



Separating Fact From Alternative Fact

There have been a few emails and even a video being circulated about the consideration of a Bond for Sedona Fire District. In the material, there are many comments made that are simply not true—not even a little true. This fact list is simply a counterpoint to the inaccurate information being shared by others.

Alternative Fact #1—Sedona Fire District has many employees who work in Sedona but live in California

SFD has **NO** employees who live in California. All of our employees reside in Arizona.

Alternative Fact #2—90% of SFD employees do NOT live in Yavapai or Coconino County

71% of employees live in Yavapai Co. **14%** of employees live in Coconino Co. **15%** live in Maricopa Co.

In fact—23% of our employees live within the Sedona Fire District.

Alternative Fact #3—The Fire Chief earns \$228,000 which is more than the City of Phoenix Fire Chief

Kris Kazian, the Sedona Fire District Chief's annual salary is \$158,442 (FY 2018).

Phoenix Fire Chief annual salary is \$185,328.

Alternative Fact #4—The Fire Chief lives in Scottsdale

The Fire Chief owns and lives in the home at 40 Mountain Shadows Drive located in West Sedona.

The Fire Chief's wife and daughters live in a house the family owns in Phoenix.

Alternative Fact #5—The Fire Chief is "Triple Dipping"

After working nearly 21 years for a fire district in Illinois, the chief is eligible for a pension. Because of Illinois pension laws pertaining to minimum age necessary to collect, he is not eligible to collect that pension until September 2020. The current remuneration for services provided to Sedona Fire are simply being paid for doing his job. As part of those services and consistent with polices and contract, the chief will not receive a pension, but is enrolled in a defined contribution plan commonly called a 401A.

As a side note—"double dipping" is typically getting a pension and a salary from the same employer.

Alternative Fact #6—The Fire Chief's secretary's annual salary is over \$100,000

The Fire Chief's Executive Assistant, a 23+ year employee, is paid \$69,689 annually.

Alternative Fact #7—SFD has 52 vehicles in their fleet and many people get to take cars home for personal use

SFD has 40 vehicles plus 4 all-terrain vehicles. There are 5 people who are assigned take home vehicles based on their job description (Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, Division Chief, Fire Marshal, and Telecom Manager). No one uses their car for personal use except as authorized— in the Fire Chief's contract, it is explicitly allowed.

CLARIFICATION—SFD employees received a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

While this was reported in a local newspaper as a 3% COLA, it was actually clearly stated in a Board Meeting that a **0.3%** COLA would be given to employees for 2018 (May 17, 2017 Board Meeting). SFD uses Social Security as the indicator for COLA consideration.