

Resolution directing staff to research and analyze the recommendations of the La Crosse Fire Station Planning Task Force.

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of La Crosse created the La Crosse Fire Station Planning Task Force on July 13, 2017. The Task Force membership was chosen by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council and consisted of:

- two (2) citizen members - Adam Hatfield and Steve McConaghy
- two (2) Council Members - Doug Happel and Jessica Olson
- three (3) staff members – Police Chief Ron Tischer, Fire Chief Leeland (Ken) Gilliam and Director of Planning & Development Jason Gilman.

WHEREAS, the Common Council recently received a report from Five Bugles Design that provided a facility analysis and space needs assessment for La Crosse's existing fire stations and programming space needs for a new station. Said report identified more than \$27 million of needed repairs and improvements.

WHEREAS, options were explored including possible joint fire and police public safety facilities, joint fire station and community center facilities and multi-jurisdictional public safety facilities as part of the long-term solutions.

WHEREAS, the charge of said Task Force was to analyze the Five Bugles Design report, gather information on possible joint public safety, community and multi-jurisdictional facilities and provide recommendations to the Common Council about the planning, priorities, timing, staffing, funding and partnerships to address the future space and operational needs of La Crosse's fire stations.

WHEREAS, the Fire Station Planning Task Force (hereinafter Task Force) makes the following recommendations to Mayor Tim Kabat and the City of La Crosse Common Council:

The Task Force recommends that the City of La Crosse Fire Department operate five (5) fire stations throughout the City of La Crosse. It is intended that these five (5) stations be staffed by the current staff of the Fire Department.

The Task Force further recommends the following order for replacement and/or remodeling of the four (4) current stations:

- Replace fire station #4 that is currently on Gillette Street. Combine fire station #2 with station #4 in a location to be determined by the Fire Department, Planning Department and consultant. Demolish current fire station numbers 2 and 4.
- Build a new fire station on the City's south side to meet the current and future needs of the City. It is the recommendation of the Task Force to build the far north side fire station at the same time as the far south side station.

- Remodel fire station #1 as a standalone fire station with no administrative offices.

Determine a location and acquire the properties to build a Public Safety Building to include, but not be limited to, the Fire Department Administrative Offices, the Police Department and the Inspection Department. This joint Public Safety Building should be built in the vicinity of, or on the same site of, fire station #1, if feasible.

To meet the required response times, the Fire Department, Planning Department and consultant should acquire property and build a new fire station in the vicinity of La Crosse Street and West Avenue.

- Station #3 should be demolished due to poor and inefficient design and be rebuilt in an area to be determined by the Fire Department, Planning Department and a consultant.

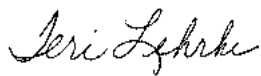
Explore public/private collaborative facility design. The project costs should be analyzed for the most strategic way to structure debt and take advantage of other sources of funding. The preferred project completion should be within a five-year period. The implementation period should be reviewed for debt structuring and alternative sources of funding.

Finally, it is the recommendation that the Fire Station Planning Task Force be dissolved to allow proper location analysis to be determined by Fire Department personnel working in conjunction with the Planning Department personnel and a consultant.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it hereby directs the Fire Chief and his designee(s), Police Chief and his designee(s) and the Director of Planning & Development and his designee(s) to research and analyze the recommendations of the Fire Station Planning Task Force and bring back concepts for further direction by the Common Council.

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*I, Teri Lehrke, certify that this resolution was duly and officially adopted by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse on February 8, 2018.*



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*Teri Lehrke, City Clerk  
City of La Crosse, Wisconsin*