

Mammoth Lakes Town Council

Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Town support for modification to the County Office of Emergency Services (OES).

Council Meeting Date: 12/1/2021

Prepared by: Daniel C. Holler, Town Manager

Recommended Motion: Provide staff direction on the support for the modifications to the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) including potential financial support starting in Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Summary:

Attached is the staff report and information presented by the County Administrative Officer, Robert Lawton (CAO), on proposed modifications to the County's Office of Emergency Services (OES) to the Mono County Board of Supervisors on November 2, 2021. The report and recommendations were well received, and the CAO was authorized to proceed. I have met with CAO Lawton and discussed the value of having a dedicated OES established within the County. The structure and duties outlined in the report for the OES makes sense as it reflects the need to enhance emergency response capabilities, training, and planning. The coordination of services with the Town, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, other Fire Districts, and with other public agencies and private enterprises will improve emergency response capabilities. Having dedicated staff to lead ongoing planning, training, exercises, and document preparation will assist all agencies.

The County Staff report provides detailed information on the OES being modified to report through the CAO's Office, staffing structure, and proposed budget. The County has funding to implement these changes this year (FY21-22). However, ongoing funding is under review and our initial staff discussion included the possibility of the Town providing some funding for the OES. This provides a stronger link between the Town and County in emergency preparedness and response. It is anticipated that a County Office would be expected to coordinate across the agencies noted above. Having the Town not only engaged in the coordination efforts, but also in some funding of the operation would strengthen the relationship and commitment to emergency preparedness.

Staff is requesting Council to review the attached information and discuss the level of support and engagement by the Town in the general OES operations. Based on the expected value of the Office of Emergency Services, we can plan to participate financially in FY22-23 based on the level of other funding sources through the Town's budget process. Based on current information, it is anticipated that the Town's contribution would be less than \$50,000. The Town and County recognize the need for enhanced emergency preparedness (planning, training, documentation, operations etc.) as we have been called on to respond to a growing list of emergencies (fire, pandemic, severe weather, etc.) over the past few years. The need to train staff to stand up and run an emergency operations center was highlighted in the COVID-19 pandemic as well as with other emergencies. Staff is supportive of the program in the attached County report as we recognize the value it will bring to the Town, County, and region.