



Arapahoe County

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Board Summary Report

File #: 25-250

Agenda Date: 5/20/2025

Agenda #:

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: N/A

Prepared By:

Mike Dell'Orfano, Chief Government Affairs Officer, South Metro Fire Rescue

Presenter: Jim Albee, Board Chair, South Metro Fire Rescue

Subject:

9:30 AM *South Metro Fire Rescue Funding Challenges

Purpose and Request:

South Metro Fire Rescue is reaching out to stakeholders and community leaders to provide an overview of our financial challenges due to rising costs and declining revenues. A short presentation will be provided, and BOCC feedback is welcome.

Background and Discussion: Recent property tax legislation, including HB24-1001, resulted in the dramatic reduction of revenues to special districts like South Metro Fire Rescue. At the same time, the cost of equipment, supplies, facilities, apparatus, and other aspects of operating the fire district have dramatically increased. Together, those scenarios have resulted in the immediate need for a solution to the revenue/expenditure gap. Potential strategies include service reductions, an increase in property taxes, and the implementation of a sales tax. The board of directors has not decided on a specific solution and is seeking feedback from the community.

Fiscal Impact: Revenues are estimated to decline by about \$16M in 2026 and then about \$270M over the next 10 years. The revenue shortfall coupled with rising costs and future needs results in a shortfall of about \$50M annually.

Alternatives: This is an informational meeting.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☒ Be fiscally sustainable
- ☐ Provide essential and mandated service
- ☒ Be community focused

Staff Recommendation: N/A