

DRAFT 11/12

Fire Consolidation Proposal

Ann Arbor Township & City of Ann Arbor

Background:

The City of Ann Arbor has a professional full-time fire department that responds to medical (category 3) and fire events. Medical & fire events are dispersed throughout the jurisdiction. Ann Arbor Township has a combination department that responds to medical (category 1) and fire events. Most events occur along the highways that share a border with the City of Ann Arbor. Both departments provide services that do not meet industry standards for fire response times. As a professional department the City of Ann Arbor has significant investment in employee costs and benefits as opposed to Ann Arbor Township's combination department that has a greater investment focus on equipment than staffing. Both departments have experienced financial challenges with the recent recession and have staffing at below desired levels.

Proposal:

The Township and City requested the Fire Chiefs investigate the possibility of the two departments working together to increase service delivery and/or reduce costs. The below proposal reflects the Fire Chiefs recommendation for a consolidated department which combines the two departments converting all Ann Arbor Township full-time firefighters to a Unified service and establishing a combined response with the City for appropriate events.

Recommendation:

Ann Arbor Township fire department should be consolidated with the City of Ann Arbor's fire department and operate out of the City's existing stations. The City's station 5 would operate with a minimum of up to six full-time firefighters that can be the initial response to Township calls with the rest of Ann Arbor stations available as needed. The increase in services can be delivered without increasing the Township's existing costs unless three firefighters are hired by township prior to consolidation. Township costs to the city would include the existing \$1.2 mil. operating funds plus the antennae revenue and fund balance reserved for fleet replacement. Township costs would increase on par with the consolidated department's total costs for station 5 including costs for administrative support (overhead).