

City of Independence and City of Maple Plain  
Joint City Council Meeting  
Fire Department Consolidation

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*To:* Independence City Council and Maple Plain City Council  
*From:* Mark Kaltsas, Independence City Administrator and Jacob Kolander, Maple Plain City Administrator  
*Meeting Date:* August 21, 2025

***Discussion:***

Maple Plain Fire Department (MPFD) and West Suburban Fire District (WSFD) have continued working on the potential consolidation of the fire departments. The cities have also continued working with WSFD to look at all aspects of the consolidation including the budget and general contract terms. WSFD has provided a probable budget for 2026 along with additional information relating to projected soft costs associated with a consolidation.

- General terms of the consolidation are as follows:
  - MPFD would dissolve on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025
  - All MPFD equipment including apparatus, equipment, air packs, etc., would be donated to WSFD
  - Cities of IND and MP would enter into a new five-year contract (could consider a longer contract) for fire services with WSFD
  - WSFD would hire all active MPFD fire fighters
  - Maple Plain would lease existing fire station to WSFD (terms to be negotiated and finalized)
  - Cities of IND and MP would pay one-time costs of approximately \$37,000 (split 50/50 for uniforms, truck decals, etc.)
  - Cities of IND and MP would continue to make an annual contribution for five years (split 50/50) to the WSFD PERA retirement account to cover the cost associated with the higher pension program (see projected annual PERA payments)

	<u>2026</u>		<u>2027</u>		<u>2028</u>		<u>2029</u>		<u>2030</u>
\$	61,430.00	\$	66,549.00	\$	72,018.00	\$	77,859.00	\$	84,097.00

- Projected budget for 2026 with annual PERA payments is:
  - Independence: \$307, 151.13
  - Maple Plain: \$245,348.87

Should both councils approve the joint resolution indicating each city’s intent to proceed with the consolidation, staff would begin working on completing the following items:

- Work with legal counsel, relevant stakeholders, and representatives of the West Suburban Fire District to prepare all necessary legal documents, lease agreements, and other materials required to complete the consolidation.
- Work with legal counsel and representatives of the Maple Plain Fire Commission to prepare all necessary legal documents, amendments and other materials necessary to amend the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Maple Plain and the City of Independence.
- It is fully intended that the documents and agreements necessary to complete the consolidation would be finalized so that the full implementation of the consolidation would occur by December 31, 2025.

The formal agreements noted above will need to be formally approved by the respective city’s once prepared and agreed upon.

***Council Recommendation:***

Both City Councils are being asked to consider approval of the resolution confirming each city’s intent to proceed with the consolidation of the Maple Plain Fire Department with the West Suburban Fire Department and directing each City Administrator to proceed with all necessary steps to complete the consolidation.

***Attachments:***        **Independence Resolution No. 25-0821-01**  
                                  **Maple Plain Resolution No. 2025-0821-01**