Presented by
Amador Fire Protection Authority (AFPA)

Topics:
Fire Services
Emergency Medical Services
Revenue Options / Special Taxes
Introduction

- Presentation goals
  - Review current issues associated with
    - Fire Protection
    - Emergency Medical Services
    - Measure L
Fire / EMS Current Situation

• What does Fire Protection Service /EMS do?
  - Fire/EMS provides
    • Emergency medical response to homes and businesses throughout the County.
    • Wildland fire response.
    • Structural fire protection response to homes, businesses, etc.
    • Response to vehicle accidents.
    • Hazardous Material response.
How are Fire / EMS Services provided?

- Currently the community relies on an ALL volunteer system.
  - AFPD
  - City of Jackson
  - City of Ione
  - Sutter Creek Fire District
  - Jackson Valley Fire District
  - Lockwood Fire District
  - City of Plymouth (contracts with AFPD)
- CDF support in winter through “Amador Plan.”
Fire / EMS: Current Situation

- How is Fire / EMS currently funded?
  - The current volunteer system is funded by several agencies that have different revenue sources. The primary revenues are:
    - Limited Tax Assessments (AFPD, Lockwood)
    - Limited Property Tax Revenues (Districts)
    - City / County General Fund Revenues (Cities)
    - Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF) Revenues
Current Issues:

- County population is growing / call volume is increasing significantly
  - Calls have increased by 30% over the last 5 years.
- It is increasingly challenging to be a volunteer
  - Increasing State / Federal training requirements
  - Employment commitments
- Succession planning
  - Replacement of “retirees”
Fire / EMS: Future Options

- Collaborative Solutions
  - Fire Task Force developed Fire / EMS solutions that ranged from daytime coverage to 24/7 paid staffing.
  - Lacking a new funding source, the Task Force recommendations lingered without action throughout the 90s.
  - Fire leaders joined together in 2003 to form the Amador Fire Protection Authority to move efforts forward.
Isn’t my Property Tax revenue already allocated to these services?

- Since the passage of Proposition 13, the State has reduced the local share of Property Tax.
- A transfer to fire will reduce existing services such as the Library, Animal Control or Law Enforcement
- The pie graph on the next slide shows how property tax revenues are allocated.
Property Tax Distribution

Where Your Property Tax Dollars Go

- Schools: 62%
- County: 31%
- Cities: 5%
- Special Districts: 1%
FAQ

- How much will a Paid Firefighter System cost per year?

  - AFPA estimates the personnel costs at $1.2 million even for a regional four station daytime only program that uses existing equipment and buildings.
AFPA Vision

Task Force Implementation Plan

• Development Mitigation
  – Creation of a community facilities district (CFD) whereby new development pays increased taxes to support their fire / EMS needs.
  – Currently in place in unincorporated area.
  – AFPA hopes to see the CFD fee become standard countywide.
AFPA Vision

Next Step - Task Force Plan Implementation
  – Initial Fire / EMS Protection Plan
    ● 4 stations, staffed with 3 firefighters each for 8 hours per day Monday through Friday.
      – Jackson/Martell/Sutter Creek
      – Ione Area
      – Upcountry Area
      – Plymouth Area
    ● Maintain and support existing volunteer network.
AFPA Vision

- Next Step - Task Force Plan Implementation
  - Initial Fire / EMS Protection Plan
    - Total cost is approximately $1.2 million (equivalent to a ¼ cent sales tax increase).
    - AFPA will provide lead agency oversight for implementation.
    - Requires **two-thirds** voter approval of a ¼ cent sales tax increase – **Measure L**
AFPA Vision

• Comprehensive Long Term Plan
  - 24/7 countywide paid staffing coverage supported by existing volunteer program.
  - Four primary proposed funding sources:
    • New Development Fire Tax (CFD)
    • Measure L Sales Tax Increase (one-quarter percent)
    • Incremental Increase of Prop. 172 Sales Tax to Fire
    • Existing County / City / Fire District revenues
FAQ

• Is ACTC also seeking a sales tax increase to support road improvements?
  - Yes, the Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) is seeking a ½ cent sales tax increase, Measure K, to support new roads projects, bicycle and pedestrian projects and maintenance funding.
Fire / EMS

- Questions?