



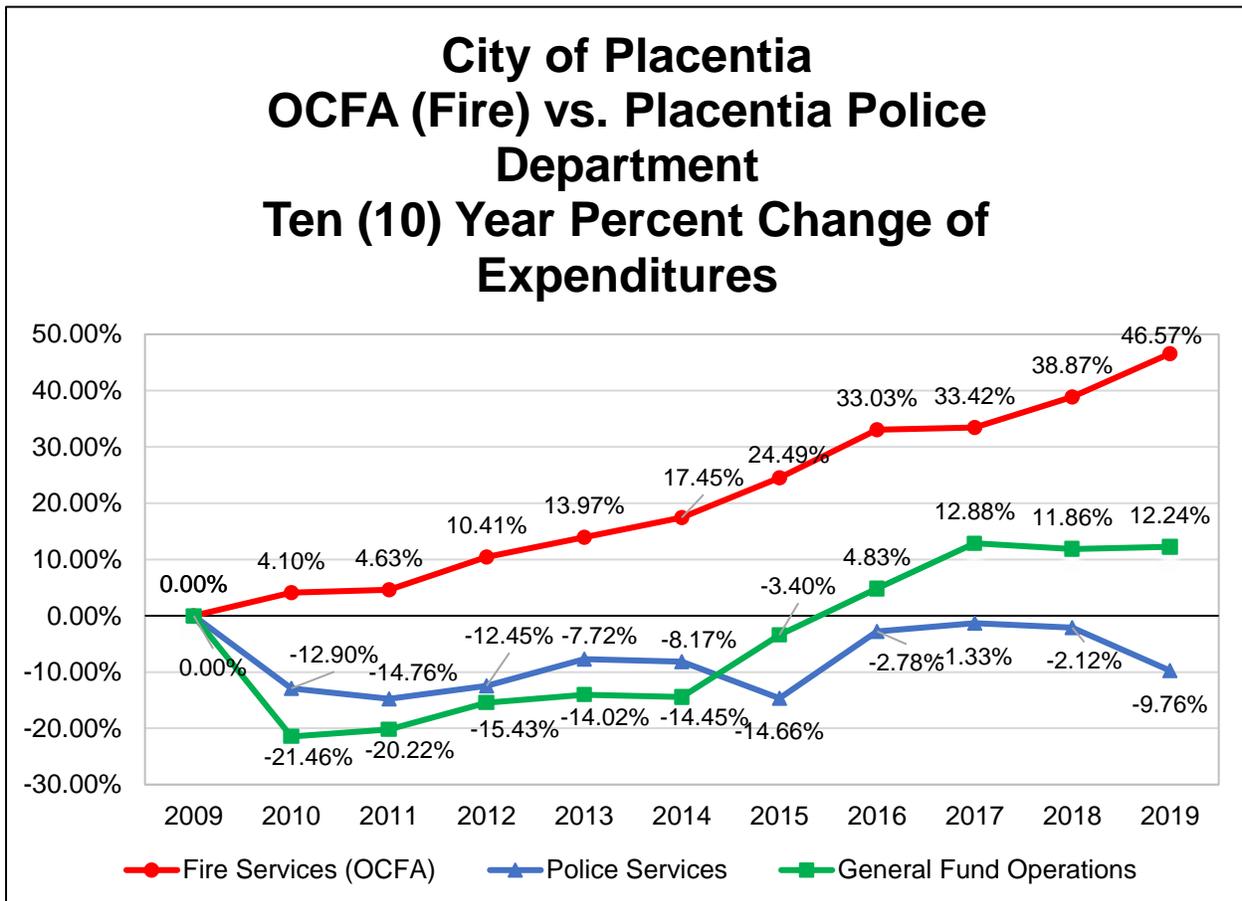
# FACT SHEET

## BACKGROUND

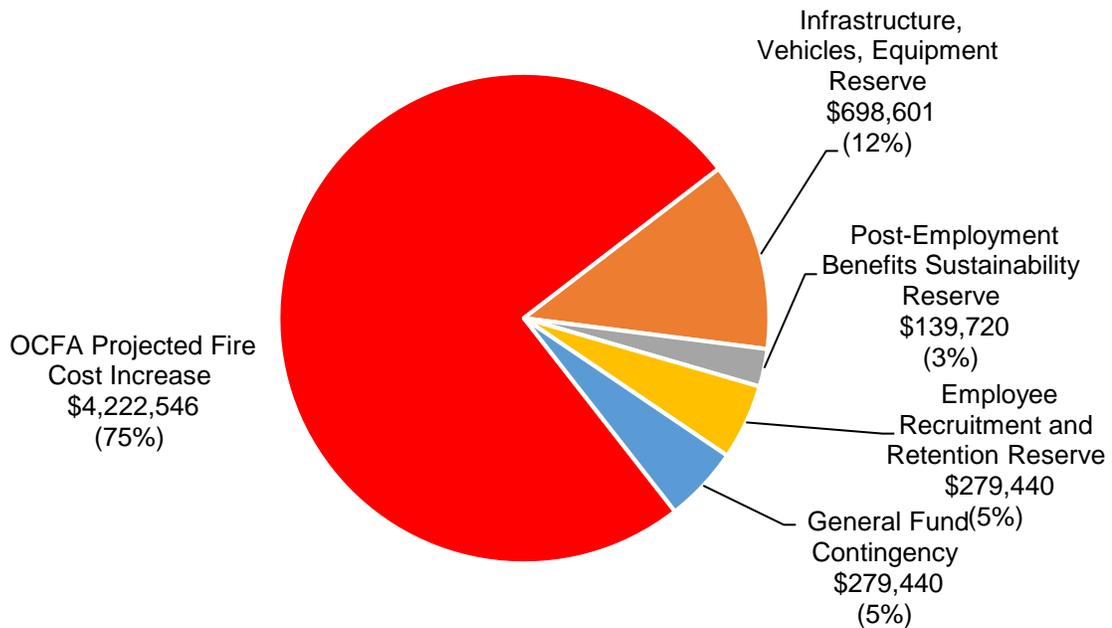


The City of Placentia embarked on a fact-finding journey to learn more about the background of fire services in Orange County and specifically in Placentia. Below are the key findings that helped inform policy decisions that lead to creating our own, local, Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department:

- To preserve the City's ability to examine and improve high-quality emergency response programs and service models and ensure the cost to provide those programs are reasonable and sustainable, in June 2018, the City chose not to renew its OCFA contract for an additional 10 years. Had the City done nothing, the agreement would have rolled over for an additional 12 years and eliminated any opportunity for the City to implement any improvements for our residents or cost controls.
- An Orange County Grand Jury evaluated OCFA operations and finances in 2012 and found that cities who contract with OCFA should evaluate alternative models including "separating the fire response from the medical response" and review the finances.
- During the financial review, it was found that the cost to Placentia taxpayers for OCFA contract services has increased by 47% since 2009. During the same period, the City's General Fund budget increased by only 12%.



## FY 2029-30 Measure U Allocation Post-OCFA Increase



- The cost for OCFA today is \$6.5 million for two fire stations. The cost for OCFA in ten years will be \$10.6 million for the same two fire stations.
- The costs for OCFA would continue to rise and be unsustainable for the City's budget, consuming 75% of Measure U by FY29/30. This would leave little money for streets, roads, and public safety services including policing.
- OCFA is allowed to increase costs as much as 4.5% annually. If the estimated increase is greater than 4.5%, the remaining can be "banked" and added onto another year's total, even during a Recession (when the City conducted layoffs).
- During the review of alternative models, the City of Placentia hired a reputable firm Center for Public Safety Management to evaluate the work of OCFA to better inform any decisions made by the City. The Fact Sheet on the OCFA Workload Analysis can be found at [www.placentia.org/cpsmreport](http://www.placentia.org/cpsmreport).
- The workload analysis showed that a majority of Placentia's 911 calls are for emergency medical services (80%) and less than 1% of calls were for significant structure fires, solidifying the need to increase services in emergency medical services.
- The review of alternate models also revealed that the Orange County model of emergency medical services differs from the model offered throughout California. 56 out of 58 counties in California use private 911 paramedic services. Orange County and Los Angeles County use fire-based 911 paramedic services. Many Orange County cities contract with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) for their fire department and fire-based 911 paramedic services.

- The City completed a comprehensive request for proposal process, to solicit competitive proposals for high-quality Fire and Emergency Medical Services that would improve response times, improve quality of care, ensure local control and be fiscally responsible.
- After a nationally-renowned panel of experts, with 208 years of experiencing including the Placentia Police Chief, analyzed the proposals, Lynch Ambulance was selected for 911 ALS paramedics services and the Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department was selected for Fire Services.
- The City is proud to announce the Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department will take command on July 1, 2020 alongside our private, paramedic service provider Lynch Ambulance.