



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2592, **Agenda Item #:** 10.

8/26/2021

Posting Language

Approve negotiation and execution of an automatic aid agreement with Travis County Emergency Service Districts (ESDs), Williamson County ESDs, and the cities of Leander, Cedar Park, Round Rock, and Georgetown to provide services that are mutually beneficial to the fire service agencies and residents in their respective jurisdictions, for an initial term of one year with up to nine additional one-year terms.

Lead Department

Austin Fire Department.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

December 5, 2019 - City Council approved a predecessor agreement between the City of Austin and Travis County ESDs, Williamson County ESDs, and the cities of Leander, Cedar Park, Round Rock, and Georgetown.

For More Information:

Fire Chief Joel Baker, Austin Fire Department, (512) 974-0131; Assistant Chief Brandon Wade, Austin Fire Department, (512) 974-0136.

Additional Backup Information:

“Automatic Aid” is an agreement between jurisdictions to automatically dispatch the nearest available unit(s) to mitigate an emergency situation. These agreements are based on the fire departments’ collective desire to:

- reduce response times to emergency incidents (structure fires and medical emergencies);
- standardize procedures used by firefighters from different agencies working together;
- improve ISO ratings that can lower insurance costs; and
- increase the interoperability of equipment used by partner agencies.

Since January 2020, the Austin Fire Department has had Automatic Aid with Travis County ESDs and was authorized to pursue Automatic Aid with Williamson County ESDs and the fire chiefs from the Cedar Park, Round Rock, Leander, Georgetown, Hutto, Sam Bass and Jollyville Fire Departments. Policy revisions and implementation of dispatching technology resulted in delays and the need to revise the body of the agreement. The fire chiefs from both counties believe that continuation and expansion of Automatic Aid significantly improves the delivery of services to city and county residents, especially those living in neighborhoods along jurisdictional boundaries.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.