City of Ann Arbor Fire Department Restructure Proposal

City Council Work Session
March 12, 2012
Why Change?

Fire Department currently structured for emergency medical responses, 3 FF’s at each station other than station 1 which has 4. Community consensus supports fire suppression to be the focus, which requires a restructuring but would result in a safer and more efficient fire response system. Current staffing levels dictate a need for this type change.
Future considerations

- General Fund budget constraints
- State revenue sharing uncertainty
- ICMA Fire Study recommendations
- Since 2003, AAFD staff have decreased by 30 percent and the future is uncertain.
- New construction materials
Firefighting Guidelines

- NFPA 1710 (National Fire Protection Association) sets guidelines for minimum standards for initial responses but gives flexibility to the jurisdiction authority.
- OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Association) two in two out law, which requires at least four personnel on scene before anyone can enter a burning building.
- NIST (National Institute of Standards & Technology) Fire Ground Field Experiments.
NFPA 1710 Rule

- NFPA response standard: Four people shall arrive within four minutes 90% of the time, and 14/15 people shall arrive within eight minutes, 90% of the time.

- The NFPA standard is based on a 2,000 s/f, single family, two-story home with no basement or exposures.

- The following restructuring proposal is better suited toward meeting standards than the existing AAFD structure.
Fire Restructure Proposal

- One fire department operating out of three Fire Stations.
- One station will be located on the north side of the city (Station 5), one on the south side of the city (Station 2) and one downtown (Station 1).
- This plan requires Fire Station 2 to be re-opened for fire service usage.
How proposal will work

- Station 1: Two engines, one tower, one mini pumper/rescue, one Battalion Chief.
- Station 2: Two engines, one mini pumper/rescue.
- Station 5: One Ladder Truck.
- Staffing proposal enables four firefighters to be dispatched to most scenes within recommended industry response times.
Current Response Time – 4 Minutes

242 Fire Locations within 4 Minute Overlap

Green - 4 Minute Response
Blue - 4 Minute Response Overlap
Yellow - City Jurisdiction

Fire Stations 1 3 4 5 6 - Four Minute Response
Future Response Time – 4 Minutes

- 681 Fire Locations
- 680 within 8 Minutes
- 679 within 7 Minutes
- 657 within 6 Minutes
- 605 within 5 Minutes
- 490 within 4 Minutes

Fire Stations 1, 2 & 5 - 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 Minute Responses
Current Full Alarm Response Time

681 Fire Locations
269 within 8 Minute Overlap

Fire Stations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 - 8 Minute Response with Overlap
Future Full Alarm Response Time

681 Fire Locations
363 within 8 Minute Overlap

Fire Stations 1, 2 & 5 - 8 Minute Response with Overlap
University of Michigan Campus

Fire Locations and
Extent of City and University of Michigan Campus

AAGIS - February 2012
Proposal costs

- In order to be re-opened, Station 2 will need the following:
  - Seal off duct between garage and hose closet
  - Cut carpet away from pole holes
  - Code requires GFCI electrical outlets be installed within six feet of water sources and the garage wash basin needs to be plumbed.
Projected restructuring outcomes

- Gives AAFD the best opportunity to meet firefighting standards within current staffing constraints.
- Enhances the safety of the citizens and the firefighters.
- Better coverage of heavily populated areas with high run volumes.
- Satisfies ICMA fire study recommendations, which are based upon historical data and community best practices to optimize deployment.
Questions/Comments