

CITY COUNCIL

Pedro "Pete" M. Sanchez, Mayor
Lori Wilson, Mayor Pro-Tem
Jane Day
Mike Hudson
Michael A. Segala



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

First and Third Tuesday
Every Month

CITY OF SUISUN CITY

701 Civic Center Blvd.
Suisun City, California 94585
Incorporated October 9, 1868

August 5, 2015

Terry L. Riddle, Foreman
2014-2015 Solano County Grand Jury
Grand Jury
Hall of Justice
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, California 94533

Deliver to: cdclower@solano.courts.ca.gov

RE: 2014-2015 Grand Jury Report Entitled:
Fire Protection: Communication Consolidation

City of Suisun City response to Findings # 2 & 3:

Finding 2

City Fire Departments and Independent Fire Districts in the County have begun to collaborate in acquiring equipment in compliance with Federal mandates.

Recommendation 2

City Fire Departments and Independent Fire Districts implement a "shared consolidation" for the purpose of obtaining equipment, hardware, and software.

Statement #2

While Suisun City agrees in principle that consolidation of some aspects of the fire protection communications problem does make sense, the reality of budgetary restrictions make this concept of a Consolidated Solano Dispatch Center and Suisun City's participation unlikely, unless there was an independent, countywide revenue source that covers all costs of consolidation and the ongoing costs.

DEPARTMENTS: AREA CODE (707)

ADMINISTRATION 421-7300 ■ DEVELOPMENT SERVICES 421-7335 ■ BUILDING 421-7310 ■ FINANCE 421-7320
FIRE 425-9133 ■ RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES 421-7200 ■ POLICE 421-7373 ■ PUBLIC WORKS 421-7340
SUCCESSOR AGENCY 421-7309 FAX 421-7366

City of Suisun City response to: 2014-2015 Grand Jury Report

Entitled: Fire Protection: Communication Consolidation

The Grand Jury Report indicates the following benefits of consolidation, with Suisun City's analysis of effect with each point.

- 1) *Reduced overhead costs*
 - a) **Suisun PD now manages the dispatch center with a patrol sergeant as an extra duty assignment with no separate budgetary requirements. If the dispatch function for fire was moved to a different location, Suisun PD would not be able to eliminate dispatch positions.**
- 2) *Shared Administration (see Glossary -Joint Power Authority)*
 - a) **Suisun PD now manages the dispatch center with a patrol sergeant as an extra duty assignment with no separate budgetary requirements.**
- 3) *Merged employee positions*
 - a) **Suisun City dispatchers also do several other clerical assignments in the office. Therefore there would not be any savings in personnel would be accomplished.**
- 4) *Common facility*
 - a) **A new common dispatch facility means additional costs in utilities, maintenance, and janitorial services.**
- 5) *Shared equipment and maintenance costs*
 - a) **Suisun City has existing equipment and maintenance agreements that would remain essentially unchanged for PD dispatch.**
- 6) *Improvement in emergency response time during medium and large incidents*
 - a) **Improvements in response times and resource management can be realized by technology and software, the general solution is to make available to all CAD systems a real time picture of where all fire resources are and what units are available for further assignments. This approach would be less costly than the full consolidation.**
- 7) *Shared costs for training and operations*
 - a) **For Suisun City, consolidation would increase our costs because we would be supporting two dispatch operations versus one.**
- 8) *Reduction in radio dispatch duplication*
 - a) **While we agree there is duplication, in Suisun City, PD will continue to operate the same dispatch center with all the now existing costs.**
- 9) *Community and firefighter safety would improve*
 - a) **Community and firefighter safety comes from having a common, clear, and inclusive operational picture of resources. This could be accomplished through technology at a reduced cost.**

City of Suisun City response to: 2014-2015 Grand Jury Report

Entitled: Fire Protection: Communication Consolidation

10) *Costs would be reduced over a period of time*

- a) **Some costs may be reduced if Suisun were able to reduce personnel in the existing dispatch center. However, our personnel are shared and assigned to more than just dispatch duties so it is doubtful any savings would be found.**

Suisun City agrees with the County Chiefs statement below to the extent that if a reliable, continuing, and adequate funding source for all costs can be identified, such as a countywide public safety tax. We would be able to reconsider participation in a consolidated fire dispatch.

"The County Fire Chiefs Association support the concept of "shared consolidation" (sometimes referred to as "functional consolidation") for the acquisition of equipment, hardware and software providing that there is a lead authority appointed, an inclusive workgroup of representative fire agencies formed and that appropriate and sustainable funding sources and savings independent of current department budgets are identified and allocated to further the concept".

Finding 3

Fire communications consolidation will improve public safety.

Recommendation 3

Implement fire communications consolidation to enhance public safety.

Statement #3

- b) **Community and firefighter safety comes from having a common, clear, and inclusive operational picture of resources. This could be accomplished through technology at a reduced cost. The City of Suisun City is not in a position financially to consolidate at this time or in the foreseeable future for the above reasons.**

Additional Information:

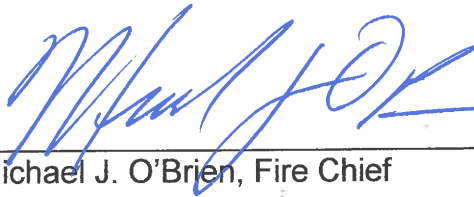
It should be noted that all the county fire districts, the cities of Rio Vista and Dixon are currently dispatched by Solano County Dispatch on a VHF frequency. The cities of Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City, Vallejo, and Benicia all have individual dispatch centers with independent CAD systems. These CAD systems currently do not connect and exchange information with each other. All dispatch centers are controlled by the law enforcement agencies where the dispatch center is located. Most of the fire dispatch functions are budgeted through the law enforcement budgets.

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The single most pressing issue for safety and efficiency in dispatching fire units is the ability to identify the resources needed and assigned them without delay. Currently, this is accomplished by individual dispatch centers very easily until units from a department not dispatched by that center are needed. Then, a number of phone calls are needed to identify and request the additional units needed for the response.

An interface linking all CAD systems, or, at the minimum, software that reads resource availability and assignment data from each CAD in real time, and allows the resource tracking data to be seen in all dispatch centers and in the field would be a worthwhile improvement. One of the greatest concerns is the ability to identify available fire units when needed and assign them to a large mutual aid response quickly. The second need, especially for communities is to be able to judge are how many resources are still available in the county during a large event for another big event to start. A mixture of technology and software may be available to do this. The costs would much cheaper than the proposed consolidation with new building, equipment, and personnel.



Michael J. O'Brien, Fire Chief



Suzanne Bragdon, City Manager