

## RESOLUTION 2022-04

### A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CAREFREE, ARIZONA, DIRECTING TOWN STAFF TO FURTHER REVIEW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM BY HIRING CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST IN A TRANSITION INTO THE AUTOMATIC AID SYSTEM

**WHEREAS**, automatic aid system is consortium of municipal fire departments and fire districts contractually bound to act as a regional fire department where the closest and most appropriate resources are seamlessly dispatched to an incident, and

**WHEREAS**, the Arizona Compact for Mutual Aid is a discretionary system of response where request are made to nearby first responders for assistance in a time of need but that assistance is not guaranteed, and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Report and Recommendations outlines a transition into the more reliable automatic aid program, and

**WHEREAS**, automatic aid consortium have denied Rural Metro's entrance into this consortium and have denied Carefree's requests based upon Carefree's current contractual relationship with Rural Metro.

**WHEREAS**, nearby automatic aid partners have stated that Rural Metro's request for mutual aid assistance in a time of need may not be honored, and

**WHEREAS**, an incremental transition into automatic aid was desired by the Town to permit time for economic development initiatives to develop and generate needed sales tax to offset increase in costs to join automatic aid, and

**WHEREAS**, nearby first responders have stated that mutual aid is not guarantee and they may not respond to a mutual aid request. As a result, these statements have forced the Town to expedite this transitional timeline to join automatic aid with a goal of July 1, 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure this goal is met, one or more fire and emergency service professional will be retained to assist in negotiating a short-term extension with Rural Metro and/or a future Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with an automatic aid partner or develop an independent Town staffed municipal fire department to accomplish a transition into the automatic aid program, and

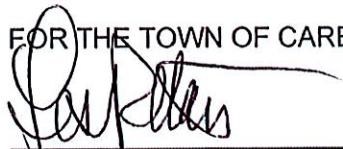
**WHEREAS**, due to the significant startup as well as increased operational costs directly associated with the automatic aid system and the need to create a solvent fiscal plan to pay for these increased costs, a financial analyst will be retained to review the Town's financial capacity, examine the initial and likely future costs for these services and frame fiscal options for the community and Council to consider.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Carefree, Arizona that the Town:

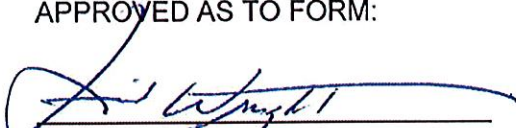
1. Negotiate a short term extension of the existing contract with Rural Metro. Such contract shall be considered for approval at a future Town Council meeting.
2. Execute professional service contracts with one or more fire and emergency service professionals to assist in the negotiation on short term contract extension with Rural Metro and a future contract with an automatic aid provider and compile the "all in" costs or develop an independent Town staffed municipal fire department to accomplish transition into the automatic aid program.
3. Retain a financial analyst that specializes in public sector modeling. Such modeling should evaluate the Town's financial capacity, capital reserves, trends with existing revenues streams, economic development initiatives, current operation expenses, performance of the general fund and the fire fund and the expected costs and financial stability of potential automatic aid partners and options to address any projected structural deficit in association with expanding the fire and emergency service program.
4. Provide for public open houses, newsletters and any other opportunities to seek citizen input (as illustrated in Exhibit A).
5. Based upon this process, provide the Town Council actionable items to discuss and consider to join automatic aid with the goal of July 1, 2023.
6. Authorize Town staff to give full force to implement the above deliverables.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY** the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Carefree, Arizona, this 15 day of February, 2022.

AYES 7 NOES 0 ABSTENTIONS 0 ABSENT 0

FOR THE TOWN OF CAREFREE  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Les Peterson, Mayor

ATTESTED TO:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Wright, Town Attorney