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23 **WHEREAS**, the second aerial apparatus required for structure fire
24 response time is longer, according to the Austin Fire Association; and

25 **WHEREAS**, response times are directly linked to demand for fire safety
26 services and the availability of department resources, equipment, and staffing; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the following facts demonstrate that growth in the City is
28 outpacing the need for aerial fire trucks:

- 29 • AFD currently staffs the same number of aerial ladders it had in 1995
30 despite population growth from 510,937 to 1,013,293 in 2023;
- 31 • AFD's fleet of staffed fire engines (fire engines are not aerial fire
32 trucks) has grown considerably, from 31 in 1996 to 47 currently;
- 33 • there are currently 230 high-rises, including those under construction,
34 in the City, compared to 75 high-rise buildings in 2000; and
- 35 • the number of large residential structures (mid-rises) in the City grew
36 to 850 in 2022; and

37 **WHEREAS**, when compared to other major Texas cities, Austin has the
38 lowest fire engine to aerial ratio; and

39 **WHEREAS**, the City is in critical need of an additional aerial fire truck to
40 better protect its residents from potential fire hazards, such as wildfires, and major
41 building fire events; and

42 **WHEREAS**, this increased staffing and span of control would contribute
43 positively to the City's wildfire preparedness efforts and bolster our ability to
44 combat and mitigate the devastating impacts of future wildfires; and

45 **WHEREAS**, according to recent reports from AFD, the current estimated
46 time to receive an aerial fire truck after purchase is up to two years; and

47 **WHEREAS**, in 2020, because the need to staff an additional aerial
48 apparatus was justified, an aerial apparatus was purchased and funds were
49 allocated to staff this aerial apparatus, but funding for staffing was subsequently
50 removed from the budget and the aerial apparatus has since remained unstaffed
51 and remains available to be staffed; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

52 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

53 The City Manager is directed to identify funding for one-time costs and
54 recurring staffing costs that would be necessary to place the existing aerial
55 apparatus in service by the beginning of Fiscal Year 2023-24.

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

57 The City Manager is directed to explore appropriate procurement
58 procedures, as soon as practicable, for the purchase of one additional aerial
59 apparatus for AFD, if or when funding is identified. The procurement shall
60 include all necessary operational requirements and specifications for the new
61 aerial apparatus and for the existing aerial apparatus that will be put into service.

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

63 The City Manager is directed to identify funding for one-time costs and
64 recurring staffing costs that would be necessary to place the aerial apparatus into
65 service as soon as practicable where it would provide the most impact once the
66 additional aerial apparatus is purchased and received by AFD.

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

69 The City Manager is directed to study the adequacy of the existing AFD
70 reserve apparatus fleet, determine the needed number and type of apparatus
71 required to ensure adequate capacity under normal and extreme service demands,
72 and provide recommendations to Council on needed adjustments to the AFD
73 reserve apparatus fleet.

74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

75 The City Manager shall identify funding priorities for AFD in addition to
76 aerial apparatus needs, and provide recommendations on topics including, but not
77 limited to:

- 78 • strategies and technology that improve AFD response times equitably
79 across the City;
- 80 • addressing any gaps in services or staffing shortages for AFD that
81 may be identified;
- 82 • investing in immediate needs separate from additional aerial
83 purchases; and
- 84 • investing in repairs and remodels at Fire and joint Fire/EMS stations;

85 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

86 The City Manager is directed to brief the Public Safety Committee on the
87 progress of the procurement, as well as AFD's reserve apparatus fleet and
88 additional recommendations, no later than July 13, 2023.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to brief the Council on the progress of the procurement, as well as AFD’s reserve apparatus fleet and additional recommendations, no later than October 13, 2023.

ADOPTED: _____, 2023 **ATTEST:** _____
Myrna Rios
City Clerk