



## Public Safety Committee

**Date:** November 17, 2008  
**To:** Public Safety Committee  
**Through:** Christopher J. Brady, City Manager  
**From:** Harry Beck, Fire Chief  
**Subject:** Temporary Fire Stations  
Citywide Project

### Purpose and Recommendation

This report will provide information on Fire Department infrastructure needs and will explore the viability of temporary fire stations. The City of Mesa has not been able to keep up with the infrastructure needed to keep pace with the ongoing demand for emergency services. One option for addressing this infrastructure need is the consideration of temporary fire station facilities to meet the demand for growth and infill emergency services needs. No action is being requested at this time.

### Background

The Fire Department currently operates from 17 fire stations that are strategically placed to best meet our emergency services response time goal of four (4) minutes 90% of the time. The Fire Department currently meets this goal only 62% of the time. The last fire station built in the City of Mesa was station 217 in 2003. In 2003 the City had a population of approximately 400,000 and covered 124 square miles. Since this time the population has increased by 62,000 to an approximate total population of 462,000. The City land and planning area has also increased by approximately 9 square miles to 133 total square miles. The inability to add fire station infrastructure over this period of time continues to stress emergency response resources and has caused the City of Mesa Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating to drop from Class 2 to Class 3.

### Discussion

The Fire Department has estimated that 5 additional fire stations are needed to bring the City of Mesa ISO rating back to Class 2. Strategic planning documents also show that 11 fire stations are needed to reach an ISO Class 1 rating. This same additional infrastructure will allow the Fire Department to make improvements on the emergency response time goal of 4 minutes 90% of the time and improve overall customer service.

The average market costs for fire station construction tend to range between \$300 and \$400 dollars per square foot. This estimates total project construction cost to be approximately \$4.5 million for a single unit response station and \$7.5 million for a dual unit response station.

### **Alternatives**

An alternative to the construction of permanent fire stations is the construction of temporary fire stations. Temporary facilities can be a reasonable and effective alternative when infrastructure must be constructed in a short time period, or when capital funding is not readily available. The life of a temporary facility should fall within a 2 to 3 year time frame.

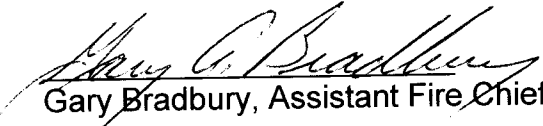
### **Fiscal Impact**

The estimated cost of a temporary fire station facility to support a single response unit is \$1.2 million. This includes design fees, site work, living and garage structures, utilities, landscaping, and perimeter fencing. Some of the temporary facility design and site improvement costs can be utilized for a permanent fire station on the same site. Also, the estimated investment of \$235,000.00 in temporary structures can be transferred for continued use on a second temporary site and be reutilized. It is estimated that 66% of the total cost of a temporary facility are disposable costs.

### **Coordinated With**

Prior to the construction of temporary fire station facilities the project will need to be coordinated with citizen stakeholders, neighborhood groups, council districts, the Design Review Board, etc.

This information on the construction of temporary fire station facilities was coordinated between the Fire Department and City Engineering.

  
Gary Bradbury, Assistant Fire Chief

  
Harry Beck, Fire Chief