



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief
165 Durley Avenue, Camarillo, CA 93010-8586

February 28, 2023

Board of Directors
Ventura County Fire Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT:

Ratification of the Ventura County Fire Protection District's Submission of Applications for Grants/Rebates for Purchase of a PumpPod USA DRAFTS Unit to the California Water Service's Customized Incentive Program, the Metropolitan Water District's Water Savings Incentive Program and the Calleguas Municipal Water District's Water Incentive Grant Program; Authorization for the Fire Chief or Designee to Accept the Grants/Rebates in a Total Amount of \$103,970, and Execute Related Grant/Rebate Agreements; and Authorizing for the Auditor-Controller to Process the Necessary Accounting Transactions.
(RECOMMENDATION NO. 3 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ratify the Ventura County Fire Protection District's (Fire District) submission of applications for grants/rebates for the purchase of a PumpPod USA DRAFTS (Direct Recirculating Apparatus Firefighting Training and Sustainability) Unit through California Water Service's Customized Incentive Program (CIP), Metropolitan Water District's Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP) and Calleguas Municipal Water District's Water Incentive Grant Program (WGIP) as shown in Exhibits 1, 2 and 3 attached hereto.
2. Authorize the Fire Chief or designee to accept grants/rebates for the purchase of a PumpPod USA DRAFTS from the CIP, WSIP and WGIP programs in the total amount of \$103,970, and to execute agreements necessary to accept the grants/rebates, with County Counsel approval as to form and legal sufficiency.
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions to establish the following appropriations (REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE):

Fire District S600, Unit 2721

Increase:	Fixed Assets/Equipment, Object 4601	118,604
Increase:	Intergovernmental Revenues – Other Gov Agencies	103,970
Decrease:	Fund S600 - Fund Balance Restricted	14,634
	Public Protection	

REASON FOR RATIFICATION:

Due to a narrow window between a request for a third PumpPod USA DRAFTS unit and the end of the 2022 calendar year to submit for grant/rebates, there was not a sufficient amount of time to obtain formal Board approval. The Fire District is now requesting ratification of these applications that will aid in purchasing a third Pump Pod.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

Mandatory: No
Source of Funding: WSIP, CIP, WGIP
Funding Match Required: No
Impacts on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:	<u>FY 2022-2023</u>	<u>FY 2023-2024</u>
Revenue:	\$103,970	\$0
Costs:		
Direct – Dept.	\$ 118,604	\$0
Indirect – County CAP	0	0
Direct:	0	0
Total Costs:	\$ 103,970	\$0
Net Costs:	\$ 14,634	\$0

Current FY 2022-23 Budget Projection for the Fire District – BU 2721				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	176,915,058	214,127,869	214,127,869	---
Revenue	179,155,685	187,741,525	187,741,525	---
Net Cost	(2,240,627)	26,386,344	26,386,344	---

Fund Balance Restricted for Public Protection is sufficient to cover the requested appropriations.

DISCUSSION:

The Ventura County Fire Protection District is all-risk and summoned to the dynamic public safety needs on land, air, and sea. Staff applied for and the Fire District was awarded grants and rebates of \$67,486 by CIP, \$26,484 by WSIP and \$10,000 by WGIP. These three grant/rebate programs, with a combined grant revenue of \$103,970, will support increasing department training and promotional needs. All three awarded funds (grant and rebates) will be collectively applied to the single purchase of one PumpPod USA DRAFTS unit with a total price of \$118,604 (Exhibit 4). The purchase made with these grant funds

will provide greater safety, service, and positively affect both the Fire District and the region's fire agencies.

In more recent years, statewide drought conditions have directly affected the Fire District's methods of training when it comes to smart water use. Many skillsets in the modern fire service can be simulated. Yet, some must be performed in realistic conditions. The Mobile DRAFTS Unit with the portable hydrant will allow the Department to train our firefighters with full flowing water. It prevents dry-weather run-off into the storm drain surrounding Watershed. The run-off amount is equal to the amount of water saved. Each DRAFTS Unit uses the same (1,890 USFG) tank of water to be pumped continually, saving millions of gallons each year. The flowing of actual water and full flow during pressure and volume calculations must be done in real time, using actual equipment that is not simulated.

That is where the DRAFTS unit proves itself invaluable. The PumpPod USA unit allows full pumping capabilities from multiple engines allowing personnel to figure pressures and volumes, as they would on the fireground. During these evolutions the PumpPod USA unit is able to collect a vast majority of water sprayed to be recirculated endlessly as the training demands. This tool allows the Fire District dynamic training related to all water management functions that personnel will encounter on structure and wildland fires of various nature.

Additionally, these units also offer firefighter safety. Historically, during these drills, firefighting hose lines would be held for extended periods by firefighters. Now, lines are secured to the Pump Pod. This eliminates firefighters holding these lines and frees them to participate in the education being offered, involved in managing the mathematical figuring and operational deployment of these lines from the pump panel at the engine. The two units currently used by the Fire District save millions of gallons annually. This third unit will extend and enhance the water saving innovation and leadership that the Fire District has been spear-heading with the support of the Board.

The County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 389-9704 or Assistant Chief James Scott Quirarte at (805) 389-9726.



Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief

DG/TK/JQ/CR:dm

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – CIP Rebate Program Application
- Exhibit 2 – WSIP Rebate Application
- Exhibit 3 – Calleguas Letter
- Exhibit 4 – Mobile DRAFTS Unit 3 Quote