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To: [Osborne, Jenelle](#); [Ball, Jeremy](#); [Cordova, Gilda](#); [Starbuck, Dirk](#); [Vega, Victor](#)
Cc: [Albro, Dean](#); [Haddon, Stacey](#)
Subject: Public comment for budget City Council workshop May 9th.
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 10:02:28 AM

Summary of recommendations

During the January 18th Public Safety Commission meeting we discussed performance metrics for the police and fire departments as adopted by the City Council in the 2030 General Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-22. Each of you have been provided with a copy of these recommendations.

To our knowledge the last analysis of fire department standards of cover was completed in 2007 by Robert Olsen and Associates. This study indicted that Fire Station 2 was poorly positioned to meet established response times; this information may have changed.

To our knowledge an in-depth analysis of police department response times has never been performed.

To summarize the attached letter the Public Safety Commission recommends that funding be provided to:

- Provide an updated third-party evaluation of Fire Department standards of cover.
- Analyze police department Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system records.

These recommendations are not a reflection on the individual qualifications of the staff of either department; both are staffed by competent professional's whose sole purpose is to provide the people of Lompoc with high quality public safety services.

Fire and Police Department metrics

During the January 18th Public Safety Commission meeting we discussed performance metrics for the police and fire departments as described in the 2030 General Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-22. On a motion (Fink) the Commission approved on a 3-0 vote (Chairperson Skinner and Commissioner Hudson absent) making the following presentation and recommendations to the City Council for consideration during the upcoming budget hearings.

This report is not a reflection on the individual qualifications of the staff of either department; both are staffed by competent professional's whose sole purpose is to provide the people of Lompoc with high quality public safety services.

Failing to meet these standards and the ability or inability of either the Police or Fire departments to meet these requirements depends on an appropriate level of funding (staffing and equipment) to meet the metric. In the case of the fire department, it is also the strategic location of fire stations to meet response time standards.

Both the Fire Chief and Police Chief were present during this meeting and verbally supported the “Action’s needed” located at the end of this presentation.

Background:

A majority of City Council members support the annexation of what is referred to as the “Bailey Avenue Corridor”. This annexation would eventually add about 1,700 new residences at full buildout. Supporting this new development with an adequate public safety services response may be unlikely; an updated analysis is needed by an independent third party.

Fire department:

In November 2013 the City Council approved the Fire Department Master Plan, however many of the actions recommended in that plan, specifically the relocation of fire station 2 have not been funded.

The Lompoc City Council adopted the following performance metrics as part of the 2030 General Plan in 2010; they were based on accepted national performance standards. A “policy” in the General Plan is a specific statement that guides decision-making. It indicates a commitment of the local legislative body to a particular course of action. When writing these policies “Shall” indicates an unequivocal directive.

Public Service Policy #	Metric	Did Department’s meet standard in FY 2021-22; if “no” explain in detail
3.1	The first fire department response units capable of initiating effective incident intervention shall arrive at a priority emergency within six minutes 20 seconds from receipt of the call at the dispatch center, 90 percent of the time. The first fire department response units capable of initiating effective incident intervention shall arrive at a priority emergency within six minutes 20 seconds from receipt of the call at the dispatch center, 90 percent of the time.	Analysis is needed.
3.2	For moderate risk incidents, the Lompoc Fire Department shall assemble an Effective Response Force (ERF) consisting of personnel sufficient to effectively mitigate the incident based on risk within 14 minutes from receipt of the call at the dispatch center, 90 percent of the time.	Analysis is needed.

Why are fire department response times and staffing levels important? During fires flashover occurs when all the combustible materials in a room or compartment reach their ignition temperatures at the same time and can occur within 6-10 minutes of the inception of a fire. If fire apparatus and personnel are on scene and can intervene prior to flashover occurring, property loss is decreased; thus, risk to civilian and firefighting personnel is reduced.

The Significance of Flashover	
Pre Flashover	Post Flashover
Limited to one room	May spread throughout the structure

Requires smaller attack line	Larger or multiple lines required
Search and rescue easier	Complicates search and rescue
Initial assignment can handle	Additional equipment required

Police department:

The Lompoc City Council adopted the following performance metric as part of the 2030 General Plan in 2010; they were based on accepted national performance standards.

Public Service Policy #	Metric	Did Department's meet standard in FY 2021-22; if "no" explain in detail
2.1	The Police Department shall seek to maintain a three-minute average response time for all emergency service calls within the City limits.	Analysis is needed.

The police department responds to over 800 calls for service each week, some are routine. It's important to define "emergency service calls"; reports of crimes such as in-progress elder/spousal or family abuse, lost children or at-risk adults, assaults, suicide attempts, burglaries, injury traffic collisions, shots fired, and other calls that could result in injury or death receive support within the established time frame.

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Action's needed:

Provide an updated third-party evaluation of Fire Department standards of cover. The last analysis was completed in 2007 by Robert Olsen and Associates.

Analyze police department Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system records.

Ron Fink
Lompoc