



ORANGE COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION IAFF LOCAL 3631



1342 Bell Avenue, Suite 3A, Tustin, CA 92780

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A review of the documents published by the City of Placentia for the proposed "Citywide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services" revealed the following factual inaccuracies, questionable assumptions, and noteworthy observations:

1. Incorrectly states that OCFA has increased costs to the City since 2009 while providing no change in service level, no service enhancements, or improved quality.
 - In a direct effort to assist Placentia with financial relief, OCFA agreed to reduce contract costs to the City by \$232,000 in FY 2016/17, while increasing the level of service.
 - The financial relief was premised on the concept of future movement of Truck 34 to the neighboring City of Yorba Linda, where the Truck would continue serving Placentia but enable OCFA to lower the cost to Placentia. To date, OCFA has left the Truck in place at Fire Station 34. The City receives this very beneficial service and resource for free.
 - With this agreement, OCFA also funded the addition of a 4th Firefighter/Paramedic position in Placentia (three employees to cover three shifts for 24/7 coverage) to convert Engine 35 into an Advanced Life Support engine. As with Fire Truck 34, Placentia receives this very beneficial service and resource for free.
2. Incorrectly states that the City has limited or no control over OCFA costs or the level/quality of services provided, unlike traditional City departments and other contracted services.
 - As a member of the OCFA Board of Directors, the City of Placentia has the ability to participate, influence, and vote on all factors that drive OCFA costs, as well as factors that drive the level and quality of services provided.
3. Incorrectly states that the City proposal achieves the goal of improving upon the level of free protection and life safety services the community currently receives.
 - The City is proposing lesser quantity of personnel, more reserve personnel of lesser training and skill, and lesser depth and breadth of services than the community currently receives from OCFA (See Attachment 1).
4. Incorrectly states that, per the City's existing agreement with OCFA, the City's Fire and EMS needs are currently covered by a 3-person engine company staffed with one paramedic (Paramedic Assessment Unit) at Station 35 in Old Town.
 - As described under #1 above, OCFA enhanced the service configuration for Engine 35 in 2016 to convert the unit to a 4-person Advanced Life Support Paramedic Engine, while simultaneously reducing the costs charged to the City.

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Westminster • Yorba Linda • Unincorporated Orange County

- City Manager Darnien Arrula worked with OCFA on these changes and signed the formal Amendment memorializing these changes (See Attachment 2). However, the City's staff report and all documents regarding this Fire and EMS review inaccurately characterize Engine 35 as a 3-person resource instead of the 4-person resource that it has been for three years.
5. Incorrectly states that the City is currently covered by three paramedics on duty each shift.
- The City is currently covered by four paramedics on duty each shift, including one Fire Captain/Paramedic and one Firefighter/Paramedic on Engine 34 on each shift, plus two Firefighter/Paramedics on Engine 35 on each shift.
6. In the City's projected cost comparison (page 24 of the staff report), the City assumes it can limit annual growth factors to 2% per year (or 10 years).
- This may be highly unrealistic to assume that this growth factor can be sustained for an extended period of time, given inflationary pressures and impacts that influence salary, benefits, fire personal protective equipment (PPE), and fire/EMS capital equipment.
 - The City seems to be assuming it will be insulated from inflationary factors above 2%, which is a respectable goal, but not necessarily a realistic goal.
 - If inflationary factors in the economy and environment are ignored, this use of City "control" will likely render the City unable to retain skilled and trained personnel, resulting in a high rate of turnover and increased recruitment and training costs.
7. Page 41 of the City's response to the RFP for Fire Services says that automatic aid agreements will need to be established with the Cities of Anaheim, Brea, Fullerton, Orange, and Yorba Linda. It further states that Placentia has received letters of intent to enter into these agreements from these cities.
- This implies that a letter of intent was provided by Yorba Linda; however, Yorba Linda is served by the OCFA; therefore, it is unlikely that the City of Yorba Linda provided the implied letter of intent.
 - OCFA was not asked, nor did OCFA provide a letter of intent on behalf of Yorba Linda
8. For EMS, the proposed Agreement with Lynch provides for substantial investment by Lynch, with minimal profit to be allegedly gained by its Agreement with the City, which raises questions as to the reliability of the numbers.

- Per the staff report, Lynch will invest \$400,000 in start-up costs for equipment and \$500,000 to be set-aside in reserves, for a total \$900,000 outlay/investment.
 - This financial investment would be compensated back to Lynch, according to the staff report, with an annual profit margin of only \$80,670.
 - With a \$900,000 initial investment, repaid at a profit margin of only \$80,670 per year, it will require over 11 years of contract just to break even.
9. The proposed Agreement with Lynch requires the provider to enter into an agreement with the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA), which raises questions as to how the City can impose requirement for such an agreement.
- The OCHCA is currently administering a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process for selection of 9-1-1 emergency transport providers to serve each of the five Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) throughout the County, one of which includes Placentia AND other city/county unincorporated areas (Area A).
 - The County has the ability to either extend the current County-administered contracts serving the five EOAs (which were originally awarded based on the County's prior competitive RFP process), or to award new contracts based on the outcome of the current RFP process.
 - The current provider serving the EOA for Area A (including the City of Placentia) is Emergency Ambulance Service.
10. The proposal submitted by Lynch does not propose to handle the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) function for the City.
- If the current Placentia Police Department dispatch center is going to take on this new EMD responsibility (in addition to taking on fire dispatch), the need for extensive training of all dispatchers will be required, oversight needs to be provided by a medical director (such as the OCHCA medical director) and a continuous quality improvement (CQI) process for ongoing monitoring of EMD will be necessary.
11. There are dozens of Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance companies in the Orange County/Los Angeles area, including two of the largest providers in the Country, yet Placentia only received one EMS proposal. This should raise questions as to what other ALS providers observed in the RFP structure and requirements that caused them to opt out of competing.

Attachments

1. Comparison of Service Elements-OCFA Service Model vs. Proposed Placentia Citywide Fire Protection & EMS Model
2. Amendment to Placentia's Service Configuration, Cash Contract Charge, and Fire Services Agreement - May 2016



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Attachment 1

Service Element	OCFA	Placentia Fire & EMS
Total Staffing to Cover Three Shifts – Frontline Career Fire Personnel	36	18
Dedicated, Specialty-Trained Professional Fire Training Officers	Included	None
Dedicated, Specialty-Trained Community Educators	Included	None
Dedicated, Specialty-Trained Nurse Educators	Included	None
Dedicated Medical Doctor -Oversight of Paramedic Services & EMD	Included	Additional unquantified cost
Dedicated, Specialty-Trained Professional Fire Prevention Personnel	Included	None
Fire Protection Engineering Services	Included	Additional unquantified cost
Dedicated, Specialty-Trained Arson Investigators	Included	Additional unquantified cost
Hazmat Response	Included	Additional/unquantified cost
Contract for Fire Chief	Included	Additional/unquantified cost
Contract for New Firefighter Recruit Academies	Included	Additional/unquantified cost
Automatic/Mutual Aid Agreements (Imposition of fees for service will need to be considered since reciprocal services from Placentia are unlikely)	Included	Additional unquantified cost
Specialty Resources (Mass Casualty Unit, Water Tenders, Firefighting Foam Tender, Light and Air Units, Designated Safety Officers)	Included	Not addressed
Hazardous Substance Reporting, Community Right to Know (EPCRA)	Included	Not addressed
State Mandated Inspection Services (Care Facilities, Schools, Assemblies, Housing, Detention)	Included	Additional/unquantified cost
Disaster Planning and Coordination	Included	Not addressed
Compliance Training (FMLA, FLSA, EEOC, Harassment)	Included	Not addressed
Risk Management & Workers Compensation Management	Included	Not addressed
Ongoing Purchasing, Maintenance, Repairs, Replacement, Inventory Management - Fire/Emergency Vehicles, Uniforms, Personal Protective Equipment, Emergency Communications Equipment, Station Supplies	Included	Not addressed
OCFA Cost for Comprehensive, AU-Inclusive Services (FY 2021/22, the 1st year which eliminates city start-up costs)	\$7,429,487	
Placentia Fire/EMS –Partial Costs (FY 2021/22, excluding numerous services with unquantified costs)		\$5,706,131
Placentia Fire/EMS Cost for Comparable, All-Inclusive Services (FY 2021/22, including all services for proper comparison to OCFA)		Unquantified & Undisclosed Cost Exposure



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 57115, Irvine, CA 92619-7115 • 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602

Jeff Bowman, Fire Chief

(714) 573-6000

www.ocfa.org

May 14, 2016

Damien R. Arrula, City Administrator
City of Placentia
401 East Chapman Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870

RE: *Amendment to City of Placentia's Service Configuration, Cash Contract Charge, and Fire Services Agreement*

Dear Mr. Arrula:

This letter is to memorialize future service configuration changes in the City of Placentia, as approved by the OCFA Board of Directors on March 24, 2016. Specifically, the changes include the future movement of Truck 34 from Fire Station 34 in Placentia to neighboring Fire Station 10 in Yorba Linda. In addition, Engine 35 (Fire Station 35) will be converted from a three-person Paramedic Assessment Unit to a four-person Paramedic Engine. These changes will enhance services to the region by providing for a single unit response for the majority of the emergency medical service calls. As observed in past service enhancements, it is anticipated there will be a decrease in advanced life support response times with the single unit response.

As a result of these approved changes, Placentia's cash contract service charge with OCFA will be reduced over two fiscal years, with the first reduction of \$116,000 applied to the FY 2016/17 service charge, and an additional reduction of another \$116,000 applied to the FY 2017/18 service charge.

Attachment A of Placentia's Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services Agreement specifies the number, location, apparatus, and staffing for the fire stations within the City. With the service configuration changes approved by the Board of Directors, this Attachment has been updated to reflect the new service configuration that will be in place upon completion of the two year phased-in implementation (see Attachment).

Please review these proposed changes and indicate your concurrence by signing below. Please return a signed copy to me at your earliest convenience, or let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bowman, OCFA Fire Chief

Agreed and Accepted by Placentia:

Damien R. Arrula, City Administrator

Attachment

**Engine and Truck Companies Located Within the City of Placentia
(Stations Owned by the City)**

Current Service Configuration – April 2016:

Station	Location	Engine/Truck	Staffing
34	1530 N. Valencia, 92870	Engine Company Truck Company	4 4
35	110 S. Bradford, 92870	Engine Company	3

Future Service Configuration following two-year phase-in period:

Station	Location	Engine/Truck	Staffing
34	1530 N. Valencia, 92870	Engine Company	4
35	110 S. Bradford, 92870	Engine Company	4

Note: This listing does not detail other specialty assignments which are deployed on a regional basis to meet City (County) needs pursuant to Sections 3. (a) and 3. (b).