



# FRESNO COUNTY FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

*Honor, Integrity, Cooperation & Professionalism*

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** 03/9/2022

**To:** Board of Directors

**Attn:** Matt Furrer,  
President

**From:** Fire District Staff

**Subject:** Acceptance of Funds from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING PAPER

#### ISSUE:

Covid 19 has had, and continues to have, negative impacts on first responder agencies. The Fire District is no exception to this. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are designed to be used for issues such as pandemic related expenditures, revenue losses, premium pay for essential workers, payroll and covered benefits. The Fire District has increased expenditures related to several of these areas as a direct result of our impact from Covid 19.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Fresno County Fire Protection District provides over 220,000 residents in Fresno County with Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Response. The Fresno County Fire Protection District serves some of the most economically disadvantaged rural communities in the State of California, funding under ARPA is designed to help solidify that service into the future.

The District experienced \$4,867,806.00 in fiscal impacts eligible under the ARPA's Section 9901, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The Fresno County Fire Protection District is only seeking recovery of funds under the Pandemic-Related Expenditures category. Within the same timeframes the Fresno

County Fire Protection District payroll expenses during that time were \$20,160,078.

The Fresno County Fire Protection District responded to 13,339 calls for assistance during the same time frames, with 23.8% of them being in-home life-threatening medical emergencies, and all were treated as Covid-19 emergencies. Moreover, during the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, we experienced the largest wildland fire in the county's history, all the while continuing to provide service to the rest of the county. The Fresno County Fire Protection District is only seeking recovery of 23.8% of expenses allowed under the ARPA rules.

The County of Fresno was awarded \$194,063,657.00 in recovery funds through the ARPA and is required to consider awarding opportunities for allocations to qualified participants.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Fresno County Fire Protection District applied to be participants and has been identified as a potential recipient. The County of Fresno has indicated that the Fire District should be awarded \$2,000,000.00 for impacts to Covid 19 through the funds available in ARPA. Staff is requesting the Board of Directors votes to support accepting the funds.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The Board votes not to approve receiving any awarded funds from ARPA allocations.

### **IMPACTS:**

*(Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas of concern for proposed alternatives):*

- Fiscal – Significant increase in revenue to offset costs associated with personnel and equipment used in the response to Covid 19 emergencies and preparedness.
- Operational – Use of the funds can supplement and or replace gear and equipment used for Covid 19, keeping our operational abilities at required levels. It can also offset costs associated with employee cover behind due to vacancies causes by sick leave and or the required preparedness for responses related to Covid 19.
- Legal - None

- Labor - None
- Sociopolitical - None
- Policy – None
- Health and safety – The health and safety of employees and the public we serve would benefit from additional funds to offset costs associated with impacts related to Covid 19 and ensure proper equipment adequate personnel are available for emergency response. The expenses required are not sustainable long term without reimbursement/offset of some kind.
- Environmental - None
- Interagency - None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is recommending that the Board of Directors approve the acceptance of funds from the County of Fresno through the ARPA.

**APPROVED:**



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Ryan Michaels, Division Chief

3-10-22

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Date