



Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS

STAFFING

- Provide for staffing a minimum of four firefighters on the ladder truck to meet national safety standards.
- Work toward staffing a minimum of four firefighters on each pumper truck to meet national safety standards.
- Implement a firefighter staffing structure that includes a Battalion Chief on each shift to assist with the increased demand for service.
 - In addition to being leaders in the area of incident response, battalion chiefs should be responsible for assisting with training, technology, equipment, facilities maintenance, homeland security planning, and public safety education programs.
- Recruit and retain quality firefighters by providing compensation that is comparable to local averages.

TRAINING

- Meet national training standards set by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in order to keep pace with constantly evolving changes and demands for service.
- Acquire a full-time training officer to develop and implement a quality training and safety program that will directly impact the level of service provided to the community.
- Explore opportunities to partner in training efforts with other emergency response agencies to reduce costs and expand training opportunities.
- Recruit and retain quality firefighters by providing training that meets national standards.

EQUIPMENT

- Implement, and properly fund, an equipment maintenance and replacement schedule to phase out aging, out-of-date equipment.
 - This schedule should include all levels of equipment and gear including trucks, emergency medical equipment and firefighter gear.
- Work toward meeting national standards for equipment replacement.
- Ensure the District has the appropriate equipment to meet the changing needs of the community.
- Maintain up-to-date, functioning equipment, and replace all equipment within its life cycle to ensure it is fully operational when needed to keep the community and firefighters safe.
- Ensure all current equipment can safely meet the needs of the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FACILITIES

- Ensure that all facilities meet the emergency services needs of the community.
- Create a master facility plan to guide facility maintenance and updating.
- Restore the capital projects fund to allow for proactive maintenance of current facilities.

COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Continue to actively involve the community in planning for the future of the Cottleville Fire Protection District.
- Remain transparent and open in communicating about the operations, finances and state of the District to the community.
- Create and implement a public safety education program for students, residents and those who work within the District.

FINANCE

- Remain fiscally responsible and maintain a balanced budget while continuing to provide quality emergency services to the community.
- Implement the CARES recommendations over a financially responsible span of time.

IMPLEMENTATION

In order to responsibly implement the recommendations CARES participants recommend that the Board of Directors give residents the opportunity to vote on a 27-cent operating fund tax increase on the April 2012 ballot.

If approved by voters this would allow for the following components of the plan to be implemented.

STAFFING

- Provide for four firefighters on the ladder truck.
- Provide additional firefighters to allow for one pumper truck to be staffed with four firefighters.
- Implement firefighter salaries that are comparable to other area averages within one and a half years.
- Provide for the addition of three Battalion Chiefs to increase safety.

IMPLEMENTATION

TRAINING

- Meet ISO training hour standards within two years.
- Implement a training program that will allow the District to meet minimum required training standards set by NFPA and ISO.
- Implement advanced training programs in areas that include:
 - Collapsed building rescue for all firefighters
 - Swift water rescue technician
 - Hazardous materials technician
- Develop a limited number specialized training programs that are specific to the needs of the CFPD community such as high-rise building training and wilderness rescue operations.
- Provide for hiring a full-time training officer to implement a quality training program.

FACILITIES

- Establish a capital projects fund.
- Complete existing building maintenance projects.
 - 2012 - Repair Station #1 ramp and foundation cracks.
Repair Station #4 basement leaks.
 - 2013 - Repair Station #2 retaining wall and update station interior.

COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Re-establish the public safety education program.

FINANCE

- Maintain a balanced budget.
- Build three months of operating reserves within 10 years.

EQUIPMENT

- Provide for regular equipment maintenance and replacement.
- Provide for proactive maintenance on equipment.
- Replace firefighter self-contained breathing apparatus systems.
- Update rescue tools to meet new vehicle safety standards.
- Update emergency medical equipment such as Automatic External Defibrillators, Pulse Ox Monitors, and airway management tools to meet current standards.
- Replace firefighter gear on a regular basis to meet national standards.
- Restore the equipment maintenance fund.
- Provide for appropriate equipment to meet the changing needs of the community.

ADDITIONAL PHASES

In the future, the District should involve the community in the planning for additional phases to fully implement the CARES recommendations

These phases should include:

- Full implementation of recommended staffing levels
- Increased training opportunities that ensure resident and firefighter safety
- Ensuring equipment meets the needs of the community