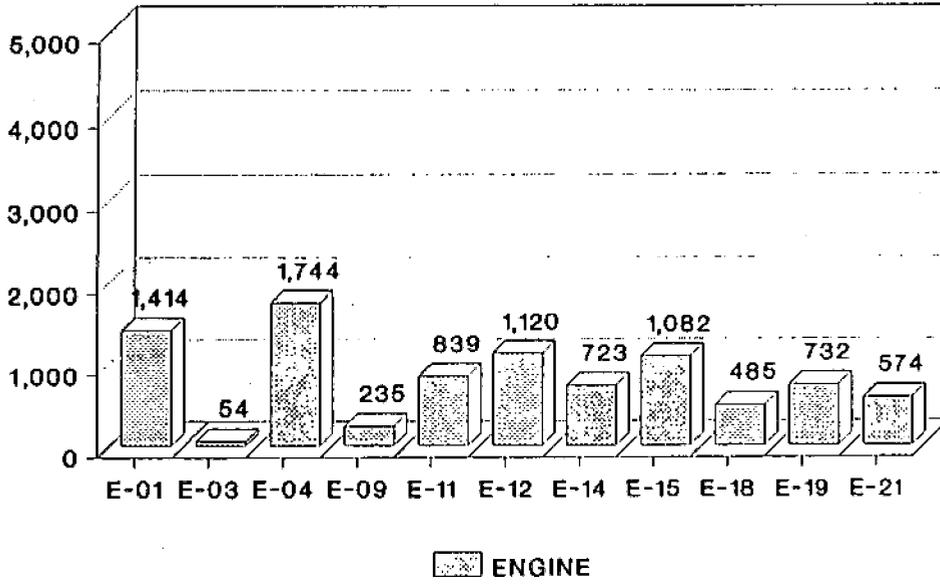
The major responsibilities of this position include program coordination of a \$250,000 revenue generating permit fee program, research and development of City Council/Committee reports for cost recovery of inspection programs and other revenue sources, divisional budgetary development and accounting. This position also provides public service and administrative support to the Fire Marshal.

RECOMMENDATION:

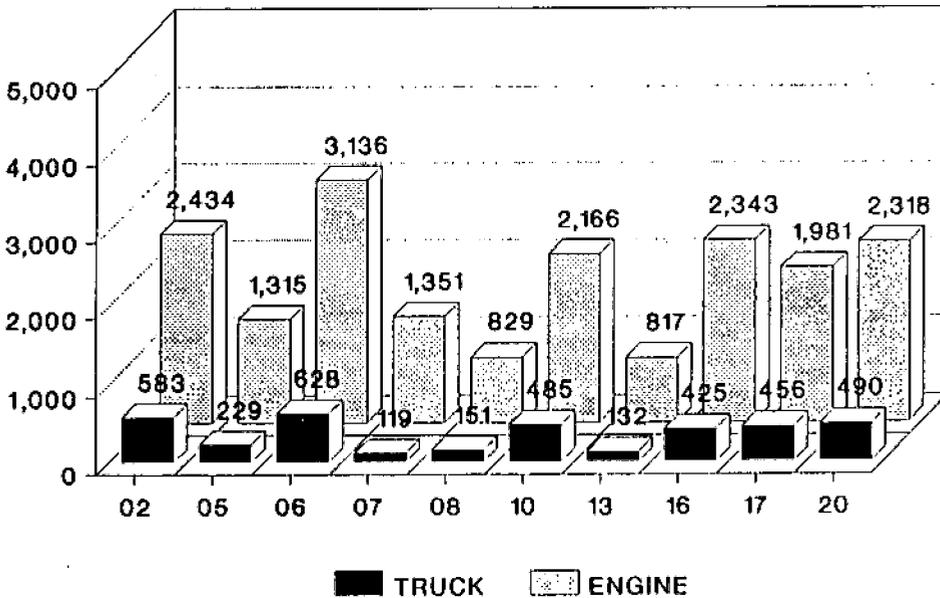
The position deletions recommended by Local 522 are unacceptable if the Department is to maintain its present status. Surveys of other California cities indicate (Attachment A) that our administration ratio is equivalent and in some cases lower than other cities. A reduction of the magnitude demanded by the present budget crisis requires a difficult choice-the reduction of suppression staffing. I must recommend the elimination of the truck company with the lowest number of responses as the reduction with the least permanent impact on the department and the citizens of Sacramento.

3) PUT EMS CALLS ON A SEPARATE CHART FOR COMPARISON.

SINGLE COMPANY STATION EMS RESPONSES
 1990



DOUBLE COMPANY STATION EMS RESPONSES
 1990



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4) LOOK INTO CIP OPTIONS, WHICH PROJECTS CAN BE HELD.

Budget Office is responding to all C.I.P. reports requested.

5) EXAMINE COST RECOVERY - FULL OR SUBSIDIZED (INSPECTIONS AND FALSE ALARMS)

INSPECTION FEES

The Fire Prevention Division is in the process of studying the Fire Permit Fee program which charges for inspections of certain types of businesses. The fees have not been increased since the inception of the program in 1985. The revenue currently generated is approximately \$250,000 annually.

HAZ MAT COSTS

Under the current contract with the County of Sacramento, annual revenues ranging from \$75,000 to \$140,000 are received for our Haz Mat Response Teams responding into the County. The fee varies year to year based on our program costs and the percentage of Haz Mat responses made into the County. Additionally we are authorized to bill responsible parties for costs incurred because of a hazardous material spill or release. Within the last calendar year, we have billed \$20,000 under this program.

FALSE ALARMS

We are looking into the possible cost recovery involved in False Alarm cost recovery. Of the five cities contacted, two (Anaheim and Fresno) do presently have such programs. Los Angeles City, Long Beach and San Francisco do not. Estimated annual cost recovery - \$15,000-20,000.

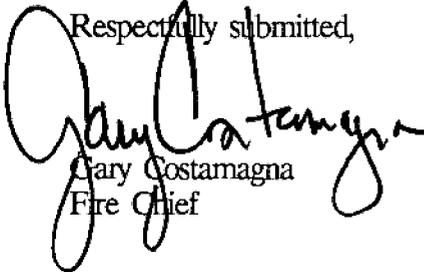
EMS

Costs could be claimed for supplies used in emergency medical responses - with detailed, itemized statements submitted to insurance carriers and Medicare. The current budget for these supplies is \$28,000 with an additional \$6,000 anticipated for defibrillation supplies. The staffing has not been available for development and administration of this project. We will continue to explore it. Estimated cost recovery - \$10,000.

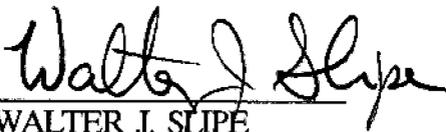
6) INSURANCE RATES:

According to the ISO Commercial Risk Services, Inc., "Any changes made in fire department standards of procedure will effect property fire loss cost only to the extent that there is an impact to the loss experience for the city." See Attachment B.

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Respectfully submitted,

Gary Costamagna
Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

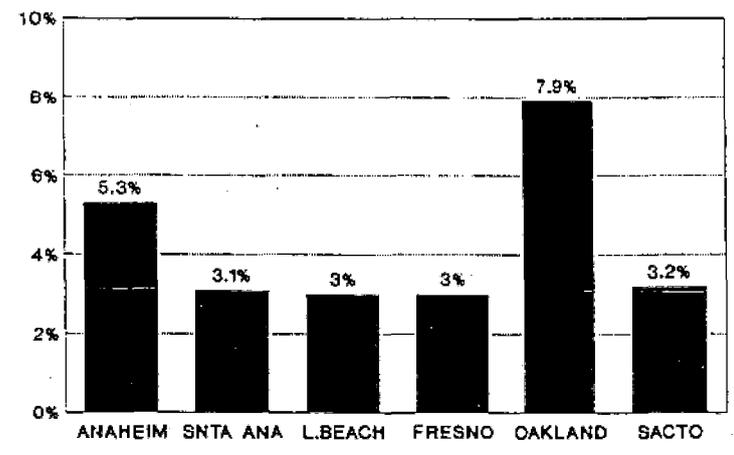

WALTER J. SLIPE
CITY MANAGER

June 19, 1991
All Districts

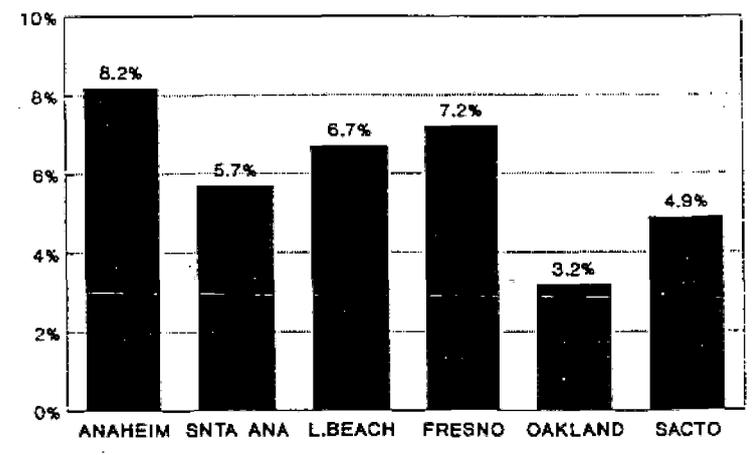
Contact Person:
Gary Costamagna, Fire Chief
449-5266

ATTACHMENT A

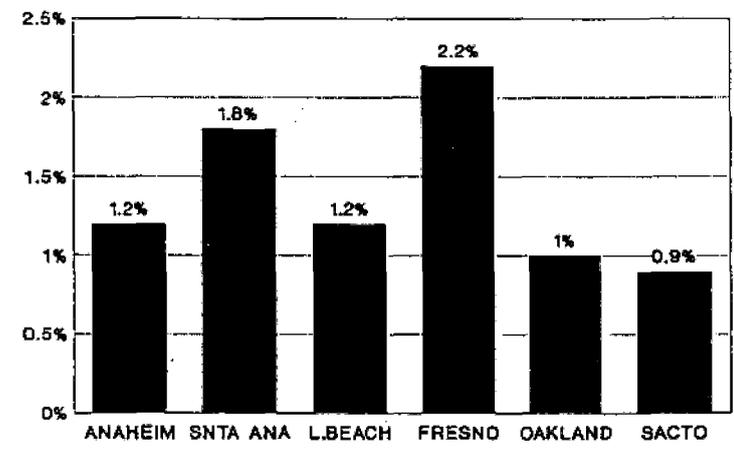
ADMINISTRATION % OF TOTAL PERSONNEL



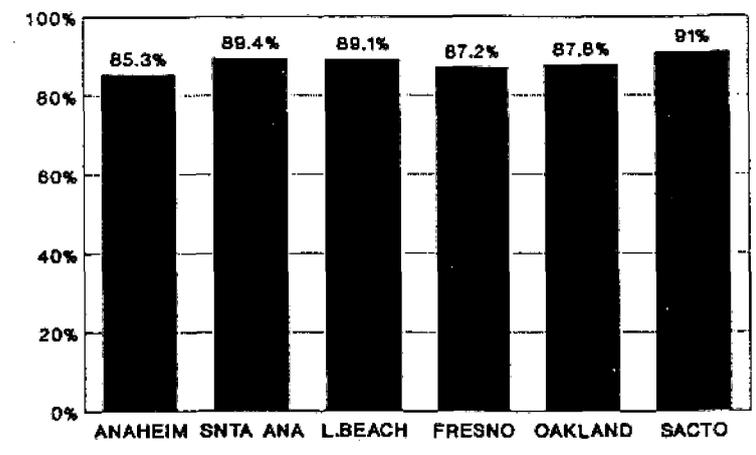
PREVENTION % OF TOTAL PERSONNEL



TRAINING % OF TOTAL PERSONNEL



OPERATIONS/SUPPRESSION % OF TOTAL PERSONNEL



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ATTACHMENT B

ISO COMMERCIAL RISK SERVICES, INC.

3000 EXECUTIVE PARKWAY SUITE 510 P.O. BOX 9126 SAN RAMON, CA 94503 (415) 030-8778 FAX (415) 030-4691

June 5, 1991

Mr. Larry Paladini, Chief of Personnel
City of Sacramento Fire Department
1231 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2979

Dear Larry:

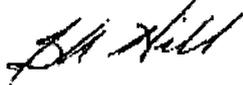
This is in response to your letter of June 3, 1991 regarding the proposed reduction of a truck company's effect on the fire insurance classification for the city of Sacramento.

Since September 29, 1976; the city of Sacramento's own loss experience has been the basis for property fire insurance loss cost evaluations. ISO Commercial Risk Services does not apply to fire suppression rating schedule to develop a Public Protection Classification for cities that are "statistically rated", such as Sacramento. We periodically request updates on staffing levels, number of companies, etc.; for information purposes only. Any changes made in fire department standards of procedure will effect property fire loss cost only to the extent that there is an impact to the loss experience for the city.

The purpose of our activities is to gather information needed to determine a fire insurance classification which may be used in the calculation of property insurance premiums. It is not for property loss prevention or life safety purposes and no life safety or property loss prevention recommendations will be made.

If we can be any further assistance, please contact this office.

Very truly yours,



Barbara A. Hill
Assistant Manager

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