



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-3197, **Agenda Item #:** 9.

10/17/2019

Posting Language

Approve negotiation and execution of an automatic aid agreement with Travis County Emergency Service Districts (ESDs), Williamson County ESDs, and the cities of Leander, Cedar Park, Round Rock, and Georgetown to provide services that are mutually beneficial to the fire service agencies and residents in their respective jurisdictions, for an initial term of one year with up to nine additional one-year terms.

Lead Department

Austin Fire Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

Prior Council action - February 28, 2013 - council approved on consent agreement No. 20130228-009, which approved acceptance of the Automatic Aid agreement between the city of Austin and Travis County Emergency Service Districts.

For More Information:

Fire Chief Joel Baker at 974-0131 or Assistant Chief Aaron Woolverton at 974-0135.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

Public Safety Commission presentation September 9, 2019

Additional Backup Information:

"Automatic Aid" is an agreement between jurisdictions to automatically dispatch the nearest available unit(s) to mitigate an emergency situation. These Agreements are based on the fire departments' collective desire to:

1. reduce response times to emergency incidents (structure fires and medical emergencies);
2. standardize procedures used by firefighters from different agencies working together;
3. improve ISO ratings that can lower insurance costs; and
4. increase the interoperability of equipment used by partner agencies.

Since February 2013, the Austin Fire Department has had Automatic Aid with Travis County ESDs. Over the last year, the Travis County Fire Chiefs have been meeting with Williamson County Fire Chiefs from the Cedar Park, Round Rock, Leander, Georgetown, Hutto, Sam Bass and Jollyville Fire Departments. The Fire Chiefs from both Counties believe that continuation and expansion of Automatic Aid significantly improves the delivery of services to City and County residents, especially those living in neighborhoods along jurisdictional boundaries.