The City of Littleton has been negotiating with South Metro Fire Rescue to provide affordable and effective fire services for the community. The proposal would not only ensure high quality emergency response services, but also provide an opportunity for the City of Littleton to invest in needed road and infrastructure improvements.

**WHY UNIFY NOW?**

**LONGSTANDING PARTNERS ARE MOVING ON**

Littleton Fire Rescue’s (LFR) partners, the Littleton Fire Protection District and the Highlands Ranch Metro District will be joining South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) in January of 2019.

**STANDALONE DEPARTMENT IS NOT FEASIBLE**

Littleton Fire Rescue cannot continue as a standalone agency, operationally or financially. Because its partners are leaving, LFR stations will decrease from nine to three, and staffing will be reduced by two-thirds.

**OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE FIRE SERVICES AND ROADS**

The City of Littleton faces a unique opportunity. Joining SMFR will provide residents affordable and effective fire protection services and open up possibilities to reallocate city funds to other high-priority community needs such as road improvements.
Careful consideration of several options shows that unification with South Metro Fire Rescue provides the highest level of service for the lowest cost. Analysis included continuing as a stand alone fire agency, but with only three fire stations, this option is not financially or operationally feasible.

### Service Level Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>South Metro Fire</th>
<th>Littleton Fire</th>
<th>West Metro Fire</th>
<th>Denver Fire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost for Service</td>
<td>$8M</td>
<td>$13.6M</td>
<td>$10.7M</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Based EMS</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Fire Department</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating of 2 or Better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Life Support Engines</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Person Staffing</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Contiguous Borders (Efficient Service)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport by Medics (versus private ambulance)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Response Times</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Assessment</td>
<td>9.25</td>
<td>16.11</td>
<td>12.38</td>
<td>Contract – Prices Vary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“The city council and staff have studied unification with SMFR for almost two years. We and our partners are in strong agreement that joining with SMFR will provide the very best fire and emergency medical service for everyone we serve at the most cost-effective prices.” — City of Littleton Mayor Debbie Brinkman
KEY DECISION FACTORS

Overall, the recommendation to unify with SMFR boils down to six key elements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Icon</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🐼</td>
<td>Long-term cost savings compared to existing service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🚒</td>
<td>An internationally accredited fire rescue agency serving Littleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🕒</td>
<td>Improved capacity for response to large-scale or multiple emergencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🔥</td>
<td>Additional firefighting staff and equipment available at Littleton stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🏠</td>
<td>Improved Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating which may decrease home and business insurance rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🌄</td>
<td>Littleton firefighters will retain positions and standing; improved firefighter health and safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🛠️</td>
<td>A portion of the funds currently dedicated to fire service would be directed to needed street maintenance and infrastructure improvements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The boundaries that formed when our partners joined SMFR created shared borders between the city and SMFR allowing for more efficient service.
HOW UNIFICATION HAPPENS

With voter approval, SMFR will assess property tax on Littleton properties in 2020 to fund fire protection services.

At the same time, the City of Littleton will reduce its property tax rate, and use the remaining revenue to improve city streets.

In the end, the community receives affordable and effective fire protection services as well as needed street improvements.

NET CHANGE FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

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

$20.54 per month  
Voter-approved property tax increase to unify with SMFR

$10.35 per month  
City of Littleton property tax decrease

$10.19 net change per month  
Exceptional fire services, needed street improvements

NET CHANGE FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Example based on commercial property value of $1M.

$223.55 per month  
Voter-approved property tax increase to unify with SMFR

$112.67 per month  
City of Littleton property tax decrease

$110.88 net change per month  
Exceptional fire services, needed street improvements

$3.1M annual funds to be allocated to street and infrastructure improvements such as:

- Improving Mineral Avenue
- Matching funds with regional partners for Santa Fe Drive improvements
- Catch up on deferred maintenance

Improvements today prolong the life of Littleton roads and saves money over the long term.