Fire & EMS Services

Council Study Session March 13, 2018
EXCEPTIONAL FIRE SERVICES

UNIFIED WITH SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FOR IMPROVED EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HIGH QUALITY ROADS

NEEDED ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Unification with South Metro Fire Rescue for improved emergency services and high quality roads
● **11/28/2017** City Manager and Attorney present to council the partners letter to terminate the fire partnership.

● **12/05/2017** Council study session; various fire-service options discussed. Council advises staff to pursue discussions/negotiations with SMFR.

● **02/03/2018** Council Workshop; Fire services are discussed with council as a part of long-term financial sustainability. City Manager and Finance Director discuss a methodology to pay for services, supported by council.
CURRENT FIRE SERVICE

This system ends December 31, 2018

AT ALL TIMES:

● 9 Stations
● 8 Medic Units
● 7 Engines
● 2 Ladder Trucks
● 1 Battalion Chief
The new boundaries that formed when our partners joined SMFR created shared borders between the City and SMFR allowing for more efficient service.
PARTNERSHIP OPTIONS

Consideration of several options show that unification with South Metro Fire Rescue provides the highest level of service for the lowest cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Criteria</th>
<th>LFR (stand alone)</th>
<th>SMFR</th>
<th>WMFR</th>
<th>DFR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire-Based EMS</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Fire Department</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO Rating of 2 or better</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS Engines</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Person Staffing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large contiguous borders (efficient service)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transporting Medics</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited response times</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Assessment</td>
<td>16.11</td>
<td>9.25</td>
<td>12.38</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost for service</td>
<td>$13.6M</td>
<td>$8.0M</td>
<td>$10.7M</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY DECISION FACTORS

- **Long-term cost saving**
- **International accreditation**
- **Better response times**
- **Improved ISO rating**
- **Firefighters retain position & standing**
- **Long-term solution**
Pre-Inclusion Highlights

- **Recital H** - The ultimate goal is to have a single, unified fire protection district to provide fire department services to the communities, citizens, and property of SMFR, COL, HRMD, LFPD and Cunningham

- **Section 1(a)** - Creation of a single, integrated district requires a vote of the people

- **Section (1) (iv)(vi)** - SMFR with COL will determine a date for the first election
Pre-Inclusion Highlights

Continued

- Section 1(vii) - SMFR and COL will split (50% ea) the cost of conducting the election and public education and consulting services for the City election

- Section 1(c) - Transfer of assets

- Section 2(a) - COL shall become a member of the Fire Authority and be entitled to one voting seat

- Section 2(e) - The intent is that ALL Littleton Fire Rescue personnel will become employees of the Fire Authority on January 1, 2019
WHERE DO YOUR TAXES GO?

Current annual residential property tax.

Property tax example based on median home price of $370K.
WHERE DO YOUR TAXES GO?

Proposed annual residential property tax.

Property tax example based on median home price of $370K.
NET CHANGE FOR RESIDENTIAL

Property tax example based on median home price of $370K.

Voter-approved property tax increase for SMFR

City of Littleton property tax decrease

Exceptional fire services, needed road improvements

+$20.54 per month - $10.35 per month +$10.19 net increase per month
NET CHANGE FOR COMMERCIAL

Property tax example based on median commercial property value of $1M.

Voter-approved property tax increase for SMFR

City of Littleton property tax decrease

Exceptional fire services, needed road improvements
$7.1M

Fire costs eliminated

The city no longer pays for fire services.
Property tax revenues to the city are decreased.

City mill levy reduced from 6.662 to 2.0

$4.0M
IMPROVED ROADS

$3.1M annual funds to be allocated to roads and infrastructure

A portion of sales tax funding currently dedicated to fire service would be directed to City streets and infrastructure improvements.
THE FINANCIAL SIDE
LONG TERM REVENUES

- Reduction in property tax revenues to the city
  - partially offsets increased property taxes to property owners
- Reduction in Specific Ownership Tax
- Lockheed Martin/Meadowbrook contracts will be addressed
- Loss of administrative fee from the fire partners
- Other
• No Fire costs
• Dispatch contract will be terminated and part of inclusion measure
• No future fire capital costs/repairs/maintenance for apparatus or stations
  ○ Exception: Station 11 ownership to remain with City of Littleton
• Dedicated funding for capital and infrastructure
• Other
• Personnel vacation/comp time buyout
• Required payoff of radio and platform truck leases
• Share in election costs
Other Considerations

- City-wide administrative support provided for the fire department
- Reduction in General Fund fund balance reserve requirement
- Transfer of EMS net position to general fund
### THE FINANCIAL SIDE SUMMARY

This is what inclusion may look like in the first year. All numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Littleton property tax reduction</td>
<td>-$4M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire related revenues</td>
<td>-$22.2M</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMS</td>
<td>$0.7M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-$0.5M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>-$26M</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire related costs</td>
<td>-$28M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispatch contract</td>
<td>-$0.3M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lease payoff</td>
<td>$0.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets and infrastructure funding</td>
<td>$3.1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-$0.2M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>-$24.8M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**                       | -$1.2M
EXCEPTIONAL FIRE SERVICES

NEEDED ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

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