

To: Community Priorities Advisory Committee

From: Dominick Casey, Assistant City Manager 

Date: November 6, 2017

Subject: Fire Study Recommendation

At the Fire Department follow-up presentation held on October 25, 2017 there were many questions and recommendations raised by committee members. However, there were two specific recommendations that staff would like to make sure are captured for the final report.

The first recommendation was that the City Council direct the City Manager to conduct a study on the fire departments staffing model in an effort to look for efficiencies in the current model and to evaluate if the current model is the highest and best use of equipment and staffing resources, and identify opportunities for cost savings. This would be a comprehensive operational evaluation, by a third party consultant/auditor of our fire departments response model. The operational assessment would evaluate several areas, examples include:

- City demographics
- Demand for mutual aid
- Types of emergency vehicles
- Staffing schedules and levels
- Fire station needs and placement
- Department policies
- Revenue opportunities
- Analysis of risk

Assuming the study is approved we anticipate it will take approximately six months to one-year to complete.

The second recommendation was a request for additional information regarding the First Responders Fee. This is a special service fee that was developed to help offset increasing costs of medical services for municipal fire departments. Fire suppression was the primary role of municipal fire services, however, as you have seen from the data this is no longer the case. A significant amount of the demand for service is in the area of emergency medical services. Staff will work on a concise report to explain what a First Responders Fee is and how it could be implemented if the CPAC made that recommendation to the City Council.

If you feel this does not reflect the conversation or the recommendations that were given please feel free to contact me directly.