

Resolution No.: 20-399
Introduced: November 14, 2023
Adopted: February 6, 2024

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Agreement between the County and the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association (MCVFRA) – Fiscal Year 2024

Background

1. County Code Section 21-6 establishes a process for Local Fire and Rescue Departments (LFRDs) to select an authorized representative to represent their interests, and requires the Fire Chief to negotiate in good faith with the authorized representative on certain issues affecting LFRDs and their volunteers.
2. The LFRDs selected the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association (MCVFRA) to be their authorized representative.
3. On November 1, 2023, the Executive submitted to the Council a fully executed Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) between the Montgomery County Government and MCVFRA effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.
4. County Code Section 21-6(p) requires the Executive to submit to the Council any element of an agreement with the LFRD authorized representative that requires an appropriation of funds, may have a future fiscal impact, is inconsistent with any County law or regulation, or requires the enactment or adoption of any County law or regulation.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

For FY2024, the County Council approves the following provisions of the MOA, which require a change in law or have an increased fiscal impact for FY2024 over FY2023:

1. *Length of Service Awards (LOSAP).* The Executive agreed to submit legislation to the Council to increase, effective July 1, 2023, the amount of LOSAP benefits provided to certain local fire and rescue department volunteers. The Executive submitted the proposed legislation to the Council on November 1, 2023, which was

introduced as Expedited Bill 41-23. The increase in LOSAP benefits is contingent upon the enactment of Expedited Bill 41-23.

2. *Association Operating Funds.* The MOA requires the County to increase its payments to MCVFRA, to operate as LFRD's authorized representative, by 8% effective July 1, 2023, by 5% effective July 1, 2024, and by 4% effective July 1, 2025.
3. *Nominal Fee.* Article 12 of the MOA requires the County to pay:
 - (a) a nominal fee to each eligible volunteer of \$600 in FY24, \$625 in FY25, and \$650 in FY26; or
 - (b) if the active volunteer meets certain criteria, a nominal fee to the volunteer of \$1,200 in FY2024, \$1,300 in FY25, and \$1,400 for FY2026. The criteria include that the volunteer: (i) is on the Integrated Emergency Command Structure (IECS) certified list; (ii) received the maximum allowable LOSAP points for department or station responses as specified in Section 21-21(k)(6) of the Montgomery County Code in the previous calendar year; and (iii) received the maximum allowable LOSAP points for sleep-in or stand-by as specified in Section 21-21(k)(3) of the Montgomery County Code in the previous calendar year.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Sara R. Tenenbaum
Clerk of the Council