

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)



FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES (EMS)

FY2004-2010

1. BACKGROUND ISSUES

This CIP element includes investments in both fire capital and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) stations.

The projects currently contained in the CIP for this element address facility issues regarding Fire coverage areas, response times, selected renovations, and installation of back-up power generators for EMS and fire stations. Currently, the County is developing a long-term strategy and master plan for providing fire and EMS facilities to identify and prioritize the needs for facility renovations and new construction. The master plan will be completed in the first quarter of FY2004 and will address both facility and apparatus needs. "Seamlessness" of care and "proximity based" dispatch are the key elements of the strategic facility plan.

Fire

The highest priority of the fire facility improvement plan is to construct new fire facilities to comply with state guidelines of being within a five-mile distance limit of a station. Compliance would permit homeowners in fire tax districts to be eligible for insurance savings. In addition to locating new facilities in unserved areas, other priorities include renovating existing stations to address building code violations in older buildings, developing and maintaining level of service standards, and pursuing co-location opportunities of fire and EMS units. A long-term strategy is to guide funding and replacing fire fighting apparatus as they reach the end of their useful life.

Emergency Medical Service

The investments in EMS facilities are guided primarily by the need to address building code issues, add emergency generators, and to provide service delivery in areas of rapid population growth. As the population and traffic continue to increase, it becomes more difficult for emergency response units to get to their destinations in a timely manner. Additional

EMS facilities will be needed in areas of the county that exhibit highest growth rates and the highest increases in traffic congestion. The fire/EMS master plan currently being prepared will identify specific facility needs.

2. PROGRAM & FACILITY GOALS

The primary goals of this element of the CIP are:

- Provide fire facilities that will effectively control and extinguish fire incidents in a timely and efficient manner.
- Meet the state standards for minimum distances to fire facilities.
- Provide EMS facilities so residents receive effective emergency medical service delivery in a timely and efficient manner.
- Achieve "seamless" emergency service delivery through "proximity based" dispatching.

3. COMPREHENSIVE FACILITY PLAN

In the late 1990's, the County commissioned two independent detailed studies of fire and EMS needs in Wake County. These studies recommended the County develop a long term fire/EMS facility plan taking into account the benefit of co-locating these similar emergency services in the same facility. The studies also indicated the need for additional emergency response stations due to continued population growth and the urbanization of Wake County.

In FY2002, the County began to develop a strategic foundation for this long-term facilities plan, starting with an assessment of the condition of all existing Fire and EMS stations (55 total). The County is conducting a strategic analysis and is preparing a master plan for future fire/EMS facility needs. The findings of these studies and a recommended master plan will be completed in first quarter FY2004. This plan will provide the long-term framework for investment in station renovations, new facility construction, and apparatus purchases.

Previously developed prototypical stand-alone EMS station designs have been used by the County for years. Recently prototypical designs for fire stations and combined joint use Fire/EMS facilities have been used. As part of the master plan development, the County will review and offer suggestions for improving prototype plans.

4. SEVEN-YEAR CIP PROGRAM SUMMARY

New appropriations totaling \$26.5 million are projected for fire and EMS improvements over the next seven years. The majority of the investment will be for fire facilities (\$25.6 million) with the remaining \$911,000 appropriated for EMS needs. In FY2004, new appropriations for fire investments total \$3.65 million and \$725,971 for EMS facility improvements. Projected end of year balance of \$2.3 million will be available for implementing recommendations of the fire capital plan. All projects in the fire portion of the fire and EMS element are supported with dedicated capital funding stream from fire district tax revenues. The EMS projects are currently supported by funds from the general county capital program. It is anticipated that additional capital funding will be needed for EMS capital investments over the next seven years. The seven-year CIP will be updated in FY2004 to incorporate capital facility and apparatus needs identified by the currently underway study.

Fire

Over the next seven years, fire capital appropriations total \$25.6 million. In addition, \$2.3 million is available from the prior years balance. This total of \$27.9 million to be allocated to the following categories:

Existing Facility Improvements	\$9.18 million
New Station (East Garner #1)	\$1.43 million
800 MHz Radios	\$2.69 million
Pagers (Tone, Voice and Alpha-Numeric)	\$0.87 million
Implementation of facility/apparatus master plan (Could be used for pay-as-you-go or debt payments)	\$13.73 million
TOTAL	\$27.9 million

With regard to co-location facilities, revenues from the fire tax district support the share of the costs associated with only the fire portion of the facility.

Emergency Medical Service

At present, investments in EMS capital are expected to total \$911,078 over the next two years. However, the forthcoming master plan for fire and EMS facilities will likely result in the identification of new facilities needs. In co-location situations such as Stony Hill, the County capital program (without fire district tax) assumes all costs associated with the construction of the EMS portion of the station.

5. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY2003

Fire

In FY2003, the newly constructed Willow Springs fire station was placed in service through an operational contract with the Fuquay-Varina Fire Department.

In addition the following fire capital projects were funded:

Stony Hill Headquarters Station: Construction documents for this combination joint-use fire and EMS facility were completed and construction began; completion is expected by end of second quarter of FY2004.

Stony Hill Station #2: Installation of a vehicle exhaust ventilation system and kitchen renovations were completed at this station.

Bayleaf Station #1: A feasibility study of the potential for expanding this facility to meet service area needs at this station was completed by an architectural consultant. Study revealed expansion is not feasible.

Hopkins Fire Station: Bids were received from construction contractors for renovations to add sleeping quarters, showers and restrooms to accommodate overnight stay by firefighters; Construction to begin in first quarter of FY2004.

East Garner Area Station: Continued to search and evaluate alternative sites for new fire station to serve residents currently outside the five mile limit which would qualify them for insurance cost savings.

Master Plan for Fire Facilities and Apparatus: Finalized consultant selection and contracting in conjunction with Fire Commission; Master planning process scheduled to be complete and presented to the Fire Commission and Board of Commissioners in the first quarter of FY2004.

Fire Facility Assessments: In FY2002, a comprehensive assessment was completed for 34 existing fire stations. In FY2003, the findings of this process were assembled into ten categories. These were prioritized and cost estimates developed for all items.

A subcommittee of the Fire Commission worked closely with county staff to identify the most pressing needs.

Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Medical Services: Began working with consultant hired to develop a long-term facility master plan for Fire/EMS; County staff and representatives of the Wake Rescue Squad Association worked with an architectural consultant to closely review the findings of the EMS facility assessments completed in FY2002. Assessments had previously been completed for 17 EMS stations. Key items identified in the assessment report were assembled into ten categories and prioritized. Detailed cost estimates were prepared for use in requesting capital funding. Eighty percent of the recommended improvements are associated with providing emergency generators. Design of the EMS portion of the combination joint-use Fire/EMS facility at Stony Hill Headquarters Station was completed. Construction is currently underway.

Also during FY2003 the County partnered with the Town of Fuquay-Varina to develop plans for meeting the EMS needs in that region of the County. This initiative was required due to the Fuquay-Varina Rescue Squad, Inc. (a private firm) ceasing operation in late FY2001. Construction documents were prepared and a contract for construction issued for

renovations to Fuquay-Varina Fire Stations #1 and #2 to allow space for EMS vehicles, sleeping quarters and support areas necessary for two crews.

6. FY2004 PROJECT ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Fire

Currently, FY2004 capital investments will be focused on the following:

Stony Hill Headquarters Station: Complete construction and open new combination Fire/EMS facility by end of second quarter.

East Garner Area Station (\$1.43 million): Finalize site evaluation and acquire land needed for prototype fire station; complete design work, award construction contract and begin construction.

Master Planning process, review with Fire Commission and obtain approval from Board of Commissioners; Incorporate master plan recommendations into capital plan as appropriate.

Fire Facility Assessments (\$1.15 million): Complete Phase I of life safety and code improvements identified in the February 2003 report based on available funding; prepare bid package and obtain bids from contractors for remainder of Phase I improvements (\$2.4 million).

Emergency Communications Improvements: Purchase and place into operation all 800 MHz radios and pager units as planned.

Hopkins Fire Station: Complete renovation of existing facility to add sleeping quarters, showers and restrooms.

Emergency Medical Services

Stony Hill EMS: Complete construction and open new combination Fire/EMS facility by end of second quarter.

EMS Renovations at Fuquay-Varina Fire Stations #1 and #2: Complete renovation of these two fire stations to add space for EMS vehicles and crew.

EMS Facility Assessments (\$725,971): Complete 80 percent of life safety, code improvements and emergency generator improvements as identified in February 2003 report; prepare bid package and obtain bids from contractors for remainder of Phase I improvements (\$185,107).

Master Plan for EMS Facilities: Complete master planning process, review with Wake Rescue Squad Association and obtain approval from Board of Commissioners; Incorporate master plan recommendations into capital plan as appropriate.

7. SUMMARY OF FUTURE PHASES (FY2005-2010)

Fire

The master facility and apparatus plan scheduled for completion in first quarter FY2004 will provide the foundation for identifying future needs, prioritizing projects, and timing future investments with regard to renovations and new construction. However, Phase II of previously identified life safety, code-related and other improvements will be completed in FY2005 and beyond. In addition construction of the new fire station begun in FY2004 will be completed.

Emergency Medical Services

The master plan outlining future facility needs and related capital costs will provide the basis for identifying and prioritizing investments in new EMS facilities, renovations of existing stations, and co-locating with fire stations. The remainder of life safety, code-related and emergency generator improvements initiated in FY2004 will be completed.

8. OPERATING IMPACT

Fire

The investments in fire capital will not have an operating impact on the County's budget. However, any new operational costs (such as increased

personnel or higher utilities) will have to compete for other operational costs funded by the fire tax associated with the single fire tax district.

Emergency Medical Services

Personnel and equipment for the operation of the EMS station at Stony Hill will be transferred from an existing station. Operating costs associated with placement of EMS crews at Fuquay-Varina fire stations will be minimal, since EMS service currently provided in that region will simply be located at these facilities.

9. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

As in previous years, municipalities are requested to assist county staff in outlining facility needs and co-location opportunities. Representatives from five municipalities assisted county staff in developing the current prototypical fire station designs. The consultant assessing the county's fire station needs will coordinate with all municipalities' long-term facility plans. This approach will assure service area boundaries and the necessary fire stations are appropriately addressed in the County's master plan.

10. ILLUSTRATIONS



Willow Spring Fire Station



Willow Spring Fire Station Bays



Willow Spring Fire Station Living Area



EMS Station at Kidd Road

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11. FINANCIALS

PART I. EXPENDITURES	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	TOTAL
EMS STATIONS	\$725,971	\$185,107	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$911,078
FIRE/RESCUE CAPITAL	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$25,570,300
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$4,378,871	\$3,838,007	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$26,481,378
PART II. FUNDING SOURCES	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	TOTAL
Debt Financed								
County Pay As You Go	\$725,971	\$185,107	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$911,078
Fire Tax District Radio Reimbursement to County	\$896,000	\$896,000	\$896,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,688,000
Fire Tax District Pager Reimbursement to County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$870,596	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$870,596
Fire Tax District Revenues	\$2,756,900	\$2,756,900	\$2,756,900	\$2,782,304	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$22,011,704
TOTAL	\$4,378,871	\$3,838,007	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$3,652,900	\$26,481,378
PART III. OPERATING IMPACT	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	TOTAL
Total Operating Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: Fire District funds will be used to reimburse the intital purchase investment in radios and pagers originally from Wake County Pay As You Go funds