



LODI CITY COUNCIL

Carnegie Forum
305 West Pine Street, Lodi

"SHIRTSLEEVE" SESSION

Date: February 3, 2015

Time: 7:00 a.m.

For information regarding this Agenda please contact:

Jennifer M. Ferraiolo

City Clerk

Telephone: (209) 333-6702

Informal Informational Meeting

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Benefits of Returning Brownd-Out Fire Engine 1 Back to Service (FD)

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

D. Adjournment

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Jennifer M. Ferraiolo
City Clerk

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**CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

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AGENDA TITLE: Benefits of Returning Brownd-Out Fire Engine 1 Back to Service

MEETING DATE: February 3, 2015

PREPARED BY: Fire Chief

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Introduce the benefits of returning “brownd-out” fire Engine 1 back into service.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 2009, the reduction of revenues from the recession forced the City of Lodi Fire Department to reduce expenditures by shutting down Engine 1. Despite the cost savings, the brown out of Engine 1 has resulted in reduced levels of service and service delivery impacts. The purpose of this report is to show the benefits of returning Engine 1 back to service.

SUMMARY: The brown-out of Engine 1 has had multiple impacts to the Fire Department as well as the community at large. Browning-out or temporarily closing fire companies, results in a reduction in the City’s daily firefighting and emergency response force. This means that fewer fire companies are available to respond to the same number of emergency requests for service. While all stations have remain staffed, daily emergency response resource levels have varied, resulting in a fluctuating number of in-service companies available to respond to incidents.

Fully staffing Engine 1 will assist with the following:

- Public Safety is increased with additional resources available to respond. Brown-outs naturally increase response time, jeopardizing the safety of the community and firefighters. Seconds count when it comes to fires, heart attack, choking, drowning and trauma victims.
- District One, which includes the downtown business district, would have increased fire protection with the engine back in service. With only Truck 1 responding, the next engine is coming from Station 4. Truck 1 does not carry the necessary equipment or personnel to complete both truck and suppression duties that an engine provides (Attachment 1).
- With the brown-out of Engine 1, Truck 1 is used for calls that normally would be intended for an engine, and is unable to respond to incidents it is suited for. At times Truck 1 is responding to vehicle and rubbish fires without sufficient water and tools.
- During the times of a brown-out, if Truck 1 arrives on the scene first a split-second tactical decision must be made if the vehicle will be used as an engine or perform the duties as a truck, thus leaving a margin of error in not utilizing the vehicle in its greatest capacity.
- Reduced wear, tear, and maintenance on Truck 1, which is being overused as both a truck and engine.

APPROVED:

Stephen Schwabauer, City Manager

- Increase firefighter safety by maintaining a minimum staffing level of 15 firefighters rather than the current 12 firefighters who now must rely on mutual aid resources or a call back of off-duty personnel.
- In the event the Department sends a firefighter with an ambulance to support patient care, the City still has the minimum staffing of 12 firefighters remaining to cover emergency responses instead of declining to nine.
- Reduce the strain on utilizing mutual aid resources. We cannot always depend on mutual aid units being available due to the need to protect their own jurisdictions.
- Complying faster with OSHA standard's "two-in/two-out" safety measure, with additional resources available in the response.
- Personnel injury rate decrease with more firefighters on scene to complete suppression tasks.

The practice of browning-out emergency vehicles has been found to reduce expenditures but at an overall expense to the community. The effects of a disaster (fire, flood, earthquake, etc.) on businesses can have lasting impacts to small communities. According to FEMA and the Small Business Administration, 40 percent of businesses do not reopen after a disaster and 25 percent of those that do, close within a year. It is imperative for the Lodi Fire Department to minimize the damage of a fire and the key to this is adequate staffing.

The National Fire Protection Association standard 1710 (NFPA) indicates that a fire department shall have the capability to deploy an initial full alarm assignment (those personnel, equipment, and resources ordinarily dispatched upon notification of a structural fire) consisting of between 15 and 17 personnel. The NFPA does not recommend standard staffing levels, but its annual report says the number of firefighters per 1,000 people is "a good way to develop a sense of the size of the department relative to population they protect."

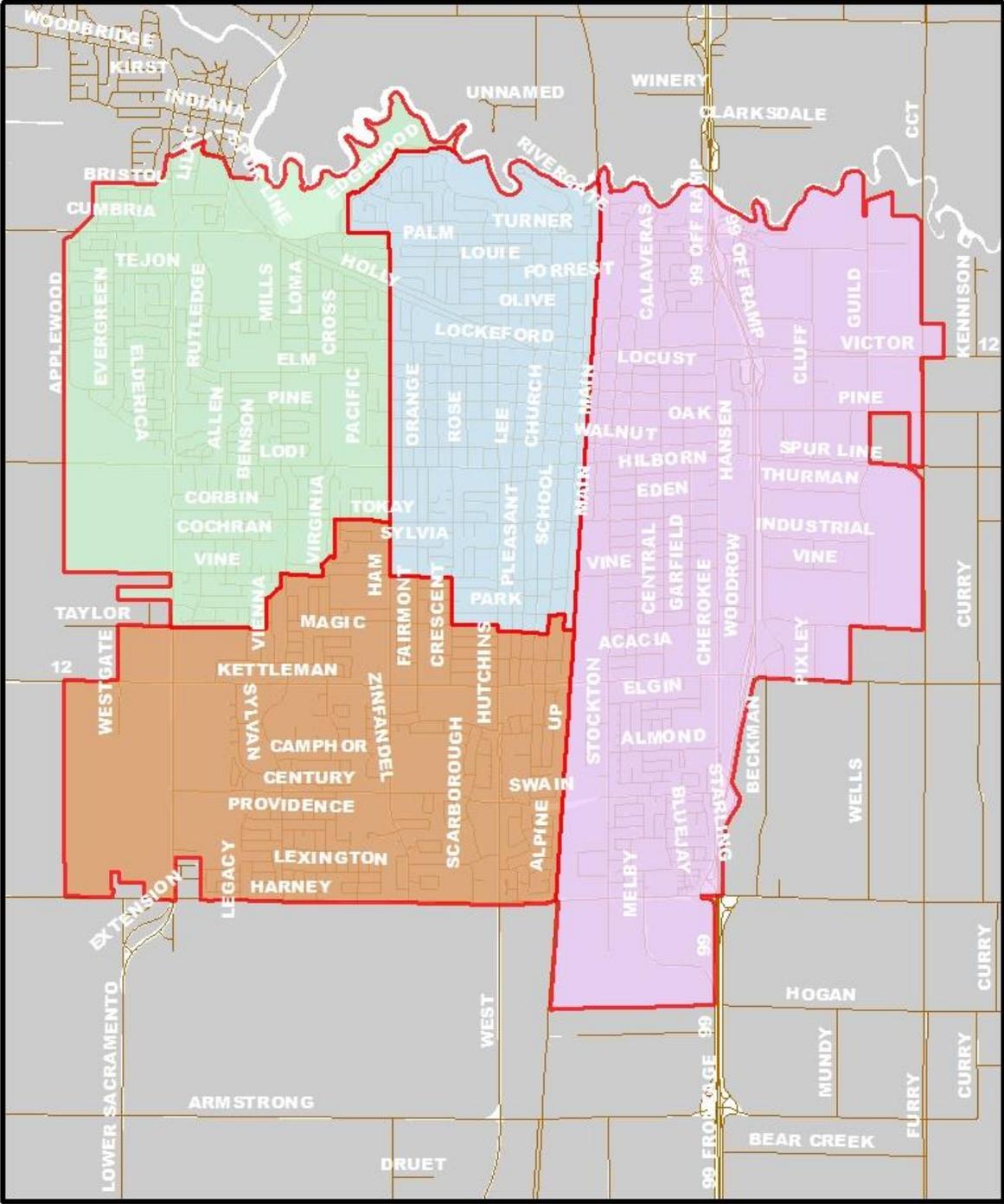
In 2011, the national median number of firefighters was 1 per 1,000 residents, in cities with 50,000 to 99,999 people. With the City of Lodi population of 63,338 (2013, US Census Bureau) the City should have roughly 63 firefighters on staff. At this time the City has 46 firefighters on staff, 25 percent below the national median.

The decision to implement a brown-out was made out of financial necessity. In 2012, the City partially authorized funding to staff Engine 1 on a part time basis, resulting in staffing Engine 1- 34 percent of the year (in service 124 days of the year). In 2013, Lodi Fire was fully staffed enabling the department to put Engine 1 in service for 69 percent of the year (in service 215 days of the year). For a portion of 2014, Lodi Fire was understaffed by six firefighter, therefore only able to staff Engine 1- 46 percent of the year (in service 168 days of the year).

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the City Council consider the benefits of returning Engine 1 to service. The browning-out of Engine 1 has negatively impacted the Fire Departments ability to provide adequate coverage for public safety services and hinders an effective response model. An effective response model utilizes all available resources to their full capabilities, sending the closest appropriate fire apparatus to the call. The Lodi Fire Department is committed to providing the highest levels of service and returning Engine 1 into full service will ensure we meet these standards.

FISCAL IMPACT: Currently Lodi Fire has \$321,080 earmarked in the overtime budget to partially staff Engine 1. The total estimated cost of returning the browned-out Engine 1 back to full service for one year is \$365,000 in additional overtime. This would include the constant staffing of overtime cost for one captain, engineer, and firefighter. In contrast, the cost to hire nine firefighters (one captain, engineer, and firefighter for three shifts) would cost the City and estimated \$1.3 million annually.

Larry Rooney
Fire Chief



Legend

- Fire_Dist 4 Area
- Fire_Dist 3 Area
- Fire_Dist 2 Area
- Fire_Dist 1 Area

Lodi Fire Station Areas





CITY OF LODI FIRE DEPARTMENT

Benefits of Returning Browned- Out Fire Engine 1 Back to Service

Chief Larry Rooney

Council Shirtsleeve Meeting

February 3, 2015



Background



- ❖ In 2009, the reduction of revenues from the recession forced the City of Lodi Fire Department to reduce expenditures by shutting down Engine 1.
- ❖ Despite the cost savings, the brown out of Engine 1 has resulted in reduced levels of service and service delivery impacts.
- ❖ The purpose of this report is to show the benefits of returning Engine 1 back to service.



Summary



- ❖ Browning-out or temporarily closing fire companies, results in a reduction in the City's daily firefighting and emergency response force.
- ❖ This means that fewer fire companies are available to respond to the same number of emergency requests for service.
- ❖ While all stations have remain staffed, daily emergency response resource levels have varied, resulting in a fluctuating number of in-service companies available to respond to incidents.



City of Lodi Fire Department



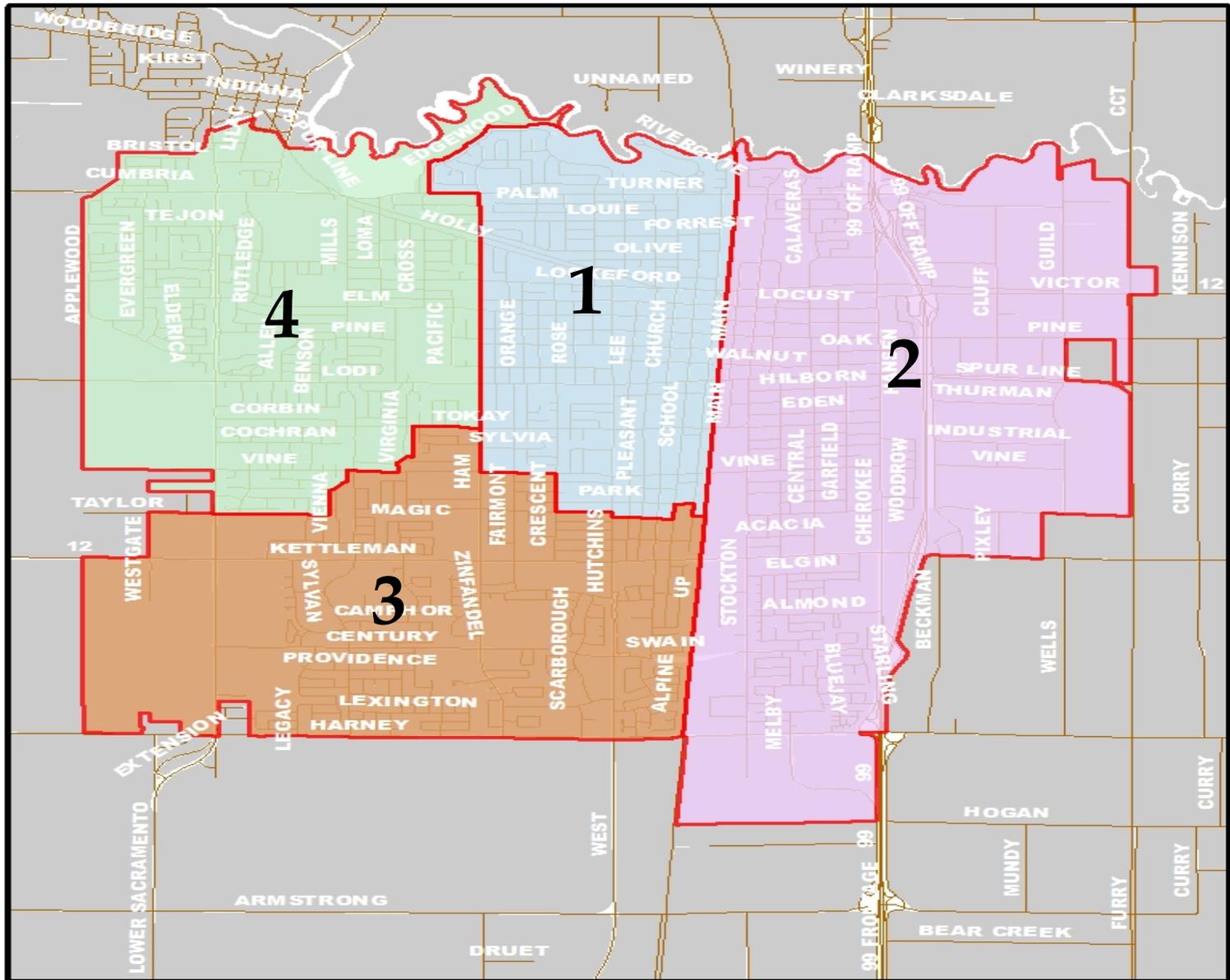
ENGINE/PUMPER

- Carries 500 gallons of water
- Full compliment of hose in various sizes and lengths



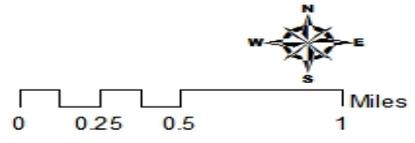
TRUCK

- Carries 250 gallons of water
- Provides forcible entry, ventilation, and extrication



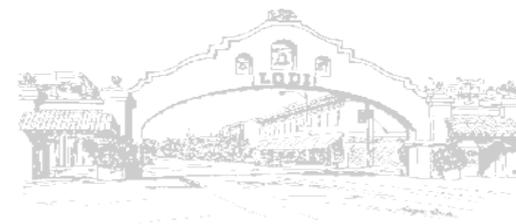
- Legend**
- Fire_Dist 4 Area
 - Fire_Dist 3 Area
 - Fire_Dist 2 Area
 - Fire_Dist 1 Area

Lodi Fire Station Areas





Benefits of Staffing Engine 1



- ❖ Public Safety is increased with additional resources available to respond. Shorter response times when Engine 1 is in service. Brown-outs naturally increase response time.
- ❖ District One would have increased fire protection with service by Engine 1. With only Truck 1 responding, the next engine is coming from Station 4.



Benefits of Engine 1 continue



- ❖ With the brown-out of Engine 1, Truck 1 is used for calls that would be intended for an engine, and is unable to respond to incidents it is suited for.
 - ❖ At times Truck 1 is responding to vehicle and rubbish fires without sufficient water and tools. Therefore an engine is added to the response for support
- ❖ During the times of a brown-out, if Truck 1 arrives on the scene first, a split-second tactical decision must be made if the apparatus will be used as an engine or performed the duties as a truck, thus leaving a margin of error in not utilizing the vehicle in its greatest capacity.
- ❖ Reduced wear, tear, and maintenance on Truck 1 which is being overused as both a truck and engine.



Benefits of Engine 1 continue



- ❖ Increase firefighter safety by maintaining a minimum staffing level of 15 firefighters rather than the current 12 firefighters.
- ❖ Complying faster with “two-in/two out” OSHA Standard safety measure, with additional resources available in the response.
- ❖ Ensuring firefighter safety, thus, personnel injury rate decrease with more firefighters on scene to complete suppression tasks.



Benefits of Engine 1 continue



The practice of browning-out emergency vehicles has been found to reduce expenditures but at an overall expense to the community.

- ❖ The effects of a disaster (fire, flood, earthquake, etc.) on businesses can have lasting impacts to small communities.
- ❖ According to FEMA and the Small Business Administration, 40% of businesses do not reopen after a disaster and 25% of those that do, close within a year.



NFPA 1710 Recommended Standards



- ❖ The National Fire Protection Association 1710 (NFPA) indicates that a fire department shall have the capability to deploy an initial full alarm assignment (those personnel, equipment, and resources ordinarily dispatched upon notification of a structural fire) consisting of between 15 and 17 personnel.
- ❖ In 2011, the national median number of firefighters was 1 per 1,000 residents in cities with 50,000 to 99,999 people.
- ❖ With the City of Lodi population of 63,338 (2013, US Census Bureau) the City should have roughly 63 firefighters on staff. At this time the City has 46 firefighters on staff, this is 25% below the national median.



City of Lodi Fire Department



Totals For the Year					
	In Service		Out of Service		
2012	124	34%	242	66%	
2013	251	69%	114	31%	
2014	168	46%	197	54%	

- ❖ In 2012, the City partially authorized funding to staff Engine 1 on a part time basis, resulting in staffing Engine 1- 34 percent of the year.
- ❖ In 2013, Lodi Fire was fully staffed enabling the department to put Engine 1 in service for 69 percent of the year.
- ❖ For a portion of 2014, Lodi Fire was understaffed by six firefighter, therefore only able to staff Engine 1- 46 percent of the year.



Recommendation



- ❖ The browning-out of Engine 1 has negatively impacted the Fire Departments ability to provide adequate public safety services and hinders an effective response model.
- ❖ An effective response model utilizes all available resources to their full capabilities.
- ❖ Staff recommends the City Council consider the benefits of returning Engine 1 to service



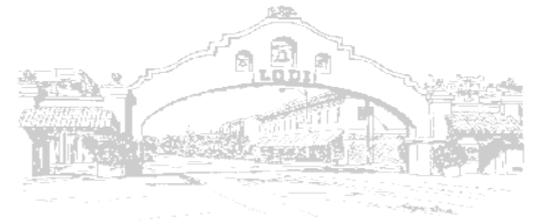
Fiscal Impact



- ❖ Currently Lodi Fire has \$321,080 earmarked in the overtime budget to partially staff Engine 1.
- ❖ The total estimated cost of returning the browned-out Engine 1 back to full service for one year is \$365,000 in additional overtime.
 - ❖ This would include the constant staffing of overtime cost for one captain, engineer, and firefighter.
- ❖ In contrast, the cost to hire nine firefighters (one captain, engineer, and firefighter for three shifts) would cost the City and estimated \$1.3 million annually.



City of Lodi Fire Department



- ▣ Questions or Comments