

Solano County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury
August 5, 2008

Part II

Solano County Fire Protection Districts

Issued June 12, 2008

Solano County Sheriff/Coroner and Board of Supervisors responses
to the Grand Jury Report:

Finding #1

Funding for Fire Districts is limited. One of the most critical needs is for fire fighting vehicles.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #1

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

Recommendation #1a

Fire Protection Districts and the Board of Supervisors should work together to identify funding sources for regular replacement of older vehicles. Provisions in the Government Code authorize additional funding sources.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #1a

The recommendation has been implemented. The Board of Supervisors adopted ordinances that provide for the collection of public facility fees for those fire districts who requested imposition of the fees.

Recommendation #1b

Fire Protection Districts and the Board of Supervisors should continue to explore cooperative opportunities to obtain additional funds through creative efforts such as grants.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #1b

The recommendation has been implemented.

Finding #2

Communication is often difficult because equipment and frequencies used by different fire fighting agencies are not compatible..

Sheriff/Coroner's Response to Finding #2

The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. The technology exists to standardize emergency radio communications. Unfortunately the cost of such a system could easily be in the tens of millions of dollars and exceeds the financial capabilities of local government.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #2

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to Grand Jury's Finding.

Recommendation #2

Fire Protections Districts, Cities and the County should standardize and consolidate communications as soon as possible.

Sheriff/Coroner's Response to Recommendation #2

The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. The technology exists to standardize emergency radio communications. Unfortunately the cost of such a system could easily be in the tens of millions of dollars and exceeds the financial capabilities of local government.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #2.

While the Board of Supervisors agrees with the recommendation, it will not be implemented at this time because it is not presently financially feasible.

Finding #3

Dispatching is challenging because dispatchers also serve law enforcement agencies.

Sheriff/Coroner's Response to Finding #3

The Sheriff agrees with the finding of the Grand Jury. The current model of public safety dispatching throughout Solano County is driven by cost, or more accurately, cost avoidance. The current model of utilizing multiple dispatch centers throughout the county, with each dispatch center providing communication services for both fire and law enforcement is not cost effective and does not provide optimum operational effectiveness. The proposed and often discussed model is a central dispatch center for both fire and law enforcement, potentially managed under a Joint Powers Agreement, providing a full array of dispatch services county wide. Under this model fire and law enforcement could be effectively and efficiently dispatched from a centralized location utilizing dedicated dispatchers for each function.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #3

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Finding.

Recommendation #3

The Fire Districts, Cities and County should explore options to develop a centralized Fire Dispatch.

Sheriff/Coroner's Response to Recommendation #3

The Sheriff agrees with the recommendation of the Grand Jury. The current model of public safety dispatching throughout Solano County is driven by cost, or more

accurately, cost avoidance. The current model of utilizing multiple dispatch centers throughout the county, with each dispatch center providing communication services for both fire and law enforcement is not cost effective and does not provide optimum operational effectiveness. The proposed and often discussed model is a central dispatch center for both fire and law enforcement, potentially managed under a Joint Powers Agreement, providing a full array of dispatch services county wide. Under this model fire and law enforcement could be effectively and efficiently dispatched from a centralized location utilizing dedicated dispatchers for each function.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #3

The recommendation has been implemented. The public agencies are exploring options, as noted by the Sheriff in his response to this recommendation.