

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	November 6, 2023
Action Required:	Resolution adoption
Presenter:	Michael Thomas, Fire Chief
Staff Contacts:	Samuel Sanders, Jr., City Manager Michael Thomas, Fire Chief
Title:	Resolution to Approve Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire and Rescue Services Between the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County

Background

In May 2000, the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County entered into an agreement to provide fire and emergency response services to certain areas within Albemarle County. The primary objective of the agreement was to ensure uninterrupted and dependable fire protection while the County developed its own fire rescue system to effectively meet current and future public safety requirements. Initially, the agreement had a duration of ten years. Subsequent agreements and amendments were entered into by the City and County, with the most recent agreement running from June 2018 through June 2023. The City's support over the course of these agreements contributed to the County's ability to plan and open the Ivy Fire Rescue Station and a 24/7 paramedic-level ambulance and fire engine at its Pantops Fire Rescue Station. The long-standing fire services agreement having ended on June 30, 2023, the Departments sought to establish a new agreement to govern their collaboration so that they may continue to provide the highest level of fire and rescue services to the citizens of the City and County.

Discussion

With the goal of enhancing the well-being and quality of life for all community members through the provision of the highest level of public service consistent with the prudent use of public funds, the Charlottesville Fire Department and Albemarle County Fire Rescue entered into a new mutual aid agreement. The agreement represents a transition to a more reciprocal partnership, where both Departments are committed to providing service support without direct financial reimbursement. The mutual aid agreement establishes the terms under which fire and rescue assistance is provided between the jurisdictions. Relevant staff, including the City and County Fire Chiefs and their respective legal departments, have reviewed and approved the agreement.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This agreement aligns with Council's strategic outcome areas of Public Safety and Partnerships. **Public Safety:** Charlottesville provides comprehensive, trusted public safety services and treats everyone with respect and dignity. **Partnerships:** Charlottesville creates avenues for meaningful

collaborations with partners and key stakeholders, such as the County, UVA, and nonprofits, to magnify positive community outcomes.

Community Engagement

n/a

Budgetary Impact

The approval of the proposed mutual aid agreement is being presumed during the formation of the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 25) budget. The FY 24 Albemarle County Fire Rescue operating budget included funding for the final payment for services provided by the City of Charlottesville under the previous fire services agreement. The budget impact of these agreement changes was captured as part of Albemarle County's Fire Rescue multi-year financial and staffing plan. During the prior three fiscal years, under the prior City/County fire and emergency services contract, the average contribution to the City was \$219,000. For FY25, this will now be zero on the revenue side of the fire department's cost center.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached Resolution to approve the mutual aid agreement for fire and rescue services between the City and Albemarle County, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement as approved as to substance and form by the City Attorney.

Alternatives

Attachments

1. Resolution_To Approve City-County Mutual Aid Agreement 9.25.23
2. Mutual Aid Agreement_Fire EMS City-County 2023