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April 17, 2025

TO: FIREScope Board of Directors
23300 Castle Street
Riverside, CA 92518-2200

FROM: FIREScope Operations Team, Task Force, and Wildland Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Local Government Hand Crew OSD - Fiscal Impact Statement:

Approval: The FIREScope Board of Directors approved this document on April 17, 2025

SUMMARY

FIREScope standards for local government hand crews (LGHC) Operating System Description (OSD) were approved by the Board of Directors at the February 2025 Board meeting. Per the original White Paper dated July 2024, it is identified that a fiscal impact statement in all project work presented be assigned to the OSD, however, there is a vast range in cost associated with any hand crew being implemented within an organization and its structure. Wildland hand crew deployment varies from fuels reduction and mitigation efforts in a community to Type 1 emergency response. How they are formed, outfitted, supervised, and transported within a jurisdiction or across the state under Master Mutual Aid programs will provide a more accurate cost analysis.

The cost associated with the development and maintenance of a crew program will vary depending on the level of experience brought into a program from either inside the agency or hired externally. The amount of training needed to meet the minimum skills criteria in achieving the typing standard will also equate to the mentoring, internally and externally, within the program. The agency should seek opportunities through networking with established crew programs while bringing validity to its development and gaining certification.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The FIREScope Wildland Subcommittee makes the following recommendations in determining the fiscal impact on an organization based upon Appendix 3 of the LGHC OSD:

- Labor Costs:
 - Denote the leadership component and apply the agency's salary survey to the position.
 - Calculate the number of personnel being assembled to form a crew and apply the agency's salary survey to stated position(s).



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- Transportation Costs:
 - Perform a search for the type of transportation required to safely move stated crew members in their scope of work to be performed; look at avenues of surplus or donations where applicable and allowed.
- Tools & Equipment Costs: based on Minimum Equipment List (MEL).
 - Survey GSA programs for the tools and equipment to support allocation of the number of members and multiple for sum expenditure. The items to research and calculate are such as: shovels, saws, Pulaski, PPE, chaps, hydration packs, and fuel/oil can sceptor to name a few. See appendix for crew type and minimum equipment list.
- Training Costs:
 - Cost of required courses and instructor fees associated with training hours required for crew level requirements.
- Associated Administrative Fee(s) that an agency needs to consider under governance.
- Support can be found through networking with other organizations that have established crew programs in recent years.



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The following chart provides an overview of approximate start-up costs, first year's labor, and estimated annual support costs in each category, as a full-time, year-round crew while purchasing all new equipment: A detailed list/description of each category's breakdown can be found in Appendix 3 based on the MEL.

Crew Type	Labor *	Training **	Transportation Vehicle	Equipment ***	Annual Support Cost	Total Est. Cost
1	Superintendent (1) \$160,000.00 Crew Boss (1) \$120,000.00 Crew Member (18) \$38,000.00	\$30K	Crew Carrier – 10 person \$300,000.00 (x2) + (1) 1Ton P/U \$70,000.00	\$130,349.00	\$30,000.00	\$1,794,379.00
2	Crew Boss (1) \$120,000.00 Crew Member (18) \$38,000.00	\$20K	Crew Carrier – 10 person \$300,000.00 (x2)	\$70,703.00	\$30,000.00	\$1,504,723.00
2-IA	Crew Boss (1) \$120,000.00 Crew Member (18) \$38,000.00	\$20K	Crew Carrier – 10 person \$300,000.00 (x2)	\$70,703.00	\$30,000.00	\$1,504,723.00
Suppression Module	Crew Boss (1) \$120,000.00 Crew Member (18) \$38,000.00	\$15K	1-Ton crew cab – 5 person \$70,000.00 (x2)	\$43,085.00	\$15,000.00	\$1,017,085.00



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- * Crew Supervision is already trained to (FTE) Ranked Position and RT130 qualified.
- ** Training assumption is candidate already meets Firefighter 1 eligibility, and line leadership has already met RT130 qualification. All courses delivered during on-duty hours with no overtime; training cost is certificate level courses with instructor fees and materials.
- *** Hand Tools identified under Category of MEL: McCleod, Pulaski, Rake, and J-450 shovel.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Once approved, the recommendations section of this fiscal impact statement, including the chart, will be added to the Local Government Hand Crew OSD as an appendix.

For reference, LGHC OSD: <https://firescope.caloes.ca.gov/ICS%20Documents/ICS%20156-1.pdf>

CONCLUSION

This White Paper provides the approximate agency fiscal impact, based on the LGHC OSD and MEL, for each crew type being evaluated, to include annual support costs. The final selection of the type of crew will vary based on agency adoption and MOU in standing up a Type 1, Type 2IA, Type 2 or Suppression Module.

Board Approved: 4/17/2025