



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Douglas Schulze, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Adam Rush, Community Development Director

MEETING DATE: December 12, 2023

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2023-195, Approving an Amendment to the Fire Services Contract with Riverside County

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2023-195.

BACKGROUND:

At the September 12, 2023 Meeting, the City Council held a Public Hearing and Adopted an Amendment to the Codified State Fire Code to authorize the City to conduct Annual Business Fire Inspections. At the October 17, 2023 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting, the proposed Fee Schedule was reviewed and recommended to the City Council for approval.

The City contracts for one full-time equivalent (FTE) Fire Safety Specialist, which is currently a vacant position but is being back-filled by an Assistant Fire Marshal while a recruitment is underway. This single staff member is responsible for all fire safety related matters in the City and essentially serves as the "Banning Fire Marshal". As the City grows, the need for additional staffing becomes ever more critical. An increase in fire prevention staff will provide the opportunity for the City to provide inspection-related services to businesses on an annual basis, that is not being conducted at this time.

Each year, the Banning Fire Marshal conducts "state-mandated" fire safety inspections on select business, as specified by law. These land uses include "Residential Care Facilities" (e.g., Congregate and Residential Care Facilities, Transitional Living Facilities, Nursing Homes), "Schools", "Hospitals", and "Apartment Buildings", to name a few. The majority of City businesses do not receive an annual inspection, although it is a prudent measure and has only been deferred due to limited staffing resources.

The Amendment to the County Fire Services Contract will add one (1) full-time Assistant Fire Marshal to the existing Fire Safety Specialist position. By utilizing two (2) FTEs, the City is able to conduct annual inspections of all qualified businesses within the City, a measure that will aid in code compliance and support the reduction of vacant and distressed buildings and businesses within the City.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Fire Code Amendments will allow the regular and routine inspection of qualified businesses and business operations within the City. Creating the annual inspection program will positively contribute to the protection of life and property within the City. In order to complete the program implementation, adoption of a Fee Schedule by the City Council at a later date will be needed to ensure compliance with the Council's policy of total cost recovery related to development and business related activities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff anticipates an increase in revenue generated from additional inspections being performed and a greater capture of expenses through the updated Fee Schedule.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Do not adopt Resolution 2023-195 and provide feedback to staff.
2. Refer this item to the next Budget & Finance Committee meeting agenda.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution 2023-195, Fire Services Contract.docx](#)
2. [Exhibit A - Fire Services Contract Amendment No. 1.docx](#)