



Lauren Tribble-Laucht <ltaucht@traversecitymi.gov>

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## Summer 2023 staff increase request

4 messages

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Jim Tuller <jtuller@tcfire.org>

Fri, Feb 17, 2023 at 3:20 PM

To: Dan Sal <dan.sal@tvcairport.com>

Cc: Marty Colburn <mcolburn@traversecitymi.gov>, Lauren Tribble-Laucht <ltaucht@traversecitymi.gov>

Hi Dan,

Regarding the request from City Fire to provide an extra level of staffing for the Sun Country flights, I can report that we are not in a position currently to be able to honor this request due to the consistent minimum daily staffing levels we are experiencing.

We are currently 6 Suppression positions "short". 3 are replacements and 3 are additional authorized staff to provide a 2-person crew for Engine 01 out of Station 01 24/7.

Though we are making headway regarding hiring, we are likely 2 years+ from being able to pick up an extra assignment as outlined in previous communications.

From the outside, it may be thought that James or Keith could alter their schedules to accommodate the request. However, both are extremely busy with their regular duties and additional responsibilities regarding new personnel we hope to on-board in the near future.

From an Operational perspective, I recommend looking at a few of your current Ops or Maintenance staff to fulfill this obligation. Once qualified by the FAA, they could augment our personnel to a certain degree should we incur a large complex and protracted emergency event at or about the airport. They already know the property, airport specific communication processes, and operations. I feel they are over half way there as is.

There is a very good 1-week program through Dallas Fort Worth that we send our new people to that meets requirements for the 40-hour initial FAA training. That along with the local airfield training we have developed over the years sets our new personnel up for success. I can forward more information on to your office if you'd like.

There would also be a component of positive team building that could be realized as a result of taking the project in the direction suggested. The pay off would be in the area of day-to-day operations and also, more importantly, during an emergency event.

Should your office look to engage with GT Metro Fire, or another outside municipal fire service, we would need to sit down and develop an addendum/LOU to the current City-NRAA agreement in the specific areas that detail responsibility for damage to equipment, apparatus and buildings and other related language areas.

Currently, I am on limited duty due to knee injury I incurred about 2 weeks ago on a mutual aid fire scene. My mobility has been greatly impacted in the short-term. Hence this email rather than a face-to-face meeting.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Chief

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Chief Jim Tuller  
Traverse City Fire Department Station 01  
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(231) 922-4930