

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SECOND COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-16-69 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Patrick Davis

1 RESOLUTION

2 ESTABLISHING A FIRE SERVICE AIDE PROGRAM AND PROTOCOLS FOR
3 FIRE SERVICE AIDES TO PROVIDE FIRST-RESPONDER SERVICES FOR NON-
4 LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL CALLS, INCLUDING PERSONS SUFFERING
5 FROM INTOXICATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN PUBLIC PLACES; MAKING
6 AN APPROPRIATION.

7 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Police Department exists to prevent and
8 respond to crimes; and the Albuquerque Fire Department exists to save lives
9 by providing lifesaving medical services and firefighting services; and

10 WHEREAS, being under the influence of self-induced intoxicants is not a
11 crime in the City of Albuquerque; and persons suffering from public
12 intoxication may require basic first aid and transportation for detoxification
13 but do not routinely require a full life saving medical response; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2015, The Albuquerque Police Department and Fire
15 Department jointly responded to more than 15,000 calls, 41 per day, for
16 medical assistance for persons suffering from substance abuse in public
17 places, sometimes referred to as “down and out” calls; and

18 WHEREAS, “down and out” calls account for 15% of total calls for the Fire
19 Department and also require the equivalent of three full-time police officers
20 per day to respond to these calls; and

21 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Police and Fire Departments currently
22 respond to these calls as a “Priority 1,” in the same category as crimes of
23 violence in progress, or life-threatening medical emergencies, responding with
24 full lights and sirens in an expedited manner, and spend, on average, nearly 45
25 minutes per call; and

26 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Fire Department currently responds to these
27 calls with full fire and ambulance services, making these highly-trained

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1 firefighters and medical personnel unavailable for life-threatening
2 emergencies; and the medical response required for the majority of these
3 calls, currently provided by full AFD fire and rescue units, could be facilitated
4 by persons with basic medical training; and

5 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Police Department is currently understaffed
6 and responses to medical calls divert officers from responding to calls for
7 crimes in progress or community policing activities.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
9 ALBUQUERQUE:

10 Section 1. The Albuquerque Fire Department is authorized to establish a
11 Fire Service Aide (FSA) program allowing FSAs to learn about the
12 Department's policies and procedures prior to entering the Fire Academy as a
13 Fire Cadet. FSAs shall receive basic fire safety training and EMT-level medical
14 training enabling them to assist with non-life threatening medical calls for
15 service and support for fire fighters and paramedics on critical scenes, and
16 other training as determined by the Fire Chief.

17 Section 2. Upon certification to the Mayor and City Council by the Fire
18 Chief and Director of Human Resources that the job descriptions, training and
19 duties have been established for FSAs, and that a sufficient number of FSAs
20 have been hired and trained, the Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments
21 shall establish policies that include adjusting response protocols to eliminate
22 Priority 1 responses as the default response to "down and out" calls for
23 service, where:

- 24 a.) A Fire Service Aide or otherwise trained employees is available
25 to respond, triage and provide aide in a reasonable amount of
26 time, and
27 b.) When there is no indication that a person needing medical
28 assistance has been the victim of a crime or may require
29 advanced medical assistance.

30 Section 3. Nothing in this resolution shall be interpreted to prevent a
31 police officer, firefighter, EMT or paramedic from initiating a welfare check on
32 any person he/she observes who may require medical assistance. Nor shall
33 any supervisor of the Police or Fire Departments be prohibited from directing

1 staff under his/her direction to calls for service as he/she otherwise deems
2 necessary.

3 Section 4. The Fire Chief shall report to the City Council on progress
4 implementing this program at the end of the second quarter of FY17 and at the
5 end of FY17.

6 Section 5. The following appropriation is made from available fund balance
7 in the State Fire Fund (210) in FY/17 for the purposes of purchasing supplies
8 or equipment for AFD:

9 **STATE FIRE FUND – 210**

10 **Fire Department**

11	State Fire Fund	\$60,000
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