



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

**FROM:** Blake Hayward – Fire Chief

**DATE OF MEETING:** August 5th, 2024

**ITEM TITLE:** Fire Station Site Selection Committee

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### DISCUSSION:

As our city continues to grow, it is imperative that our emergency services infrastructure evolves to meet the increasing demands. While the existing fire station has served us well over the years, it is now facing challenges due to its size, age, and capacity. These challenges include the inability to expand our trucks or equipment, potential safety hazards within the station itself, and limitations in accommodating modern firefighting equipment and personnel.

To address these concerns, I propose the establishment of a dedicated committee tasked with identifying and evaluating potential sites for a new fire station. The committee should comprise the fire department station committee, City staff, and 2 to 3 Council Members. The objectives would include:

1. **Assessing Current and Future Needs:** Evaluating the existing fire station's current operational limitations and projecting future requirements based on population growth and development.
2. **Identifying Potential Locations:** Investigating various sites within the city that could accommodate a new fire station, considering factors such as accessibility, response times, land availability, and potential impact on surrounding neighborhoods.
3. **Cost-Benefit Analysis:** Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the costs associated with each potential site, including land acquisition, construction, and long-term operational expenses, as well as the benefits of improved response times and enhanced safety.
4. **Community Engagement:** Involving community members in the decision-making process through public meetings and surveys to ensure transparency and gather input on preferred locations and potential concerns.
5. **Environmental Impact:** Assessing the environmental impact of constructing a new fire station in each potential location and ensuring that sustainable practices are incorporated into the project.

By forming this committee, we can take a proactive approach to ensuring that our fire department is well-equipped to protect our community now and in the future. I believe that a thorough and collaborative investigation will lead to a well-informed decision that best serves the interests of all residents.

I look forward to working with the Council and continuing to work on the future of the City and the Department.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.