

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY - REVISED

Meeting Date: August 15, 2007

Division: Emergency Services

Bulk Item: Yes No

Department: Fire Rescue

Staff Contact Person: James Callahan

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Approval for the establishment of ~~eight~~ nine Fire Rescue field positions, four Firefighter/Paramedic and ~~four~~ five Firefighter/EMT, effective FY2008 which would add one additional personnel on-duty 24/7 at Stations 9 (Big Coppitt) and 13 (Big Pine), and relief coverage for vacation, sick leave, injuries, and offset some of the overtime expense.

ITEM BACKGROUND: See attached memorandum.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: None.

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES: Not a contract.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Approval.

TOTAL COST: \$ ~~514,476.00~~ 576,136 **BUDGETED:** Yes No

COST TO COUNTY: \$ ~~514,476.00~~ 576,136 **SOURCE OF FUNDS:** Fund 141 Reserves

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No **AMOUNT PER MONTH** **Year**

APPROVED BY: County Atty OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

DOCUMENTATION: Included Not Required

DISPOSITION: **AGENDA ITEM #** C43

Monroe County Division of Emergency Services

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MEMO - REVISED

TO: Monroe County Board of County Commissioners

FROM: James Callahan, Acting Fire Chief/Division Director
Emergency Services Division

RE: Agenda Item: Approval for the establishment of ~~eight~~ nine Fire Rescue field positions, four Firefighter/Paramedic and ~~four~~ five Firefighter/EMT, effective FY2008 which would add one additional personnel on-duty 24/7 at Stations 9 (Big Coppitt) and 13 (Big Pine), and relief coverage for vacation, sick leave, injuries, and offset some of the overtime expense.

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The National Fire Protection Association Standards 1500, 1710, and 1720, and state statute require that whenever a team of two firefighters enters a hazardous environment, such as a fire, at least two additional firefighters must stand by, outside the environment, properly equipped and ready to respond immediately should an emergency rescue be needed.

Our current combination system is reliant on the ready availability of volunteers in order to meet this requirement and ensure the safety of all responders and the public we serve. The evolving County demographics has resulted in a decline in volunteer participation resulting in an inadequate number of trained personnel responding to calls. As a result, there is a need for additional career firefighters to provide 24 hour a day/7 day a week coverage.

In the event of a fire in the Stock Island/Big Coppitt area, personnel from both Stations 8 (Stock Island) and 9 (Big Coppitt) are dispatched. Current career responders include two firefighters from Station 8 and one firefighter and one non-fire certified EMT or Paramedic from Station 9, falling short of the above standard. One additional firefighter at Station 9 would provide a sufficient number of personnel to meet this standard, provided they are not on another call. Likewise, one additional firefighter at Station 13 (Big Pine), would bring their total career responders to four firefighters, allowing them to meet this standard as well. This additional career firefighter has been requested by the Big Pine Volunteer Chief, Malcolm Yaple.

~~Two~~ Three additional firefighters are being requested to provide coverage during vacancies created by injuries, sick leave, vacation leave, kelly days, and position vacancies.