# Emergency Communications Strategic Outlook

# Pay Increases

#### **New entry pay ranges**

- Effective September 25, 2022
- 911 Call Taker entry pay increased 26% to \$22.85/hr.
- Police Dispatcher entry pay increased 35% to \$24.42/hr.

#### **Current Positions**

- 911 Call Taker and Police Dispatcher
  - Median pay exceeds top quartile of the market
- 911 Call Takers
  - 7% earn a salary over the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of market
- Police Dispatchers
  - o 98% earn a salary over the market median
  - o 31% earn a salary over the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of market

# Additional Pay



# First Responder Stipend

Employees with a TCOLE Telecommunicator License = additional \$1,800 annually (\$150 per month)



## **Retention Bonus**

Employed as of May 22, 2022= \$3,000 Retention Bonus:

\$1,000 at 90<sup>th</sup> day of employment, 180<sup>th</sup> day of employment, and 1 year of employment

# Recruiting and Hiring

#### **Job Postings**

- Increase in entry pay rates began in May 2022
- Increase in applicants each month since for both 911 Call Taker and Police Dispatcher positions
- Increase in applications translated to increase in hired personnel

### **Application Process**

- Emergency Communications Hiring Team decreased the hiring process timing
  - Currently 8-10 weeks (previously 90 days)
- Stringent TCOLE standards for hiring Telecommunicators
  - Multiple components leads to lengthy hiring process
  - Criminal Background Information checks
  - Drug screening
  - Psychological examination
  - Skills test

## Additional Measures

## **APD Sergeants trained as 911 Call Takers**

- The Emergency Communications Training Team has trained 13 Police Sergeants to work as 911 Call Takers in an accelerated training course over the last 30 days.
- There are an additional six (6) Police Sergeants identified to take part in the next training cadre.

## APD Police Officers trained as Police Dispatchers

- There are two (2) police officers who were former Police Dispatchers identified to take part in an accelerated training course to refresh their Police Dispatcher skills.
- The training is scheduled to begin within the next 30-days.