



North Tooele Fire District
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Fire Chief - Kevin Nunn

To: Board of Trustees

From: Fire Chief

Re: Cost Recovery Policy – Fee Schedule

For many years, North Tooele Fire District has simply followed Tooele County's Cost Recovery Model. Up until 2021, their ordinance stated cost recovery was not allowed within the first 2 hours of any incident. After 2021, their ordinance removed the 2-hour rule, but limited the recovery to "aggravated" fire and medical emergencies. The language and procedures have always been unclear and vague. Thus, we have chosen to adopt our own policy and fee schedule.

In July and August, we responded to I-80 for (30) individual emergency calls. These incidents represent over \$1,000 dollars in fuel costs alone. In September, we responded to a vehicle accident at SR36 and Erda Way. Because the vehicles were inverted, we used (9) 40-pound bags of absorbent for the fluid leaks. In October, we responded to MM15 as the only capable rescue unit between Lake Point and Elko, Nevada for a tractor trailer rollover/extrication. I-80 was closed for nearly 8 hours. We cannot recover the costs for these calls without an adopted policy.

We understand there is an administrative burden with any cost recovery model. The Fire Chief, Firefighters, Admin (Kaylee and Cassandra) and our Fire Marshal will have additional responsibilities within keeping records. We believe that the benefits to an adopted fee schedule and policy will outweigh the hassle of increased workloads. The eventual outcome may be an additional admin position that pays for itself and becomes a source of non-tax-based income.

Within the policy, there is language to address fears of "double taxation" and the unfairness of continuing to raise taxes to address service demands. Our Attorney drafted this document and understands our concerns. In October's meeting, I hope to introduce the policy. Before November's meeting, please review the fee schedule and the Cost Recovery Draft Policy, then provide feedback. In November's meeting, we hope to adopt the policy and fee schedule to be implemented 1/1/2024.

Sincerely,

Kevin Nunn, Fire Chief

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