Capay Valley FPD Benefit Assessment Tax Proposal.

Capay Valley Fire currently operates 3 stations and covers a District of approximately 170 square miles. Our current secured tax revenue is approximately $185,000.00 annually, with an additional $46,666.00 of discretionary funding given to us by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation as an offset to increased service needs stemming from the presence of the Cache Creek Casino.

Our firefighting roster is made up of 17 volunteers, and a part-time paid firefighter who works 3 days a week. We have an additional part time paid employee whose responsibilities include administrative office duties and basic maintenance of facilities/equipment/vehicles – the latter role is supported by the part-time firefighter.

Aside from daily operations and maintenance, the District must plan for Apparatus replacement, building repairs or improvements, and equipment replacement – all at regular intervals. When operating costs and an annual contribution to these infrastructure needs are taken into account, our District is operating at an annual deficit to provide the current staffing and level of service. Though our income is not limited to only secured property tax and tribal revenues, the uncertainty of relying on grant funding and strike team revenue makes it difficult to budget for longer-term goals.

The goal of a Benefit Assessment Tax (BAT) would be to work toward secured revenue which would sustain the District’s operations in the following key areas

1. Staffing: Capay Valley Fire is currently majority volunteer staffed. Only 3 volunteers on our 17-member roster are available to respond regularly during weekday work hours, and volunteer staffing is highly variable on the weekend due to family trips, youth sports, or other special events. The proposed budget would pay for an on-duty paid firefighter in the Capay Valley from 8-5, 7 days a week to augment volunteer services. The proposed budget would also increase funding for “Reserve Firefighters” – essentially fire fighter interns. The Reserve program is in use all over the country and is a creative way to improve staffing while giving valuable job experience to those who want to build their resumes for a paid position with a larger agency.
2. Level of Service: The proposed budget would dramatically increase CVFPD’s annual training budget, from $5,000.00/year to almost $15,000.00/year providing each firefighter the opportunity to take one Office of the State Fire Marshal approved course each year in addition to the regular in-house training we provide. Since these classes are not generally held locally, this budget includes travel costs for these firefighters. The proposed budget also includes $4,000.00/year in financial support for the non-firefighting CVFPD roster known as CVERA. These volunteers have already increased the profile of the Fire Department, as well as educating residents in best practices for a number of possible emergency situations they may face here in the Capay Valley.
3. Equipment/Apparatus – maintenance and replacement: The proposed budget would increase our annual contribution to apparatus replacement from $30,000.00 in sustainable funds (tribal impact funds) plus any additional income generated by our engines on strike-team assignments, to the $136,000.00 which we estimate is necessary to replace our apparatus on a 20-25-year timeline. This budget will also set aside funding for annual preventive maintenance of engines, radios, SCBA’s, and ladders.
4. Facilities: Deferred station maintenance is one of the few deficiencies identified in our LAFCo MSR. This proposed budget sets aside approximately $15,000.00 per year to address upgrades or significant repairs on a 10-year timeline, as well as overhauls which may be needed every 20 years for our 3 stations.

Attached to this document is a side-by-side budget comparison featuring a ‘typical’ annual budget (Budget #1) on the left, our current budget (Budget #2) using only secured revenue sources for income, and a potential annual budget (Budget #3) with increased revenues due to 218 income and County contributions. I use the term typical because these numbers tend to be the baseline for annual budget projections – given the needs of the District the amounts may go up, however there is little room for them to go down as they reflect the cost of basic departmental operations.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| FIRE DISTRICTS BUDGET WORKSHEET - FINANCING SOURCES -SCHEDULE A |  |  |
|  | Budget #1 | Budget #2 | Budget #3 |
| ACCOUNT NAME | Typical annual budget with no OES cost/revenue | Current Budget (NO OES) | Successful 218 Budget |
| PROP TAXES-CURRENT SECURED | $185,000  | $185,000  | $185,000  |
| PROP TAXES-CURRENT UNSECURED |   |   |   |
| PROP TAXES-PRIOR UNSECURED |   |   |   |
| SUPPLEMENTAL PROP TAXES PRIOR |   |   |   |
| DEVELOPMENT FEES |   |   |   |
| OTHER LICENSES AND PERMITS |   |   |   |
| INVESTMENT EARNINGS-POOL |   |   |   |
| RENTS & CONCESSIONS - OTHER |   |   |   |
| ST-HIGHWAY PROPERTY RENTALS |   |   |   |
| ST-HOMEOWNERS PROP TAX RELIEF |   |   |   |
| ST-OTHER |   |   |   |
| OTHR-IN-LIEU TAXES |   |   |   |
| OTHR GOVT AGENCY-OTH CO-CITYS |   |   |   |
| OTHR COUNTIES & CITIES - YOLO COUNTY |  |   | $120,000  |
| OTHER TRIBAL | $46,666  | $46,666  | $46,666 |
| SPECIAL ASSESSMENT |   |   | $130,000  |
| OTHER CHARGES FOR SERVICES |   |   |   |
| OTH MISC-DONATION |   |   |   |
| OTHER MISC INCOME |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|  TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE | $231,666  | $231,666  | $481,666  |
|   |   |   |   |
|  |  |  |  |
|   |   |   |   |
| Income vs. Expenditure difference: | **($8,874)** | **($226,474)** | **$103**  |
|   |   |   |   |
|  TOTAL FINANCING SOURCES | $ | $ | $ |
|  |  |  |  |
| ACCOUNT NAME | APPROPRIATIONS | APPROPRIATIONS | APPROPRIATIONS |
| REGULAR EMPLOYEES | $66,800  | $66,800  | $120,000  |
| EXTRA HELP |   |   |   |
| OVERTIME |   |   |   |
| STANDBY TIME |   |   |   |
| LEAVE BUYOUT |   |   |   |
| RETIREMENT (CalPers at 7.54% of RT) |   |   | $9,048  |
| OASDI (6.2%) | $3,200  | $3,200  | $7,440  |
| FICA/MEDICARE (FICA is approx 6.5%, medicare 1.5%) | $800  | $800  | $9,600  |
| HEALTH INSURANCE |   |   | $12,000  |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (0.54/hr, 2080 hrs for FTE) | $200  | $200  | $2,000  |
| WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANC | $5,000  | $5,000  | $5,000  |
| TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS | $76,000  | $76,000  | $165,088  |
| CLOTHING & PERSONAL SUPPLIES | $10,000  | $20,000  | $10,000  |
| COMMUNICATIONS | $3,000  | $1,800  | $3,000  |
| FOOD | $2,000  | $2,000  | $2,000  |
| HOUSEHOLD EXPENSE | $4,000  | $4,000  | $4,000  |
| INSURANCE-PUBLIC LIABILITY | $5,000  | $5,000  | $5,000  |
| INSURANCE-FIRE & EXTENDED | $5,000  | $2,500  | $5,000  |
| INSURANCE-OTHER |   |   |   |
| MAINTENANCE-EQUIPMENT | $10,000  | $20,000  | $12,500  |
| MAINTENANCE-BUILDG IMPROVMNTS | $10,000  | $155,000  | $18,075  |
| MED, DENTAL, & LAB SUPPLIES | $1,500  | $2,500  | $1,500  |
| MEMBERSHIPS | $500  | $500  | $500  |
| MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE | $250  | $100  | $250  |
| OFFICE EXPENSE | $1,500  | $2,000  | $1,500  |
| OFFICE EXP-POSTAGE | $500  | $250  | $500  |
| OFFICE EXP-PRINTING |   |   |   |
| PROF & SPEC SVC-AUDITG & ACCTG | $500  | $1,500  | $500  |
| PROF & SPEC SVC-INFO TECH SVC | $3,500  | $3,500  | $3,500  |
| PROF & SPEC SVC-MED,DENTAL,LAB |   |   |   |
| PROF & SPEC SVC-LEGAL SVC | $2,000  | $2,000  | $2,000  |
| PROF & SPEC SVC-OTHER | $22,040  | $22,040  | $40,000  |
| BOARD MEETING STIPENDS |   |   |   |
| PUBLICATIONS AND LEGAL NOTICES | $250  | $250  | $250  |
| RENTS AND LEASES - EQUIPMENT |   |   |   |
| RENTS & LEASES-BUILDG & IMPRV |   |   |   |
| TRAINING | $5,000  | $10,000  | $12,000  |
| MINOR EQUIPMENT | $10,000  | $60,000  | $12,000  |
| SPECDPT EXP-ELECTION SUPPL/SVC |   |   |   |
| SPECDPT EXP-OTHER |   |   |   |
| TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL | $5,000  | $2,000  | $5,000  |
| TRANSP & TRAVEL-FUEL | $12,000  | $15,000  | $12,000  |
| UTILITIES | $5,000  | $5,000  | $5,000  |
| TOTAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES | $118,540  | $336,940  | $156,075  |
|  |  |  |  |
| ACCOUNT NAME | APPROPRIATIONS | APPROPRIATIONS | APPROPRIATIONS |
| RETIRE LTD-CAP LEASE OBLGTN |   |   |   |
| RETIRE LTD-OTHER |   |   |   |
| INTEREST LTD-OTHER |   |   |   |
| TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS |   |   |   |
| VOLUNTEER FIREMEN | $16,000  | $15,200  | $24,400  |
| CONTRIB TO NON-CO AGENCIES |   |   |   |
| CITY OF DAVIS |   |   |   |
| TOTAL OTHER CHARGES | $16,000  | $15,200  | $24,400  |
|   |   |   |   |
| LAND |   |   |   |
| EASEMENTS-NON DEPRECIABLE |   |   |   |
| EQUIPMENT |   |   |   |
|  TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS | $0  | $0  | $0  |
|   |   |   |   |
| APPROP FOR CONTINGENCY |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|  TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS | $0  | $0  | $0  |
|   |   |   |   |
| ADDITIONS TO GENERAL RESERVE |   |   |   |
| ADDITIONS TO EQUIP REPLACEMENT RESERVE **JUNE 30, 2024** | $30,000  | $30,000  | $136,000  |
| ADDITIONS TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ RESERVE **JUNE 30, 2024** | $ | $ | $ |
|  TOTAL FINANCING USES \* | $240,540  | $458,140  | $481,563  |

Budget #1:

Budget 1 reflects a baseline of departmental expenditure, as described above. Noteworthy line items are the “Income vs. Expenditure difference” which is negative, though not by a lot, even at what is considered a baseline level of spending.

Budget #2:

Budget 2 is our current budget, though I have removed strike team expenses and revenues. In part, this is because our ST payment from OES is considered a reimbursement. A strike team assignment incurs increased wages which are paid back from the state, and it also includes reimbursement for the apparatus supplied which is intended to offset the wear and tear generated by a strike team assignment. Though we have recently re-started our participation in the Yolo County strike teams, these assignments are not guaranteed and can’t be used as projected income for budgetary purposes – much the same as grant funding.

The personnel budget here reflects our current staffing level of a part-time administrator plus a part-time firefighter, and a reserve estimated at 48 shifts per year. Other noteworthy line items are minor equipment, which was overbudgeted, although our actual expenses this year will be near $30,000 – well over the ‘typical’ budget amount in budget 1. You can also see that we budgeted for some extensive repair work on Station 22, and that like budget 1 our allocation to the equipment reserve is short of the needed annual contribution by $100,000.00.

The 2021 LAFCo MSR stated that CVFPD is currently financially stable, but that our stability could change. The funding we use to fill budget shortfalls such as we see in budget 2 was accumulated over years of frugality. Facility and equipment maintenance was largely deferred due to the necessity of saving for upcoming apparatus purchases, and for years we operated in the black.

Recently the department took on paid staff when it became apparent that volunteers were not able or willing to perform the necessary maintenance on facilities and engines, and that the department was slipping into non-compliance with tightening standards on firefighting in general. The addition of a paid part-time administrator/maintenance employee began to address this. Computer systems were updated, lines of communication were opened with other agencies, and we are making good progress toward meeting or exceeding industry standards.

Because the part time admin/maintenance employee was already a volunteer who works in the valley and can respond during the day, hiring this employee did not affect our staffing levels. CVFPD created an additional position for a part-time firefighter to reinforce the volunteers 3 days a week. This firefighter took on many of the still un-met maintenance needs for the facilities and equipment, and increases our weekday average response from 2-3 people to 3-4 people. The addition of these two paid positions gives CVFPD more opportunities for revenue by increasing flexibility for accepting strike team assignments, and administratively by seizing more opportunities for grant funding. It should also be noted that our equipment performs much more reliably now, and problems are quickly identified and fixed.

Budget #3

Budget 3 is an example of how CVFPD will make use of additional County and taxpayer revenue. The proposed benefits have already been outlined in the early paragraphs of this document, so I won’t repeat them, but I will point out that unlike the others, this budget is balanced, and it completely funds the annual apparatus contribution needed by our department. The funding levels for many of these line items are at or close to the baseline levels seen in budget 1, however we anticipate unused funding from building and equipment maintenance to roll over into the following year, building our balance until large scale repairs or upgrades are needed. Additional costs would also be defrayed by our continuing pursuit of grant funding, and our continued participation in strike team deployments.