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FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

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

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

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kyle Ginoza, Chair
- Lisa Vares, Vice Chair
- Gregg Lundberg, Member
- Donna Sterling, Member
- Punahuele Alcon, Member
- Max Kincaid, Jr., Member
- Makalapua Kanuha, Member

STAFF:

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

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(November 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m.)

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CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning. Today is November 18th, 2021, and it is 10:00 a.m., so I'd like to call to order the fire and public safety commission meeting. My name is Kyle Ginoza, and I'm the chair of the committee. I'd like to start off by taking roll call.

Lisa Vares.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Present.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Hi, Lisa.

Gregg Lundberg.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Here.

CHAIR GINOZA: Hi, Gregg.

Dwight Burns.

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: No Dwight yet.

Donna Sterling.

COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here, Chair.

CHAIR GINOZA: Hi, Donna.

Punahuele Alcon.

COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here.

CHAIR GINOZA: Hi, Punahuele.

COMMISSIONER ALCON: Hi.

CHAIR GINOZA: Max Kincaid, Jr.

COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Here.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Hi, Max.
2 Dylan Andrion.
3 (No response.)
4 CHAIR GINOZA: No Dylan yet.
5 Makalapua Kanuha. Makalapua, you're on, right?
6 COMMISSIONER ALCON: I think she's muted.
7 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay. Well, we have five.
8 Okay. We also have -- Chief Ventura, could you
9 introduce who's with you?
10 CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody. Thanks for
11 being here today. I have myself, Deputy Fujioka, Assistant
12 Chief Kawasaki, and Assistant Chief Werner. Off to the side,
13 we have commission secretary Richelle Wakamatsu and with us in
14 the room today, we also have Firefighter Takitani, who's just
15 returned from our fire truck inspection trip.
16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Excellent.
17 And I see we have Gary Murai. I don't know if he
18 has Dan with him or --
19 Oh, hi, Makalapua.
20 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Hi.
21 CHAIR GINOZA: Gary, are you there?
22 MR. MURAI: Yep, I'm here, Mr. Chair. Good morning.
23 CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning. Is Dan with you?
24 MR. MURAI: No. The reason -- he's not here.
25 I'm -- technically, I'm standing in for him. He had a

1 conflict.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh.

3 MR. MURAI: So, anyway, yeah, so it's just me from
4 corp. Counsel.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great. Well, we love -- we
6 love that you're here with us still.

7 MR. MURAI: Thank you.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Let's move on to the minutes
9 from -- oh, is -- is Herman here? I see he's long gone.

10 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: I'm right here, Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Hi, Herman.

12 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Hi.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: So let's move on to approval of the
14 minutes from the last meeting, from October 21st. I trust
15 everyone has had a chance to review the minutes. Could I have
16 a motion to accept the minutes?

17 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I'll make a motion to accept
18 the minutes as written.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Gregg.

20 And a second?

21 VICE CHAIR VARES: Second.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Who is that?

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: Lisa. Sorry.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay. Thank you, Lisa.

25 VICE CHAIR VARES: Lisa Vares. Second.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: All in favor, raise your hand.

2 (Response.)

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Everybody approves the
4 minutes, so the minutes are approved.

5 Do we have any public testimony, Chief Ventura?
6 Anybody signed up to testify?

7 MS. WAKAMATSU: We don't have anybody signed up
8 today.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Richelle.

10 Is anybody on the call wanting to testify? Please
11 unmute and -- so I can recognize you.

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, public
14 testimony is closed.

15 I'd like to move on to Maui Emergency Management
16 Agency. Herman, you have the floor.

17 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
18 Commissioners. For Maui Emergency Management Agency, we
19 continue to be in partial activation. We're now well over 600
20 days since we've been -- since the Emergency Operations Center
21 has been activated.

22 Just yesterday, it was announced by the Hawaii
23 Emergency Management Agency that FEMA has awarded the county
24 \$3 million for the Kapakalua Bridge, and that was damage that
25 was done as a result of the floods that occurred in Haiku.

1 This is pretty amazing because we're getting these monies in
2 the same calendar year that the event occurred, so they
3 really -- FEMA and HIEMA and our staff here at MEMA really,
4 like, pushed this along and were able to get the monies this
5 year, so we'll be seeing that in these next few days.

6 We continue to work with the department of education
7 in putting together an active shooter tabletop exercise. So
8 in this tabletop exercise, we'll have administrators from
9 various schools, nearly all the schools, DOE schools
10 participating, including Molokai and Lanai and Hana. And
11 we -- we have many of our partners that will be part of this
12 tabletop exercise, including the fire department will be
13 participating as well. And this is really the first of its
14 kind in the state, and so we're really excited. I think we've
15 been getting -- there has been some interest, I know, from the
16 department of education on Oahu regarding this, one of our
17 partners that I believe will be running this exercise. We
18 have staff, but also from Homeland Security, they will be here
19 as well to help us run the exercise. In preparation for this
20 exercise, we did have Homeland Security -- they brought over
21 this equipment that's able to videotape facilities, and so we
22 did have schools on Molokai, Lanai, and some of the schools
23 here on Maui use that technology, so this will enable the
24 police and even the fire department to be able to see exactly
25 how the school is set up and everything and they can kind of

1 coordinate, so that's going on.

2 We have two RFPs going on right now, one is for the
3 recovery plan update, and the other is for the creation of a
4 hazard mitigation website. If you recall, last year, we just
5 completed the hazard mitigation plan update, and that plan is
6 over a thousand pages and very difficult for our public to
7 have to go through that plan to get information. And so we
8 received a grant from the Hazard Mitigation Program, it's
9 about a hundred thousand or so, and what we want to do is
10 create a website so that the public will have -- will have a
11 much easier or -- much more transparent in trying to get
12 information about hazard mitigation, so that's -- that's going
13 on right now.

14 And then the -- the Homeland Security grant program,
15 we're gonna be going into another grant year, so our partner
16 agencies will start to submit applications. I know the fire
17 department did get assistance from them in the past with
18 getting equipment, and so we'll continue to work with the fire
19 department in applying for this Homeland Security grant
20 program.

21 The last thing I want to bring up is CERT. CERT is
22 the Community Emergency Response Team, and we have a very good
23 partnership with the fire department. I know I've spoken to
24 Chief Ventura about this, and they want to continue their
25 support of this program. This really empowers our communities

1 to be able to respond in the event of an emergency or disaster
2 in their community. During a disaster, it may be difficult
3 for our first responders to get to them, and so we have to
4 be -- we have to teach them to fend for themselves, and that's
5 what the CERT program is for, to not only help themselves but
6 also to help their community members as well.

7 Mr. Chair, that's all I have for now unless there's
8 any questions.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, Herman.

10 Does any commissioner have any questions for Herman?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR GINOZA: I don't see any, so thank you very
13 much, Herman.

14 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Let's move on to Chief Ventura.

16 CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody. Thanks for
17 being back here again this month. Last month, Chair Ginoza
18 wasn't with us, so I just kind of acknowledge he's with you.
19 I just want to say thank you to all of you for your support in
20 helping us move our department and, you know, making it
21 better; that's our ultimate goal here as a group. Today the
22 meeting will be longer than normal, sorry about that so that
23 we can get through the budget presentation at the end, but I
24 will present that to you at the end of the meeting and then if
25 there's any questions, let's definitely go over them.

1 First off, I want to start off by thanking Gary.
2 This is Gary's last meeting with us and, you know, all the
3 guidance he provided for our department over the last couple
4 of, you know, years on the commission as well as, you know,
5 behind the scenes helping with other documentation, paperwork,
6 and direction. So mahalo to Gary, I hope you have a great
7 retirement. We're gonna miss you.

8 MR. MURAI: Thank you.

9 CHIEF VENTURA: Secondly, we have Chief Kawasaki
10 behind my left shoulder here; this will also be his last
11 meeting as he's retiring in seven more workdays, so he's got
12 seven more days to tie up loose ends. It's been an honor to
13 work with him. He's always brought, you know, good insight to
14 all of our projects and, you know, led our members, our
15 battalion chiefs, with good direction so that our operations
16 can always be solid both in fire and ocean safety. So thanks
17 to him, he will be missed.

18 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Thank you.

19 CHIEF VENTURA: Moving forward, I'll go over my
20 report here. We've been -- in our month like I had mentioned,
21 we're kind of meet and greet, talk to people, come up with
22 plans, lay out our -- our strategic direction for the
23 department, so we've had a lot of meetings with the mayor as
24 well as the council. We supported the mayor's Halloween
25 drive-through back a couple weekends ago; that was a good,

1 safe public event. We had a fire crew on scene for first
2 responder capability as well as just, you know, waving to the
3 kids and such. And then we helped with traffic and so on and
4 stuff, so that was a nice evening for the island to enjoy.

5 We had virtual meetings with council members. One
6 was with Ms. Kama, that went well, and she shared her district
7 priorities with us.

8 Councilmember Rawlins, which we talk to pretty
9 regularly, she proposed a new bill for fireworks basically to
10 try to control what we all know is a problem here, so we've
11 been working back and forth with her and corporation counsel
12 on presenting language to make this bill support everything
13 that the state law has, but add additional county requirements
14 that will try to make our county a little bit safer during 4th
15 of July and New Year's Eve.

16 We met with Councilmember King and did some of the
17 same conversation about her district as well as our department
18 and our services in her district. And one of the big news in
19 her district is that Makena did reopen with lifeguards on the
20 16th, so there's a lot of very, very happy people for that.
21 We've been working with the state and the county to get all
22 the documentation on funding done, so that's complete, and
23 we're happy we can say as of Tuesday this week, we put
24 lifeguards on the beach, so that's great.

25 Community association meetings, we've been trying to

1 get out. We had a meeting in both Kihei and in Kula just to
2 answer the people's questions, just to see what they were
3 concerned with, provide them with information on our
4 department as far as the services we provide. Both Kihei and
5 Kula are very different because we have no ocean safety
6 officers in Kula, obviously, but we were -- they were good
7 meetings and good conversations with both council members and
8 the members of the community.

9 Capital improvement projects, we are working through
10 several of them, like I mentioned before, and will continue
11 to. We have to get that ready to present to the mayor for
12 next week, so we're finishing up that part of our budget
13 probably by Friday.

14 Ocean safety captains meeting, so that was a good
15 meeting that we had, and we met with the leadership of ocean
16 safety and our whole admin. Basically to explain how they can
17 interact with all of us and what responsibilities our
18 administration has to them. They -- you know, they are not
19 quite familiar with if they need an investigation, who do they
20 go to; if they need equipment maybe, who is the best person to
21 suggest for our research and development team. So we kind of
22 gave them an overview on our strategic control and how each of
23 us affects ocean safety, so now they have a direct line to the
24 correct person. That was a very valuable meeting. We had all
25 district captains as well as the battalion chief for ocean

1 safety in on that meeting, so that was a good meeting.

2 Met with DLNR several times to get Makena going, as
3 I mentioned.

4 And then this past week, November 9th, so that was
5 last week, we had our Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association virtual
6 conference, that was the first of its kind that the chiefs
7 association put on. We had nearly a hundred people signing up
8 for it, so I would say that was pretty successful and that
9 across the state, there was people watching our speakers talk
10 about the various topics. And there was good conversation;
11 they could chat in on the question-and-answer session. We put
12 up whole questions during the speakers, so it was as
13 interactive as we could have created and it was pretty well
14 received. So that went well for a nice one-day event, and I
15 think the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association is gonna want to do
16 it maybe once or twice a year moving forward.

17 That concludes my initial report. Any questions?

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Ventura.

19 Any commissioners have any questions?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, Chief Fujioka.

22 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Good morning, Commissioners.
23 Thanks for being here. I'll go over my report for this past
24 month.

25 Department interviews and promotions, so we are

1 doing a captain's test and assessment setting forth tomorrow.
2 This would be -- this will be our first time handling the
3 testing and assessment within our department. Before
4 department of personnel services used to hold everything, so
5 this is our first time that our department will handle all the
6 testing and assessment, so that will be our first run tomorrow
7 for our captains.

8 Firefighter trainees, the entrance exam was
9 completed last month, and we are waiting for DPS to establish
10 a master list for our department.

11 Department improvement committee, so all we have
12 this month is we have an SOG that is in final review for the
13 regeneration of our DPS systems and our new diesel motors.
14 The reason for these SOGs came about -- there is some safety
15 concerns because of the exhaust temperatures that come out of
16 our new diesel engines that can run over a thousand degrees,
17 so we were -- we wanted to establish some SOGs for the
18 protection of our members and also the public if they come
19 around our trucks and the trucks are in a DPS or re-gen mode.
20 So we established that SOG, it's in final review currently.

21 Union interactions, we spoke with HFFA about one of
22 our members who had contracted COVID, and he's -- kind of has
23 a long road ahead of him. So we've just kind of spoken with
24 them briefly how we can support our member or how they can
25 help us with any support measures.

1 We also spoke with the union about Narcan and
2 glucose, which now we carry on our vehicles. The Narcan has
3 proven to be very effective. If you guys -- I'm not sure if
4 you guys know what Narcan is, it's the -- it's a drug that is
5 given for opioid overdoses, and it reverses the reaction. So
6 I think within the first week of putting it online, one
7 station had four overdoses on one call which they used three,
8 probably four Narcans on one call, and I believe they were
9 able to bring back three out of the four if I'm not mistaken,
10 so that's very important to our -- our department.

11 And then we also had a meeting, a safety committee
12 meeting with the union members and Chief Kawasaki and Chief
13 Werner and talked about several issues or items within our
14 department that we were able to work through and send a memo
15 to our department about two weeks ago regarding some temporary
16 assignment and firefighter 3 positions on the island of
17 Molokai.

18 And last, transmittals from the public, we did a
19 back to school supply drive, and we were tied for first place,
20 and we were able to -- the county was able to donate more than
21 a hundred thousand dollars worth of school supplies this year.

22 So that concludes my report for this month. If you
23 guys have any questions.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Fujioka.

25 Does any commissioner have any questions?

1 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: I have one, Chair.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Punahale. Oh, sorry. Sorry, go
3 ahead.

4 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: That's okay. We're both
5 Hawaiian, so -- and wahine.

6 Okay. So, mahalo for the report, Chief. I have one
7 question regarding the -- the captain's test. So you're
8 saying that it used to be external, the process, so what was
9 the process in the past? So now we're gonna do it internal;
10 what was the external process?

11 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: So DPS needs to give a
12 written test through the department of personnel services, and
13 with that test, they would establish a list on how you scored
14 on the written exam, and depending on how you scored was how
15 you were placed as far as the rank and how you -- when we have
16 vacancies, and we submit for names, they would come down that
17 order of basically how you scored on the written test. That's
18 how it was -- the names came down to admin. Here.

19 With the new process, the written test is just a
20 weighted portion of the whole testing and assessment combined,
21 so now we have -- it's not so weighted on just the written
22 test. You have to perform in assessments along with the
23 written test, then we'll -- after everything is scored, we
24 establish a list, our own internal list, and that's how we --
25 we don't have to go through DPS to request names, we will

1 establish our list internally.

2 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay. So --

3 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: It's a big undertaking.

4 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay. So then the body -- so
5 I would say that the body on this table right now would
6 determine who's going to be a captain, is that it?

7 CHIEF VENTURA: Yes. So probably the most negative
8 part of the whole process was that if I failed during the
9 test, I had to wait two to three years --

10 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Got it.

11 CHIEF VENTURA: -- because we had to wait until DPS
12 gave a test again. By doing it in-house now, we can do it as
13 often as we need, that's one thing. Two, if you do poorly on
14 the test, but you prove that you understand our SOGs through
15 assessments and some of the things that we test them on, we
16 also are giving points for seniority, experience, and rank.
17 So if you were a firefighter 2 and then a 3, you might get a
18 couple more points than somebody who's just a 1. So it was
19 important that we receive from our members, from the union,
20 and from ourselves to create a more -- more balanced
21 evaluation. Before it was if you were just a poor test-taker
22 or you had a sick stomach that day, or you got in a car
23 accident on the way to the test, you were out for three years.
24 So now we have a way that, you know, you can maybe not do as
25 well on the test, but do better on the assessments, and you

1 can show that you have similar capability.

2 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you for that
3 explanation, Chief. Mahalo nui.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. And sorry about that,
5 Makalapua.

6 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: No, no need be sorry.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So does any other commissioner
8 have any questions?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, thank you, Chief
11 Fujioka.

12 Chief Kawasaki.

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Hi, good morning. I'll
14 give this real quick. I just want to thank you guys for
15 selecting this guy. I think Gregg and Kyle, you guys were
16 here three years ago. And at least I did stay, you know, to
17 help this guy get his medallion, so that's all good for me.
18 I'm happy with that, and that's the reason, you know, why I'm
19 going now. Not because he's there, but because, you know, I'm
20 happy that he's here now. I'm not running away from him, I
21 just -- I had -- I had my fill, and it's time to move on. But
22 other than that, you know, just thank you, guys. And I know
23 we met with -- I think the two of you are the only ones that
24 are still here from the three years ago.

25 Other than that, that's all I have. If you guys

1 have any questions on my little report here, feel free to ask
2 me whatever.

3 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So, Chief Kawasaki, this is
4 Donna.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Donna.

6 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I just want to say, you
7 know, you and I go way back to Kahikinui 2003, all the fires
8 we've been through. We've grown gray hair together and, you
9 know, it is -- you know, I'm still here, and you're gonna go
10 on the beaches and whatever. Anyway, I just want to thank
11 you. It's been a pleasure.

12 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Thank you.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

14 Any other questions or comments from commissioners?

15 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: I just wanted to echo that.

18 Congratulations, Rick, you totally deserve a well-deserved
19 retirement. I shudder for all the woodland creatures across
20 the world.

21 (Laughter.)

22 VICE CHAIR VARES: Put some on the endangered
23 species list, I'm sure, but have fun. You're gonna be totally
24 missed, so thanks so much for sticking around and being such
25 an awesome asset. Thank you.

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Thank you.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa. And I'm sure all of
3 us echo that sentiment.

4 Does anybody else have any questions or comments on
5 Rick's report?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you
8 for your service, and we'll move on to Chief Werner.

9 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Good morning. For my
10 bureau updates, I'll start with the fire prevention bureau.
11 The vacant inspector position has been filled, so they have a
12 complete staff now. The other thing they did is they finished
13 their FY '23 budget requests and got those in. They had a
14 pretty busy month with fire investigations. They got called
15 out to four structure fires and two vehicle fires and a brush
16 fire all in one month.

17 As far as the MAPPS, Go Live was October.
18 Unfortunately, it has been pushed back to April, so they're
19 still making a strong effort on getting ready for that.
20 They're very close to being completed, so they'll -- they'll
21 be done within the county's opening of the Go Live date on
22 April 22nd.

23 Moving on to health and safety bureau, as chief
24 said, the naloxone has gone really well. I did talk to Engine
25 6, they did administer four doses, and three of the people did

1 come back, so that was really positive. We've started
2 recruiting for our SCBA tech, we put it out, and we have four
3 candidates identified. We're gonna start doing interviews
4 this week and, hopefully, filling that very soon. As far as
5 rehab and medical monitoring, they also responded to four
6 structure fires and called out to two brush fires, so they
7 were very busy with that.

8 And as far as CIP projects, I know I've brought it
9 up a few times, concerns about being able to get medical-grade
10 oxygen, so they've been doing a lot of research and spending a
11 lot of time on that, and we have come up with a solution that
12 we're working towards. We're getting a machine that does not
13 actually produce oxygen, but we can get it in large quantities
14 and fill our bottles ourselves, and it's gonna save us a
15 tremendous amount of money. The way I calculated, within two
16 years, we'll pay for that machine itself, and then we'll have
17 a large supply of medical-grade oxygen available.

18 Moving on to budget planning appropriations
19 committee, the grant period for AFG has just opened up
20 November 9th, and our grant team is working on preparing grant
21 proposals. And for our FY '22 budget, the SCBA opening
22 happened, and it was awarded, so we're working towards now
23 purchasing SCBAs from FY '22 budget.

24 That's everything I have. If you have any
25 questions, I'm happy to answer.

1 COMMISSIONER ALCON: I have a question. Can you --
2 can you tell us a little bit more about that oxygen-producing
3 machine and how does it work?

4 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yeah. Thank you for the
5 question. So right now, what we do is we send out our bottles
6 to a company to fill them up, and they charge us -- actually,
7 I have the numbers with me. They charge us \$77.50 plus \$20 of
8 shipping to fill those. What we're doing, this system that
9 we're purchasing, it has four very large units attached to it.
10 With shipping, it costs \$200 per bottle to ship that, but we
11 can fill ten bottles per, so it comes down to only \$20 per
12 bottle instead of the 77.50. So by my math, we're saving
13 \$52.50 per bottle, and the cost of the machine is \$77,000, so
14 within two years -- we're doing about 30 bottles a month, so
15 with my math, in two years, that thing will pay for itself.

16 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Great. Thank you.

17 CHIEF VENTURA: If I can add to that, we did some
18 research on different types of machines, and one was a machine
19 that actually drew the air, filtered it, and filled bottles,
20 and pressurized them on site. We had negative reviews from
21 both people that owned the machines as well as the repair
22 people, so we didn't want to invest in something necessarily
23 that was gonna continuously be breaking. So we researched
24 around kind of the nation, and we reached out to some people,
25 and the system that Chief Werner is talking about is a --

1 basically, a cascade system. We will be buying large volumes
2 of oxygen, and they come in from Honolulu, and then we'll
3 cascade them into smaller bottles that the apparatus will be
4 using. So it's not a machine that just (inaudible) --

5 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Right, produces it.

6 CHIEF VENTURA: Exactly.

7 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Yeah.

8 CHIEF VENTURA: But it's very economically feasible
9 at this point.

10 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Do you -- do you mind if I
11 offline contact you guys about that? Because we had the same
12 problem for our hospital here, and I know the Molokai Fire
13 Department asked us if we could help them fill bottles, so if
14 we were to purchase something like this, then we could fill
15 your bottles on island. Awesome.

16 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: That would be great.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you for the question,
18 Punahale.

19 Any other questions from commissioners?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, the next item is
22 for Chief Ventura to go over the '22-'23 budget, and part of
23 our duty as commissioners -- or as a commission is to review
24 and basically approve the submittal of the fire and public
25 safety budget from the chief to the mayor. And so at the end

1 of his -- basically, if anybody has any questions, please ask
2 them at the end of the presentation, but at the -- or -- and
3 at the end, I'll ask for a motion for basically approval for
4 submittal of his -- of the budget to the mayor.

5 Okay. Go ahead, Chief Ventura.

6 CHIEF VENTURA: All right. Good morning. So I'd
7 like to give everybody a little background on how we create
8 our budget, and that's -- there's a lot of moving parts. As
9 you know, we have 14 fire stations, various facilities,
10 mechanic shop, prevention bureau, ten lifeguard towers, and
11 some other smaller utility buildings. So we sent out our
12 health and safety bureau, our fire service officer, and our
13 battalion chiefs to all go do facility inspections and bring
14 back information to us. This starts in September, and then
15 that prepares our budget for October. We also reached out to
16 all of our training cadres because our training cadres are
17 subject-matter experts on the particular items that they teach
18 our department to use, they're also aware of new technology
19 that's coming out, they're also aware of the lifespan of
20 equipment that we have on apparatus or with the lifeguards
21 that is timing out and needs to be replaced. So we get input
22 from all of these areas to create our budget moving forward.

23 The county budget, for those of you that don't
24 understand it, is a little bit convoluted, but I'll kind of
25 break it down here. This is a snapshot to give you an idea of

1 just our org. chart. I want to -- as much as possible, I want
2 to make sure that our commissioners all kind of know where
3 everybody is and how we interact and relate with each other.
4 So from -- our office is the top third of this chart, but
5 after that, you'll see it broken down to the different
6 battalions. The battalion chief of 7 who oversees the ocean
7 safety, and then all the support services on the right side
8 that fall under the assistant chief of support services. I
9 know you have that, so I won't get into it too deeply.

10 We -- our budget is divided into five programs.
11 Each program is defined to do something different. The five
12 programs are stated here: Administration, which is basically
13 us and our support services, our HR, our finance all falls
14 under that category.

15 Fire rescue and maintenance is our fire operations
16 section as well as our mechanic shop.

17 Then you have training/health and safety. So our
18 training bureau and our health and safety bureau are clustered
19 together, and they provide both online training for our
20 recruits and incumbents, health and safety protection for fire
21 and ocean safety, also managing the warehouse. And as some of
22 you have seen, the warehouse here is a, you know, monster, so
23 that falls near and dear to the health and safety bureau.

24 Our fire prevention bureau, which I've mentioned to
25 you folks, we need to upsize. You'll be seeing some of the --

1 the proposals we have to grow that bureau this year.

2 And then our ocean safety bureau, which is about 64
3 employees, and that includes both the staff on the beach, the
4 staff in the training section, as well as the administrative
5 staff for ocean safety.

6 So those are the five programs. Our budget is
7 broken down into those five different programs. We cannot
8 move money from one program to another without going to
9 council. So there are a lot of limitations on the budget, but
10 it's good because it protects the people and the -- the
11 taxpayers from a lot of, you know, for lack of a better word,
12 shenanigans that could be going on. So there are good
13 protective measures that the county's put in place to protect
14 the people's money.

15 So within each of these five programs, there's three
16 accounts. The A account is for salaries and premium pay.
17 When we talk about premium pay, we also include all temporary
18 assignment pay, we include relocation pay, the bureau
19 incentive program, there are hazard pays for going on the
20 helicopter or rappelling or ocean, so all of that is in A
21 account. The A account -- so there's an A account in each of
22 those five programs.

23 Then we go to B account. It's more of our
24 operational expenses. Here we have everything from an
25 electric bill to toilet paper to uniform reimbursement to

1 small items that are under a thousand dollars. So if somebody
2 needs a fire hose or somebody needs a shelving unit for a
3 station or a bed broke or a, you know, La-Z-Boy broke, or they
4 need something to sit on, or they need a dining table that's
5 under a thousand dollars, all of that stuff can come out of
6 the B account. That's our operating budget, that accounts for
7 about 18 percent of the budget.

8 C account are items over a thousand dollars. Now,
9 there's an A, a B, and a C in each of these programs. So the
10 C account, those are items that are over a thousand dollars.
11 And just to give you an idea, all of those items get accounted
12 for, put in a capital asset booklet, and our accountant 4,
13 Cindy Kagoshima, keeps track of everything. Anything we buy
14 over a thousand dollars, the date, the manufacturer, the
15 serial number all gets logged into this asset list. To give
16 you an idea, just the SCBA bottle now, which we have hundreds
17 of, is \$1,200, so this booklet is fat. A nozzle is \$1,200 up.
18 So this -- this item -- items over a thousand dollars, I can
19 see with the cost of inflation over the next, you know, ten
20 years, that the department of finance might change this
21 threshold in the future, which would make our lives a lot
22 easier. There will be a lot more bookkeeping for some of the
23 smaller items that we're required to put on this list, but
24 only time will tell for that.

25 So now I'm gonna get into the five programs, and

1 under the five programs, I've listed A account, B account, and
2 C account. These are things that we're gonna ask for and
3 propose for this year's budget. So in administration, that's
4 where our building maintenance repair, our BMR, falls. We're
5 asking for a second BMR. We've had one the last two years; he
6 goes around and repairs countless numbers of things. Between
7 all the facilities that we have, he has a full-time job, and
8 he can work overtime every weekend if we had the funding, but
9 we don't, so we're seeking a second BMR to help him. In the
10 county, there are BMRs all over, parks, police, everybody has
11 BMRs to do, you know, one-man jobs. He does -- and our BMR is
12 great; he does an outstanding job with construction, window
13 replacement, door replacement, light -- light electric, light
14 plumbing. He's -- he's a unicorn, he does it all, so he's
15 been great. So we're asking for another one.

16 The facility assessment survey which we started, in
17 this year's budget, we're asking for funding again for next
18 year to do more stations. We are firefighters, we are not
19 engineers, so when we look at a fire station that has, you
20 know, faulty, cracking asphalt or a leaky roof, we don't know
21 if we should just patch it or replace it. So by having an
22 engineer in the civil group look at facilities, they'll be
23 able to evaluate several of our facilities that we own.

24 And then in C account, items over a thousand
25 dollars, two pickup trucks. So when we got our BMR two years

1 ago, we wanted to just kind of build it slowly; we did not
2 request a vehicle. So he's been using 14-year-old trucks, and
3 when they break down, they go in the shop, and then we get him
4 another truck to borrow for a few weeks, so he moves all of
5 his tools back and forth. So he's proven himself to be very
6 worthy, and so we want to support him with a vehicle that's
7 reliable.

8 And then our fire service officer, that's the last
9 one there. Our fire service officer oversees the BMR, and his
10 vehicle is also going on about 15 years, so it's been a
11 hand-me-down through several positions. And that person's
12 responsible for doing station inspections, deliveries of
13 materials, repairs. He works with all of our appliance
14 repairs, anything the BMR can't do. He coordinates all of our
15 CIP projects at every station and tower, so he's always on the
16 move getting out around and about.

17 So the second program, training. Our training, as
18 we discussed before, we're really trying to support our remote
19 areas as much as we can. We know we have good facilities
20 capabilities on Maui, but if you look at this equipment here,
21 a lot of it is destined to support outside and remote areas.
22 So the iMac computer is a computer that we currently have but
23 is old, and it's -- it's going to the shop for repairs and,
24 basically, the computer shop said we need to replace it
25 already. So this computer is good at making our videos for

1 training and, as you know, we've gone through a lot of
2 e-learning, and we can send out a video to our whole
3 department which is a lot faster than visiting every fire
4 station. So we have a pretty good video team that's been
5 making some great videos, and this computer will support their
6 needs.

7 A lot of CPR equipment which we -- which we're
8 getting is going to go out to Molokai. It's pretty amazing.
9 For those of you who have been -- that have done CPR over the
10 last, you know, ten or 20 years, these manikins nowadays are
11 amazing. They have accurate on-time feedback dependent on how
12 the quality of your CPR is. So if you have -- it's a manikin,
13 but there's a computer in it, and they'll tell you that you're
14 doing good CPR or poor CPR, or if somebody's choking, if
15 you've done the Heimlich maneuver with enough quality, it will
16 expel and then the baby will start to breathe and cry. It's
17 pretty amazing, the technology these days. So we want to be
18 able to support those outer islands and those remote areas
19 with some more equipment.

20 The forceable entry prop, you know, that seems to be
21 step one for a lot of our structure fires, and our fire ground
22 program, you know, makes that a priority how we enter
23 business, commercial, and residential properties. So getting
24 a prop out onto those islands would be great for them to train
25 and practice.

1 Rescue manikins; we always need them. We beat them
2 up; we use them, we drag them. We use them in auto ex, we use
3 them in search and rescue training, we use them in fire
4 training, so they get used for multiple, multiple things. So
5 we put in for a few more of those. They're about \$2,000
6 apiece.

7 Let's see. After this slide, I'm gonna take a
8 little pause just so that we don't have a ten-page go-back
9 here.

10 So we're looking at our health and safety bureau.
11 The gym equipment, you know, firefighter, and ocean safety
12 wellness of our employees is ultimately important. So
13 whatever deficiencies we have in our gyms -- and, remember, we
14 have a gym at every station and every lifeguard tower. We
15 want to provide them with the needed equipment to stay
16 healthy, avoid workers' comp issues.

17 Apparatus equipment that would support some of the
18 cadres that have new equipment that needs to be purchased. It
19 also includes things that break because nothing lasts forever,
20 so we put in for apparatus equipment to support our online
21 companies. And then in the next line, you'll see in C
22 account, we also have it in C account. So a lot of our items
23 we have on our fire truck are under a thousand dollars, but a
24 lot of our items are over a thousand. We have to put the
25 money in both B and C accounts.

1 Large gym equipment, this also supports the small
2 gym equipment idea. We would like to get some treadmills
3 replaced and some bigger equipment that costs, you know,
4 several thousand dollars.

5 The drone program is something we've been asking for
6 for a couple of years. Although the police have a drone
7 program, they aren't always able to support us immediately
8 with our needs, so our department is seeking a drone program
9 for itself not only in the fire side, but ocean safety and
10 doing shark encounters and beach closures and stuff. It can
11 be used for so many different items here. The drone program
12 we're looking at is about \$55,000. It includes three drones,
13 and one of the drones comes with full infrared capability, so
14 not only for fires, we can look for hot spots and such, but we
15 can also look for people that are, like, in forests and stuff
16 with the infrared capability.

17 The extractors, through this year's budget, we'll
18 round out all of our stations. Kihei and Hoolehua will be the
19 last stations to get extractors. These are important for us
20 to clean our turnouts and remove all of the carcinogens from
21 structure fires, car fires, and any kind of dumpster fire or
22 dirty fire we go to. We're pushing heavily into the cancer
23 initiative. We know we've had already several of our own
24 firefighters who have presumptive cancer, and we want to
25 create culture, training, policy, and equipment to reduce that

1 as much as possible moving forward.

2 On our budget at this moment, this day, is this
3 oxygen-generation machine. And we're gonna try to do it with
4 leftover funding in our current budget, but if we're not able
5 to and it's not approved by the mayor's office, it will stay
6 in next year's budget, so we get funding for it in July so for
7 sure we can get it next year. But our goal is to try to
8 execute that within the next couple of months.

9 SCBA equipment and packs, so for those of you who
10 don't know, our department transitioned from Scott packs to
11 MSA packs about three years ago, and the initial funding that
12 we got only replaced packs where they were gonna expire. So
13 those packs have been replaced, and now we're replacing all
14 the packs that are expiring every year after that. So we --
15 our SCBA packs are good for 15 years, after that they need to
16 be replaced, as well as the bottles. The bottles get visually
17 tested every year and inspected, and then they get
18 hydrostatically tested every five years just like a scuba
19 diving tank, and if they pass, then we can continue to use
20 them. Once they reach 15 years, we get rid of them. So we'll
21 always have turnover, damages, repairs and that.

22 And then the turnouts, the turnouts is supporting
23 the same initiative of the extractors and our cancer
24 presumptive effort to keep firefighters safe. We are putting
25 in in increments so that everybody can get a second set of

1 turnouts. There's a culture in the fire service that we're
2 trying to break that the dirtier you are, the harder you work,
3 the better of a firefighter you are. We really want our
4 firefighters to come back from a call, wash their turnouts,
5 and then grab their second set and put it on their truck so
6 that when they go out to the next call, they're not surrounded
7 with all the (inaudible). So we're putting in for turnouts to
8 build this second set for the whole department. It'll take a
9 few years, for sure.

10 Before I go further, I'd like to open to questions
11 because I'm sure there's a few. I do have some numbers that I
12 can share or clarification on any items so far.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any -- thank you, Chief.

14 Does any commissioner have any questions?

15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair, I just want to
16 comment. May I?

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure, Donna. Go ahead.

18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: You know, the -- Chief, I'm
19 really for the drone, having a certified -- firefighters be
20 certified in using the drones whether it's ocean or in --
21 on -- for fires. And here at Kahikinui, we have the full
22 big -- big drone. We use it for, you know, land use surveys,
23 but it's such a good tool to have, and I really like that
24 drone. Anyway, I'm glad you're -- you're implementing it.
25 Thank you.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Donna.

2 Any other questions from commissioners?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIR GINOZA: I have a question. So, Chief, will
5 you be going over kind of what -- the difference between this
6 year's budget like dollar-wise for the different programs
7 and -- and/or personnel so that we know kind of the delta?

8 CHIEF VENTURA: I don't have those numbers with me
9 today as far as the difference of the growth or the size.
10 Once the mayor's budget comes out, we can now compare what's
11 been approved. Our proposal, which was what we ask for every
12 year, is not what we end up getting.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah.

14 CHIEF VENTURA: So I can present that to you
15 probably in January once the mayor's budget comes out and we
16 can show last year's budget and this year's budget --

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

18 CHIEF VENTURA: -- and how it's either grown or
19 shrunk.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you. Go ahead.

21 VICE CHAIR VARES: I have a question.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: I'd like to know a little more
24 about the drone program that's coming online if I could. I
25 guess two things: One, do you already have it kind of planned

1 out how many operators or pilots you guys will have? And will
2 they be going through the whole FAA licensing as a drone pilot
3 program?

4 CHIEF VENTURA: Certainly. So, yes and yes. We are
5 looking at the early stages -- sometimes, it's hard to
6 determine exactly how many pilots we need until we start
7 utilizing it on calls. We could use it as simple as every
8 single brush fire. We could put it up for a battalion chief
9 so that he can have an eye in the sky and see where this
10 fire's going. So we're gonna have to work through -- we're
11 looking at three of them. Early stage idea is to have one
12 with each battalion chief and then one to have with ocean
13 safety. Ocean safety is looking at a very unique drone, one
14 that can actually go in the water, right itself, and fly away,
15 so, you know, just -- you never know what's gonna happen over
16 water. You have a battery failure; you have -- somebody else
17 flies a drone into it, you hate to lose your asset. So we're
18 looking at a variety of things. But, yes, we will send all of
19 our designated pilots through the FAA program, get them
20 certified and trained, and register all of the drones with the
21 FAA as we should.

22 VICE CHAIR VARES: Excellent. And then are all the
23 drones the -- I'm guessing definitely the large, but also the
24 small, are they gonna be operated and controlled via an
25 independent handset, or will it be done through the operator's

1 phone like the more commercial versions?

2 CHIEF VENTURA: So -- so what was presented to us so
3 far is that it's a -- like, you know, a remote control setup
4 drone, but you can have it -- the feed can be set up to a
5 tablet, a phone, a television screen, it just depends what
6 assets we have on scene. So if you're thinking about like a
7 hazmat, for example, we have actually a television screen
8 right now in the hazmat truck, so if they could fly a drone
9 down range to a hazardous material incident, then they could
10 look at the situation on a 37-inch screen TV. Whereas if we
11 were at a brush fire, the battalion chief doesn't quite have
12 that capability, so he could do it off of maybe his tablet or
13 his mobile data terminal.

14 VICE CHAIR VARES: Gotcha. Okay, excellent. I
15 bring that up because I'm a licensed drone pilot, and I've
16 gone through a couple of versions of drones for our uses and
17 found that the -- the ones that you can control with your
18 cellphone, while they're very, very convenient, you can very
19 quickly run into issues with a lot of different things
20 including inability to record what you're -- what you're
21 filming in order to be able to look at it after the fact. The
22 phones don't handle it as much, but the independent handsets
23 do, as do -- so it's an upgrade that you can just order or
24 purchase. But if you all have something other than the phones
25 or the tablets that can control the drones, I'd definitely

1 recommend that. It's a good -- it's a good option. All
2 right. Thank you so much.

3 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Mr. Chair, can I ask a
4 question?

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Gregg.

6 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I may have missed it, but I
7 didn't see in the presentation, Chief, anything for
8 lifeguards. I didn't see boats, jet skis, tower replacements,
9 or new -- new tower upgrades. Is this anything like that
10 included in your budget this year or for next year?

11 CHIEF VENTURA: Yes, certainly. Thanks. We've
12 gone -- this is our third program that I'm going through; we
13 still have two more programs to go through. So, yes, we do.

14 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Okay. Thank you.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other questions from
16 commissioners?

17 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Umm.

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Max.

19 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Chief Ventura, I would make a
20 suggestion to you that you get in touch with George Purdy on
21 Lanai, the federal firefighter. He's about to retire. He was
22 instrumental in getting our drone flight and licenses for the
23 FAA and all of that, so he's pretty knowledgeable in that
24 area. He's set up programs here on Lanai for the youth, too,
25 and he's easy to get to.

1 CHIEF VENTURA: You said he's retiring this year?

2 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah, he's already planning
3 his retirement scam. But I can give you the number if you
4 need it and I can make --

5 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: -- initial information to him
7 that you might be contacting him.

8 CHIEF VENTURA: Perfect. Thank you very much.

9 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, great. That's great, Max.
11 Any other questions?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Chief Ventura, why don't you
14 continue?

15 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. So our -- we're getting into
16 our operations and our maintenance shop, our mechanics. So
17 one of the things on Pukoo Fire Station on Molokai, we have a
18 two-man station out there at the east end, and one of the
19 things that we really want to do is just make it a little bit
20 safer for everybody. So what we're requesting is to
21 reallocate the firefighter 1 position, which is our entry-
22 level firefighter, to a captain-level position. What this is
23 gonna do is this is gonna provide the firefighters and the
24 community with the right person doing the job. We have a fire
25 truck out there; they're first on scene, they go to medical,

1 structure fires, ocean rescues, everything that every other
2 fire truck goes to, but currently, they don't have a captain.
3 So their captain actually works out of Kaunakakai, which is 20
4 minutes behind them. So when this station first opened in
5 early '91, it was just a medical resource, and it was just a
6 pickup truck. Over 30 years, it's evolved to the point where
7 they have a full-fledged fire truck out there, so the
8 expectations of the crew is much greater. And so, therefore,
9 we're asking to reallocate those firefighters 1s to captains.
10 Now, it's not gonna be an automatic promotion, it'll be people
11 promoted to those positions, and then we'll be able to move
12 those Molokai firefighters 1 who are at Pukoo to either
13 Kaunakakai or Hoolehua, wherever they choose to move to. But
14 what this does is it creates a much greater level of safety,
15 training, capability for that crew in Pukoo. That's gonna be
16 an ask of our -- kind of an expansion of the department this
17 year.

18 B account, helicopter contract, as we've talked
19 about for several months, we've upgraded our helicopter
20 program. So to give you an idea, our current helicopter
21 program is just over a million dollars. That includes
22 availability of the aircraft, that also includes air time for
23 Air One, Air Two, and Air Three. With the introduction of our
24 new aircraft starting July 1st of next year, we're gonna be
25 increasing the cost of our helicopter cost by about \$1.2

1 million, so the total is gonna be 2.4 million now starting
2 next fiscal year. It is a big jump, and that's why we've
3 discussed it with the commission, council, mayor, and
4 everybody so that everybody's aware of it. It won't be a
5 surprise when they see the numbers.

6 The radios and the medical exams are constant just
7 maintenance things. The radio batteries are just things we
8 constantly need to replace. Medical exams, we currently do a
9 PUC physical for firefighters, so what that is essentially
10 it's a truck driver physical for a firefighter. What we'd
11 like to get moving towards is this NFPA, National Fire
12 Protection Agency's recommended physical for firefighters. It
13 tests a lot of other things that the truck driver's physicals
14 don't, but it's a lot more costly. So we're trying to figure
15 out the logistics of it right now to see if it's something
16 that we're gonna pursue, but it's something that we're
17 interested in because it's gonna provide more protection for
18 our firefighters' health.

19 And then small equipment replacement, remember, we
20 have -- we own 15 homes, so we have about 60 refrigerators and
21 15 dining tables and chairs around all of them, couches and
22 whatnot. So we're putting in a request for small equipment
23 there.

24 C account in operations is always big because this
25 is where our engines and our vehicles are. So mini pumpers,

1 some of our older mini pumpers that we want to replace are in
2 Paia and Napili, and then our tanker in Lahaina is one of our
3 older -- it's causing our mechanics constant repair headaches,
4 so it's reached the point where it not necessarily has a ton
5 of miles, but it is old, and it's going into the shop
6 regularly. Traditionally what happens is when we're done with
7 this in the front line apparatus, it becomes a relief
8 apparatus. Our current relief tanker is basically on its last
9 legs, so when that thing dies, we have no relief tankers
10 available. So we want to be proactive and get a couple of
11 tankers in the queue so that we can get some relief tankers.
12 Looking at the slide here, Kula is an expansion tanker, so
13 it's not a replacement, so just keep that in mind. That will
14 expand services to that whole Kahikinui-Kula Town area, and
15 then it could also, obviously, respond downtown to fires in
16 other districts.

17 The number one vehicle priority we have this year is
18 our Hazmat 10 vehicle. That vehicle is currently 14 years
19 old. By the time we take possession of a new one, we're
20 looking at probably 16 years old. And that vehicle is the
21 only one on the island for Hazmat 10, so we need to, you know,
22 get in front of this and to get -- this is gonna be an
23 expensive ask because it's a very big large truck. We're
24 asking for \$1.5 million for this vehicle, and that will
25 include some of the equipment that needs to be replaced. So

1 the fire truck was bought, and a lot of the equipment was
2 bought soon after 9/11. There was tons of funding from FEMA
3 that supported hazardous material, weapons of mass destruction
4 response across America. Well, it's 20 years now. A lot of
5 that equipment's old, and a lot of that equipment needs to be
6 replaced, so you see some of it on the list here. The FTIR,
7 the radiation detector, and the multigas detectors, a lot of
8 those are equipment that is nearly 20 years old, so we're
9 putting in for all of that with the apparatus, and that's our
10 number one vehicle priority this year.

11 Utility 9, we actually converted it to a Community
12 Development Block Grant request. So through CDBG, we did get
13 a wildland truck in Hoolehua. So that's gonna be an awesome
14 upgrade to their capability out in Hoolehua because right now,
15 they just have a single engine and a pickup truck. That
16 pickup truck will be replaced by this wildland vehicle, so now
17 they'll have off-road capability. As we all know, Molokai's
18 west end can be very treacherous. So we did get approval from
19 CDBG to fund this, so it's coming out of the county budget and
20 will go into the grant budget.

21 Then at the bottom there, air-conditioners. About
22 ten years ago, we converted tons of our air-conditioning units
23 across the department to split units, so the compressor's
24 outside, the fan and vent system is inside. They're much more
25 efficient for electricity, but they're timing out, and so

1 we're putting in for a slew of them. It's gonna come to about
2 \$83,000 worth of AC replacements. What's happening is when
3 the -- we have them serviced every month, and we're getting
4 appraisals done by the repairers saying that, listen, this is
5 end of life, this motherboard's gonna probably go out soon,
6 this coil is deteriorating. So we've identified units that
7 are probably gonna die here quickly, and we don't want,
8 obviously, places without AC. We all enjoy a nice cool place
9 for respite, especially our lifeguards when they go into the
10 office or when the firefighters go back to the station for
11 respite between calls and when they sleep at night; it's
12 important to have good AC.

13 And then at the bottom, this is the same as the
14 first B account, refrigerators, furniture replacements, but
15 this is C account, so this is items that would be over a
16 thousand dollars. Some of our fire stations have just
17 apartment-size refrigerators, and that's basically because of
18 the space available, and then some of our stations are larger,
19 they have more space, so they have larger, you know, \$1,200
20 refrigerators, so we have to put that, again, in both B and C
21 account items.

22 So fire prevention, as we mentioned, we need to --
23 we start -- we have a program to right-size this bureau. It's
24 a five-year program that we're starting with this year, and
25 that's gonna include expansion of a captain and a lieutenant

1 in that bureau. We're going to -- instead of putting all
2 responsibilities under one captain, we're gonna divide the
3 bureau and assign it so that it's more -- more manageable.
4 Right now, there's just way too many levels of things of
5 responsibility on the captain, the single captain in that
6 bureau. So those are two positions that are expansion
7 positions.

8 Then the B account, brush revolving fund. In the --
9 in the prevention bureau, if somebody has an overgrown lot and
10 we do brush abatement, we write a letter to the landowner to
11 clear it. If they clear it, it's a done deal. If they don't
12 clear it, we have the ability to go clear it for them and then
13 work with finance and corporation counsel and put a lien on
14 their property. Currently, we only have \$5,000 in that
15 account. We all know \$5,000 will barely clear your backyard,
16 so we are gonna up this to \$50,000. And all it is is it's an
17 account so that if we need to pay a contractor to clear a lot,
18 we can, and then finance will go and get the claim started
19 with the landowner to get that money put back in. So having
20 \$5,000 doesn't allow anything, so we're upping this to
21 \$50,000.

22 C account, vehicles. We did get an expansion
23 firefighter 4, which is a lieutenant a year and a half ago;
24 that position did not come with a vehicle, so we need to help
25 this person with a vehicle. It just helps them get around to

1 new plans review. He goes to the planning department on a
2 regular basis with meetings and such, so they need to be
3 mobile. So that's our prevention program.

4 Then our ocean safety program, we're looking to
5 change, as I mentioned to you folks, the leadership of that
6 bureau to be an ocean safety bureau chief. We're following
7 the model of Kauai. Kauai already has this in place, so we're
8 not recreating, you know, the wheel here. This will allow
9 somebody from ocean safety to be the leader of that bureau.
10 Then we're asking for a lieutenant who is gonna work in the
11 office as their -- with their training and health and safety
12 bureau because there's a lot of things that we need to provide
13 for our health and safety officers that currently is not being
14 provided adequately enough and so this would allow us to do
15 that.

16 Then their B account is their smaller repair items.
17 We're looking at the repair of a Hookipa garage door on a
18 building out there, then improvements to painting the towers
19 at Flemming and Hanakao Beach Park. So that's their B
20 account.

21 And then their C account, we're looking at some of
22 the items that Commissioner Lundberg had mentioned earlier.
23 We have Bill's pickup truck right now for the south district,
24 so that captain is -- needs to be replaced. As you guys well
25 know, Makena just opened up again, so we have a need for one

1 more vehicle out there.

2 Rescue watercraft, the way we do our rescue
3 watercraft program for ocean safety is they are on a 15-unit
4 system, and we try to replace three every year so that every
5 five years, they time out. And that's about the life based on
6 recommendations from other departments, based on the
7 mechanics, based on the repair and maintenance that we have to
8 do to these. They last about five years at best, so if we can
9 replace three every year, we can keep that on that nice
10 healthy rotation so that they always have good equipment.

11 So the UTVs and the ATVs are always gonna need
12 replacement because they're in the salt, they're in the sand,
13 and they just rust away. The guys take really good care of
14 them as best as they can. The engines are always pretty much
15 running in great shape, but the frame just deteriorates around
16 the -- everything that doesn't rust. So that's the challenge
17 that we have with UTVs and ATVs. They live in the sand,
18 they're not really made for the salt, and so they're good for
19 about two to three years.

20 And then, some of the other items for ocean safety
21 is some pop-up tents. They do a lot of public education, they
22 are sometimes at the baggage claim at the airport, they're on
23 beaches just trying to keep people safe and do preventive
24 actions, so they have some pop-up tents, so it attracts people
25 to come and listen to their safety briefing and such.

1 The tower replacement on here, which is not on the
2 slide which we added, was also Tower 10A. So we're looking at
3 replacing two towers in ocean safety, one is due to
4 (inaudible) sea-level rise, the other one is just due to just
5 total deterioration and kind of safety, so we want to get
6 those two replaced. We're currently in the process of
7 replacing two on the North Shore. The towers are out to bid,
8 and we'll close on that sometime this month. The middle of
9 this month, we should be at bid close for that.

10 And then they also requested manikins and, of
11 course, fire manikins are different from ocean safety
12 manikins. So theirs are submersible, and they can use them
13 for, obviously, doing their search and rescue training, their
14 body recovery training, how do you even get a -- you know,
15 somebody onto a sled and onto a ski, or they can -- they can
16 work with those manikins on all those types of training
17 evolutions.

18 So that concludes the five programs. We can do a
19 follow-up, as chair mentioned, depending on what's approved
20 this year, what the difference is, if there's growth or
21 sustainment of the size of our budget once the mayor gives us
22 our approved budget.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Chief.

24 Does any commissioner have any questions?

25 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: This is Gregg. Just kudos,

1 Chief, to you and your team for putting this presentation
2 together. It's about as basic and commissioner-friendly a
3 presentation from the budget that I've seen since I've been
4 part of it, so thank you for all your work and your effort on
5 it with your team.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, absolutely.

7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair, I have a question.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Donna.

9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Page 9, Chief Ventura, that
10 yellow truck, is that what -- can you clarify, was -- is that
11 the one, the long expansion tanker off-road?

12 CHIEF VENTURA: Sure. So the truck -- let's see if
13 I can go back so everybody can follow along here. That is a
14 wildland vehicle, so that is gonna be similar to what Utility
15 9 is being replaced with. That holds 400 gallons of water and
16 has off-road capability. Traditionally, we had, like, F250
17 pickup trucks with about a hundred, a hundred fifty gallons of
18 water in it. They were okay in getting to the fire, but, man,
19 we'd run out of the water really, really fast. So we worked
20 with a variety of vendors to identify how we can carry more
21 water out into the middle of the field, and this is a wildland
22 truck that we have currently in Kahului, Lahaina, soon to --
23 Wailuku has one, and we're soon to have one in -- Hana and
24 Paia? -- Hana and Paia. And then, Utility 9 will be replaced
25 with one with CDBG funds.

1 COMMISSIONER STERLING: That's wonderful. Gosh,
2 that's a good -- I want one of those. Those are --

3 (Laughter.)

4 COMMISSIONER STERLING: They look -- in Kahikinui,
5 there are a lot of rural areas. You know, Chief, we are in
6 the process of -- we put a grant in for the drought
7 reclamation, I don't know if I brought that up, but we're --
8 we're talking about bringing water to the Kahikinui main gate
9 and then dispersing it, so that's why I was asking you about
10 this vehicle. It's beautiful. Thank you. Good job.

11 CHIEF VENTURA: Thank you.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

13 Any other questions from commissioners?

14 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Chief Ventura.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Max.

16 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Are you -- are you aware that
17 there's a new tool for these jet skis regarding immobilization
18 mats? They just put it for Jaws. Basically, if a person is
19 injured, the fire rescue guys on the jet ski can totally
20 immobilize the afflicted person out at sea. Check out Rodney
21 Kilborne; Rodney has the information.

22 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. That's great. We should
23 definitely have that.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Max.

25 Any other questions?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, I'd like to
3 request a motion to basically approve allowing the --
4 permitting the department to transmit their budget to the
5 mayor.

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Chair, I move to suggest that
7 this budget is submitted to the mayor.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Lisa.

9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Second.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Donna.

11 All in favor, raise your hand.

12 (Response.)

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Anybody opposed, raise your
14 hand.

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. It's unanimously approved.
17 Thank you.

18 The next item we have is to go into a brief
19 executive session, if it is approved by the commission, to
20 approve executive session minutes that we had a couple months
21 ago. So could I have a motion -- and so we'd take a brief
22 recess from the regular meeting to hold the executive session
23 meeting if it is approved, and then return to the regular
24 meeting. So could I have a motion to --

25 MR. MURAI: I'm sorry, Chair.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Gary.

2 MR. MURAI: This is Gary. Before we do that --

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

4 MR. MURAI: -- you know, I -- I don't know whether
5 we set up a separate executive session meeting link. I don't
6 think we did.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: No.

8 MR. MURAI: And so, you know, what I suggest we do
9 is -- so, Commissioners, what -- the reason why we're doing
10 this today is at our prior meeting, we had forgotten --
11 because these are executive session minutes, they need to be
12 approved in an executive session. So I anticipate that unless
13 anyone has any major corrections to the minutes, this should
14 not take more than a few minutes. Now, I don't think we have
15 a separate executive session meeting link, so my suggestion is
16 once we go into executive session, I think we can go ahead and
17 ask the fire staff to sign off of the meeting, and anyone else
18 who is not a commissioner needs to sign off, and then we'll
19 ask Richelle to, I guess, if it's possible, to lock the
20 meeting. And then when we're pau, and we come -- when we're
21 pau, we need to go back into regular session and adjourn the
22 regular session.

23 But I also note that the only thing on the agenda is
24 announcing the next meeting. So here's a suggestion, Mr.
25 Chair. Could we take agenda item -- well, could we take the

1 announcement of the next meeting date now, before we go into
2 executive session, so that once we are pau with executive
3 session, all we need to do is go back into regular session and
4 adjourn?

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

6 MR. MURAI: Does that make sense?

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

8 MR. MURAI: Then that way, we don't have to call
9 everybody back just to tell them, okay, folks, the next
10 meeting is December 16th.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Yeah, that would be great. So
12 does any commissioner have any reservations about doing it
13 that way?

14 COMMISSIONER STERLING: No. I'm all for it. This
15 is Donna.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, great.

17 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I agree. Let's get it done.

18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So --

20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair, one more comment,
21 please.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure. Go ahead.

23 COMMISSIONER STERLING: One more comment. I'm all
24 for the -- not going -- anyway, I'm for Gary's recommendation.
25 I do -- when we were in executive committee session, it was

1 hard for those that had their calls dropped to reenter the
2 executive session, so my -- perhaps we can move -- I don't --
3 I don't think I can get back in. Or can I, Richelle, if our
4 call's dropped? Because I'm noticing people's calls are
5 dropping, would we still be able to --

6 MR. MURAI: No, I'm sorry, Donna. Donna.

7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes.

8 MR. MURAI: Actually, the commissioners, everybody
9 stays put.

10 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay.

11 MR. MURAI: Everybody stays exactly where they are.

12 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay.

13 MR. MURAI: Basically, all we're doing is we're
14 kicking everybody else out of the room, figuratively.

15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay.

16 MR. MURAI: And what we're trying to do is take care
17 of all the regular session business now so that --

18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Good.

19 MR. MURAI: -- we don't have to tell people, okay,
20 folks, we're back in regular session, come back in the room,
21 and, you know, avoid that humbug.

22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay.

23 MR. MURAI: If you folks are okay with that.

24 COMMISSIONER STERLING: That's fine. Thank you.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you. So the last item

1 we have is that the next meeting date and time are Thursday,
2 December 16th, at 10:00 a.m. and, again, it will be via
3 BlueJeans.

4 And before we make someone -- I ask for the motion
5 for executive session, I forgot to thank Vice Chair Vares for
6 running the meeting last week -- last month in my absence, and
7 she was very efficient, so thank you.

8 And I will speak on behalf of other commissioners to
9 thank Chief Kawasaki and Gary for their service to the
10 commission, and we'll miss seeing their cheerful and beautiful
11 faces.

12 MR. MURAI: Okay. So --

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Could I have a motion to go into
14 executive session?

15 VICE CHAIR VARES: Chair, I move that we go into
16 executive session.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

18 And the second?

19 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: I'll second.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Makalapua.

21 All in favor, raise your hand.

22 (Response.)

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Is there anybody against?
24 Raise your hand.

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So we're unanimous to go into
2 executive session. So we will re -- I'll recess the regular
3 meeting, and once we get everybody out, I will reconvene in --
4 or convene in executive session.

5 MR. MURAI: Mr. Chair.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

7 MR. MURAI: Can -- so we'll wish -- we'll say
8 goodbye to staff except for our Richelle.

9 Richelle, can you stay on the call?

10 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: (Gesturing.)

11 MR. MURAI: Okay. So aloha, everybody. Good luck
12 to you, Chief Rick, in your retirement. Maybe I run into you
13 at Costco or Longs or someplace like that.

14 (Pause in proceedings.)

15 MR. MURAI: And so, Kyle, just call the regular
16 session back to order.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. I'd like to call the regular
18 session of the fire and public safety commission for November
19 18th back to order. And unless anyone has any further
20 comments -- oh, please speak up if you have any further
21 comments.

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you,
24 everyone, for your time today.

25 And thank you, Gary, as always, for your guidance,

1 and we will very much miss you. Thank you.

2 MR. MURAI: Thank you for saying that, Kyle. I
3 really enjoyed working with all of you. My biggest regret is
4 that we could not do this in person, you know.

5 (Laughter.)

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Congratulations, Gary.

7 MR. MURAI: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thanks, Gary.

9 MR. MURAI: Thank you all.

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: You'll be so missed. Thank you
11 so much.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you. The meeting is
13 adjourned at 11:26.

14 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:26 a.m.)

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