

Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea

Special Town Commission

Agenda

Tuesday February 14, 2023

5:00 PM



Jarvis Hall
4505 N. Ocean Drive,
www.Lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov

Special Town Commission

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 5:00 PM

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4505 N. Ocean Drive,

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR CHRIS VINCENT

PRESENTATION

Fire Department Contract

[02-14-23 Fire Department Proposal FINAL.pdf](#)

[Ex. 1 Pompano Beach Fire Rescue Preliminary Proposal.pdf](#)

2. ADJOURNMENT

THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA WILL FURNISH APPROPRIATE AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES NECESSARY TO AFFORD INDIVIDUALS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COMMISSION. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND FLORIDA STATUTE 286.26, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK NO LATER THAN TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT (954) 640-4200 FOR ASSISTANCE.

IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE TOWN COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING, HE/SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORDING OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public Comments may address issues that are not on this meeting's agenda, but should relate to the business of the Town, and should not contain personal attacks. If your comment requires follow up, the Town Manager will have a staff person respond to your concerns, and will advise us of the outcome.

The Town Clerk will read off the names of those who have signed up to speak. When your name is called, please come to the podium, state your name for the record, and indicate whether you are a Town resident. Do not state your address. You have up to three minutes to make your comments, but there is no requirement to use the entire time. If you wish to address a particular Commissioner or member of Town Administration, please do so by use of their title.

If you wish to approach the Commission dais to hand out a document or for some other reason, please request permission and state your reason for doing so. All documents to be provided to the Commission should be handed to the Town Clerk for distribution.

These procedures have been developed to assure that the Town Commission meeting time is efficiently used, and that meetings are conducted in a polite and respectful manner. More information on the decorum rules for Town Commission meetings is available in Section 2-23 of the Town Code of Ordinances.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation before each Town Commission meeting is a voluntary service of a private citizen, offered to serve the spiritual needs of the members of the Town Commission and solemnize the meeting. It is not intended to be an opportunity to advance or disparage one faith or belief over another. The views expressed in the Invocation have not been previously reviewed by the Town and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of any Town employee or official. No person is required to be present at or participate in the Invocation, and the decision whether to be present or participate in the Invocation will not affect any person's right to actively participate in the official business of the Town or obtain any benefit from the Town. The Town's written Invocation policy is available on its website, and upon written request to the Town Clerk.



Town Commission Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: February 14, 2023

Submitted By: Linda Connors, Town Manager

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Report

Agenda Section: Presentations

Subject Title: Fire Department Contract

Background: The Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department contract was set to expire on November 30, 2022. I exercised my authority to extend the contract for 90 days so that staff could work with the Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) to draft a new agreement that incorporated the findings from the Matrix Fire Department audit.

As with all contracts, staff reached out to similar vendors, in this case our neighboring communities, to determine if they were interested in providing a proposal for our fire service. At our Department Head staff meeting, I let the VFD representative know that we were reaching out as part of our due diligence in preparing the contract. Former Town Manager Connie Hoffmann had previously requested estimates several years ago and had no responses that were in the ballpark of our current VFD contract and so I didn't have high expectations that we would receive a credible offer.

We have received a verbal response from Broward County and written responses from Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach.

We spoke with Broward County Fire Chief regarding their ability and willingness to provide Fire and EMS services for the Town. They responded with an estimated cost to provide these services at approximately \$5.5 million dollars. Fort Lauderdale's preliminary response was \$7.5 million for year one and increasing to \$8.5 million in the fifth year of service. These costs are significantly more than the amount we currently pay for these services and therefore staff recommends that we do not move forward with negotiations on these offers.

The City of Pompano Beach also submitted a proposal. Their proposal is very competitive and while the staff understands and respects the relationship and history between the VFD and the Town, we would not be fulfilling our fiduciary duties without bringing this offer to the Commission for their consideration.

Explanation: Before reviewing the Proposal from Pompano Beach, I'd like to present the Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services budgets for 2023. Understanding these budgets will help with the decision-making process. Emergency Medical Services are included in this discussion because Pompano Beach's fire members are cross trained in both fire rescue and emergency medical services so an additional contract for emergency medical services would not be required.

Current Costs for Fire and Emergency Ambulatory Services

Emergency Medical Services

The Town has contracted with American Medical Response (AMR) for emergency services since 2008. Since that time, we have extended their contract several times. The current contract is through September 30, 2025. The contract has a 3% escalator clause for each year of the contract. Currently, the cost of the service to the Town is \$899,910 annually. AMR collects the fees for ambulatory services to offset the cost charged to the Town.

Fire Department Services

The Volunteer Fire Department has a long history of providing fire suppression services to the Town. Although they are named as a volunteer department their services are not free. Services are paid through a fire assessment fee which is the third largest source of revenue for the town. The current fire assessment is \$147.37 for residential properties and \$0.22 per square feet for commercial buildings. These funds are proprietary in that they can only be spent on the Fire suppression services budget.

The total FY23 Fire Fund budget is \$2,344,367. This budget not only includes the contractual services costs for the Volunteer Fire Department (\$939,167) but it also includes pension costs, audit expenses, capital outlay for building improvements and vehicles and additional professional services.

The costs for both Fire and Emergency Medical services are outlined below. For comparative purposes, I have removed the cost for the Squirt 12 replacement vehicle that we have ordered and are awaiting delivery (\$900,000) and also the ongoing building improvement and maintenance costs that have recently been included in the budget.

Description	Amount
Emergency Medical Budget	
Emergency Rescue	\$899,910
VFD Budget	
Fire Department Pension	\$ 6,000
Professional Services	\$ 52,300
Audit Expense	\$ 8,400
Contractual Services	\$939,167
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,500
Building Improvement	\$306,000
Vehicles	\$980,000
General Fund Transfer	\$ 50,000
VFD Total	\$1,055,867
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,955,777

*Grey font items are not included in the total because they are not regularly recurring or are Building Improvement and maintenance costs that are ongoing.

Pompano Beach Proposal

Per our request, the Pompano Beach Fire Chief, Chad Brocato, submitted a preliminary proposal to provide both emergency medical services and fire suppression services for the Town. In our conversation before his submittal, I told him that the Town would not be interested in a proposal that did not include service from the Town. All services and costs were to be included in the offer and we would accept a reasonable escalator clause in the contract.

Town staff has reviewed the preliminary proposal and considers it a viable alternative to the VFD. For the Commission's information, highlights of the Pompano Beach proposal include:

- Three- person rescue/ambulance and a three-person fire suppression unit working out of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
- Emergency Management Support with access to their full-time Emergency Management Coordinator and a seat at the table in their new Emergency Operations Center (not currently provided by VFD)
- Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 (VFD is currently Class 2)
- Dedicated plans reviewer and inspection/fire prevention efforts
- Life Safety Educator for educational programs
- Participation in LBTS sponsored events
- Participation in federal grant writing opportunities (not currently provided by VFD)

Staffing

As mentioned previously, the Town staff appreciates the service of the Volunteer Fire Department and for that reason, we have asked if there is a possibility for placement of our volunteers within the City of Pompano Beach. Chief Brocato has agreed to give the Town's current VFD firefighters the right to have a preferential chance to apply for any vacant positions and those VFD firefighters and administrative personnel will be given hiring preference if they otherwise qualify for the vacant positions with the Pompano Beach Fire Department. In fact, there are four people currently in Pompano Beach hiring process that either currently volunteering for LBTS or were recent members of our VFD.

In addition to prioritizing our volunteers for fully paid positions, Pompano Beach is in the process of establishing a training academy. Those VFD members that need additional certifications before they can be hired will also receive priority placement in Pompano Beach's training program.

Finally, we have members of the VFD family that participate in the organization solely to give back to the community. Their time is invaluable as they not only provide service to the community but they are also an important part of what creates the small town charm which makes LBTS unique. Pompano Beach recognizes this important aspect of the VFD and while they can no longer allow volunteers to participate in the actual calls, there will still be room for these volunteers to continue their service to the community through the Fire Department.

Cost

Pompano Beach has offered three different options listed below for the Town Commission's consideration.

Option One

\$1,400,000

Option one is the closest option to the number of units that we currently have. The proposal includes a three-person rescue/ambulance and a three-person fire suppression unit. This is also the same staffing that is used for Station 11 for the Pompano Beach response. (Station 11 is the station located on A1A just north of Atlantic Boulevard).

Option Two

\$ 950,000

Option Two includes one three-person rescue/ambulance with fire response being staffed at Pompano Beach Station 11.

Option Three

\$ 700,000

Option three includes all response being staffed at Station 11.

As with the Town's current contracts, the revenue from ambulatory services would be retained by Pompano Beach. In addition, the state provides a certain amount toward the fire rescue pension. These funds would remain with Pompano Beach as well which is consistent with current practice for the VFD.

If the Commission decides to move forward with negotiating a Pompano Beach contract, staff recommends selecting the first option which is the one closest to the level of service that the VFD currently provides to the Town.

The staff was adamant that the proposed fee was all inclusive for fire and ambulatory services. We wanted to make sure that the costs for other items necessary for service, such as equipment, pension payments and payouts required when employees retire, were incorporated in the annual payment. Instead of unforeseen costs, staff suggested an annual escalator which is something that we have for several of our existing contracts, including our current contract with AMR. Pompano Beach agreed, and the proposed costs for each of the options are all inclusive. Pompano Beach is suggesting a 2.5% escalator, if the contract is approved.

The proposed contract would be for fire and ambulatory services. Pompano Beach Fire Rescue also staffs and manages their lifeguards and, if we enter into a contract with Pompano Beach, this service would also be available to our town at an additional cost of \$200,000 to staff two full time lifeguards seven (7) days a week for eight hours each day.

Fire Station

Over the last several years, much talk has been had regarding the poor condition of our public safety facilities. The Fire Services audit that the Town authorized also highlighted the need for improvements to meet current Fire safety standards. To address these issues, the Town Commission increased the fire assessment fees in order to start saving for a new facility. Additionally, the Town Commission, at our last meeting, authorized the purchase of a property that would provide the necessary land to build an improved public safety facility.

Pompano Beach understands the limitations of the current facility and they remain committed, if selected, to provide service from these facilities until such time that an improved station is constructed.

Additionally, the City of Pompano Beach has undergone a significant capital program to improve existing or construct new fire stations throughout their entire municipality. Should Pompano be selected, staff suggests coordinating with their facilities department to assist the Town in moving forward with designing a new public safety facility. Lessons learned during Pompano's efforts can be incorporated into our design. Furthermore, the transition from the VFD to Pompano would allow the Town to slightly shrink the future building since the majority of administrative Fire staff would be housed off-site.

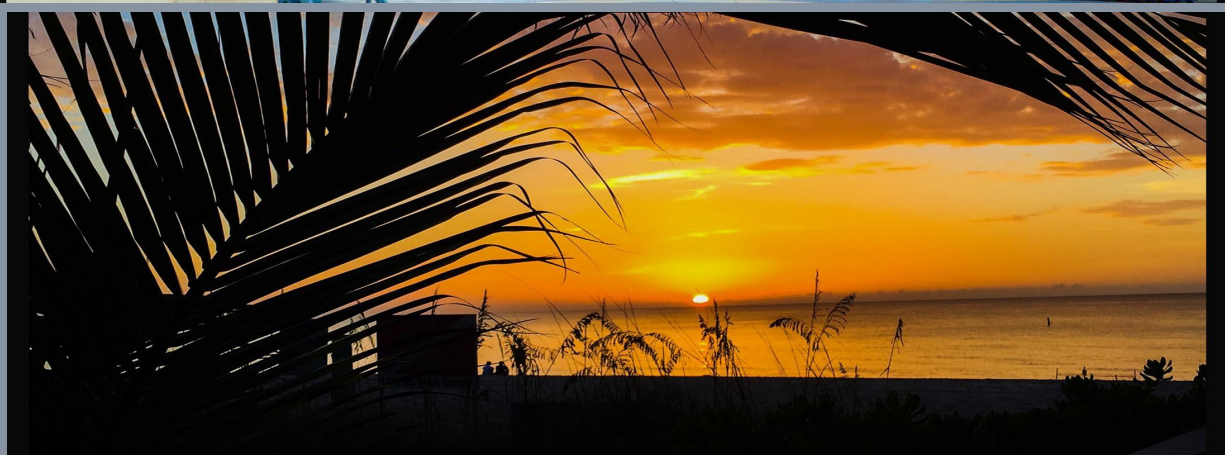
In conclusion, Pompano Beach Fire Rescue is offering the Town a viable option to provide services for our fire rescue. At \$1.4 million annually (if the most comparable option is selected), it is significantly less expensive than our current operations. Additionally, the service will be provided at a higher ISO rating and the staffing levels will require a slightly smaller facility, which will also provide savings.

Recommendation: Staff is requesting that the Commission review the preliminary proposal from Pompano Beach to provide Fire Rescue services and provide staff direction as to whether we should move forward with negotiations with Pompano Beach or finalize our contract with the VFD.

Exhibits: Ex. 1 Pompano Beach Fire Rescue Preliminary Proposal



Proposed Partnership for Provision of Fire and Emergency Services

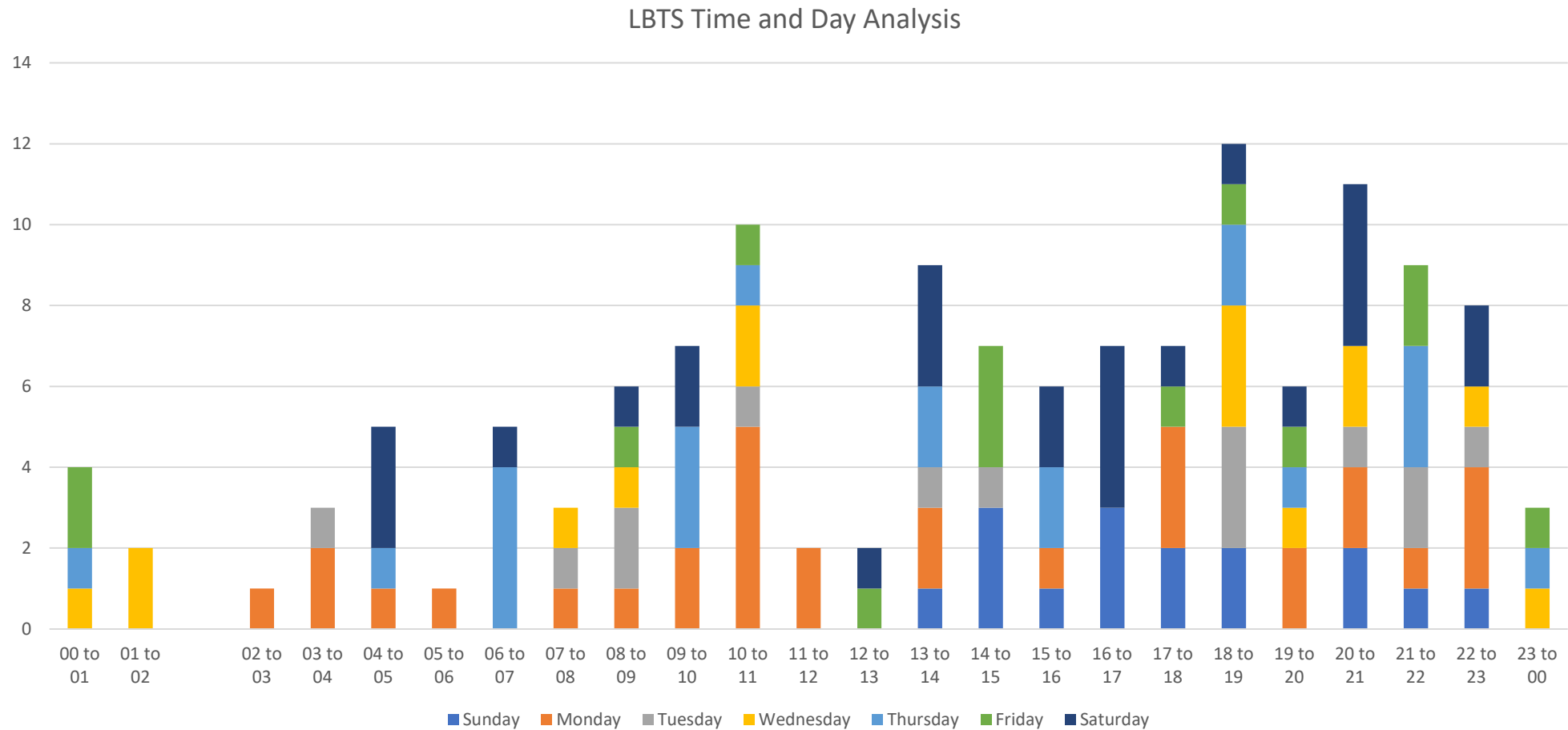


LBTS Key Facts

- Coastal community
- Population ~6,000 with increases during season to ~12,000
- Large residential use
- Limited commercial use
- 0.88 square land miles
- Currently serviced by LBTS Volunteer Department and AMR
- Call volume with expected seasonal variations



LBTS Incident Analysis



LBTS Incident Analysis

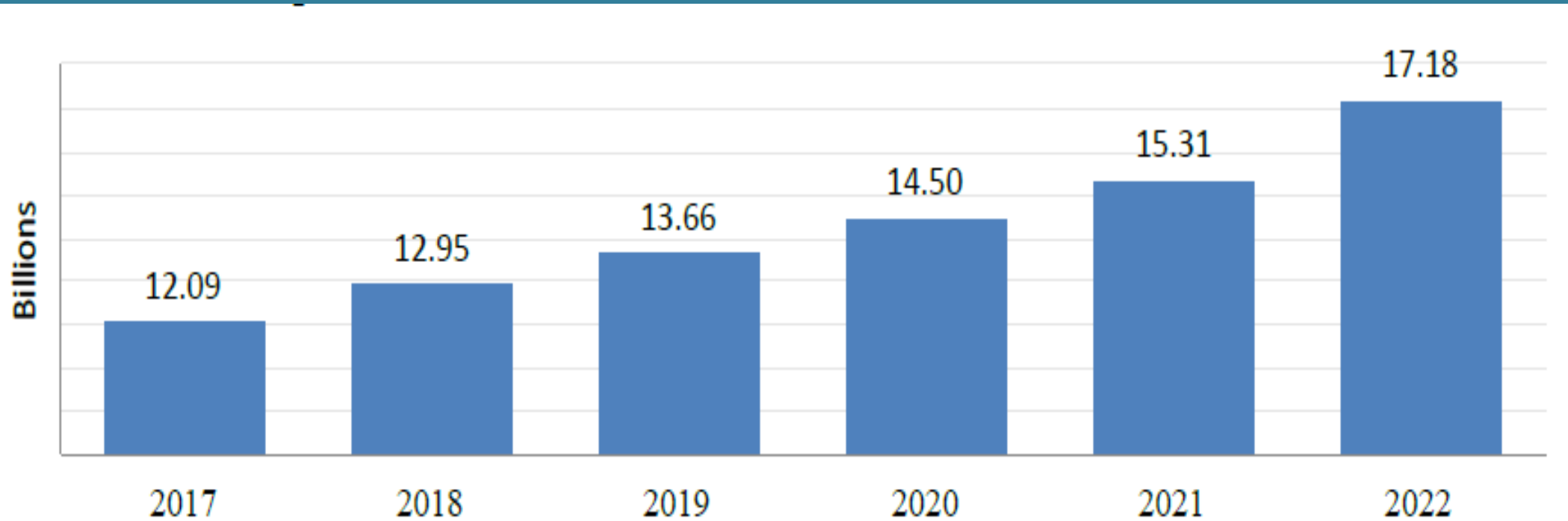
- 1651 total call volume for a single year
 - Averaging 4-5 calls per day
- Fire department audit demonstrates a longer than expected response time
 - In zone units should be able to have response times at 6-7 minutes at the 90th percentile
 - Our existing performance benchmarks requires turnout time of 90 seconds, and travel time of 5 minutes and 30 seconds
 - Staffing within LBTS would allow a reduction in these times due to the shorter travel distances
- Prevention and education efforts would be directed to reducing incidents



About the City of Pompano Beach



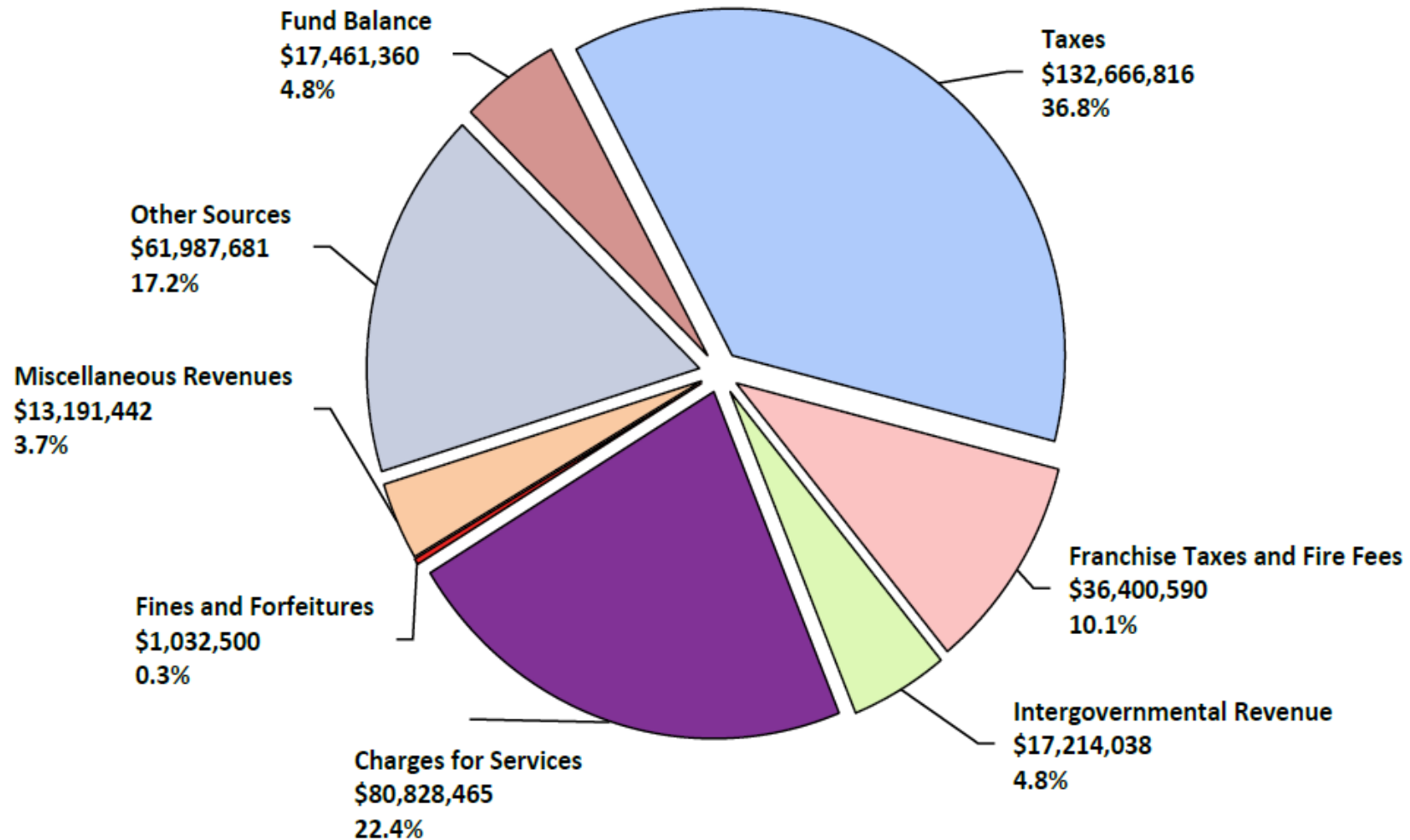
Pompano Beach Taxable Value



- PBFR currently enhances public safety for [112,117](#) people



Revenue Composition and Bond Rating



- Pompano Bond Rating
Aa2 (Moody)

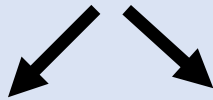
Pompano Beach Fire Rescue

Always here. Always ready.

- Serving Pompano Beach, Sea Ranch Lakes, Lighthouse Point and 3 miles of ocean rescue with respect, integrity, and compassion.



256 full-time employees



29 support staff



205 dual firefighters/paramedics



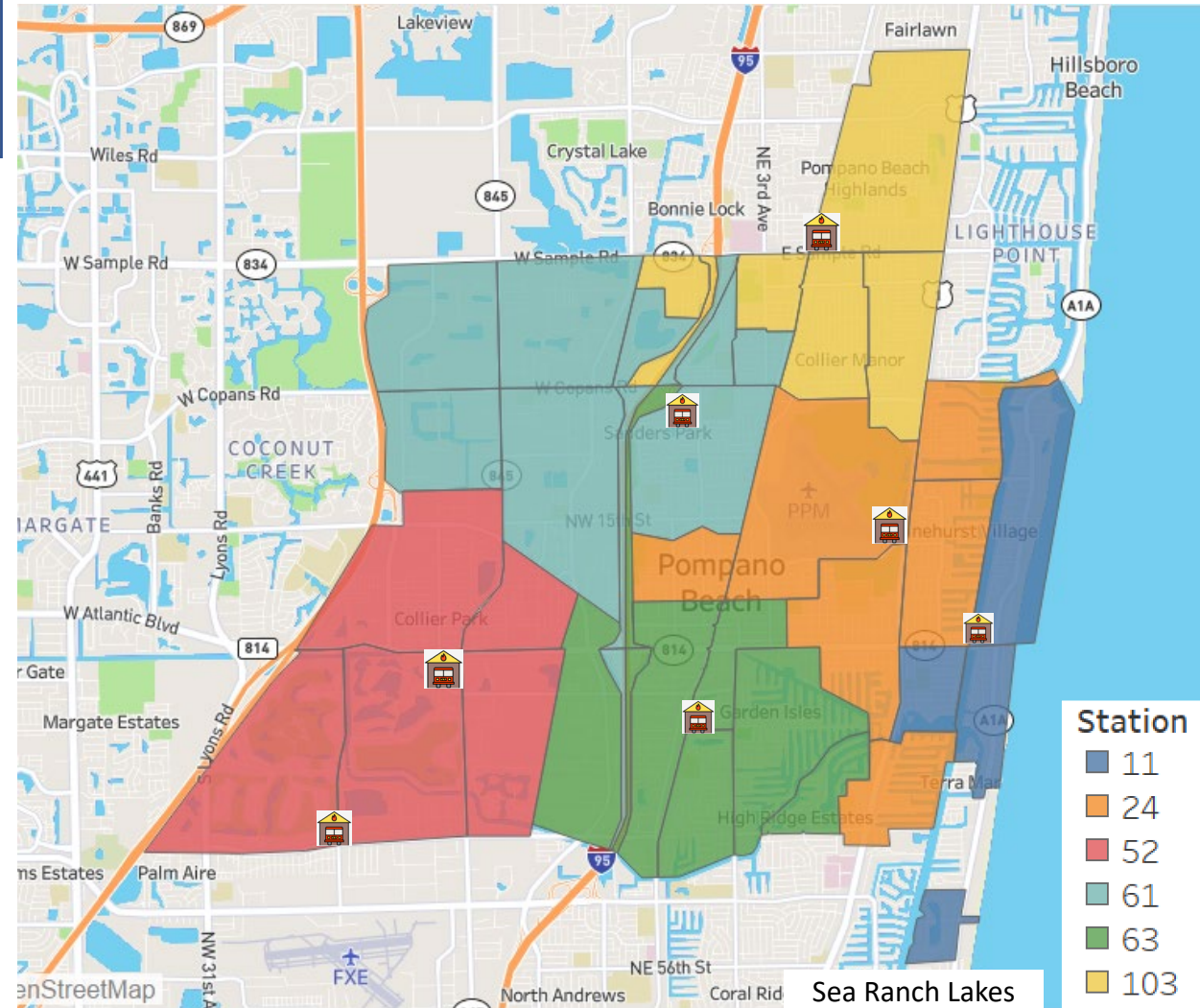
14 lifeguards



7 fire stations



8 beach safety towers





Commission on
Fire Accreditation
International



Strong culture of excellence and continuous improvement

- Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1, 2022
places PBFR in the top 1% in the country, and works to ensure lower insurance costs for property owners
- CFAI Accreditation, 2019
- CAAS Accreditation, 2020
- \$70 million estimated property saved in 2020

What We Can Offer

Service

- Annual savings of at least \$650,000+ with future annual contract increases capped at 2.5% per year
- Integrated vehicle growth and replacement
- Fully staffed (3 personnel) rescue/ambulance and Fully staffed (3 personnel) fire suppression apparatus
 - Platform-11 and Rescue-11 to also respond for larger incidents and serve as back-up units through automatic (non-mutual aid) dispatching
- Command officer
- Emergency management support
 - Co-location in category 5 rated EOC
 - Office space in planned and funded new EOC
- Dedicated plans reviewer
- 9 inspectors available to conduct all necessary inspections and fire prevention efforts
- Access to our full-time Life Safety Educator for educational programs and events participation
- Inclusion in our re-certification for the Commission for Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) in 2014
- Occupancy Vulnerability Assessment Profile (OVAP) scoring for each inspectable property
- Risk categorization and risk modeling

What We Can Offer

Service

- Resident ambulance billing policy direction and assistance in preparation for an ordinance that provides no balance billing and no collection efforts against any LBTS resident
 - Focus is solely on collection of insurance funds for any transported patient
- Established temporal performance benchmarks for fire and EMS incidents
- Municipal representative for county-wide large-scale incidents
- Full logistics support (7 personnel in PBFR logistics)
- Participation in LBTS sponsored events
- Participation in regional associations and programs, including the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County, Regional Operations Review Team (ORT), Radio Governance Board, Broward County EMS Advisory Council and more
- Participation in Town meetings and city staff meetings
- Participation in federal grant writing opportunities
 - Prior AFG grant funding awarded for several projects
 - Prior hazard mitigation grant funding awarded

What We Can Offer

Service

- Service with two fully staffed units stationed in LBTS and direct support from two additional fully staffed units at Station 11
 - Only 2-3 miles from Station 11 to north and south ends of LBTS
- Back-up response from 7 fire stations
- Participation in the regional closest unit response (CUR) program



What We Can Offer

Monthly or Quarterly Reports and Analytics



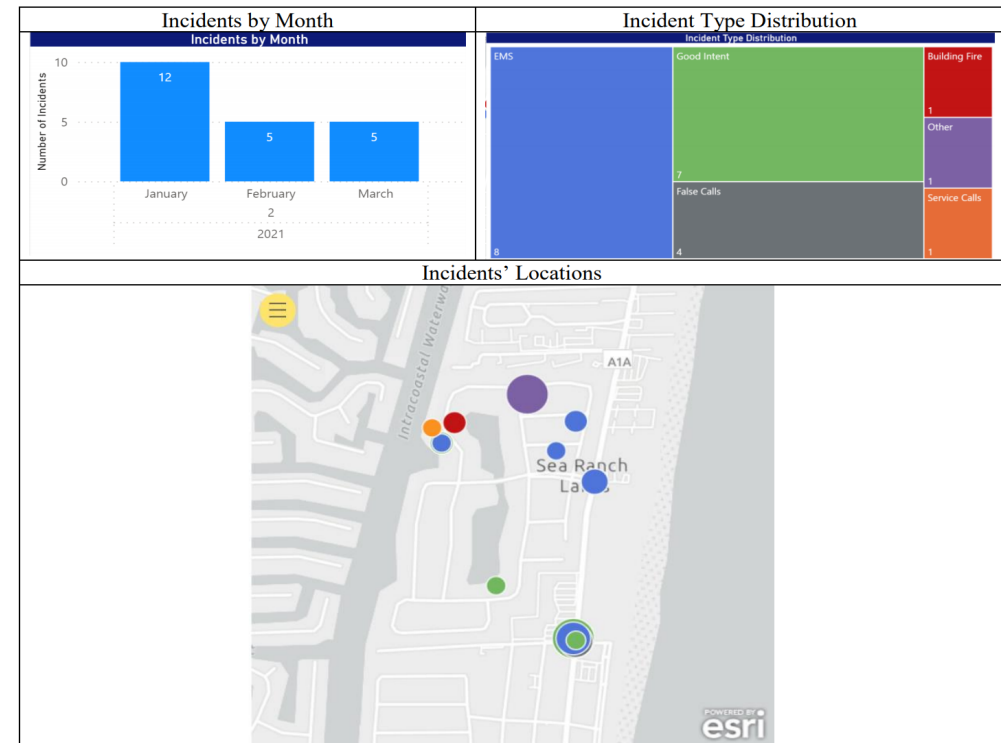
Pompano Beach Fire Rescue
Sea Ranch Lakes Quarterly Summary
Period Ending 3/31/2021

22

Incidents

Date	Incident #	Address	Type of Call
1/1/2021	PB210000083	31 Seneca Rd	Building fire
1/9/2021	PB210000599	4703 N Ocean Dr	EMS: No patient found
1/12/2021	PB210000856	38 Seneca Rd	EMS: Weakness
1/15/2021	PB210001075	27 Cayuga Rd	Canceled en route
1/16/2021	PB210001104	4703 N Ocean Dr	Canceled en route
1/17/2021	PB210001178	38 Seneca Rd	Canceled en route
1/18/2021	PB210001231	4703 N Ocean Dr	EMS: Medical Supervision
1/22/2021	PB210001566	10 Seneca Rd	Overpressure rupture of air or gas pipe/pipeline
1/23/2021	PB210001618	N Ocean Blvd / Gatehouse Rd	EMS: Acute Pain
1/28/2021	PB210001938	4701 N Ocean Dr	False alarm/call
1/30/2021	PB210002047	4701 N Ocean Dr	Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional
1/30/2021	PB210002049	4703 N Ocean Blvd	Canceled en route
2/5/2021	PB210002499	4703 N Ocean Dr	No incident found
2/11/2021	PB210003028	4701 N Ocean Dr	Smoke detector activation due to malfunction
2/14/2021	PB210003256	38 Seneca Rd	Canceled en route
2/25/2021	PB210004113	4703 N Ocean Dr	Canceled en route
2/27/2021	PB210004250	N Ocean Blvd / Gatehouse Rd	EMS: Injury of Foot
3/6/2021	PB210004817	4703 N Ocean Dr	EMS: Anxiety Reaction
3/11/2021	PB210005174	34 Seneca Rd	Service Call, other
3/22/2021	PB210006022	2 Mendota Ln	EMS: Injury of Pelvis
3/27/2021	PB210006384	4 Oneida Ln	EMS: Fainting
3/28/2021	PB210006473	4701 N Ocean Dr	Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional

Incidents Overview



What We Can Offer

Prevention

- Dedicated plans reviewer
- 9 inspectors for all inspection and prevention efforts
- Community risk reduction efforts
- Directed educational programs
 - CPR
 - Stop-The-Bleed
 - Car Safety Seat Installations

What We Can Offer

Emergency Management

- Emergency manager and emergency management coordinator are full-time positions in PBFR
 - Direct access
 - Assistance with FEMA reimbursements related to disasters
 - NIMS compliance
 - Training
 - Disaster preparedness
 - Grant writing

Current Agreements & Proposed Agreement

- Current cost for fire and EMS services projected to be over \$3 million in FY 23
- Proposed contracted costs for services through Pompano Beach Fire Rescue has three models outlined in the next slide
 - All three models allow for:
 - LBTS fire assessment set aside funds for new fire station could be increased to \$500,000 - \$750,000
 - Apparatus growth management included
 - Reduce the scope of the planned new fire station to reduce the overall cost of the project
 - All of the services outlined previously



Proposed Emergency Response Staffing

Model 1

Two fully staffed units: \$1.4 million

- 3-person rescue/ambulance
 - This apparatus is equipped with both EMS and firefighting equipment and all personnel are dual-certified as firefighter-paramedic
- 3-person fire suppression unit
 - The fire suppression unit would also have EMS and firefighting equipment with dual-certified personnel
 - Since the new Squirt unit is already purchased, the staffing would be for your new apparatus
- This is the same staffing that is used for Station 11 for the Pompano Beach response



Proposed Emergency Response Staffing *Model 2*

One fully staffed rescue unit: \$950,000

- 3-person rescue/ambulance
This apparatus is equipped with both EMS and firefighting equipment and all personnel are dual-certified as firefighter-paramedic
- Fire response would come from the fire suppression unit staffed at Station 11



Proposed Emergency Response Staffing *Model 3*

All staffing from existing units in Pompano Beach:
\$700,000

- Fire and EMS responses would come from the fire suppression unit staffed at Station 11

