

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

Held via BlueJeans, commencing at 10:04 a.m., on  
November 17, 2022.

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
- Dwight Burns, Member
- Punahuele Alcon, Member
- Max Kincaid, Jr., Member
- Makalapua Kanuha, Member
- Gordon Gillis, Member
- Dale Parsons, Member
- Gerald Matsui, Member

STAFF:

- Bradford Ventura, Fire Chief
- Gavin Fujioka, Deputy Fire Chief
- Jeffrey Giese, Assistant Fire Chief
- Hanalei Lindo, Assistant Fire Chief
- Moana Lutey, Corporation Counsel
- Mimi DesJardins, Corporation Counsel
- Caleb Rowe, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary
- Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

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

(November 17, 2022, 10:04 a.m.)

\* \* \*

CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning, everyone. Today is November 17, 2022, and I would like to call to order the Maui Fire and Public Safety Commission meeting. My name is Kyle Ginoza; I'm the chair of the commission. I'm calling the meeting to order at, I apologize, 10:04. We're running a little. We started a little late.

Let's start off with roll call. So, I'm Kyle Ginoza. I am in my office in Makena, and I'm alone.

Vice Chair Lisa Vares.

VICE CHAIR VARES: I'm Lisa Vares. I'm in my home office in Wailuku, and I am alone.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

Dwight Burns.

COMMISSIONER BURNS: I'm home on my outside patio and I'm alone.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, awesome. Thank you.

Punahale Alcon.

COMMISSIONER ALCON: My office on Molokai alone.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

I don't think we have Max. Max Kincaid, Jr.?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Not here yet.

Makalapua Kanuha also is not here yet.

1           Gordon Gillis.

2           MEMBER GILLIS: Aye, Gordon Gillis. I'm in my  
3 (inaudible).

4           CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Gordon.

5           Dale Parsons.

6           COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Dale Parsons, and I'm in my  
7 home office in Hana.

8           CHAIR GINOZA: Great, Dale. Thank you for joining  
9 us.

10          And Gerald Matsui.

11          COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Yeah, Gerald Matsui. I'm in  
12 my office, this is my first meeting, and I'm alone.

13          CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Gerald.

14          Chief Ventura, could you mention who is with you?  
15 You're muted.

16          CHIEF VENTURA: How about now?

17          CHAIR GINOZA: You're good.

18          CHIEF VENTURA: Your speaker.

19          Okay. Here at Kahului, I have myself, and I have  
20 Chief Fujioka, and I have Chief Lindo. Off-screen is  
21 commission secretary Richelle Wakamatsu, and Chief Giese will  
22 be joining us remotely today from home.

23          CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, great. And I believe we have  
24 Herman on as well.

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

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, great. Thank you, Herman.

2 And from corp counsel, I believe we have Moana Lutey  
3 and Mimi DesJardins. Good morning.

4 CORP COUNSEL DESJARDINS: Good morning.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Next, I'd like to welcome our  
6 two commissioners so that we finally have a full commission  
7 again. So we have Dale Parsons from Hana, I believe, as well  
8 as Gerald Matsui. So I'd like to give each of you the  
9 opportunity to have -- have a minute or two to kind of say  
10 something about yourself if you'd like. Dale?

11 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: I'm out here in Hana. It's a  
12 beautiful day. Actually, it was raining a little bit this  
13 morning. That's good; we like rain, rain's good. I've -- I  
14 guess, I was in broadcasting for 50 years and been on Maui now  
15 since 1991 and out in Hana for about 18-19 years now. We also  
16 run a small bed and breakfast out here, legal, and, you know,  
17 life is good, and I can't wait to get -- to get on the  
18 commission here. This is -- this is gonna be exciting. I've  
19 done all my reading.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: That's great. Thank you, Dale, and  
21 welcome.

22 Gerald.

23 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Yeah, I'm Gerald. I'm born  
24 and raised on Maui, working at the hospital for 26 years. We  
25 work with the fire department very closely and are very

1 pleased with their services. What else can I say? And look  
2 forward to serving on the commission and hope I can be of, I  
3 guess, use as a resource or whatever. Good to see you again,  
4 Kyle.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: I know. It's been like 30 years, it  
6 seems. We used to work together.

7 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Well, thank you both for  
9 joining and for your service. We really appreciate having a  
10 full commission and more input for the department to continue  
11 to exceed expectations.

12 So I think we also have Max that just joined us, by  
13 the way. Hi, Max. Good morning.

14 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: (Inaudible.)

15 CHAIR GINOZA: So, next, I'd like to go over the  
16 approval of the minutes from the last meeting on October 20th.  
17 I trust -- I know the two commissioners were not at the  
18 meeting, but I trust each of you have had a chance to review  
19 the minutes. So, I'd like a motion to be able to approve the  
20 minutes from October 20th, please.

21 COMMISSIONER BURNS: So approve.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dwight. Can I have a  
23 second?

24 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you --

1 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I second.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, Lisa seconded. And I'll just go  
3 do a roll call vote for these.

4 So, Lisa Vares, yes or no?

5 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Approve, okay.

7 VICE CHAIR VARES: Aye.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

9 Dwight.

10 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Yes.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Punahale.

12 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Yes.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Max.

14 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yes.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

16 Makalapua is not on.

17 Gordon.

18 COMMISSIONER GILLIS: I wasn't here last meeting.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay. And the other two weren't.  
20 So one, two, three -- so we have five, so the minutes are  
21 approved.

22 Next, I'd like to move on to public testimony for  
23 agenda items. Richelle, do we have anybody in the public  
24 wishing to testify?

25 MS. WAKAMATSU: Not here at the office, and I don't

1 see anything in the chat room.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

3 Is there anybody on wishing to testify? Please be  
4 recognized now. And like we have through our meetings of  
5 late, if -- I'll ask for each agenda item if there's anybody  
6 wishing to testify from the public.

7 Seeing none, for now, I'll close public testimony  
8 for this agenda item.

9 And I see we have from Corp Counsel Caleb Rowe.  
10 Good morning, Caleb.

11 CORP COUNSEL ROWE: Good morning, Chair. I  
12 apologize for being late; I was stuck in another matter, but I  
13 was -- we just wrapped up, so here I am.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you for joining.

15 Next, we have MEMA, so Herman.

16 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Good  
17 morning, Commissioners. I've never seen so many attorneys in  
18 one room.

19 First of all, I just want to announce that we have  
20 29 new graduates of the CERT program. CERT is the Community  
21 Emergency Response Team. And I want to thank the fire  
22 department, especially Firefighter Chris Stankis, who was the  
23 lead instructor for that program, and as well as the chief,  
24 the chief's support as well. This program, we've trained to  
25 this date over a thousand volunteers, and we're hoping to have



1 more trainings. We really want to grow CERT on Maui. There  
2 are CERT programs in all four counties. There are 2700  
3 program -- CERT teams throughout the country, 600,000  
4 volunteers, and so it's a large program. It's prescribed by  
5 FEMA. And I just wanted to let the commissioners know that we  
6 have a presence here on Maui as well. So, again, I want to  
7 thank the chief. If you haven't had a chance, if you -- it  
8 was -- there was an article about it, about the graduates, and  
9 there were some great photos of them doing all kinds of  
10 different skills, etc., first aid, triage, and even this thing  
11 called cribbing. Cribbing is -- it's where they're able to  
12 move a large item off of a person, say, during an earthquake,  
13 and so these are really important skills, and we're happy that  
14 we have these graduates now. And this is the first graduating  
15 class since COVID, since COVID started, so for the past two  
16 years, we have not had trainings because -- because these  
17 trainings are -- has to be in person, so these are skills that  
18 you have to teach in person, and so because of that, we did  
19 not have CERT trainings in the past two years. So this is the  
20 first time, and we really want to catch up at this point; we  
21 want to make up for those two years, and so we are really  
22 pushing hard.

23 The next training that we have scheduled will be on  
24 Molokai, and so we've been pushing that a lot. We've -- it's  
25 been on Facebook, it's been -- we've had all kinds of

1 announcements made, and so we're hoping -- and I believe the  
2 last commission meeting, I had mentioned that we were looking  
3 at getting students on Molokai. It's been a challenge, but  
4 because of the recent graduation, now all of a sudden we have  
5 this -- a lot of interest on Molokai, and so -- but we still  
6 could use more students. We want to have the most bang for  
7 the buck, we want to have -- you know, we don't want to have a  
8 class, and it just be a small class, we want to -- we really  
9 want to have as many students as we can since we have  
10 firefighters having to fly over to teach these classes. So if  
11 any of you know or if you can help us spread the word about  
12 CERT. And then after Molokai, we're hoping to have a class  
13 out in Lahaina and then Hana after that, so that's kind of the  
14 plan right now. But we really want to push CERT in these  
15 communities, especially in the remote communities, because  
16 that's -- it's in those areas that we may not be able to send  
17 resources very quickly, and so we want to try to embed these  
18 types of teams in the community.

19 Another thing I want to mention is we had an  
20 activation last week, and so this is the West Maui fires, and  
21 I want to thank the fire department once again. They -- they  
22 called us, let us know that there was a fire going on. We  
23 activated the EOC; we were in partial activation. The fire  
24 department sent over Chief Giese as well as Chief Yatsushiro.  
25 They were taking shifts, but they were -- they were tremendous

1 when it came to letting us know what was going on, and it  
2 helped us make some decisions about evacuations or having to  
3 set up evacuation shelters and things like that. So just want  
4 to thank both of them once again and thank you, Chief, for  
5 sending the fire department over to the EOC. It is a  
6 partnership, that's the only way that we can all work  
7 together, that the EOC works well is if we have all of our  
8 partners in the EOC, and so -- and the fire department did an  
9 outstanding job. We were monitoring the fire all day, and we  
10 were -- I mean, just the amount of work that went into it and  
11 the way -- the way they battled the fire, I mean, it just --  
12 it just goes to show really a credit to our fire department,  
13 and the kind of skills that they have and -- and so thank you  
14 to them.

15 I know Commissioner Gillis was in the EOC as well.  
16 The commissioner was representing the Red Cross, and so he was  
17 there, and he was helping us establish -- establish shelters  
18 as well, so thank you, Commissioner, for being there also.

19 The last couple things I want to talk about is we  
20 did recently transport ham radios over to the remote areas  
21 Molokai, Lanai, and Hana, and so that equipment is there  
22 already. And we're still looking for more ham radio operators  
23 as well as we did inspect the FEMA containers out in Hana  
24 recently and -- and we're hoping to replenish some supplies in  
25 there.

1 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you very much, Herman.

3 Do we have any questions from commissioners?

4 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Hi, Herman. Thanks for the  
7 report. Hey, when you mentioned the students over on Molokai  
8 and needing more, that reminded me, remind me again what the  
9 minimum age is. Are we talking 16 or 18? We're not actually  
10 talking students; we're talking community involvement, right?

11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah, the -- Mr. Chair.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

13 Commissioner, these are adults, actually, adult  
14 volunteers.

15 VICE CHAIR VARES: So, 18 and over?

16 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Eighteen and over, yes.

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you.

18 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: And -- but we do have what's  
19 called Teen CERT, so that's -- that's a watered down -- not  
20 watered down, but, you know -- and we're trying to set that up  
21 as well. So it's for teens and to get them involved and to,  
22 you know, to teach them these skills as well, so --

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: Great. Okay, thank you for that.

24 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

1 Any other questions from commissioners?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, thank you,  
4 Herman.

5 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: And thank you, Gordon, for supporting  
7 the EOC there.

8 Next, we'll move on to the fire department. Chief  
9 Ventura.

10 Oh, sorry, before we go to that, is there anyone  
11 from the public wishing to testify?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, Chief  
14 Ventura.

15 CHIEF VENTURA: All right. Aloha, good morning,  
16 everybody.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Aloha.

18 CHIEF VENTURA: Welcome, new commissioners. Thank  
19 you so much for joining us, Commissioner Parsons and  
20 Commissioner Matsui. We appreciate you being part of our team  
21 here.

22 I'm gonna start my report and just kind of go over  
23 briefly and just, especially with the new commissioners, what  
24 all these papers are. I usually go over a few handouts that  
25 are in here. So if you look at the document with a whole lot

1 of numbers and such on it, that's our training record. This  
2 comes out every month. We produce this based on our records  
3 management system. All the crews, our training bureau, all  
4 the training they do, it ends up on this report at the end of  
5 the month so you'll see things that we focused on. You'll see  
6 some higher numbers always in driving. Because we drive every  
7 day, we train on driving as much as we can. Then you look at  
8 some other high numbers like the vehicle extrication. We're  
9 doing incumbents, which is our firefighters who are already on  
10 the line, and we also did our recruits recently. They were in  
11 recruit class. Then there's a higher number also over in  
12 treating drugs and alcohol in the right column, and that's for  
13 our firefighters' just awareness of how to use Narcan,  
14 glucose, and EpiPens and administer medications should they  
15 come to incidents. You know, right now, we know that fentanyl  
16 is a big thing in all communities, so we're trying to make  
17 sure everybody's aware there. And then, on the very bottom of  
18 the right column is our CPR refresher, so annually we send all  
19 of our firefighters through a refresher, and that's why the  
20 number for that was 135 high. So that's our training report  
21 that we'll share with you every month. If you have any  
22 questions about any topics or such, always feel free to ask.

23 The next report I'll show you is actually a  
24 multipage report. It's the Fire and Public Safety Monthly  
25 Update. It looks like this, that's page 1. And we just --

1 this is a communication that we share with the whole  
2 department. We're all about keeping things as transparent as  
3 possible, so this report just shares with -- it goes out to  
4 all the members in our department, tells them where we are on  
5 promotions, on budget, on our -- our emergency response both  
6 in fire and ocean safety.

7 Page 2 of it is this colored flier, and this year,  
8 this past month, we wanted to highlight this project that I  
9 worked on with -- or the department worked on with Vice Chair  
10 Vares. These murals were painted by local artists here, and  
11 they're -- you know, they add a great beauty to each location.  
12 And I can share with you that this project has -- this first  
13 phase has concluded, so we're looking to move on to the second  
14 phase. Everybody has received what they need finally to close  
15 out these three murals, and it just adds a nice, you know,  
16 perspective to beachgoers. And I've talked about it in the  
17 past, it's a topic of conversation so that people come and  
18 talk to our guards so we can provide, you know, a safety  
19 message to each person when they come to the beach.

20 And another form that comes out every month is the  
21 one that's yellow. This one here is our call volume for the  
22 month. So, you know, we'll see trends throughout the year  
23 that we focus on, structure fires, brush fires that go up and  
24 down with the dry and the weather. So those are just we share  
25 with you kind of where we're at as far as call volume goes

1 from month to month. And, obviously, during the summer,  
2 you'll see the peak of our brush and wildfires, and then  
3 during the, you know, winter when it greens up a bit, those  
4 numbers will go down. It covers, you know, vehicle accidents  
5 and fires, rescues, all sorts of things go on. So this report  
6 comes out every month to you as well, and we just add a column  
7 throughout the calendar year.

8 Last month was National Fire Prevention Month, and  
9 during the first week, we met with the governor and the mayor  
10 here on Maui to do a proclamation, so you'll see the  
11 proclamation from Mayor Victorino in your pact. That was  
12 earlier in the month of October.

13 (Commissioner Kanuha entered the room.)

14 CHIEF VENTURA: So next, I move on to my monthly  
15 report, which is my interactions with various people. We have  
16 -- this is my -- our standard format, and I'm always welcome  
17 to add things to it if anybody has input. This past month  
18 where it was a lot of concentration on the budget. Our budget  
19 is due Monday, so today's presentation will be on the budget.  
20 And so a lot of the meetings we've had with the mayor, with  
21 the budget director, managing director have all been kind of,  
22 you know, centered around our budget for this coming FY '24.  
23 And our FY '23, we're working on our reorg so that we can get  
24 those positions filled.

25 And then if you look down in the miscellaneous area,



1 we had a little mini one-day, half-day conference with the  
2 police department and the hotel security administration with  
3 Craig Tanaka about -- Chief Pelletier presented the 2017  
4 Mandalay Bay shooting and talked about, you know, the lessons  
5 learned from that and how first responders need to work  
6 together to, you know, overcome these large incidents. So,  
7 yeah, we had a good -- a good conference. We met with hotel  
8 security from both the west side of Maui and south side and  
9 talked about, you know, a scenario like this happening on  
10 Maui.

11           You may have seen on the news that Maui Police  
12 Department deployed a new software in their dispatch center.  
13 They're able to now communicate not only via text but via  
14 video with a 911 caller. So that is a pretty amazing tool  
15 that they have so we can get, you know, real-time information  
16 to dispatchers via video.

17           And on the back of that report, you know, several  
18 other meetings. We're working on the South Maui plan. For  
19 me, it's all about relationships with these people so that we  
20 can continue to always be there for each other if we need. I  
21 meet with Chief Hanley at the airport. He's a new chief; he  
22 just got promoted about a month ago. So I try to meet with  
23 him every month to see how we're working on our joint training  
24 center, our mutual aid, our response in the airport area, and  
25 then also their response to helping us. So they did send a

1 fire truck out to this Lahaina fire last week, so that just --  
2 that's built off a relationship, so we try to keep that going.  
3 All those community budget meetings have ended, and we  
4 received a little bit of input from the community for our  
5 budget.

6 And that concludes my report to you for this  
7 morning. Any questions?

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Ventura. And we  
9 note that also Makalapua has joined us as well. Good morning,  
10 Makalapua.

11 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Aloha kakahiaka. I apologize  
12 for my tardiness. I just came out of another meeting.  
13 However, awesome job, Chief Ventura. Thank you for all that  
14 you've done for our community of Lahaina. Mahalo nui.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Makalapua.

16 Any questions from commissioners for Chief Ventura?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you  
19 very much, Chief.

20 Next, we'll move on to Chief Fujioka, please.

21 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Thank you, Chair.

22 Good morning, Commissioners. I'll go over my  
23 monthly report. I know we have a long day, so I'll be -- kind  
24 of go through it quick here. The department interviews and  
25 promotions, as some of you know, the ending of the year is

1 kind of our time where we kind of ramp up a lot of promotions  
2 and -- and get ready to -- you know, with the recruit classes  
3 graduating and stuff. So we've got two new employees for our  
4 storekeeper 1 positions, they started yesterday. Fire captain  
5 interviews were completed this past month. We promoted two of  
6 our drivers to captains, Kaipō Poepōe from the island of  
7 Molokai and Greg Chinyama were both promoted to fire captain.  
8 They'll be assigned to Lanai. We just completed our fire  
9 captain interviews for our 40-hour training bureau position,  
10 and we'll be making the selections this week. Also,  
11 firefighter 4, that's our lieutenants in our prevention  
12 bureau, that will be starting shortly. And then we have our  
13 fire recruit class set to graduate December 1st and our ocean  
14 safety class which will be graduating tomorrow.

15 Department improvement committee, I think I  
16 mentioned this in our last meeting. We are currently still  
17 working on our MFD website, having weekly meetings trying to  
18 get that off the ground.

19 Apparatus committee, for -- we delivered the new  
20 mini pumper to Hana, so that -- that has been placed in  
21 service. And currently, we -- specifications are done for all  
22 of our FY '23 vehicles. They're currently under review, and  
23 we are planning to get that out to bid hopefully by the end of  
24 this month.

25 And worked with the union on multiple items here,

1 revising our sick leave policy and with our pilot program for  
2 our training bureau, making a three-year commitment for that,  
3 so we got approval for a pilot program to start there. We  
4 think it's gonna be vital to our operation having consistency  
5 in our 40-hour bureau positions. Captain positions, I should  
6 say.

7           And then transmittals from the public, we have  
8 received multiple emails just thanking our crews for their  
9 service. You know, we continue to have -- every week I think  
10 we got some kind of email or a letter comes in just thanking  
11 our department for our -- our man on the front line that --  
12 you know, their professionalism and everything, so we're happy  
13 to hear that always from our guys, so --

14           But that's all I have for you guys this week. If  
15 you guys got any questions, I'll be more than happy to answer.

16           CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Fujioka.

17           Any questions from commissioners for Chief Fujioka?

18           (No response.)

19           CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you.

20           Next, we'll go to Chief Lindo.

21           ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Good morning, Chair. Good  
22 morning, Commissioners. Welcome to Commissioners Parsons and  
23 Matsui.

24           The breakdown on my report, and this should be real  
25 quick, this is just the operational response for our

1 department for both the fire side and ocean safety. So you  
2 see the first page of my report is just the -- mainly  
3 incidents highlighted for fire and ocean safety. I kind of  
4 highlighted in red the awesome job that our ocean safety guys  
5 did.

6 If you turn it over to the next page, this is just a  
7 breakdown of our training bureau and our ocean safety bureau  
8 to highlight the things that are happening. So our  
9 incumbents, our firefighters who are already online doing the  
10 job, and these are the trainings that we had them do. And  
11 then, the recruit class is followed right below, and, again,  
12 they're graduating by next week, so that's kind of what  
13 they're doing. Ocean safety, you can see the different things  
14 that's happening.

15 What I do want to put out there is this fire in  
16 Lahaina is absolutely -- you know, our men and women in the  
17 fire department did an awesome job, but I -- I want to put a  
18 poke out there to all the interagency support and  
19 coordination, yeah, because it absolutely takes a huge guys  
20 working together collectively in order to handle something  
21 like this. So, you know, the department of forestry and  
22 wildlife, the Lahainaluna High School and allowing us use of  
23 their field, I mean, the state and the county agencies,  
24 Goodfellows, everybody working together doing the best that --  
25 that's the only way we can -- we can absolutely provide the

1 best response for our community. So, you know, I want to plug  
2 that in and thank our community for their support.

3 That's all I've got. Anybody have any questions?

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Lindo.

5 Any questions from commissioners?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you.

8 Chief Giese.

9 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Yes. Good morning,  
10 everybody. I'll try to keep this brief since I know there's a  
11 fair amount left to do today.

12 We'll start with the fire prevention bureau. The  
13 big happening with respect to our fire prevention bureau is  
14 that LIV software, that's the software that helps us manage  
15 the inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection  
16 systems throughout the county actually went live on November  
17 1st, and our personnel received some training in that as well.  
18 So that was a project they were really hoping to get working  
19 for them, and we were able to make that happen, so that's big  
20 news there.

21 As Chief Ventura mentioned, it was Fire Safety Week  
22 in October. Just a little plug for why we have Fire Safety  
23 Week in October, it commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of  
24 1871, which killed about 300 people and about 17,000  
25 structures were destroyed. Also, on this very same day, the

1 Peshtigo fire in Wisconsin burned the entire town of Peshtigo.  
2 It's actually the deadliest fire in US history also on October  
3 8th, 1871, killed about two and a half thousand people and  
4 leveled the entire town. So we commemorate that every year  
5 and usually engage in a large number of fire prevention and  
6 public education activities which you can see reflected in  
7 various places in my report. You can see also quite a bit of  
8 training and public education for the fire prevention bureau  
9 as well, so we're happy that that's continued to -- to enjoy a  
10 resurgence as we've come out of COVID.

11 Moving on to the health and safety bureau, the big  
12 -- biggest news there is two new personnel joining in the  
13 warehouse section there. We have our two store clerk  
14 positions, one of whom we're hoping to transition to an SCBA  
15 tech, so they were getting the space prepared for them. And  
16 they just started yesterday, so that's gonna be really helpful  
17 for us having two extra personnel there to help with that  
18 workload.

19 As far as our CIP and major facility projects, we  
20 had our first facility assessment performed out at Kaunakakai  
21 Station. As you may recall, we've contracted with a firm to  
22 do professional facility assessments to help us with being  
23 more proactive in terms of identifying what we need to do to  
24 keep our facilities up and running rather than, you know,  
25 reactive and just fixing problems as the firefighters let us

1 know. So we've gotten some professionals out there to give us  
2 -- help us make long-term planning decisions about facility  
3 maintenance, so that project has begun.

4 The Lanai Station expansion, we got our permits and  
5 are working on some contract issues there to do some  
6 construction management. The construction for the Makawao  
7 carport is now out to bid. We're making good progress out at  
8 Hoolehua with that renovation and carport addition. Accepted  
9 the design for Haiku Station; that's been a long-time, ongoing  
10 project. We're awaiting execution of that contract. The  
11 environmental assessment has begun at Pukoo, and we've got  
12 some contracts being executed for fire station painting.

13 Those are the highlights. Any questions?

14 (No response.)

15 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Sorry, suddenly I can't  
16 hear anybody. Hopefully, can you all hear me?

17 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I can hear you.

18 MEMBER GILLIS: Yes.

19 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Okay, I got my volume back.

20 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, it looks like Kyle lost  
21 connectivity.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, yeah.

23 CHIEF VENTURA: It looks like chair has poor  
24 connection. Stand by for --

25 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Were you all able to hear



1 my report?

2 MEMBER GILLIS: Yes.

3 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes, Chief Giese, we were.

4 Dwight, did you have a question for Chief Giese?

5 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I did. I was waiting for Kyle  
6 to come back on, but --

7 CHAIR GINOZA: I'm back.

8 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Oh, there he is.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh. Go ahead, Dwight.

10 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Chair, are you -- okay.

11 So my question is, I was gonna ask you who's the  
12 contractor out at Hoolehua doing the work?

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: I'm sorry, I'm actually --  
14 I'm drawing a blank on that; we have so many different ones.  
15 Any of the other chiefs happen to recall? I can easily get  
16 that out.

17 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: They're subcontractors,  
18 yeah?

19 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: International Roofing.

20 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Yeah, is the main contractor  
21 there.

22 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Yeah.

23 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, we're discussing it here in  
24 the office because there was some -- there was a couple of  
25 contracts that went out, one for the construction of the new

1 building and painting, and there was some fallout with some  
2 contractors, but I think it's International Roofing who is  
3 overseeing the whole project right now.

4 COMMISSIONER BURNS: So International Roofing is the  
5 general?

6 CHIEF VENTURA: That's who we believe it is, yes.  
7 We'll double-check that and make sure you get the right  
8 information if that's wrong.

9 COMMISSIONER BURNS: 'Cause I went out -- I think  
10 back in August, I went up to Molokai, I saw someone else doing  
11 the -- I guess they were doing the groundwork, the grading and  
12 stuff like that getting ready for the concrete slab.

13 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, they did -- I know they did  
14 subcontract out much of the work for the whole project, so I  
15 don't know, but the general contractor, we'll make sure we get  
16 you the right name.

17 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Thank you.

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Any other questions from  
19 commissioners?

20 VICE CHAIR VARES: Dwight.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Makalapua. Go ahead, Makalapua.

22 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay. I just wanted to go  
23 back to the training and public education. And just for the  
24 record, I'm in my office by myself. Is there, like, any  
25 future training or connecting with the Lahainaluna High School

1 as well as Lahaina Intermediate, Princess Nahienaena? And the  
2 only reason why I'm asking this is because of a -- obvious,  
3 because of the fires. So I'm not sure who that is for.

4 CHIEF VENTURA: Chair, I can -- yeah, Chair, I can  
5 talk on that if it's okay with you.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

7 CHIEF VENTURA: Depending on what type of training  
8 you're looking for, Commissioner Kanuha, we can -- we can  
9 probably set something up, whether it's, you know, fire  
10 prevention related or CPR. So we actually started our  
11 hands-only CPR program this year, and we started with  
12 Lahainaluna when we gave out a Kahuola Award to a couple of  
13 the students there, and that kind of like inspired them to  
14 want to learn CPR because it was one of their students who was  
15 unresponsive. And the reports from our program director who  
16 runs this program is Lahainaluna has taken the ball and is  
17 sprinting with it right now. They are -- we provide them with  
18 equipment, but we've given them all the training to continue  
19 to just give the class over and over.

20 So our goal with our program is to hit every high  
21 school freshman we can, and then eventually, everybody will  
22 come through their freshman class and have hands-only CPR  
23 training. Our goal with the program is to teach the school so  
24 that they can take care of the program themselves. We can  
25 supplement with equipment and direction, paperwork, and, you

1 know, lesson outline, but the school -- like the health  
2 teacher at Lahainaluna is doing an amazing job with it.

3 If you have other training, we can treat it like a  
4 fire-prevention type of scenario where we send a fire crew out  
5 there to meet with certain classes and provide them with  
6 certain things that you're targeting.

7 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you, Chief, for that.  
8 And again, I just wanted to commend the Maui Fire Department  
9 on behalf of our Lahaina community. It was another scary  
10 moment, but we actually had peace. And thank you for your  
11 quick response, Chief, as I was in Wailuku and texting you,  
12 and I was very appreciative and grateful that you responded  
13 very quickly to keep me informed of what was going on in our  
14 Lahaina community. So, hands off -- hats off to all of you.  
15 Thank you very much.

16 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: And, Chair, if I could.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

18 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: If I could address  
19 Commissioner Burns' question. I did just get confirmation; it  
20 is International Roofing that is the main contractor out at  
21 Hoolehua.

22 COMMISSIONER BURNS: (Gesturing thumbs up.)

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Any other questions from  
24 commissioners for Chief Giesease or others?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you.  
2 What we have next is for Chief Ventura to go over  
3 the proposed fiscal year 2024 budget. Go ahead, Chief  
4 Ventura.

5 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. If I can share screen here,  
6 we're going to look at the PowerPoint presentation that you  
7 received.

8 (Pause for technical adjustments.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: How's that look? That look okay?  
10 Okay. So annually, we prepare our budget. It's  
11 usually due in November. And this year, the budget office has  
12 implemented quite a few changes, so our HR and our finance  
13 section is working to get everything inputted into a brand-new  
14 software system, so it's a big step for the county in the way  
15 they use this program.

16 What I'm gonna go over is that blue PowerPoint that  
17 was sent to you all. For those of you who don't know, the  
18 county budget can be kind of complicated just the way it's set  
19 up, but I'll try to explain it as best as I can. Please feel  
20 free to interrupt me, stop me, or just write notes, and I can  
21 take questions at the end.

22 So, our mission here is, obviously, what we stick to  
23 for both ocean and -- ocean safety and fire to protect and  
24 preserve the life, environment, and property of all of our  
25 citizens and visitors here in Maui.

1           Our department budget covers a total of 418  
2 employees. In our budget, we have five programs. The  
3 programs are admin, fire prevention, rescue operations which  
4 includes our mechanic shop; and then training; and health and  
5 safety, which is our 40-hour bureaus; and then our ocean  
6 safety program, which is all of our beach lifeguards. So  
7 those are the five programs.

8           Within all five of these programs, you'll find these  
9 accounts. These accounts are A, B, and C. The A account  
10 includes the salary and the premium pay for each program. B  
11 account is where we find our repair and maintenance, our  
12 operational expenses, uniform allowance, utilities, anything  
13 that's small. A single item under a thousand dollars, or it  
14 could be a repair of, like, an AC unit, a garage door, a leaky  
15 roof, all of those things fall into B account, so B account is  
16 a very large portion of our budget. And then C account are  
17 individual items over a thousand dollars. So if we wanted to  
18 buy a new truck or even in today's world, you'd be surprised,  
19 a new nozzle can be over a thousand dollars for our  
20 firefighters. So any single unit item over a thousand dollars  
21 falls in C account.

22           And then we have our CIP, capital improvement  
23 projects. The projects are broken down individually, and then  
24 we have kind of a pool that's called countywide fire  
25 facilities.

1           So I'll go over all of these for each of the five  
2 programs coming up. So one of the things that we always get  
3 asked is, you know, what is in premium pay, because a lot of  
4 times people think, you know, just overtime, and overtime, a  
5 lot of times with organizations, is abused, and, you know,  
6 we've seen a lot of the stuff on the news from various other  
7 county departments in overtime. So for me, I want to be as  
8 transparent as possible and share with you all we pay premium  
9 pay for all the things on this slide.

10           They -- some of them are negotiated by the CBA and  
11 the contract, and we are required to provide it for employees,  
12 but other things are, you know, things like grant writing. We  
13 don't have a grant section in our department, so we ask  
14 firefighters to work with us. What we do is we ask them,  
15 we'll give you three hours of overtime if you give us three  
16 hours while you're at work. But, remember, they're working 24  
17 hours and responding to calls, and so they have to fit it in,  
18 you know, with the rest of their schedule for the day, so we  
19 kind of do a fairness thing there. We're gonna provide them  
20 overtime when they're off duty if they can help us at work.

21           All the public education, job fairs, the weekend  
22 activity that our bureaus go to, fire prevention, health and  
23 safety to provide medical standby or, you know, public  
24 education all fall on our 40-hour people, so that's overtime  
25 on the weekends.

1 I'm not gonna go over the whole list, I just wanted  
2 to show everybody how extensive the things are and items are  
3 that we provide premium pay for. And there's varied rates, of  
4 course, here.

5 So the next slide is now we're preparing our budget  
6 for next year. So how we prioritize things. So the way we  
7 create our budget is we have public community meetings, we  
8 have our fire commission, we have our department cadres that  
9 teach within the department, and we have our different  
10 programs that I shared with you, the five different programs.  
11 We gain input from all of these people throughout the summer  
12 all the way up until September, and then that's how we start  
13 building the budget.

14 When something is a compliance issue, OSHA, HIOSH,  
15 it's regulated; that's our first priority. We're trying to  
16 remain, obviously, as compliant as we possibly can afford to  
17 be. The second priority is health and safety of our  
18 employees, whether that's equipment or personal protective  
19 gear that's gonna protect them when they do their job, that is  
20 the second priority. And then the third priority, of course,  
21 is we need to be able to serve the community, so what do we  
22 need for our operations, you know, vehicles, fire trucks, that  
23 sort of thing. So this is how we prioritize things that come  
24 into our office.

25 So I'm gonna go over A account stuff first, so



1 that's the expansion personnel. Remember, salaries, premium  
2 pay falls in A account, and that's where all of our personnel  
3 are. So in this year's budget, we're asking for a safety  
4 specialist for our health and safety bureau. This is a  
5 civilian position, and this position is gonna work closely  
6 with our health and safety bureau to accomplish all of that  
7 HIOSH compliance that our department is required to do.

8           The second position there is a training captain.  
9 Our training bureau is very, very small for the amount of  
10 responsibilities that it has, and so just like our fire  
11 prevention bureau, we're building it. We also are building  
12 our training bureau. So this fire captain would --  
13 essentially would be the second fire captain in training, and  
14 we would be splitting our incumbent training and our recruit  
15 training so that we would have supervision over both of those  
16 sectors of the training bureau. That firefighter 3 underneath  
17 that captain would be the support for that captain.

18           Going down to the fire equipment superintendent, so  
19 we've had a lot of conversations with our mechanics. What do  
20 you need? How can we be more efficient in our process? So  
21 what we did was we did a little audit of other county mechanic  
22 shops, public works -- there's a variety of them out there  
23 that have their own mechanic shops, and we kind of did a  
24 comparison. So we have over 200 pieces of equipment in our  
25 mechanic shop and what they thought was gonna be most

1 important is to do kind of a restructuring. Right now, all of  
2 our mechanics, including our lead mechanic who is the  
3 supervisor of the mechanics, they're expected to all be, you  
4 know, working on equipment, wrenching, if you would --  
5 wouldn't mind. So this superintendent is basically like a  
6 coordinator, a manager, an office -- looking at the mechanic  
7 shop from a strategic level. So they were like, we really  
8 need somebody who can do this and not have to worry about  
9 wrenching, troubleshooting, going out to fires, getting called  
10 out on the weekend to do an emergency repair. We just need  
11 somebody to manage the shop, so that was their input that  
12 we're building to support.

13           Next is a capital improvement project coordinator.  
14 We have put this in because we have projects like Lanai,  
15 Haiku, Pukoo, Olowalu Fire Station, and on and on and on, and  
16 we don't have somebody in this department who is dedicated to  
17 managing construction projects.

18           The last few positions are just continuations of  
19 what we started this year. Fire prevention inspectors, those  
20 are firefighter 3s, we continue to go build out that bureau to  
21 match the demands of the community. We've had so much growth  
22 in the community, and there's so much construction demand that  
23 our inspectors cannot physically get everywhere they need to  
24 be, so we need to expand that bureau.

25           The ocean safety lieutenant for Kamaole III Beach

1 Park, that is the only beach park without a lieutenant right  
2 now. The rest of the towers have lieutenants.

3 And that brings me to the last one that's been a  
4 conversation for this body, our commission, over the last few  
5 months, and then we also had a testifier speak a few months  
6 ago from Molokai supporting additional firefighters at the  
7 Pukoo Fire Station. So if you look into your packet, there is  
8 a handout that covers Pukoo Fire Station and the response of  
9 that area. So it's a white sheet of paper, the title on the  
10 top is Pukoo Fire Station Incident Reports, and it covers  
11 2017, '18, '19, and '20 in the incident reports there. And  
12 then, it covers Molokai from 2015 all the way to 2022, and  
13 then the total number of incidents on the island. So for  
14 those of you that don't know, Molokai has three fire stations.  
15 There is one in Hoolehua with five personnel, there's one in  
16 Kaunakakai with six personnel, and then there's one in the  
17 very east end of Molokai in Pukoo with only two personnel. So  
18 the community continues to grow, and the responsibilities of  
19 our firefighters grow, so there's been conversation from both  
20 the public and the commission to support asking for that  
21 additional firefighter. So that's the question that I'm just  
22 putting before this body. If we all support this, then we're  
23 definitely gonna want to support it and put it in our budget.  
24 I don't want to put anybody on the spot; anybody's welcome to,  
25 you know, text me offline or talk about it here or however the

1 chair decides, or corporation counsel decides to decide this,  
2 but it's just conversation that we've been having, and I am --  
3 I want to welcome any input there. So I'm gonna move on for  
4 now. We can get back to that if anybody has any questions.

5 So we're looking at our five programs now, so the  
6 first program being our administrative program. C account  
7 items, remember, these are individual items that are over a  
8 thousand dollars, so software is always a big thing. We are  
9 continuing to make things electronic in our department, get  
10 away from paper, and so this is just a continued push towards  
11 that direction. The software that I mentioned to you that the  
12 dispatch center just got recently was about \$250,000, so  
13 software's not cheap, but it's good, it's a wonderful tool for  
14 us to, you know, protect the community and be safer.

15 The radio calibration equipment is that our radios  
16 need to get firmware updated on them regularly for them to be  
17 reliable. We currently rely on MPD to do this for us, and  
18 they simply have become overwhelmed, so they're asking us to  
19 do that now. So we're putting this in our budget so that we  
20 can do it for them.

21 Our warehouse as we mentioned today, we have two new  
22 storekeepers in this warehouse. They are the logistics of our  
23 department. We need a new pickup truck. The pickup truck  
24 that we are currently using in that warehouse, they're all  
25 hand-me-downs, so they've been -- they're all vehicles that

1 have been repurposed. And the one designated vehicle is a  
2 2008 vehicle with 120,000 miles, so trying to get them a newer  
3 truck so it can be reliable.

4 Our fire prevention program, the second program,  
5 this is, you know, public outreach, what Commissioner Kanuha  
6 was talking about, our extinguisher trainers. The more -- we  
7 have one trainer, and so that basically creates a very limited  
8 class size that we can do. So if we can get a second one,  
9 then we can do more training for the community. This year we  
10 got a captain's position for that bureau, and we're doing a  
11 reorg and gonna fill that position hopefully by the spring,  
12 but that person doesn't have a vehicle, and that person has a  
13 lot of responsibility to go around the community and meet and  
14 teach the firefighter 3s how to do inspections and stuff, so  
15 we need to chase down a vehicle for this person.

16 So now we get into our operations program, and  
17 remember, this also includes our mechanics. So there was an  
18 audit done of our department in 2018, and it basically said in  
19 order for us to maintain a serviceable fleet in our department  
20 based on the 200 pieces of equipment, the 14 fire stations,  
21 the 12 lifeguard towers, and all of that responsibility for  
22 the community, we have to be replacing about three main  
23 apparatus a year, and then several utilities or smaller  
24 vehicles. So we used that audit to guide us and our rescue  
25 truck is our priority for next year's budget. This is a 2009

1 vehicle. So if we get money in 2023, the vehicle's 14 years  
2 old. We're also looking right now at a three-year  
3 construction period for building fire trucks, so there's  
4 potential that this truck if we get the money next year, is on  
5 the line for 17 years. That is much, much, much longer than  
6 what we normally keep our vehicles online for. They just  
7 become less and less reliable, and so we're kind of chasing  
8 this one. Historically, it was a one-year build time, but now  
9 we're looking at a three-year build time.

10 Apparatus equipment, things are always breaking,  
11 things are always needing improvement, things are always  
12 needing updating and modernization, so this C account  
13 equipment would be for us to replace things that we have on  
14 the fire truck that break or new technology comes out and we  
15 can pursue.

16 The mini pumper in Kula is 12 years old, so, again,  
17 by the time we get funding and replace this vehicle, we're  
18 looking at this being a 14-15 year vehicle.

19 The mechanic shop, we're, you know, working with  
20 them to build this shop. The upper right picture there, those  
21 are lifts that we can use to lift the fire trucks. They  
22 currently have, I think, four that are broken, and so we need  
23 to replace them next year for the mechanic's shop.

24 Automatic external defibrillators, that's the 12  
25 AEDs there, that's for our CPR cases. We've had a -- our

1 health and safety bureau evaluate what's going on throughout  
2 our department and look at what needs to be replaced and what  
3 needs to be added, and so they've requested 12, so we put that  
4 in our budget.

5           And then lastly on this page is the engines for the  
6 -- our rescue boat in Lahaina. These engines are 2008  
7 engines. When this boat was built, they were built with  
8 Yanmar engines. Our biggest problem right now is finding a  
9 mechanic to work on them. So sometimes when this boat gets --  
10 needs repairs, it's weeks before we can find a mechanic.  
11 There's only one mechanic on the island that's certified in  
12 Yanmar repair.

13           Continuing on, rescue ops' budget here, the  
14 priorities for vehicles is our Kahului tanker. That vehicle,  
15 again, is currently nine years old, so this one is more  
16 timely, but if it takes us a couple of years to build it,  
17 we're looking at it, you know, being online for 12 or 13  
18 years.

19           The 40-foot container for Kaunakakai is connected to  
20 a capital improvement project that I'll cover a little bit  
21 later, but basically, it's for storage.

22           Hoolehua fire truck -- fire station, their utility  
23 truck is 11 years old. It's actually been in a couple of  
24 minor accidents that have been repaired, but it has some  
25 longevity issues.

1           And then the Lanai Fire Station tanker, that does  
2 not have high miles but it is an older vehicle. It's also a  
3 vehicle we have two of in the department that's made -- the  
4 chassis is made in Czechoslovakia and it's nearly impossible  
5 sometimes to buy parts for this vehicle, so we're having to  
6 manufacture parts when things break on these apparatus. So  
7 that is definitely a priority for us.

8           That Molokai multipurpose room I'll explain a little  
9 bit more later. That's the air-conditioner that's gonna go in  
10 that multipurpose room. That's where all that stuff that's in  
11 the storage container is gonna be coming out of. That's that  
12 room that's unfinished now.

13           Health and safety bureau, these are things that we  
14 need for our training program, whether it's manikins or  
15 computers, the projector to support that community CPR program  
16 that we're trying to push out.

17           And then some of those health and safety items are  
18 the turnouts. It is industry standard for every firefighter  
19 to have two sets of turnouts. We haven't had that for years,  
20 so this is a three-year project we're working on. This is the  
21 third year of the project, so I'm hoping after this gets  
22 approved, then every firefighter will have two sets of  
23 turnouts. There -- some background on that is cancer is very,  
24 very prevalent in the fire service. And so when they go to a  
25 structure fire, and their turnouts get completely, you know,



1 mucked up with soot and stuff, they're supposed to wash them  
2 in our extractors, and then they need to have a second set to  
3 wear to their next call while they wait for their turnouts to  
4 be cleaned. So the members of the department truly appreciate  
5 this; this is directly connected to their health and safety.

6 The SCBA packs, those are our self-contained  
7 breathing apparatus, so those are our bottles and packs that  
8 we take into fires to breathe.

9 And then we did a little audit of our wellness  
10 program this year, you know, mental health, physical health.  
11 Obviously uber important in today's world, especially after  
12 coming out from the pandemic, so there's a lot of lack of  
13 equipment around our ocean safety facilities and our fire  
14 facilities. We basically -- if you look at our whole  
15 department, we have about 18 or 19 gyms between -- one at  
16 every fire station, prevention, and then the ocean safety  
17 officers have some sort of gym equipment at the beaches, so we  
18 have a lot to maintain when it comes to gyms in the  
19 department.

20 Ocean safety bureau is a standalone bureau by itself  
21 here. Every year we ask for these. It's just like our  
22 apparatus for our fire trucks. This is a replacement program  
23 that we have in place to make sure that our equipment is ready  
24 to go. We ask for three watercraft every year, and that is  
25 basically a three -- a five-year program. We expect

1 replacement every five years, and we have 15 skis that we have  
2 in our program.

3 The UTVs and ATVs are the same way, we have a  
4 replacement plan. To explain and kind of reiterate, the salt  
5 on the beaches destroys everything in less than half of its  
6 useful life. So we've done cleaning, regular maintenance and  
7 that, but we can't grease things that go in the ocean 'cause  
8 we don't want to contaminate the water, but just the salt  
9 every single day on the beach, these UTVs will completely fall  
10 apart just 'cause of rust. And the engines are still  
11 perfectly good, but we have to replace them, so that's one of  
12 our challenges with the ATVs and UTVs.

13 The watercraft wings, that's an additional safety  
14 thing that we're adding to some of the skis for the ocean  
15 safety bureau. This was something that we researched and is a  
16 good tool for stability in the water and doing rescues. And  
17 then the boards is just, you know, one of their daily tools.  
18 They need to have this on every beach ready to go, so that's  
19 part of their replacement program for annual replacement. And  
20 then ice machines. The ocean safety officers do not have  
21 access to ice for their coolers and their, you know, daily  
22 water and such, so we're gonna put an ice machine in each  
23 district so that they have access to ice. And these are  
24 small, like under-the-counter ice machines, they're not the  
25 big, huge commercial ice machines, but they're adequate

1 enough. And this is exactly what the ocean safety bureau  
2 requested, so we want to support it.

3 So just a flashback to this budget breakdown. We  
4 talked about A, B, and C accounts so far for all the programs.  
5 Next, I'm gonna talk about CIP, that highlighted red part  
6 there. So countywide fire facilities is -- like I said, is a  
7 group of small projects within the county. So these are funds  
8 that we're gonna ask for to work at Makena, some repairs in  
9 Hookipa, Napili asphalt and a fencing. They have some  
10 pedestrian issues around their station and people coming  
11 through. They need security for some of the items that they  
12 currently just leave outside. Kihei Fire Station, just some  
13 bathroom repairs. Painting the towers at Kamaole Beach Park  
14 I, II, and III. Of course, we just did the mural on one side  
15 of them, so one side's beautiful, but the other three sides  
16 need to be taken care of, as well as the foundation, legs, and  
17 stuff. And the same thing at Hookipa, just an old building  
18 that's out there that needs to be repaired.

19 A quick summary of what's going on right now just to  
20 bring everybody up to speed.

21 Wailuku Station bathroom renovation was a nine-month  
22 project, that's completed.

23 Kahului apparatus shelter is a big carport here at  
24 Kahului, that was completed, that was about a one-year  
25 project.

1           The Lanai Fire Station renovation and addition,  
2 basically, we're adding a two-bay apparatus structure behind  
3 the fire station, so that should -- we're getting the  
4 submittals from the contractor right now, notice to proceed  
5 has been given, permits are in hand, and we'll start  
6 construction here shortly. Tomorrow we have a meeting with  
7 the contractor to go over the details.

8           Hoolehua Fire Station is underway. The building is  
9 being built as we speak.

10           And then Pukoo Fire Station. So we purchased the  
11 house to renovate for Pukoo Fire Station and it's currently  
12 with the architects. And if they get the planning and design  
13 done here shortly enough, we do have funds that when we put it  
14 out to bid for the actual renovation of that house.

15           Then Makawao Fire Station is similar to the Hoolehua  
16 one. We're adding a bay to the fire station. The bids open  
17 for that on December 8th and we have that much money, \$770,000  
18 in the budget. We're hoping it comes in under the budget, of  
19 course.

20           So that was a -- kind of an update of where we're at  
21 right now in CIP. Moving forward, Haiku Fire Station is on a  
22 lot of people's radar. We've been working on this for the  
23 last two years in a variety of ways. Currently, the  
24 consultant is working on a variety of projects for this. So  
25 we have a contractor working on an environmental assessment,

1 creating community meetings again, changing in zoning,  
2 changing the community plan, and a district boundary  
3 amendment. So a contractor is gonna work on that. They told  
4 us it's gonna take them about two to two and a half years to  
5 do all of that work; therefore, we don't have any funds that  
6 we're asking for Haiku Fire Station in FY '24 or probably FY  
7 '25.

8 Department admin building and warehouse, so the  
9 building that we're in right now is 32 years old, and our  
10 department has grown in the 32 years. So every office that  
11 was created has basically been cut in half; some have been cut  
12 in four to create office space. The space that we're  
13 currently sitting in right now used to be our old warehouse,  
14 which is now a conference room. So we've kind of made due and  
15 built and built. So we have a transition of administration  
16 happening in January, but we have to get direction from our  
17 leadership in the mayor's office to see if renting or  
18 purchasing is the goal 'cause both are possible for this  
19 project. And then once we get direction, then we can pursue  
20 looking for a new building or building a new building,  
21 whatever that direction is.

22 The Molokai Fire Station multipurpose room, that was  
23 that 40-foot container I had mentioned, and the  
24 air-conditioning. So there's -- Kaunakakai Fire Station was  
25 built several years ago and there's a room that's about 25 by

1 25 square. Right now, it's just filled with storage. The  
2 actual purpose of that room was multifold. It was to be an  
3 emergency EOC if there's a disaster over there. It's also a  
4 classroom for Molokai, so when we go over there, we can teach,  
5 we're not all stuck in the kitchen 'cause that's what we use  
6 right now. And then it's also a community meeting location,  
7 so if people want to request the use of this space, we'll have  
8 a system to loan it out. So right now it's completely  
9 unfinished, there's no flooring, there's no paint, there's no  
10 ceiling. You can see the trusses and everything else. So our  
11 goal this year in phase 1 is to move everything out of there.  
12 We added to our budget, which is mostly B account, so that's  
13 items under a thousand dollars is all the stuff to kind of  
14 finish the room out. The drop ceiling, the paint, the  
15 flooring, the electrician, the plumber to put in the sprinkler  
16 system for the fire sprinklers, that's phase 2. Then once it  
17 gets built, we're looking at using Homeland Security grants  
18 and Homeland Security funds to hopefully be awarded a grant to  
19 work with Director Andaya and MEMA to outfit it as an EOC, so  
20 television monitors, computers, and that sort of thing so that  
21 if it ever is a remote EOC location, they have all the  
22 connectivity and communication. So that's kind of a  
23 three-phase project that we're initiating this year and if we  
24 get support from the mayor and council, then that will -- that  
25 will be a huge add for Molokai.

1           This last picture is just a slide of some of the  
2 awesome work that was shared with us when we went to Lahaina.  
3 Lahainaluna, after the fire, recognized our firefighters  
4 during their state championship quarter-final game. So a  
5 bunch of firefighters -- I went out there to support them as  
6 well -- took these pictures. They had fliers up all over the  
7 stadium and campus supporting our firefighters and thanking  
8 them for the work that they did out there.

9           That concludes what I have for you as far as our FY  
10 '24 budget proposal. Any questions?

11           CHAIR GINOZA: So just for clarity for commission  
12 members, so one -- one item that is directed by the county  
13 charter is for the commission to annually review and --

14           Sorry, Rich, wrong one.

15           -- review and submit to the mayor the department of  
16 fire and public safety's request for an annual appropriation  
17 for the operation of the department. So I'll ask for  
18 questions, but at the end, I'll ask that the commission  
19 approve for the department to submit this budget to the mayor  
20 for consideration.

21           So before we get to that point, does any  
22 commissioner have any questions or need clarity? Yes,  
23 Punahale.

24           COMMISSIONER ALCON: I have a couple comments.  
25 First of all, thank you, Chief, for a very thorough budget

1 proposal, very easy to understand. And thank you for the  
2 incident reports regarding the Pukoo Fire Station. It does  
3 look like the numbers have almost doubled since 2017, so -- I  
4 wish the community members from that area would testify  
5 directly here. I was contacted by a few of them and there is  
6 concern that, you know, for community safety and firefighter  
7 safety, they would like -- or the ones that I spoke to would  
8 like another person added to the station. They feel like the  
9 community is growing. Although our total numbers for people  
10 on Molokai have shrunk, a lot of the people from Molokai from  
11 that side of the island that went away to go to college and  
12 to, you know, start their families are now coming back home,  
13 so there's actually more people in the community in that area,  
14 so I think that's part of the reason why the numbers are  
15 increasing. There's just more people that need assistance.  
16 So I feel like, you know, if at all possible, if we can  
17 consider adding another position to that station, that would  
18 be helpful. Thank you.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Punahale.

20 Dale.

21 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Yes. On the expansion  
22 personnel, the fire equipment superintendent, I assume that's  
23 like a service manager at a car dealership where -- you know,  
24 basically setting up the workday for the shop?

25 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. So the superintendent is -- I



1 would say yes, those are some of the responsibilities for sure  
2 of this individual. They're responsible for, yeah, assigning  
3 -- so we have five mechanics, so he'd be responsible for  
4 assigning the mechanics their work for the day. One of the  
5 big projects -- and Vice Chair Vares knows this -- is  
6 identifying parts for our work. So some of our trucks are  
7 13-14 years old. Finding the part, it can take them three,  
8 four, five hours sometimes, and so this -- this person would  
9 assign -- you know, we're gonna -- we want to build the  
10 mechanic shop so that we have somebody in there to do that  
11 type of work, but this position, the superintendent would --  
12 yeah, would just be like a strategic level manager of the  
13 mechanic shop and -- and issue out work to all of his  
14 mechanics underneath him.

15 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Thank you.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: So that's actually the two things  
18 that I was gonna ask about too. Was the fire equipment  
19 superintendent -- so that that position will also absorb the  
20 parts requirement that was kind of becoming its own problem?  
21 Is that correct?

22 CHIEF VENTURA: That's -- that's the way Victor --

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Inaudible.)

24 CHIEF VENTURA: -- Victor sees it working, yeah.

25 VICE CHAIR VARES: So with that position, which is

1       incredibly important, the superintendent position, will there  
2       be another mechanic, or has there recently been another  
3       mechanic added to the -- the crew? 'Cause I'm just assuming  
4       this is -- really what this is doing is just taking any kind  
5       of wrench-turning responsibility away from -- off of Victor's  
6       shoulders or the new -- or whoever will be the Victor, but  
7       then that takes a mechanic out of rotation. Is there -- is  
8       there a need for another mechanic too?

9               CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, so perfect question. So in  
10       our fiscal year '23 budget that we're operating in right now,  
11       we have an additional mechanic to hire. So it's going through  
12       the reorg process, and then we -- I think we just actually  
13       notified --

14              DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: We're interviewing.

15              CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, we just notified the  
16       candidates on the list, so we'll be interviewing for an  
17       additional mechanic. So that was FY '23. So, yeah, we're  
18       getting that, that manpower that you're referring to.

19              VICE CHAIR VARES: That's great. And, you know,  
20       just for conversation's sake and for research's sake for --  
21       for approving the budget, you've got my wholehearted support  
22       on that because I can't even imagine how the mechanic shop is  
23       functioning at the -- at the level that it is, which is  
24       absolutely, you know, acceptable to the point of working  
25       miracles with over 200 pieces of equipment and making do on a

1 daily basis both with -- with prioritizing work and repairs as  
2 they come in, but then also being able to forecast as well for  
3 any type of repairs that need to be done. So it's almost --  
4 you're constantly playing catchup while also sending out  
5 equipment to every single day possibly be damaged. So I think  
6 it's really a good -- a good call to add that position, so  
7 thank you for putting that out there.

8 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Commissioner Vares, if I  
9 could add something to that? For that, I know a lot of talk  
10 has come up about that parts person, and I think our industry  
11 as far as fire is a little different. It's not like you're  
12 buying parts for a Ford truck or a Chevy police car; it's very  
13 custom and specific. So having a parts guy -- like I know we  
14 talked about just hiring a parts guy, I think that would work  
15 against us 'cause it would be like a -- taking one of our  
16 mechanics to even teach this guy what a fire truck part is  
17 rather than having our own internal fire mechanics start  
18 handling the parts because they already know what they're  
19 looking for, they know the manufacturer, the multiple  
20 manufacturers, that's who we kind of get our parts from. And  
21 then when they go out of business, or they don't make that  
22 model of truck, that's where we kind of get into --

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yeah.

24 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: It's hard to get those parts.  
25 But I think that's part of the reason why that I think that

1 parts person never --

2 CHIEF VENTURA: Materialized.

3 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: -- materialized, is kind of  
4 kept within the mechanics. It's a lot easier for them to  
5 (inaudible).

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: No, it sounds like a great  
7 solution, you know, to have a -- a superintendent guy that's  
8 not -- that's not needed on the line to turn wrench.

9 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Correct.

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: That he can actually work the  
11 administrative side, which is almost as important, if not  
12 more. That's great. Thanks for the explanation, Chief  
13 Fujioka.

14 My -- since I'm -- since I'm on, I also had kind of  
15 the same comment as Punahale regarding Pukoo and having a  
16 third person put on. When we visited over at Pukoo, we were  
17 asking them what their most common calls are, and they said by  
18 far, medical, which is shown here, you know, 52 percent -- or,  
19 pardon me, 52 of their total 79 calls are all medical. And  
20 they explained that, you know, by the time they get out to  
21 that -- whatever the call is for, it's almost always doing  
22 CPR. And it takes 45 to 50 minutes, if you're lucky, for the  
23 EMS, for the ambulance to make it out to the location, so  
24 until then, these two men or these two firefighters are a  
25 hundred percent responsible for keeping CPR going for an hour.

1 And that's really difficult to do both as you've also got  
2 somebody that's gotta coordinate and somebody that's gotta  
3 report back to the ambulance that's coming through. It just  
4 -- a third seems to make sense just on the medical standpoint  
5 alone. But my question is over on the Pukoo, the new Pukoo  
6 station, it's the home that's gonna be renovated; what is the  
7 plan for the vehicles and apparatuses there? Will there have  
8 -- will they have a structure or any kind of protection there  
9 on site? And do all of the -- are they all like extended cab  
10 that could take a crew of three?

11 CHIEF VENTURA: Great. Good questions. So we -- so  
12 we have a single-family residence, is what we bought, and we  
13 don't want to build outside of that expected envelope, so we  
14 don't put up like some big thing in somebody's backyard that's  
15 gonna create, you know, disconnect with the community. So we  
16 anticipate moving what we have at Pukoo or using something  
17 exactly the same like that big rigid tent for the apparatus,  
18 versus building a big structure like Hoolehua. And the doors  
19 are all four-door trucks, so they can get three personnel in  
20 there. As far as the location on the property, we're still --  
21 we have to work that out with the planning and design team to  
22 see where we can place the tent for the apparatus and such.

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay, great. Thank you.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

25 I think Makalapua had a question.

1           COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you, Chief, again for  
2 that thorough report. One of two questions, the first one is  
3 the replacement on the rescue boat engine, so are those  
4 engines the original ones that came with the boat in 2008?

5           CHIEF VENTURA: Yes. Those are the original engines  
6 when the boat was built, correct.

7           COMMISSIONER KANUHA: I remember the boat and the  
8 engine, so they are very old. So do we have like a mechanic  
9 in the shop that takes care of the engines? 'Cause I know --  
10 no more, okay.

11          CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, no.

12          COMMISSIONER KANUHA: 'Cause I know Windward Boats  
13 is right up the road from Wailuku, and I know they have  
14 mechanics over there, so I'm just throwing that out.

15          DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Yeah. So, Commissioner  
16 Kanuha, because of those engines, they're Yanmar diesel  
17 engines, we have one certified Yanmar mechanic on the island  
18 of Maui, so --

19          COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay. So we need new engines.

20          DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: We --

21          COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Updated engines.

22          DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Updated engines. And what  
23 we're doing is, if we get it, we have it budgeted, we're gonna  
24 go with outboard engines, which is a lot easier to service,  
25 and there's a lot more mechanics on island that can service

1 those motors.

2 CHIEF VENTURA: In our -- in our other rescue boats,  
3 we have different brand engines; I think they're Volvos, so we  
4 have more mechanic options with those. But in this particular  
5 engine boat in Lahaina, it's Yanmars, so that's the need for  
6 the change.

7 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Yes, I agree. And too, I just  
8 wanted to go in alignment with -- with the two women about  
9 Pukoo. So if we only have two firefighters on duty, so who's  
10 the captain and who's the firefighter 3 or 2?

11 CHIEF VENTURA: Correct.

12 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Yeah. So I think, you know,  
13 it's obvious that we support the third body already, you know,  
14 so do -- what do we have to do? Do we have to, like, vote  
15 right now so that we approve -- no, it still has to go to  
16 admin?

17 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. I mean, I'll -- I'll  
18 definitely make sure it's in our budget. And now that I know  
19 we have the support, you know, from both the community and the  
20 commission, from our perspective as administration, we will  
21 happily take more fire stations and more firefighters. It  
22 keeps everybody happy. But we understand there's a cost that  
23 comes with all of this. So if it's a community decision and a  
24 commission decision, then it gets more support. So we will  
25 add it, we will put it in the budget, and then it'll go

1 through the mayor first, and then it'll go to council in  
2 March.

3 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Makalapua.

5 Any -- oh, yes, Lisa?

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you. I had one more  
7 question regarding the personnel expansion. I remember there  
8 being talk of -- during the upcoming reorganizations that  
9 there was going to be some sort of ocean safety superintendent  
10 position or -- I don't want to use the wrong word, but filling  
11 a gap between admin and -- what am I looking for here? What  
12 am I trying to say, guys?

13 CHIEF VENTURA: So we have funding right now, and  
14 we're doing the reorganization, so the re- -- a reorg is a  
15 long process. We do all the paperwork; we send it up to the  
16 managing director's office, they review it to make sure it  
17 works. Essentially, we requested an ocean safety chief  
18 position this year that will oversee ocean safety bureau, and  
19 it's also a position that ocean safety officers can promote up  
20 into. Historically, we had a battalion chief, which is a  
21 firefighter, so only a fire captain can become a battalion  
22 chief. So we had a battalion chief in charge of ocean safety,  
23 and that -- that was -- that's not the best formula. And so,  
24 you know, when you have a firefighter trying to be in charge  
25 of ocean safety officers, if you haven't done their job, it's



1 hard to really tell them what to do. So this is a transition  
2 that we've done, and we've created this ocean safety chief  
3 position, and it's being reorg'ed right now. So in ocean  
4 safety, you'll have lieutenants who work at the beach,  
5 captains who oversee districts, and then you'll have two  
6 personnel in their administration. You'll have an ocean  
7 safety manager and an ocean safety chief above that. And  
8 those will all be ocean safety positions now, not fire  
9 positions. I hope that answers your question.

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: Well, I think -- I think you --  
11 yeah, you answered it at the very beginning when you said  
12 you'd already gotten it situated. So it was like -- I was  
13 like, why isn't it on here? Oh, you already got it approved  
14 last year, is the answer, right?

15 CHIEF VENTURA: (Gesturing thumbs up.)

16 VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay.

17 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah.

18 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

20 Dale.

21 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Yes. On the radio  
22 calibration and testing set, you've got \$36,000. You say  
23 that's being done by the MPD now; I guess that's gonna be  
24 taken in-house. Who's gonna be responsible for doing the  
25 testing and calibration?

1 CHIEF VENTURA: Great question. So two years ago,  
2 we received a civilian position for our department, it's a  
3 communications support technician. This person, his name is  
4 Paul, he works with us every day, he is the one who helps us  
5 with our computer/radio/maintenance -- slash, slash, slash,  
6 jack-of-all-trades sort of a thing. He has the knowledge and  
7 the ability, and he'll get the training from MPD to do it.

8 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Mahalo.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dale.

10 Yes, Dwight.

11 COMMISSIONER BURNS: You know, going back to the  
12 Yanmars -- and I know you guys were saying already that you  
13 guys' staff with the shop is overwhelmed with work and stuff  
14 like that. What if you take one of those mechanics, say for  
15 future reference, with whatever specialty stuff that you guys  
16 buy in the future, take them and have them trained on taking  
17 care of Yanmar motors or engines like that one individual that  
18 does it on the island?

19 CHIEF VENTURA: That's a great idea. That's a great  
20 idea. We have mentioned it, and we'll revisit this exact  
21 topic with our mechanic shop. Training for our mechanics is  
22 essential, and because we now have 15, 16 -- about 19 jet skis  
23 in our department, we wanted to send them to Yamaha school in  
24 Alabama, and so that perfectly aligns with what you're talking  
25 about. And this project was actually actively moving forward,

1 and then COVID hit. So it's something that we should  
2 definitely revisit and look at what -- where we can get the  
3 most bang for our buck, sending them off to get training to  
4 support the repairs of this equipment. Great idea.

5 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Okay. And I have one more  
6 question. I mean, I just wanted to -- I just wanted to echo  
7 what Punahale, Makalapua, and Lisa were saying about Pukoo  
8 Fire Station. Having that third firefighter, I think, is  
9 important, and I support it because I don't know how fast the  
10 growth is on Molokai, but like Punahale said, people are  
11 coming back. Growth is inevitable; it's gonna happen, more  
12 people might be coming back to that side of the island, so I  
13 support it, having a third firefighter being stationed there.

14 CHIEF VENTURA: Excellent.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Dwight.

16 Yes, Max.

17 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I'm wondering, regarding your  
18 equipment, I had to deal with trailers all my life. Would it  
19 be, say, cost-efficient in the long run to maybe have a  
20 stainless steel trailer fabricated for your water equipment  
21 that has to come in and out of the ocean? Also, your UTVs and  
22 whatnot, man, nobody can get them to last. We're just gonna  
23 have to wait for them to get carbon fiber frames.

24 What exactly is a watercraft collar?

25 CHIEF VENTURA: Great questions, Commissioner. So

1 if we can afford -- which we normally can -- all of our  
2 trailers for jet skis and boats are stainless or aluminum --  
3 or aluminum, sorry. So we do have the preferred, you know,  
4 equipment there.

5 As far as the wing collar goes, on that slide,  
6 there's a picture of a ski with yellow around it; all that  
7 does is it widens the footprint of the hull to make it super  
8 stable. Right now, when they're picking up victims out of the  
9 water, you lean over on a jet ski, and you pull somebody up;  
10 the ski sometimes flips right over. So what this does is it  
11 -- it's almost like pontoons on an inflatable boat. It goes  
12 right around the cap rail of the vessel, and it stabilizes.  
13 They can now stand two people on the edge of the jet ski, and  
14 it doesn't roll over anymore. So when they're picking up  
15 people that are, like, lost their windsurf gear or broke their  
16 windsurf gear or they lost their paddle from their standup  
17 paddle board, they can now manage in the water a lot better  
18 than keep rolling their skis over. Yesterday our lifeguards  
19 were super busy on the North Shore. They made multiple saves  
20 in ten- to 18-foot seas.

21 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Okay. And then, finally,  
22 your rescue boards. To me, have you guys looked into the  
23 sponge boards Morey Boogie is putting out these days? They  
24 seem to be more cost-efficient than 1200 dollars for eight  
25 rescue boards. I know -- I make surfboards too, I know. So I

1 mean, the sponges will work, and they're a lot cheaper.

2 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, we can --

3 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Lastly, I -- go ahead. Go  
4 ahead. I'm sorry.

5 CHIEF VENTURA: Sorry, sorry, Commissioner. I just  
6 wanted to hear the brand again. We'll definitely look into  
7 it. Do you know what the brand of that sponge board is?

8 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Morey Boogie.

9 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: They're the ones --

11 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: -- putting them out.

13 CHIEF VENTURA: And then --

14 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: It's pretty inexpensive. I  
15 think it's \$200 for a Jerry Lopez copy.

16 And then this other thing I just can't get over is I  
17 know the county is really up against the wall as far as  
18 mechanics go; there's so much they really have to deal with in  
19 the fire department, but, you know, I've noticed that the new  
20 trucks are like maybe F350s, F450s with panel boxes with all  
21 the equipment made. Is that something we're gonna lean  
22 towards so that in the event that the engines and whatnot have  
23 to be replaced, we can just pull them off and put them on a  
24 new thing and update what has to be done? Because my -- my  
25 general consensus about the various companies is they're not

1 -- they're no longer making vehicles for longevity, yeah.  
2 You're lucky if you get a brand-new truck that lasts five  
3 years.

4 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, that's a great question. So  
5 the -- as far as our utilities and our minis go, if we can  
6 change parts and it's gonna extend the life of the vehicle, we  
7 will. Last -- about a year and a half ago, we changed an  
8 engine in an F250 rather than buying a new truck. And then  
9 recently, we did a project where instead of buying a new  
10 flatbed for the warehouse, we repurposed an old diesel truck  
11 who still has a good engine, and our plan is to take the box  
12 off the back like you mentioned and put a flatbed on it. So  
13 if we can save money that way, we'll do it. But you're right;  
14 unfortunately, things don't last like they used to.

15 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah. And then lastly, how  
16 many hours does your diesel engines have in Lahaina?

17 CHIEF VENTURA: We can check on that for you and get  
18 that to you. The -- most of our engines, the fire trucks, and  
19 most of the tankers, have engine hour meters, so we can --

20 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah.

21 CHIEF VENTURA: So we can look into that and get  
22 that for you.

23 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: You know, Yanmars are good  
24 for 10,000 miles -- 10,000 hours, and then -- Ricky's not the  
25 only mechanic in the state. We got some in Honolulu that

1 knows their stuff. That's an option, farming our own Yanmar  
2 mechanics from Honolulu too. I know how tight Ricky's  
3 schedule is. He has to do some work for me.

4 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Just a suggestion.

6 CHIEF VENTURA: Good idea. Great idea. Thank you.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Any -- any other questions from  
8 commissioners?

9 Yes, Dwight. Go ahead, Dwight.

10 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Just a quick question about the  
11 UTVs. Like when you guys purchase them, before sending them  
12 out to their designated areas where they're gonna be at the  
13 beaches and stuff, do they like have some kind of like -- like  
14 some kind of sealant to prolong the life of the UTVs as far as  
15 being in contact with the salt water and stuff?

16 CHIEF VENTURA: We've used -- we've used a variety  
17 of things on them. They do many times coat the beds with a  
18 bed liner, you know, a spray-in bed liner. And recently, in  
19 this year's budget, we looked at a John Deere model that has  
20 more plastic parts on it, so we're hoping, you know, through  
21 this kind of experience that we maybe see longevity in it.  
22 But as far as all the A-arms, the drive trains, all the stuff  
23 that's right there in the salt and the sand, you know, they've  
24 tried lubricants and stuff, but we've gotta keep it out of the  
25 water.

1 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Yeah.

2 CHIEF VENTURA: So they just try to keep it as clean  
3 as possible right now.

4 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Okay. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Yeah.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Gerald.

7 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Yeah, this is Gerald. Yeah, I  
8 have some questions. So the commission's review of the budget  
9 is more from a programmatic standpoint? Because I don't see  
10 amounts in the A and B budget, I just see more program -- you  
11 know, what they're trying to accomplish, so --

12 CHAIR GINOZA: So -- oh.

13 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Go ahead.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah. So they have a full budget. I  
15 had asked the chief to just look at the highlights of them.  
16 So, you know, I met with him yesterday to just kind of  
17 understand the structure and how they had the budget because  
18 when I was a (inaudible), you know, you have specific little  
19 lines A, B, and C accounts for those different programs.

20 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Right.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: If you want to see more line items,  
22 you know, you're welcome to, as any commissioner is, to sit  
23 down with fire staff to go down through each one. But it's  
24 more to give kind of an overview that we agree with the  
25 direction.



1           COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Okay, okay. Yeah, I  
2 understand. Next question, my second question is, you know,  
3 what is the flexibility that the department has? Because, you  
4 know, the chief is doing a budget like ten, 11 months in  
5 advance which starts July 1st, 2023, so what kind of  
6 flexibility -- is the A-B budget flexible enough if something  
7 unexpected happens, he has some contingency to continue and  
8 not, you know, jeopardize public safety?

9           CHIEF VENTURA: Chair, if I can.

10          CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

11          CHIEF VENTURA: Great question, Commissioner. So  
12 the council has a process called a budget amendment. So if we  
13 were -- let's say we weren't -- didn't have enough salary  
14 money because we had lots of big fires and we were paying lots  
15 of overtime to people, we would go submit through the mayor's  
16 office a request for a budget amendment, and then we would go  
17 before council and ask them to add whatever the calculation  
18 is, X amount of dollars to get us to June 30th. So there is  
19 some flexibility throughout the year.

20          COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Okay. And so, do you have to  
21 stay within you're a -- your department budget, or other  
22 sources are recognized and submitted for approval to add to  
23 the fire department budget?

24          CHIEF VENTURA: As far as A goes and salaries, we  
25 definitely try to predict based on collective bargaining

1 agreement raises. So we could forecast, right? We can see --  
2 we can look at the four-year contract and say firefighters got  
3 no raise last year, 3 percent this year, 4 percent next year,  
4 so we can forecast what the budget is expected to be and put  
5 it in. If we come up short, we -- the only other source of  
6 funding for A account would be to go for that budget amendment  
7 and ask council to add money to our A account. What they  
8 would do normally is they would ask us, Where do you have  
9 extra money in your budget right now, maybe in B account or C  
10 account? Let's say we had a hundred thousand dollars for a  
11 truck project, but we only spent 75; they would budget  
12 amendment, they would take that extra \$25,000 from C account,  
13 they would move it to A account. So we would look in our  
14 budget first, so we don't impact the greater county, and if  
15 for some reason there wasn't funds in our own budget, then  
16 they -- the budget director would have to look at all county  
17 departments to look where there might be savings for us to  
18 use.

19 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Thank you. That answered my  
20 question.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Gerald.

22 Any other questions from commissioners?

23 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Um.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Max.

25 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: For the record, all in on the

1 Pukoo addition, the fireman.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Okay, great.

3 Any other questions or comments from commissioners?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. So what I'll ask the  
6 commission for is I believe we are all in agreement about the  
7 chief adding that extra position for Pukoo, so to ensure that  
8 that is added if it's not already added in, and the rest of  
9 the budget is appropriate for submittal to the mayor for  
10 consideration. So I'd like to see if I could have a motion to  
11 -- that we've reviewed the budget, approve it as discussed  
12 before transmittal to the mayor.

13 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

14 COMMISSIONER BURNS: (Gesturing.)

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa, and -- for the  
16 motion, second by Dwight. I'll just do a roll call vote again  
17 just to ensure that we have a majority.

18 Lisa, do you approve of the motion to -- as I  
19 stated?

20 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

22 Next, we have Dwight.

23 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Yes.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Punahale.

25 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Yes.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Max Kincaid, Jr.  
2 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Approve, yeah.  
3 CHAIR GINOZA: Makalapua Kanuha.  
4 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Yes.  
5 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.  
6 Gordon.  
7 COMMISSIONER GILLIS: Yes.  
8 CHAIR GINOZA: Dale.  
9 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Yes.  
10 CHAIR GINOZA: And Gerald.  
11 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Kind of like I was told I'm  
12 not able to vote. I wasn't able to attend the orientation.  
13 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay, okay. It's all right. We  
14 don't need you for this one.  
15 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: I abstain anyway.  
16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, thank you.  
17 So motion passes that we -- you can transmit the  
18 budget as -- as stated. And if you need me to write a letter,  
19 just let me know as far as transmitting it over to the -- to  
20 the mayor.  
21 We have one more -- well, so one thing. So the next  
22 meeting is supposed to be in mid-December when the chiefs have  
23 an event or have a conference to go to, so what I was  
24 thinking, especially because we have a long meeting, is we  
25 still have some ways to go for this meeting, that particularly

1 because it's the holiday season if we would just skip the next  
2 meeting unless somebody has some pressing thing they want to  
3 hear, and that we just convene the commission at the -- at our  
4 scheduled January commission meeting when that is scheduled.  
5 So we'd just basically skip next month's meeting. So unless  
6 somebody has any heartburn from that, please state -- well,  
7 please state now; otherwise, that is my intention is to skip  
8 the next meeting.

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing that people, I  
11 think, would rather have the time for their holiday, so that  
12 will be what will happen that we will reconvene in January.

13 So because we've been running like an hour, 45  
14 minutes so far, my intention is to have a five-minute bathroom  
15 break. Is five minutes enough for everyone so that we can  
16 rest for a little while and reconvene as having the fire chief  
17 evaluation?

18 COMMISSIONERS: (Nodding heads.)

19 CHAIR GINOZA: And just for everybody's benefit,  
20 too, just so they can think about it during their break, I  
21 think part of the reason why we have three corp counsel is we  
22 have been advised as a commission that we should have the  
23 evaluation agenda item in open session rather than in  
24 executive session. So when we come back from break, I'm not  
25 gonna ask that we go into executive session, but that we have

1 our discussion in open session. So my intention as far as  
2 handling that agenda item is to just continue -- call the  
3 meeting back to order, have -- bring up the agenda item, have  
4 the chief say -- have him state (inaudible), and that we kind  
5 of just discuss the different -- the six different criteria  
6 that Lisa and I had generated as far as an evaluation. So  
7 just please be prepared for that after the break.

8 So it is -- let's just say 11:43 a.m. on November  
9 17th. Let's reconvene around 11:50 after everyone has a  
10 break. So the meeting is adjourned at 11:43 of the Maui Fire  
11 and Public Safety Commission.

12 (Pause in Proceedings: 11:43 a.m.-11:52 a.m.)

13 CHAIR GINOZA: -- 11:52 on November 17th. I'd like  
14 to call the Maui Fire and Public Safety November commission  
15 meeting back to order out of recess. As I mentioned prior to  
16 going to recess, the last item we have on our agenda is the  
17 annual evaluation of our fire chief. Just for every -- to  
18 remind everyone, per the Maui County Charter, the commission  
19 should -- shall or should or whatever annually review and  
20 evaluate the performance of the fire chief, submit a report to  
21 the mayor and the council. So my intention is that we have an  
22 evaluation kind of template that Lisa and I prepared that has  
23 six items that we can go over, and what I'd like is for us to  
24 go over each item and reach consensus on -- on the -- whether  
25 the chief is substandard, needs improvement, is satisfactory,

1 or exceeds for each of the items, and a final evaluation. And  
2 then, at the end of it, I would ask for a motion to allow Lisa  
3 and I to basically just collate the information and be able to  
4 transmit on behalf of the commission to the mayor and the  
5 council the evaluation that we've discussed.

6 Does anybody have any questions about that, or would  
7 like to see some -- a different methodology followed?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, let's start  
10 off with Chief Ventura kind of just doing a self-evaluation, I  
11 guess, or whatever kind of statement you'd like to give prior  
12 to our evaluations. Chief Ventura.

13 CHIEF VENTURA: Chair. Thank you, everybody. You  
14 know, first, there's an opening here, I just want to say that  
15 I -- I appreciate the support the commission has given our  
16 department throughout the year. I feel our relationship, you  
17 know, is very open, very fair, and that's helping our  
18 department exceed the expectations of our community.

19 So the other thing that I was asked to share is just  
20 some of the accomplishments that we've had this year, but  
21 before I do that, you know, for me, accomplishments aren't --  
22 I mean, they're owned by our whole department. We run a very  
23 inclusive administration. We want input from everybody; we  
24 want people's mana'o brought to the table. So any of these  
25 accomplishments that I'm gonna talk about, they're "we"

1 accomplishments, you know, they're not -- they're not me by  
2 any means. I'm very fortunate to have passionate people  
3 working all over me. Every rank of the department, they all  
4 want to serve this community. So that's kind of my stance on  
5 these accomplishments.

6 And I would say the accomplishments for the year,  
7 some of the main things that I focus on are our people, and if  
8 we're able to educate, treat people fairly, raise them up,  
9 make them better, make them more confident, that is the  
10 ultimate goal. To me, policies, procedures, equipment, that's  
11 all gonna get better over time, we're always gonna be working  
12 on that stuff, but if we can make our people stronger, they're  
13 our best resource. Our people -- our equipment is nothing  
14 without good people. So if we can build people's self-esteem  
15 for them to be strong, they're gonna produce better work for  
16 the -- for the department, and then the community will end up  
17 getting the best possible service. So this year, looking back  
18 at a lot of the things that we've done with different  
19 firefighters, captains, chief officers, it's just building  
20 people up, teaching them, making them as, you know, strong of  
21 an individual as they can so they can serve our community.

22 If we have to look and talk to -- about other  
23 relationships externally, it was my goal to rebuild and  
24 restrengthen all of the relations with parties like department  
25 of forestry and wildlife, Maui Police Department, MEMA, public



1 works. We -- we're all ingrained; we all have our numbers,  
2 you know, in each other's phone now. When it comes to like  
3 this Lahaina fire, it's because of the relationships that we  
4 built before the incident that makes us successful. When the  
5 action, you know, finally hits, then we can work together.

6 So some of the projects that we worked on this year,  
7 'cause we have some new members here, we reestablished and  
8 rebuilt our whole helicopter program, basically doubling its  
9 capacity and capability.

10 It was my original plan when I interviewed with you  
11 all a year and a few months ago to increase some staffing in  
12 certain areas. We've done that. Fortunately, with the budget  
13 that we're currently operating in, we've increased ocean  
14 safety staff by 38 percent. I don't think in my career we'll  
15 ever see that much growth in a -- in a single bureau. That  
16 was pretty astonishing for everybody to work on and come  
17 together with.

18 You know, professional development of our -- our  
19 leadership, captains at both the ocean safety and the fire  
20 level is super important. For our administration, the  
21 captains are the conduit between the administration and the  
22 boots on the ground, so if we can give them training, provide  
23 them direction, communicate clearly with them, everything's  
24 gonna be stronger and better. So for ocean safety, you know,  
25 we've had three recruit classes graduate in the last year or

1 so, year and a few months, and that's changing the culture in  
2 that organization. That's huge. We have quarterly captain  
3 meetings with them, chief Lindo meets with them, and it's just  
4 transparency, it's just communication, it's just getting them  
5 the information so that they can get the information out. All  
6 of those things weren't happening in the past.

7 Our promotional process has been revamped. It's way  
8 more transparent than it's ever been in the past. People are  
9 actually studying for things that matter to their job, which  
10 is a long story we can talk about later, but that's creating  
11 more professional firefighters. When they all came in to  
12 interview for driver and captain this year, they all thought  
13 just by studying for the promotional process; they were well  
14 trained, they were way better firefighters than they ever were  
15 before.

16 Other things that happened, you know, we, sadly, had  
17 two deaths in our department this year, both off-duty deaths,  
18 but it takes a lot of work and effort to, you know,  
19 respectfully honor people and use the family's wishes and do  
20 it as best as we can for both Randy Hillen and Jeff Robson. I  
21 really think we did well to the families in supporting them as  
22 much as they wanted to be supported.

23 We mentioned earlier kicking off that community CPR  
24 program. Lahainaluna is like our star program right now, but  
25 this week we're doing 900 keiki in Kalama School, sixth,

1 seventh, and eighth grades, so that's a huge number of kids.

2 You know, we talked about social media early on,  
3 we've expanded our presence there.

4 Recruit classes in ocean safety and fire; we've  
5 graduated a couple. They're both coming up this week.  
6 Tomorrow's ocean safety, next -- in a couple of weeks is the  
7 fire recruit class, so very exciting to have new members.

8 We've expanded our training this year. Of course,  
9 we know things were kind of cut down due to COVID, but since  
10 COVID kind of went away, we've done about five external  
11 classes this year that we haven't been doing the last few  
12 years. Our all hazards incident management team training  
13 started up again. We worked with MEMA and Herman in emergency  
14 management to do an emergency operations center training class  
15 with the fire department. We brought in propane training to  
16 our members -- to certain members from an outside agency. We  
17 had a hazardous material technician class. We also worked  
18 with AMR and provided med-evac refreshers to all of the fire  
19 companies where the AMR med-evac is landing. So those are a  
20 lot of things that we couldn't do during COVID.

21 I don't want to ramble on too much. I know I've --  
22 like I said, I really pride ourselves and our administration  
23 in having good, strong relationships with the mayor's office,  
24 the commission, the community, and our members so that things  
25 are as transparent as possible and whenever there's a small

1 issue, we take care of it immediately before it turns into  
2 something big. I would -- I'm, I guess, most interested in  
3 after the evaluation is just finding out what the commission  
4 would like us to look at moving forward. We have a bunch of  
5 goals that I can share with you, but I'd also like to make  
6 sure we attain your goals.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Thank you very much,  
8 Chief Ventura.

9 So as I mentioned, what I'd like to -- or does  
10 anybody have any questions for Chief Ventura before we embark  
11 on the evaluation process?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, so as I mentioned, what  
14 I'd like to do is we have six kind of major criteria that we'd  
15 like to evaluate on and then have an overall one. So just for  
16 the public's benefit, the first one is regarding reliability  
17 and achieving goals. "Measures the fire chief's performance  
18 in completing assignments in a timely manner, ability to work  
19 effectively with little direction, keeping commitments,  
20 accepting responsibility, being flexible and when requested,  
21 adjusting to varying job situations. Measures the fire  
22 chief's performance in achieving program measurements, goals,  
23 and objectives."

24 Does any commissioner have any comments regarding  
25 that item prior to we deciding on whether he's substandard,

1 needs improvement, is satisfactory, or exceeds this item? And  
2 I'd appreciate comments that commissioners feel are both  
3 praiseworthy as well as any kind of constructive criticism or  
4 opportunities for improvement as well.

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Is there any particular comment that  
7 any commissioner wants to give regarding that?

8 VICE CHAIR VARES: Kyle, do you mean before or after  
9 the -- saying if it's satisfactory?

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Kind of -- I just thought it'd be --  
11 it would be good to have kind of some background for the  
12 public of why we would evaluate based on those four specific,  
13 you know, substandard, needs improvement. So I thought we'd  
14 just kind of fill in the comments on the bottom and then kind  
15 of from there, based on what we all feel, that we'd check one  
16 of the boxes.

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: I gotcha.

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Does that make sense?

19 VICE CHAIR VARES: Sure. Okay, I -- then I'll  
20 start.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure.

22 VICE CHAIR VARES: Just to get the ball rolling.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah, break the ice.

24 VICE CHAIR VARES: My comment for this one for the  
25 chief was that he has always proactively identified goals and

1 also challenges for the department to us as a commission, has  
2 always updated the commission on the progress of those goals  
3 and those challenges, and is always open to suggestions and  
4 requests from both the public and the commission. Very, very  
5 open to thinking outside the box or at least considering  
6 another alternative. You know, it doesn't mean that that  
7 suggestion is gonna be followed to the letter, but he's taken  
8 us all seriously and is always open to explaining any  
9 questions that we've got, so I've always appreciated that.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Any other commissioners want  
11 to expound on that or have other comments or criticisms?

12 COMMISSIONER BURNS: (Gesturing.)

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Dwight.

14 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Just to echo what Lisa said, I  
15 agree with Lisa a hundred percent, and the chief has always  
16 been transparent with the commission and as well as the public  
17 and as well as the firefighters that are currently under his  
18 -- what's the correct verbiage for that? But Chief Ventura  
19 always did a great job, even when he was assistant chief when  
20 we were on the commission when Lisa and I first came on. He's  
21 just -- everything he has done is always transparent. If we  
22 ask one question and he doesn't have the answer, he'll come  
23 back and give us the answer, so ditto to what Lisa said.  
24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Dwight.

1           Go ahead, Makalapua.

2           COMMISSIONER KANUHA: And I, too, you know -- I was  
3 writing all the notes of what he was saying and, you know, I  
4 just checked off all the boxes. And I, too, have to agree  
5 that, you know, he's been very transparent and a great leader  
6 for his team. He does collaborate with our local community.  
7 I mean, this past fire was just incredible. In our community,  
8 I'm just hearing a lot of the great things that the department  
9 has done, so I, too -- my comment is just to say that, you  
10 know, he -- his work is just outstanding. I appreciate that.

11          CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

12          Anyone else?

13          COMMISSIONER ALCON: (Gesturing.)

14          CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Punahale.

15          COMMISSIONER ALCON: I just want to say I agree with  
16 what everyone is saying. You know, based on the chief's  
17 summary of, you know, what he has accomplished over the last  
18 year, in my opinion, you're exceeding all expectations that we  
19 asked of you, and you're just doing one really solid job  
20 putting people first. Building relationships has just been  
21 wonderful. And it's so nice that you provided us a summary  
22 because it's so much easier for us to evaluate you based on  
23 what you said, so mahalo.

24          CHAIR GINOZA: Anyone else?

25          COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Kyle.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

2 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Kyle, yeah. Yeah, this is  
3 Gerald. Although I can't vote, yeah, can I say something as  
4 far as --

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure, absolutely.

6 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: As far as, you know, at the  
7 hospital, like the fire department has been responsive.  
8 Although even when we have false alarms, they're coming, and  
9 they've been responsive. We might get a little stinkeye.  
10 Their inspections have sometimes been brutal but fair. And  
11 I've just never had any -- any bad thing to say about the fire  
12 department. They've always been helpful, and any time we need  
13 help, they would go out of their way to help us. But anyway,  
14 that's all I wanted to say.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Gerald.

16 Any other -- any other comments?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIR GINOZA: So for me personally, I really  
19 appreciate that the chief has been empowering to his staff,  
20 that a lot of times the head doesn't give underlings the  
21 opportunity to -- to demonstrate what they do and to kind of  
22 come up to the commission. And it takes a lot to kind of  
23 introduce others where, you know, ultimately there will be a  
24 transition period about when he's no longer chief, but I think  
25 he's set up a good system where there's a number of people



1 that could step in because of the exposure to the commission,  
2 to stepping up to the public. So that's one of -- I echo, of  
3 course, what everybody else said, but that's what I like as a  
4 leader is to have that ability to develop his or her people.

5 So if we have no more comments on that, I'd like to  
6 just have a -- I don't know if it's like a motion to, what --  
7 what would people like to see between substandard, needs  
8 improvement, satisfactory, and exceeds for this first item  
9 about reliability and achieving goals?

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: Exceeds.

11 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Exceeds.

12 CORP COUNSEL DESJARDINS: Chair, I --

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, sorry. Mimi, go ahead.

14 CORP COUNSEL DESJARDINS: Yeah. No, I just wanted  
15 to mention, just because of that new Sunshine Law, you might  
16 ask whether there's anybody from the public -- I don't think  
17 there is on the line.

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh.

19 CORP COUNSEL DESJARDINS: -- who wants to give any  
20 public testimony on the issue of the evaluation, and then you  
21 can close public testimony. Thank you.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, great. Thank you.

23 Sorry about that, members of the public, but is  
24 there anyone wishing to testify from the public regarding this  
25 agenda item on the fire chief's annual evaluation?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, I guess I --  
3 maybe what I'll do is I'll just -- to kind of speed things on;  
4 it looked like everybody said exceeds, and after -- at the  
5 end, I'll just ask everybody for a roll call vote if they  
6 agree with it on the total evaluation. So it looks like for  
7 this one, people are saying exceeds.

8 For the -- for the second item, and I'll read for  
9 the benefit of the public. "Relationship With Others:  
10 Measures the fire chief's development and maintenance of  
11 positive and constructive internal/external relationships.  
12 Consideration should be given to the fire chief's demonstrated  
13 willingness to function as a team player, give and receive  
14 constructive criticism, resolve conflicts, recognize needs and  
15 sensitivities of others, and treat others in a fair and  
16 equitable manner."

17 So I like Lisa starting, so do you have any comment,  
18 Lisa, so that we can just echo and move along?

19 VICE CHAIR VARES: For this one, I just had little  
20 bullet points: Collaboration, transparency, and  
21 communication. And very obviously prioritizing building  
22 relationships within and expanding relationships within the  
23 community, within the other departments, all to the benefit of  
24 the public. Not just the department but actually the county.  
25 So that's -- it couldn't be -- it couldn't be better.

1 Definitely an exceeds for me.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Other comments from commissioners?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Well, that was very thorough. So  
5 could I just see if -- if people agree with exceeds, could I  
6 just see a raise of hands and that way I can -- so we can move  
7 on.

8 (Response.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

10 So the next item is "Job Knowledge: Measures the  
11 fire chief's demonstrated job relevance" -- sorry. "Measures  
12 the fire chief's demonstrated job-relevant knowledge and  
13 essential skills such as work practices, policies, procedures,  
14 resources, laws, community service, and technical information  
15 as well as the relationship of work to the organization's  
16 mission."

17 Any comments?

18 VICE CHAIR VARES: Well, I'll start. After four  
19 years, we've yet to stump him. And that's not to say that  
20 Chief Ventura knows every answer to every question we've got,  
21 but there's always somebody in the quiver that he can just  
22 pull out and say, Let's ask this guy; he knows what you're  
23 asking. So my notes on this were always very well prepared  
24 with experience and knowledge to perform duties and encourages  
25 further training and education for his staff, which is, I

1 think, mentioned extensively in his self-evaluation. I really  
2 appreciate knowing and hearing that the -- the trainees are --  
3 not the train -- people going for promotion are advancing  
4 themselves and getting excited about it all. I'm -- I've  
5 always been very impressed with the training and education  
6 focus of this administration. Exceeds.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Other comments from commissioners?

8 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I think Lisa summed it up real  
9 well. Let's just keep it rolling 'cause she took the words  
10 out of everybody's mouth.

11 (Laughter.)

12 CHAIR GINOZA: That's why I picked her.

13 (Laughter.)

14 VICE CHAIR VARES: A little weird, though, I've got  
15 (inaudible).

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, okay. Next one is No. 4,  
17 "Problem Solving and Decision-Making: Measures the extent to  
18 which the fire chief is self-directed, resourceful, and  
19 creative in performing job duties. Also measures the fire  
20 chief's performance in identifying, understanding, and  
21 resolving problems, following through on assignments, and  
22 initiating or modifying ideas, methods, or procedures, provide  
23 improved performance in accomplishing duties.

24 Comments? Lisa or whoever.

25 VICE CHAIR VARES: I'm gonna make somebody else do

1 their homework.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. It looks like Makalapua --

3 VICE CHAIR VARES: Who else --

4 CHAIR GINOZA: It looks like Makalapua did her  
5 homework.

6 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: You just call upon me?

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, I thought you were gonna say  
8 something, that's why.

9 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: No. I was gonna say Lisa.

10 (Laughter.)

11 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: No. So 4?

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Number 4.

13 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: I'm very satisfied with  
14 chief's explanation of his job, his knowledge, and it actually  
15 shows within his executive team. When they're giving their  
16 reports as well, they're very thorough in knowing their job.  
17 Not only in knowing their job, it's like how are they  
18 enhancing or improving their team? So that got -- he got my  
19 exceeds.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Other comments from commissioners  
21 regarding this item?

22 COMMISSIONER ALCON: (Gesturing.)

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Punahale.

24 COMMISSIONER ALCON: I just want to add I like the  
25 chief's increased focus on providing mental health services to

1 the department and expanding on that because it's -- it's a  
2 real issue throughout the state. And I just like that, that  
3 increased focus, so you get an exceeds from me on that. Thank  
4 you.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

6 Any other comments?

7 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I think he's incorporating  
8 the lifeguards and their whole entity smoothly into the MFD.  
9 It's quite impressive.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: That's great. Thank you, Max.

11 All right. Seeing none, let's move on to No. 5,  
12 second to the last. "Planning and" -- "Planning, Organizing,  
13 Setting Priorities: Measures the fire chief's performance in  
14 prioritizing assignments to minimize crisis situations, shows  
15 foresight to prevent potential problems from developing,  
16 continuing work plans for short- and/or long-range plans,  
17 identifies and utilizes resources and personnel effectively.  
18 Develops goals of the department consistent with the mission  
19 of the county. Proposes and reviews benchmarks to monitor  
20 work progress and follows up on assignments."

21 Any comments?

22 VICE CHAIR VARES: That's definitely.

23 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Doesn't everything he does  
24 reflect that?

25 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yeah, yeah, I agree with Max.

1 And the level of empowerment that the staff has is -- is a  
2 good reflection of that as well. So I really like working  
3 with all of these guys, by the way, and it -- they all reflect  
4 so well on each other. But yeah, I agree with Max.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other comments on this one?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Lastly, let's see if he has  
8 negative marks on leadership or not. "Leadership: Measures  
9 the fire chief's performance in effectively managing programs,  
10 projects, employees, budget, technology, and organizational  
11 change to produce positive results. Motivating and managing  
12 others to achieve the mission, vision, goals, and objectives  
13 of the organization. It also reflects initiative, a drive for  
14 excellence, special job knowledge, and the willingness to  
15 accept and seek responsibility. Take calculated and measured  
16 risks which communicate on both a verbal and written basis."

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay, back to me. My notes on  
18 this was more of an anecdote. When we were doing the  
19 investigation for the hiring of the fire chief, Dwight, and  
20 former Commissioner Donna, and I spent months researching the  
21 candidates, and a lot of that was spent a lot of time talking  
22 to any member of the fire department that wished to reach out  
23 to us. We passed out our phone numbers, and I probably talked  
24 to, I don't know, a hundred people from either fire or ocean  
25 safety or admin, anybody who wanted to talk to me talked to

1 me, and they talked a lot. And out of every single person I  
2 spoke to, I'm not kidding, it didn't matter who they were  
3 supporting -- and that was one of the first things that I  
4 would ask -- not a single person had a single negative thing  
5 to say about Bradford Ventura, not one. That -- that's the  
6 best answer I can give. It's exceeds.

7 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I agree with Lisa on that. And  
8 the chief is -- the chief's performance, we just saw it in his  
9 presentation on the budget, we just heard him, and his  
10 presentation is always off the charts. So is his staff's, so  
11 is his assistant chiefs', everybody. Like we all said, not  
12 just la la lo. Exceeds for me with Chief Ventura.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Any -- any other comments?

14 COMMISSIONER BURNS: With all the chiefs. Let me  
15 rephrase that. Exceeds with all the chiefs.

16 VICE CHAIR VARES: I agree. All four are very, very  
17 (inaudible).

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Max.

19 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Initially, when we all had to  
20 vote for a new chief, there was a lot of criticism both ways  
21 for all candidates; however, his presentation of his goals and  
22 his restructuring of the fire department has proved itself a  
23 big plus for him because not only did he win all of us over,  
24 but in his choices as far as like his support staff we see  
25 here. But in the long run, even the training of the men under



1 his command showing more professionalism in their duties and  
2 how they pull it off reflects a lot on his leadership and his  
3 personality. So I'm -- I'm exceeds on this goal.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: I cannot tell if you're crying, Max,  
5 but you're making me cry.

6 (Laughter.)

7 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah. So don't let it go to  
8 your head, Brad.

9 (Laughter.)

10 CHAIR GINOZA: So, any other comments from  
11 commissioners? We've got to have at least one area of working  
12 on something. I had problems -- oh, go ahead.

13 VICE CHAIR VARES: I mean, it's not -- I'm not gonna  
14 say it's a weakness or something that needs to be worked on.  
15 I would say the level of humility is -- has always been  
16 impressive and -- and a very welcome change for someone high  
17 up in any kind of administration. Caring too much, does that  
18 -- is that a thing? I mean, I -- I've never been able to  
19 judge if something I'm talking to Brad Ventura about is a high  
20 priority or not because they all seem to be like the top  
21 priority. Did I just bump -- did this little thing that I  
22 just mentioned just bump to the top of the priorities? I  
23 guess maybe just my only concern is spreading an excellent  
24 administrator too thin just because of the -- the want and the  
25 desire to be the best and to do -- not to be the best, he's

1 not a be the best guy -- to do the best for the community. So  
2 I -- I love this level of leadership we're at. I do not want  
3 to spread it too thin and break our new favorite toy. I want  
4 this level of leadership for the next ten years, please.  
5 That's my only comment.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

7 Any other comments from commissioners before I kind  
8 of summarize what we've discussed?

9 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Chair Ginoza, are we able to  
10 --

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

12 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Are we able to -- are we able  
13 to say something? This is Chief Fujioka.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: I don't -- I don't think so. No, you  
15 can. You can go, I guess. Unless Mimi says otherwise, go  
16 ahead.

17 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Okay. No, I'm just echoing  
18 what Chair Vares was saying about spreading our -- you know,  
19 Brad's too thin. I mean, for him to take a chance on us being  
20 his staff just shows something about his confidence and his  
21 knowledge for the job. We came up -- I came up as a fire  
22 captain, you know, Chief Giese was from ocean safety, you  
23 know, Hanalei was a BC online, but that just shows how much  
24 confidence he had in bringing his team up with him and  
25 teaching us the proper -- the way, you know, his -- and his

1 vision.

2 And I can tell you this, Brad, he will never be by  
3 himself. He's got me right beside him a hundred percent of  
4 the time. And the two assistant chiefs, they're right behind,  
5 right on the side of us. So, you know, he does a lot of that  
6 face recognition because he's the fire chief, but I can tell  
7 you, we are a hundred percent behind Brad because we just --  
8 and we love working back here. I mean, his leadership, his  
9 vision is awesome. It's easy to come to work. So we're --  
10 we're right by his side, and we'll let his -- we won't spread  
11 him out too thin. We'll definitely pick up the slack if he  
12 starts to get a little thin. But --

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Too thin on his hair, but  
14 doesn't match.

15 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: But, yeah, I just wanted to  
16 echo that. I mean, it's -- for me being in here every single  
17 day, with Chief Brad at the county building every week making  
18 those relationships, talking to council members, talking to  
19 directors. I don't think anybody has -- would expect that  
20 from -- from our -- as far as how much we do and how important  
21 it is. We -- I don't think we ever went to the county  
22 building without stopping into another director's office just  
23 to make a conversation and talk about something. And that's  
24 all -- and I think we go multiple floors, easily, ninth floor,  
25 third floor, sixth floor. So we -- that relationship thing is

1 awesome, and it's -- it helped us immensely in this first  
2 year. But thank you.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

4 Any other comments?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, thank you.

7 So, again, you know, I think from the commission  
8 side, I think Lisa and I perhaps have the most interaction  
9 with Brad kind of offline, trying to kind of set the agendas,  
10 understand things that affect (inaudible) and the response of  
11 them. So unless anybody has any issue with the evaluation, as  
12 I'll mention, this is the way I'd like to proceed, that based  
13 on our discussion, we summarize -- Lisa and I will summarize  
14 it for each of the six items. I believe we're in consensus  
15 that each of the items plus the overall evaluation would be  
16 exceeds for Chief Bradford Ventura.

17 Does anybody have any -- disagree or have any other  
18 comments before I ask for a motion to be able to have Lisa and  
19 I summarize what we've discussed and to transmit this to the  
20 mayor and to the council? Other comment or disagreement?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, I'd  
23 appreciate a motion to -- to allow us to transmit this  
24 evaluation to the mayor and the council as discussed.

25 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I'd like to make a motion to

1 translate this evaluation sheet to the mayor.

2 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: I second.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dwight, and second by  
4 Makalapua. And let's just kind of go through a roll call vote  
5 just to be sure.

6 So, Lisa.

7 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Dwight.

9 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Yes.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Punahale.

11 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Yes.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: (Inaudible.)

13 VICE CHAIR VARES: Kyle?

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Makalapua.

15 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Yes.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Gordon, I think Gordon's still here.

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIR GINOZA: I think Dale and -- Dale.

19 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Yes.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. And Gerald cannot vote.

21 So we have a -- we have a majority, so Lisa and I  
22 will summarize this. I think we all provided good feedback  
23 and, you know, congrats to Chief Ventura for a job well done,  
24 and we all wish -- know that he will continue the great  
25 service to the county.

1 But maybe Mimi has something to add.

2 CORP COUNSEL DESJARDINS: No, just clarify. I know  
3 that Commissioner Burns made a motion to have this transmitted  
4 to the mayor, but I know you folks intend to do it to the  
5 mayor and the council. So just for clarity's sake --

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay.

7 CORP COUNSEL DESJARDINS: -- the motion was to  
8 transmit to both parties. Thank you.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, both. Verifying, Dwight?

10 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I'm sorry.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: That's what you meant, right?

12 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Yes, to the mayor and to the  
13 council. Right?

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Yep.

15 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Right.

16 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: And I second.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: And unless anybody changes it, we  
18 announce we agreed to that.

19 So I really appreciate everyone's taking the extra  
20 time for this meeting. I know -- I knew that because of the  
21 importance of really getting through the budget as well as  
22 providing Chief Ventura an evaluation and some guidance --

23 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Kyle?

24 CHAIR GINOZA: -- good for -- yes, Dwight.

25 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Chair, I think you cut when you

1 was calling on Max for the vote.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh. Oh, Max, would you agree that we  
3 transmit?

4 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Oh, shucks, I thought that  
5 was just design. Yeah, go for it.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah, sorry, I guess something's  
7 wrong with my internet because I'm just like frozen.

8 But, yeah, so thank you, everyone, for your service  
9 to the commission and for your insight and input in both the  
10 budget process (inaudible) chief's evaluation.

11 As we previously discussed, we'll skip the December  
12 meeting, and Richelle will send out the next calendar of  
13 meetings for 2024. I really appreciate everybody's service,  
14 and I hope everyone has a safe and joyful holiday season since  
15 we won't see each other until next year. So thank you,  
16 everybody, both the fire department and others, and corp  
17 counsel and others, for your participation in the meeting  
18 today. It is 12:32 p.m., and I'd like to adjourn the Maui  
19 Fire and Public Safety November commission meeting. Thank  
20 you. Take care, everybody.

21 (The proceedings were adjourned at 12:32 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2 STATE OF HAWAII )  
3 COUNTY OF MAUI ) SS.  
4

5 I, Sandra J. Gran, Certified Shorthand Reporter for  
6 the State of Hawaii, hereby certify that on November 17, 2022,  
7 at 10:04 a.m., the proceeding was taken down by me in machine  
8 shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form under  
9 my supervision; that the foregoing represents, to the best of  
10 my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings  
11 had in the foregoing matter.  
12

13 I further certify that I am not an attorney for any  
14 of the parties hereto, nor in any way concerned with the  
15 cause.  
16

17 DATED this 28th day of November, 2022, in Maui,  
18 Hawaii.  
19

20  
21 

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Sandra J. Gran, RPR  
24 Hawaii CSR 424  
25 \_\_\_\_\_