



Update on Fire Chief and City Staff Recommendations for the Pinole Fire Department

**City of Pinole Fire Department
Presentation to City Council**

April 19, 2022



In April of 2021, the Pinole Fire Chief addressed Council with three recommended strategies to fortify fire service delivery:

They were:

1. Adding an Administrative Fire Captain position in Q1 FY 2021-22
2. Transitioning from a contract Fire Inspector to a sworn Fire Prevention Captain in Q3 FY 2021-22
3. Returning to Council in Q3 FY 2021-22 with an update regarding:
 - a) Returning to 15 frontline staff (Firefighters, Engineers, and Captains) deployed as an engine-squad model from Station 73; or
 - b) Contract for service/integration with Confire



Administrative Fire Captain

- This position was added to address deficient managerial and administrative functions such as planning, policymaking, training, records management, and evaluation
- These functional deficiencies created liability and made it difficult to observe industry best practices and achieve maximum efficiency



Administrative Fire Captain (cont.)

- The addition of the Administrative Fire Captain assignment supports the City's Strategic Plan initiative of creating and maintaining a "High Performance Pinole" through "optimizing efficiencies" (Goal #4; Strategy #2)



Administrative Fire Captain (cont.)

The assignment was filled in February 2022. The appointment has already yielded significant dividends; among them are:

- Implementation of a recognized industry best practice narcotics tracking software (PSTrax)
- Establishment of an electronic daily staffing application (Vector Scheduling)
- Initiation of a departmental cost recovery program
- Pinole representation at county-level fire operations and EMS meetings



Administrative Fire Captain (cont.)

The Administrative Captain also oversees:

- The fire report management system (RMS)
- Emergency medical services (EMS)
- Policy/procedure implementation
- Fire training
- Vehicle maintenance
- Departmental projects

The PFD is already a more efficient organization because of the addition of the Administrative Captain



Fire Prevention Captain

The Fire Prevention Captain was also chosen for assignment in February

- The Prevention Captain was reassigned to Engine 73 due to operational need
- A Captain's promotional exam is scheduled for June 2022, and a new Prevention Captain will be assigned
- Fire prevention services continue to be offered through the department's contract Fire Inspector



Strategic Opportunities

The third strategy was to return to Council with an update regarding either:

1. Returning to the staffing configuration prior to the original opening of Station 74 in 2003 (15 frontline staff deployed as an engine-squad model from Station 73); or
2. Engaging in discussions with Confire about a contract for service/integration through which Station 74 could be reopened



Strategic Opportunities (cont.)

- Because some potential opportunities, such as Measure X and consolidation discussions among other agencies, were still unfolding at the time of the Fire Chief's last address, City staff recommended returning to Council in Q3 FY 2021-22 with a clearer picture as to how Confire and PFD could most effectively collaborate



Strategic Opportunities (cont.)

- Between then and now, Measure X funds have been allocated to Confire for fire service fortification countywide under their superintendence, thus the picture has indeed become much clearer



Strategic Opportunities (cont.)

- In May of 2021, the Contra Costa County Executive Fire Chiefs presented a request to the County Measure X Advisory Board for funding to reopen five closed fire stations and add 45 firefighters countywide



Strategic Opportunities (cont.)

- Among the five fire stations proposed for reopening was Pinole Station 74





Station 74

- In November of 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved funding to support the County Chiefs' request
- \$2M annually (plus annual adjustment) was allocated toward reopening Station 74 under an integrative agreement with Confire



Station 74 (cont.)

- **With Council's approval, the City has initiated discussions with Confire regarding a contract for service whereby the City's budgetary contribution, subsidized by the \$2M Measure X allocation, would enable both Station 73 and Station 74 to be fully staffed and operational under Confire's superintendence**



Station 74 (cont.)

- It is anticipated that the City's contribution would be comparable to that which it currently budgets to operate one station

Timelines for Implementation

- Once tentative contract terms are agreed upon, an independent fiscal analysis, service plan, letter of agreement from the labor group, and resolution of Council support, will need to be submitted with the contract to the Contra Costa County LAFCO for approval



Timelines for Implementation (cont.)

- Anticipated timeline for completion of contract and LAFCO submission/approval is fall of 2022, with an estimated implementation, to include the reopening of Station 74, in late winter/early spring of 2023



- It is the City's intent to negotiate a contract with Confire through which Pinole is served by two fully staffed fire stations for a cost comparable to that which is currently being budgeted for a single station

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QUESTIONS

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