



FY 2017 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 25

BUDGET QUESTION: What is the potential for using two part-time employees instead of sworn/ranking staff for the Sheriff's and FREMS logistics functions? Could the sworn/ranking staff then be used for other purposes and to reduce the number of positions/costs being added to the budget?

RESPONSE:

Response from Fire/Rescue –

We do not believe that the logistics officer's position in FREM could be converted to two part-time positions as the current position is an integral one within our combination system. The individual serving in this position serves as the primary point of contact for a variety of needs from career and volunteer providers and their leadership. By transitioning to two part-time staff, it is likely that the consistency and coordination of meeting those responses will be compromised.

The logistics officer, presently a lieutenant, also fulfills the role of a supervisor. He coordinates the work of two FREM vehicle mechanics, supervising performance of their duties, while also meeting their various support needs associated with their responsibilities. Converting this to two part-time positions would cause difficulty in maintaining adequate supervisory support to the two fire apparatus mechanics.

While the simple process of ordering and distributing uniforms could be fulfilled by part-time personnel, the logistics officer is responsible for a myriad of specialized product orders and associated projects. The evaluation and purchasing of various tools and equipment requires a certain amount of experience and training in the fire and EMS industry, which would take a significant amount of time and effort to instill in a new, non-uniform, part-time employee. Additionally, there are frequent times that the logistics officer must drive and operate fire apparatus to facilitate trouble-shooting and repair of the equipment, which would be difficult to accomplish with a part-time employee that is not familiar with their use and operation.

Finally, with the increased demand that has been placed on the logistics officer, resulting from the growth of the Department, it is often difficult to fulfill all the tasks at hand with one person. We have been fortunate in utilizing personnel on a light-duty assignment to assist in those areas, but this is not a consistent source of assistance. The Department would prefer to increase the staff available to fulfill logistical needs, but realizes the financial situation would not allow this at the current time. Instead, FREM will likely attempt to acquire assistance through volunteers in the community, to serve as couriers. These individuals would transport small equipment to and from repair centers, deliver parts to the mechanics working on repairs, and deliver uniforms and station supplies throughout the County. By doing this, the logistics officer's workload may be reduced enough to allow him to fulfill additional internal logistical needs of the Department that have yet to be met.

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Response from Sheriff's Office –

Currently we use part-time employees for payroll, crime analyst, motor vehicle/maintenance, grant writing/maintenance, and back ground investigations. Other positions that are part of “logistic functions” include only a small part of that job description and require a sworn person to be involved.

Information from the Finance Office –

As reference, one 24-hour per week part-time position would cost approximately \$23,100.