Vernon Fire Service

“Right-Sizing” Fire Service Provision in the City

July 11, 2019
Long-Term Citywide Goals

- Welfare and safety of all community members
- Sustainability
- Right-Sizing
- Efficiency
- Responsible fiscal management
- Good governance
- Modernization of services and processes
Third Party Study of Vernon Fire Service

Recommendations from study:

• Reduction of minimum staffing for each shift from 21 personnel to 17 personnel
• Closure of Station 78 (on Soto)

Summary of findings:

• Call concurrence and unit utilization – uncommitted time is consistently over 95% for all units, while over 80% of the time calls for service are single calls
• Reduction of staffing will not adversely affect the fire protection system in the City of Vernon
• Over 76% of the calls in Vernon are for emergency medical calls, auto accidents, and alarm activations
  • These calls are generally dispatched with one engine company
• An additional 11% of Calls for Service are for providing mutual aid to neighboring communities
In consideration of the long-term Citywide goals and the recommendations in the third party study, options for the City’s Fire Service include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Service Options</th>
<th>Year 1 Estimates</th>
<th>Year 2 Estimates</th>
<th>Year 3 Estimates</th>
<th>Year 4 Estimates</th>
<th>Year 5 Estimates</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA County</td>
<td>$16.1</td>
<td>$14.9</td>
<td>$15.4</td>
<td>$14.6</td>
<td>$15.1</td>
<td>$76.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended &quot;17&quot;</td>
<td>$17.3</td>
<td>$18.6</td>
<td>$19.7</td>
<td>$20.8</td>
<td>$21.8</td>
<td>$98.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Aligned with 3rd Party Study)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vernon Fire (Existing Model)</td>
<td>$19.9</td>
<td>$21.8</td>
<td>$23.1</td>
<td>$24.5</td>
<td>$25.7</td>
<td>$115.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Considerations

- Cost of Service
- Quality of Service

How will the Fire Service decision impact Vernon?
Vernon Fire Service Considerations

Cost of Service

• The trend over the last decade has indicated a significant increase in costs
• Based on existing Fire Service model, the trend is anticipated to continue
• Options on the table mitigate the costs for Fire Services in the City
  • Aid in addressing General Fund shortfall
  • Better position the City for long-term sustainability
  • Right-Sizing
Quality of Service

- LA County Fire, and third party study recommendations are consistent in their proposals to reduce Fire staffing footprint
- Among statistics considered to determine adequate staffing levels, equipment needs, and station configuration were:
  - Call Volume – A total of 4,898 calls for service (emergency & non-emergency) from years 2015-2017
  - Call Concurrence – 80% of the time dispatched for single calls
  - Shared Areas of Coverage – LA County has numerous stations within arm’s reach of City
  - Mutual aid agreements in effect
  - % of Uncommitted Time – consistently over 95% for all units
Takeaways

Cost of Service
• Reduction of staffing, equipment, and stations will alleviate fiscal impacts on the City

Quality of Service
• Reduction of staffing, equipment, and stations will not adversely affect the City’s fire protection system

“Right-Sizing” Fire Service
• Bridge the gap between existing model and recommended model
Conclusion

New Mode of Operating in Vernon

• The ability to be transformative is key
• Era of transparency
• City is not unlimited in cash resources – ATM is running out
• Bold and difficult decisions required to lead Vernon into a viable, stable future