

**COUNTY OF SISKIYOU
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: April 18, 2023

TO: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Bryan Schenone, Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Sheltering for McKinney Fire Survivors Experiencing Homelessness

BACKGROUND:

The McKinney Fire started on July 29, 2022 off of Highway 96 and McKinney Creek Road, burning a total of 60,138 acres and destroying 185 structures. At least 87 of the destroyed structures were residences, leaving many members of the Klamath River community homeless. While most McKinney Fire survivors have found permanent or temporary shelter, a small group still remain homeless.

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) has partnered with Health and Human Services (HHSA) and United Way to find a solution to shelter those individuals who continue to remain homeless due to the McKinney Fire.

In 2021 the Department of General Services procured six (6) FEMA trailers for Health & Human Services, with funding through Project Room Key. These trailers were placed at Cove Mobile Vila for homeless housing during the COVID pandemic. Project Room Key funding expired in late 2021 and HHSA has maintained the trailers through other housing funding resources throughout 2022. HHSA staff has recently determined that the trailers are not being fully utilized, are no longer cost effective in HHSA's current available housing programs and no longer has a need to retain ownership of the trailers.

After discussions between OES and HHSA staff, it was recommended that the 6 trailers, which are county property, be transferred to OES, for placement in the McKinney Creek and Yreka area, for McKinney Fire survivors.

HHSA staff has coordinated a walk through of the trailers with OES staff to assess the condition of the trailers, to ensure suitability for occupation by McKinney Fire survivors. Records of Acquisition have been prepared to transfer the trailers from HHSA to OES and then from OES to Surplus. Large propane tanks have been removed by Suburban Propane and a janitorial team came in to preform a deep clean of all the trailers. General Services Facility Maintenance team has unhooked all hard lines from the trailers and the trailers have been hauled away from Cove Mobile to the County Yard for storage.

Trailers being transferred to OES are listed below:

- 2020 Coleman Lantern LT 17B
- 2020 White Hawk 23MRB
- 2020 Jay Flight SLX 324BDSW
- 2020 Jay Flight SLX 287BHSW
- 2020 White Hawk 23MRB28
- 2020 Mallard IDM312 or 2020 Keystone Springdale 282BH (Pending State Approval)

Additionally, OES has committed to assist McKinney Fire survivors in obtaining assistance, through United Way's Stable Housing Opportunities Program (SHOP), which is designed to help fire survivors who are currently homeless or are in a precarious housing situation that could likely lead to homelessness. As a homelessness prevention program, SHOP provides financial assistance to survivors who have identified a housing solution and need financial assistance to pursue or secure it.

RECOMMENDATION:

As the County no longer has a need to retain ownership of these trailers and pursuant to Government Code Section 25504, the Office of Emergency Services is seeking approval from the Board to authorize the County Purchasing Agent to direct sell 6 FEMA trailers to McKinney Fire survivors currently experiencing homelessness due to the fire.