



Date: April 14, 2022

To: Board of Directors

From: Rick Benson, Interim General Manager

Subject: Dispatch Services

Recommendation:

Authorize the Police Chief and General Manager to negotiate with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department in pursuit of an agreement to provide dispatch and warrant services.

Rationale for Recommendation:

If the District and the Sheriff are able to successfully negotiate an agreement, it is anticipated that the District will be able to receive a higher level of service at a lower cost.

Background:

Since 2017, KPPCSD has contracted with the City of Albany for police dispatch services. Albany has consistently provided the District with a high level of service.

Discussion and Analysis:

Because Albany sits outside of Contra Costa County, there are numerous inherent operational challenges brought about in contracting with them to provide dispatch services. There are legal constraints that cause problems processing warrants and limit access to the CLETS system, which is the backbone of law enforcement information throughout California. This can and has hindered our department when processing suspects. Very soon, Albany will be changing their radio encryption protocol. This will ripple through to our department and require a substantial capital expense to keep communications working.

For these reasons and other operational concerns, the Chief has been exploring other options for dispatch services. The Contra Costa Sheriff's Department has expressed a willingness to provide services to KPPCSD. One immediate benefit is that this will eliminate the CLETS problem. The District will experience much smoother processing of warrants and contracting with the Sheriff will cost less than what we are currently paying Albany. While the County's dispatch system is a natural fit, we would also be able to forgo the expense of converting our radio system to meet Albany's new encryption protocol, although changes of a similar nature could be expected in the future.

At this time, it is requested that you authorize the Chief and General Manager to proceed with negotiations with Contra Costa County for these services. This is not a commitment to contract with the County but, assuming the negotiations go smoothly, we would expect to present an agreement for your Board's consideration in May or June.

Fiscal Impact

Annual savings are expected to be in excess of \$22,500.