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June 27, 2017



The Honorable Robert A Glusman, Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965

RE: Response to the 2016-2017 Butte County Grand Jury Second Interim Report

In accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Board submits the following response to the findings and recommendations of the 2016-2017 Butte County Grand Jury Second Interim Report. The Grand Jury requested a response from the Board of Supervisors, as well as the Chief Administrative Officer. The attached response serves as the official response from both.

Bill Connelly

Bill Connelly, Chairman
Butte County Board of Supervisors

2016-2017 Butte County Grand Jury Second Interim Report
Butte County Fire Services

Joint Response of the Butte County Board of Supervisors and the Butte County Chief
Administrative Officer

FINDINGS

- F1. The present Cooperative Services Agreement between Butte County and CAL FIRE is serving residents and business owners well.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F2. The cost of fire services is outpacing general fund revenues.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F3. County staff have been directed to find other areas outside of fire services to reduce the cost impact on the FY 2017-2018 general fund.

Response: The respondent partially agrees with the finding. Staff presented several recommendations to reduce the cost impact on the General Fund. The Board of Supervisors accepted some recommendations and directed staff to find other areas outside of fire services instead of implementing one of the recommendations.

- F4. Structural, water well and utility repairs and upgrades are needed at county owned stations 41 and 71.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F5. BCFD saves the county \$38,000 annually by maintaining their SCBA equipment as opposed to contracting with an outside vendor.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue contracting with CAL FIRE.

The recommendation has been implemented. At its May 23, 2017 the Board of Supervisors voted to continue staffing the Butte County Fire Department through a Cooperative Service Agreement with CAL FIRE.

R2. The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors address the potential hardship and impact on the rural community when establishing any restructuring plan.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Board of Supervisors has held several public hearings and multiple community meetings to better understand the potential hardships and impacts of restructuring the Fire Department. The Board has adopted some of the staff restructure recommendations and has rejected some of the recommendations, acknowledging community hardships and impacts.

R3. The Grand Jury recommends the upgrade, repair and maintenance of the structural and utility deficiencies at Stations 41 and 71. In addition, bring water wells up to safe potable water standards.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. Stations 41 and 71 are not the only County facilities in need of repair and maintenance. With limited funds, the Board is unable to address every need as it happens. Staff presents to the Board a prioritized list of maintenance and capital projects, and modifies the list as priorities shift and/or funding availability changes. The Board will review recommendations on June 27, 2017 as part of its budget hearings.