



MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

January 6, 2026

Subject: First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement
Between the City of Tucson (COT) and the City of South
Tucson (COST) for the Automatic Provision of Emergency Fire
Response (City Wide)

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Issue – Mayor and Council previously approved an IGA with COST under which the COT Fire Department has provided automatic emergency fire response since July 1, 2025. The IGA term technically expired on December 31, 2025, but the parties have continued to perform under it. The City of South Tucson has asked to formally extend the term.

City Manager's Office Recommendation – It is recommended that the Mayor and Council approve the attached Resolution amending the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of South Tucson.

Background – The City of Tucson has a history of supporting the City of South Tucson for a variety of services, including Fire Service in both mutual-aid and auto-aid capacities through IGAs. At the request of COST, the COT Fire Department has been providing automatic emergency fire response within COST's jurisdiction since July 1, 2025. This was intended to be a short-term interim solution while COST and COT explored a longer-term arrangement for emergency fire response. Another month or two is needed to get such a solution in place and COST has asked to extend the IGA. COST has been paying COT \$25,000 per month for this service.

Present Consideration(s) – Adopting the Amendment to the IGA authorizes the Tucson Fire Department to continue being automatically dispatched for fire response within the City of South Tucson. The South Tucson Fire Department will respond to other calls for service, including emergency medical calls, and can request additional support from the COT Fire Department as necessary. The amendment extends the agreement on a month-to-month basis; it can be terminated by either party with 30-days' notice. The COT Fire Department anticipates that a longer-term agreement will be reached by February, which will then replace this short-term solution, but allowing the current agreement to continue on a month-to-month basis provides some flexibility.

Plan Tucson Consideration(s) – Plan Tucson Consideration(s) – This item relates to the Plan Tucson 2025 Element of Wellness. Specifically, this item is supported by the following policies:

- Wellness 9 – Create and support community and regional partnerships to improve community-wide emergency response and resource sharing.
- Wellness 10 – Invest in, maintain, and implement high quality, efficient, and effective emergency response and public safety services.

Financial Considerations – The City of South Tucson will make monthly payments of \$25,000 to the City of Tucson, totaling \$25,000 for January.

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Operating Cost and Maintenance Input – The monthly payment rendered covers operating and maintenance costs.

Legal Considerations – The City Attorney's Office has reviewed this Communication and has prepared the attached Resolution for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Liz Morales
Assistant City Manager

TM: SM
TUCSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Attachment(s): Resolution