

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

08:51:08

Held via BlueJeans, commencing at 10:00 a.m., on
March 18, 2021.

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kyle Ginoza, Chair
- Lisa Vares, Vice Chair
- Jack Freitas, Member
- Travis Tancayo, Member
- Gregg Lundberg, Member
- Dwight Burns, Member
- Donna Sterling, Member
- Punahеле Alcon, Member
- Max Kincaid, Jr., Member

STAFF:

- David Thyne, Fire Chief
- Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
- Michael Werner, Battalion Chief
- Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief
- Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary

08:51:08 1 (March 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m.)

08:51:08 2 * * *

08:50:47 3 CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning. Today is Thursday,
08:50:54 4 March 18th, and it's just -- it's at 10:00 a.m. and I'd like
08:51:13 5 to call to order the Maui Fire and Public Safety Commission
08:51:19 6 meeting. My name is Kyle Ginoza. Let's start off with roll
08:51:33 7 call.

08:51:34 8 Vice Chair Lisa Vares.

08:51:40 9 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes.

08:51:41 10 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Lisa's here.
08:52:57 11 Jack Freitas.

08:53:01 12 (No response.)

08:53:03 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Not here yet.
08:53:06 14 Travis Tancayo.

08:53:11 15 (No response.)

08:53:12 16 CHAIR GINOZA: Not here yet.
08:53:14 17 Gregg Lundberg.

08:53:19 18 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Present.

08:53:21 19 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Dwight Burns.

08:53:29 20 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Here.

08:53:31 21 CHAIR GINOZA: Hi, Dwight.
08:53:36 22 Donna Sterling.

08:53:45 23 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Good morning.

08:53:49 24 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here, Chair.

08:53:51 25 CHAIR GINOZA: Hi, Donna.

08:53:55 1 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Hi.

08:53:57 2 CHAIR GINOZA: Punahuele Alcon.

08:54:08 3 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here.

08:54:10 4 CHAIR GINOZA: Hi, Punahuele.

08:54:14 5 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Howzit?

08:54:19 6 CHAIR GINOZA: And Max Kincaid, Jr.

08:54:30 7 (No response.)

08:54:30 8 CHAIR GINOZA: I see Max. Okay. Max is here.

08:54:35 9 I hope everybody had a chance to review the

08:54:39 10 February 18th meeting minutes. Does anybody need more time to

08:54:45 11 look at it?

08:54:48 12 (No response.)

08:54:48 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, can I have a motion to

08:54:51 14 accept the meeting minutes from February?

08:54:57 15 VICE CHAIR VARES: Move to accept the minutes from

08:55:00 16 February.

08:55:00 17 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Vice Chair Vares.

08:55:04 18 Do I have a second?

08:55:07 19 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Second. Second.

08:55:09 20 CHAIR GINOZA: Dwight seconds. Thank you. All in

08:55:16 21 favor, raise your hand.

08:55:19 22 (Response.)

08:55:22 23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Anybody opposed?

08:55:24 24 (No response.)

08:55:26 25 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, the meeting

08:55:29 1 minutes from last meeting are approved.

08:55:32 2 Richelle, do we have anybody signed up for public
08:55:38 3 testimony?

08:55:44 4 CHIEF THYNE: Hi, Chair. She stepped out. She's in
08:55:48 5 the outer lobby talking -- trying to get ahold of Travis
08:55:54 6 Tancayo to see what his -- if he's having technical
08:56:02 7 difficulties. But we do not have anybody signed up, Chair.

08:56:07 8 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great. Is there anybody on
08:56:09 9 that would like to testify?

08:56:12 10 (No response.)

08:56:14 11 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, we'll close
08:56:17 12 public testimony.

08:56:18 13 And I just got word that Herman won't be joining us
08:56:24 14 today.

08:56:24 15 Sorry. Before we go on, I forgot to do -- as part
08:56:29 16 of the roll call to recognize we have Gary Murai from
08:56:34 17 corporation counsel. And, Chief Thyne, could you recognize
08:56:39 18 who's in the room with you?

08:56:40 19 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah, sure, Chair. Okay. I've gotta
08:56:47 20 make sure we're off mute. So we have Deputy Chief Ventura to
08:56:52 21 my right. To his left is Assistant Chief Rick Kawasaki. And
08:57:00 22 then to Chief Kawasaki's left is AC, Assistant Chief Mike
08:57:09 23 Werner. Richelle is out in the lobby, like I said, but she is
08:57:16 24 also here. She's just trying to track down and make sure
08:57:21 25 those who aren't in attendance, if they're having any

08:57:28 1 technical difficulties. So that's all we have present here,
08:57:32 2 sir.

08:57:33 3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great. Thank you very much.
08:57:35 4 Sorry about that.

08:57:36 5 Okay. And since we don't have Herman or anybody
08:57:40 6 from MEMA presenting today, let's just move on to the fire
08:57:47 7 department. So, Chief Thyne.

08:57:50 8 CHIEF THYNE: Okay. Thanks, Chair. And good
08:57:54 9 morning, Members. I believe on our agenda we have what -- the
08:58:00 10 first item is the Kahuola Award, and the reason I asked for
08:58:06 11 that to be on here is we have -- I believe most of you
08:58:11 12 remember our EMR cadre director John Devlin. He was just here
08:58:19 13 about two or three meetings ago, and he explained some of the
08:58:23 14 advances in technology we have related to tracking our CPR
08:58:28 15 cases and our ability to determine the quality of CPR and how
08:58:34 16 much we affect, basically, the survivability of a patient that
08:58:41 17 we get dispatched to for an emergency. And so to that end, he
08:58:47 18 nominated -- I have this packet here and how the Kahuola Award
08:58:56 19 works is we have people that nominate folks to get this award,
08:59:01 20 and it's reviewed by myself as the fire chief and then
08:59:05 21 forwarded on for signature as well to our Commission Chair
08:59:12 22 Ginoza for his review and comment. And then what basically
08:59:16 23 happens is we recognize these folks at some future meeting.

08:59:22 24 So this came about in 2004, I believe, and just kind
08:59:26 25 of reviewing the history, by the first fire commission and our

08:59:31 1 chief at the time, Chief Kahuola. So you -- I want to -- I
08:59:40 2 don't -- I'm just barraging you with all of this information
08:59:46 3 in hopes that as you folks kind of look through it on the
08:59:50 4 website and develop an opinion, what I talked to Devlin about,
08:59:57 5 John Devlin about is he has about three or four other cases
09:00:01 6 that he's also reviewing for nominations for this award.

09:00:05 7 Now, typically this award is given to folks that are
09:00:10 8 off duty and do something heroic in the minds of the
09:00:22 9 nominator. And you -- and like I said, review this on the
09:00:27 10 website when you have the opportunity. But there's eight
09:00:31 11 people involved in this one case, and, like I said, he has
09:00:36 12 three other cases he's reviewing. So I guess for me, I wanted
09:00:40 13 to discuss it and have you folks determine if we want to
09:00:45 14 basically make this award more available, or if we want to
09:00:50 15 think about some other type of certificate or commendation
09:00:55 16 from us as a department to the folks when we have a case like
09:01:00 17 this.

09:01:01 18 'Cause basically what happened is a young female
09:01:04 19 collapsed in a CPR -- in a cardiac arrest type of case. Her
09:01:10 20 friend, I guess, kind of more or less yelled to the auntie;
09:01:14 21 the auntie started 911, the 911 response. The dispatcher was
09:01:21 22 nominated because she talked the person through how to do CPR.
09:01:31 23 A neighbor that came in overheard the commotion, a younger
09:01:38 24 gentleman, and came down and started doing CPR following the
09:01:43 25 prompts. The fire department got there and, you know, their

09:01:47 1 quality of CPR, because, again, we can track it on their
09:01:52 2 compressions and their rate and all of that, was exemplary,
09:01:58 3 so -- and then the review by the ER doc, he said this is
09:02:03 4 really a success case because of all of these components.

09:02:08 5 Now, I just -- I guess I'm asking for your opinion,
09:02:12 6 because typically this has been one person, maybe at the most
09:02:17 7 two people that get nominated for, let's say, you know,
09:02:25 8 jumping off the beach and swimming out to somebody that's
09:02:29 9 drowning and then bringing them to shore and -- and they end
09:02:32 10 up doing CPR and surviving. Those types of cases is what,
09:02:42 11 historically, it's been. If we go this route, this will be,
09:02:48 12 you know, potentially 15 or more people receiving this Kahuola
09:02:56 13 Award. You know, like I said, this is one case. There's
09:02:59 14 eight different people nominated here. If we go with the
09:03:05 15 three other cases, kind of doing some quick math, it could be
09:03:11 16 upwards of 20 folks, you know, hypothetically.

09:03:14 17 So we don't have a problem if you folks would rather
09:03:18 18 go the route of we will talk internally as chief officers and
09:03:23 19 perhaps it's, you know, a commendation, we'll come up with a
09:03:29 20 Spirit of Life Award or something like that versus the Kahuola
09:03:35 21 Award, which has been around since 2004. So I guess I'll kind
09:03:41 22 of turn it back to you folks. What I suggest -- or this is
09:03:44 23 just my thought -- I know I'm dumping all of this information
09:03:49 24 on you -- would be to have you guys, you folks review the
09:03:54 25 history of the award on the website and just kind of maybe the

09:03:59 1 next meeting we can determine how you want to move forward.
09:04:02 2 Unless you want to just go ahead and have me sign these and
09:04:08 3 forward these on to the chair and -- and we just call this the
09:04:14 4 Kahuola Award. So I'll stop right there and just wait for
09:04:17 5 your input.

09:04:20 6 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief.

09:04:22 7 I see we have Travis joined us as well. Welcome,
09:04:28 8 Commissioner Tancayo.

09:04:29 9 So does anybody have any comment about what the
09:04:34 10 chief had just mentioned about or would you like to review and
09:04:38 11 discuss at the next meeting?

09:04:42 12 VICE CHAIR VARES: I have a question.

09:04:44 13 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I have a question.

09:04:47 14 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yeah, of course. I (inaudible).

09:04:52 15 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead. Lisa first and then Donna.

09:04:55 16 VICE CHAIR VARES: Hi, Chief. I saw at the
09:04:58 17 beginning that you said that it's usually for off-duty
09:05:05 18 heroics, does that mean that it's for civilians -- or usually
09:05:09 19 for civilians or usually for off-duty first responders?

09:05:15 20 CHIEF THYNE: So, Vice Chair, what -- ironically,
09:05:20 21 the first two awards in 2004 were given to off-duty
09:05:25 22 firefighters, one was on Molokai, and one was here on Maui,
09:05:32 23 and they were off duty and did some sort of, again, heroic
09:05:38 24 type of activity that helped to save a life. And then there
09:05:42 25 was one other firefighter and a handful of police officers

09:05:49 1 through the years that got the award as well. The firefighter
09:05:57 2 in particular -- so the three firefighters total in the
09:06:02 3 history were all off duty, but there was a couple of police
09:06:05 4 officers that went into a burning house, basically, on arrival
09:06:09 5 and pulled some people to safety, so obviously risking their
09:06:18 6 lives, even though they were in the line of duty. So I hope
09:06:23 7 that answers your question. So it's been historically off
09:06:29 8 duty for firefighters, but there's been a couple of times that
09:06:37 9 on-duty police officers were awarded as well.

09:06:43 10 VICE CHAIR VARES: But historically, not civilians,
09:06:47 11 usually first responders?

09:06:50 12 CHIEF THYNE: Actually, the majority are civilians.

09:06:54 13 VICE CHAIR VARES: Oh, okay.

09:06:55 14 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah, the majority are civilians.

09:07:00 15 VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay. Thank you.

09:07:07 16 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Hi, Chair.

09:07:10 17 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Donna.

09:07:21 18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chief, you're looking at the
09:07:25 19 two different programs, one is a Kahuola and what was the
09:07:29 20 other one, a certificate?

09:07:32 21 CHIEF THYNE: Well, there's actually the Kahuola and
09:07:36 22 the Kahuaina; that's the current awards that we have. But
09:07:42 23 what I had proposed to you folks is potentially we did some
09:07:47 24 sort of recognition from the fire chief's office, department
09:07:51 25 of fire and public safety, and it's just recognizing. And

09:07:55 1 whether -- we would think of a good catchphrase for it,
09:08:00 2 whether it be, you know, the Light -- Saving of a Life Award,
09:08:08 3 or, you know, a nice -- and then a nice embossed certificate,
09:08:14 4 and then we would -- we would hand it out that way because we
09:08:18 5 want to recognize and publicize that these types of events
09:08:23 6 save lives.

09:08:26 7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Right.

09:08:28 8 CHIEF THYNE: But at the same time, you know, it
09:08:31 9 would, in my opinion, potentially water down the Kahuola Award
09:08:38 10 because you're handing it out to twenty-something people
09:08:46 11 versus maybe one or two. That's what I'm getting at, I guess.

09:08:54 12 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay. I'm all for, you
09:08:56 13 know, any time you can get into rewarding and certifying and
09:09:09 14 promoting, encouraging the public to take classes and to
09:09:15 15 engage in what they've been taught, whether it's fire
09:09:19 16 department or police, I'm all for it. It just seems a little
09:09:23 17 nitty-gritty. I'm for the awards, I'm for the certificate,
09:09:28 18 but -- you know, this kind of stuff is so good for our
09:09:32 19 communities, it is -- I'm -- just leave it the way it is. And
09:09:38 20 if you want to do a certificate from us, that's fine too.

09:09:42 21 CHAIR GINOZA: Chief, is there --

09:09:45 22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you, Chair.

09:09:47 23 CHAIR GINOZA: -- a deadline when -- to when you
09:09:54 24 have to do it or can we look it over and just discuss it at
09:09:58 25 the next meeting?

09:10:00 1 CHIEF THYNE: It doesn't appear there's a deadline;
09:10:03 2 I don't see that listed anywhere on the -- in the rules when
09:10:07 3 they made the award in 2004. But I do have all of the
09:10:12 4 paperwork, and it's on the website, the county web link for
09:10:19 5 the fire and public safety, you know, website, so -- but it --
09:10:26 6 basically, like I said, I accept it as the fire chief, and
09:10:31 7 then I forward it on to you as the commission chair for your
09:10:39 8 signature and then we formally recognize at some point in time
09:10:43 9 the recipients, so (pause) --

09:10:47 10 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any commissioner have any other
09:10:50 11 questions?

09:10:53 12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: My mic had an issue.

09:10:57 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Hi, Travis.

09:10:59 14 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you. Okay.

09:11:03 15 Recognizing people (inaudible) steps up to the plate and helps
09:11:10 16 anybody (inaudible) times the civilians around (inaudible) so
09:11:16 17 if there's enough (inaudible) help.

09:11:20 18 CHAIR GINOZA: You're cutting -- Travis, you're
09:11:23 19 cutting in and out.

09:11:24 20 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Sorry. That's okay. I don't
09:11:35 21 know what's wrong.

09:11:37 22 MR. MURAI: You know, actually -- I'm sorry, Kyle.
09:11:42 23 Travis, you know, sometimes I notice that on these BlueJeans
09:11:46 24 platforms, if you get connectivity problems, sometimes if you
09:11:51 25 turn off your camera, then your audio comes clear because

09:11:56 1 you're not using as much, I guess, bandwidth or whatever. So
09:12:02 2 whatever you're trying to say, try turning off your camera,
09:12:06 3 and then try to talk.

09:12:08 4 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. Test, one, two, three.

09:12:12 5 CHAIR GINOZA: That worked.

09:12:13 6 MR. MURAI: Loud and clear now.

09:12:17 7 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. So I just wanted to
09:12:19 8 say that I've been to a lot of calls when the civilians at the
09:12:24 9 scene helped somehow and made a big difference in our success.
09:12:30 10 So any time we can recognize somebody who stepped up to the
09:12:35 11 plate, I'm for it because we have a lot of success stories in
09:12:39 12 the fire department with my experience that people really
09:12:42 13 stepped up to the plate and they went beyond. And we see it
09:12:50 14 every day on the news how somebody ran in, and that should be
09:12:54 15 recognized. We want to keep them safe; we want everybody to
09:13:00 16 do that, but, you know, people helping out is a -- is a great
09:13:06 17 thing, so -- that's what makes us better people. Thank you.

09:13:11 18 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Travis.

09:13:16 19 Any other questions?

09:13:19 20 (No response.)

09:13:19 21 CHAIR GINOZA: So are we saying, then, as a
09:13:21 22 commission that we're accepting of the chief's recommendation?
09:13:25 23 Or does anybody have any other suggestions?

09:13:42 24 (No response.)

09:13:42 25 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. It looks like --

09:13:54 1 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair.

09:13:56 2 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, Donna. Go ahead.

09:13:59 3 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair, this is Donna.

09:14:01 4 CHAIR GINOZA: Yep.

09:14:02 5 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So, you know, just to keep

09:14:06 6 things moving, it's a good, positive motion. If we could vote

09:14:11 7 on it today, I'd be willing to jump in. It's such a positive

09:14:18 8 thing.

09:14:18 9 CHAIR GINOZA: Absolutely.

09:14:20 10 MR. MURAI: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

09:14:22 11 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Gary.

09:14:25 12 MR. MURAI: I'm sorry. What are we voting on? Is

09:14:32 13 this something that's an action item for the commission?

09:14:36 14 CHAIR GINOZA: I don't -- I don't believe it's an

09:14:38 15 action item. The chair -- sorry. The chief had just brought

09:14:44 16 up that there's this award, that he wanted to just see if

09:14:53 17 there's any objection to the current policy or procedure of

09:14:58 18 him reviewing the nominations and then forwarding it to the

09:15:02 19 chair for approval. So he just asked for some comment, so I

09:15:07 20 didn't think it was needs to vote.

09:15:09 21 MR. MURAI: It sounds like -- I'm sorry. It sounds

09:15:14 22 like the chief is just asking for feedback as opposed to

09:15:18 23 approval.

09:15:19 24 CHAIR GINOZA: Absolutely.

09:15:21 25 MR. MURAI: Okay.

09:15:23 1 CHAIR GINOZA: So we're just kind of going around,
09:15:26 2 seeing if anybody has comments or objections to the current
09:15:32 3 procedure of selecting and approving of the award.

09:15:39 4 MR. MURAI: Okay.

09:15:40 5 CHAIR GINOZA: So I wasn't planning on doing a
09:15:42 6 motion and --

09:15:43 7 MR. MURAI: Yeah. Okay.

09:15:45 8 CHAIR GINOZA: It was just kind of receiving comment
09:15:48 9 and it seems like we're all in agreement of the chief's
09:15:52 10 direction.

09:15:53 11 MR. MURAI: Okay. Well, I guess the chief is posing
09:15:56 12 the question, so as long as Chief Thyne is satisfied with the
09:16:00 13 feedback he's getting, I think we're pau with this item.

09:16:05 14 CHAIR GINOZA: I think so too. Okay. Thank you.
09:16:10 15 So, Chief, you want to continue on, please.

09:16:14 16 CHIEF THYNE: Okay. Great. Yeah. Thank you. I
09:16:18 17 will.

09:16:18 18 So I know you have my report in front of you, so
09:16:23 19 I'll just kind of do a quick flyby. If you have any
09:16:29 20 questions, please let us know.

09:16:32 21 We did -- we do -- actually, I just stepped out of
09:16:37 22 that meeting to come to this one -- a virtual with all the
09:16:43 23 directors and department directors, just kind of getting
09:16:47 24 updated on a daily. We did have the opportunity to talk to
09:16:54 25 Councilmember Johnson from Lanai, Max's island there, and kind

09:17:01 1 of discuss concerns and issues we have going forward on -- on
09:17:06 2 our island there, Lanai.

09:17:08 3 So we also participate again on the state
09:17:12 4 conference, teleconference periodically, that's done three
09:17:17 5 days a week -- or now it's down to two, I believe. But with
09:17:21 6 the weather events and stuff that have happened, we do
09:17:24 7 occasionally have impromptu meetings that were looked in on as
09:17:33 8 well. We do -- we are very active as a fire chief consortium
09:17:40 9 if you will, the state fire council testimony for legislation
09:17:46 10 related to, you know, fire code, fireworks, those types of
09:17:51 11 things. You see them all listed there. Obviously, some --
09:17:55 12 some die at the legislature, and then some move on to -- you
09:18:02 13 know, crossing from the house to the senate and vice versa.
09:18:06 14 But, invariably, we just submit testimony in support or
09:18:22 15 produce an opinion for them to consider as fire chiefs, so you
09:18:27 16 see those listed there.

09:18:29 17 We did meet with our new EEO specialist, Jason
09:18:39 18 Moore, Chief Ventura and myself, and just welcomed him, talked
09:18:44 19 to him about some of our programs that we have and we are
09:18:50 20 looking to work with him on. He's excited to be here. He's
09:19:05 21 from the mainland, Colorado, actually, area. A younger guy,
09:19:12 22 former military, so has a background in kind of our
09:19:20 23 environment, being responders and whatnot. So he seems like a
09:19:27 24 great guy, looking forward to work with him some more, make
09:19:35 25 sure we're -- we're keeping our head in the game when with

09:19:43 1 equal opportunity.

09:19:44 2 We did develop beach closure guidelines. We got
09:19:50 3 approached by -- ironically, prior to these storm events, but
09:19:56 4 by the department of parks and recreation regarding whether
09:20:05 5 our lifeguards and -- ocean officers, rather, being, you know,
09:20:12 6 at the beach parks -- not all of them, but -- but some of
09:20:16 7 them, being able to provide some eyes on the scene, if you
09:20:20 8 will, and recommendations for the potential closure of some of
09:20:26 9 the beach parks and what conditions would warrant that. So we
09:20:30 10 were kind of false cracked when that first happened, and so we
09:20:34 11 decided to propose a criteria, if you will, or a -- or a chart
09:20:41 12 that could be shared with the public, with other agencies as
09:20:45 13 well, and that's what we did. And so that was accepted by the
09:20:49 14 mayor and the managing director, so now we all have a common
09:20:55 15 operating picture when we, as the fire department or ocean
09:21:00 16 safety, make recommendations to close the beach park due to
09:21:04 17 potential -- or recommend the closure of a beach park due to
09:21:09 18 safety considerations. So, certainly, as you all know, that
09:21:13 19 doesn't mean that they can't determine that it's -- it's
09:21:17 20 unsafe or something like that, so that that's -- anyway,
09:21:22 21 that's what that's about. I'll -- I'll take any questions, if
09:21:29 22 you have any, after my report.

09:21:31 23 We did participate in a very comprehensive survey
09:21:35 24 on -- on wild fire issues. As you know, we've had some pretty
09:21:40 25 robust seasons. Chief Ventura is actually on that committee

09:21:46 1 as well or participates on those committee meetings, and just
09:21:52 2 did one virtually a couple of days ago. But we had Chief
09:21:57 3 Kawasaki and also Chief Werner and ourselves participate on
09:22:01 4 that survey and submit our comments to that group. That's the
09:22:06 5 International Association of Fire Chiefs.

09:22:11 6 We are working internally on promotional processes.
09:22:15 7 With -- one thing with COVID, I'm sure with your organizations
09:22:26 8 and lives as well, we're adapting to COVID and what the post-
09:22:32 9 COVID world may look like and -- and you've heard some --
09:22:37 10 maybe some of the testimony and -- virtually at council and
09:22:44 11 other places where they're looking at civil service exams
09:22:52 12 being online, a bunch of different things. We're looking at
09:22:59 13 our process as well to keep the process of hiring and
09:23:03 14 promoting moving along in this -- in this COVID environment.
09:23:08 15 So that's been very interesting and challenging, but at the
09:23:13 16 same time, we're able to really dive deep into the processes
09:23:18 17 that we currently have and adjust them to hopefully what we
09:23:24 18 feel is a better future. So that's what the promotional
09:23:28 19 process update is about there.

09:23:32 20 And then, of course, we have our -- our monthly
09:23:38 21 battalion chiefs meeting that we just had a couple of weeks
09:23:46 22 ago now where we get with our battalion chiefs and discuss any
09:23:53 23 issues and concerns at their level.

09:23:56 24 So outside of the storms and the rain and -- and I
09:24:01 25 live on OHA aina, we're right next to Kaupakalua Dam, so you

09:24:09 1 can imagine how that was for me. But that's my update for
09:24:16 2 this particular past month, so I'll take any questions and
09:24:22 3 comments, if you have any.

09:24:24 4 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief.

09:24:28 5 Does any commissioner have any questions or
09:24:32 6 clarification from the chief?

09:24:34 7 (No response.)

09:24:38 8 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing nobody, thank you very much
09:24:41 9 for such a clear report.

09:24:46 10 Brad, do you want to go, please?

09:24:53 11 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Sure can. Can you all still
09:24:57 12 hear?

09:24:58 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

09:25:00 14 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. Good morning,
09:25:04 15 everybody. Thanks for being here, taking time out of your
09:25:11 16 day. Definitely appreciate being given the opportunity to
09:25:15 17 talk story and answer any questions you folks have as, you
09:25:19 18 know, we only meet once a month.

09:25:23 19 As you see on my report, there was a couple of
09:25:25 20 retirements and resignations this month. You know, from time
09:25:31 21 to time, people retire in the middle of the year; it just
09:25:34 22 depends on when they were hired a lot of times, so we had a
09:25:43 23 firefighter 3, a driver retire, and an ocean officer retired
09:25:50 24 as well. And then resignations, we had a halftime position in
09:25:55 25 ocean safety who went to look for a larger employment

09:26:00 1 opportunity, so she left. And then a clerical position that
09:26:04 2 vacated in March and we are already in the process of filling
09:26:09 3 that back up.

09:26:12 4 The department improvement committee, our research
09:26:16 5 and development team is -- has finished their review of some
09:26:22 6 fire -- pieces of equipment and we're looking to see which
09:26:26 7 ones we might be able to procure for them and our firefighters
09:26:33 8 and ocean safety officers moving forward.

09:26:37 9 A big program that Chief Thyne has kind of made a
09:26:44 10 (inaudible) of is that safety officer program. And so
09:26:48 11 we're -- we're working through -- we gave our first class,
09:26:52 12 which is always kind of, you know, the first draft, and we've
09:26:59 13 solicited feedback from students as well as the instructors to
09:27:04 14 try to make it better, so that's ongoing right now. And then,
11:22:52 15 our goal is to utilize these safety officers both at training
11:22:57 16 and at incidents so that we can keep all of our responders
11:23:04 17 safe.

11:23:05 18 Our union interactions this month, we talked with
11:23:12 19 Hawaii Firefighters Association about a couple of different
11:23:18 20 policies, but, all in all, right now our relationship with our
11:23:22 21 unions is very good, it's very -- you know, we're all kind of
11:23:26 22 on board to accomplish the same thing and provide for our
11:23:39 23 (inaudible). We've been very fortunate, you know, during this
11:23:43 24 COVID period and the last, you know, couple of years to keep
11:23:51 25 everything aboveboard, keep everything transparent, and talk

11:23:55 1 with them as often as possible so that we can avoid
11:24:01 2 grievances, and so we've been successful with that.

11:24:05 3 At the bottom, transmittals from the public, the --
11:24:12 4 we had a few firefighters that went on their time off to go
11:24:17 5 help the police department install -- do a little construction
11:24:22 6 project, and so we received a letter from Chief Tivoli Faaumu
11:24:29 7 thanking them for their time.

11:24:33 8 And then Haiku Community Association, we've had some
11:24:38 9 back and forth with them in regards to the future of the Haiku
11:24:44 10 Fire Station and the assessment that we're doing on multiple
11:24:50 11 properties out there right now.

11:24:52 12 That concludes my report for you folks. Any
11:24:57 13 questions?

11:24:57 14 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any commissioner have any
11:25:02 15 questions? Donna, you look like you have a question.

11:25:07 16 COMMISSIONER STERLING: No, Chair. I'm good.

11:25:14 17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

11:25:16 18 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I have a --

11:25:18 19 CHAIR GINOZA: Travis.

11:25:19 20 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah. Chief, as far as
11:25:21 21 the -- I see there the employee shift changes on Lanai. I've
11:25:26 22 worked there, I kind of know the challenges, and I -- I can
11:25:30 23 imagine with COVID such is -- I know that can be very, very
11:25:41 24 challenging. So can you just touch on -- a little bit on what
11:25:46 25 was happening there, if you would, please?

11:25:49 1 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Certainly. So first off,
11:25:56 2 Lanai works a unique schedule compared to the rest of the
11:26:00 3 department. They work three days on duty and six days off.
11:26:05 4 The same amount of hours for the month, but because it's a
11:26:09 5 remote station and transportation is limited to that area,
11:26:13 6 they have a unique schedule, to start. And then referencing
11:26:17 7 to what Commissioner Tancayo was asking about, people change
11:26:22 8 shift either via plane or via boat. You know, they don't just
11:26:28 9 drive to work. They're -- on that station we have 18
11:26:31 10 personnel and only one person lives on that island, so the
11:26:36 11 other 17 personnel need to transport in in one way or another.
11:26:41 12 So there's always challenges and especially with COVID, the --
11:26:46 13 the ferry schedule was reduced, so we had to work with them.
11:26:52 14 Lanai came up with a great -- the members there came up with a
11:26:56 15 great suggestion to change their schedule to kind of morph to
11:27:02 16 the ferry schedule, and we worked with the union to accept
11:27:06 17 their schedule. And it worked for a little while, but it
11:27:10 18 was -- it was kind of awkward. There was lengths of days that
11:27:18 19 they had work four days in a row, and so it wasn't necessarily
11:27:24 20 the best schedule.

11:27:25 21 We had all hoped that the ferry would run normally
11:27:29 22 again, and we could go back to a normal schedule, but it
11:27:34 23 didn't. The ferry is still only running Monday, Wednesday,
11:27:42 24 Friday, and Saturday. So, you know, we're trying to work with
11:27:46 25 members of Lanai, the union, the battalion chiefs. It's our

11:27:52 1 responsibility to make sure that the firefighting force on
11:27:55 2 that island is ready to respond 24/7, and so whatever the
11:28:02 3 employees there need to do to change out, the ferry shouldn't
11:28:08 4 hamper that ability. So we're just working with the union on
11:28:14 5 making sure that, you know, we do have manpower available for
11:28:19 6 calls all the time; that was the biggest hurdle.

11:28:23 7 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. Well, thank you.
11:28:25 8 Thank you, Chief. I know with the loss of Ohana Air, that's
11:28:29 9 also a challenge that both Molokai and Lanai has facing -- is
11:28:39 10 facing. And I know the flights are limited going into Lanai,
11:28:44 11 but, like you said, most of them do travel by ferry. So,
11:28:53 12 okay, I just wanted to see what the situation was, what was
11:28:59 13 happening there. Thank you.

11:29:03 14 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any other commissioner have any
11:29:07 15 questions?

11:29:09 16 COMMISSIONER ALCON: I have a question.

11:29:12 17 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Punahale.

11:29:14 18 COMMISSIONER ALCON: So regarding transporting
11:29:18 19 firefighters back and forth to Lanai, have you folks ever
11:29:22 20 thought about getting a boat for the MFD and letting them go
11:29:28 21 back and forth on a boat instead of using the ferry?

11:29:35 22 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: In our time here, I can speak
11:29:39 23 to that, and the only analysis that we've done is kind of a
11:29:43 24 cost analysis on that. Based on the cost of a boat, the
11:29:48 25 manpower, and the, you know, maintenance and stuff; it would

11:29:52 1 be a lot more expensive than what we're currently paying,
11:29:58 2 which is about \$20.83 one way on the ferry.

11:30:18 3 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Yeah, I know, but you could
11:30:20 4 like morph your schedule, people could work conveniently when
11:30:25 5 it would work for you. You could get a cheap boat. It's not
11:30:29 6 that expensive to go back and forth and it takes like, what,
11:30:34 7 25 minutes from Molokai to Lanai. It's quick, it's probably
11:30:40 8 quicker from Maui to Lanai. Or a jet ski, I don't know.
11:30:48 9 Think outside of the box.

11:30:50 10 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. No, those are good --
11:30:54 11 good ideas. And we could discuss that with the members there,
11:30:59 12 'cause -- because they're -- it's their off-duty time, we
11:31:04 13 can't tell them how to travel, but we could -- we could
11:31:07 14 suggest and see if that was something that they would be
11:31:11 15 willing to do. One of the -- one of the kind of, I guess,
11:31:15 16 things that's happened in the past is people have bought their
11:31:19 17 own personal jet skis and boats and done it on their own. So,
11:31:24 18 you're right, it is not the hardest thing to do, but, again,
11:31:30 19 for us to provide something like that -- because they are off
11:31:33 20 duty when they're traveling, so it's kind of their choice how
11:31:37 21 they want to travel. And so we would agree and support if
11:31:47 22 they have any ideas like that.

11:31:50 23 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Okay. Thank you.

11:31:53 24 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Donna. Donna, do you have a
11:32:10 25 question?

11:32:10 1 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I do, yes. Sorry.

11:32:14 2 So just to follow up with Molokai, Alcon, you know,
11:32:26 3 there is a canoe, the Mookahi, Timmy Gilliom, that can sail
11:32:34 4 the fire department over and maybe that would be, I don't
11:32:38 5 know, less money. But they're always looking for crew members
11:32:43 6 and -- and it's cheap gas, it's quick. Anyway, I just wanted
11:32:51 7 to throw it out since we're brainstorming.

11:32:56 8 Okay. I'm done. Thank you, Chair.

11:32:59 9 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

11:33:02 10 Any -- any other questions?

11:33:07 11 (No response.)

11:33:07 12 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Brad.

11:33:10 13 Can we move on to Chief Kawasaki, please?

11:33:17 14 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Sure. Good morning,
11:33:19 15 everybody. I'll make this real quick for -- Chief Ventura
11:33:24 16 said his presentation, he's gonna need some extra time, so
11:33:34 17 I'll make -- I'll make my report as painless as possible. So
11:33:39 18 you guys all have my report there. I just wanted to add a
11:33:44 19 couple of things. So our -- our trip for the trucks, to check
11:33:49 20 the trucks in Wisconsin is coming up next month on April 10th,
11:33:53 21 where we'll be going over to Wailuku and Lahaina Fire
11:33:58 22 Stations' trucks, a final inspection for that. So once we
11:34:04 23 inspect the truck, they'll fix whatever is wrong with it and
11:34:09 24 then ship it to us. And then, we also timed that with a
11:34:13 25 pre-construction meeting, which is we meet with them before

11:34:18 1 they start the build of our next truck, and that truck will be
11:34:23 2 Engine 2. So that will be happening next month on the 10th.

11:34:30 3 And then we do have our new recruit class coming up,
11:34:36 4 being planned for, that will be Recruit Class 37, and we are
11:34:45 5 running a physical agility test for entry personnel on
11:34:52 6 March 26th, next week Friday, and then we're gonna do it again
11:34:56 7 on May 1st, I believe is kind of a tentative date, but we had
11:35:03 8 to do two dates because we didn't have enough applicants to
11:35:09 9 have enough selection to fill our vacancies. So after that,
11:35:15 10 we got the first list, we asked for a second list just because
11:35:19 11 we felt that we didn't have enough candidates to effectively
11:35:23 12 choose a classroom, so we've got to run another test in May,
11:35:28 13 and hopefully, that class starts sometime June 16th, is what
11:35:33 14 we're shooting for.

11:35:35 15 And that's all I have. Before I go, thank you,
11:35:37 16 Travis and Jack, for your guys' time.

11:35:44 17 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Does any commissioner
11:35:52 18 have any questions for Chief Kawasaki? Yes, Travis.

11:35:59 19 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Hey, just so -- one question,
11:36:04 20 Chief, regarding the new engines that we'll be getting, Engine
11:36:08 21 1 and 3, are we still doing the CAF systems in those trucks?

11:36:18 22 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: No. The CAF has gone
11:36:20 23 away for -- I think since I've been in here. So from the last
11:36:29 24 set of trucks, the fire trucks we did, none of them have CAF
11:36:33 25 systems.

11:36:35 1 (Background noise.)

11:36:58 2 CHAIR GINOZA: We're all gonna miss Jack Freitas
11:37:02 3 coming in.

11:37:17 4 (Laughter.)

11:37:17 5 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. So is your question
11:37:22 6 answered, or are we just waiting for Jack to get settled?

11:37:30 7 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I know it's been ten years
11:37:34 8 ago since I last spec'ed out a truck, but I know it was very
11:37:43 9 challenging to integrate the CAF systems, and we made great
11:37:50 10 effort in trying to make that work, and a lot of times it --
11:37:55 11 we struggled, and I was wondering if -- what happened with
11:37:59 12 that program. But thank you. I'm glad, you know, you guys
11:38:05 13 resolved that. Thank you.

11:38:23 14 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yes. So we basically
11:38:27 15 stopped it as long as -- you know, since we've been in here,
11:38:31 16 just based on costs, you know, it saves us some money, and
11:38:38 17 then the ease of operation for the guys on line. It's -- it
11:38:48 18 was sometimes difficult for them, so we went away from that.

11:38:54 19 CHIEF THYNE: Trav, they still have a phone cell,
11:38:59 20 though, so they do have the -- you know, the ability to spray
11:39:03 21 foam when need be and all those things. The compressed -- the
11:39:08 22 compressors were just -- that's when I was Fire 3, they became
11:39:12 23 too cost prohibitive. It was about 30 to 40 thousand just for
11:39:19 24 the compressor and a lot of maintenance, as you know, being a
11:39:22 25 mechanic, so kind of no need was, so we eliminated that. And

11:39:27 1 like Chief Kawasaki said, that's just things you learn as you
11:39:31 2 go along, right? So thanks for your work on laying the
11:39:35 3 foundation for that, though.

11:39:37 4 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you. Yeah, we, me and
11:39:42 5 Chief Aruda worked really hard in trying to make that system
11:39:47 6 work. It does have a lot of benefits, but, as you know, I
11:39:52 7 think the engine we worked was almost \$50,000 ten years ago.
11:39:57 8 And, you know, we thought we did the best system we could, we
11:40:01 9 got the best people to advise us and do that, and we still
11:40:06 10 struggled as much as -- as hard as we tried. So I'm glad you
11:40:12 11 guys are on top of that and went the way that we should have
11:40:16 12 gone. That's a good effort. Thank you.

11:40:23 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other commissioner have any
11:40:26 14 questions?

11:40:28 15 (No response.)

11:40:29 16 CHAIR GINOZA: If not, of course, we'd like to
11:40:32 17 welcome Jack Freitas to -- Commissioner Jack Freitas to the
11:40:40 18 meeting.

11:40:40 19 And let's move on to Chief Werner, please.

11:40:45 20 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Good morning,
11:40:47 21 Commissioners.

11:40:48 22 CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning.

11:40:50 23 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: For my bureau updates, I'll
11:40:53 24 start with the fire prevention bureau. Currently, they're
11:40:58 25 working on two large projects outside of their normal

11:41:04 1 (inaudible). One is the state fire code, which was adopted by
11:41:09 2 the state, and they did their amendments and have now given it
11:41:14 3 to the county. So our fire prevention bureau has 18 months to
11:41:19 4 review it and then add their amendments to it, so that's taken
11:41:25 5 up quite a bit of their time.

11:41:27 6 And then the other project, which I've talked about
11:41:31 7 a lot, is the MAPPS project. The county really wants to get
11:41:36 8 that up and running, they're very behind schedule on that; so
11:41:40 9 they've put a lot of team effort into meeting daily now to get
11:41:47 10 all of the different forms and permits that they need up and
11:41:53 11 running. So those are the two big projects that are taking up
11:41:58 12 a lot of their time.

11:42:00 13 One of the other projects that was assigned to them
11:42:03 14 was to come up with a pub ed video for the schools. They're
11:42:12 15 doing online learning. They have since completed that, and I
11:42:16 16 got a chance to review it, and it's like -- very happy with
11:42:21 17 the product. And so they're working now on getting that out
11:42:24 18 to the schools so that they can start doing those
11:42:28 19 demonstrations.

11:42:31 20 As far as our health and safety bureau, they have --
11:42:37 21 they had already completed a forklift certification program.
11:42:42 22 This month they're doing a train the trainer so that we can
11:42:46 23 bring that in-house so that we'll be OSHA compliant, and then
11:42:50 24 there will be a big cost savings with that because we can do
11:42:55 25 it in-house and keep everybody up to date at all times.

11:43:01 1 They're still working on their OSHA and HIOSH compliant. They
11:43:06 2 attended a webinar to work towards their ongoing compliance
11:43:14 3 with that.

11:43:17 4 The other thing that's been a big deal in the
11:43:21 5 department is trying to come up with a way to protect our guys
11:43:26 6 at wildland fires as far as the respiratory goes. And they've
11:43:32 7 identified a few different options for respiratory protection,
11:43:37 8 and they're gonna run that through our R&D program to see if
11:43:43 9 those are actually gonna be worthwhile investments for the
11:43:48 10 guys.

11:43:48 11 Moving on to our budget and planning, our grants
11:43:53 12 team was very busy, and they completed the applications for
11:43:58 13 three different grants; two of them FEMA and one of them
11:44:07 14 through the DOT. So I'll keep you updated on how that goes,
11:44:13 15 whether or not they get awarded those grants.

11:44:16 16 And that's everything I have for you. I will be
11:44:22 17 happy to answer any questions that you have.

11:44:26 18 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Werner.

11:44:28 19 Does any commissioner have any questions?

11:44:31 20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: (Gesturing.)

11:44:32 21 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Donna.

11:44:36 22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Hi. Chief Werner, were you
11:44:45 23 able to do any legwork on the fire and police scanner app
11:44:51 24 possibility of a direct --

11:44:56 25 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yes, I -- Commissioner

11:44:59 1 Sterling, I did. Actually, I reached out to Walt Pacheco at
11:45:05 2 the MPD radio shop, and I also had our communications
11:45:08 3 technician look into it. And the best thing that came back
11:45:15 4 from both of them would be to actually purchase a scanner,
11:45:19 5 which would actually be much clearer for you than an app. The
11:45:24 6 app is a delayed -- what the app is, is somebody who has a
11:45:29 7 scanner like that, and then they rebroadcast that over the
11:45:34 8 app, so it's not very clear and, you know, they were -- I
11:45:41 9 believe there were commercials with that. So there are
11:45:44 10 several places that you can purchase a scanner, and then there
11:45:48 11 are two places on Maui that can program it to any of the
11:45:52 12 unencrypted frequencies that you want to listen to, which
11:45:57 13 includes our department.

11:46:00 14 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Oh, thank you, Chief.
11:46:02 15 That's nice. Thank you very much.

11:46:05 16 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: You're welcome.

11:46:07 17 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I appreciate your follow-up
11:46:09 18 on it. Thanks.

11:46:18 19 CHAIR GINOZA: Does anybody --

11:46:20 20 COMMISSIONER ALCON: I have a question.

11:46:22 21 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Punahale.

11:46:24 22 COMMISSIONER ALCON: A quick question. Why is
11:46:27 23 forklift certification class needed? Just wondering.

11:46:33 24 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yeah. Thank you for the
11:46:35 25 question. It's an OSHA requirement that anybody that climbs

11:46:38 1 on one of our three forklifts is certified, and there's a lot
11:46:43 2 of other regulations that go with that. So what we were doing
11:46:47 3 in the past is we were paying an outside vendor to come in and
11:46:52 4 train our forklift -- anybody who operates a forklift at the
11:46:58 5 availability of those outside vendors. And so Chief directed
11:47:03 6 me to create an in-house program, so we did that through
11:47:10 7 corporation counsel with risk management, and we came up with
11:47:14 8 a very good program. So now, whenever we need somebody to be
11:47:17 9 certified, we can put together a class and stay in OSHA and
11:47:24 10 HIOSH compliance.

11:47:27 11 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Oh, nice. Thank you.

11:47:30 12 CHAIR GINOZA: What do you guys actually use the
11:47:35 13 forklifts for?

11:47:37 14 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: So we have three forklifts.
11:47:39 15 One of them is here at our warehouse, so it's shelving, so all
11:47:45 16 of the people who work in the warehouse use it. We also have
11:47:51 17 at Manea Place we have another warehouse, and the mechanics
11:47:55 18 use it for a variety of reasons. And then down at our joint
11:48:00 19 training center, the cadres use it down there to move pallets
11:48:06 20 and equipment to do their different training.

11:48:11 21 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Does any other commissioner
11:48:14 22 have any questions?

11:48:17 23 (No response.)

11:48:18 24 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you,
11:48:23 25 Chief Werner.

11:48:24 1 And let's move on to our guest presenter, Chief
11:48:31 2 Ventura. Thank you.

11:48:32 3 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: All right. Good morning
11:48:35 4 again, everybody. So the presentation -- I'll share screen
11:48:40 5 here. The presentation has a lot of details that most of you
11:48:43 6 are already very well aware of, and I provide a lot of it so
11:48:49 7 that you can -- you can just reference it. But the intent of
11:48:55 8 this PowerPoint and slide show is just to kind of present to
11:49:01 9 you folks where we are in our current budget that we're
11:49:05 10 operating in right now before we go into next fiscal year,
11:49:10 11 which is FY '22. So --

11:49:20 12 CHAIR GINOZA: Chief, Chief, could you start off
11:49:22 13 with what kind of direction the administration gave you and in
11:49:27 14 the budget after you guys kind of discussed it or prior to
11:49:31 15 that?

11:49:34 16 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. Are we -- are you
11:49:36 17 talking about FY '22's budget?

11:49:41 18 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

11:49:43 19 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. So we're talking about
11:49:45 20 FY '22 budget here, but what was given to us as far as
11:49:52 21 direction was to try to keep our budget as somewhat flat as
11:49:57 22 possible. There's been very little interaction. The mayor's
11:50:02 23 about to put out his mayor-approved budget at the end of this
11:50:08 24 month, and then it'll go to council for discussion. So that
11:50:11 25 was kind of the direction we were given. That budget that I

11:50:15 1 presented to you in October has already been submitted by us,
11:50:18 2 and that was kind of the general feeling for the FY '22
11:50:24 3 budget, which will start in July.

11:50:26 4 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

11:50:27 5 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. So this particular
11:50:31 6 PowerPoint we're gonna go through here -- like I said, there's
11:50:35 7 a lot of department background information. We want -- we
11:50:43 8 want you folks to have as much information as you can about
11:50:46 9 the department, but I won't go over and read all of them for
11:50:51 10 you, because, obviously, we don't need to do that. My goal is
11:50:55 11 to kind of update you on where we are in our current spending
11:51:00 12 for this fiscal year, which ends June 30th, 2021.

11:51:07 13 And so our department is broken down into five
11:51:12 14 programs, that's -- that's the kind of meat and potatoes of
11:51:18 15 the department: Operations, which also includes our
11:51:22 16 mechanics; the training bureau, which is in a program with
11:51:26 17 health and safety; and our fire prevention bureau; our ocean
11:51:32 18 safety bureau; and then our administration bureau, which is
11:51:38 19 the administration and supporting staff.

11:51:41 20 So the priorities for our different bureaus are
11:51:45 21 listed here, and we always stick to kind of the same things,
11:51:50 22 you know: Compliance with health and safety is the number one
11:51:53 23 thing we need for all of our employees. So HIOSH and OSHA
11:51:59 24 compliance; all of our safety equipment, whether it's PPE or
11:52:04 25 training or apparatus or vehicles or skis for the ocean safety

11:52:11 1 lifeguards. And then after that, we get into, you know,
11:52:16 2 things that we need for operations to be successful, to
11:52:19 3 support our mission. And then the last thing would be, you
11:52:23 4 know, things that are gonna be replaced that are becoming
11:52:27 5 outdated or may fall -- be falling beyond repair just shortly.
11:52:35 6 So that's kind of the order of how we would prioritize our
11:52:40 7 budget items.

11:52:42 8 So the five programs, the first one being
11:52:49 9 administrative and support, so some of the recent
11:52:53 10 accomplishments in this fiscal year is that we've done a reorg
11:53:11 11 of our department, and the chair signed that along the journey
11:53:18 12 that we went on. Our strategic program is in a current and
11:53:23 13 kind of final drafting phase, and we are hoping to still be on
11:53:27 14 target for the end of this month to get that out and have it
11:53:35 15 presented to you folks next meeting.

11:53:39 16 Social media, we can never be, you know, quick
17 enough to get information out to the public, so we've tried to
18 make an effort to get our social media presence up, and that's
19 been successful. We've gotten a lot of feedback from the
20 community. You know, there's -- it would be great to have a
21 full sociology media team. Right now, what we have is we have
22 a firefighter who's, you know, very invested in doing it and
23 onboard. He works with our PIO to provide messaging to the
24 public and -- but, then again, he's -- sometimes he's on duty,
25 and he's working at a station, so he can't be posting things

11:54:32 1 or be available, you know, on all of his days off.

11:54:32 2 And then the resource advisor cadre, that's
3 something that we created through our -- kind of as a link to
4 our incident management team. There was -- there was a class
5 that we sent some students up to, some firefighters up to, and
6 the goal is to work with GIS to identify where all of our
7 maybe culturally sensitive locations are in Hawaii. Because
8 when we have like a large wildfire or whatnot, we never want
9 to direct a resource, whether it be a truck or a pickup or a
10 bulldozer or even a helicopter, and try -- you know, to do any
11 damage to any culturally sites out there. So this resource
12 advisory cadre was created, and they're -- it's a big task.
13 As we well know, there's a lot of culturally sensitive sites
14 in the state of Hawaii and in the county of Maui. And the
15 goal would be to get that data put on to our MDCs, which are
16 the computers that we're putting in fire trucks, and then the
17 companies that go on scene will have access to those sites so
18 if they're at an incident and one of those sites may be
11:56:15 19 nearby, they would be aware of the culturally sensitive site.

11:56:15 20 Some of the goals, you know, immediately and right
11:56:19 21 in front of us are to fill vacancies always, and then Chief
11:56:25 22 was talking about the promotional process; we're working on
11:56:32 23 getting that updated.

11:56:34 24 And in this year's budget, we -- the mayor gave us
11:56:40 25 ice machines for some of our stations that did not have it, so

11:56:45 1 now we have every -- we have an ice machine that's been
11:56:48 2 installed at every fire station. The refrigerators was one of
11:56:53 3 the target items in this program this year because some of the
11:56:56 4 refrigerators we replaced were going on 17 years old, 18 years
11:57:03 5 old, so they weren't in good shape anymore.

11:57:06 6 So the other program is training, which is merged
11:57:09 7 with health and safety on the next slide. The training has
11:57:13 8 not been able to use our joint training center, which is in
11:57:17 9 conjunction with the state firefighters; that project is
11:57:22 10 coming to completion, and so they've been working, you know,
11:57:26 11 with them to kind of get things done. And we still have some
11:57:30 12 training props down there that we need to use, but we've
11:57:34 13 worked around the contractors throughout the last six months
11:57:38 14 to try to continue our training but not be in their way.

11:57:43 15 Due to COVID, Target Solutions is an eLearning
11:57:58 16 platform that we've established and implemented, and what it
11:58:04 17 does is, hopefully, it allows us to offer training to our
11:58:09 18 members while they cannot congregate until COVID kind of
11:58:15 19 passes, so that's better than an important part. There's a
11:58:19 20 ton of tools and uses for that program that we'll develop over
11:58:25 21 the next couple of years. Recruit Class 36 graduated;
11:58:30 22 obviously, that's always a big thing for our training bureau.

11:58:35 23 And then, as far as their purchases this year,
11:58:38 24 they -- that green door on the right is a forceable entry
11:58:45 25 prop. Our fire ground operations cadre is a group that

11:58:52 1 teaches all of the fire ground when it comes to structural
11:58:57 2 firefighting, and part of structural firefighting is forcing
11:59:03 3 entry into businesses and homes, so this prop was important
11:59:07 4 for them. It's a replacement of a really, really old prop
11:59:15 5 that we had to get rid of, or we'll be (inaudible). And then
11:59:24 6 training manikins, we use manikins for anything from in the
11:59:30 7 ocean to in-vehicle extrication, search and rescue training,
11:59:35 8 fire ground operation training, confined space training. We
11:59:39 9 use manikins in all of those trainings.

11:59:44 10 So the second half of that program is health and
11:59:48 11 safety. We've made a good effort to support our peer support
11:59:54 12 program throughout the last couple of years. We've brought in
11:59:57 13 training for them as well as peers in the department.

12:00:01 14 We started a personal protective equipment
12:00:04 15 decontamination procedure for at-scene decontamination for our
12:00:09 16 structure firefighting. And the next part of this is they
12:00:17 17 established the PPE cleaning program, which is an advanced
12:00:22 18 cleaning that we send turnouts to Honolulu for an advanced
12:00:27 19 inspection, cleaning, and any repairs that need to be done.
12:00:30 20 You know, these turnouts go through -- when they are used,
12:00:35 21 they're used in the harshest conditions; Velcro tears, patches
12:00:42 22 need to be put on them, zippers fail. So we don't want a
12:00:48 23 firefighter out there with failed gear. So it's been about
12:00:54 24 a -- it cost us about 35-40 thousand dollars a year to go
12:01:02 25 through all of the turnouts that we currently have on line to

12:01:10 1 try to get those out to Honolulu to be inspected and repaired.

12:01:15 2 So that's been a big project.

12:01:17 3 (Background noise.)

12:01:17 4 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Then rehabilitation, our
12:01:21 5 health and safety rehab program has been developed, and it's
12:01:26 6 getting better with time. That's important because we
12:01:30 7 provided, you know, not only physical but also, you know,
12:01:40 8 nourishment to our firefighters as well as we check their
12:01:44 9 vital conditions and -- to make sure they're somewhat able
12:01:48 10 to -- make sure they're not having an elevated heart rate or
12:01:54 11 any difficulty breathing before we cycle them back into the
12:01:58 12 fire. Whether it's a wildland fire or a structure fire, the
12:02:03 13 work is very hard, so when we are able to give them a break,
12:02:08 14 we give them an evaluation. So that program has been
12:02:13 15 effective and helpful for the responders.

12:02:16 16 As far as their budget goes for this year, we are in
12:02:21 17 probably the 80 percent or so, maybe 90 percent phase of
12:02:28 18 changing out our self-contained breathing apparatus. It was a
12:02:33 19 project that was started by the previous administration. It's
12:02:38 20 a very expensive project, so instead of doing it on a \$1
12:02:44 21 million, you know, budget item and doing it all in one year,
12:02:50 22 we've phased it in over three years. This year the budget was
12:02:56 23 about \$302,000 to get about 24 packs, 121 bottles, and improve
12:03:04 24 the -- you know, we now have this equipment out to all
12:03:09 25 islands. Molokai will be getting additional bottles here in

12:03:15 1 the next month or so, and then it'll be online in all
12:03:20 2 stations.

12:03:20 3 And then the extractors that you see down there at
12:03:24 4 the bottom of the -- the picture on the left, those are like
12:03:30 5 commercial washing machines. There's a lot of technology that
12:03:35 6 goes into them for cleaning our PPE, and it is -- we now will
12:03:42 7 have those at all stations except two, and, of course, our
12:03:48 8 goal will be to get them at the last two stations. So the
12:03:52 9 health and safety goals -- you know, they are our health and
12:03:56 10 safety bureau, our OSHA and HIOSH compliance as well as NFDA
12:04:04 11 compliance is always something we shoot for, and then to
12:04:08 12 continue that safety program that they're currently working
12:04:11 13 on.

12:04:11 14 We're getting an indication of poor network
12:04:17 15 connection. Can you guys still hear me?

12:04:22 16 CHAIR GINOZA: You're good. No problems.

12:04:27 17 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. Okay. Just on the
12:04:29 18 screen it's saying poor network.

12:04:32 19 Okay. The next program is our operations program,
12:04:37 20 so this includes all of our fire operations as well as our
12:04:42 21 mechanic shop, and the -- some of the accomplishments in the
12:04:46 22 last year have been that we've upgraded our callback
12:04:52 23 procedures and -- basically, it's we can't force people to
12:04:56 24 sign up, but anybody who wants to sign up to receive
12:05:05 25 notifications that we have, you know, an emergency, whether

12:05:08 1 it's a tsunami or a weather event like the flood recently or
12:05:15 2 we have a brush fire, and we want to do callbacks, we have
12:05:19 3 a -- it's called Everbridge, and it does a text blast to
12:05:25 4 everybody who wants to sign up. So we've updated that
12:05:31 5 program, and we've gotten more members to sign up for it,
12:05:35 6 which increases our availability of people to come back to
12:05:39 7 work.

12:05:40 8 The second bullet point there is basically when we
12:05:44 9 invite mutual aid partners to work with us; communications is
12:05:52 10 always an issue. So we have worked with them to create an MOU
12:05:59 11 and then also get a radio from them, and then our
12:06:03 12 communications technician has a link that he can bridge our
12:06:08 13 radio and their radio together for large incidents. So that
12:06:15 14 will hopefully improve communications between us and our
12:06:20 15 mutual aid partners like, you know, bulldozer operators.

12:06:29 16 Our multi-company drills have been a big thing in
12:06:34 17 our operations. What it's doing is it's allowing our training
12:06:39 18 bureau, our battalion chiefs, and our cadre instructors an
12:06:46 19 opportunity to see how the training environment and the
12:06:49 20 performance of our members are, you know, what the outcome of
12:06:57 21 the training and everything is, and then getting feedback to
12:07:01 22 see if we need to improve the training program. So that's the
12:07:05 23 multi-company drills that we've been doing. And the captains
12:07:11 24 are leading a lot of the initial phases in preparation, and
12:07:17 25 then we have what's called a standard company evolution, and

12:07:22 1 then everybody gets together to do like an evaluation.

12:07:27 2 Ocean safety is a separate program, but they also
12:07:35 3 have been working with -- with the chief of operations to
12:07:39 4 improve their policy and procedures. It's just a matter of
12:07:44 5 clarity. They don't have a ton of things in writing, so the
12:07:47 6 more we can put in writing, the more black and white things
12:07:52 7 become, and then the more everybody's on the same page.

12:07:56 8 Of course, the goals of this program, like I said,
12:07:59 9 to fill vacancies. Immediately we're looking at about seven
12:08:06 10 firefighter vacancies, you know, since this was printed, and
12:08:12 11 we are -- we're anticipating, you know, several more
12:08:16 12 retirements this year. So the recruit class, we don't have an
12:08:22 13 exact size yet, but once people start putting in their papers
12:08:32 14 to retire, then hopefully, we can get personnel to approve
12:08:37 15 those positions to be filled.

12:08:38 16 And then in the ops program, we -- one of our goals
12:08:53 17 recently is to work to get a twin-engine aircraft. I might
12:08:59 18 have talked with you guys briefly about this, but basically,
12:09:04 19 we're working off of a single-engine aircraft. And we do work
12:09:09 20 off an exemption from the FAA to be able to provide what they
12:09:14 21 call live load work off of a single-engine aircraft, but we
12:09:20 22 all know it would be safer if we had a twin-engine aircraft in
12:09:25 23 our program in the future.

12:09:27 24 And then our wildland capabilities, we have been
12:09:31 25 working on this. We've acquired three new apparatus in the

12:09:36 1 last couple of years just with the demand for our wildland
12:09:45 2 calls that we've been seeing and we've been -- we're trying to
12:09:49 3 stay ahead of it and equip people with more apparatus.

12:09:55 4 This year's budget for operations and maintenance,
12:09:59 5 the Paia fire engine has been approved, the spec is complete,
12:10:05 6 and Chief Kawasaki mentioned he'll be going up to the
12:10:10 7 manufacturer in April to work on building that spec with the
12:10:14 8 vendor.

12:10:15 9 The Kaunakakai utility vehicle, that vehicle was
12:10:22 10 going on 13 years old and it was -- it's being replaced as we
12:10:28 11 speak. That's also out to build.

12:10:33 12 The battalion chief vehicle for first battalion is
12:10:42 13 element complete, we should take possession of that by summer.

12:10:46 14 And then earlier I mentioned about the communication
12:10:51 15 with our mutual aid companies, that's what a lot of those
12:10:56 16 portable radios were for. So that when they come on scene, if
12:11:01 17 they don't have a radio, we can offer them a radio if they
12:11:06 18 don't have one.

12:11:07 19 And then just replacement of equipment that has
12:11:11 20 timed out with age. Those airbags we've replaced on Rescue 10
12:11:17 21 and Ladder 14 because of expiration dates.

12:11:22 22 Our fire prevention bureau, you know, Chief Werner
12:11:27 23 talks about this a lot when we go over his monthly highlights.
12:11:32 24 So a lot of things that he's discussed are on here, but you
12:11:37 25 can see how active they are. And they're not a large

12:11:41 1 workforce, so that group of people has got their hands in
12:11:46 2 many, many projects trying to keep the community risk
12:11:55 3 reduction down as much as possible for our community members.
12:12:02 4 Always one of their goals here, if you look at the bottom, is
12:12:07 5 meeting the 30-day requirement for plans review. These are
12:12:11 6 plans that come in from people that either want to build a
12:12:16 7 hotel, a school, or a house, and we put eyes on all of them.
12:12:22 8 During the pandemic, construction has been booming, and plans
12:12:26 9 review has been, you know, higher than normal. So they're
12:12:33 10 doing their best, they're working overtime if they need to,
12:12:37 11 and we're calling back additional personnel who have the
12:12:43 12 experience to review plans 'cause that, we know, affects the
12:12:49 13 community immediately and directly, so we want to make sure we
12:12:52 14 do our best to meet that goal. We have a vacancy in that
12:13:02 15 bureau, so we want to fill it when we can. We're trying to
12:13:06 16 redescribe that position, so we'll probably get to that here
12:13:10 17 shortly.

12:13:11 18 And then the inspection programs. Chief Werner
12:13:18 19 talks about the MAPPS program, that's a software that we're
12:13:24 20 trying to onboard our department with. It's a countywide
12:13:29 21 software, and that's a big, big project.

12:13:32 22 And then the fire code has been adopted; now we're
12:13:37 23 getting the county amendments. So each -- each county can
12:13:42 24 adopt their own amendments to adjust the fire code, so that's
12:13:49 25 a -- that's a very important part because it affects our

12:13:53 1 county differently from other counties.

12:13:55 2 And then the budget this year for them was -- they
12:14:00 3 got a couple of new vehicles. The vehicles they replaced were
12:14:05 4 13 years old, about 180,000 miles on them, so they've been
12:14:10 5 replaced with these newer SUVs.

12:14:14 6 And then the state of Hawaii mascot for fire
12:14:19 7 prevention is Poki, P-O-K-I, and this is the dog here that is
12:14:27 8 Poki. And so the national mascot is still Smokey the Bear, as
12:14:34 9 everybody knows Smokey, but the state one is Poki, so we -- we
12:14:42 10 were able to finally get on board with that program.

12:14:44 11 Ocean safety bureau, like I said, they've been busy
12:14:50 12 doing a lot of policy improvements. They were able to go
12:14:55 13 through their whole department and train everybody on the
12:14:59 14 rescue watercraft. Now that we have a rescue watercraft
12:15:05 15 assigned to, you know, several different beaches, we wanted to
12:15:09 16 make sure all the employees had the capability of running the
12:15:13 17 rescue watercraft. And then they developed some HIOSH
12:15:18 18 compliance programs, like the respiratory protection, now that
12:15:24 19 they're using N95 masks due to the COVID pandemic.

12:15:31 20 And then they've improved their interview and
12:15:35 21 promotional process, which is always, you know, a goal of
12:15:42 22 every administration. They do have vacancies; their vacancies
12:15:51 23 were on hold due to the pandemic, but we've recently received
12:15:57 24 approval from the mayor to move ahead with filling them, so
12:16:02 25 we're working with DPS to create an agility test to get these

12:16:07 1 vacancies filled.

12:16:10 2 The junior lifeguard program is a well-received
12:16:15 3 program in the state of Hawaii, and we have a great one here
12:16:18 4 in Maui County, but due to COVID, it has been completely
12:16:25 5 shelved until we can, you know, get past it.

12:16:29 6 Facilities, our education, you know, that -- there
12:16:34 7 was a lot of things that we've not been able to get out to
12:16:39 8 schools. And the ocean safety works with a lot of different
12:16:43 9 community programs to educate kids and the youth as well as
12:16:48 10 adults, but they haven't been able to do that because of COVID
12:16:52 11 as well, so they're eager to get -- get back on and get back
12:16:57 12 to, you know, the outreach with the community.

12:17:01 13 And then their budget this year, they received one
12:17:07 14 jet ski or one rescue watercraft, which they have procured;
12:17:16 15 fire rescue boards, which they have in possession; and have
12:17:22 16 replaced a lot of old equipment that was timed out, portable
12:17:31 17 radios and then their all-terrain vehicles. So they have both
12:17:39 18 quads and these little ATV, all-terrain vehicles, ATVs. Our
12:17:48 19 biggest challenge with these, as you guys have heard in the
12:17:53 20 past, is just rust. They're on the beach, we clean them, we
12:18:02 21 do full maintenance on them regularly, but they -- they just
12:18:07 22 rust out being in the salt environment every day.

12:18:10 23 So that concludes the current kind of outlook on our
12:18:16 24 budget and where we are in this fiscal year. It's a lot of
12:18:24 25 information. We can talk about any (inaudible) any questions.

12:18:30 1 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Ventura.

12:18:33 2 Does any commissioner have any questions about his
12:18:37 3 presentation on the budget?

12:18:40 4 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I do. Chair.

12:18:42 5 CHAIR GINOZA: Donna.

12:18:44 6 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes. Let me get my -- okay.

12:18:49 7 Thank you, Chief Ventura, for the report on the budget. On
12:18:54 8 page 9, acquire twin-engine helicopters, can you -- I'm trying
12:19:01 9 to visualize what kind of helicopters you're talking about.

12:19:06 10 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. So the -- there's a
12:19:10 11 lot of different aircraft, helicopters with twin engines. The
12:19:15 12 one that we're looking at, which was recommended in our 2018
12:19:19 13 audit by the -- Citygate, was -- it's called a BK-117, and
12:19:25 14 it's twin-engine. Like all the twin-engine helicopters, they
12:19:32 15 feed directly in parallel to the drive, the transmission
12:19:38 16 system that turns the blades. And, you know, Commissioner
12:19:43 17 Lundberg's been on board with Blue Hawaiian Helicopters for
12:19:48 18 several years; he may be able to go further into detail about
12:19:55 19 it. But basically, this helicopter that we're looking at, it
12:20:00 20 would give us more water-carrying capacity, more
12:20:05 21 manpower-carrying capacity, more fuel time, additional service
12:20:11 22 capabilities, and a hoist capability similar to what you see
12:20:16 23 the Coast Guard using.

12:20:18 24 There's been lots of times where we have multiple
12:20:21 25 victims in the water, and we're several miles offshore and so

12:20:26 1 we can only haul one person at a time back to shore, and so
12:20:30 2 we're leaving people, you know, behind while we do rescues.
12:20:36 3 So the hoist capability would give us the ability to pick
12:20:43 4 people out of the water one at a time, and so that's kind of
12:20:48 5 the aircraft. If you want to Google it, you can look it up,
12:20:51 6 or I can send you information on it later.

12:20:55 7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay. Great. No, you
12:20:57 8 answered my question.

12:20:59 9 You have it down as a goal, is this gonna be -- is
12:21:03 10 this included in this year's 2022 budget, or is that
12:21:09 11 forthcoming, see how we go further?

12:21:11 12 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. So good question. The
12:21:15 13 helicopter contract for the County of Maui traditionally is a
12:21:21 14 four- to five-year contract. We spec out what our department
12:21:29 15 needs are, and then it goes out to the public for bid, and
12:21:34 16 then any contractors that meet the requirements can bid on the
12:21:39 17 spec. If we -- the way we -- our current helicopter contract
12:21:44 18 expires in June, so we just completed the spec for the project
12:21:51 19 and we put it out to bid, so it is available online, just like
12:21:56 20 every other county bid is available online, and what it -- the
12:22:03 21 way we wrote the spec is in this first year, which is FY '22,
12:22:11 22 we're gonna stick with the same helicopter program we
12:22:16 23 currently have, but in years two, three, four, and five, if
12:22:20 24 the contract is awarded to a qualifying vendor, they will know
12:22:24 25 that they will need to acquire that type of aircraft for year

12:22:18 1 two, three, four, five.

12:22:32 2 When it comes to our budget, we need to go every
12:22:37 3 year to ask for that money from the mayor and county council.
12:22:41 4 So even though we have a five-year contract, we only get
12:22:45 5 funding for one year. So in the spec -- although it's a big
12:22:50 6 investment for a helicopter company, in the spec for the
12:22:54 7 helicopter contract, it states, dependent on funding from the
12:22:59 8 county council. And that kind of answer your question?

12:23:05 9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you. Yeah, great.
12:23:08 10 That was great. Thank you. I appreciating it.

12:23:12 11 Thank you, Chair.

12:23:14 12 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other commissioner have any
12:23:17 13 questions?

12:23:23 14 (No response.)

12:23:23 15 CHAIR GINOZA: I have a question. So I believe you
12:23:25 16 said you're at 80-something percent spent so far. Does that
12:23:32 17 mean that you anticipate going in for a budget amendment for
12:23:36 18 this fiscal year?

12:23:41 19 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: So we did talk to Budget
12:23:44 20 Director Yoshimura, and we have identified the place where
12:23:51 21 we're short right now is our helicopter and our bulldozer and
12:23:56 22 water tanker, what we call our wildfire fund. Right now,
12:24:03 23 we're overspent there, but we're looking within our budget
12:24:09 24 first to see if we can move money or cancel a project or defer
12:24:15 25 something to move money and accomplish that. One of the

12:24:19 1 biggest challenges for us is when it comes to the wildfire
12:24:24 2 funds; if we have three fires in a year, our money will last;
12:24:31 3 if we have nine fires in a year, we're gonna use it. And it
12:24:39 4 depends on the size of the fire. So we try -- we don't ask
12:24:42 5 for an exorbitant amount of money that will just sit there and
12:24:50 6 then not be used by the county. So in that particular budget,
12:24:54 7 we always project based on historical numbers what we did last
12:24:59 8 year and the year before, and so we ask for it in this coming
12:25:03 9 year. And then usually it gets a little trimmed by the time
12:25:07 10 it goes through council in the event that we don't have fires,
12:25:13 11 and then we'd be prepared to go in for a budget amendment to
12:25:19 12 ask.

12:25:20 13 So right now on that particular fund, we've talked
12:25:23 14 to the budget director, and she's advised us to try to look
12:25:29 15 within our budget. And so we have some places that we've
12:25:34 16 accomplished some projects under budget, and so we'll be able
12:25:39 17 to move some money to at least get a start, started.

12:25:51 18 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Any other questions about the
12:25:58 19 budget?

12:26:03 20 (No response.)

12:26:03 21 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing no more questions from
12:26:06 22 commissioners, let's move on to the end-of-term recognition.
12:26:11 23 Chief Thyne, please do your ceremonial pitch for Jack and
12:26:19 24 Travis, who very aptly served our commission, and we will miss
12:26:25 25 them dearly, Travis for his knowledge on fire for us and Jack

12:26:30 1 for his knowledge on everything as well as his entertainment
12:26:36 2 value on the council. So, Chief Thyne.

12:26:41 3 CHIEF THYNE: Thanks, Chair. And I'll just say what
12:26:45 4 he said no. No, no, I'm just joking. I do also want to, you
12:26:51 5 know, kind of echo what the chair has just mentioned and just
12:26:57 6 quantify it by saying that, you know, 70 percent of fire
12:27:02 7 departments across our nation are volunteer; however, none of
12:27:10 8 us are in our fire service here in the state of Hawaii;
12:27:15 9 however, you folks are. And so for volunteering your time and
12:27:21 10 really, you know, guiding us in our journey as a department.
12:27:28 11 Sometimes it's by a certain comment or -- or a question or a
12:27:33 12 suggestion, and for that, we're thankful.

12:27:35 13 For Chief Travis, you know, you and I worked a lot
12:27:41 14 of time shoulder to shoulder, side by side, all of those good
12:27:46 15 things, and so I know you're moving on to the police
12:27:50 16 commission; I was glad to see that in the council meetings on
12:27:56 17 BlueJeans.

12:27:57 18 Jack, I know you formerly were on the planning
12:28:01 19 commission; I'm not sure where your journey's gonna take you.
12:28:07 20 I hope it's retirement for your sake because you've served
12:28:13 21 this community in many different capacities, and we appreciate
12:28:18 22 your manao.

12:28:20 23 So we do have -- I'm gonna ask Vanna, our Vanna
12:28:26 24 White, Chief Ventura, to hold up the plaques here. We do have
12:28:31 25 these plaques that Richelle is gonna send your way, but it's

12:28:38 1 really just our -- a small token of our appreciation for you
12:28:43 2 folks volunteering your time and contributions to our agency,
12:28:48 3 the department of fire and public safety. And we wish you all
12:28:52 4 of the best and certainly thank you and say a fond mahalo to
12:28:56 5 you for all that you've done for us. So thank you very much,
12:29:03 6 and we wish you all the best. Good health, long life.

12:29:09 7 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Thank you.

12:29:11 8 CHAIR GINOZA: Would each of you like to say a few
12:29:14 9 words? Go ahead.

12:29:14 10 (Inaudible.)

12:29:19 11 CHAIR GINOZA: What? What was that?

12:29:19 12 (No response.)

12:29:24 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Maybe Travis and Jack would like to
12:29:27 14 say something.

12:29:34 15 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I'll let Jack go first.

12:29:38 16 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah, well, I -- I really
12:29:40 17 appreciate what the chief and the fire chief have done with
12:29:44 18 the fire department, and I -- I think the fire commissioners
12:29:50 19 have worked very well together. I -- I specifically
12:29:57 20 appreciate you as the chair because our meetings have been
12:30:02 21 moved along, and we cut the, what they call, rhetoric out; we
12:30:10 22 had very little on useless fire commission rhetoric, we
12:30:20 23 basically just took care of business, and I appreciate you and
12:30:26 24 the chief. And God bless all you guys and move on.

12:30:43 25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. I guess my turn.

12:30:47 1 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Travis.

12:30:49 2 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. Well, first of all, a
12:30:52 3 big thank you to everybody. I'll back up a little bit. When
12:30:58 4 I first came on the commission and applied, there was a lot of
12:31:03 5 concern because of my history with the department, and I hope
12:31:07 6 I've proved in an honorable way that retired firemen can
12:31:14 7 serve. We were trained a lot by the fire department, we've
12:31:17 8 got a lot of knowledge, I was fortunate where I had a lot of
12:31:22 9 experience around the county, and I was glad that I could
12:31:25 10 share it and hopefully, it was useful to everybody.

12:31:31 11 To the chiefs, most of you, the rest of the
12:31:36 12 commission doesn't know all of -- a bunch of them could have
12:31:40 13 retired, but they stayed on to help the department. And I
12:31:44 14 thank you guys for doing that. You guys are actually losing
12:31:50 15 money, as I understand, and that shows where your heart is as
12:31:55 16 far as helping the department, and I thank you guys for doing
12:31:58 17 that. A lot of the senior staff could have left, once again,
12:32:03 18 but they stayed to help our department.

12:32:07 19 You know, it's -- I'm very honored to have served.
12:32:12 20 I enjoyed the past commissioners, I thought it's a great mix
12:32:17 21 of people that we have onboard, but I do feel retired firemen
12:32:22 22 can -- can help serve the department. And I don't think it's
12:32:27 23 for everybody, but I think they should take a look at who
12:32:30 24 might be able to help our department and I hope I've done that
12:32:34 25 for this department. And once again, it's been an honor to

12:32:38 1 serve. I look forward to my next journey with the police, and
12:32:43 2 once again, all you guys take care, and thank you.

12:32:48 3 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Jack, and thank you,
12:32:52 4 Travis. Does any commissioner have any comments they want to
12:32:56 5 provide?

12:33:00 6 VICE CHAIR VARES: I do.

12:33:02 7 CHAIR GINOZA: Vice Clair Vares.

12:33:04 8 VICE CHAIR VARES: Gentlemen, thank you guys so much
12:33:08 9 for everything you've given to our commission and we're
12:33:13 10 definitely gonna be at a loss (inaudible) or to (inaudible).
12:33:21 11 I'm looking forward to meeting them, but you both will be very
12:33:24 12 missed. Please don't be strangers. Thank you, guys.

12:33:30 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

12:33:36 14 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Kyle, if I can.

12:33:38 15 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure.

12:33:40 16 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Can you hear me okay?

12:33:42 17 CHAIR GINOZA: Yep.

12:33:43 18 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: You know, Travis, just kudos
12:33:48 19 to you for being a dedicated community servant. You've done
12:33:53 20 it in the fire department for many years; you did it on the
12:33:58 21 commission, you're doing police, I understand, you got on the
12:34:03 22 police commission going on from here. I did it opposite, I
12:34:07 23 did police and then here, and you're doing here, then police.
12:34:11 24 Big difference in the mix of the -- of the commissions.

12:34:15 25 But I found -- just I'm in total support of having

12:34:20 1 ex-firemen apply and to be part of this program. I think
12:34:27 2 Travis set the stage for future firemen. I think he was a
12:34:32 3 professional. I think that he didn't let his feelings or
12:34:36 4 whatnot get in the way of making right decisions and right
12:34:41 5 comments. And so, Travis, just all -- all respect for you, my
12:34:46 6 brother. So it was -- it was fun with you.

12:34:49 7 And, Jack, what can I say? You kept us laughing,
12:34:54 8 you kept it light, you were a pleasure to be with and work
12:35:03 9 with, and I wouldn't have any other two guys than you guys as
12:35:08 10 my fellow commissioners. So good luck in your future
12:35:12 11 endeavors, and wish you all the best, and I'm sure our paths
12:35:17 12 will cross again. So aloha. Aloha to both of you.

12:35:22 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Gregg.

12:35:26 14 If there's no -- oh, go ahead, Donna.

12:35:30 15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So, Jack -- Jack, Jack, this
12:35:38 16 is Donna. Anyway, that's Jack. Hi. Jack, thank you so much
12:35:43 17 for jumping in as a kupuna like I am all these years. I will
12:35:54 18 see you in town. We've got a lot more to give to the
12:35:58 19 community.

12:35:58 20 And, Travis, what you brought the year and a half or
12:36:01 21 two years I've been here is an awareness of how the fire
12:36:06 22 department operates. (Inaudible) I didn't know, and as a
12:36:11 23 civilian, not a fire person, you brought knowledge, you
12:36:14 24 brought how equipment works, and it was vast knowledge that
12:36:24 25 you brought forward to the commission. And I will see you

12:36:28 1 somewhere on Molokai; if not, good luck with the police
12:36:31 2 department.

12:36:31 3 Thank you, Chair.

12:36:34 4 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Donna.

12:36:37 5 Go ahead, Dwight.

12:36:39 6 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I'd just like to echo what most
12:36:42 7 of you have said already about these two gentlemen. It was an
12:36:46 8 honor serving with you guys with the commission. And, you
12:36:50 9 know, it's true about what they said about Commissioner
12:36:55 10 Tancayo, a lot of the questions that you asked is really
12:36:57 11 educational, taught me a lot. I know I don't say much at the
12:37:03 12 meetings because I like to just listen and learn; that's just
12:37:08 13 my style, so -- and thank you, Mr. Freitas, you also brought a
12:37:13 14 lot of knowledge. I appreciate both of you, serving on the
12:37:16 15 commission with both of you. So thank you, guys.

12:37:20 16 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dwight.

12:37:24 17 Anybody else?

12:37:24 18 (No response.)

12:37:31 19 CHAIR GINOZA: And I'm sure all of us really
12:37:35 20 appreciate all of your service. And there will be a void
12:37:38 21 because we won't have a former fire person. I mean, the
12:37:45 22 closest will be Max, a former MPD kind of person. But
12:37:50 23 hopefully, once we get our two new members, we'll perhaps get
12:37:56 24 one or two former fire people to help complement our great
12:38:01 25 commission that we have now.

12:38:04 1 COMMISSIONER STERLING: (Inaudible.)

12:38:06 2 CHAIR GINOZA: Sorry.

12:38:07 3 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Oh, no. Go ahead.

12:38:10 4 CHAIR GINOZA: And so if we have nothing further,
12:38:13 5 the next meeting we have is April 15th at 10:00 a.m. on
12:38:18 6 BlueJeans.

12:38:19 7 And the only announcement I have is if -- if any of
12:38:23 8 you commissioners have not yet turned in your financial
12:38:28 9 disclosure form, please do so; otherwise, we'll hound you
12:38:34 10 because it's due shortly. But those of you who have turned
12:38:39 11 them in, thank you very much.

12:38:40 12 And if we have no other questions or announcements
12:38:48 13 or concerns, I'd like to adjourn this meeting at 3:22 p.m.
12:38:55 14 thanking both Commissioners Tancayo and Freitas.

12:39:05 15 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Motion to adjourn.

12:39:07 16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Motion to adjourn by Dwight.
12:39:09 17 Do I have a second?

12:39:13 18 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Second.

12:39:14 19 CHAIR GINOZA: Second by Travis. All right. So all
12:39:18 20 in favor, say aye.

12:39:22 21 (Response.)

12:39:23 22 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. I assume nobody opposes, so
12:39:26 23 meeting is adjourned at 3:23 p.m. Thank you very much,
12:39:31 24 everybody, and see you next month.

09:41:33 25 (The proceedings were adjourned at 3:23 p.m.)

