



MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JESSICA MATSON, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
AGENDA ITEM 11.a. – MAY 26, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DISCUSSION AND PROVIDE INPUT AND/OR DIRECTION TO FIVE
CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING
SUCCESSOR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 4403**

DATE: MAY 26, 2020

Attached is additional correspondence received.

cc: City Attorney
City Clerk
City Website (or public review binder)

> From: Sharlotte Wilson [REDACTED]
> Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 10:28 PM
> To: Lan George
> Subject: FCFA pay increase
>

> Dear Councilwoman George,
> I have never written you but I watch all City Council meeting from my home. I have been a very active business owner/ citizen in Arroyo Grande for over 35 years. I'm asking for you NO VOTE regarding FCFA pay raise as this is not the time for excessive spending. They do a great job and in turn are VERY well paid as of today. During this lock down many businesses have had to close their doors like Arana Hair Salon. This is not the time please vote No on pay increases.
> Sincerely
> Sharlotte Wilson
> [REDACTED]
> Arroyo Grande

From: Charlotte Wilson [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2020 10:53 PM

To: Lan George

Subject: Re: FCFA pay increase

Dear Councilwoman George

I realize that AG City Council is not voting directly Tuesday night, but your thought on the matter regarding FCFA will carry a lot of weight as Councilman Storton determines the direction the citizens wish to take. This Tax Paying citizen Charlotte Wilson feels strongly against any increase at all. By the way that includes sales tax increases TBD next Council meeting.

Regards,

Charlotte Wilson

Casey Rickwalt

Sent from my iPad

From: Sean McMahon
To: [public comment](#)
Subject: Five Cities Firefighters L4403 Statement.
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 3:37:51 PM
Attachments: [Final copy AG City Council Letter 2020.docx](#)

Please see attached, I would like to address the council with this letter during the new business on the agenda. Let me know if you have any questions. Sean McMahon [REDACTED]



International Association of Fire Fighters

Professional Firefighters Local 4403

Serving the Communities of Arroyo Grande Guadalupe Grover Beach Halcyon and Oceano

May 26, 2020

Councilmembers

Arroyo Grande City Council

300 East Branch Street

Arroyo Grande CA, 93420

Honorable Council Members:

On behalf your Five Cities Firefighters, I am writing to strongly encourage the city of Arroyo Grande to keep its commitments – to the Five Cities Fire Authority, its firefighters and to public safety – by honoring the Authority’s modest and lawfully negotiated contract with Five Cities Firefighters, Local 4403.

This contract, agreed to by all parties including Arroyo Grande’s representative to the fire board, is based on this city’s last, best offer, presented just last month. It is, in effect, a “coronavirus” contract – its terms were essentially mandated by the fire board.

- It maintains your Five Cities firefighting force as among the least expensive – and the best bargain – of any in the region or in comparable communities
- The extremely modest raises – below the average rate of inflation the last five years – are comparable to those already paid to other City of Arroyo Grande bargaining units
- The contract includes multiple concessions on the part of our firefighters

The City of Arroyo Grande generates 55 percent of the calls for service in the Five Cities Fire Authority service area, yet it pays less than half of the cost. Moreover, the median home prices in Arroyo Grande are substantially higher than that of its partner communities. By any reasonable measurement, the Five Cities Fire Authority – and its firefighters – are a cost-effective bargain for your taxpayers, homeowners,

and the safety of everyone in our region. We consistently have one of the highest call volumes in the region, yet we continue to suffer from underfunding and being understaffed and continue to be one of the lowest paid Fire Departments by regional comparison.

It is important to understand that any decision to go back on its negotiated agreement with our firefighters will likely not save Arroyo Grande any money. The city's contract with the Five Cities Fire Authority has already been established. The modest contract provisions are already incorporated into district's cost, and taxpayers will be on the hook for the dollars no matter what happens to the labor agreement. By going back on its negotiated agreements, the city also opens itself to other legal risks – potential violations of contract law the Fair Labor Standards Act – that could create substantial additional legal expenses.

It is crucial that the city continues to make decisions that support funding, staffing, equipping and training the Five Cities Fire Authority. The alternative would, by any measurement, be more expensive particularly in the early stages, than participating in the Five Cities Fire Authority. It also puts at risk the economies of scale that are essential in a region that lacks the mutual aid resources of larger, urban communities. As the council is well aware, there is no guarantee that either the county or any other entity could make up for the loss of the Five Cities Fire Authority.

Nobody better understands the critical position we face than your firefighters. Indeed, we are the ones who are actually facing it every day. We are on the front lines when our hills are burning, on the scene of medical responses and are putting ourselves at risk during this pandemic. We have proven time and again that we are willing to make sacrifices for the safety and the economic health of the communities we proudly serve. And we have always been asked to do more with less.

Two weeks ago, this city and its partners were insisting that firefighters agree to this contract. We did. Reneging on that austerity agreement now will not save the city or its taxpayers any money. All it does is seek to demonize your firefighters who are putting themselves on the front lines – during this pandemic and in every other emergency we respond to on a daily basis.

We respectfully urge the city of Arroyo Grande to honor its agreements, preserve the integrity and high quality of the Five Cities Fire Authority and work with its firefighters to help maintain the safety and fiscal health of the community we serve.

Sean McMahon

President, Five Cities Firefighters Local 4403