

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE TWENTY SECOND COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-16-41 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton and Dan Lewis

1 RESOLUTION
2 ESTABLISHING MINIMUM STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALBUQUERQUE
3 FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE APPARATUS, RESCUE APPARATUS, LADDER
4 APPARATUS, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SQUADS, HEAVY TECHNICAL
5 RESCUE SQUADS, QUALITY ASSURANCE UNITS, BATTALION COMMANDER
6 UNITS AND SUPPORT DIVISIONS

7 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Fire Department has a proud tradition of
8 providing excellent emergency response services to the citizens and visitors
9 of the City of Albuquerque; and

10 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque recognizes that firefighting and
11 emergency medical response are inherently dangerous with calls for fire
12 suppression and emergency medical responses increasing annually; and

13 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Fire Department has earned a Class 1 rating
14 by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The ISO Class 1 rating is the highest
15 rating possible and has been achieved by less than 100 fire departments
16 nationwide; and

17 WHEREAS, receiving the ISO Class 1 rating is an reflection of the
18 Albuquerque Fire Department’s resource capacity and capability to respond to
19 emergencies; and

20 WHEREAS, evaluation by the Insurance Services Office is extremely
21 comprehensive. Programs and resources including fire prevention and
22 investigation, training, dispatch, water supply system capabilities, staffing
23 levels, equipment, and resource deployment capabilities are each reviewed.
24 An ISO Class 1 rating indicates that the risk and cost of property loss due to
25 fire in our community is significantly reduced through both fire prevention and
26 emergency response efforts when a fire does occur. Achieving an ISO Class 1

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1 rating is a tremendous accomplishment that benefits the entire business and
2 residential community; and

3 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Fire Department has accomplished the ISO
4 Class 1 rating, in part, by staffing rank specific sworn personnel
5 (“firefighters”) to all Engine apparatus with a minimum of four (4) firefighters,
6 Rescue apparatus with a minimum of two (2) paramedic firefighters, Ladder
7 apparatus with a minimum of three (3) firefighters, Hazardous Materials Squad
8 apparatus with a minimum of two (2) firefighters, Heavy Technical Rescue
9 Squads with a minimum of four (4) firefighters, Quality Assurance Units with
10 one (1) paramedic firefighter, Battalion Commander Units with one (1)
11 firefighter; and

12 WHEREAS, the practice of staffing Albuquerque Fire Department
13 apparatus, as stated above, strives to meet the intent of the accepted fire
14 service industry standards; as adopted by the National Fire Protection
15 Association including: 1710 - STANDARD FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND
16 DEPLOYMENT OF FIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL
17 OPERATIONS, AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS TO THE PUBLIC BY CAREER
18 FIRE DEPARTMENTS; Occupational Safety & Health Administration, 29CFR
19 1910.134(g)(4), “2-In/2-Out Rule”; the International Association of Fire Chiefs,
20 and the International Association of Fire Fighters, National Institute of
21 Standards and Technology (NIST) – Report on Residential Fire ground Field
22 Experiments (2010) and NIST - Report on EMS Field Experiments (2010); and

23 WHEREAS, the City Council, Mayor, Fire Chief, and members of the
24 Albuquerque Area Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 244, recognize that the standards
25 and best practices of fire suppression and emergency medical service (EMS)
26 responses are ever evolving, and that the Albuquerque Fire Department shall
27 continually monitor trends in Fire/EMS operations to expand Fire/EMS
28 services; and

29 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque is committed to support our
30 firefighter’s efforts to provide our citizens and visitors with the best possible
31 service in the most efficient and effective manner, and to provide our
32 firefighters with a reasonable level of safety while performing their assigned
33 duties.

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1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
2 ALBUQUERQUE:

3 Section 1. That, with the exception of temporary exigencies or
4 emergencies, as determined by the Chief, the City of Albuquerque will
5 continue the policy and practice of staffing rank specific firefighters to all
6 Engine apparatus with a minimum of four (4) firefighters, Rescue apparatus
7 with a minimum of two (2) paramedic firefighters, Ladder apparatus with a
8 minimum of three (3) firefighters, Hazardous Materials Squads with a minimum
9 of two (2) firefighters, Heavy Technical Rescue Squads with a minimum of four
10 (4) firefighters, Quality Assurance Units with one (1) paramedic firefighter, and
11 Battalion Commander Units with one (1) firefighter.

12 Section 2. The City of Albuquerque will continue to staff firefighters in the
13 Fire Marshal’s Office, Arson Investigation Division, Communications and
14 Dispatch Division, and Training Division with adequate staffing levels.

15 Section 3. That as the size of the City and call volume for the Fire
16 Department increases thereafter the City of Albuquerque shall increase the
17 number of apparatus with categorical staffing levels maintained, increase
18 firefighter staffing levels of the Fire Marshal’s Office, Arson Investigation
19 Division, Communications and Dispatch Division, and Training Division.

20 Section 4. That in the event of staffing modifications recommended by the
21 Chief, the City of Albuquerque and Albuquerque Area Fire Fighters, IAFF Local
22 244, must meet and confer prior to amending the staffing levels stated in this
23 Resolution.

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