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FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

Held via BlueJeans video conference, commencing at  
10:00 a.m., on October 15, 2020.

REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kyle Ginoza, Chair
- Jack Freitas, Member
- Travis Tancayo, Member
- Dwight Burns, Member
- Donna Sterling, Member
- Punahеле Alcon, Member

STAFF:

- Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
- Michael Werner, Battalion Chief
- Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief
- Gavin Fujioka, Captain
- Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Keola Whittaker, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary
- Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

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(October 15, 2020, 10:00 a.m.)

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CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. It's ten o'clock. I'd like to call the fire and public safety commission meeting to order. I'm Chair Kyle Ginoza. I'd like to start off with roll call.

Lisa Vares, vice chair, is unable to join us today and she's excused.

Jack Freitas.

COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yes.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Travis Tancayo.

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: I don't see him yet.

Gregg Lundberg.

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: I don't see him yet.

Dwight Burns.

COMMISSIONER BURNS: Here.

CHAIR GINOZA: Donna Sterling.

COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here.

CHAIR GINOZA: Punahuele Alcon.

COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here.

CHAIR GINOZA: And Max Kincaid, Jr. is not able to join us, so -- so far we have five of our members.

I would like to now recognize the resources we have.

Brad, could you introduce the members in your -- in

1 your place?

2 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Certainly. Good morning,  
3 everybody. I have myself, Brad Ventura this morning,  
4 Assistant Chief Kawasaki and Assistant Chief Werner. Our  
5 guest speaker today, Captain Fujioka from our Kihei Fire  
6 Station, is going to be doing our presentation on apparatus  
7 acquisition. And in our room with us also we have Richelle,  
8 commission secretary.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great.

10 And, Gary, are you with Keola or is Keola -- are you  
11 (inaudible) --

12 MR. MURAI: Keola's on, he's -- he's participating  
13 separately. But, yeah, deputy corporation counsel Gary Murai.  
14 And, folks, I just wanted to introduce Keola Whittaker. Keola  
15 recently joined our office and he will be taking over fire  
16 commission from me. But as you folks know, I've had several  
17 stints with the fire commission and I'll still continue to be  
18 assisting the department in other ways. So I won't be here  
19 for a while, but you will be ably served by Keola.

20 And, Keola, maybe if you could just take a second  
21 and introduce yourself to everyone.

22 MR. WHITTAKER: Yes. Hi, very nice to meet all of  
23 you. I started here in August and I'm originally from  
24 Honolulu, but my family is originally from Maui, so it's good  
25 to be home and I look forward to working with you.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Keola.

2 And, I'm sorry, I forgot to the recognize Herman  
3 Andaya with Maui Emergency Management Agency. Herman, do you  
4 have anybody with you today?

5 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair. I --  
6 the mayor was on the phone, called me, so I had to pick up,  
7 take that call. But it's just myself today.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great. Thank you.

9 I don't see any other resources we need to recognize  
10 at this point.

11 I'd like to move on to public testimony. Richelle,  
12 is there -- is there anyone from the public wishing to  
13 testify?

14 MS. WAKAMATSU: No.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. If there's no objections, I'd  
16 like to close public testimony.

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Motion to close. No objection.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Donna Sterling. Second.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. I'd like to move on to the  
23 Maui Emergency Management Agency. Herman, you have the floor.

24 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
25 have my report -- oh. Good morning, Mr. Chair, Commissioners.

1 You have my report in front of you and so I'll just do a real  
2 quick highlight of it. We have on island HiEMA and that's the  
3 Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: I'm sorry, Herman.

5 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: I think I forgot to do the approval  
7 of the minutes.

8 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Oh, okay.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: I skipped over the approval of the  
10 minutes before -- that I was supposed to do before public  
11 testimony, so if you don't mind, could we -- could I have  
12 somebody make a motion to approve the minutes?

13 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Motion to approve.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Motion to approve by Dwight.  
15 Any second?

16 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I'll second. Donna  
17 Sterling.

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Second by Donna. All in favor, say  
19 aye.

20 (Response.)

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Any opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. The minutes are approved.

24 I'm sorry, Herman. Please go ahead.

25 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: No, no. No problem,

1 Mr. Chair.

2 And so as I was saying earlier, we do have the  
3 Hawaii Emergency Management Agency on island from their  
4 communications branch and they are going to some of our sirens  
5 that need maintenance, so that's happening today -- oh,  
6 yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In fact, there was a press  
7 release that went out. They'll be testing the sirens at --  
8 certain sirens, not all the sirens, and so you might -- if  
9 you're in the area of the sirens being tested, you might  
10 hear -- you might hear it go off.

11 We are continuing to be in activation, partial  
12 activation. We are working on several plans: a surge testing  
13 plan, a vaccination plan in the event a vaccination becomes  
14 available, we've been working with the state on that. As well  
15 as today, as you know, we're opening up -- we're allowing  
16 pretesting travel, so what that is you're exempt from --  
17 exempt from quarantine if you receive a negative result on a  
18 test prior to traveling to -- to the state.

19 That's all I have, Mr. Chair. I'm open to any  
20 questions if there are any.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any commissioner have any  
22 questions?

23 (No response.)

24 CHAIR GINOZA: I have a question about the sirens.  
25 So they're doing recon now and do you have any idea of when

1 they'd be able to fix the ones that have been broken or not  
2 functional for a while now?

3 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes, Mr. Chair. So they have  
4 a -- they have a plan with respect to, you know, some of  
5 these -- some of these sirens. Some of these sirens will be  
6 replaced, that's the first thing. But often what happens is,  
7 you know, they come here, they look at the siren, they try to  
8 determine what the problem is, and then they go back -- they  
9 go back to Honolulu, they order whatever part or whatever the  
10 case may be, and then they come back, they install the part,  
11 and then they'll test it again to see if it works. So  
12 sometimes it's a -- it's kind of a long process just to get it  
13 fixed.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

15 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: You're welcome.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: If no other commissioner has any  
17 questions, I'd like to move on to the fire department section.  
18 Chief Ventura, please.

19 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Hi. Good morning, everybody.  
20 Thank you for being here today. Chief Thyne is unable to be  
21 with us. Last month one of the questions that was asked was  
22 have we sent anybody to help with the California fires and so  
23 since then, yes, we sent up two trainees who work in the  
24 logistic section at the California fires and Chief Thyne was  
25 also asked to go up there and work with their liaison section.

1       Ironically and, you know, very uniquely, they -- we -- they  
2       were at a fire that was first ever gigafire in California  
3       (inaudible) fire. So the areas where they were working, they  
4       were working in the command system, so they were at camp, they  
5       weren't actually on the fire line, but a lot of things that  
6       they were able to do while they were up there and learn.  
7       They're all in transit today and tomorrow returning to Maui,  
8       so that they can avoid quarantine by being tested, and they'll  
9       be back to work early next week.

10               The normal things that we've been going through  
11       throughout the month. We have daily directors meetings, a lot  
12       of COVID things involved in there and budget preparation for  
13       the year.

14               The Mayor's Monthly Meeting: I met with him and he  
15       kind of talked to us about what this coming FY '22's budget is  
16       expected to look like. And we all kind of know based on  
17       COVID, it's going to be a pretty lean year.

18               We're working with the insurance company. If you  
19       guys recall, back in July Tanker 14 out of Wailea was damaged.  
20       Repairs have begun on that vehicle, so that is a good thing  
21       for to us get that truck back in service here in a couple of  
22       months, hopefully.

23               We work with FEMA with Chief Martin, who handed the  
24       project to have Chief Werner, to get reimbursed for quite a  
25       bit of expenses from Hurricane Lane. That was 2018, we just

1 received the check a couple weeks ago, \$147,000 will go back  
2 to the county for that hurricane. So that money doesn't go  
3 into our fund, but it goes into the county general fund, so we  
4 do what we can to do all the paperwork and supply FEMA with as  
5 much documentation as we can to get back as much money for the  
6 county as we can.

7 Corporation Counsel: This month we've actively been  
8 involved -- we have a lot of travelers in our fire department,  
9 they all needed travel exemptions, so we were providing travel  
10 exemptions to --

11 (Commissioner Tancayo entered the meeting.)

12 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: -- probably 35 or 40  
13 employees there.

14 And then we're working, our confined space training  
15 cadre as well as our wildland training tests. Corporation  
16 counsel helped us to get (inaudible).

17 The Lanai Fire Station: We did meet with the  
18 consultant and they're -- they're working on an expansion in  
19 the property there. We're looking to add another apparatus  
20 bay behind just for storage of vehicles, so we're working with  
21 them. Every week we meet with them to get updates and give  
22 them information (inaudible) those plans done. And we should  
23 actually have all of those plans and specs done for Lanai this  
24 week and then we'll work with purchasing to put that project  
25 out to bid. And the way we did it was -- a lot of times

1 county projects come in over budget, so what we did was we  
2 created the project in sections so that they could bid Section  
3 1, Section 2, and Section 3, so we can kind of a la carte the  
4 project and hopefully stay within our budget and just take  
5 what we can afford.

6 Haiku Fire Station: We've received the assessment  
7 on the current piece of property that we own and that document  
8 is being looked over now. In the meantime, that same company  
9 Munekiyo & Hiraga, is looking at three other sites in Haiku,  
10 because that's what the council members asked us to do. So  
11 they're assessing three other properties just to make sure  
12 that we are on the best spot in Haiku should we build a  
13 station.

14 FY '22 Budget: We would like to add, Chair Ginoza,  
15 to next month's agenda that we do a budget presentation to you  
16 folks, because you are required to approve our budget before  
17 we send it up to the mayor's office. The budget is due  
18 November 13th, but because we meet a couple of days after  
19 that, we already got approval from the budget director to get  
20 an extension to the 20th. So we'll present to you folks next  
21 budget meeting -- I mean, next commission meeting and then get  
22 our budget up to the mayor's office two days later.

23 What we've done to prepare for that is the chiefs  
24 have been working with the battalion chiefs and the bureaus to  
25 solicit input so that we can create our budget for next year.

1 They have eyes on every situation from safety needs to  
2 prevention needs and operation needs, so they're bringing back  
3 all of that information for to us to help shape our budget.

4 Our annual report is complete. It is over a hundred  
5 pages, so I'm going to ask you folks that want it to just  
6 email Richelle. She can either send it to you, hopefully,  
7 electronically or if it's too big, she'll have to mail you a  
8 jump drive, or if you'd like a hard copy, she can put it in  
9 your next packet. Some people like paper, some people like  
10 electronic, so let's just go ahead and email Richelle with  
11 your requests and then she'll be able to facilitate your needs  
12 to get the annual report.

13 They did a really good job. Chaz and Richelle head  
14 that project, receives input from all of our bureaus and lots  
15 of people in our department to get the information and then  
16 they bring it all together for the final package to present to  
17 the mayor's office. So we got that done last month.

18 Any questions yet? I have a lot of topics.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any commissioner have any  
20 questions?

21 So I'd like to recognize also Commissioner Travis  
22 Tancayo also joined us.

23 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Welcome, Chief.

24 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Sorry, guys. I'm having very  
25 poor internet service in the Hoolehua area, it's been like

1 that all week, so I may get cut off like that's been happening  
2 all week, so I'll stay as long as I can. Thank you.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Travis.

4 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Any questions about -- okay. Why  
6 don't you continue.

7 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: (Inaudible) report other  
8 things.

9 Department interviews and promotions: We have  
10 solicited for people who want to get promoted to firefighter 4  
11 that's in our prevention bureau and that is a plans reviewer.  
12 It's a very important part of the county's system to review  
13 permits and plans so that construction can happen. So this  
14 third plans reviewer is going to be a great asset to that  
15 bureau. We will be hopefully interviewing this month and  
16 hopefully promoting in November, if everything goes well.  
17 That is an internal position, only firefighters would qualify  
18 for that.

19 Union Interactions: We consulted with HFFA, which  
20 is our fire union and our peer support program. We're trying  
21 to really get that going. Especially during COVID and people  
22 being somewhat isolated and less social, there's -- you know,  
23 there's more stress on the job and then responding to COVID,  
24 potential COVID on every incident. We wanted to make sure  
25 they're getting their physical fitness up, they're getting

1 their -- you know, their workouts in, they're getting the  
2 support from peers if they are having any, you know, issues at  
3 home with family or whatnot, so we've been working with the  
4 union to try to get our peer fitness and peer support  
5 programs, you know, rejuvenated.

6           And then also what we're trying to do is create a  
7 task book or checklist for firefighters to TA. So TA is  
8 temporary assignment, if a rescue man wasn't at work on a day,  
9 we need to put somebody in that position, so how do we know  
10 who's qualified to do that job? So we want to create a list  
11 of things that these firefighters have to do so that the  
12 captains can be confident that they're getting somebody for  
13 the day who's qualified to work. So we're working with the  
14 union to make sure they approve everything that we're asking  
15 the firefighters. Of course, we don't want it to be harder to  
16 TA, to temporary assign, than it is to actually get promoted.  
17 So when you get promoted, we give you a year to get certain  
18 certificates, so we wouldn't want to require those  
19 certificates for a firefighter 1 who just wants to work on  
20 that hazmat or rescue or driver position for just a day. So  
21 we're working the union to find something that's fair, safe,  
22 and acceptable from all parties so that we can get people to  
23 TA.

24           Transmissions From the Public: The Haiku Fire  
25 Station property, it has always been a challenge to keep that

1 a sterile property. We've had lots and lots of squatters as  
2 of lately, so we've been chasing people out of there. We're  
3 all the way to the point where we're gonna request demolition  
4 permits for the buildings and then try to find some money in  
5 the budget to maybe tear those buildings down. The -- if we  
6 just leave -- the houses aren't really usable for our needs,  
7 most of them have holes in the roof and they're full of mold,  
8 so they're not really tenable, so we're gonna want to get rid  
9 of those before somebody goes on that property and gets  
10 (inaudible).

11 Central Maui Baseyard was impacted by a fire last  
12 month. The actual manager, not the owner, but the manager of  
13 the whole baseyard stopped by our office to share his  
14 appreciation for basically saving everybody in the baseyard.  
15 The fire burned right up to the baseyard on about three of the  
16 sides and it was a pretty windy day, so a lot of people were  
17 worried in that area.

18 The Maoli musicians, the group, they are going to  
19 have a golf tournament and they want proceeds to support  
20 firefighters, so we're working with corporation counsel to  
21 make -- make a legal donation from that golf tournament to our  
22 department. It may be a couple thousand dollars, but, you  
23 know, we're happy to, you know, accept that and support any  
24 equipment needs or training needs.

25 That's all I have on my report. Questions?

1 (No response.)

2 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Thank you, Chair.

3 Did we lose Commissioner Ginoza?

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Sorry. I forgot to unmute.

5 (Laughter.)

6 CHAIR GINOZA: I was talking for the last 30 seconds  
7 to myself.

8 (Laughter.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: So does any commissioner have any  
10 questions for Chief Ventura?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah. Chief, I --

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh. Go ahead, Travis.

14 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Always me, yeah. Good  
15 morning, Chief. I noticed up in Engine 9 you guys have been  
16 keeping the tanker, relief Tanker 4 up there, and I was  
17 wondering, is anything being done or anybody talked about  
18 plans to -- to create some kind of structure to -- to protect  
19 that truck? I really love having the truck up there, but I  
20 know at the same time the weather, you know, can really wreak  
21 havoc on those expensive trucks. And I myself was stationed  
22 up there and I tried really hard to build a structure back  
23 when I was a -- on line and there was a lot of red tape at the  
24 time. I'm just wondering if anybody has even thought about to  
25 try to get the ball going or -- they talked about a new

1 station and I'm not even suggesting that, but just to -- some  
2 kind of structure to protect the truck in the Hoolehua area.

3 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. So we concur on that  
4 completely. The -- last year's budget, we received money to  
5 work on several architectural projects, that was one of them,  
6 so we actually have a garage that's been drafted. We have  
7 submitted those plans to Hawaiian Home Lands, because they're  
8 our first level of approval. They have supported and gotten  
9 back to us and have green-lighted that project, so now it's a  
10 matter of us getting everything into the county for permits  
11 and getting the actual project out to bid. The FY '21 CIP, we  
12 do have funds to actually build. So the plans came in last  
13 year's budget, we should have that all done here shortly.  
14 Anthony Ricky Sutton is the company that's taking care of  
15 those plans and then once those plans are done, which should  
16 be shortly here, probably by the holidays, then we'll able to  
17 put it out to bid. CIP money which is in this year's budget  
18 is good until next December, 18-month money, and so we should  
19 be able to contract something by then if we get everything  
20 through the county as far as approvals and permits and  
21 whatnot. So what we'll be doing is if you look at that fire  
22 station from the street view, there's a little lean-to on the  
23 highway side. We're going to tear the lean-to down and we're  
24 going to build a full-size garage there.

25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you, Chief. I worked

1 on that, the plans extended -- extensively back then, even had  
2 Roxanne at the time go dig out the old blueprints, and it was  
3 interesting to see what they originally planned for that  
4 station. If you can get your hands on it, it's very  
5 interesting. No use rebuilding the wheel, right, if it was  
6 already made, but -- I know you guys got plans going, but if  
7 you can get your hands on that blueprint, it should be -- I  
8 think a set was sent to Engine 9 and they still have a copy in  
9 archive someplace. And it was real interesting that the plans  
10 were even made back in the early '90s to improve it, to add  
11 another station, a garage, it was really neat. If you have  
12 the chance, take a look at that.

13 Thank you, Chief. I like what you guys are doing.  
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. No other questions, then Chief  
16 Kawasaki.

17 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Good morning, everybody.  
18 So I just got back from vacation and quarantine, so I was gone  
19 pretty much for the whole month of September. As you can see,  
20 we still are having some brush fires. We did have one fairly  
21 decent-size one on Molokai and then that Kapalua one at the  
22 end of the month. I think I was in quarantine, so I couldn't  
23 go and assist, but I was listening to the radio and making  
24 some calls from my home. Hopefully, you know, with the  
25 weather changing, we'll be getting less brush fires now at a

1 perfect time, because we have two tankers that are broken  
2 right now. The Lahaina tanker is down, has some mechanical  
3 issues on the last fire, and then, of course, the one that we  
4 talked about earlier that got burned from Wailea. So just in  
5 time, the brush fires are kind of winding down. I think in  
6 next year's budget we'll probably be asking for an Upcountry  
7 tanker again, hopefully, we can get that.

8 Our SOGs have been revised for 2020, that revision  
9 is complete. Captain Fujioka will be talking to you guys  
10 later about our apparatus acquisition procedure. He has been  
11 doing this for quite some time now, I think even when Travis  
12 was working, he was already doing it.

13 So this past month we did have, finally, our 2019  
14 vehicles have all been completed, delivered, and are in  
15 service now. So that included the two wildland trucks,  
16 Gavin's truck, Engine 6 in Kihei; Engine 11 in Napili; and  
17 also that Ladder 14 got replaced. So they're all in service,  
18 running.

19 Our training, we do have the Recruit Class 36 in  
20 session right now, they're halfway through. They're just done  
21 with week -- sorry, the third month of it. Their graduation  
22 is scheduled for December 18th. We started with 15, we're  
23 down to 14. We still have all of our county recruits, we just  
24 lost one of the airport fire recruits I believe in the last  
25 month, maybe in August. So our training has been impacted by

1 COVID, you know, we have a lot (inaudible) and certifications  
2 that we need to complete, but because of COVID, we've been  
3 limiting the class sizes, so -- which means a lot more money  
4 being spent in instructor time going out to all the stations.  
5 A lot of them are being done single station just to keep the  
6 social distancing and number of people down in the class.

7 Ocean Safety, they have bunch of policy stuff that  
8 Chief Giese has been, you know, working on. They did -- they  
9 are in the process of creating their own SOGs that they're  
10 gonna basically follow what we did on the fire side, create a  
11 committee and go through all of their different SOGs that they  
12 need to create.

13 Other than that, that's all I have. Any questions?

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Any commissioners have any questions?  
15 Travis.

16 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Travis, you're smiling.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: No questions?

18 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: He'll just text you later.

19 (Laughter.)

20 CHAIR GINOZA: No one else? Okay. So Chief Werner.  
21 Thank you.

22 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Good morning, Commission.  
23 As far as fire prevention bureau, they have 103 requests for  
24 plans review that are waiting for their initial review. They  
25 had -- we have 169 that have had at least one review, some of

1       them several reviews that are pending approval. We have 99  
2       new plans that they received in September and 57 of those got  
3       their initial review and 33 plans were approved for the month  
4       of September. Like Chief Ventura said, we are looking forward  
5       to getting our new lieutenant position hopefully November 1st  
6       that's going to be able to take on a portion of that work and  
7       get those numbers down.

8               Our MAPPS project has been put on hold by the  
9       developer, so after the 16th, they are not doing anything new  
10      with that until the developer of that program gives them the  
11      green light to start moving forward on that again.

12             Under the SCBA Tech, there's two sections towards  
13      the bottom, one is OSHA compliance project and the other is  
14      the fitness and wellness program. Those are not supposed to  
15      be with the SCBA Tech, those are supposed to be two down in  
16      the Project section. Sorry about that.

17             But our SCBA tech is working on a project which  
18      is -- one of the problems that we have once we mask up, a huge  
19      problem is communication. With our new MSA SCBA packs,  
20      they're able to -- there's a Bluetooth section in there  
21      that -- in the mask that aligns with the radio that they're  
22      carrying and when you get the Bluetooth connection, the  
23      transmission is almost crystal clear. So we tested it last  
24      week and it works great at least in, you know, the environment  
25      of a warehouse. How it works in a fire scene, we don't know

1 yet. So we're getting enough of those to outfit at least the  
2 captains and then we'll R&D and see how those work out in the  
3 field and then if we're able to get those in the budget, we'll  
4 get those for all of the MSA packs.

5 Moving down to the Budget & Planning Appropriations  
6 Committee, so the two Holmatro units, we put one on Engine 11  
7 and Engine 13. They all got trained on those and they've been  
8 put on to the trucks.

9 As far as the FY '22 budget preparations, we changed  
10 the way we do inspections a little bit this year. We do two  
11 annual station inspections, one is gonna now be done by our  
12 health and safety bureau, the other is by the BCs who normally  
13 did it, and then also our fire services operator -- officer,  
14 sorry. And the health and safety bureau is looking for OSHA-  
15 type items and safety-type items; the BCs are looking for the  
16 things that they normally look for and make sure that, you  
17 know, the stations are clean, in working order, all the logs  
18 are kept; and then our fire services officer looks at, like,  
19 CIP projects, such as damage to the station that needs to be  
20 repaired. So we're taking all of those reports and using them  
21 help create our FY '22 budget.

22 So that's everything I have. If you have any  
23 questions, I'm happy to answer them.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Any questions from any commissioners?

25 (No response.)

1           CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, Chief Ventura,  
2 would you like to introduce Captain Fujioka.

3           DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Certainly. If I can just  
4 have a quick go-back just to add a note to Chief Kawasaki's.  
5 Our recruits are graduating December 18th, our current plan is  
6 some sort of drive-through graduation, unfortunately. Until  
7 COVID restrictions loosen up, we're gonna continue to follow  
8 all those protocols as closely as possible. So for now, our  
9 training bureau has been instructed to create an environment  
10 where families can maybe watch them via BlueJeans from their  
11 vehicle and then we would invite the families in one at a time  
12 to do pictures and lei and getting of their fire (inaudible).  
13 So, unfortunate, but that's just what we have to do during  
14 these times.

15           So without further ado, Captain Fujioka, I'll let  
16 him kind of take and share the screen here and begin his  
17 presentation. Captain Fujioka is a captain in Kihei Fire  
18 Station, he's been with the department about 18 years, 19  
19 years, and he's been working with our acquisition of our  
20 apparatus for a good time now, nearly ten years, and he's  
21 going to go over how that process works today. So thank you,  
22 all.

23           CAPTAIN FUJIOKA: Good morning, Commissioners. Like  
24 Chief Brad said, my name is Gavin Fujioka, I'm a captain down  
25 in Kihei.

1           So real briefly we'll go over our apparatus  
2 acquisition process from, basically, how we select a vehicle  
3 that needs to be replaced or that we start looking at  
4 replacement, then we'll work through the budget process -- the  
5 budget process, talk about the vehicle specifications, and  
6 then the vehicle bidding process. And then we get into the  
7 whole build process and our inspection trips and then we'll  
8 finish up with just the delivery and the training.

9           So, basically, before we can put a vehicle or submit  
10 for a budget for a vehicle, we need to determine what vehicle  
11 needs to be replaced. So we use several items as far as our  
12 SOGs, our guidelines, and we also have this vehicle  
13 replacement scoring matrix that our mechanic and our admin.  
14 use to basically score, score our vehicles, and they have a --  
15 like a predetermined threshold of when the vehicle should be  
16 replaced depending on the scoring. Also, like I said, the  
17 department replacement policy, we look at that and then  
18 several years ago we had an audit done on the department and  
19 the findings were basically that we were behind on our  
20 replacement of our vehicles.

21           Let me get to the next screen. So here's our  
22 scoring matrix worksheet, this is what the mechanics will use  
23 to begin scoring. Say we've got a truck, say, in Kula that  
24 it's coming up on the years of service, getting up in age, so  
25 we'll start -- go ahead and score the vehicle using this

1 process and you can see in the bottom there's the points.  
2 After we tally everything up, if we're in that 23 to 27 point  
3 range, it qualifies for replacement and anything beyond that  
4 is -- needs immediate replacement.

5 So sometimes we might be right on that threshold and  
6 we look at what district that vehicle is in and we might be  
7 able to push that vehicle out a few -- a year or so, maybe  
8 it's in a slower district and we might have another vehicle  
9 that doesn't quite meet the threshold, but it's a busier truck  
10 and it's getting up to that threshold, so sometimes we might  
11 be able to manipulate that and move that truck ahead of the  
12 one from the slower district.

13 They got one copy of it.

14 So department -- our replacement policy for our  
15 heavy apparatus, we're looking at about ten years as a front  
16 line apparatus, three to five years as a relief. As it stands  
17 currently, we're looking at more like 12 to 15 years on a  
18 front line apparatus, that's -- so we're kind of behind on  
19 schedule, so that's why we're trying to catch up and get our  
20 fleet back to -- on the replacement schedules so our relief  
21 fleet is usable. Some of our relief trucks are so old and  
22 that's why we're having a lot of the problems also. So this  
23 is what we look at as far as our department policy, our  
24 replacement policy.

25 So the Audit Findings. So, basically, you know, as

1 you guys know, we're solely funded through our -- through our  
2 operating budget. We do have grants that pop up every once in  
3 a while that we're able to acquire, but, basically, the audit  
4 findings found that we're approximately -- well, we need  
5 approximately \$2.5 million, I believe that's annually, to  
6 catch up to our -- to where we need to be for our vehicles.

7           So once we identify that the vehicle that needs to  
8 be replaced, admin. will look at submitting that in our  
9 budget. We look at previous cost of a similar apparatus and  
10 we -- they do their adjustments as far as inflation and all of  
11 that kind of deal. So we submit our proposal, the budget gets  
12 submitted to the mayor; basically, the mayor will approve and  
13 do his edits to his budget, to the budget and then he'll  
14 submit his budget to the county council; and then county  
15 council does their input and approval. So our basic timeline  
16 is just about eight months from October, which we look at  
17 submitting our budget, to approval in June. And you can take,  
18 you know, two to three months prior to that for the whole  
19 vehicle scoring matrix to be done depending on how busy the  
20 mechanics are. So we're pushing about one year just to get  
21 the -- the whole budget and figure out which vehicle we're  
22 gonna replace.

23           And then once we get the budget approval, then we go  
24 into the vehicle specifications. So if we can and we have  
25 time, we try to have input from the end users, which would be

1 where that new truck is going to be replaced, replacing the  
2 old truck. So we send out an email, admin. will send out an  
3 email and they'll respond back on -- to us to what they are  
4 looking for and if -- I guess their wish list on their new  
5 truck that they're about to receive.

6 The other things that influence our specification  
7 will be our apparatus standardization. We try to -- we are  
8 trying to keep, I guess, our vehicles pretty standard just so  
9 the firefighters, no matter where they work, they're -- the  
10 apparatus is standard, trying to get standardized across the  
11 county. Also for our mechanics, it's a lot easier if we can  
12 standardize, say, our engines for -- so they can -- for parts  
13 and maintenance is a lot easier for them.

14 We also look at improving our existing  
15 specifications. So any time we take delivery of a new truck  
16 or during the process, we always look at what can be done to  
17 better the project. So we'll go and talk to the end users who  
18 just receive the vehicle, give them a few months and let them  
19 work the truck on line and then we'll get feedback from them  
20 and, you know, what works, what can we change to the existing  
21 specification, so we'll go through that process. Once we're  
22 done with that, then we'll have a meeting with our cadre  
23 members and we'll kind of evaluate the specifications, the new  
24 specs that we came up with. And then once we're set to go,  
25 then we'll get approval from admin. on the specifications to

1 be sent out for the bidding process.

2 This is kind of just a quick overview on how much  
3 items is spec'ed out on our vehicle. I believe on a typical  
4 engine, we're probably somewhere 140 to 160 pages, something  
5 like that, so we spec out every little thing on that truck  
6 from every light and everything gets called out.

7 So Vehicle Bidding Process. So once the  
8 specifications are approved by admin, we send it out to our  
9 purchasing department for posting. Usually, for a big ticket  
10 item as far as the pumper or an aerial, the bid will be posted  
11 for 30 days so it gives the manufacturer time to put his  
12 package together. And then they'll submit their bid package  
13 back to the county and then we'll do a bid opening. And as  
14 far as bid acceptance and evaluation, if there's more than one  
15 bit -- I should say, even if there's only one bid, we need to  
16 dissect their proposal and make sure that they bid on  
17 everything that we specified. So this process will take a few  
18 weeks. And as you guys know, sometimes -- or most of the  
19 time, we -- if there's multiple bidders, the low bidder is the  
20 one the county would typically go with, but we dissect  
21 everything and make sure they're meeting our specifications.

22 So a few years back on the newest aerial that we  
23 just put in service, one manufacturer submitted their proposal  
24 and it did not have the aerial section of the truck.

25 (Laughter.)

1           CAPTAIN FUJIOKA:  So that's why we need to -- and  
2           there was -- they was the low bidder.  So that's why we need  
3           to evaluate all bids as they come in before we award any  
4           contract.

5           So once the contract gets issued and the notice to  
6           proceed gets sent out, then we start working with the  
7           manufacturer to set up our pre-construction meeting.  So our  
8           pre-construction meeting, basically we fly to the  
9           manufacturer's facility and we sit down and meet with them  
10          for -- you know, for about a week or so, sometimes a little  
11          less, but basically we cover word for word what is in our  
12          specification and make sure that the truck is being built to  
13          our specifications.  Also, there's -- sometimes there's a lot  
14          of items that change as far as parts and engineering things  
15          change on the manufacturing side, so they'll come back at this  
16          point and say we need to change this light to a different  
17          model or this item's not gonna work in this location due to  
18          the -- you know, any type of engineering concerns that they  
19          have.  So this is where we sit down, work with the engineers,  
20          and make the changes necessary before the truck starts to go  
21          into assembly.

22          So our next inspection, once the process and the  
23          build process begins, would be our post-paint inspection.  So  
24          we try to request being at the manufacturer's facility before  
25          the body of the apparatus gets mounted to the chassis.  So at

1 this point we can still see everything on the frame rails and  
2 all the location of valves and all the hose lines before they  
3 put this body on to the vehicle. I believe in prior years  
4 this inspection trip has caught the biggest mistakes of  
5 manufacturers. We've been on inspection trips where the two  
6 trucks side by side are painted different colors. I believe,  
7 Chief Tancayo, I was on a trip with him where an SCBA compart  
8 would not have been the right size and if we shipped that  
9 truck to Molokai, that would've been a big problem if we  
10 didn't catch it up there. So this is a very important trip  
11 that we take and we find a lot of things -- hopefully, we  
12 don't find too much, but we do find the big items on this  
13 trip.

14           The Final Inspection Trip. Basically, we go down  
15 our spec line for line and we make sure everything that we  
16 specified or changed at the pre-con -- pre-construction  
17 meeting is done to how it was specified. So we do a visual  
18 inspection of every item on the truck, we also do a pump test,  
19 our own pump test. The trucks are already third-party tested,  
20 but MFD does a second pump test and we do another aerial test  
21 if it's an aerial and also we do a drive -- a road test. So  
22 we put the truck through its paces before it leaves the  
23 manufacturer just -- we all know once it gets shipped to Maui,  
24 it's very hard to get parts and stuff and service here, so we  
25 need to do as much as we can at the manufacturer's facility.

1           So once the truck gets built, final inspection is  
2 done, and the truck arrives here on Maui -- so construction  
3 time for an apparatus is probably 12 to 18 months, so if you  
4 add the budget process to that, we're looking at between  
5 sometimes two and three years before we get a vehicle on line  
6 operating. But, anyway, so once we get the vehicle here, we  
7 do have a training, three days of training, one day per watch,  
8 on the vehicle and the training will cover everything as far  
9 as operational-wise on the new vehicles. We do a FADOP course  
10 as -- so a driving course for the members on that new truck  
11 and just, basically, familiarization with everything  
12 operational on the vehicle.

13           And that is about it. If you guys got any  
14 questions, we'll be happy to answer if we can.

15           CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Captain Fujioka.

16           Does any commissioner have any questions or need  
17 clarification?

18           (No response.)

19           CHAIR GINOZA: No questions?

20           COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I just wanted to -- anyone,  
21 anybody on the staff can answer, but I just wanted the rest of  
22 the commissioners to understand about the relief apparatus  
23 that we talk about. One thing I learned is how important it  
24 is to have the relief apparatus and especially as BC, what  
25 a -- how that truck plays a role in almost every -- every week

1 there's something going on where apparatus is needed. So,  
2 Chief, if you could just better explain because, you know,  
3 mostly all the commissioners might overlook the importance  
4 of -- ah, it's just a relief truck, but it does play a big  
5 role. If one of the chiefs would like to just address and  
6 talk about -- especially here on Molokai and Lanai and what it  
7 does, please.

8 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Travis, I'll answer that.  
9 So a lot of times we get some feedback, you know, people ask  
10 questions like: Why are you guys replacing this truck? It  
11 still looks, you know, brand new? And they are correct, you  
12 know, it is still in good shape, but the -- one of the most  
13 important things to having our fleet constantly running is,  
14 you know, we do have mechanical failures, we do have  
15 maintenance, occasionally we have damage, you know, a burnt  
16 truck or a truck that has been in an accident or whatever. So  
17 without having a good quality relief fleet -- you know, so  
18 say like Gavin was talking about, replacing it at ten -- at  
19 roughly the ten-year point when it still has some life, it  
20 still has a good three to five more years left, so we can use  
21 an apparatus on the side to replace that damaged or vehicles  
22 in maintenance or even to staff extra manpower when we have  
23 big incidents. So we need to not only have our front line  
24 apparatus, we need to have this backup fleet that is  
25 completely capable, ready to roll a hundred percent of the

1 time. You know, at any given moment, you don't know when the  
2 next big brush fire is coming. So like on Molokai, you guys  
3 have a bunch of extra relief vehicles, so, you know, if you  
4 guys do have, you can call back people that live there or we  
5 can send people from Maui. Same thing here, you know, we have  
6 a relief fleet here that is ready to go.

7 We're in the process of trying to get more equipment  
8 for that, for those trucks, which costs a ton of money. I  
9 think a truck costs about 1.7 -- about 175,000 to \$180,000 --  
10 is that correct, Brad?

11 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: For equipment.

12 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: For just equipment alone.  
13 So on top of the truck that's, you know, eight, nine hundred  
14 thousand dollars, we have that extra expense to -- you know,  
15 'cause an empty fire truck is -- you know, it's not of use if  
16 we do have a big fire.

17 So I think a lot of people don't understand the  
18 importance of having our relief fleet. They think it's just  
19 an extra vehicle, but it actually is not just a -- it needs to  
20 be ready to roll at all times.

21 Is that good, Trav?

22 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah. You know, like I --  
23 like I said -- thank you, Chief. I can't express to everybody  
24 the importance of the apparatus, I mean, relief apparatus. I  
25 remember when like -- let's say a truck needs an oil change or

1       whatever, that truck has to go in to the baseyard, so what do  
2       you do? You don't shut -- you don't shut down the station.  
3       So that relief truck can come out and the guys change over the  
4       equipment quickly and they can stay in service. That's --  
5       that's like a daily thing that happens, you know, throughout  
6       the week.

7                   And then for like Lanai and Molokai, when we get our  
8       big -- you know, like chief said, you know, he mentioned all  
9       this, but I just want to go over it again that, you know, if  
10      we get a big fire, all the chiefs have to do is just send the  
11      men over and the equipment is already here, ready to go, and  
12      that's why we have the success that we've been getting -- part  
13      of the reason. There's many reasons, but part of the success  
14      is that the equipment is here ready to go on both Lanai and  
15      Molokai. And then they -- like they said, they have it there  
16      on Maui.

17                   But I didn't realize how important it is, but -- so  
18      we spend a lot -- you know, they talk about spending a lot of  
19      money on trucks, it is important and especially we need to  
20      look at the importance of the relief trucks because that way  
21      they can bring -- they can call back off-duty personnel and  
22      it's such a big thing. And it's one thing I truly learned as  
23      a -- being a battalion chief, is the importance of the relief  
24      trucks.

25                   So thank you. Thank you, Chief. I just wanted to

1 hit on that again for you guys --

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: And then just wanted to  
3 add one more thing, too. To give you an example of the  
4 importance of that relief fleet, so like currently we have two  
5 tank -- two of our tankers that are out of service, the one  
6 that got burnt in the fire and then we have mechanical issues  
7 on the Lahaina tanker. We only have one spare relief tanker  
8 on Maui, so with the two down, that means that one of the  
9 districts do not have a tanker right now, which is Lahaina.  
10 Lahaina Station, they have a -- in place we just gave them an  
11 extra fire engine, you know, which has limited water, I  
12 believe 750 or a 1,000 gallons, which -- I'm not sure which  
13 truck they have, but -- so that's an example of why we need to  
14 have a sufficient relief, relief truck fleet.

15 And, you know, if Lisa was there, she knows how much  
16 the -- renting a -- or contracting out one of those tankers  
17 are, so during this brush fire season, I don't know how much  
18 we spent on, you know, additional tankers to fight the fires.

19 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you, Chief.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Travis.

21 Does any commissioner have any other questions for  
22 fire?

23 (No response.)

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. If not, the -- thank you very  
25 much, everyone, for your presentation, your reports.

1           The next meeting date is November 19th, Thursday, at  
2           ten o'clock and it will be via BlueJeans again.

3           But thank you all for your service and for attending  
4           the meeting. Could I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

5           COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Motion to adjourn.

6           CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Motion by Travis. Second?

7           COMMISSIONER BURNS: Second.

8           CHAIR GINOZA: Second by Dwight. All in favor, say  
9           aye.

10           (Response.)

11           CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Thank you very much,  
12           everyone. Meeting's adjourned. Enjoy your day.

13           (The proceedings were adjourned.)

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