

TORRANCE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 36

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE TORRANCE COUNTY EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters are critical to the operations of rural fire departments and have a significant impact on emergency response times to rural communities, as well as ISO ratings; and

WHEREAS, the Torrance County Fire Department has had a difficult time recruiting and retaining volunteer fire fighters for its current fire districts, particularly in the southern portion of Torrance County; and

WHEREAS, on many occasions firefighting staff and resources are deployed from Moriarty, NM or McIntosh, NM to respond to fires in the more remote areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, Torrance County currently employs approximately 143 employees, a majority of which reside in Torrance County and would be eligible to participate as a volunteer firefighter; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to pursue an Employee Volunteer Firefighting Program (EVFP) to allow employees who reside in Torrance County to pursue volunteer supportive services in the fire districts in which they reside; and

WHEREAS, one of the barriers to volunteer firefighting participation is the requirement for training hours, particularly for volunteers with fulltime jobs; and

WHEREAS, to overcome the training barrier, the EVFP envisions providing pre-approved administrative leave to allow EVFP participants to train during common working hours.

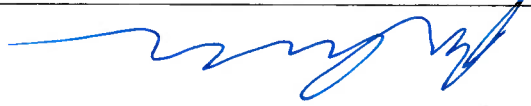
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County that the Commission hereby authorizes the Employee Volunteer Firefighting Pilot Program based on the following parameters.

1. To qualify as an EVFP participant, an employee must be non-probationary, in good standing with their department and must have residence within the jurisdictional boundaries of Torrance County.

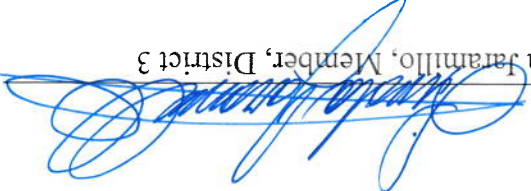
2. The Fire Department shall establish a volunteer support training program to include up to 20 hours of training that would provide EVFP participants the basic knowledge to provide fire support within their districts.
3. The County Manager shall be authorized to provide up to 20 hours of administrative leave to allow EVFP participant to engage in the training program during normal working hours.
4. The training program shall be maxed at 5hr per week, to not create significant disruptions to normal Torrance County business operations.
5. Following the completion of the EVFP, participants shall be assigned to their Torrance County Fire District for additional training and deployment.
6. EVFP participants who respond to calls in a volunteer firefighter capacity shall do so in accordance with the Standard Operating Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures of the Torrance County Fire Department. In addition, EVFP participants who respond to fire calls shall be eligible for per-call pay in accordance with volunteer policy, and shall not accrue pay at their standard employment pay rate, accrue overtime, or accrue leave for hours exercised in a volunteer capacity.
7. The Torrance County Fire Chief and County Manager shall report back to the Commission 3-months following the completion of the EVFP training program to provide an update on the program's effectiveness. This report shall include the number of EVFP participants, whether or not those participants are engaged in their fire districts, and the estimated impact of EVFP participants on fire and emergency response.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 16 DAY OF September, 2025.

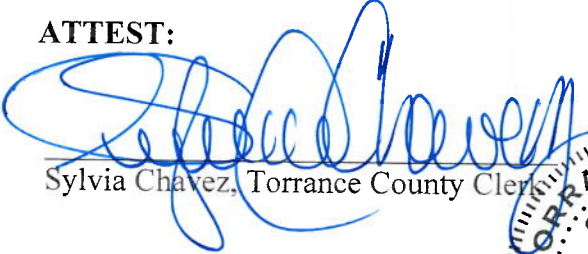
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TORRANCE COUNTY:


 Ryan Schwabach, Chair, District 2


 Kevin McCall, Vice Chair, District 1

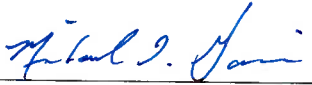

 Linda Jaramillo, Member, District 3

ATTEST:


Sylvia Chavez, Torrance County Clerk

9/10/2025

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Michael Garcia, Torrance County Attorney

