SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Budget Workshop – Public Hearing
Station 68
October 13, 2011

Commissioner Gates called the meeting to order at 0900 hours with Commissioners Fossos, Thompson, Rickert and Freitas present. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Thompson.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
Commissioner Freitas had no comments.

Commissioner Thompson had no comments.

Commissioner Rickert had no comments.

Commissioner Fossos had no comments.

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Commissioner Gates noted that this is a Special Meeting/Budget Workshop and he asked if there were any public comments about the 2012 budget. There were no public comments.

COMMISSIONER BUDGET WORKSHOP/PUBLIC HEARING
Commissioner Gates turned the meeting over to Chief Church to present the proposed 2012 budget.

Chief Church thanked everyone for being at the meeting he added that the department has lost an additional $1.5 million in 2011-2012 and from 2009 – 2012 we have lost over 20% of our budget, which equates to a loss of $5.7 million. We have implemented significant cuts across all portions of the budget, including but not limited to:

- Closing one (1) Aid Car and reduced another Aid Car to part time, depending on staffing levels;
- Maintained a hiring freeze on all positions;
- Frozen non-contract and Administrative salaries in 2011 and 2012;
- Continuing to allow a reduction in staffing through attrition (including a Battalion Chief position);
- Reducing Capital expenditures to that only debt service and critical infrastructure purchases are initiated;
- Eliminating all non-mandatory program costs;
- Reducing Public Education programs;
- Identifying potential RIF positions for 2012;
- We have lost several Administrative positions including the recent announcements that D/C Knorr and D/C Trackwell will be retiring effective March 31st ;
- Salary concessions from Local 2024 (in 2011) ;

Chief Church added that this budget is worst case scenario; there are more losses and more cuts to come. We will be asking the Board to approve the budget at the October 25th Regular Board Meeting

and then in February or March we will be bringing forward a budget amendment. He added that we are in a crisis – there are more cuts to come, this recession has hit us hard. He noted that the hardest thing is taking a department apart after spending so many years building it up to what it was.
Chief Church began reviewing the Draft 2012 budget:

- Capital Budget the only items budgeted for are debt service for the property and apparatus and the roof at station 68 as it is critical for our infrastructure and there are no contributions being made to Capital Reserve due to our deficit.
- Projected Revenues are down
- Projected Fund Balances
- Sources of Revenue
- Uses of Funds
- Commissioners line items reduced 17.4%
- Audit line item has been increased due to frivolous complaints made to the Auditor, which we have to pay for them to look into.
- General line items are reduced 16.4%
- Administration line items reduced 5.9%
- Operations reduced .8%
- EMS there is an increase of 6.2% due to our defibrillator service contract and the increase in the cost of medical equipment.
- Rescue Team budget reduced 2%
- Marine Team budget reduced 19.6% due to most of their training being done while on duty.
- Haz-Mat Team budget reduced .1%
- Health & Safety budget is reduced 6.5%

At 1000 hours the meeting took a 5 minute break.

At 1005 hours the meeting reconvened.

Chief Church continued going through the budget.

- Prevention/Investigation budget, D/C Olson is not here to talk about his budget he is at the Fire Academy, their budget increased 2.7%
- Public Education budget is reduced 27.3%
- Training budget is reduced 17.1% due to the loss of 1 FTE
- Facilities budget is reduced 14%
- Fleet budget is reduced 1% D/C Knorr added that the we have replaced several apparatus, but we still have several apparatus with over 100,00 miles.
- Information Systems/Communications budget is reduced 4.7%, Joe Ganem added that they have reduced the costs in radios due to being awarded a federal grant and they have reduced the pager costs due to using text messages via personal cell phones instead of using pagers. He added that by the end of next year – beginning of 2013, all agencies have to have new MDC's per ValleyComm, we have submitted a grant for this but if we do not receive a grant it will be an additional $160,000 out of pocket.
- Employee Health Benefits budget has increased 9.2%

Commissioner Freitas asked when they should make suggestions on changes to the budget? Commissioner Gates replied that you should have been making suggestions as we went through the budget as we have in the past. After some discussion it was decided that Commissioner Freitas would forward his suggestions on the budget to the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee for consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 1048 hours.

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CHAIR/COMMISSIONER

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VICE CHAIR/COMMISSIONER

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BOARD SECRETARY