



Teton County Commissioners  
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July 28, 2021

Fire Commissioners  
Teton County Fire Protection District  
P.O. Box 474, 911 North Highway 33  
Driggs, ID 83422

Dear Fire Commissioners Letham, Golden and Foster;

We have read your letter to the Teton County Clerk of July 17, 2021, with considerable interest. As you know, Teton County is deep into its budgeting process for FY 2022. We are facing many budget shortfalls that arise from ever increasing demand for public services in Teton County. Among these challenges is the growing cost of operations at the County Dispatch Center. Given our need to adequately serve the public with these emergency services, we must reject your proposal to cut your contribution to the Center.

Over the years the Fire District's funding for the County Dispatch Center as a percentage of the Center's costs has declined considerably. Your proposal to provide what is essentially only 10% of the Dispatch Center costs in FY2022 is simply not acceptable. Over the years since the Fire Protection District began discussions to take over ambulance services in the County, the District promised to fund as much as 2/3 of the dispatch costs. As both the County and the District are funded by Teton County taxpayers, we need to reach an equitable resolution of this funding issue that meets the needs of all our people.

Please recognize that we as a County Commission are committed to meeting the health and safety needs of all the people of Teton County to the full extent of our capacity. The Fire Protection District has made multiple pledges to carry its share of that responsibility over the years. In the context of your past promises and growing revenue, we do not understand your reluctance to fulfill your commitments. Please appreciate that the County Commission's perception is that the Fire District's contribution to the County Dispatch Center should be increased, not diminished.

We do hope that we can all meet soon to resolve this matter amicably. That meeting will best be held in public session in the County Commission chambers in the Teton County Courthouse as the County Commission is not allowed by statute to meet as a body without public notice. We again invite you to join us in collaborative conversation.

Respectfully yours,

Cindy Riegel, County Commission Chair

Michael Whitfield, Commissioner

Bob Heneage, Commissioner