



Staff report for meeting date 2/15/2024

Prepared by Secretary/Treasurer Rae Bell Arbogast– *disclaimer: any opinions expressed in this document belong to the author and do not represent the official stance of the district.*

Agenda item 2. Consent Calendar item d) Ratification of USDA Form RD 442-7 This form was required as part of the USDA Vehicle Reimbursement Grant Application. The only section that has not been previously approved as part of the budget process is the last column of the second page, which is a cash flow projection. (more info about the grant application is below under agenda item 4. b) 8 Pending Grants)

I asked our USDA Rep if I should call a special meeting to have the form approved and she did not think that it was necessary. She did tell me that she had an internal deadline of Feb. 15th to submit her projects to the next level which is why there was a rush on this. (The budget sections are more condensed than the PRCSD adopted budget but the bottom line is the same). On the first sheet the first four columns are ACTUAL results, the last Column is this year's adopted budget. Also, on the last page the funds are also condensed in a different manner than on our budget but the totals are actual and match the cash flow history on the adopted budget. O&M (Operations & Maintenance) is where I put the bulk of the General Fire Fund. I put the contingency Fund under Reserves and most of the other reserve funds are under Capital Improvement Fund (because the district has a policy to try and use the reserve funds for capital expenditures) whatever didn't get added to the two accounts listed above got added to the O&M Fund.

In the process of working on this form I discovered that the headers on this year's adopted budget summary sheet were off. I have fixed them, and the corrected copy is posted on the district website under financial information. I also emailed a corrected copy to Van Maddox for his files.

Agenda item 4. a) Correspondence since last meeting.

Incoming none Outgoing State Controller's Report Cover Sheet and copy of FY 22/23 Budget mailed to the State Controllers Office, Sympathy Card signed by firefighters given to Sherri Vieira **Email topics (in & out):** With Blain Boden re: State Controller's report, Sierra County OES re various opportunities and meetings, USDA Rep Robin Yasso re vehicle reimbursement grant application. Corrected copy of budget sent to Van Maddox along with a few questions about the Title III money available to pay for fires, NORCAL EMS re updated protocols and their 17th annual Northstate Prehospital conference, USFS re: surplus vehicles that they have, Sierra County Firesafe counsel re: vegetation clearing grants for homeowners, Golden State Risk Management Authority re: training grant.

Agenda item 4. b) 5 Staff Reports. A full day Red Cross CPR for professional providers class has been scheduled for Sat. February 18th. This is the first part of the Public Safety First Aid Class that is required for first responders every two years. I applied for a training grant from the district's insurance company to help cover the cost of the class. The maximum that they will award in any given year is \$1,000. PRCSD was awarded \$1,000 for both classes. The second part of the class will be held in March with the exact dates TBD.

Agenda item 4. b) 6 Firewise communities. The 2023 annual activity summary to be mailed this month fills one of the requirements for the year (reaching out to community members with information). The cost of the mailer will be submitted to the County for reimbursement out of the Title III firewise \$.

Agenda item 4. b) 8 Pending Grants Last month the board authorized staff to apply for funding from the USDA Vehicle Reimbursement Program for both the Water Tender and the Rescue Truck. It was suggested that possibly submitting three applications could increase our odds of success: one for each vehicle by itself and one for both of them together. After last month's meeting I spoke to Robin Yasso our USDA Rep and she said "no". She reiterated what she had said before and that was to put both vehicles on a single application.

Chief Dorn found a couple of used trucks that fit the bill for the rescue truck with a price tag of just under \$70,000. With taxes that comes to about \$74,000. He also found one that was considerably less (\$40,000) but we went with the higher dollar figure for the application. The big caveat is that under normal circumstances there is a cap on the vehicle reimbursement grants of \$50,000 per fiscal year. We put the application in for \$107,000 (\$74,000 for the rescue plus \$33,000 for the tender) and \$50,000 is only a 47% match (for other types of USDA grants, Pike and Alleghany qualify for a 75% match, but in this case there is a dollar cap). Hopefully by estimating high, we will be able to bring that percentage up by finding a less expensive rescue truck.

The final application was submitted to both the State Clearinghouse and USDA on Friday Feb. 9th. Robin said that we probably won't get a notice of award or denial until June. She was very positive about our application for what that's worth. Evidently there have been a lot of changes at the USDA over the last year. Hopefully it goes in our favor. It is out of our hands now.