

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

**MEMORANDUM**

September 9, 2019

**TO:** Mark Warren, LAHCFD Commission President  
**FROM:** Tony Bowden, Fire Chief  
**SUBJECT:** Rescue 74 Replacement

Commission President Warren,

In preparation for the next fiscal year (FY21), County Fire has identified several capital assets that will need to be budgeted for. The FY21 budget will include a replacement vehicle for the current Rescue 74. The current contract covers the cost of a replacement Type I engine, however in 2006, the Los Altos Hills Commissioners purchased the current Rescue 74 in an effort to increase the level of service provided to the community of Los Altos Hills. The purchase of this new rescue and specialized tools provided additional capability to the crews at the El Monte station including a greater lighting package, taller ladders, low angle rescue equipment, vehicle rescue equipment including the jaws of life, and other specialized rescue equipment to better serve Los Altos Hills.

For next year's budget cycle, I am requesting that the Commissioners discuss maintaining the current rescue capabilities Rescue 74 provides the community. The current batch of Type 1 fire engines (ordered 9/2018), cost County Fire \$541,994.46 each, plus tax and bond costs. We are currently budgeting \$900,000 (not including taxes or bond) for a new rescue that will be replaced in one of the other cities we serve. County Fire estimates the difference to be approximately \$375,000. If the Fire Commissioners would like to retain the current level of rescue capabilities within the district, County Fire requests that the Los Altos Hills County Fire District for FY21, budget for the difference between and Type 1 engine and a rescue.

If it is determined to maintain this level of service, County Fire will continue to fully fund and support the additional rescue training required for the crew members that staff Rescue 74 including but not limited to large animal rescue, low angle rescue, vehicle extrication and forcible entry.