

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, April 21, 2014

Regular Meeting

Item Reports8

Council to receive the City Managers' report to Council authorizing the hiring of the 15th firefighter, and continued study regarding authorization to over hire police personnel.

Staff Contact: Rick Kuckkahn, City Manager

Agenda Statement

Item No.

For meeting of: April 21st, 2014

AGENDA TITLE: Firefighter Position

SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Fire Department

PRESENTATION BY: Rick Kuckkahn, City Manager

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

An in-depth review with the Fire Chief and City Manager has taken place over the last months of the department and its staffing. The content of which will be explained by the city manager. A memo from Fire Chief Dana Miller is attached.

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

EXHIBITS

Resolution: Ordinance Contract Minutes Plan/Map

Other (specify) Attached form and signature areas

NOTIFICATION LIST: Yes No Further Instructions

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APPROVAL FOR SUBMITTAL: _____
City Manager

Rev 3/1/99CClerk



Dana D. Miller
Fire Chief

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Scottsbluff Fire Department Review

For several months we have been taking a very in-depth look at our department operations. Staffing levels, shift schedules, firefighter duties and operating procedures have all been reviewed. Overall I was very pleased with results of this process. The major area that needs to be addressed is replacing the firefighter that was removed several years ago during budget adjustments. A partial list of current activities include:

- Business Inspections
- Fire Prevention Education Activities
- Panhandle wide Skills training
- Safety Training with citizen groups
- Equipment Maintenance
- Smoke and CO detector program
- Child Car Seat Safety program
- Special Team trainings

If we are allowed to hire our new staff member to balance out the three shifts we could enhance some of these current duties and add the following activities:

- Offer free home safety inspections
- Expand safety options with citizens with special needs
- Educate citizens on programs like Code Red and Emergency preparedness
- Start citizen programs like Fire Corps, Exploring and school based safety training

Last fiscal year we spent around \$ 49,000.00 out in overtime to adjust for minimum staffing on our short staffed shift. The addition of this new staff member would balance all shifts to the same number. It would also eliminate this huge overtime expense and relieve the stress caused to staff members that cover all of these extra shifts. I would request to continue background checks on the current active applicant list. Then my staff will make a recommendation to the City Manager for permission to make a tentative job offer for this budgeted position.

