

# ANDERSON VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## LONG RANGE PLAN

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Anderson Valley Fire Department is a longstanding local community organization committed to preserving life and property by delivering proficient fire suppression, rescue, prevention and emergency medical services. Together, driven by duty and passion, we commit our skills, knowledge and time to serve our residents and visitors during their time of need.

## CORE COMMITMENTS

- **Teamwork** - Maintain an enthusiastic, cooperative and progressive team.
- **Safety** – Promote public safety by instilling it in ourselves through education, training, prevention and professional response.
- **Respect** - Continue developing trust within the community.
- **Stability** –Continue strengthening our organization to ensure locally provided services to our community for years to come
- **Dedication** – Provide the community with highest level emergency response service possible.
- **Outreach** - Continue improving youth development programs and actively support community education opportunities.
- **Adaptability** – Remain a resilient and progressive organization that embraces change and challenge.
- **Support** – Enhance the individual growth of our members and advance their leadership and skills through progressive training and growth opportunities.
- **Stewardship** – Continue providing emergency services with the pride and professionalism of those who came before us and those who will follow.

# FOREWORD

This is the 2021 revision of the Anderson Valley Fire Department's Long-Range Plan (LRP) which was developed over several initial drafts with input from the AVCSD, committees, FD staff, and Officer input. Complete rewrites of this plan have been done in 2005, 2014, and 2018. This current edition will use the 2018 LRP as a benchmark to measure progress over the last three years. The format of the current edition will be similar to the previous plan with some minor alterations. As with the 2018 LRP, we will provide a review of current Department revenues, expenses and reserves. The current status of apparatus, facilities, equipment, fire prevention, staffing and volunteer personnel will be detailed along with recommendations for changes and improvements in each area. This process will delineate areas of success or improvement since the last plan. It will also provide our plan to maintain and strive for better emergency services to the people and community of Anderson Valley.

# OVERVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS WITH HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

## REVENUES

The Department receives income from several sources:

**Property Tax Income:** During the life of the preceding Fire Department's Long-Range Plans (LRPs), Property Tax Revenues have been divided between the Fire Department and the Community Services District (CSD). The percentage has ranged from year-to-year with somewhere between 85% and 92% going to the Fire Department. In 2011 the Administrative Fee paid by the Fire Department to the CSD was discontinued and a new "Combined Budget" format was adopted. The new format was adopted principally to simplify the budgeting, bookkeeping and auditing process. Under the new format the CSD receives an increased proportion of the property tax revenues but also assumes the responsibility for some additional expenses previously paid by the Fire Department. There was no appreciable change in the net revenues received by the Fire Department.

A component of the new Combined Budget was the abandonment of administrative fees paid by all departments to the CSD. It was stipulated by the Board during this process that administrative services that had historically been provided by the CSD would continue to be provided in future years without additional charge but that any new requested services would potentially require the implementation of additional charges in an offsetting amount to the requesting department.

In February 2021, the AVCS D voted to secure the Tax Revenue Allocation percentages for each branch at 1% to the Recreation Department, 28% to the CSD, and 71% to the Fire Department. These allocation percentages provided enough funding to maintain existing staffing and present duties for both the CSD and the Fire Department while also providing new funding to the Recreation Department. With the newly balanced funding model, any new requests for services may cause for alternative funding sources to be secured as to not affect the other branches.

Property Tax revenues have historically increased by three to five percent over the past years. Property Tax revenues are not always constantly increasing, we saw a reduction to 0% in the FY 2012/13. Property Tax revenues over the life of this plan should use a conservative 2% annual increase value to project income increases based on our historical averages.

**Benefit Assessment:** Revenue remained flat at approximately \$111,800 annually from 1996 through 2003 when the first review and update was conducted. A second annual review was conducted in 2004 and the total for Benefit Assessment revenue rose to approximately \$117,000. Subsequently, a complete review of all commercial and residential properties was conducted and completed in FY 2011/12. The result of these reviews, plus some additional revenues generated by new construction, has brought the annual revenue for the Benefit Assessment to approximately \$155,400.

The review process has made several things clear regarding the Benefit Assessment. First, it is imperative that we conduct an annual review and update to ensure we are capturing the revenue from new developments in the district. Secondly, this task appears to be within the capabilities of

our organization without having to hire an additional consultant. Thirdly, the method for conducting the review is to request an annual report of all new building permits issued in the District from Planning and Building and to compare this to the data file we receive from the Assessor's Office which details the amount of the assessment for each parcel. Additionally, we receive a list of split and merged parcels from the Assessor's Office, which also needs to be reviewed and an appropriate level of assessment established. Lastly, we need to routinely reassess parcels on which we provide plan reviews for new construction or subdivision.

**Strike Team Revenues:** The Department participates in Strike Team Mutual Aid responses during most years. The associated income is divided between the engine staff and the Department with the larger portion going to the staff. The income generated by Strike Team participation varies widely from year-to-year, ranging from nothing to over \$100,000 during some active years. Although this type of revenue cannot be predicted or budgeted, it will in all likelihood be a continuing source of additional income to the Department during the life of this plan.

### **Out-of-District Billing:**

Fees collected for Out-of-District Billing have decreased dramatically in the last several years. The likely reasons for the decrease in revenue is because we changed our incident reporting process from paper reports to a direct online reporting system through Image Trend Solutions. Flagging Out-of-District incidents has been missed since the secretary does not review and input each incident. A new process should be implemented for this loss of funding over the life of this plan.

**EMS First Responder Fee:** Fees for fire department responses to medical emergencies are now being billed through our EMS billing agent. An additional \$300 per call is being added to the patient bill as a base rate. This rate was established to cover an average of 2 fire apparatus per call for a one-hour min. Although many incidents require more than two apparatus (i.e. LZs, Traffic collision, LARRO, etc.), this base charge should offset direct costs for fire department responses over the year. At this time monies received under this fee are being retained by the EMS Branch because the billing agent cannot determine the amount received from this fee.

**Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT):** Mendocino County voters passed an occupancy tax measure in March of 2020 to capture revenues from private campgrounds that had not previously been subject to Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). This measure was accompanied by an advisory measure to allocate the new revenues to be distributed equally amongst the existing fire districts with the option of a portion of the funding to be routed to the Mendocino County Fire Chief's Association upon their approval. The first year of 2020-2, AVFD received roughly \$37,000 in revenues gathered during the COVID 19 Pandemic. 80% of the funds were received in the Spring and the final 20% true-up was received in August of 2021.

### **False Alarms**

We currently have an Ordinance permitting us to bill the responsible party after the third false alarm has been received in a twelve-month period. The ordinance states that false alarm dispatches will not be counted if we are canceled prior to the first unit response. After the adoption of the ordinance, we experienced a remarkable reduction in false alarm calls.

## **Contract Services**

Several years ago, we began offering “Contract Services” to some property owners who owned parcels on or near the district boundaries. This program required and received approval from LAFCO at its inception and the program was further ratified in the Municipal Service Review completed in 2013. There is a provision in this authorization that presumes the use of Contract Service agreements will lead to eventual Annexation of the contracting parcels. No specific timeframe was attached to this provision. Annexation of AVCSD’s Sphere of Influence (SOI) was attempted in 2017 but failed. Although the public generally approved of the annexation, the County’s proposal of AVCSD’s tax allocation would only provide \$5,000. Additionally, our annual Contract Services annual revenue of approximately \$6,000 would be discontinued due to these residents now living in the CSD district. This tax allocation did not provide the funding needed to serve the SOI; an increased district that would double the fire department’s obligated response area, which ultimately defeated the 2017 annexation attempt. With the change of leadership at the county and the recently adopted AVFD Development Fee, this annexation should be looked into again during the life of this plan.

**Donations:** Most of our donation income is collected through the Anderson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association (AVVFFA). This income is raised through solicitation letters and various other fundraisers. The income is expended at the discretion of the Association on items that are intended to improve the working conditions of the firefighters. The Association typically raises something between \$30,000 and \$40,000 dollars annually. Generally, the annual fundraising drive targets a specific project such as the purchase of new apparatus or the construction of a new station. The Association has made significant contributions to the construction of the Boonville, Philo, Navarro and Holmes Ranch Stations, as well as the purchase of several new and used fire apparatus over the past several years.

Now that the Anderson Valley Ambulance Service (AVAS), a 501c3 nonprofit, is no longer actively operating a transport service, the AVAS has moved into a supportive role under the AVVFFA. The AVVFFA and the AVAS officially merged in July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and are working collaboratively to accomplish all the previous volunteer support goals under one organization. During this merger, the AVAS transferred \$120K dedicated to ambulance replacement reserves and transferred additional monies to the AVVFFA general fund to maintain normal operations. The AVVFFA will continue to hold the annual BBQ, one of the former AVAS’s largest fundraisers.

Another major contributor is the Yorkville Community Benefits Association (YCBA). Since the early 2000s, the YCBA has donated roughly \$110,000 to assist with purchasing a new interface engine and a new patrol engine. The YCBA has recently raised \$120,000 in a fundraising drive to completely replace the existing Yorkville Fire Station with a new construction metal building on the same property.

The fire department also receives approximately \$5,000 annually in annual income from donations made directly to the fire department and not to the AVVFFA.

All EMS donations collected during the ambulance membership drive are transferred to the AVVFFA. This annual fund transfer is in an attempt to follow the perceived intent of the donors, “to support the volunteers”.

## **Grants**

### **Mendocino County Advance Life Support (ALS) Enhancement Grant**

AVFD has received \$66,000 from the County to support ALS enhancement and to maintain existing BLS services in Mendocino County. The monies are primarily used to provide stipends of \$30 per 12-hour shift for our ambulance crew and a portion of the EMS Officer's wage. During AVFD ambulance staffing drawdowns, AVFD has a contract with MedStar Ambulance of Ukiah in which a paramedic or EMT can be hired to fill the ambulance schedule. Although this grant has provided funding previously, there is no commitment for future years.

Under the reorganized AVCSD and FD staffing structure developed in 2020, AVFD's EMS Officer has been given the task of pursuing grants as an extra responsibility. In addition, several volunteers have assisted AVFD to successfully apply and ultimately receive different grants. Successful grant opportunities that we should continue to apply for are; CALFIRE Rural Capacity Grant, Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), The Community Foundation, GSRMA, USDA, Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program, and the Bradford Foundation.

### **Prop. 172 Funds**

Proposition 172 funding received since 2017 has varied and is dependent on the adopted county budget each year. Annual Prop. 172 revenues have ranged from \$16,000 to \$20,000. These funds should continue to be considered a source of revenue during the life of this plan.

### **AVFD Development Fee**

In March 2020, AVFD hired SCI Consultants to conduct a Nexus Study for Anderson Valley Fire Department in order to create a Development Fee for the District. The Development Impact Fee was adopted by the AVCSD in July of 2020 and also by the County Board of Supervisors in September of 2021. The Development Fee is intended to supplement the Department's current capacity in relation to the current development in the area. With the likelihood of the AVCSD water and sewer project moving forward, the Fire Department will now be able to keep up with these new development impacts. The revenues obtained by these fees will be allocated to capital improvements (additional facilities, apparatus, equipment etc.) required by the new growth. The funding can be used for capital expenditures in either Fire or EMS branches. Exact revenues amounts will be monitored over the life of this plan.



## **Ambulance Transportation Billing**

AVFD started providing emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance response and transportation services within the district in July 2017. Cost recovery for ambulance services is provided currently through Wittman Enterprises and follows an AVCSD adopted fee schedule. The ambulance has averaged between \$85,000 and \$95,000 in billing revenues per year since the 2019/20 FY. Although tight, revenues maintained during the COVID 19 pandemic. For budgetary trending purposes, AVFD does not intend to change the budgeted value in order to provide good empirical analysis over multiple years.

## **Ambulance Membership**

The second, and typically steadier revenue stream for the EMS Branch is the annual ambulance membership program. AVFD ambulance membership letters and emails are sent out annually in late spring, with the option for air ambulance coverage. The EMS Branch should expect to continue receiving the historical average revenue of \$35,000 or more from this program during the life of this plan. Increased memberships have been a result of the streamlined membership process, online applications, email solicitations, and AVFD's data base allowing expired membership prompting.

## **REVENUE PROJECTIONS**

The Department could see changes in revenues through several possible different sources:

We have historically anticipated approximately 3% annual real growth in revenues (4% to 5% including inflation). We have seen minimal increases to the Benefit Assessment and Property Taxes, over the life of the previous plan. It is important to note that the Benefit Assessment, which currently provides nearly 50% of our annual income, is basically fixed revenue. The assessment only increases when new parcels are created or new homes or business are constructed and these changes are documented and reported to the County. As our costs increase (inflation, fuel, insurance, salaries etc.), the relative value of these funds will effectively depreciate. Pursuing options on how to compensate for these costs should be a priority over the term of this plan. New legislation has significantly changed the requirements for a District to impose a Benefit Assessment, making a Special Tax the much-preferred vehicle for this type of revenue.

### **Event Facilities**

Another possible area to receive cost recovery would be to implement a billing procedure for assembly facilities that result in an increase in emergency response to that facility. Similar to the false alarm ordinance, any entity that produces multiple emergency responses during a specific time frame would be subject to a bill for services. Cost recovery would be achieved by the event provider paying any uncollected bills and/or a bill for above normal response.

### **Special Tax**

Given the structure of the Benefit Assessment which has no built-in cost-of-living increase, it is nearly certain that at some point in the future we will have to attempt to obtain a new Special Tax approval from the voters of our District which would replace the existing Benefit Assessment. With the recent removal of Cal Fire's Fire Prevention Fee, and the increase in the community's hazard

awareness due to recent fire activity, passage of such a measure may be achievable and forthcoming.

Given this fact, careful consideration should be given to any actions which would significantly increase expenses on a continuing basis that could not be shed without financial penalty, such as the assumption of long-term debt.

## RESERVES

**Apparatus Reserve:** Intended to provide funding for purchase of vehicles either new or used.

**Worker's Compensation Reserve:** Was developed to collect the portion of the monies received from strike team payments that are designated for Worker's Compensation on the Office of Emergency Services (OES) salary Survey. The monies collected here during the year are used in the following fiscal year to pay a portion of our annual Worker's Compensation insurance bill.

**Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reserve:** Intended to cover UI claims that might occur without impacting the FY budget. GSRMA has estimated that our maximum UI payout potential in one year is approximately \$15,000 for a single employee. The Budget Committee agreed that this account will be capped at \$15,000 in both Fire and EMS branches. Any subsequent UI costs can be budgeted for accordingly during the following FY.

**Structure Reserves:** Intended to provide funding for new construction or remodeling of current facilities. The current funding has not been allocated to any major construction projects at this time. The possibility of assisting the YCBA with construction of a bay on the Yorkville Fire Station to accommodate a water tender may occur during the life of this plan.

**Communications Reserve:** Was established to provide funding to comply with the Federal mandate for "Narrow Banding" which has been completed. It was removed in 2010 and then reinstated in 2014 to provide unanticipated upgrades or repairs to Anderson Valley repeaters. This reserve has been primarily used over the last few years to complete the State's radio load mandate (FIREScope MACS 441) for all department-wide radio replacements (portable or mobile).

**Unfunded Liability/Emergency Reserves:** Intended to provide funds for unanticipated or emergency needs.

**Strike Team Prepayment Reserves:** \$30,000 of seed monies were dedicated to a revolving account from the revenues gained from the deployments during the 2020 fire season. This account allows volunteers to be paid a base stipend of \$150 per day if committed to deployments over five days. The stipend advances the volunteers to offset living costs and delayed payments from OES. The stipend amount is deducted from the firefighter's final payment to replenish this revolving account.

**Pre-Allocated Reserves:** This account sets aside AVCSD approved monies dedicated to a special project or purchase.

As of September 2021, the following amounts were available in dedicated reserves in the County Pool:

**Fire Branch Reserves:**

Apparatus Reserve	\$58,111
Workers' Comp Reserve	\$0
Unemployment Reserve	\$15,000
Structure Reserve	\$55,122
Communications Reserve	\$21,713
Unfunded/Emergency Reserve	\$36,500
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Total of Fire Branch Reserves	\$186,446

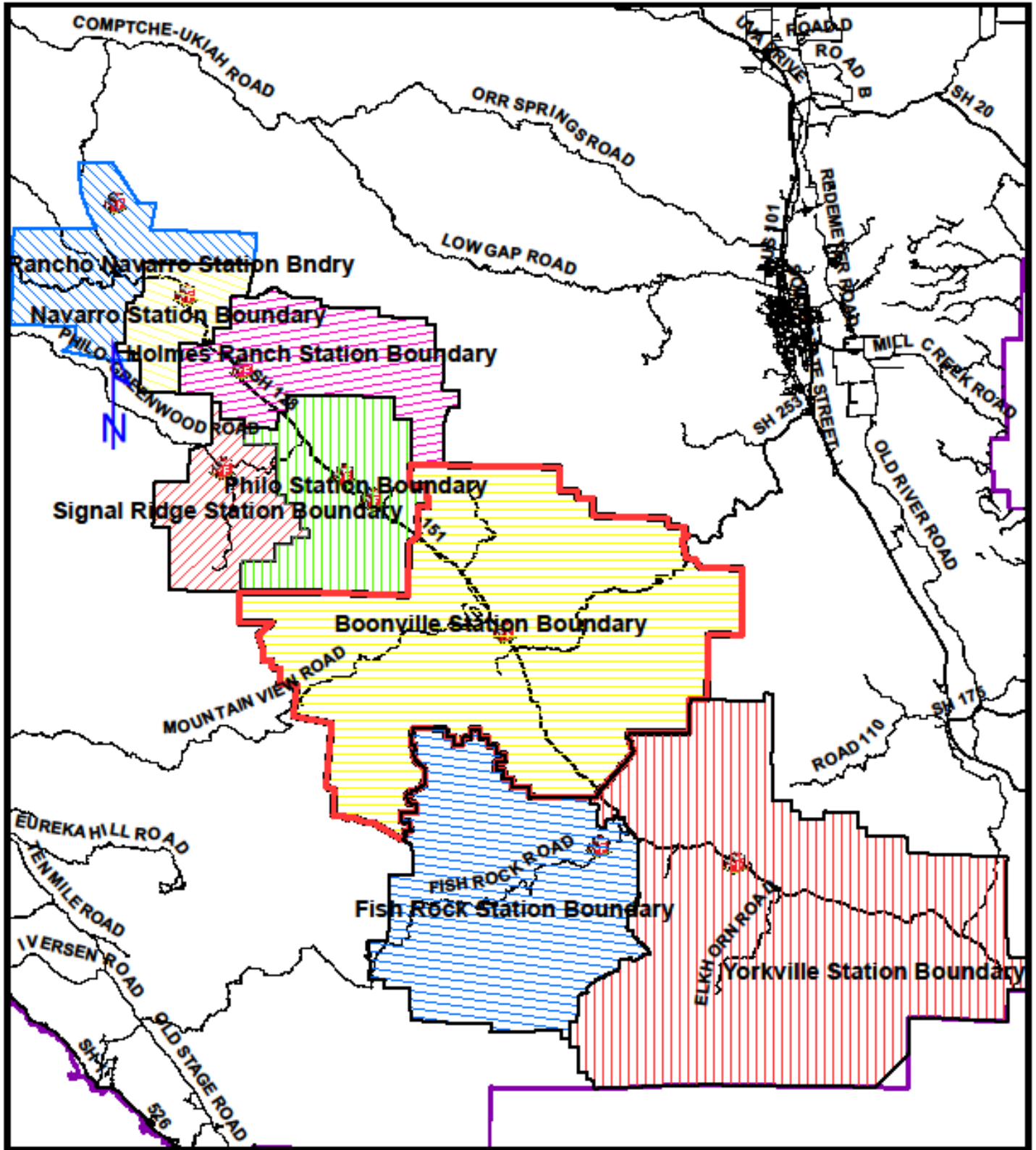
**FY Operating Startup Funds:** The fire branch also maintains a cash reserve (in the operating account) with a minimum beginning balance of \$150,000 to be available on July 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Expenditures from July 1<sup>st</sup> through mid-January utilize this reserve until the first property tax and benefit assessment funds are received.

**EMS Branch Reserves:**

Apparatus Reserve	\$57,485
Unemployment Reserve	\$12,281
Communications Reserve	\$3,287
Unfunded/Emergency Reserve	\$15,000
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Total of EMS Branch Reserves	\$88,053

**FY Operating Startup Funds:** The EMS Branch maintains a cash reserve (in the operating account) with a minimum beginning balance of \$70,000 to be available on July 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

# AVFD Station Response Areas



**INCIDENT TOTALS BY YEAR AND TYPE**  
**2016 – 2020**

YEAR	Vegetation Fire	Structure Fire	Other Fire	Medical	Traffic Collision	IFT	HC/HM	Public Assist	Mutual Aid	TOTALS
<b>2020</b>										
(Fire)	2	4	14	116	52	-	13	54	6	261
<b>2020</b>										
(EMS)	0	0	2	157	50	-	0	1	1	211
<b>2019</b>										
(Fire)	9	11	27	159	37	-	15	19	4	281
<b>2019</b>										
(EMS)	0	3	1	161	36	4	0	4	0	209
<b>2018</b>										
(Fire)	11	3	32	145	64	-	6	14	3	278
<b>2018</b>										
(EMS)	1	0	1	145	57	2	0	4	0	210
<b>2017</b>										
(FIRE)	11	7	22	143	54	-	20	20	4	281
<b>2017</b>										
(EMS)	0	0	0	144	52	-	1	1	0	198
<b>2016</b>										
(Fire)	6	4	18	155	43	-	10	15	2	253
<b>2016</b>										
(EMS)	0	1	0	156	43	-	0	0	1	201

# Department Station Status Review of Apparatus, Facilities, Water Supply, and Personnel

The Anderson Valley Fire Department currently operates 22 pieces of apparatus from ten substations and approximately 45 volunteer personnel. The following review of Apparatus, Facilities, Water for Fire Protection and Personnel will consider the current status of, and anticipated future needs, in each of these categories. Immediately following the current status review is a future needs section that describes areas that the Fire Department should pay close attention to over the next few years.

## Boonville:

Boonville is our busiest station fielding approximately 49% of our total call volume. Boonville is also the primary support Station for both Philo and the East end of the District. Additionally, the primary Rescue vehicle for the District is quartered here, which responds on all Traffic Collisions (TCs) until it is determined that it is not needed. The combined result of these factors is that the principal responders from this Station are subject to considerably greater commitment than the volunteers responding from other stations.

The Boonville Station is the administrative and training center for the District. The offices of the Anderson Valley Community Services District (AVCSD), the Fire Chief, the EMS Officer (EMSO), the Training Officer (TO), and the Administrative Assistant (AA) are located here, along with the main storage for fire suppression supplies and equipment.

Boonville Station is also our primary maintenance facility with most preventive maintenance and repair activities being conducted here.

## Apparatus:

7481 - a type II structure engine (2010 Kenworth pumper in excellent condition).

7471 - a type III wildland engine (2019 BME) purchased new in June 2019, in excellent condition

7431 - a small rescue patrol with extrication tools also used for command vehicle (2011 Ford F550 in good condition)

7491 - a 2000-gallon tactical water tender (2018 Kenworth tender in excellent condition)

7400 - Chief's command vehicle/quick attack 2019 Ford F350 Type 6, purchased new in June 2019, (in excellent condition) This vehicle is quartered in Yorkville at Chief's residence.

7441 - a new utility pickup purchased and put into service in the summer of 2021. This will be used to support AVFD staff, promote additional response for Class C drivers, and will likely be housed with 7401 for quick response.

## Facilities:

The Boonville Station was constructed in 2001 with five apparatus bays, office space for Fire and CSD, and a training/meeting room. An additional room in the mezzanine is used for crew quarters and additional training/meeting space. The office area of the fire house was remodeled over the last winter to allow room for AVFD's Training Officer and EMSO. This station is also where all of the engine maintenance supplies and mechanical tools are kept. The station is served with a newly installed 48K propane generator that can run the station on heavy load for four to five days. General maintenance and upkeep expenses may be necessary.

## Water Supplies:

Three water delivery systems are available in the Boonville response area.

### Fairgrounds Hydrants

There are two hydrants located on Highway 128 east and west of the Fire Station. Additional hydrants are located on the interior of the Fairgrounds. The entire system is owned by the Fairgrounds. The Highway 128 hydrants provide service to the majority of downtown Boonville and are the basis of the ISO 5 rating for any structures located within 1,000 feet of them. The system stores approximately 60,000 gallons of water that can be delivered at a rate of over 600-gallons per minute. This system is old and has had multiple issues over the years that have caused temporary down times.

### High School Standpipes

The High School has two independent standpipe systems. The old system is supplied from a 10,000 gallon tank that also serves the potable water system. It supplies water to three standpipes located near Mountain View Rd. at approximately 200 + gallons GPM. The Ag system recently had a pump upgrade and supplies three standpipes at the rear of the school at about 200 GPM with 50,000 gallons of storage.

### Airport Subdivision Standpipes

One standpipe is located on Estate Drive on the southeast end of the subdivision and another standpipe on Meadows Dr. on the northwest end of the subdivision. A third standpipe is located on Airport Road. The standpipes are owned by the subdivision and are available only for emergency use. The system stores over 20,000 gallons of water and can currently deliver it at a rate of approximately 120 GPM.

## Personnel:

Boonville is currently fully staffed with 8 personnel; A Battalion Chief, One Lieutenant, 4 firefighters, and two recruits. Three of the other listed station personnel are also EMTs. Four are interior qualified and 5 are wildland qualified. Three of the listed personnel are Engineer qualified. As stated in the opening paragraph, Boonville is by far our busiest Station and is subject to some unique demands as our Headquarters Station. The Boonville personnel carry a disproportionate share of the "housekeeping" duties with most general trainings being held here and most supplies being stored here. Additionally, most of the "re-supply" activities occur here following major incidents including maintenance and re-supply for the SCBAs and much of the hose maintenance.

## **Boonville's Future Needs:**

### **Apparatus:**

Rescue 7431 is a heavily used apparatus with increasing demand for evolving equipment. A new apparatus would assist house and store new equipment. Due to the high call response factor and heavy district reliance on 7431, it should be continually analyzed for replacement based on maintenance and rescue equipment storage needs.

### **Structures:**

This station is at max capacity and may soon need expansion or an additional building to support future growth of the department. A carport shelter could assist apparatus or trailer storage.

Consideration of property acquisition immediate to the Boonville Fire Station would allow for future apparatus bays, crew quarters, ambulance facilities, and an upgraded training room facility. Recently approved Development Fee revenues should be allocated into department structure reserves to support property acquisition and/or construction costs associated with expanding Boonville Station facilities.

### **Water Supply:**

A hydrant system throughout Boonville is critical to continued suppression services in the Boonville area. During the Lodge Complex Fire and a subsequent daycare fire in January of 2020, the Fairgrounds water system could not keep up with the water supply demands. Currently the AVCSD is pursuing a municipal water and sewer system for the Boonville Area. This proposed plan is designed to include new construction sprinkler capacity and hydrants. Hydrants would be distributed along Hwy 128 in Boonville, some of the side streets, AV High School, AV Health Center, Meadow Estates subdivision, and along Anderson Valley Way to supply the Elementary School. The clear fire suppression advantages and safety benefits has AVFD supporting this project in every way possible.

### **Personnel:**

The Boonville Station should be staffed with a recommended maximum of ten personnel, not counting the Battalion Chief or Fire Chief positions. The ten slots should be filled with; one Fire Captain, one Lieutenant and eight Firefighters/Engineers. The Battalion Chief's position is for the central district and could be staffed from either the Boonville or Philo Stations. A minimum of six personnel should be interior/wildland qualified, four should be Engineer qualified, and a minimum of three should be EMTs.

Over the past year, CALFIRE has stated several times that they intend to reduce their historic automatic aid response to Mendocino County local fire agencies. CALFIRE's automatic response benefit has made a positive impact in AVFD's nighttime responses because of their ability to get out the door quicker than our volunteers responding from home in bed. The primary area of impact from such a withdraw of service to our community would be in Boonville.

An On Call Duty Officer or Rescue staffing might be an option to ensure a quick response is available in downtown Boonville. The Boonville station is not currently designed with crew living quarters which would require modifications to the upstairs area at minimum. Stipend shifts would be highly encouraged to increase shifts being filled on a regular basis, similar to the ambulance model.



### Hydraulic Extrication Equipment:

Auto extrication rescue equipment is stored on rescue 7431. This equipment is old and heavy but reliable. The hoses have been retrofitted to quick connects and in 2015 the hydraulic pump was replaced. This equipment should be replaced in the next several years. Battery option and combi-tool extrication equipment should be considered.

Fuel Station Needs: A reliable and clean source of fuel is needed in the center of the district. Having a dual gas and diesel dispensing location in Boonville would cut down on the high price of buying fuel at the local gas station. Both Fire and EMS branches would benefit from having a dedicated source of fuel for regular use, when the power is out, or when the local fuel storage has been used up.

## **AMBULANCE STATION**

### Apparatus:

Ambulance 7420 was replaced in April 2020 with a new Ford F550 4X4. The new ambulance has state of the art equipment with an automatic gurney loader and hydraulic gurney. The old ambulance, now 7421, is housed at the Boonville fire house and will remain in the fleet as a back-up.

### Personnel:

There are **18** EMTs and **2** Drivers on the EMS Branch. Drivers are not medically trained for but are solely used for driving the ambulance and can provide EMT support at scene. Several of our EMTs do not reside in AVFD's district and commute in from neighboring departments throughout the county to volunteer here. An AVFD fulltime employee serves as the Emergency Medical Services Officer (EMSO) as well as the Prevention Officer and grant writer.

### Facilities:

The AVFD EMS branch houses the ambulance at the Anderson Valley Heath Center (AVHC). The station extension of the AVHC was built with community contributions specific to provide an adequate facility for the ambulance and crew. The station has a single apparatus bay and storage room for all of AVFD's EMS supplies. The adjacent crew quarters have two private bedrooms, a full-service bathroom, kitchenette, and a common room. AVFD leases the facility for \$1 a year with an additional \$5,999 a year for utilities.

## **EMS' Future Needs:**

### Apparatus:

The previous benchmark has been met with the new ambulance acquisition in 2020. AVFD is has received a reserve allocation from the AVAS during the nonprofit merger dedicated to the replacement of our current backup ambulance 7421. To establish a perpetual and alternating 20-year fleet replacement cycle for both ambulances, A7421 replacement timeframe should be in approximately 5 years. A7421 is a 2006 model with a 20-year replacement goal of 2026. A7420 is a 2019 model with a projected replacement date of 2039.

### Facility's:

The facility is in excellent condition and there are no plans anticipated for the station at this time. There are discussions about a larger facility or alternate location in the Boonville area to house a second ambulance.

### Personnel:

There is an ongoing need for more experienced EMTs in the transport function of the EMS Branch. A strong recruitment drive should be pursued each fall in conjunction with the firefighter recruitment drive. An EMT class should be provided in the spring to support any new influx of EMS applicants.

An EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) class should be provided in the summer for the purposes of certifying drivers and firefighters to a minimum EMS level and simultaneously creating an opportunity for high school students.

Ambulance shifts consist of two volunteers on 12-hour shifts, twice a day. Each volunteer is requested to take one shift a week. Ideally, we would have 14 experienced EMTs as the attendant with 14 less experienced EMTs or Drivers as the second crew member. A second option is to partner within a JPA to pay EMTs, Paramedics, or drivers. Funding challenges and FLSA regulations need to be reviewed in detail before committing into a part or fully paid model.

Challenges with recruitment, retention, time required to establish confidence and experience, and retirement has created a significant staffing issue. More experienced EMTs are necessary to continue adequately staffing the ambulance 24/7. The current trending of ambulance staffing issues could result in the ambulance not having the personnel needed to provide ambulance transport services full time. Nationally, this is a current and historical problem facing rural ambulance services.

### Volunteer Ambulance Staffing:

The Emergency Medical Services Officer (EMSO) has a very difficult role and responsibility to ensure that all ambulance shifts are filled 24/7 with volunteers. This scenario all too often results in the EMSO taking multiple shifts when certain volunteers that take multiple shifts go on vacation or when a volunteer has a schedule change on short notice. New funding and partnership opportunities to support a staffing model should be heavily researched and pursued. A stipend program, paid-on-call, or complete compensation models will be necessary in years to come as the current volunteer model becomes increasingly difficult to maintain.

Ambulance staffing has been an issue county wide since 2019 when Faulk Ambulance Service left Mendocino County. Ambulance drawdown occurs on a regular basis and ground ALS is less likely to be dispatched due to the lack of available ambulances on the Hwy 101 corridor. Ukiah City, Ukiah Fire Authority, and the County BOS are interested in creating a County JPA for Ambulance services. If this JPA movement develops and comes ultimately to fruition in a manner that could strengthen AVFD's ambulance transport services, we should attempt to support the JPA effort. JPA staffing models may provide an opportunity to provide additional staffing to our roster and provide payment to volunteers in a legal manner that would not violate California Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regulations.

## **NEW PHILO:**

### Apparatus:

7488 - a 1982 Cargostar Int'l 1850B was purchased for \$1 from Brooktrails FD in November 2018 and is in fair condition. This engine carries the department's only 35' fire ladder.

7468 a 2016 Ford F350 in good condition, formerly 7400's patrol vehicle. This vehicle gets regular use on a wide variety of district calls.

7498 - a 2,000-gallon Fed-X water tender (1987 IHC all-wheel drive) in generally fair condition but aging with consistent mechanical issues.

### Personnel:

Philo is currently staffed with one Captain who is qualified as EMT and firefighter interior/wildland.

### Facilities:

New Philo is a 40 x 70 foot insulated and heated metal building built in 2006. It was built to replace the Old Philo Station. It has four apparatus bays and a 33,000-gallon water supply with 400+ gpm pump driven hydrant supplied from rainwater run-off from the roof. The New Philo site has a large open grass field that is not currently being used by AVFD.

### Water Supplies:

As noted above, the New Philo Station includes a 33,000-gallon water supply with a 400+ GPM and a draft standpipe at the site. Hendy Woods State Park provides a reliable hydrant system in the park. This water system is the best water supply system in the district.

## **New Philo's Future Needs:**

### Apparatus:

7488 - Even after having been replaced with a newer engine in November 2018, this engine still has a medium-high replacement priority.

7498 – A new water tender should be obtained for Philo during the life of this plan. The existing water tender in Philo can move to Rancho Navarro to maintain water supply needs and ISO rating in that area.

### Structures:

The New Philo station should meet the needs of the Department in this area beyond the life of this plan. This facility has potential to be established and used as a training location for the district. Possible additions to this facility could include; a 40x40 concrete pad on the west side of the building to be used for an auto extrication location, and/or a Conex structure in the field for live fire and ladder training.

### Personnel:

The personnel shortage at this station will depend on additional volunteers becoming available and being provided from the Philo area. A few additional FF/Engineers are needed in Philo. A recruitment drive targeted for the Philo area should be conducted during the life of this plan in an attempt to fill the desired personnel needs.

### **OLD PHILO:**

#### Apparatus:

MCI 74, a 2006 interstate trailer owned by the County of Mendocino and equipped with medical equipment sufficient to handle a ten-person MCI. The Trailer is also equipped with a generator, lights, tables and chairs for an on-site command post. A detailed inventory of its command contents and medical supply for the new MCI protocols was conducted during the fall of 2017.

DECON 74, an interstate trailer purchased new in 2018. Stocked with supplies to carry out HAZMAT First Responder Operations. The trailer replaced utility 7448 which was failing and unreliable.

#### Facilities:

Old Philo station is a 20 foot by 50-foot wood frame building built in the late 50s. The building is in poor condition and very poorly suited for our needs. It has an 8-foot-high ceiling which precludes the storage of most modern fire engines. The building is not insulated, is not well ventilated, has a rodent problem and is in generally poor condition. We maintain a 5,000-gallon Federal Excess tanker trailer at the site plumbed to a roadside "draft hydrant". This station has formally been maintained to assist AVFD with meeting the ISO requirements for stations, engines and water supply in the downtown Philo area. There are several problems with the building and the lot that make improvement difficult, if not impossible. We own the property under lease but there is a revision clause that prevents our selling the property. Construction of the New Philo Station has largely mitigated the facility needs in Philo.

#### Personnel:

No personnel are needed to staff old Philo since it only is used to store specialized equipment

#### Water Supplies:

We have a 5,000-gallon tanker trailer in a fixed location next to the Old Philo station and plumbed to a flooded dry 2 ½" standpipe by the road. Three tanks containing approximately 8,000 gallons of water are located on the I&E Lath Mill property on School House Road and plumbed to a flooded dry 1 ½" standpipe on the corner of the property and accessible from the road.

### **Philo's Future Needs:**

#### Apparatus:

None

Structures:

None

Water Supply:

Philo has a very significant structure exposure with several large buildings and one saw mill. We should consider development of additional water supplies in town to provide the required fire flow. The Scharffenberger Winery Pond could be well suited to this purpose. The Old Philo Station property could potentially be modified into a water storage facility if the trailers were relocated to alternative storage location.

Personnel:

No personnel are needed to staff old Philo since it only is used to store specialized equipment.

**NAVARRO**

Apparatus:

Federal excess-patrol engine 7463, (formerly 7466 on Signal Ridge), is currently responding out of Navarro Station in replacement for the aging structure engine that was formerly housed there. Engine 7463 is in fair condition.

Structures:

The Navarro Station is located in downtown Navarro on property owned by the District but with a revision clause that prevents sale. It is a one bay station situated on the southerly side of the highway between residential parcels. The Station is in poor condition and is small, damp and has a low ceiling that would preclude most modern engines from being housed there. The lot is sloped and timbered and would not be easy or cheap to develop. The property would revert to Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) if we discontinued our use of it as a Fire Station.

Water Supplies:

The Department has access to 10,000-gallons of water supplied through a secure standpipe at Floodgate. The standpipe flows approximately 100 GPM and is privately owned. We have no rights to this system and use it completely at the owner's (Butch Paula) discretion. The second project was the installation of an 8,000-gallon tank and two standpipes in the town of Navarro. The District owns the system and has an easement to secure the property rights. The upper standpipe on Wendling Soda Creek Road flows 150 GPM and the lower standpipe located at the Navarro Store flows 200 GPM.

There is a third location with a 15,000-gallon tank with a Fire Department Connection (FDC) located at the MRC shop approximately ½ mile easterly from the entrance to Rancho Navarro on the Masonite Rd.

Personnel:

At this time one firefighter is responding out of the Navarro Station.

## **Navarro's Future Needs:**

### **Apparatus:**

A replacement type six quick attack should be a goal during the life of this plan.

### **Structure:**

As stated above, the Navarro Station although in poor condition and with significant height restrictions, would be difficult to replace or remodel due to the limitations of the lot. For these reasons, we do not recommend a replacement for this station within the life of this plan. With an historical lack of volunteers, a problematic facility, and the new Holmes Ranch Station responding to calls in this area, this station might be considered for removal during the life of this plan. Careful consideration should be taken in regards to any possible effects on local ISO ratings.

### **Water Supply:**

Any additional water supply systems in the Navarro area would be desirable.

### **Personnel:**

Navarro Station would benefit from additional firefighters and EMTs.

## **RANCHO NAVARRO:**

### **Apparatus:**

The Rancho Navarro Station currently operates three apparatus.

7499 - Water tender. A 1995 Ford L800 2500-gallon tender in fair condition.

7489 – Type II interface engine, 2005 GMC in fair condition.

7449 – Utility pickup truck, 2009 Chevy Silverado in poor condition.

### **Structures:**

The Rancho Navarro Station is a two bay newly constructed building located at the Club House on the Rancho Navarro Subdivision. It will meet the needs of the District in this area for the life of this plan.

### **Water Supplies:**

The Department has completed two standpipe projects in this area. The first one is on Bald Hills Road on Rancho Navarro. We installed a 10,000-gallon tank and 650 feet of water line to a standpipe located at the intersection of Bald Hills Road and Tramway Road. The standpipe flows over 200 GPM and provides water for fire suppression in an area that is difficult to reach and previously had no water available for fire protection. Upon completion, the system was turned over to the Rancho Navarro Homeowners Association. The Department monitors and maintains the system. The second project was a 10,000-gallon concrete tank with a gravity flow standpipe located adjacent to our Rancho Navarro station.

### Personnel:

The Rancho Navarro Station currently has a total of three personnel including a Fire Captain, and engineer and two EMT positions.

### Future needs:

#### Apparatus:

Rancho Navarro could use a use a type six patrol engine to replace utility 7449. The Rancho Navarro has many narrow driveways that are best navigated with a small vehicle for medical aids and some suppression. Having the quick attack would also benefit the West end of Hwy 128 along the redwood corridor with the many vehicle accidents that occur in that area.

#### Water Supply:

Rancho Navarro is our most significant structure exposure in the Navarro area and should have additional water sources developed. Ideally, one would be located near the Masonite Road entrance and one near the Flynn Creek Road entrance.

### Personnel:

The Navarro and Rancho Navarro Stations should be staffed with a recommended eight personnel, at least four of whom should be interior/wildland qualified, a minimum of three should be EMTs and four should be engineer qualified.

## YORKVILLE:

#### Apparatus:

7484 - a 2010 IHC interface engine in excellent condition

7464 – a 2014 F-450 4x4 type six in excellent condition.

NOTE: 7464 was donated by the Yorkville Community Benefit Association and is subject to a use agreement with them.

7474 – a 2005 International 2x4 federal excess type 3 wildland engine in good condition.

#### Structures:

The Yorkville Station is a 24-year-old, two bay station owned by the Yorkville Community Benefit Association (YCBA) and located on property leased from the Hulbert family. The lease will continue until 2040 but is contingent upon the continued presence of the Yorkville Post Office on the property. Should the Post Office for any reason either close or relocate, the lease would expire immediately and the property and building would revert to the Hulberts. At this time, it does not appear that there is any danger of losing the Post Office during the planning period of this document and the current owner of the property would probably permit continued use of the building even if the Post Office were to close. The Department also has use of a 750 square foot community center for training and meetings located in the same building.

### Water Supplies:

Several private water sources have been developed for Department use: a roadside standpipe at MM 38.10 (the old Yorkville Ranch House, 10,000 gallons gravity feed flooded dry standpipe), a roadside hydrant at MM 43.00 (Summer Wind Vineyard, 3,000 gallons), a large pond with gravity feed to a 2 ½” standpipe near the base of the dam at MM 43.67 (the Vidmar Ranch) provides a rate of approximately 150 GPM, a dry standpipe tapping a pond at MM 48.65 (the Mt. House Winery), a gravity fed roadside standpipe at MM 34.6 on the old Ragland Ranch with 10,000 gallons flowing at over 400 GPM, Mountain House Wedding Chapel has a dry and wet standpipe system with 200+ GPM rating and a large storage capacity, a flooded dry standpipe located on Sharon Meadow Lane supplied by two 3,000 gallon tanks. There are also several ponds located in the Yorkville area.

Yorkville station has a 2 ½” standpipe providing 250 GPM of gravity fed rain water stored on the hillside above the station. There are 15,000 gallons of water stored here with a small spring keeping it topped off all year long.

### Personnel:

The Yorkville Station currently has a total of four personnel including the East Battalion Chief, Captain and two firefighter positions, three of which are EMTs. The Fire Chief also resides in Yorkville and is available for response with a command unit when he is home.

### Future Needs:

#### Apparatus:

Water tender 7499 will be moved from the west battalion for Yorkville station when the YCBA completes the new Yorkville fire house in the spring of 2022. With the unknown status of Fish Rock Station in the long term, a water tender located at the Yorkville Station will maintain fire response and maintain the ISO rating for that area. The purchase of a new water tender for Boonville allows movement of one of the AVFD’s existing 2,500-gallon water tenders from the West Battalion to the Yorkville Station if and/or when a structure is available in that area.

#### Structure:

The current Yorkville Station will meet the needs for housing the existing apparatus for the duration of this plan with the current apparatus being housed in it. The building is very small and limits the size of apparatus that can be stationed in Yorkville. A new structure for additional space to house a water tender and the three existing engines in Yorkville is underway while writing this plan. The YCBA has fundraised \$130,000 in conjunction with the AVVFFA contributing \$30,000 for a new metal building structure with a four-bay station. AVFD currently has one additional water tender in its fleet which could be allocated to Yorkville if there was a structure to house it in. The new building and housed apparatus will be completed within the life of this plan.

#### Water Supply:

Any additional water supply systems in the Yorkville area would be desirable.



### Personnel:

The Yorkville Station should be staffed with a recommended maximum of eight personnel, not counting the Fire Chief. A minimum of six personnel should be interior/wildland qualified, three should be EMTs and a minimum of four should be engineer qualified.

### **FISH ROCK**

#### Apparatus:

7435 - a rescue/type III wildland engine. 1981 Ford with a Beck Build up in fair condition but is almost 36 years old.

7495 - a 2000-gallon water tender (1995 Ford L8000 in poor condition)

NOTE: All Fish Rock Apparatus are privately owned and made available to the District under various agreements.

#### Facilities:

The Fish Rock Station is located on the Mailliard Ranch and consists of three buildings owned by the Ranch. We have no formal agreement to occupy and operate entirely at their discretion. Local landowners privately own all apparatus quartered there. This station was established in the early 90's at the request of the Mailliards and the Barrs, who own property in the area. Some of the equipment on the trucks is also privately owned. Although the apparatus is privately owned, it is insured by the District and maintenance costs are shared.

#### Water Supply:

A hydrant system is located on the Mailliard Ranch with several hydrants located near principal buildings in the Ornbaun Valley. These hydrants are available to provide water for re-supplying apparatus operating anywhere in the area.

### Personnel:

The Fish Rock Station is currently staffed with two personnel. All personnel drive and engineer 7435, one is a new recruit and being qualified for wildland and structure firefighting, and the other pursuing an EMT certification.

### **Future Needs:**

#### Apparatus

No replacement of Fish Rock apparatus is anticipated within the life of this plan.

#### Structures:

Fish Rock Station has adequate structure facilities for the life of this plan.

### Water Supply:

The Fish Rock area is very sparsely populated with no concentration of structures outside of the Mailliard Ranch headquarters in the Ornbaun Valley. No additional water projects are planned in the area beyond encouraging local property owners to develop private systems for protecting their structures.

### Personnel:

The Fish Rock Station should be staffed with a recommended maximum of six personnel including the Captain's and Lieutenant's positions. A minimum of four personnel should be interior/wildland qualified, a minimum of two EMT's and four engineer qualified.

The staffing for the Fish Rock Station has declined in recent years and the prospect for additional new recruits there is quite limited. It is anticipated that there will be a staffing crisis there within the life of this plan. Any opportunities for new recruits there should be aggressively pursued. In the event that this station is unable to be staffed, it would be recommended to remove the station and equipment to reduce expenses.

### **SIGNAL RIDGE:**

#### Apparatus:

7466 - Replaced in the spring of 2020 with a new Ford F550. Type VI with 300 gallons and foam capability in excellent condition.

#### Structures:

The Signal Ridge Station is located on the Philo-Greenwood Road just past Signal Ridge Road. The Station is a one bay garage in poor condition and privately owned by the Fashauers with no written agreement.

#### Water Supply:

A private hydrant system which is available to the Fire Department has been installed on the Sky Ranch subdivision approximately one-half mile from Signal Ridge Rd. on the Giuliani property, consisting of a 3,000-gallon tank and a 1 ½ inch hydrant on Panorama Rd. that flows approximately 140 GPM.

A hydrant system has been installed adjacent to the Signal Ridge station on the Bird property.

A privately owned water system has been developed and is currently available via a draft standpipe nearby the pond on the Gundling property on Signal Ridge Rd. AVFD plans to support the local fire safe community with a matching grant to extend the current piping to Signal Ridge Rd. The standpipe will provide unlimited water through a gravity system from a large lake.

### **Future Needs:**

#### Apparatus:

No future apparatus needs are expected at this time.

### Structure:

Signal Ridge station has not been used since 2016. 7466 is currently housed at a Lieutenant's house in the Signal Ridge area. This station should be considered for asset removal due to lack of use and insurance costs. If more volunteers can be found in that area, a new building would be advisable for the Signal Ridge area.

### Water Supply:

No further specific water projects have been identified in this area beyond encouraging property owners to develop water supplies for fire protection.

### Personnel:

The Signal Ridge Station is currently staffed with one responder, who is a lieutenant.

### Future Personnel Needs:

The Signal Ridge Station should be staffed with a maximum of six personnel. Personnel should include four interior/wildland qualified firefighters and two EMTs. Three should be qualified as engineer.

## **HOLMES RANCH:**

### Apparatus:

7487 - a Type II 2001 KME interface engine obtained from OES in good condition equipped for both wildland and structure fires as well as traffic collisions and medical calls.

7477 - a Type III wildland engine (1995 Ford F800 4X4) FEDX. Reassigned to Holmes Ranch from Boonville in 2019.

### **Future Needs:**

### Apparatus:

No future needs planned or expected during the life of this plan. A brush patrol/quick attack vehicle could be utilized at this station but there is no available bay to house such a vehicle. Consideration of switching the Type III engine out for a Type VI could be considered during the life of this plan.

### Structures:

The Holmes Ranch station was newly constructed in 2013 and is a two-bay insulated metal building.

### Water Supplies:

We have developed four standpipe systems on the Holmes Ranch. The first is located near Highway 128 on Holmes Ranch Rd. on the Handley Cellars property. The standpipe is a flooded dry standpipe supplied from a pond. The second standpipe is on the upper portion of Holmes Ranch Rd. between Chipmunk Ln. and Kramer Ln. It is supplied from a 2,500-gallon tank at 1200 Holmes Ranch Rd. The

third system is on the Miniclier property on Guntly Road with a 5,000-gallon tank supplying the standpipe with approximately 200 GPM. The fourth standpipe is located at the Holmes Ranch Fire house. It supplies 6000-gallons of rainwater catchment supply to the engines for topping off their engine after a call or to be used during an emergency. All systems are utilized by formal agreement between the Holmes Ranch Road Association and the property owners.

We have installed a standpipe on the Ruffler property on Nash Mill Road which is supplied from a 16,000-gallon tank and delivers approximately 100+ GPM.

A private overhead standpipe is available on Big Meadow Road on the Aladdin property with a 10,000-gallon tank delivering water at approximately 150 GPM.

Up to 6,000 gallons of water are available at the new Holmes Ranch Station plumbed to a 2 ½” standpipe next to the station.

### **Future Needs:**

#### **Structures:**

The newly constructed station will meet the needs of the District in this area for the life of this plan. An extension to this structure or a separate building to house a water tender or quick attack at this station would be of great value for the West Battalion.

#### **Water Supplies:**

No new water systems are planned in this area at this time.

#### **Personnel:**

The Holmes Ranch Station is currently staffed with a total of 4 personnel including the station Captain, Engineers and EMT positions are filled between the multiple personnel.

#### **Personnel:**

The Holmes Ranch Station is adequately staffed with a recommended maximum of eight personnel. The Western Zone is authorized for a Battalion Chief's position that could be staffed from Holmes Ranch personnel. Personnel should include four interior/wildland qualified, three EMTs and a minimum of three qualified as engineer.

### **FUTURE EXPANSION CONSIDERATIONS:**

No additional stations in new areas are expected during the life of this plan. Continual recruitment and retention challenges make station additions to AVFD's existing infrastructure inadvisable at this time. Although the district has many remote areas requiring service, the cost verses benefit analysis would determine that the district is likely already over committed in lightly used stations and apparatus. With more modern equipment and response protocols we are maintaining similar or faster response times then previous years. Centralized stations support group camaraderie and avoid individuals acting independently. Not adding or even reducing stations will support a closer and more unified response of the volunteer core and avoid creating unneeded recurring expenses.

## **ANNEXATION:**

As mentioned in the revenue section under “Contract Services” LAFCo’s permission to provide Contract Services to some properties adjoining the District came with the presumption that we would eventually annex these properties, although no timeframe was indicated.

In 2016 AVFD successfully reviewed and adjusted our response area to reflect actual properties that could be served by AVFD. Immediately after, AVCSD was successful in establishing our Sphere of Influence (SOI) to correspond with our actual fire department response area. During 2017, AVCSD applied to increase its latent powers to also provide transport services with the district and the SOI/response area. LAFCo instructed AVCSD to pursue annexation to ensure that this extra service would not provide “an illegal gift of public funds” to those in the SOI. During this process, it was determined by LAFCo that ambulance services are not restrained by special district boundaries and therefore annexation was not required. AVCSD continued the annexation process until the county identified that the AVCSD would only receive approximately \$5000 of increased tax revenue. The small amount of tax money anticipated did not justify the AVCSD’s obligations to serve these areas. The annexation process was dropped at that time.

Annexation is an expensive and time-consuming process with no guarantee of success given the requirement for a majority vote of all affected property owners. With the new AVFD Development Fee and new County leadership, annexation should be revisited to see if the district would benefit by reengaging in this process.

## **Review of Department Communications Equipment**

The Department is currently licensed to transmit on several frequencies from five fixed sites (our stations in Boonville, Philo and Yorkville and our repeater facilities located on Sanel Mountain and the ridge top above the Holmes Ranch). The frequencies are detailed in our Federal Communications Commission (FCC) License and cover the required frequencies for us to transmit and receive on the County Fire Dispatch channel (Red and Blue) and our own tactical channel (TAC AR).

With the requirement to narrowband our equipment, we have found that there has been a significant reduction in signal strength, particularly in the Yorkville and Navarro areas. After relocating the County Fire Red antenna on the Sanel tower we have partially mitigated the worst problem in the Yorkville area. AVFD purchased and installed a new transmit antenna on Cold Springs which provides an electrical down tilt and elliptical footprint to enhance reception from Boonville to Navarro. Most all radio transmit and reception issues have been resolved and the system is working adequately.

FIRESCOPE MACS-441 required all agencies participating in mutual aid emergencies to have radios digitally capable and hold a minimum of 400 mutual aid channels, plus their normal unit load. This requirement is mandated for 2024. We will be upgrading to the same portable and mobile radios that CalFire uses for standardization.

AVFD has applied and received nearly a half dozen matching grants to fulfill this requirement. Over the last three years AVFD has purchased nearly \$100,000 in new portable and mobile radios (including accessories). The final grant received this year will conclude the radio upgrades for a decade or two. The Boonville base station and station PA system is the only remaining project within the communications upgrades needing to be completed during the life of this plan

Types of communications equipment:

Base Station Radios: We have base station radios in Boonville, Yorkville, Holmes Ranch and the Ambulance station.

Mobile Radios: All mobile radios have been replaced with RELM M150 radios.

Portable Radios: AVFD is moving toward utilization of Motorola Minitor VI pagers for most responders. RELM P150 portable radios have been purchased to keep charged at stations and in apparatus for incoming personnel. These radios will provide personnel with radios in compliance with the Macs 441 mandate. Officer and approved responders that would like to carry a portable hip radio on a daily basis are issued a cheaper portable radio, an ICOM F52D. In addition to these units, we also have four Bendix King portable radios available within the Department.

Anderson Valley Tactical Mountain Top Repeaters:

Sanel Mountain (Tone 1)

The Sanel Repeater was replaced in 2003 and should not need to be replaced within the life of this plan. The Sanel Repeater is housed in the County vault and utilizes the County's power supply. This advantageous situation exists because the current owner of the County site on Sanel is a District resident (Bev Burger) who has insisted the County provide us this service at no charge. In the event that the property changes hands (which it might during the life of this plan) we may find we have to either pay for the vault space and power or move out. I would anticipate that we would opt to pay the required fee for at least a year or two while we located another site that would meet our needs. In 1997 it cost approximately \$23,000 to purchase radio equipment, construct a building, bring in power and erect an antenna. If we had to replace the Sanel facility today it would probably cost in excess of \$30,000 to replace the facility and move our existing radio equipment into it.

Holmes Ranch Repeater (Tone 3):

Due to the Narrow banding requirements, we were forced to replace the radio, battery backup, antenna, cable and duplexer at our facility on the Holmes Ranch in 2011. The county radio tech then found that the duplexer and antenna needed to be replaced for better performance. AVFD purchased the duplexer and was able to get a high gain antenna for free. The duplexer and antenna were installed in 2019, and this repeater is now at peak performance.

## **ISO Rating**

Some of the components discussed above are critical elements of our Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating. The ISO Rating is an evaluation tool utilized by some insurance companies to determine the effectiveness of a Fire Department in fighting structure fires. ISO is an independent rating service that provides their services to insurance companies for a fee. Over the last decade, insurance companies have been changing their insurance policy assessment models to include details relating to fire severity zones, fire department access, and fire fuels and topography around the property. With the rapid increase of property loss from recent wildfires, more analysis has been put into the potential wildfire risks rather than into isolated structure fire risk. Many insurance models utilize this style of individual property data collection for the properties they are assessing and are using ISO ratings less.

AVFD was evaluated in January of 2015 by ISO and was determined to be a 5/5Y (old 8B) anywhere within five miles of a recognized station (Signal Ridge is not recognized). This rating improvement was achieved due to several factors; new construction of Rancho Navarro and New Philo Stations and the acquisition of two structure engines and two water tenders.

We are currently being evaluated by ISO. Department information was gathered in early 2021 and our latest rating will be provided within the next few months.

As stated earlier in this document, several limited use facilities and aging apparatus are impacting AVFD's financial situation and reduction of such equipment should be considered. Careful consideration must be given to the overall community emergency response benefit verses the cost of over stocking apparatus and equipment.

## **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS**

The Department operates under six formal mutual aid agreements:

1. The California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA): This agreement is with DPA agencies, such as Cal Fire and the U.S. Forest Service, under CAL OES. It provides for compensation to local government agencies such as ours when we respond on Out-of-County campaign fires within the state. The rates for compensation are established annually and the Department is paid for both apparatus and personnel for requested responses exceeding 12 hours.
2. The Cal Fire/MEU and Anderson Valley CSD Fire Department Local Government Agreement (ABH): The ABH covers In-County responses requested by Cal Fire. The ABH is similar to the California Fire Assistance Agreement with some significant differences. Recent changes by the CALFIRE Mendocino Unit increased the minimum on-scene commitment time before local agencies get reimbursement from 4 hours to 12 hours.
3. Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with Hopland Fire Department.  
This agreement provides for unpaid auto aid from Hopland Fire Department on all calls on Mountain House Road.
4. Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with Cloverdale Fire Department.  
This agreement provides for unpaid auto aid from Cloverdale Fire Department on Highway 128 from the County Line to Mountain House Road.
5. CALFIRE Mendocino Unit Chief revised the existing automatic aid agreement to Anderson Valley to only fires and traffic accidents with auto extrication. AVFD did not sign the proposed CALFIRE revision and was told that auto aid responses would revert to fires and auto accidents with extrication on September 2021. We have not seen this change to date but need to anticipate that AVFD will be responding to calls in the district independently.
6. Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with South Coast Fire Department (SCFD). This agreement provides for an unpaid mutual auto aid response for a water tender and one appropriate engine from both AVFD and SCFD on all fire related calls on Fish Rock Road between MM11 and MM19.

## **CURRENT PAID SERVICES AND PERSONNEL**

Currently the Fire Department employs three full-time salary paid positions. Salary positions consisting of the Fire Chief, EMSO and Training Officer were established in 2020. Additionally, we employ a part-time mechanic and a contract cleaning service.

The Fire Chief oversees and manages the entire Fire Department, coordinates with outside agencies, navigates the political arena, and reports to the AVCSD Board.

The EMS Officer (EMSO) oversees and manages the EMS Branch of the Fire Department. Additional duties for the EMSO consist of conducting regular fire code inspections and grant writing.

The Training Officer (TO) oversees the training program for the Department. Additional duties for the TO consist of the Public Information Officer and managing the NIFERS program.

## **ANTICIPATED FUTURE PERSONNEL NEEDS**

The Department may find that it is desirable to employ additional paid personnel within the life of this plan. Careful consideration to the impact of reoccurring expenses should be recognized when determining if additional employees are necessary. Potential new paid positions could include:

### Duty Officer/ Rescue Staffing:

See Boonville Station Personnel Future Needs section.

### EMSO and Ambulance Staffing:

See Ambulance Station Personnel Future Needs section.

## **FIRE AND EMS PREVENTION ACTIVITIES**

**Fire Code inspections:** The State mandated annual inspections for multiple occupancy groups throughout our district. All other occupancies groups that are covered under the adopted CFC are now being inspected as a part of AVFD's rolling inspection program. Some of these occupancy types are: public assembly, educational facilities, hazardous occupancies, transient occupancies, commercial kitchens and fire suppression systems, tents, and others. Routine and annually required inspections are typically scheduled for February for all known facilities. Moving from a paper-based inspection program to an online databased program should be strived for during the life of this plan.

In addition to these inspections, we also perform some advice inspections to public and private properties who request it with the goal of improving fire safety and prevention in occupancies where we have no enforcement authority.

The AVCSD previously did not support the formal adoption of the California Fire Code (CFC) in past attempts due to public protest. With the recent CFC adoption by the State, AVFD now has the responsibility to plan review all new construction within the district (residential not included). The newly adopted Development Fees will now require AVFD to review all construction projects to ensure safety in new construction.



AVFD was able to roll out a new Fire Box Program throughout the district. These boxes are located strategically along roadways in major subdivisions to provide incoming first responders with maps. The maps provide road systems, topography, water sources, LZs, structures, addresses, etc. Each map has a QR code for quick downloading to a georeferenced map.

Additionally, we provide public education on fire safety through various types of public presentations and on-site consultation with local property owners when requested.

The EMS branch recently obtained an American Heart Association (AHA) certification for first responder and civilian CPR classes. AVFD will outreach and provide CPR and first aid community enrichment programs to the best extent possible. Several areas to continue but not be limited to are; "Hands only" CPR and first aid for the community and schools, looking into the possibility of a community paramedic, EMT and EMR classes, etc.

## REVIEW OF PROGRESS

**The following goals were identified in the adoption of the 2018 Long Range Plan. The Status column shows the status of each goal from the 2018 LRP.**

<u>Goal:</u>	<u>Status:</u>
Development Fee (Nexus Study)	Completed
County EOA	Attempted/ Failed due to inadequate funding projections
Department Radio Replacement	Completed. (Final purchase being conducted in 2021)
Replace 7471	New Purchase in 2019
Add New Ambulance to fleet	New Purchase in 2020
Replace 7441	New Purchase in 2021
Remove Decon Utility Truck 7448	Replaced by trailer unit in 2019 (now Decon 74)
Removed 7483	Relocated 7466 to Navarro (now 7463)
Removed 7488 from service	Replaced with Brooktrails Engine (now 7488)
Removed FedEx 7468 from fleet	Replaced with old 7400 type six (now 7468)
Removed FedEx 7478 from fleet	

Additional apparatus replaced/added/retired since 2018.

Engine 7400	Added new Ford 350 / small skid mount
Engine 7466	Added new Ford 550 / skid mount / type 6
Engine 7474	Added through FedEx program
Tender 7497	Retired/sold
Engine 7485	Retired/ Returned to Owner

Other major changes:

AVCSD Reorganization	Streamlining funding and duties within an overall AVCSD staff reorganization, AVFD was able to reduce workload on certain staff and hire an additional full time staff member.
EMSO Duties Redefined	Removed TO, added fire inspections and grant writing

Training Officer Added  
Office Remodel  
Fire Code Compliance in Work area

Replaced Compressed air piping  
AVVFFA /AVAS Merger

Full time salary, PIO, NIFERS, and other duties assigned.  
Boonville station remodeled to support all staff  
Boonville maintenance area sheet rocked and remodeled to  
comply with fire code.  
OSHA incompilant PVC pining replaced with steel pipes  
The last component of the AVFD ambulance merger was  
completed in July 2021 with the AVAS merging into the  
AVVFFA for a complete and totally unified EMS and fire  
department.