

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Fire Services
Date: Monday, September 25, 2023 7:58:08 PM

Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am pleased to see that the council has put forth a comprehensive report for consideration and comment from the general public. The report components and the discussions of the past two years leave no doubt that the city must make significant changes to how fire services are delivered.

The status quo is not viable or sustainable. Our current equipment, volunteers and full time staff are stretched thin, if not to the breaking point. The city, meaning we the residents and taxpayers, must demand and support changes to ensure that we are protected and served in the future.

Our fire personnel have done yeoman's work and deserve our gratitude and ongoing support for that dedication.

The options will all cost money and that fact must be recognized and not minimized. The bulk of financial resources for fire services ultimately come from one source and that is the taxpayer. Homeowners, residents and business owners all contribute in some fashion.

Funding options include general fund revenues, property taxes, parcel taxes or a new fire services tax. All may be needed and should be soberly considered. Any chosen option must be cost effective, sustainable and equitably shared.

The Comparison Table refers to "Governance Authority", shorthand for who controls the fire department and services. I believe strongly that authority should remain with the city through its administration, management and the city council. We, as citizens and voters, must retain the ability to decide how and by whom our crucial services are delivered. Once ceded that authority might never return.

I wish you well with your deliberations.

Ken Foley

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