

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Volunteer Firefighter retention Incentive removal from the 2023-2024 Budget Please include in the June 20th Council Package
Date: Friday, June 16, 2023 1:38:15 PM

It is crucial to maintain the Volunteer Firefighter Retention incentive in the city of Sebastopol's 2023-2024 budget for several reasons. First, volunteer firefighters play a vital role in ensuring public safety and responding to emergencies in the community. By offering incentives, such as training opportunities, equipment upgrades, and recognition programs, the city can motivate volunteers to remain committed and dedicated to their role. Second, retaining experienced volunteer firefighters enhances the overall effectiveness and efficiency of emergency response, as they possess valuable local knowledge and familiarity with the area. Third, a stable and robust volunteer firefighter force contributes to cost savings for the city, as it reduces the reliance on hiring additional full-time firefighters. Ultimately, maintaining the retention incentive demonstrates the city's commitment to public safety and the well-being of its residents.

Lou Castleberry
Sebastopol Fire Department
Captain