

City Council gives Fire Chief a raise

March 4, 2024



Crescent City councilors approved a \$28,516 dollar raise for Crescent Fire Protection District chief Kevin Carey.

Carey assumed the Fire Chief position following the passing of Steve Wakefield. Carey assumed the position in June of 2022 at a salary of \$121,484 per year.

City Manager Eric Wier presented the City's responsibility in the challenge to recruit highly qualified personnel and how the Fire chief plays a critical role in ensuring public safety and managing emergency response services.

The Fire Chief is a contract department head for the City providing services to the Crescent Fire Protection District through the Emergency and Fire Response Services Agreement.

In 2021, the Arcata Fire District commissioned a compensation study that compared ten other similar Fire services agencies. The salary range was \$123,000 to just under \$150,000. The proposed new salary range has been raised to \$152,000. Chief Carey will now be compensated at the maximum level of \$152,000 per year, plus benefits.

Duties of the Chief include the following:

- Fire Operations Chief for Crescent City Fire and Rescue responsible for the management and training of approximately 25 volunteers and three career captains.
- Providing up to 84 hours per week of on-call duty coverage.
- Fire administrator for the Crescent Fire Protection District responsible for the District budget and reporting to the District Board.
- City Fire Chief reporting to the City Manager and
- City and District Fire Inspector.

The total annual fiscal impact for the proposed salary range is an increase of \$29,832 in wages and \$8,966 in benefits. Per the Emergency and Fire Response Services Agreement, the Fire Chief personnel expenses is equally shared by the City and the District.

The Council voted unanimously in approving Chief Kevin Carey's salary and benefits package.