



SPONSOR:

BILL: _____

Fire Department Squad/Heavy Technical Rescue Unit

\$650,000 to purchase and equip a heavy technical rescue unit for the Fire Department for emergency service in Bernalillo County and surrounding counties. The Bernalillo County Fire Department (BCFD) is a paid professional fire department in North-Central New Mexico. Bernalillo County encompasses 1,160 square miles with a population of approximately 675,000. BCFD is the second largest fire department in personnel numbers within the State of New Mexico. This makes BCFD well equipped to assist other fire departments in the area and around the state in the event of large-scale or complex incidents. BCFD has an automatic aid agreement with the City of Albuquerque, and multiple mutual aid agreements with surrounding cities and counties as well as the four Native American reservations located within Bernalillo County. The department has had a steadily increasing volume of emergency responses in recent years. Some of these incidents include complex technical rescues that need specialized equipment. Emergency response volume has increased from 12,469 responses in 2011 to approximately 15,650 responses in 2014. This equates to an increase in volume of over 25% in three years. With this increase in response volume, it has become necessary to consolidate resources on specialized units in an effort to provide consistent service across the county while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Bernalillo County has many geographic and man-made hazards that pose a challenge to BCFD from a technical rescue and specialized response standpoint. These include technical rescues in and around the Rio Grande River Valley, the Sandia Mountain Range; railroad tracks that run through the County, multiple bulk storage chemical facilities, and more than 75 miles of interstate that run through Bernalillo County. This translates to a need for a replacement specialized heavy technical rescue or squad unit that can bring specialized rescue equipment to the scene of an incident in Bernalillo County or around the state of New Mexico. This unit would respond countywide with a mission focus on technical rescue, but would also respond to fires, medical emergencies requiring specialized equipment, and active shooter incidents.

Fifty Second Legislature, First Session, 2015

AR 2015 – 3 as amended.1C2.PS.CO.Fire Dept Emergency Squad Unit
House #
Senate #
Commission #