



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** September 16, 2025

**TO:** Dean Albro, City Manager

**FROM:** Brian Fallon, Fire Chief  
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**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Second Amendment to Cooperative Dispatch Agreement Between Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District and the City of Lompoc

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council approve and direct the City Manager to execute the Second Amendment to Cooperative Dispatch Agreement Between Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District (District) and the City of Lompoc (Second Amendment) incorporating three new appendices: Appendix A – Financial Calculations; Appendix B – Communications; and Appendix C – Call Distribution Variances (Attachments 1, 1-A, 1-B, 1-C).

### **Background:**

Lompoc is a participating member of the Regional Dispatch Agreement (Agreement) (Attachment 2) established in November 2021 to coordinate and streamline emergency dispatch services among public safety agencies within the operational area. Under the original Agreement, the parties agreed to work cooperatively to establish a regional communications center that would provide dispatch services for fire and emergency medical response within Santa Barbara County in order to facilitate better call response times. The regional communications center became operational on May 13, 2025, and began providing dispatch services to Lompoc on May 29, 2025. With the initiation of dispatch services, the parties recognized the need for increased clarity, accountability, and operational transparency in the Agreement, which has prompted partner agencies to work together to identify necessary updates to the Agreement.

These proposed additions do not alter the core operational or governance structure of the Agreement but serve to clarify and document critical areas that have evolved in practice and policy since the Agreement's inception.

**Discussion:**

**Revisions to the Agreement**

The only substantive change to the body of the Agreement made in the Second Amendment is to update the commencement date of the Agreement to May 29, 2025, which is the date the regional communications center began providing regional dispatch services to the City. This same revision also revises the termination date for the original term to be June 30, 2030. This brings the commencement date and termination provisions of the original agreement into alignment, as the original agreement provided that no party could terminate the agreement during the first five years after the communications center becomes operational, except under limited circumstances (i.e., termination due to non-appropriation of funds or as the result of a breach by the other party).

The Second Amendment also makes minor clarifying changes related to required equipment and operating protocols related to the Computer Aided Dispatch System and mobile devices that will be used under the Agreement.

Additionally, the Second Amendment provides substantive updates to the Appendices described in more detail below.

*Appendix A – Financial Calculations*

This appendix provides a standardized method for determining each participating agency's share of regional dispatch costs. The description considers call volume, incident calculation methodology, and an agency billing schedule. It ensures equitable and predictable cost distribution, supporting long-term budget planning for all jurisdictions. The original Agreement provided that the District would be responsible for the initial expenditures associated with establishing the communications center and then allocated costs to participating agencies in two ways: (1) one group of defined costs shared equally by all participants; and (2) all other expenses shared proportionately based on call volume.

The Second Amendment revises Appendix A to update and expand the costs that would be shared equally and to define the costs that would be paid proportionately based on call volume. These changes add clarity regarding each party's responsibility for the communications center's operating costs and better reflect the actual costs of operations. The Second Amendment also includes a 5% markup to allow the District to recover its administrative costs arising as a result of the Agreement, which were not directly addressed under the original agreement. Lastly, the revised Appendix A in the Second Amendment eliminates the requirement for quarterly contributions from all participating agencies to a capital replacement fund and replaces that with a provision providing that all agencies will share equally in the cost of any capital asset charges related to operation of the communications center.

### *Appendix B – Communications*

Appendix B outlines the technical infrastructure, interoperability standards, and system performance benchmarks for the regional communications network. This includes radio tower locations and system responsibilities. This appendix is intended to improve system reliability and ensure compliance with public safety communication standards. The original Agreement provided the framework for this information which is updated in the revised Appendix B in the Second Amendment based on actual operations.

### *Appendix C – Call Distribution Variances*

The original Appendix C identified specific City fire response units that would be subject to the requirements in Section VIII.A.4. of the original Agreement. With the updates to the Agreement, the original Appendix is no longer needed and is replaced in its entirety with a new Appendix C as part of the Second Amendment. Recognizing that variances in call volume among participating agencies may lead to perceived or actual service imbalances, the revised Appendix C introduces a monitoring and review mechanism to address these call distribution variances. The framework guides commitment to collaboration and resolution mechanisms. It also outlines specific language signaling the intent of the parties that the agreement is not intended to result in a transfer of jurisdictional responsibility. For a more detailed explanation of the three Second Amendment and Appendixes A-C, please see the attached Memo to Partner Agencies (Attachment 3).

### **Fiscal Impact:**

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the approval of the appended documents. Appendix A provides transparency in the calculation of costs per agency. The indirect costs reflect a flat 5% of total costs (allocated costs per call plus share of fixed costs) to allow the District to recover its administrative costs. These costs are already built in to the existing structure and are already in the existing budget, so they will have no additional fiscal impact. However, the financial calculation appendix will influence future cost-sharing models among participating agencies, allowing for more consistent and transparent budget forecasting.

### **Conclusion:**

The addition of these appendices to the existing Regional Dispatch Agreement enhances operational transparency, defines technical and regulatory parameters, and supports continued regional collaboration in the delivery of emergency dispatch services. Staff recommends approval of these additions as a proactive measure to strengthen interagency coordination and public accountability.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian Fallon, Fire Chief

September 16, 2025

Approval of Second Amendment to Cooperative Dispatch Agreement

Page 4 of 4

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

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Dean Albro, City Manager

- Attachments:
- 1) Second Amendment to Cooperative Dispatch Agreement
    - 1-A) Appendix A – Financial Calculations
    - 1-B) Appendix B – Communications
    - 1-C) Appendix C – Call Volume and Equity Framework
  - 2) Cooperative Dispatch Agreement
  - 3) Partner Agreement Memo