

Hybrid Model discussion – Comments to Council 5-14-24

We created a committee made up of Mr. Sheridan, Myself, Mr. Knoblauch & Mr. Griffith from finance, A/C Joe & Jeff Alexander from Fire and A/C Vargo from EMS.

We have four different models for your review. They are all shown in summary form on Attachments A & B.

The model summaries primarily show personnel numbers, personnel assignments and budgetary/financial information.

Model # 1 is the current Fire & EMS model

Model # 2 is the same model but adding the debt service for a potential new Safety Center

Model # 3 is the Fulltime Fire/EMS model that I brought to Council in April of 2022, with all updated financials

Model # 4 is a new “Hybrid” Fire Department/Current EMS model

In addition to the information you have already received, I have some additional facts to share with you.

Hudson EMS had approx. 2500 calls for service last year.
To be clear, Hudson EMS responses are not included in the rest of my comments tonight.

Hudson Fire had approx. 590 calls for service in 2023.
300 of those calls were for the entire Fire Dept. (All Dept. Calls).

Of those 300 “All Dept. Calls”, approx. 200 were False Alarms!

Of the remaining 100 “All Dept. Calls, we average less than 40 actual fire calls per year. This includes car fires, brush/grass/mulch fires, oven/stove fires and structure fires.

It is important to note that of those 100 “All Dept. Calls”... looking back 10 years, we average two residential working structure fires each year.

Of the 590 calls for service, 290 of those calls were handled by the Duty Officer only.

The Duty Officer position is staffed 24/7/365 by one of the 9-HFD Officers. They respond directly to the scene and are in command of the incident unless relieved by a Chief.

Of the 300 “All Dept. Calls” last year, 170 of 300 or 57% occurred when the station was staffed (ie: weekdays M-F 8a-5P)

Of the 300 “All Dept. Calls” last year, 130 of 300 or 43% occurred when the station was not staffed (ie: nights and weekends)

Response Times:

Standard per NFPA – National Fire Protection Agency
Response Time Criteria is determined by population per square mile

Between 500-1000 people per sq. mile = Suburban

Less than 500 people per sq. mile = Rural

Per US Census Data, Hudson is 51.3% Rural and 48.7% Suburban

Rural Response Time Criteria per NFPA 1720

6 - Firefighters to respond within 14 minutes, 80% of the time

Hudson Fire response time data for 2023

Excluding “Non-emergency” type Calls

When the station was staffed – 6 FF’s / 9.0 min./ 80% - (7.0 m. avg.)

When the station not staffed – 6 FF’s /13 min./ 80% - (10.0 m. avg.)

Major variables that modify response time:

Time of Day – Firefighters at home, asleep – Adds 3-5 minutes

Distance from the station – Travel time - Rt. 8, Ashbrooke, Turnpike

Traffic delays – Rush hour, Construction

Weather – Snow, Ice, Rain

Pertinent response time: St. Regis House Fire on 1/7/24

NFPA Criteria reminder – 6 Firefighters in 14 minutes

HFD Response Time – 6 Firefighters in 11 min. (10 FF’s in 12 min.)

Things we can change:

Staffing the station nights, weekends and holidays to reduce the time it takes to get the first fire apparatus out the door and heading to the call by 3 to 5 minutes compared to our current Hudson Fire Dept. model

Cost vs benefit: hiring 30 Part-time Firefighters to staff the station on evenings, weekends and holidays, and making significant remodel upgrades to a 45-year-old Safety Center at a cost of over \$1.2 million dollars to reduce the response time by 3 to 5 minutes.

Especially when you factor in that over the last 10 years we have averaged only 2 residential working structure fires each year.

I am willing to discuss or answer any questions Council may have.

