

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION FORM

FROM: Kim Weber, Finance Director
Mel Stewart, Fire Chief

THROUGH: Gary Suiter, City Manager

DATE: July 16, 2019

ITEM: Fire/EMS Funding - Potential Ballot Questions.

DIRECTION
 INFORMATION
 ORDINANCE
 MOTION
 RESOLUTION
 PROCLAMATION

I. REQUEST/ISSUE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On April 9, 2019 the Fire/EMS Funding Citizens Committee presented to City Council their recommendations on options of how to fund Fire/EMS services for the City of Steamboat Springs. The Committee provided two funding alternatives that both involved new taxes for the City. During the discussion regarding the alternatives, City Council expressed the desire to get more information on the current Fire/EMS Department budget along with the projected budget in which the funding alternatives are based on.

On May 7, 2019 staff presented additional details on the 6-year projected budget along with operational and capital funding options. City Council appointed Council member Crossan and Council member Meyer to serve on a small committee with Gary Suiter, Mel Stewart, and Kim Weber to review budget, projections, and the strategic plan. Those meetings are on-going.

On July 9, 2019 fire Chief, Mel Stewart presented the proposed Fire/EMS Strategic Plan for 2019. Due to the lack of funding for this strategic plan, City

Council requested additional information on funding options for department operations and construction of a fire station to be presented tonight.

This presentation is a compilation of information presented to City Council in different formats over the past several months.

II. SUMMARY AND ALTERNATIVES:

Staff has provided Scenarios A-D in Attachment #1. Here is an outline of these scenarios:

Scenario A

- 2 Mill Property Tax
- 2% Sales Tax on Retail Marijuana
- 2% Sales Tax on Packaged Alcohol

Scenario B

- 2 Mill Property Tax

Scenario C

- 2 Mill Property Tax
- 2% Sales Tax on Retail Marijuana

Scenario D

- 3 Mill Property Tax

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff's previous recommendation on May 7, 2019 was to help fund Fire/EMS with a 4 mill property tax which was one of the options provided by the citizens committee. Given the direction of recent Council discussions, staff supports Scenario A which was also one of the options provided by the committee.

IV. FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impacts of the Fire/EMS strategic plan are approximately \$8.4M annually within a 6-year timeframe. This presentation includes tax options that range from \$237,000/year up to \$2,000,000/year to help fund the department.

V. LEGAL ISSUES:

TABOR requires new taxes and new debt to be approved by voters.

The revenue calculations for the Steamboat Springs Area Fire Protection District assumes that the City and the District will be operation under the current IGA.

VI. CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

None noted

VII. CONSISTENCY WITH COUNCIL GOALS AND POLICIES:

- 1) Develop a long-term fiscal sustainability plan for the City, which incorporates revenue diversification, cost recovery, asset performance for facilities, and community education and outreach.
 - a) All Things Fire

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Fire/EMS Funding Presentation.

Attachment 2: Fire/EMS Staffing Options.