JAMES G. FEATHERSTONE INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

April 4, 2014

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FILE NO. 14-038

TO:

Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:

James G. Featherstone, Interim Fire Chie

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2013-14 BUDGET STATUS

FINAL ACTION: Approved Denied	Approved w/Corrections Received & Filed	——— Withdrawn ——— Other
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SUMMARY

The Department's Fiscal Year 2013-14 Adopted Budget was \$550,170,530. During the year, the Department's budget will reflect changes due to various reimbursements such as those for grants or other Council and Mayor approved funding modifications. Based on these changes, the Revised Budget amounts to \$553,554,709. Year-to-date budget expenditures total \$404,486,184.

DISCUSSION

The Department's average payroll per pay period is \$20 million, and average expense account expenditures per month is \$2.7 million. The following reflects the status of the Department's budget as of April 2, 2014.

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2013-14	TOTAL BUDGET CHANGES	REVISED BUDGET	YEAR-TO -DATE EXPENDITURES	PROJECTED YEAR-END EXPENDITURES	PROJECTED SURPLUS/ DEFICIT
TOTAL SALARIES	519,120,042	1,364,377	520,484,419	380,431,640	532,484,419	(12,000,000)
TOTAL EXPENSE	31,050,488	2,019,802	33,070,290	24,054,544	33,070,290	(0)
TOTAL	550,170,530	3,384,179	553,554,709	404,486,184	565,554,709	(12,000,000)

A year-end deficit between \$10 million to \$12 million is projected. The deficit is primarily due to: 1) constant staffing overtime to staff 66 Firefighter III unfunded positions resulting from implementing the Ambulance Augmentation Plan (\$9.6 million); and 2) maintaining the dispatchers on platoon duty (56 hour work-week) rather than implementing the proposed

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change to a 40-hour work week, requiring payment of 16 hours overtime per work week for each dispatcher (\$4.0 million).

Savings have been generated in a few areas such as: 1) civilian salaries due to the number of vacancies and time it takes to fill positions once unfrozen, 2) less than projected expenditures for Sworn Unused Sick Time payments, and 3) reduction in contractual services expenditures. However, these savings have been offset by increased expenditures due to: 1) augmented staffing for Red Flag days and hazardous weather conditions, 2) salaries for overtime and expense cost for maintenance of the fleet, 3) required upgrade/replacement of computers from Windows XP by April 2014, and 4) replacement of turnouts.

The drought in California continues to be of major concern, especially in Southern California. Aside from deploying resources to assist in fires outside of the City, the Fire Department has utilized approximately 57,000 variable staffing hours at an estimated cost of \$3.3 million. The year-end projections include an additional \$1.5 million to be used by year-end for staffing augmentation. The Department will continue to evaluate weather conditions and continue the use of overtime for staffing augmentations to mitigate potential major brush fires and ensure public safety.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board: Receive and file.

Board report prepared by Sandra Ocon, Senior Management Analyst II, Administrative Services Bureau.