

DOCKETED	
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Concern with Under-Resourced Fire Districts - Emergency Response

Please see attached budget for needed equipment, materials and training, etc.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Minimum Required Safety Infrastructure

90 Minto Road Lithium Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility

Community context: PVFD cannot absorb the cost of protecting this facility. Every item below is additive to the existing operations and must be funded entirely by the developer. None of it should fall on this district or its taxpayers.

Local precedent: In January 2025, 1,200 residents evacuated for 24 hours due to the Moss Landing BESS fire in Monterey County. A facility storing lithium-ion batteries similar to those proposed at 90 Minto Road. The facility operator, Vistra Energy, faced no advance liability requirement.

One-time capital: Confirmed/estimated

\$17M–\$21.6M+

Pending quotes, total will be higher

Annual recurring: Confirmed/estimated

\$1.3M–\$2M+/yr

Pending assessment, total will be higher

* = Confirmed by source

= Partial/estimated

X = Quote needed

Section 1: One-time capital expenditures

Category	Description	Estimated Cost
Apparatus	OshKosh Striker Volterra with Snozzle® high-reach extendable turrets ¹ (2 active, 1 reserve)	~\$2M/unit ~\$6M total #
Robotic Surveillance	Thermite RS3- class units with trailer ² (2)	\$260K-\$277K/unit \$560K-\$620K total*
Station: construction	Purpose-built BESS-ready station within 5 min. of site ³	\$3.5M-\$6M+ #
Station: land	Parcel, site prep, permits, architect/engineering fees ⁴	\$500K-\$2M+ #
Communication & dispatch equipment	CAD integration, radios, hardware	~\$75K-\$150K #
High-capacity hydrants	Dedicated hydrants near site 1,500-4,000 GPM per CA Fire Code ⁵	~\$200K-\$500K #
Decontamination	Dedicated decon facility. Required after every BESS incident	TBD X
Water supply	Tanks, hydrant upgrades, pumping capacity near site	TBD X
Protective equipment	Full hazmat PPE per NFPA 1970 (2024)-- PAH/nanoparticle specific ⁶	\$15K-\$25K/person \$225K-\$375K total #
BESS training	Full crew certification before station operational ⁹	TBD X
Vehicle reserve	Fleet replacement over 25-year facility life ⁸	~\$6M+ (25-years) #
Confirmed/estimated total (TBD items not included)		~\$17M-\$21.6M+

* = Confirmed by source

= Partial/estimated

X = Quote needed

Section 2: Annual recurring expenditures		
Category	Description	Estimated Cost
Personnel	Captain & crew, 100% staffed including benefits, CalPERS, OT ⁹	\$1M-\$1.5M *
BESS operations	Equipment, monitoring, maintenance, consumables	TBD X
Annual training	Updated BESS protocols, hazmat refreshers, live exercises ⁹	\$25K-\$75K #
PPE replacement	Periodic gear replacement per NFPA 1970—accelerated for BESS ⁶	\$18K-\$75K #
Medical surveillance	Annual exams per NFPA 1582 + OSHA HAZWOPER ¹⁰	\$18K-\$45K *
Fire marshal support	Dedicated or partial FTE for BESS oversight and compliance ¹¹	~\$160K-\$176K/yr *
NetCom dispatch capacity	Developer contribution to NetCom staffing increase required to handle BESS facility call volume ¹² NetCom is currently understaffed and cannot absorb additional demand.	~\$50K-\$100K#
Community outreach & education	Materials, meetings, multilingual resources	~\$15K-\$40K#
Confirmed/estimated total (TBD items not included)		~\$1.3-\$2M+/year

Section 3: 25-year lifecycle notes	
Item	Note
Vehicle replacement	~\$6M+ additional; ARFF useful life 10-15 years ⁷
Facility renovation	Typically required at 20-25 years
Regulatory escalation	NFPA 855, NFPA 1970, EPA guidance actively evolving

Funding mechanism: All costs are to be paid by the developer and operator through: 1. Upfront capital contribution and 2. Annual licensing adjusted for inflation for the full operational life of the facility. For context, in 2025 Fresno County required a comparable BESS developer to pay a \$10.35M upfront mitigation payment plus \$3.45M¹³annually. No costs should fall upon this district or its taxpayers.

Sources:

- [1] OshKosh Striker Volterra: oshkoshairport.com
- [2] Thermite RS3 purchase price: lafd.org/news/lafd-debuts-rs3-first-robotic-firefighting-vehicle-united-states
- [3] Station construction & capital costs: pajarovalleyfire.com (PVFD Engineer's Report FY 2024-25)
- [4] Santa Cruz County land pricing: landsearch.com
- [5] Fire hydrant flow requirements: CA Fire Code Appendix B & C
- [6] PPE standard: usfa.fema.gov (NFPA 1970, 2024)
- [7] Fleet replacement lifecycle: pajarovalleyfire.com (PVFD Engineer's Report, Capital Budget 683120)
- [8] CA firefighter compensation: calhr.ca.gov
- [9] BESS training pricing: energy.gov; bakerrisk.com
- [10] Medical surveillance standard: udshealth.com (NFPA 1582 + OSHA HAZWOPER)
- [11] Fire marshal salary: centralfiresc.org (Central FPD of Santa Cruz County Salary Schedule 2025)
- [12] NetCom dispatch staffing: scr911.org
- [13] Fresno County BESS fire mitigation payments: energy-storage.news (June 2025)