



STAR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

WHY WE ARE ASKING YOU TO CONSIDER A NEW FIRE STATION AND DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS?

HISTORY

The Star Community Fire Club was formed in 1953 to provide fire and emergency medical services (EMS) to Star and Middeton citizens in their times of greatest need. The community and the Fire Club grew and in 1958 the citizens voted to create the Star Fire Protection District. Today, as the demand for services has increased, the District is challenged with accommodating current public safety needs as well as planning for long-term facility solutions.

STATION #1

Star Fire Station #1 was built in 1985 and is currently located at 10831 W State St. in downtown Star. It was designed with a small living space on the second level to house one volunteer firefighter. The rest of the volunteer firefighters were required to race from their home to the station, jump on an engine and respond to emergencies. Today, Fire Station #1 houses 12 fulltime firefighters (4 per shift – 24 hours a day) who are charged with keeping our growing population of over 15,000 safe.

The District hired an architect to evaluate rebuilding or relocating Station #1 in order to maintain the current demand for fire and EMS services. The results were very discouraging. In order to bring the building up to code and add the necessary square footage and upgrades, essentially the entire building would need to be demolished. Also, the size of the lot would only accommodate the community’s current needs without room for future growth. The estimated cost of this rebuild was even more discouraging. It was estimated to cost approximately \$4 million dollars for a 7,000 square foot facility, or \$572 per square foot, that would only accommodate the core of the District for approximately 10 years, at which time the cost of securing property and a building in the downtown core also became a concern. In addition, the District projects that by 2021, growth and the related increased demand for services will dictate the need to staff up Station #2, currently located on Kingsbury, and we would be faced with the challenge of relocating the administrative offices and maintenance division which would be an additional financial burden on the District.

OPPORTUNITY

During this evaluation of Station #1, an incredible opportunity became available. A 37,000 sq/ft commercial building located at 11665 W State St. was evaluated and determined it could accommodate all of our current needs, as well as our future needs in the core area of our community for the next 30+ years. It happens to be in a prime location to meet those needs. The building can also house a training/community room, administrative offices, and the District’s maintenance division. In addition, there is currently 7,000 square feet of leasable space that will be used to supplement the District’s ongoing expenses. We are calling this proposed project the Star Fire Station #1 and District Headquarters.

The estimated cost to purchase, remodel, furnish and equip the proposed Station and Headquarters will cost approximately \$4 million dollars; less than \$93 per square foot. It is noteworthy that similar facilities in the Valley have cost \$350 to \$550 per square foot to construct. Once the project is complete, the old Station #1 will be surplus and the proceeds will be used to offset the cost of the new facility and equipment.

COST

What will the Fire Station #1 and District Headquarters project cost you? The current estimated annual cost is \$11.42 (or \$.95 cents per month) for each \$100,000 of net taxable property value. In other words, a house valued at \$100,000 with a homeowner's exemption will pay an additional \$5.71 per year (or \$.48 cents per month).

LEVY HISTORY

What have you been paying per \$100,000 in net property tax values over the past four years for Star Fire District emergency services? Due to the rate of growth in the District, the levy rate has decreased from .0020 in 2016 to an estimated .0015 in 2019. With the current trend in a declining levy rate it is projected that with a voter approved bond levy increase, the levy rate will still continue to decline which could result in a \$0 increase or possibly a decrease in dollars paid annually per \$100,000 of net taxable value.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Annual Cost Per \$100,000 of Net Taxable Value</u>	<u>Levy Rate</u>
2016	\$202.70	.002026980
2017	\$196.44	.001964436
2018	\$179.91	.001799093
2019 (estimated)	\$154.11	.001541118

We believe the Star Fire Station #1 and District Headquarters project will meet the current and future public safety needs of our community and provide a long-term solution at a below market cost. We estimate that it will save our community approximately \$10 million dollars or more over the next 10 years.

As elected officials and public employees working to keep our community safe, we pride ourselves in being fiscally responsible, innovative and willing to “think outside the box” when it comes to planning for the current and future needs of our community. *We are committed to being good stewards of your public funds, while providing premier fire and EMS services to our community!*

Ultimately, it is up to YOU, the constituents, to decide if this proposed Fire Station and Headquarters project is in the community's best interest. Please get informed and **VOTE NOVEMBER 5TH!**

