



Fire Department Master Plan Policy Workshop

November 27, 2007



Policy:

1. Timely addition of new stations in growth areas
2. Strategically relocate some existing stations
3. Increase number of ambulances citywide and reduce cost recovery requirement
4. Incorporate multi-use facilities where appropriate
5. Staffing ratios for inspections and development process
6. Establish community outreach and education



Service Levels/Demand

- Emergency Medical Support (EMS)/Suppression
 - Calls for EMS service have increased significantly over the past 20 years
 - Fire fighting calls have remained fairly constant
 - Service Level Standard of an average 5 minute response time not met citywide
 - Geography, call volume and call concentration impact service levels



Service Levels/Demand

- Complexity of types of services has increased (Haz-Mat, Emergency Medical Services, etc.)
- Community expectation and demand for services has increased
 - Ambulance calls – industry standard: average 3,450 per unit per year; city currently: many units exceed industry standard
 - Engine/truck calls – industry standard: average 2,700 per unit per year; city currently: many units exceed industry standard
 - Provider of last resort for those without health care coverage



Service Levels/Demand

- Emergency Medical Response (EMS)
 - 12 ambulances citywide/2 person staffing
 - Majority of medical calls require 3+ staff to provide aid and transport
 - 5 minute average response standard
 - Dispatch based on geography/proximity and availability
 - Call volume and staffing require dispatch of engine/truck to EMS calls



Fire Prevention

- Average of 7 fire deaths a year
- Higher level of fire deaths than similar sized cities
- Public education and outreach efforts are underfunded and insufficient
- Not completing inspections in a timely manner
- Number of inspections and demand has significantly increased along with number of fire investigations
- Retention of trained and experienced staff



Other Policy Considerations:

- Office of Emergency Services – adequately fund for long term sustainability
- Communications – replacement of existing equipment, keeping pace with new technology and staffing
- Administrative/Training/Logistical Support –staffing ratios for support, evaluate training facility needs, Fire & Police joint administrative functions where appropriate
- Deferred maintenance & replacement of existing facilities
- Accelerate pre-emptive traffic signals
- Consider Residential Fire Sprinkler Ordinance for new development