

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert Sapien, Jr.

**SUBJECT: FIRE DEPARTMENT SELF-
CONTAINED BREATHING
APPARATUS IN-SERVICE**

DATE: April 4, 2022

Approved



Date

04/05/22

INFORMATION

On March 16, 2022, the San José Fire Department (Fire Department) placed new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in-service. SCBA equipment provides the highest level of respiratory protection for firefighters, enabling entry into environments otherwise immediately dangerous to life and health. The 2021-2022 Adopted Operating Budget appropriated \$3,012,000 in one-time funding to replace 373 outdated SCBA complete units, comprised of 3M™ Scott™ Air-Pak™ X3 Pro, air cylinders, and mask-mounted regulators.

These devices allow for the Fire Department to comply with the 2018 National Fire Protection Association safety guidelines and have access to the most current safety features in every frontline fire apparatus, single fire department resource, and all-ready reserves. This investment ensures that the frontline responders can safely and efficiently fight 850 fires each year, an average 2.3 fires per day, while ensuring their own health and protection.

These upgraded assets offer several critical safety features that have proven to be a life-preserving benefit to the Fire Department, including:

- A low air warning at 33% that alerts the user on remaining levels, allowing them to safely exit the incident with sufficient supply.
- Increased heat protection against the temperature and the amount of time exposed to fire.
- Universal RECTUS connection for firefighters with depleted air supply to share, or “buddy breath”, with another firefighter from any fire department.
- Enhanced cleaning capabilities that reduce carcinogen exposures.
- Improved ergonomic design shifting the device’s weight to allow energy conservation.
- Lifetime warranty on all the equipment purchased.

The X3 Pro SCBA replaces equipment that was placed into service in 2011 and is expected to provide protection to firefighters for many years.

/s/

ROBERT SAPIEN, JR.

Fire Chief, Fire Department

For questions, please contact Aaron Freyler, Deputy Fire Chief, at aaron.freyler@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 794-6987.