CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: November 17, 2026

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To:	Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From:	Dave Bray, Deputy Chief
Responsible Department:	Gold Ridge Fire Protection District
Subject:	Informational Presentation on Fire Department Services

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RECOMMENDATION(s):

That the City Council receive and file this informational presentation on the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. No action is required.

PROCESS OF AGENDA ITEM:

1. Presentation by Fire Chief Schroth-Cary and Deputy Chief Bray
2. Council questions and discussion
3. Public comment
4. Presentation received

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This informational presentation provides a status update on the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District (GFD), which provides all-hazard emergency response services to the City of Sebastopol. GFD will present a departmental update highlighting strategic planning, staffing, volunteer participation, fleet and facilities, fire prevention efforts, emergency response statistics, and community outreach initiatives.

BACKGROUND:

After completing the Sonoma County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) process, the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District (GFD) annexed the Sebastopol Fire Department on July 1, 2025. GFD serves more than 30,000 residents across approximately 300 square miles and operates twelve fire stations throughout Sonoma County. Six stations are staffed around the clock by a combination of career and volunteer personnel.

Before the reorganization, the Sebastopol Fire Department was staffed by two full-time 40-hour Fire Engineers, 27 volunteer firefighters, and three reserve firefighters. It also had one full-time administrative assistant, shared 50/50 with the Building Department. The City contracted with GFD for Fire Chief services. Under the reorganization, Sebastopol's career firefighters could continue serving at their current ranks as GFD employees, and volunteers could continue serving as part of GFD.

Workforce transition at annexation (July 1, 2025):

- Sebastopol Fire personnel who did not transition to GFD at the time of the merger: [0] career and [4] volunteer/reserve. *Three resignations due to age
- Former Sebastopol Fire personnel still serving with GFD today: [6] career and [18] volunteer/reserve.

Following annexation, the City Council requested periodic updates on fire department operations. The most recent informational presentation was delivered approximately one year ago, on October 7, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

As part of its responsibilities, GFD provides the City Council with periodic updates on fire and emergency services. Tonight's presentation is the second since annexation and covers the following areas. Unless otherwise noted, figures cover January 1 through September 28, 2026.

Strategic Planning (In Progress)

GFD is developing a strategic plan built on three elements: (1) a Standards of Cover and emergency response analysis; (2) an internal survey of paid and volunteer members; and (3) a focus on near-term and long-term goals. The plan is guided by the District's vision: "We strive for excellence and seek improvement through innovation, education, training, and teamwork."

Personnel Snapshot

- **135** volunteer members, who have worked more than 19,700 hours in 2026
- **55** paid 24-hour shift personnel, including three Battalion Chiefs
- **5** administrative positions: the Fire Chief, the Deputy Chief, and three administrative staff

Volunteer Participation

Volunteers must complete the Volunteer Training/Firefighter 1 Academy; hold CPR and EMT or EMR/Title 22 certification; attend 70% of trainings or a minimum of 16 drills; assist at special events such as the 3rd of July Fireworks; and complete annual courses, including RT-130 and other required Cal-OSHA/NFPA classes. Out-of-district volunteers work two 24-hour stipend shifts. Additional required certifications include NWCG L-180, S-130/131, S-190, IS/ICS-100, 200, 700 and 800, HazMat FRO, and Confined Space Awareness.

Organized training from January through September 2026 included SCBA fit testing and confidence course, CPR, structure fire operations (hose line techniques, supply lines, salvage and overhaul), Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS), building construction, vehicle fires, ladders and vertical ventilation, forcible entry and saws, live fire behavior, Wildland RT-130, vehicle and small engine maintenance, auto extrication, radio communications and MAYDAYs, and ASHER (Active Shooter Hostile Event Response).

Volunteer and full-time personnel also participated in several statewide strike team deployments, some lasting more than 14 days:

- Woodside Fire (Timber Cove) – 152 acres
- Gann Fire (Calaveras County) – 10,339 acres
- MP 18 Fire (Humboldt County) – 7,610 acres
- Timber Fire (Monterey County) – 25,513 acres
- Lucas Fire (Lake County) – 4,128 acres
- Chileno Fire (Marin County) – 341.5 acres

Fleet Additions

- Station 83: new Type 3 Engine 8363 is in service and has already been deployed several times.
- Station 83: new Type 1 Engine 8383 was placed in service on September 23, 2026.
- Two new Type 3 Engines were received for Station 82 (8172) and Station 94 (9471).
- Two Battalion Chief response vehicles were replaced; the older trucks were repurposed as utility vehicles for Training and Station 54.

Facilities

GFD maintains 12 fire stations, six of which are staffed by full-time 24-hour personnel.

- **Headquarters – Station 81 (Hessel):** Remodel nearing completion, including new dorms, bathrooms, technology, a "facelift," and an adjacent logistics warehouse.
- **Annex (formerly Ceres):** Space acquired to house Fire Prevention and Training, with room for organizational growth.

- **West County Fire Station:** Lease secured; GFD is obtaining approvals on architectural drawings for the Station 87 (Bodega) buildout to accommodate full-time staffing.

Fire Prevention

GFD is building out its Fire Prevention program. A full-time Fire Prevention Officer, Inspector Andrew Britts, works Monday through Friday and some weekends. Year-to-date activity includes:

- More than 25 business license inspections, several requiring re-inspection
- More than 20 fire inspections and more than 100 State-mandated inspections
- Special event inspections
- Vegetation management, including the Joe Rodota Trail Project, defensible space inspections, and the Ferguson Road Project

Response Statistics

Response times are one metric the fire service uses to measure effectiveness. The figures below compare Station 83 with GFD's paid stations and the District as a whole.

Measure	Station 83	Paid Stations	District-wide
Turnout time (90th percentile)	1:16	1:06	2:28
Response time (90th percentile)*	4:42	6:25	7:15
Call volume	1,340	—	3,794

*Times shown in minutes:seconds. *Response time includes both Code 2 and Code 3 responses.*

Water Rescue

GFD maintains a Swiftwater Rescue Program serving the District and neighboring communities. Resources include 32 swiftwater rescue technicians, 10 swiftwater boat operators, one high-water vehicle, one large rescue boat, three small rescue boats, and one rescue raft. Personnel train regularly with neighboring agencies and deploy with OES Water Team 11 for state and national response.

Community Outreach

GFD remains actively engaged in the community through fentanyl awareness, Hands-Only CPR, community speaking engagements, school disaster planning, career fairs, the Goodwill Ambassadors program, ASHER training, and events such as Bike to School Day.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

GFD is a partner with the City of Sebastopol and the surrounding communities. Several points in this update are of particular interest to the City:

- **Call volume:** Station 83 handled 1,340 of the District's 3,794 calls year-to-date, about 35% of all District calls.
- **Response performance:** Station 83's 90th-percentile response time of 4:42 is faster than both the paid-station figure (6:25) and the District-wide figure (7:15). Its turnout time (1:16) is close to the paid-station figure (1:06).
- **Apparatus:** Both new engines added at Station 83 this year, a Type 1 and a Type 3, increase structure-fire and wildland capability available to the City.
- **Fire prevention:** A full-time Fire Prevention Officer now supports business license inspections, special event inspections, and vegetation management, including the Joe Rodota Trail Project.
- **Regional capacity:** Annexation gives Sebastopol access to District-wide resources, including swiftwater rescue, technical rescue, and incident management personnel, as well as 135 volunteers.

The strategic plan now under way, including the Standards of Cover analysis, is expected to provide a framework for evaluating service levels and future resource needs across the District, including within the City.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS/PRIORITIES AND GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:

This agenda item represents the City Council goals/priorities as follows:

The update supports the Council's Public Safety goal by reporting on fire and emergency response performance, staffing, training, apparatus, and fire prevention services delivered to the City. GFD's vegetation management work on the Joe Rodota Trail also relates to the Council's interest in trail corridor safety.

Community Vitality: GFD's community outreach and school disaster planning support community engagement and preparedness.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, if staff receives public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report, such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None. Informational presentation only

RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive and file this informational presentation on the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District.

CITY COUNCIL OPTIONS:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

1. GFD Fire District Update presentation

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval: Approval Date: 10/28/26
CEQA Determination (Planning): Approval Date: 10/28/26
The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
Administrative Services (Financial) Approval Date: 10/28/26
Costs authorized in City Approved Budget: N/A – no cost associated with this action
City Attorney Approval: Approval Date: 10/28/26
City Manager Approval: Approval Date:10/28/26

GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

GOLDRIDGEFIRE.ORG

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

November 17, 2026
City of Sebastopol
City Council Meeting



Presented by:

FIRE CHIEF SHEPLEY SCHROTHCARY &
DEPUTY CHIEF DAVE BRAY

AGENDA



- Strategic Planning
- Personnel Snapshot
- Volunteer Participation
- Fleet Additions
- Facilities
- Fire Prevention Update
- Response Statistics
- Outreach

GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

GOLDRIDGEFIRE.ORG

STRATEGIC PLANNING (In Progress)



Vision

We strive for excellence and seek improvement through innovation, education, training, and teamwork.

Elements

01	Standards of Cover and Emergency Response
02	Internal survey of paid and volunteer members
03	Focus on near -term and long -term goals

PERSONNEL SNAPSHOT



About Us

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District is committed to providing exceptionalservice in our communities. We accomplish this by ensuring adequate resources are positioned to protect nearly 30,000 citizens in 300 square miles.

Personnel

135 Volunteer Members, *over 19,700 hours worked in 2026*

55 Paid 24-hr Shift Personnel, including 3 Battalion Chiefs

5 Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, and three Administrative staff

FS 83 ROSTER

FS 83 MEMBERS	STATUS
ACTIVE	24
RETIRED	3
RESIGNED	1
DISMISSED	3

Post -Annexation

- Three Retirements (ages 65 - 85)
- One Resignation (stated commitment challenges)
- Three Dismissals (Non -Participants)

Pre -Annexation

- Three members resigned due careers (U.S. Marine Corps, Nursing School, Therapist)
- One member resigned due proposed annexation.

NOTE: Exit interviews are conducted on all GFD members



VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Volunteer Requirements

- Volunteer Training/FF 1 Academy Graduation
- CPR and EMT or EMR/Title 22
- Training: Attend 70% of trainings or a minimum 16 of Drills
- Special Events: Participate and assist at special events (e.g., 3rd of July Fireworks.
- Annual Training Courses: RT 130 and numerous other Cal -OSHA/NFPA required classes.
- Out-of-District Volunteers are required to work two 24 -hr Stipend shifts
- Other required certifications include: NWCG L -180, S-130/131, S-190, IS/ICS-100, 200, 700, & 800, HazMat FRO and Confined Space Awareness.



GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

goldridgefire.org

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION



Organized Training (Jan - Sept 2026)

- SCBA Fit Testing and Confidence Course
- CPR
- Structure Fire: Hose Line Techniques, Supply Lines, Salvage & Overhaul
- Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS)
- Building Construction
- Vehicle Fires
- Ladders and Vertical Ventilation
- Forcible Entry and Saws
- Live Fire Behavior
- Wildland RT - 130
- Vehicle & Small Engine Maintenance
- Auto Extrication
- Radio Communications and MAYDAYs
- ASHER

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Strike Team Deployments

Volunteers and Full - Time personnel have participated in several statewide strike team deployments. Some deployed over 14 days in length:

- Woodside Fire (Timber Cove) - 152 acres
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FLEET ADDITIONS

FS 83 - 8363

New Type - 3 Engine in service and deployed several times already



FS 83 - 8383

New Type - 1 Engine in service September 23, 2026



PLUS

The district received two new Type - 3 Engines for FS 82 (8172) & 94 (9471).

We also replaced two Battalion Chief response vehicles repurposing the old trucks as utility vehicles for Training and FS 54.

FACILITIES

Headquaters - FS 81 Hessel

Remodel nearing completion. New dorms, bathrooms, technology, “face lift”, and adjacent logistics warehouse.

Annex - formerly Ceres

Space acquired to house Fire Prevention and Training; along with room for organizational growth.

Secured Lease for West County Fire Station

Obtaining approvals on architectural drawings for FS 87 Bodega buildout to accomodate full -time stafing.



Gold Ridge Fire Protection District maintains 12 fire stations, 6 of which are staffed with full -time 24 -hour personnel

FIRE PREVENTION

Data: 1/1/26 - 9/28/26

Building out the District's Fire Prevention program



Full-Time Fire Prevention Officer

- Inspector Andrew Britts
- Mon-Fri and sometime weekends

Vegetation Management

- Joe Rodota Trail Project
- Defensible Space Inspections
- Ferguson Road Project

Business License Inspections

- Over 25 Business License inspections with several re-inspections required

Special Events

- Special Events Inspections

Fire Inspections

- Over 20 Fire Inspections
- Over 100 State-Mandated Inspections

GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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RESPONSE STATISTICS

Data: 1/1/26 - 9/28/26

Turnout Time, 90th Percentile *

FS 83: 0:01:16

Paid Stations: 0:01:06

District -wide: 0:02:28

Response Time, 90th Percentile *

FS 83: 0:04:42

Paid Stations: 0:06:25

District -wide: 0:07:15

Call Volume *

FS 83: 1,340

District -wide: 3,794

* Response time includes both Code 2 and Code 3 response times

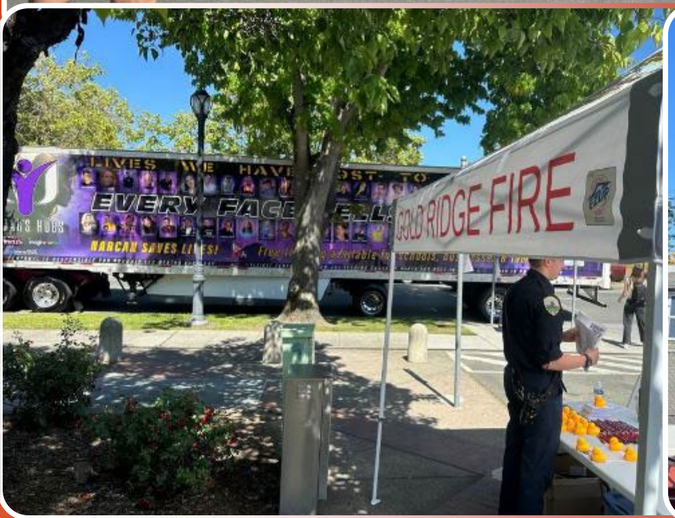
When seconds count, response statistics is one metric the fire service utilizes to measure our effectiveness.

OUTREACH



Remain Actively Engaged in the Community

- Fentanyl Awareness
- Hands -Only CPR
- Community Speaking
- School Disaster Planning
- Career Fairs
- Goodwill Ambassadors
- ASHER Training





Bike to School Day



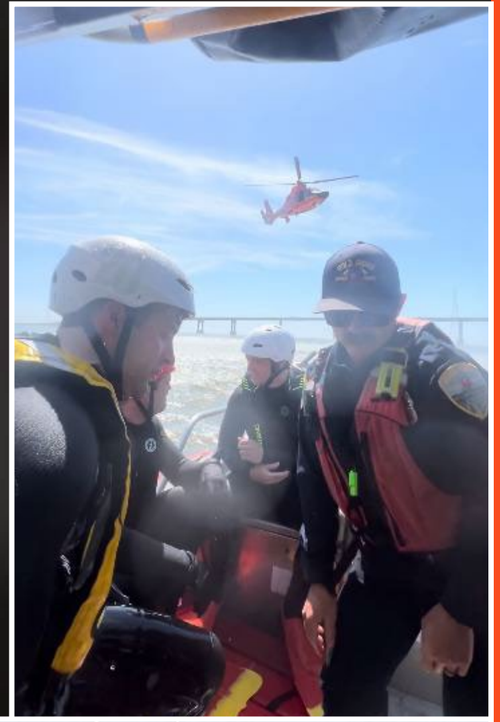
WATER RESCUE



The Gold Ridge Fire Proection District maintains a Swiftwater Rescue Program to serve the needs of the District and neighboring communities at large.

- Swiftwater Rescue Technicians : 32
- Swiftwater Boat Operators: 10
- Highwater Vehicle: 1
- Large Rescue Boat: 1
- Small Rescue Boats: 3
- Rescue Raft: 1

We often train with neighboring agencies and reguraly deploy with OES Water Team 11 for State and National Response.













CLOSING STATEMENT

Stronger Together

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District (GFD) remains dedicated to serving and protecting our community — *Your Community* .

As an All-Hazards organization, GFD operates 12 fire stations staffed by career and volunteer personnel. In addition to fire suppression and emergency medical response, the District maintains specialized capabilities in swift-water and river rescue, boat operations, technical rope rescue, and incident management through numerous overhead-qualified personnel.

Thank you!

GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

GOLDRIDGEFIRE.ORG



GET IN TOUCH

www.GoldRidgeFire.org

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