

FIRE COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 30, 1997

The Fire Committee of the City of Mesa met in the Mesa Room at Centennial Hall, 201 North Center Street, on October 30, 1997 at 4:07 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Joan Payne, Chairman
Dennis Kavanaugh
Wayne Pomeroy

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

COUNCIL PRESENT

Jim Stapley

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Denise Bleyle
Dennis Compton
Gil Damiani
Marie Duncan
John Geier
Carl Geis
Mike Hutchinson
Dorinda Larsen
Andrea Rasizer
Tom Remes
Debbie Vickman
Paul Wilson
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Others

1. Discuss automatic aid and consider pursuing automatic aid agreements with neighboring fire departments.

Fire Chief Dennis Compton introduced staff members present at the meeting.

Chief Compton highlighted a proposed automatic aid agreement with neighboring fire departments, which would authorize the dispatching of the closest available fire unit to an emergency situation regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Chief Compton stated that a standard scope of service has been established and that mutual aid agreements will remain unchanged with cities currently unable to participate in the automatic aid agreement. Chief Compton noted that the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and the Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) systems will be utilized. Chief Compton explained the features of each system.

Discussion ensued relative to individual jurisdictional costs, installation and utilization of the AVL system by all participants, and differences between mutual aid and automatic aid systems.

Chairman Payne thanked Chief Compton for the report.

2. Discuss adaptive response fire companies and the potential for future use.

Chief Compton referred to a map illustrating call volumes for Mesa's 15 fire stations. Chief Compton explained that the activity level for each fire station varies depending on neighborhood density, activity, and socioeconomic factors. Chief Compton advised that fire stations with call volumes in excess of 3,000 require assistance to meet the community's needs. Chief Compton proposed that adaptive response units be developed to assist such high-volume stations. Chief Compton indicated that the mobile adaptive response units would be located in existing fire stations and would fill response gaps.

Discussion ensued concerning the ability to accommodate the adaptive response units in current facilities, utilization of adaptive response units by other communities, and the flexibility to shift adaptive response units to meet demands.

Chief Compton stressed that the utilization of adaptive response units would assist in maintaining or reducing emergency response time.

Committeemember Pomeroy indicated support for the proposed adaptive response units.

In response to a question from Chairman Payne, Chief Compton stated that the two proposed adaptive response units would require 28 firefighters in order to provide 24-hour coverage.

City Manager Charles Luster informed the Committee that it is anticipated that a request for additional firefighters to establish two adaptive response units will be included in the Fire Department's 1998-1999 budget request.

Chairman Payne thanked Chief Compton for the presentation.

3. Review and consider the need for future new fire stations.

Fire Division Chief Paul Wilson referred to a map and spoke concerning the City's existing, currently proposed, and future fire stations. Chief Wilson noted the importance of constructing a facility in Southeast Mesa and suggested that a site be purchased that would provide the ability to co-locate a fire station and a City well.

In response to a question from Chairman Payne, Mr. Luster expressed the opinion that the City of Mesa will reach build-out in 20 or 30 years.

Chairman Payne thanked Chief Wilson for the information.

4. Adjournment.

It was moved by Committeemember Kavanaugh, seconded by Committeemember Pomeroy, that the meeting adjourn at 4:35 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fire Committee of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 30th day of October 1997. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1997

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK