

Fire Advisory Board...

Thatcher, McRae, Tim Dale, Galon Adams, Reeves (CFO)
Brian, Dana, Marcus Williams, Jerry Ward, Barbara

Voting members (4) Dale, Adams, Lee, Applewhite

Assisting in the drafting, Lee Ream, HR attorney that the city has used in the last couple of years. Wooten said he would review final product but agreed that she would be helpful in the drafting

Cobern has received a copy and will review for County. May want to have another attorney representing County (John Bufo?)

Past 10 months McRae has presented to Court. This was my request so that Court would be aware of the capabilities of our VFD to provide fire protection. Chief and Brian have met on a regular basis one on one for many years.

10 year contract ended 9/30/20. We have received (2) One year extensions. It began as a fixed amount with a CPI annual adjustment.

New Contract is 5 year with automatic 5 year renewal unless 12 month written notice given. Default provisions allow 60 day cancellation.

BRIAN'S OPINIONS....

Still the best form of city/county fire protection is joint cooperation. Reduces capital expenditures, reduces total number of fire protection staffing, equipment. Relies on premise that frequency of overlapping events is low and therefor independent city / county fire departments is inefficient

County has seen significant reduction in volunteer participation. Not unique to us, nationwide. VFD's are unable to provide consistent and adequate protection without City backup. VFD Chiefs realize this and agree.

City has offered a reasonable solution. County pays a percentage of the City's total fire protection expenses including capital outlays. 40% is their suggested participation. Implemented with 5 annual hikes. Initially 32% for 2022-23, then 34,36,38,40. County payment is based on proposed budget, not actual. Rebate to County at year end based on audited numbers

City plans include adding 3 full time firefighters initially with a ramp up to a total of 12-15 total additions over the next 2-4 years.

Additional FF will give ability for City to provide another engine company that will be needed when a 3rd station decision is made. In the meantime, the additional staffing will be stationed at Hwy 49 (south) location. This will allow more FF to be dispatched to City or County emergencies and still have backup for overlapping events

Based on discussions with Thatcher, Dale and Adams, no current plans to approve 3rd station, nor any locations determined. Location will likely be determined by a 3rd party and may be located in city limits or in county.

County comments from Applewhite and Cooper...

Shorter contract period, maybe 2 year, to allow changes on court

Fixed payment rather than percentage

Lower level of participation from county

3rd station located within county, outside of city limits