

Overview

Our community has outgrown its fire department and action is required to match our resources to the needs of the people we serve. A plan that encompasses the expansion of our staff through the creation of an EMS division and a redistribution of staffing across town is proposed to address the challenges that are exerting tremendous strain on our current workforce.

Branford Fire Department Staffing and Facilities Plan Summary



Visit the Full Plan
www.branfordfireplan.com



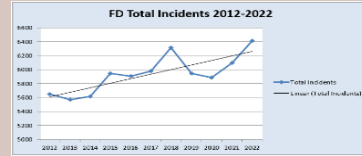
Challenges

Recent and Projected Growth of Branford



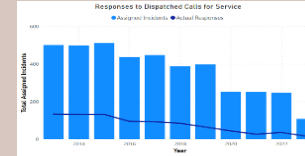
Branford is designated as an urban community. Development outpaces our ability to provide timely service coverage. Multiple projects are in progress with others proposed which will further stress our level of staffing (e.g. healthcare facilities).

Increased Calls for Service



2023 surpassed our 2022 record with 6,736 calls for service. Branford responds to more calls than our neighboring departments with lower or equivalent staffing levels.

Decline of Volunteer Personnel



Branford currently has 27 volunteer firefighters between four companies making it difficult for any one company to succeed. Declines have made it difficult to adequately staff the BFD and has resulted in closures of firehouses.

Inequity of Service - Response Times



Decline in volunteers has resulted in neighborhood stations understaffed creating a false sense of security. Most calls for service are covered by career staff at headquarters. Distance equals time lost.

Solution

The Fire Chief, with the full support of the Board of Fire Commissioners, makes the following recommendations to improve our staffing model by forming a Basic Life Support EMS Division which preserves firefighters for appropriate emergency calls and utilizes EMTs for medical response. EMTs are more cost effective and have a larger applicant pool than the Firefighter/Paramedic applicant pool.

- 1 Immediately appropriate \$250,000.00 from contingency to staff the new Indian Neck Fire Station, Monday to Friday, 0800-1800 using existing staff.
- 2 FY 2024 - Commit to funding sixteen full-time emergency medical technicians to staff Medic 1 and Medic 2
- 3 FY 2025 - Hire sixteen fulltime emergency medical technicians to staff Medic 1 and Medic 2 – Reallocate firefighters to 2nd career engine.
- 4 FY 2025 - Build a new fire station on the Town-owned property located at 32 Acorn Road to protect the east side of the Town.
- 5 January 2025 – Apply for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.
- 6 FY 2026 - Hire eight additional firefighters to staff a third engine company at the new station.

Financial Impact

Operating Costs

FY 24

Increase from Previous FY:
\$250,000

Annual Increase from Project Start:
\$250,000

FY 25

Increase from Previous FY:
\$1,680,080

Annual Increase from Project Start:
\$1,930,080

FY 26

Increase from Previous FY:
\$1,420,684

Annual Increase from Project Start:
\$3,485,863

Capital Costs

FY 25

**Fire Station
 32 Acorn Rd**

\$3,780,000

Staffing cost projections are based on a worst case scenario (top pay scale with most benefits). An annual increase of personnel and associated costs is calculated at 7 percent.