

OPERATIONAL CONCERNS

There are a number of operational concerns that Senefeld and Associates believes should be addressed before any plans are finalized for the construction or relocation of any fire stations and/or apparatus. The majority of fire stations has significant age and is beginning to show signs of some deterioration. Operationally, there are issues with these stations and the following were noted by the study:

STATION 1

- Bays - The station is positioned in such a manner that apparatus could be blocked in attempting to exit the station by vehicles that have been stopped by the traffic signal that is directly to the east of the station. The bay doors are extremely small and damage to apparatus and the structure could occur when apparatus makes contact with the center columns. A vast majority of accidents with fire apparatus occur while trucks are passing through the apparatus bay doors and make contact with the doorframes. The cause often that the apparatus backs into the column the apparatus fails to have all compartment doors closed completely or the doors are left open when exiting the bay. The station lacks sufficient bay space to add additional apparatus if the needs of the community change, or if all recommendations of this study are followed. The height of the ceilings seriously restricts the placement of new apparatus since the lower ceiling height will not permit the higher clearances.

- Maintenance Facility - The maintenance facility, at the rear of the station, does not adequately provide space for routine maintenance that is needed for today's fire apparatus. If the maintenance staff needs to raise apparatus to service components underneath, this is currently not possible. It may be possible to move these operations to the city garage if there is sufficient space and the facility can accommodate these types of operations. If moving the operation to the city garage

could not accommodate the maintenance personnel, then there will be a need to construct a new facility to properly service fire apparatus.

- Foyer and Offices – The foyer area of the facility is extremely small and lacks sufficient space for secretarial staff. Hallways are being used for copiers and storage and moving about in the area can be difficult. There is a lack of sufficient office space for the number of officers that the department currently has or needs in the future. Adding additional offices in the present facility is not possible, without a major renovation of the entire facility.
- Living Quarters - The space for the number of personnel that are currently housed at this station is small. If additional personnel were to be added, or staffing was increased, this could result in extremely tight quarters. The lack of a woman's bunkroom and restroom capabilities is of concern. Currently, the only way that the department can address the issue is to have women share the same quarters with the men. This could create some problems if this issue is raised by any female firefighters. In reviewing the current staffing, it was noted that there are not any women on the department, but this may not be the case in the next five or ten years. This is an issue that the department should address now. If the department anticipates that they might be hiring female firefighters, then a policy for providing for these firefighters should be addressed before the need arises. This issue needs to be addressed reference all stations within the City of Muncie. There is a lack of space for personnel to workout and maintain physical fitness.
- Training Facilities – The current facility is not conducive to conducting training for fire suppression and rescue operations. The facility should be large enough for personnel to view training videos and conduct some practical exercises. The current facility has water leakage in the apparatus bays above and this will only damage or destroy training aids. If companies come in from the other stations there is no parking space for the apparatus and this means that most training is being conducted elsewhere.

- Apparatus – Currently there is a Rescue (a three man engine crew), a Squad and a Battalion Chief that is responding from the station. There are two distinct areas of the City that have high-rise structures that pose the risk of mass evacuation of the trapped persons above ground ladders reach. Those are: the Ball State Campus and the immediate downtown area. Currently, there is no aerial device in the downtown station, but responds from Station 2, slightly over a mile away. If the decision was made to add an aerial device to the downtown station, this could not be accomplished due to the restrictive bay doors and number of bays available.

STATION 2

- *Bays* – There is adequate space in the bay areas for the type of apparatus that is responding from this station. There is obvious signs of paint adherence to the underside of the roof will need to be addressed.

- *Living Quarters* – The quarters are extremely small for the number of personnel that are assigned, per shift, at this station. The lack of kitchen space and dining area is of concern, as is the small bunkroom space and restroom accommodations. The same concerns at this station are the same as all of the stations regarding the lack of women's facilities. The inability of personnel to workout to maintain physical fitness would require this station to undergo a major expansion. The facility currently cannot meet this need.

STATION 3

- Station in General - The station is located in an area of the city that often finds itself isolated because of the volume of trains passing through the area daily. The station is in close proximity to these tracks, and in the event of a derailment could find itself in the evacuation zone. It appears that the speed of most of the trains is slow, thus any derailment possibilities are reduced. The station is also too small in the living areas and restrictive to the needs of the firefighters.

- Living Quarters – The dayroom, kitchen and bunkroom space are of some concern. Again, there is the lack of space for personnel to conduct a fitness workout. There are sufficient lockers at this station, but again there are no separate quarters in the event that females are assigned to the station.

STATION 4

- Station in General – The station is positioned in a residential neighborhood. Any expansion may not be possible due to the limitations of the ground that is available. Constructing a new facility at the present location would most likely restrict the station and thus restrict the goals of the new station.

- Living Quarters – The living quarters are small and are not accommodating to operations of today's fire departments. The bunkroom is small and would not accommodate any additional fire personnel. This would require that the station be expanded and this should be reviewed closely since this may not give the desired result. The lack of an area for personnel to maintain physical fitness is also of concern. The kitchen, dining and food preparation areas are small and would also need to be expanded. There is also a need for additional space for study or quiet areas.

- Bays - The bays are adequate in size but the bay door's height seriously restricts the type of apparatus that can be placed in the station.

STATION 6

- *Station in General* - This station appears to be a single-family residence that has had the apparatus bays added. The bays are adequate for the apparatus that is responding from the station and the door width and height is ample for today's apparatus.

- *Living Quarters* – The living quarters at this facility are more adequate than the older stations. There are facilities provided for both men and women but remodeling some portions of the structure would provide the additional space needed for a workout area.

STATION 7

- *Station in General* – The current facility will only accommodate the current number of personnel presently assigned to the facility and additional personnel would not be possible because of the serious limitations of the station layout and floor plan. There would be a need to expand this station.

- *Living Quarters* – The living quarters are extremely small at this time and adding additional personnel would not be possible. The kitchen, dayroom and bunkroom are all too small. The lack of women's quarters or a workout area is also of concern as it has been throughout most of the facilities.