



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Rhoda Mae Kerr, Fire Chief *Rhoda Mae Kerr*

CC: Elaine Hart, Interim City Manager
Rey Arellano, Assist City Manager

DATE: November 13, 2017

SUBJECT: Response to Resolution 20170913-001

During the FY2018 budget process, the following direction was given to staff in the form of a Budget Rider: The City Manager is requested to find a savings for \$255,091 in the Austin Fire Department budget that does not affect safety and bring those recommendations back to Council.

The Austin Fire Department (AFD) identified the ability to reduce their \$200K budget for Legal Fees by half, \$100K. The need for outside counsel to support implementation of the Department of Justice consent decree is not as pressing as in previous years.

AFD has also reduced the Overtime budget by another \$155,091 by re-assigning two additional Staff positions from Recruiting to Operations. This action increases the number of positions temporarily assigned to Operations in FY2018 from 21 to 23. The Recruiting positions were not included in the original positions discussed with Council on August 9, 2017. Since then, the Department of Justice approved moving forward with the cadet hiring process. AFD feels it is now safe to reduce staffing temporarily in the Recruiting section until preparation for the spring 2019 hiring cycle begins in October 2018.