

***UPDATE* July 2022**

The Southington Fire Department Administration along with The Southington Town Council, Southington Board of Finance, The Board of Fire Commissioners, The Southington Police Department, The Town IT department and various committees and advisors would like to present an update to the changes/revisions made to the Master Plan. Although a long-term strategic plan, progress has been made and we wish to present a status update to reflect the hard work done up to this point.

MASTER PLAN

TOWN OF SOUTHINGTON

Opportunity #1: Agency Management & Organization

Recommendation 1.9: Correct the "JoinSFD.org" webpage

ACTION

The "JoinSFD.org" website has been corrected.

Recommendation 1.10: Continue to develop the Southington Fire Department social media presence.

ACTION

The department has career and volunteer members assigned to a social media committee and is increasing its social media presence. The department posts recruitment, informational, and educational messages on a regular basis.

Recommendation 1.12: Establish a Fire Department Safety Committee

ACTION

A Fire Department Safety Committee has been established comprised of career and volunteer members. The committee will be holding regular meetings to review safety concerns/issues.

Opportunity #2: Staffing, Recruitment and Retention

Recommendation 2.3: The Southington Fire Department should make it a priority to retain their active existing volunteer firefighters.

ACTION

A new Recruitment and Retention Committee has been established to research best practices for recruiting and retaining our departments volunteer firefighters. The department is currently creating a marketing video/campaign to recruit additional volunteers.

Recommendation 2.4: Establish participation requirements for volunteer firefighters to ensure that the town is not paying a higher cost per call for volunteer firefighters than it does for career firefighters.

ACTION

Participation requirements currently in place.

Opportunity #3: Service Delivery Deployment and Documentation

Recommendation 3.2: Modify the Working Fire Protocol Declaration to ensure that adequate resources are dispatched to a working fire in a single-family home to initially respond at least 17 firefighters and that at least 28 firefighters are initially dispatched for working fires in strip malls and apartment buildings.

ACTION

A new working fire protocol has been implemented. Conduct data review to determine if metrics are being met.

Recommendation 3.3: Conduct a risk assessment of adding a volunteer response to the highway for motor vehicle accidents and blocking ambulance/emergency medical services calls.

ACTION

The response matrix has been changed and a volunteer response has been added to highway incidents.

Recommendation 3.6: Fire Department leadership should establish processes that provide a more accurate data set for their continued analysis of various measures.

ACTION

The department purchased a new records management software and changes have been made to the central dispatch protocols that should assist in providing more accurate data sets for analysis.

Recommendation 3.7: Southington Fire Department leadership should coordinate with Southington Police Department leadership to verify the data provided for the Call Processing Time Performance analysis and work together to develop steps to improve performance to meet the 1 minute, 4 seconds target measure.

ACTION

The Departments dispatch liaison officer is working with the Southington Police Department leadership to verify call processing time performance data. Measurers are being put into place to verify accurate data sets.

Recommendation 3.9: The Southington Fire Department's travel times are more than double what is recommended by NFPA 1710. Leadership and policy makers should balance the cost of placing additional resources in service versus the benefit of the quicker response.

ACTION

Staffing of Station 3 Monday through Friday daytime will be used to collect data with regard to travel and response times.

Recommendation 3.10: The Southington Fire Department should track, monitor, and communicate its Total Responses Times to the community. Additional career staff should be added when the Total Response Time exceeds a threshold that is acceptable to the community.

ACTION

Under development. New records management software should provide real-time data for total response times. Staffing of Station 3 Monday through Friday daytime will be used to collect data with regard to travel and response times.

Recommendation 3.11: The Fire Department shall provide the Authority Having Jurisdiction with a written annual report.

ACTION

Annual reports are provided to the Town of Southington.

Opportunity #4: Training and Professional Development Programs

Recommendation 4.1: ESCI encourages the integration of outside instructors into the Southington Fire Department Training Program.

ACTION

The training division is currently integrating outside instructors into the SFD Training Program based on subject matter and availability.

Recommendation 4.2: Establish a formal feedback/input mechanism to receive necessary end-user feedback about the training program.

ACTION

A formal online training survey has been established by the new Chief of Training.

Recommendation 4.3: Make it a priority to incorporate annual live fire training into its training program.

ACTION

The Training Division has made it a priority to incorporate annual live fire training into the training program. There have been 2 live fire training sessions completed in 2022.

Recommendation 4.4: Reclassify some of the types of training that are conducted in the Southington Fire Department to better-align with ISO which will ideally improve the department's chances of receiving full training credit during their next ISO evaluation.

ACTION

Training types have been reclassified to better-align with ISO to increase chances of receiving full training credit. The department is currently undergoing an ISO review.

Recommendation 4.7: Consider building National Fire Academy Classes into the Southington Fire Department Professional Development Program.

ACTION

All department officers are offered and encouraged to attend classes at the National Fire Academy.

Opportunity #5: Prevention Programs

Recommendation 5.1: Develop a targeted community risk program for the residents in the high-risk age groups of over 65 years of age and under 5 years of age.

ACTION

There is an existing community risk reduction program available to the public at no cost. The department is currently researching program re-development needs.

Recommendation 5.2: Create a targeted Community Risk Reduction Program for people with disabilities.

ACTION

There is an existing community risk reduction program available to the public at no cost. The department is currently researching program re-development needs.

Recommendation 5.3: Develop a targeted smoke detector program for residential dwellings that are ten or more years old.

ACTION

There is an existing community risk reduction program available to the public at no cost. The department is currently researching program re-development needs.

Recommendation 5.4: Review the plans to modify the current fee schedule as a potential avenue of increased revenue.

ACTION

A new fee schedule has been established and approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners and currently is at the public hearing level.

Opportunity #6: Facilities and Apparatus

Recommendation 6.3: Conduct a town-wide evaluation of all the apparatus in the fleet with a goal of eliminating apparatus that does not see regular use and does not serve a specific and necessary need.

ACTION

A committee has been established and evaluations are complete. Apparatus that has determined to be not needed operationally, or has seen limited use, has been sold in the past few years.

Recommendation 6.4: Review the current apparatus inventory as well as the apparatus life cycle and develop an Apparatus Replacement Plan.

ACTION

Administration along with the apparatus committee has established and implemented a replacement plan.

Recommendation 6.5: Ensure that Equipment Replacement Plans are updated annually.

ACTION

Administration along with the apparatus committee has established and implemented a replacement plan.