



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Agenda

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

12 noon

**Orange County Fire Authority
Regional Fire Operations & Training Center
Classroom 1**

**One Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602**

Committee Members

**Katrina Foley, Chair • Connor Traut, Vice Chair
Ross Chun • Joe Kalmick • Anne Mallari • Donald Wagner • Chris Duncan**

NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

This meeting is open to the public. Committee members will participate in person. There are several alternative ways to make comments including:

In Person Comments at Meeting: Resolution No. 97-024 established rules of decorum for public meetings held by the Orange County Fire Authority. Resolution No. 97-024 is available from the Clerk of the Authority.

Any member of the public may address the Committee on items within their subject matter jurisdiction, but which are not listed on this agenda during PUBLIC COMMENTS. However, no action may be taken on matters that are not part of the posted agenda. We request comments made on the agenda be made at the time the item is considered and that comments be limited to three minutes per person. Please address your comments to the Committee and do not engage in dialogue with individual Board Members, Authority staff, or members of the audience.

If you wish to speak, please complete a Speaker Form identifying which item(s) you wish to address. Please return the completed form to the Clerk of the Authority prior to the item being considered. Speaker Forms are available at the entryway of the meeting location.

E-Comments: Alternatively, you may email your written comments to coa@ocfa.org. E-comments will be provided to the Committee members upon receipt and will be part of the meeting record as long as they are received during or before the Committee takes action on an item. Emails related to an item that are received after the item has been acted upon by the Committee will not be considered.

This Agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action or discussion shall be taken on any item not appearing on the following Agenda. Unless legally privileged, all supporting documents, including staff reports, and any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after the posting of this agenda are available for review at the Orange County Fire Authority Regional Fire Operations & Training Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602 or you may contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 Monday through Thursday, and every other Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and available online at <http://www.ocfa.org> under Board & Committee Agendas/Minutes.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and [Board of Directors policy](#), if you need reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please complete the [ADA Reasonable Accommodation Form](#) available on the Agency's website and email to COA@ocfa.org, or you may contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 during regular business hours to submit your request orally. Please notify us at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Authority to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Foley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Kalmick

ROLL CALL by Clerk of the Authority

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please refer to instructions on how to submit a public comment on Page 1 of this Agenda.

1. PRESENTATION

No items.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters on the consent calendar are considered routine and are to be approved with one motion unless a director or a member of the public requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Minutes for the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee Meeting

Submitted by: Maria Huizar, Clerk of the Authority

The record will reflect that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Recommended Action:

Approve the Minutes for the January 17, 2024, Regular Meeting as submitted.

B. Quarterly Public Affairs Update

Submitted by: Matt Olson, Director of Communications

Recommended Action:

Receive and file.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Legislative Report

Submitted by: Robert Cortez, Assistant Chief/Business Services Department

Recommended Action:

Review the proposed Legislative Report and direct staff to place the item on the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting of March 28, 2024, with the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee recommendation to receive and file the Legislative Report and adopt the recommended bill positions, in alignment with the Board-adopted Legislative Platform.

B. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Submitted by: Robert Cortez, Assistant Chief/Business Services Department and Maria D. Huizar, Clerk of the Authority

Recommended Action:

Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2024.

REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – The next regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury and as required by the State of California, Government Code § 54954.2(a), that the foregoing Agenda was posted in the lobby and front gate public display case of the Orange County Fire Authority, Regional Training and Operations Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA, not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK:

- Legislative Quarterly Update
- Public Affairs Quarterly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Executive Committee
Board of Directors
Budget & Finance Committee

Thursday, March 28, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 28, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 12 noon

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Legislative and Public Affairs Committee
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
12:00 Noon**

**Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Classroom One
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee was called to order on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 12:04 p.m. by Chair Foley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Chun led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Katrina Foley, County of Orange, Chair
Connor Traut, Buena Park, Vice Chair
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo
Chris Duncan, San Clemente
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach
Anne Mallari, Cypress

Absent: Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Deputy Chief TJ McGovern
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
Director of Communications Matt Olson
Assistant Chief Shane Sherwood
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Assistant Chief Tim Perkins
Assistant General Counsel Michael Daudt

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

1. PRESENTATION

No items.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Chun and second by Director Traut, approved 6-0 Agenda Item No. 2A (Director Wagner absent).

A. Minutes for the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee Meeting

The record will reflect that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Action: Approve the Minutes for the October 18, 2023, Special Meeting as submitted.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Legislative Quarterly Update

Assistant Chief Cortez provided a report of the Legislative Quarterly Update and introduced Lisa Barkovic of Holland & Knight, followed by John Moffatt and Geoff Neill of Nielsen Merksamer, who provided Legislative Updates from U.S. Congressional Affairs and the State of California Legislature, respectively.

On motion Director Kalmick and second by Director Chun, approved 6-0 (Director Wagner absent) to receive and file the Legislative Quarterly Update.

B. Public Affairs Annual Report

Communications Director Olson presented the Public Affairs Annual Report with a presentation of video highlights of significant OCFA events throughout last year.

On motion of Director Chun and second by Director Traut, approved 6-0 (Director Wagner absent) to receive and file the report.

REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Foley adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee
March 20, 2024

Agenda Item No. 2B
Consent Calendar

Quarterly Public Affairs Update

Contact(s) for Further Information

Matt Olson
Director of Communications

MattOlson@ocfa.org

714.573.6028

Summary

Due to the robust Year-in-Review Public Affairs report recently presented at the January 17, 2024, L&PAC meeting, this Consent Calendar item is being submitted in lieu of the Discussion Calendar report typically provided by Corporate Communications. It includes much of the usual data, albeit in written form and covering a more condensed window of time given that three months have not passed since the last L&PAC meeting.

Prior Board/Committee Action

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Receive and file.

Impact to Cities/County

Not Applicable.

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable.

Background

In the two months since L&PAC last met, the Corporate Communications team has built upon their record-setting success of 2023 through a variety of endeavors in Community Education, Multimedia, Social Media, DEI, and Media Relations. The attached data provides a snapshot of that work, including our upcoming Secondary Social Media Accounts project for OCFA.

Attachment(s)

Public Affairs Quarterly Data (January 1, 2024, to March 11, 2024)



In the two months since the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee last met, the Corporate Communications team has built upon their record-setting success of 2023 through a variety of endeavors in Community Education, Multimedia, Social Media, DEI, and Media Relations. The attached data provides a snapshot of that work.

Community Education Data - 1.1.24 to 3.11.24

<u>Event Type</u>		<u>YTD 2023</u>	<u>Q1 2024</u>
Community Events		493	7*
Station Tours		356	89
School Visits		289	35
Presentations		155	11
Car Seat Installations		185	19
CERT		51	9
Ride Along		111	26
Individual Smoke Alarm Installation		9	0
	Total	1649	196

*Community Events are typically less prominent in the first months of the new year. This number will spike dramatically as we get into spring/summer.

Multi-Media Data - 1.1.24 to 3.11.24

<u>Event Type</u>		<u>2023</u>	<u>Q1 2024</u>
Video Shoots / Photo Shoots		97	44
Ask the Chief		3	1
Podcasts		5	2
Live Streamed Events		19	2
Events		33	12
	Total	157	61

Chief's Monthly Bulletins

Chief's Bulletin to BOD, CMs, All Personnel, and All OCFA Retirees		<u>2023</u>	<u>Q1 2024</u>
Bulletins Sent		11	2
Number of Opens		37,000	4,603
Total Unique Clicks		2,425	473

Social Media - 1.1.24 to 3.11.2

<u>Social Media</u>		<u>YTD 2023</u>	<u>Q1 2024</u>
Total Followers		238,536	+6,001
Impressions		31.3M	4.3M
Engagements		1.7M	257,787

Equity, Inclusion, & Recruitment on Social Media

<u>Social Media Equity & Inclusion Posts</u>		<u>YTD 2023</u>	<u>Q1 2024</u>
Number of Posts		59	23
Impressions		565,154	142,165
Engagements		49,063	9,496

Secondary Social Media Accounts

Currently, there is only one authorized OCFA social media account on each of the major social media platforms (Facebook; Instagram; X, and LinkedIn). In the past two years, those accounts have garnered nearly five million engagements, and over 70 million impressions.

We are now building on that momentum by creating OCFA-approved secondary social media accounts, empowering us to not only better represent the all-hazard nature of our agency, but also share certain division- or community-specific messages directly with the followers who live or work in those respective areas. Each of our divisions will now have their own OCFA social media account, and our goal is to have the program launched no later than June of 2024.

Media Relations



From January 1, 2024 to March 11, 2024, OCFA has garnered **\$29M in earned media** coverage across **3,430 media pieces**, including articles, radio spots, and television features. In 2023, our total earned media coverage reached nearly \$300M.

Annual Campaigns - Internal and External



Throughout January, the OCFA and Orange County Professional Firefighters Local 3631 partnered to produce our annual Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month digital newsletter. This agency-wide call to action aims to establish OCFA as a national model for best practices in cancer prevention, and we encourage all personnel to continuously review all four newsletters.

Upcoming annual campaigns include Drowning Prevention, Wildfire Prevention, Mental Health Awareness Month, Suicide Awareness & Prevention, Lithium Ion Safety, and various Smoke Alarm installation events in partnership with Red Cross.

Morale Officers



As always, Corporate Communications has been active creating innovative content that bolsters OCFA pride and enhances our safety messages with a broader community. Case in point, our OCFA Post Super Bowl Press Conference video went viral across the fire service, prompting widespread engagement and other fire agencies reaching out for guidance on how to produce similar work!



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee
March 20, 2024

Agenda Item No. 3A
Discussion Calendar

Legislative Report

Contact(s) for Further Information

Robert Cortez, Assistant Chief
Business Services Department

robertcortez@ocfa.org

714.573.6012

Summary

This item is submitted to inform the committee of legislation that staff has identified for tracking and in some cases for adopted positions.

Prior Board/Committee Action

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Review the proposed Legislative Report and direct staff to place the item on the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting of March 28, 2024, with the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee recommendation to receive and file the Legislative Report and adopt the recommended bill positions, in alignment with the Board-adopted Legislative Platform.

Impact to Cities/County

Not Applicable.

Fiscal Impact

Not Applicable.

Background

The attached Legislative Report provides an update on the State's budget deficit and other relevant legislative and budgetary activity taking place at the State and Federal level. Additionally, the report provides a matrix of bills that are of interest to the OCFA with recommended bill positions based on Executive Management and State lobbyist review. Staff and our lobbyists will provide an oral report and solicit input and direction as needed from the Committee.

Regarding the 2024 State bill matrix with recommendations (Attachment 2), a recommended position of "support or oppose", once adopted, may result in a letter to the author. Bills identified with a recommendation to "monitor," will be tracked for additional amendments or analysis that may help clarify impacts. As bills are amended, staff will return to the committee for further discussion and direction.

Attachment(s)

1. State Lobbyist Report
2. 2024 State Bill Matrix with Recommendations
3. Federal Lobbyist Report

ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT
PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL

Attachment 1

TO: Robert C. Cortez
Assistant Chief, Business Services
Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA)

FROM: John Moffatt
Geoff Neill

DATE: March 13, 2024

RE: 2024 Legislative Report

State Budget Deficit

After the Legislative Analyst's Office estimated that the state would be facing a \$68 billion revenue shortfall, as reported to this committee in December, the Governor in January announced his Administration's estimate that the deficit would only be \$58 billion. January tax revenues promptly fell short of expectations, and the LAO's new deficit estimate is \$73 billion. The LAO also detailed \$15.6 billion of one-time and temporary spending that could be pulled back or reduced, including several wildfire-related programs. The Governor will have a chance to update his estimate when he releases his revised budget proposals in May.

To deal with the shortfall, the Governor in January proposed some cuts (\$11.9 billion), many delays (\$7.2 billion), and using some of the state's reserves (\$18.8 billion).

Among the categories of cuts are \$1.2 billion to various housing programs and \$350 million of legislative requests. The \$3.8 billion of additional MCO Tax support for Medi-Cal is categorized as "internal borrowing." Also of interest from the budget proposal, CAL FIRE continues to pursue changing

from a 72-hour workweek to a 66-hour work week over five years beginning this coming November.

The Senate this week has landed on a plan for early action on the budget, some of which if passed and signed could help the state achieve some extra savings, and all of which gives them and the Governor a smaller deficit to solve for this summer. Their plan reportedly includes:

- Cuts to programs - \$3.4 billion
- Deferrals - \$3 billion
- Rainy Day Fund - \$12.2 billion
- MCO Tax borrowing - \$3.8 billion
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund shifts and cuts - \$2.3 billion
- Energy funding cuts/delay - \$2 billion
- UC and CSU deferral - \$500 million
- Cut to school facilities - \$500 million
- Cut to early education programs - \$500 million
- State payroll delay from June 30 to July 1 - \$1.6 billion

2024 Bills

Around two thousand bills have been introduced since the 2024 legislative session began. A matrix of bills of interest to OCFA along with recommendations for positions are provided as a separate attachment.



OCFA 2024 State Bill Matrix

The OCFA identified over 80 bills for review since the state bill introduction deadline of February 16, 2024. A substantial number of these bills express “intent” language meaning that the full potential impact cannot be determined. Following is a list of bills identified by staff for official positions and bills we are monitoring due to the subject matter and therefore bringing awareness to the committee.

Category	Bill	Author	Title	Summary	Position
EMS	AB 1792	Rodriguez	Emergency Medical Services: Protective Equipment	Requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority to develop standards, on or before January 1, 2027, for personal protective equipment for ambulance personnel and to update the standards on or before January 1, 2032, and every 5 years thereafter.	Monitor
EMS	AB 2002	Sanchez	Vehicles: Public Safety: Blue Envelope Program	Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to develop a Blue Envelope Program.	Monitor
EMS	AB 2225	Rodriguez	Discovery: Emergency Medical Services Review Committees	Extends an exemption from discovery as evidence the proceedings and records of specified organized committees of health care professionals and review committees having the responsibility of evaluation and improvement of the quality of care, for purposes of civil proceedings only, to the proceedings and records of emergency medical services organized committees and review committees.	Support
Operations & Community Safety	AB 2344	Petrie-Norris	Fire Prevention: Grant Programs: Reporting	Requires the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, on or before July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, to compile and post on its internet website specified information regarding identified state and federal grant programs relating to fire prevention and resilience.	Support
EMS	AB 2348	Rodriguez	Emergency Medical Services	Requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority to develop planning and implementation guidelines for response times. Requires the authority to develop a statewide standard methodology for calculation and reporting by a local EMS agency (LEMSA) of response time. Requires the authority to ensure the guidelines include a list of specified standardized terminology for a LEMSAs to use when granting exemptions or when modifying original response time data.	Support
Operations & Community Safety	AB 2384	Wilson	Public swimming Pools: Emergency Telephones.	Requires a person or entity that owns or maintains a public swimming pool, as defined, to ensure that there is an operating telephone on or adjacent to the pool deck, available for emergency use, at all times.	Support

Operations & Community Safety	AB 2594	Emerg. Mgmt Cmte	Emergency Services: Mutual Aid: Gap Analysis	Requires the Office of Emergency Services to prepare a gap analysis of the state's mutual aid systems on a biennial basis, beginning on January 1, 2025. Requires the office to prepare and submit to specified legislative committees a report on a gap analysis in accordance with the bill no later than February 1, 2025, and biennially thereafter by February 1 of subsequent odd-numbered years.	Monitor
Operations & Community Safety	AB 2727	Emerg. Mgmt Cmte	Office of Emergency Services: Maritime Firefighting	Establishes the Maritime Firefighting Mutual Aid Program within OES for the purpose of enhancing maritime firefighting capabilities of local fire departments. Requires, upon appropriation by the Legislature, OES to conduct an all-risk maritime response capabilities assessment, as specified, and acquire and provide fire boats to local fire departments, as specified, and require the local fire departments to utilize the fire boats to enhance local, regional, and mutual aid response capabilities.	Monitor
Operations & Community Safety	AB 2858	Dahle M	California Emergency Services Act: Emergency Plan	Requires the Office of Emergency Services to update the State Emergency Plan every 4 years after the update required on or before a specified date.	Monitor
Operations & Community Safety	AB 3062	Bauer-Kahan	Fire Protection Districts: Electrical Corporations	Authorizes a fire protection district to require an electrical corporation or local publicly owned electric utility to notify the district at least 24 hours before performing scheduled, nonemergency hot work, deploying a safety and infrastructure protection team, or performing a prescribed or controlled burn within the district's jurisdiction, except as provided. Subjects an electrical corporation that fails to provide that notice to a civil penalty of \$500.	Monitor
Operations & Community Safety	AB 3065	Garcia E	Fireworks: Retail Sales	Authorizes the retail sale of certified safe and sane fireworks from 9 a.m. on a specified date to midnight of a specified date of the following year pursuant to a license issued by the State Fire Marshal, if authorized by a charter city, city, county, or city and county ordinance or resolution that may also restrict the hours of use of those fireworks.	Monitor
Operations & Community Safety	AB 3150	Quirk-Silva	Fire safety: Fire Hazard Severity Zones	Requires the State Fire Marshal to provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the fire hazard severity zone maps before the State Fire Marshal submits them to the local agency. Requires the State Fire Marshal to develop a process to allow for the petition for a review and potential redesignation of large areas that have undergone a significant change in conditions that would likely result in a decrease in fire hazard based on substantial evidence.	Monitor
Operations & Community Safety	SB 1066	Blakespear	Hazardous waste: marine flares: producer responsibility	Creates a producer responsibility program for marine flares. Defines covered product to mean a pyrotechnic device that produces a brilliant light or a plume of colorful smoke as a visual distress signal on marine vessels to attract attention and pinpoint a boater's location in an emergency.	Support

Administration – Business Svs.	AB 2095	Maienschein	Publication: Newspapers of General Circulation	Requires a person or other specified entity that is legally required to publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation or other newspaper to publish that notice in a manner that ensures it appears in the newspaper's print publication, on the newspaper's internet website or electronic newspaper available on the internet, and on a statewide internet website maintained as a repository for notices by a majority of California newspapers of general circulation.	Monitor
Administration - HR	AB 2153	Lowenthal	California Public Records Act: Public Agency Employees	Requires each agency, upon receipt of a request for a copy of, or the inspection of, any personnel, medical, or similar records of a public agency employee or any record that would disclose a public agency employee's personal identity in connection with the performance of that employee's work duties, to promptly and prior to the release of the records, provide written notice of the request to that public agency employee.	Monitor
Administration – Business Svs.	AB 2283	Pacheco	Public Records: Employee Personnel Records: Notice	Requires a public agency that receives a request for the personnel records of one of the public agency's employees to provide written notice, as prescribed, to the employee within 48 hours of receipt of the request if specified conditions are met.	Monitor
Administration – Business Svs.	AB 2302	Addis	Open Meetings: Local Agencies: Teleconferences	Relates to existing law which imposes prescribed restrictions on remote participation by a member of a legislative body of a local agency under alternative teleconferencing provisions. Revises the limits, instead prohibiting such participation for more than a specified number of meetings per year, based on how frequently the legislative body regularly meets.	Monitor
Administration - HR	AB 2421	Low	Employer-Employee Relations: Confidential Communication	Prohibits a local public agency employer, a state employer, a public school employer, a higher education employer, or the district from questioning any employee or employee representative regarding communications made in confidence between an employee and an employee representative in connection with representation relating to any matter within the scope of the recognized employee organization's representation.	Monitor
Administration – HR	AB 2538	Grayson	Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Permits the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to authorize firefighters hired as permanent intermittent employees to serve for longer than 9 months in a consecutive 12-month period to confront emergency fire conditions and personnel shortages.	Monitor
Administration – Business Svs.	AB 2579	Quirk-Silva	Property Tax Revenue Allocations: County of Orange	Requires the auditor of the County of Orange to increase the total amount of ad valorem property tax revenue that is otherwise required to be allocated to the county by the county equity amount, and to commensurately decrease the amount of ad valorem property tax revenue that is otherwise required to be allocated to the county Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund and, if necessary, the	Monitor

				amount of those revenues otherwise required to be allocated to school districts.	
Administration – Business Svs.	AB 2631	Fong M	Local Agencies: Ethics Training	Requires the Fair Political Practices Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General, to create, maintain, and make available to local agency officials an ethics training course, as specified.	Monitor
Administration – Business Svs.	AB 2660	Emerg. Mgmt Cmte	Office of Emergency Services: Federal Grant Funding	Requires the Office of Emergency Services (OES), to the extent permitted by federal law, to provide to local operational areas and urban areas the maximum local share of federal grant funding administered by the office from specified federal grant programs relating to emergency management and homeland security.	Monitor
Administration – Business Svs.	AB 2715	Boerner	Ralph M. Brown Act: Closed Session	Authorizes a closed session of a legislative body of a local agency to consider or evaluate matters related to cybersecurity, as specified, provided that any action taken on those matters is done in open session.	Monitor
Administration – Business Svs.	SB 908	Cortese	Public Records: Legislative Records: Electronic Message	Prohibits an elected or appointed official or employee of a public agency from creating or sending a public record using a nonofficial electronic messaging system unless the official or employee sends a copy of the public record to an official electronic messaging system.	Monitor
Administration - HR	SB 1090	Durazo	Unemployment Insurance: Disability, Paid Family Leave	Requires, for purposes of unemployment compensation disability benefits, the issuance of the initial payment for those benefits within 14 days of receipt of the claimant's properly completed first disability claim or as soon as eligibility begins, whichever is later.	Monitor
Administration - HR	SB 1116	Portantino	Unemployment Insurance: Trade Disputes: Eligibility	Restores unemployment insurance eligibility after the first 2 weeks for an employee who left work because of a trade dispute.	Monitor
Administration – Business Svs.	SB 1325	Durazo	Public contracts: Best Value Procurement	Authorizes a state or local agency to award contracts through a "best value" procurement method.	Support
Administration - HR	SB 1346	Durazo	Workers Compensation: Aggregate Disability Payment	Authorizes temporary disability benefits if a denial of treatment requested by a treating physician is subsequently overturned by independent medical review. Prohibits the temporary disability from exceeding the time from the date of the treatment denial through the date of the independent medical review determination overturning the treatment denial.	Monitor
Administration - HR	SB 1434	Durazo	Unemployment Insurance Benefit and Contribution	Changes the amount of remuneration that is excluded from the definition of wages as specified relative to unemployment insurance benefits. Requires an annual cost of living increase in benefits.	Monitor

Orange County Fire Authority March 2024 Report

Congress

Congress Close to Finalizing FY 2024 Appropriations

As February came to a close, Congress avoided yet another potential partial government shutdown by passing its fourth Continuing Resolution (CR), H.R. 7463, to extend the “laddered” funding deadlines currently in place. Under this legislation, the first funding deadline was extended from March 1st to March 8th, and the second funding deadline was extended from March 8th to March 22nd. The first funding deadline extends funding for 6 of the 12 appropriations bills: Transportation-HUD, Energy-Water, Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Interior-Environment and Military Construction-VA.

While Congress struggled with finalizing a topline spending number, setting individual allocations for each bill and negotiating numerous policy provisions, the end is in sight for these six bills as they have now been finalized.

On March 3, 2024, the Appropriations Committee unveiled the text of the six-bill fiscal year FY 2024 "[minibus](#)" that is slated to be considered by the House and Senate this week and to President Biden’s desk before midnight on March 8. The House passed this minibus package on Wednesday, March 6 by a vote of 339-85.

Of note, this first minibus continues the additional pay authority for federal firefighting workforce, protects its current staffing levels. It also fully funds essential wildfire preparedness and suppression efforts by providing \$4.045 billion for wildfire suppression, of which \$2.65 billion is provided to the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund. The Reserve Fund provides the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior an assured amount of funding to be used when major fire activity requires expenditures exceeding regular base suppression operations funding. This funding level—in addition to carryover balances—will meet projected needs for fiscal year 2024 wildfires.

The remaining six appropriations bills do face additional hurdles given unresolved issues over border policy, and foreign aid funding to name a few. This second minibus will fund several of the programs that benefit OCFA – including funding for Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG), SAFER Grants and the Urban Search & Rescue program. These programs are funded through the Homeland Security Appropriations bill. There is an also effort to reauthorize AFG & SAFER grants programs in the minibus as they are set to expire in just a few months.

Given the end is in sight for FY 2024, Congress is slowly beginning its FY 2025 appropriations process. We expect the pace for FY25 requests will speed up greatly once the first six bills are passed.

House Committees Hold Hearings on EV Fires & First Responder Risks

- During the month of February, two Congressional Committees held hearings to examine the dangers posed by lithium-ion batteries.
- On February 15, the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology held a [hearing](#) on the fire hazards posed by lithium-ion batteries. U.S. Fire Administrator Lori Moore-Merrell and John S. Butler, President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), testified.
- On February 29, the House Science, Space, & Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Investigations & Oversight held a [hearing](#) examining the dangers of EV Fires on First Responders. San Bernadino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey testified on behalf of the IAFC, and Dr. Judy Jeevarajan, Vice President and Executive Director of the Electrochemical Safety Research Institute at UL Research Institutes, also testified. During the hearing, Subcommittee Chair Jay Obernolte (R-CA) asserted that the federal government has been deficient in providing guidance and resources to firefighters and first responders in dealing with battery fires.

House Passes Firefighter Cancer Registry Reauthorization Act of 2023

- During the week of March 4, the House voted and passed the Firefighter Cancer Registry Reauthorization Act of 2023 ([H.R. 3821](#)). The bill authorizes the National Firefighter Cancer Registry to receive \$5.5 million annually from FY 2024 – 2028.
- The National Firefighter Cancer Registry was created to better track firefighters' cancer diagnoses and understand the connection between cancer and firefighter duties. The International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Fighters both support the measure.
- The bill had bipartisan support in the House, and its Senate companion ([S. 2119](#)) has support from Democrats and Republicans as well.

Administration

FEMA Releases SAFER Notice of Funding Opportunity

- On March 4, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released two notices of funding opportunities for the FY 2023 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants. Both grants close on April 12, 2024.
- The [SAFER Program](#) will allocate \$360 million to assist fire departments with hiring activities, including recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters. This year's round of SAFER funding does not include a cost match.

- [Fire Prevention and Safety Grants](#) will distribute \$36 million for fire prevention programs and firefighter health and safety research. The five project categories under the fire prevention and safety activities are:
 - Community Risk Reduction;
 - Wildfire Risk Reduction;
 - Code Enforcement/Awareness;
 - Fire & Arson Investigation; and
 - National/State/Regional Programs and Projects

EPA Finalizes Amendments to Risk Management Program to Protect At-Risk Communities from Chemical Accidents

- On March 1, EPA announced finalized amendments to its Risk Management Program to include even more protective safety provisions to protect local communities from chemical accidents. This final rule, known as the Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention Rule, includes improvements to chemical process safety to assist in planning, preparation, and response to accidents.
- The rule also includes provisions for increasing public awareness of chemical hazards at regulated sources. The rule also requires regulated facilities to perform safer technologies and alternative analyses and implement reliable safeguard measures as appropriate [here](#).



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting
March 20, 2024

Agenda Item No. 3B
Discussion Calendar

Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Contact(s) for Further Information

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Maria D. Huizar, Clerk of the Authority	mariahuizar@ocfa.org	714.573.6041
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Summary

The Rules of Procedure includes provisions for the election of a Chair and Vice Chair.

Prior Board/Committee Action

This is an annual and routine item for Committee Member consideration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2024.

Impact to Cities/County

None.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Background

The Rules of Procedure adopted by the Board of Directors includes a provision for election of the Chair and Vice Chair, as follow:

“RULE 10. THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Section (d)(2) At the first meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee following the annual election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, the Directors assigned to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee shall elect from their members a Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.”

The Chair may call for nominations for the 2024 Chair and/or Vice Chair positions, close the nominations, vote on the matter and declare the results.

Attachment(s)

None.