



George Latimer
County Executive
July 11, 2024

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators:

Attached for your consideration is an Act which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services ("DES") to enter into an intermunicipal agreement ("Agreement") with the Valhalla Fire District ("District") for a term of two (2) years commencing retroactively on January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2024. For the services to be provided, the District will be paid the aggregate amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars, subject to appropriation. The County's agreement with the District for these same services expired on December 31, 2022.

In order to respond to the unique environments existing on the Grasslands Reservation, the District will participate in specialized training and activities with the Grasslands Fire Brigade and furnish, at its sole cost and expense, equipment appropriate to prepare for fire suppression activities and rescue operations on the Grasslands Reservation. The proposed Agreement is essential for the enhancement of fire protection on the Grasslands Reservation. More particularly, the District will be required to perform the following services:

(a) The District agrees to train with DES staff and develop a plan whereby the District may be called upon to operate District vehicles (if available) or DES vehicles to transport the Mass Decontamination Unit ("MDU") trailer, Rough Terrain Vehicle ("RTV") transport trailers, Mass Casualty Incident ("MCI") trailers or other types of equipment trailers owned by the County to emergency scenes in and around Westchester County. Said training shall be conducted with County staff and designees at a time and location to be determined by the County in consultation with the District. Said training shall include, but not be limited to, trailer/vehicle attachment and detachment, trailer tow vehicle safety instruction and familiarization with County driver policies and procedures.

The District shall supply and maintain a minimum of six (6) firefighters who have completed said training. Each identified firefighter must be capable of being pre-cleared by the County Office of Risk Management as a qualified motor vehicle operator.

The District agrees to supply a qualified firefighter/driver within 30 minutes of the initial request to transport the trailer(s) to the scene upon request from the County Emergency

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148 Martine Avenue
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Telephone: (914)995-2900

Website: WestchesterCountyNY.gov

Communications Center (ECC-60 Control), provided it has the trained personnel available to do so. The District will not be responsible, if after a good faith effort to locate a trained operator(s), it is unable to respond to a request for a driver. Should the District fail to respond to three (3) such requests during any calendar year of this Agreement, the County reserves the right to deem such failure to perform as a material breach and cancel the Agreement immediately. In the event the Agreement is so terminated, to the extent there are any unpaid fees, said fees shall be prorated to the date of termination.

(b) Participate in annual, joint training; site "walkthroughs"; preparation of pre-plans; participation in tabletops and drills with the Grasslands Fire Brigade, County employees and designees. Such training shall be conducted at a time and location to be determined by the County in consultation w/ the District. Documentation of participation in said activities (including attendance rolls) shall be reported in writing to the DES Director of Fire Services within thirty (30) days of occurrence.

(c) Maintain a minimum of twenty-four (24) firefighters trained in the NYS Decontamination curriculum for the Fire District firefighters to operate upon request, the decontamination equipment at the Westchester Medical Center and the DES MDU. Training of the Fire District's firefighters will include familiarization with the process of erecting and operating decontamination equipment during emergencies in order to maintain a standard of fitness to competently operate said decontamination equipment.

(d) Requests for decontamination response will be placed by the Department of Emergency Services, Emergency Communications Center (ECC-60 Control) or the Westchester Medical Center, through the Department of Emergency Services, Emergency Communications Center (ECC-60 Control).

(e) Conduct at least one drill to demonstrate the capability to establish and operate the decontamination equipment in conjunction with Westchester Medical Center staff and the Grasslands Fire Brigade, County employees and designees. Said drill shall be scheduled jointly by the District and DES.

(f) Maintain an ongoing professional standard of communication with the Grasslands Fire Brigade.

(g) Issue a quarterly report to the DES Commissioner by the last Friday of the month following the end of the previous quarter, i.e., the last Friday in the months of April, July, October and January, itemizing and providing a summary for the previous quarter's activities. Said report shall contain information on all activities involving the Grasslands Reservation and report on the success of any special initiatives or projects.

I believe this Agreement to be in the best interest of the County and, therefore, recommend your favorable action on the annexed proposed Act.

Very truly yours,



George Latimer
Westchester County Executive

GL/RGW/cmc /Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee is in receipt of a communication from the County Executive forwarding for your Honorable Board's consideration an Act which, if approved, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services ("DES") to enter into an intermunicipal agreement ("Agreement") with the Valhalla Fire District ("District") for a term of two (2) years commencing retroactively on January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2024. For the services to be provided, the District will be paid the aggregate amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars, subject to appropriation. The County's agreement with the District for these same services expired on December 31, 2022.

In order to respond to the unique environments existing on the Grasslands Reservation, the District will participate in specialized training and activities with the Grasslands Fire Brigade and furnish, at its sole cost and expense, equipment appropriate to prepare for fire suppression activities and rescue operations on the Grasslands Reservation. The proposed Agreement is essential for the enhancement of fire protection on the Grasslands Reservation. More particularly, the District will be required to perform the following services:

(a) The District agrees to train with DES staff and develop a plan whereby the District may be called upon to operate District vehicles (if available) or DES vehicles to transport the Mass Decontamination Unit ("MDU") trailer, Rough Terrain Vehicle ("RTV") transport trailers, Mass Casualty Incident ("MCI") trailers or other types of equipment trailers owned by the County to emergency scenes in and around Westchester County. Said training shall be conducted with County staff and designees at a time and location to be determined by the County in consultation with the District. Said training shall include, but not be limited to, trailer/vehicle attachment and detachment, trailer tow vehicle safety instruction and familiarization with County driver policies and procedures.

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The District agrees to supply a qualified firefighter/driver within 30 minutes of the initial request to transport the trailer(s) to the scene upon request from the County Emergency Communications Center (ECC-60 Control), provided it has the trained

personnel available to do so. The District will not be responsible, if after a good faith effort to locate a trained operator(s), it is unable to respond to a request for a driver. Should the District fail to respond to three (3) such requests during any calendar year of this Agreement, the County reserves the right to deem such failure to perform as a material breach and cancel the Agreement immediately. In the event the Agreement is so terminated, to the extent there are any unpaid fees, said fees shall be prorated to the date of termination.

(b) Participate in annual, joint training; site “walkthroughs”; preparation of pre-plans; participation in tabletops and drills with the Grasslands Fire Brigade, County employees and designees. Such training shall be conducted at a time and location to be determined by the County in consultation w/ the District. Documentation of participation in said activities (including attendance rolls) shall be reported in writing to the DES Director of Fire Services within thirty (30) days of occurrence.

(c) Maintain a minimum of twenty four (24) firefighters trained in the NYS Decontamination curriculum for the Fire District firefighters to operate upon request, the decontamination equipment at the Westchester Medical Center and the DES MDU. Training of the Fire District's firefighters will include familiarization with the process of erecting and operating decontamination equipment during emergencies in order to maintain a standard of fitness to competently operate said decontamination equipment.

(d) Requests for decontamination response will be placed by the Department of Emergency Services, Emergency Communications Center (ECC-60 Control) or the Westchester Medical Center, through the Department of Emergency Services, Emergency Communications Center (ECC-60 Control).

(e) Conduct at least one drill to demonstrate the capability to establish and operate the decontamination equipment in conjunction with Westchester Medical Center staff and the Grasslands Fire Brigade, County employees and designees. Said drill shall be scheduled jointly by the District and DES.

(f) Maintain an ongoing professional standard of communication with the Grasslands Fire Brigade.

(g) Issue a quarterly report to the DES Commissioner by the last Friday of the month following the end of the previous quarter, i.e., the last Friday in the months of April, July, October and January, itemizing and providing a summary for the previous quarter's activities. Said report shall contain information on all activities involving the Grasslands Reservation and report on the success of any special initiatives or projects.

The Department of Planning has advised your Committee that based on its review, the authorization of the proposed Agreement does/do not meet the definition of an action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated

January 8, 2024, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs with this recommendation.

An affirmative vote of a majority of the voting strength of your Honorable Board is required for approval of the attached Act.

Your Committee has carefully considered the proposed Act and believes it to be in the best interest of the County and, therefore, recommends your Honorable Board's favorable action on the annexed proposed Act.

Dated: _____, 2024
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

C:CMC.07.11.2024

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: IMA -Valhalla Fire District NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

GENERAL FUND AIRPORT FUND SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ 100,000

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): Current Appropriations Transfer of Existing Appropriations
 Additional Appropriations Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: 101_20_1000_4420 IMA with Valhalla FD for fire suppression services for a
term of two years, commencing January 1, 2023 and expiring December 31, 2024 for a NTE of \$100,000.

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: _____

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount N/A

Describe: _____

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: N/A

Next Four Years: N/A

Prepared by: Patricia Haggerty

Title: Sr. Budget Analyst

Department: Budget

Date: July 9, 2024

Reviewed By: 

Budget Director

Date: 7/15/24

ACT NO. 2024-_____

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Valhalla Fire District to provide specialized training and fire suppression services for a two (2) year term commencing retroactively on January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2024, in an aggregate amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Valhalla Fire District (“District”) for a term of two (2) years commencing retroactively on January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2024.

§2. The District will participate in specialized training and activities with the Grasslands Fire Brigade and furnish, at its sole cost and expense, equipment appropriate to prepare for fire suppression activities and rescue operations on the Grasslands Reservation. For the services to be provided, the District will be paid the aggregate amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) Dollars, subject to appropriation.

§3. The County Executive or his authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute instruments and take all action necessary and appropriate to accomplish the purposes hereof.

§4. This Act shall take effect immediately.