



CITY OF MARICOPA FIRE/MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Office of the Fire Chief
"You Are Worth It"

Date: June 9th, 2026
To: Micah Gaudet, DCM
From: Brad Pitassi, Fire Chief
Subject: Chandler Fire Training IGA

The City of Phoenix Automatic Aid agreement requires all fire recruits to complete training at a recognized regional fire academy. Chandler Fire Department's recruit academy is a recognized regional training center, and we have utilized them in the past for a recruit academy. Chandler is already our primary partner for quarterly operations and EMS training. This request is to approve a new IGA with Chandler Fire Department to allow us to use them for the recruit academy starting in FY27.

Chandler recently removed the EMT prerequisite from their firefighter hiring standards and now runs all recruits through their own EMT course prior to the fire academy creating one longer academy. That structural change prompted Chandler to draft a new IGA for the fire recruit training academy services— which is this separate IGA for recruit academy training is required, distinct from the quarterly training IGA we already have in place.

This agreement does not increase the cost of recruit academy costs.

Beyond the standard recruit academy, this IGA includes access to EMT certification and Paramedic certification services. We will not use the EMT certification pathway for this hiring year, but are exploring the option for future hiring. Paramedic certification remains a possibility — and if we pursue it, there would be no additional cost, as that service falls within what's already accounted for in the FY 27 budget.

A Note on Broader Strategy

The department's intent is to pursue IGAs with all seven approved training academies within our automatic aid system. The valley is experiencing significant hiring activity across multiple agencies right now, and a training center has every right to prioritize and fill a class with its own recruits. Relying on a single provider creates scheduling risk we can't afford when we're trying to staff new stations and maintain our operational strength.

Building a portfolio of approved IGAs doesn't mean we'll use all of them simultaneously. It means that when a need arises, sometimes at the last minute, we can select the best fit — whether that's based on timing, cohort size, proximity, or curriculum focus — while remaining fully compliant with our automatic aid requirements. The more options we have just make us better positioned to execute our staffing plans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Pitassi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brad Pitassi
Fire Chief
City of Maricopa Fire/Medical Department