



March 31, 2021

City of Meridian
Mayor and City Council
33 E. Broadway Ave.
Meridian, Idaho 83642

Dear Mayor Simison and City Council,

Please find the following two documents outlining the Meridian Fire Department's analysis and proposal for the construction of two fire stations to enhance the service delivery to the Meridian community. These two documents will be used on April 6th to support the City Council work session discussion pertaining to Fire Stations 7 and 8. The first document walks through the anticipated costs and outcome assessments of two options for building the stations. The first, shows simultaneous construction of both 7 and 8, and the second outlines a staggered approach beginning with the construction of the southeast Station 7, and following later with the northwest Station 8.

The second document is the PowerPoint presentation that I will utilize to illustrate the importance of responsive fire department growth that is needed to meet the increasing demands of the Meridian community.

On behalf of the Meridian Fire Department, I am excited to present this information and look forward to Tuesday's discussion about how to best meet the needs of our community.

In Service,

Kris Blume
Fire Chief



Cost and Outcome Assessment: Meridian Fire Department Stations 7 and 8

Based on the information covered in the document below, it is the recommendation of the Meridian Fire Department to construct both stations 7 and 8 simultaneously based on three key factors:

- 1. Reduction in the loss of life and property by enhanced response times and appropriate emergency response coverage.**
- 2. Cost savings to the Meridian community over two years (outlined below) of \$1,348,600.**
- 3. Cost savings in commercial and residential insurance by providing an improved ISRB rating.**

However, for your consideration, presented below are two scenarios that offer a plan for construction of both stations 7 and 8 simultaneously or a staggered approach beginning with the construction of station 7 first.

Plan 1: Build both stations simultaneously

Start construction of both fire stations in 2022

Two fire stations staffed and operational by fall of 2023

Overview-

Staffing:

- City funds northwest fire station staffing in FY23
- Meridian Rural Fire District funds south fire station staff for 20 months (FY23 & FY24). City assumes all staffing costs in FY25

Apparatus:

- Two new fire engines or (one engine, one truck) purchased in FY22. (Impact fee eligible)

Fire Stations:

- Build two fire stations concurrently (slightly staggered) starting in 2022

Advantages:

- Meet the fire department goal of five-minute travel time to Meridian residents by the fall of 2023 for both fire station response areas
- Move the community closer to an enhanced ISRB Class 2 rating
- *Rural Fire District to offset cost of 12 FTE's for 20 months
- Anticipated cost savings range of \$1,26
- 0,606- \$1,348,606
- Breakdown of cost savings:
 - Building two stations concurrently (Economies of Scale)
 - \$132,000- \$220,000 estimated savings per station (3%-5% per station)
 - Apparatus savings (purchase 2 fire engines at one-time in 2021)
 - \$18,000 estimated savings (2 truck purchase discount)
 - Anticipated annual inflation over 3-year separation of projects

- \$1,050,000 Construction cost increase (5 % annually of 7 million over 3 years)
- \$60,606 fire engine cost increase (3% annually of \$673,410 over 3 years)

Disadvantages:

- Capital Improvement Fund expenditures of approximately \$7,969,057
- Two-year operational costs of fire engine and fire station

Financial Impacts:

- The funding of Option 1 is leveraged against the commitment of future Council’s decisions to exercise the full 3% allowable property tax option and to commit to the acceptance of the full value of new construction/annexation.
 - Deviations from this commitment over the next 4 years may hinder the ability of the City to fund Option 1.

Budget expenditures FY21 through FY25:

		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	Total
On-Going	General Fund	\$ 426,000	\$ 754,425	\$ 1,785,656	\$ -	\$ 1,585,656	\$ 4,551,737
One Time	General Fund	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
One Time	Impact Fee Fund	\$ 1,932,162	\$ 6,356,973	\$ 1,024,962	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,314,097
One time	Capital Improvement Fund	\$ -	\$ 199,658	\$ 7,769,399	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,969,057
	Total Expenditures	\$ 2,358,162	\$ 7,311,056	\$ 10,580,017	\$ -	\$ 1,585,656	\$ 21,834,891
				0.00			
	Rural Fire Contributions - Revenue Source			\$ 1,585,656	\$ 1,057,104		\$ 2,642,760
	Total Expenditures with Rural Contributions						\$ 19,192,131
	Personnel Costs			\$ 1,585,656		\$ 1,585,656	\$ 3,171,312
	Fire Engine Costs	\$ 1,603,000	\$ 1,772,123	\$ -			\$ 3,375,123
	Station Costs	\$ 755,162	\$ 5,538,933	\$ 8,994,361			\$ 15,288,456
	Total Expenditures	\$ 2,358,162	\$ 7,311,056	\$ 10,580,017	\$ -	\$ 1,585,656	\$ 21,834,891

Plan 2: Build two stations with separate build schedules

Current Comprehensive Financial Plan (CFP). Start construction of one station, Station 7, in 2022. Fire station staffed and operational by fall 2023. Start construction of second fire station in 2025- fire station staffed and operational in late 2025 or early 2026

Overview

Staffing:

- City funds northwest fire station staffing in FY23 City begins funding South Fire Station staffing in FY23
 - Potential offset of 20 months for 12 positions by Rural Fire District
- City begins funding Northwest Fire Station staffing in FY26
- Applications for SAFER and AFG grants

Apparatus:

- Order one new fire engine in FY22. Order additional fire engine in FY25 (Impact fee eligible)

Fire Stations:

- Build south fire station in FY22. Build northwest fire station in FY25

Advantages:

- Funded to meet current CFP projection
- Eligible to apply for FY23 SAFER and AFG grant cycles to offset staffing costs (potential)
- Less Capital Improvement Funds needed

Disadvantages:

- Fire Department travel time goals delayed three years for the second fire station response area.
- Increased call volumes and decrease in service reliability models.
- Delay in ISO Class 2 upgrading and reduced insurance costs.
- Annual inflation increases of construction, design and apparatus costs (5%)
- No cost savings for two station construction or multiple apparatus purchase discounts.

Financial Impacts:

- The funding of Option 2 is leveraged against the commitment of future Council's decisions to exercise the full 3% allowable property tax option and to commit to the acceptance of the full value of new construction/annexation.
 - Deviations from this commitment over the next 5 years may hinder the ability of the City to fund Option 2.

Budget expenditures FY21 through FY26 (Inflation not accounted for year over year)

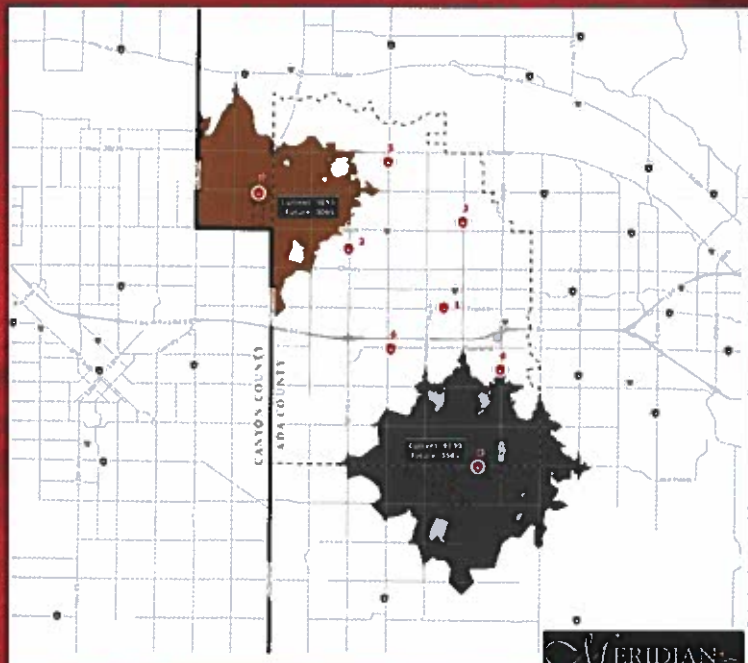
		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	Total
On-Going	General Fund	\$ 426,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,685,656	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,585,656	\$ 4,197,312
One Time	General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
One Time	Impact Fee Fund	\$ 1,656,083	\$ 4,502,337	\$ 2,823,965	\$ 276,079	\$ 3,125,960	\$ 762,009	\$ 13,146,434
One time	Capital Improvement Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 476,406	\$ -	\$ 1,376,377	\$ 2,638,362	\$ 4,491,145
	Total Expenditures	\$ 2,082,083	\$ 4,752,337	\$ 4,986,027	\$ 276,079	\$ 4,752,337	\$ 4,986,027	\$ 21,834,891
				\$ 1,585,656			\$ 1,585,656	\$ 3,171,312
Personnel Costs								
Fire Engine Costs		\$ 1,603,000	\$ 886,062			\$ 886,062		\$ 3,375,123
Station Costs		\$ 479,083	\$ 3,866,276	\$ 3,400,371	\$ 276,079	\$ 3,866,276	\$ 3,400,371	\$ 15,288,456
	Total Expenditures	\$ 2,082,083	\$ 4,752,337	\$ 4,986,027	\$ 276,079	\$ 4,752,337	\$ 4,986,027	\$ 21,834,891



Meridian Fire Department: Growth Assessment



Areas of Service





Meeting the Needs of the Meridian Community

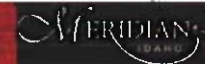
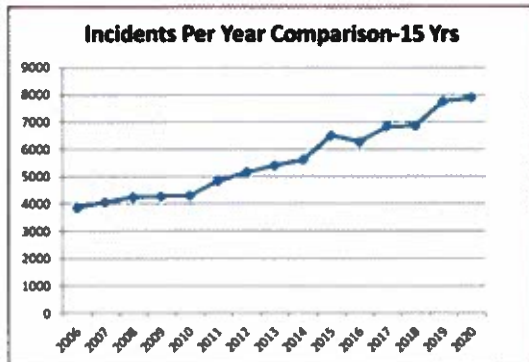
Fire Station 7

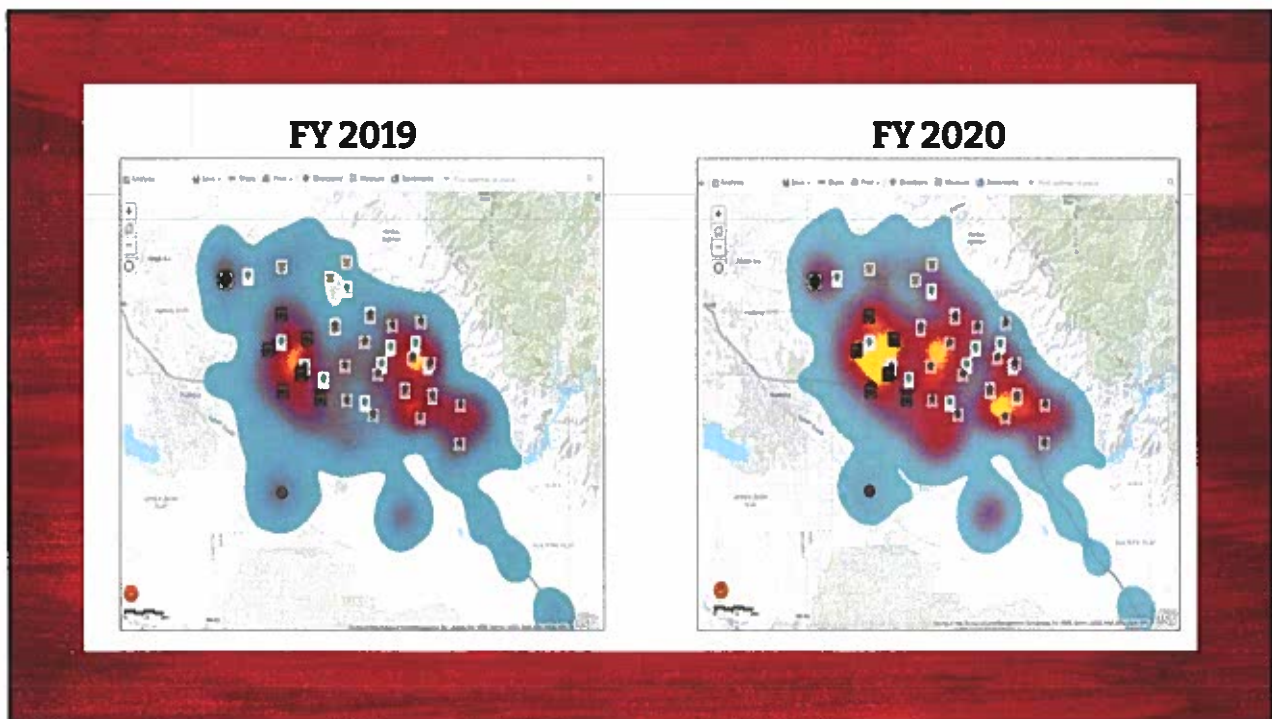


Fire Station 8



2020 Response Statistics





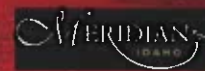
Response Reliability for Ada County Fire Apparatus
From December 2020 to February 2021, for all engines, plus T31 and T41.

First Due Area	All Incidents	First Due Arrives First	Response Reliability
BFD Station 01	151	128	85%
BFD Station 02	63	60	95%
BFD Station 03	203	179	88%
BFD Station 04	417	351	84%
BFD Station 05	555	487	88%
BFD Station 06	460	365	79%
BFD Station 07	219	200	91%
BFD Station 08	403	330	82%
BFD Station 09	331	284	86%
BFD Station 10	321	246	77%
BFD Station 11	205	170	83%
BFD Station 12	128	119	93%
BFD Station 14	322	261	81%
BFD Station 15	125	115	92%
BFD Station 16	392	305	78%
BFD Station 17	175	148	85%
EFD Station 41	64	32	50%
EFD Station 42	92	88	96%
EFD Station 43	123	109	89%
MFD Station 31	237	185	78%
MFD Station 32	302	254	84%
MFD Station 33	343	275	80%
MFD Station 34	347	270	78%
MFD Station 35	221	186	84%
MFD Station 36	175	149	85%
SFD Station 51	201	181	90%

Response Reliability for Ada County Fire Apparatus
From March 2, 2020 to March 2, 2021, for all engines, plus T31 and T41.

First Due Area	All Incidents	First Due Arrives First	Response Reliability
BFD Station 01	640	527	82%
BFD Station 02	219	206	94%
BFD Station 03	917	817	89%
BFD Station 04	1778	1492	84%
BFD Station 05	2434	2005	82%
BFD Station 06	1828	1398	76%
BFD Station 07	737	614	83%
BFD Station 08	1661	1349	81%
BFD Station 09	1282	1106	86%
BFD Station 10	1260	985	78%
BFD Station 11	940	796	85%
BFD Station 12	455	401	88%
BFD Station 14	1212	951	78%
BFD Station 15	569	509	89%
BFD Station 16	1537	1167	76%
BFD Station 17	673	565	84%
EFD Station 41	324	181	56%
EFD Station 42	452	430	95%
EFD Station 43	477	433	91%
MFD Station 31	895	657	73%
MFD Station 32	1184	1016	86%
MFD Station 33	1358	1090	80%
MFD Station 34	1223	964	79%
MFD Station 35	864	736	85%
MFD Station 36	649	507	78%
SFD Station 51	782	713	91%

Even with a year's worth of data with Station 6 in service, three stations are still trending down in response reliability.



ISRB Rating



Idaho Surveying and Rating Bureau, Inc.

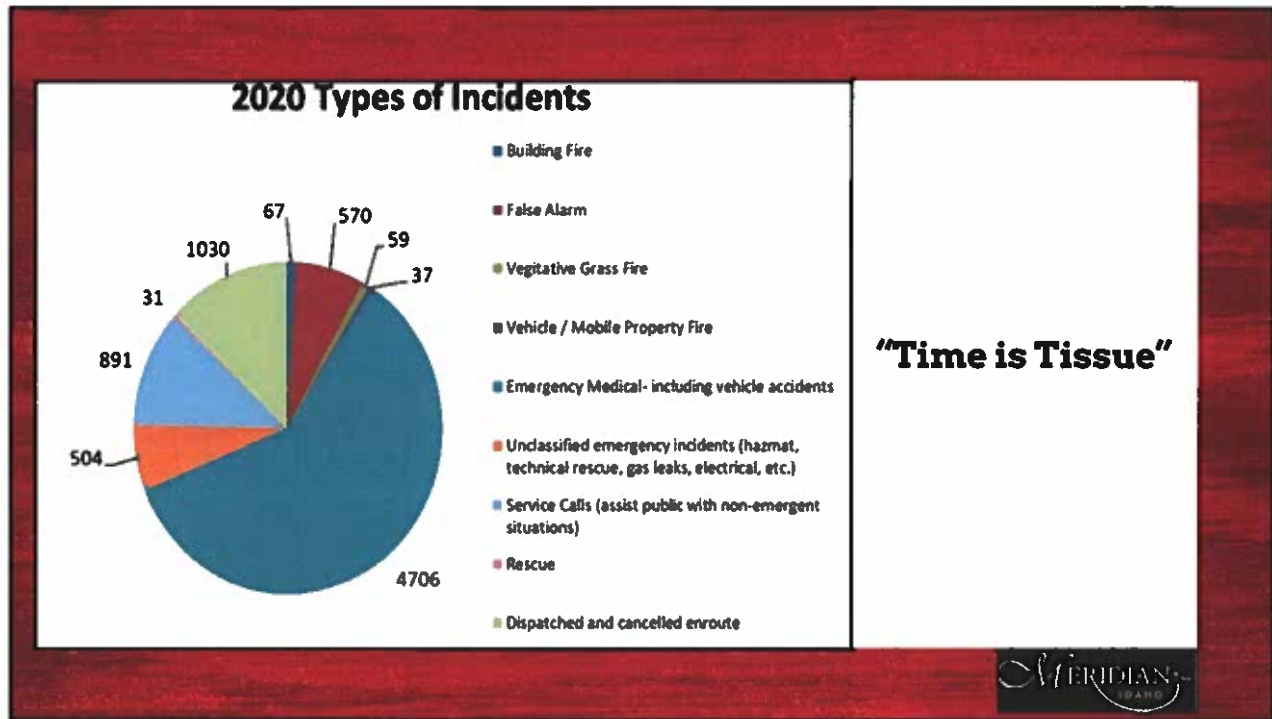
Idaho's Property Insurance Rating Organization
Serving the Citizens and Insurance Industry since 1923
Let us make your job easier!

Currently a Class 3

Desired state in the next 5 years, Class 2.

What's required?







MFD Recommendation

Build Stations 7 and 8 Simultaneously

- Improves response reliability to a larger service area
- Reduces loss of life and property
- Cost savings to Meridian tax payers
- Fully utilizes Impact fees
- Meets the need for improved ISRB rating





MFD Alternate Recommendation

Build Station 7 First

- Improves response reliability to a singular area of need
- Meridian Rural Fire Department contributes to support staffing
- ADA County Paramedics desire to be stakeholders
- *Will not move the needle to an improved ISRB rating*

