



Fire Department 2018 Strategic Study Frequently Asked Questions



What is driving this request for the fire department	<i>Over the last four to five years the response times to fire has slowly increased and it is anticipated to continue to increase unless some corrective actions are taken</i>
What is the current staffing model for the fire department?	<i>One fulltime fire chief, 3 fulltime fire fighter paramedics and average of 32 paid on call (POC) fire fighters.</i>
What is the fire department budget?	<i>Fire department budget for 2019 is approximately \$1.5 million with \$420k for medical re-imbursement.</i>
Where does the 9 minute response time come from	<i>The 9 minute response time is contained in NFPA 1720 under response guidelines</i>
How do other departments comply with the response time	<i>Our immediate neighbors are full time fire department and are in compliance with the response standards</i>
What is the average distance that the POC travels to arrive at the fire station?	<i>The average POC travels 3.0 miles from their home to the fire station</i>
What is the trend for POC's distance	<i>Over the last 4 to 5 years the distance that the average POC's travels has increase in line with the increase of response time to incidents</i>
How does travel distance affect response times	<i>The current POC's travel time to the station is around 6 minutes</i>
What effect does this have on the residents of Rochester	<i>With a POC travel time average of 6 minute the majority of the resident's response time is over 12 minutes.</i>
How does response time affect fire safety for the residents	<i>Studies conducted by the National Institute of Science and Technology have shown that fire doubles in size every minute</i>
What is the logic for the hybrid staffing model of three fulltime and three part time	<i>The blending of fulltime and part time makes fiscal sense and provides the maximum stability for staffing for the smallest investment</i>
What affect does the hybrid staffing model have on response times?	<i>The hybrid staffing model eliminates the POC travel time to the station. This would reduce the response time to 9 minutes or less for the entire city.</i>
What are best practices and lessons learned from other fire departments	<i>In fact finding with other fire department it is important to value the POC's and to keep them engaged. Their participation is still needed to provide the best service</i>
How do the current POC's fit into the plan	<i>The current POC's will be given priority for placement in both the fulltime and part-time positions</i>
Would a rental stiffen help to improve response time	<i>Discussion with POC's did not result in a commitment of improved response time</i>
Does the City Charter need to be changed to move forward with the hybrid staffing model	<i>Based on discussion the City Charter does not need to be changed to move forward with the hybrid staffing model</i>
Do POC's still have a function in the fire department	<i>The POC's are vital to the overall emergency response plan. The hybrid staffing model will be supported by POC's and mutual aid.</i>
What is the difference in pay rates between the hybrid, part time and POC's	<i>Each one of the groups will receive the same pay for the same work. The only difference will be full time positons will receive benefits.</i>

Can this be addressed just by Pay? If we paid more/hour (still no full time) could that fix the issue?	<i>The impact on response time is location POC's are coming from and a not a function of pay</i>
Does the City Charter need to be changed?	<i>The City Charter may need to be updated but the updates would not improve the response times</i>
What are the funding options? 1. Ballot 2. Contain in City Budget	<i>Response to funding options</i> 1. <i>Contain in the City budget, budget should be inclusive of critical services based on discussion from Council</i>
What are the funding sources?	<i>Possible funding sources</i> 1. <i>Increased tax revenue due to increasing property values (estimated at \$350k)</i> 2. <i>Increased tax revenue from new construction in progress (estimated at \$250k)</i> 3. <i>Increased tax revenue from new construction that is approval process</i> 4. <i>Increase tax revenue from new construction that is approved but not yet started (\$300k)</i>
Are there any expense need at the station for the Hybrid staffing model	<i>No changes are needed at the station for the hybrid staffing model, The station is currently set up with 6 dorm rooms</i>
What if any are the benefits of contracting the fulltime and part time positions	All administrative functions would be completed by the contractor including; 1. Background checks 2. Pre-employment testing 3. Ongoing administration of benefits
What is the additional cost to contract the services	<i>There is a 6% fee for administration of the services.</i>
Are there any savings to contract services	<i>The contractor will be responsible for Worker's Comp cost</i> 1. <i>Reduction of City's Worker's Comp cost</i> 2. <i>Comp cost based on payroll would estimate a 60% reduction in comp cost (estimated at 13k per year)</i>
Updated: July 2018	