

RECOMMENDATIONS

Reviewing the results of the data, and factors considered in the study, the following recommendations are being made by Senefeld and Associates regarding fire station locations for the City of Muncie.

Facts - Station 1, Station 2 and Station 4 are in extremely close proximity. If each station would be responsible for responding half the distance between each of the three stations, the response area would only extend three-quarters of a mile. This would mean that primary service districts are less than a mile away from a fire station while other areas of the city have response districts that are two miles. This results in a overlap of the service in the south central and southeast section of the City.

- The staff at Senefeld and Associates believes that the Muncie Fire Department should relocate Station 1 to the north of its current location. The station could be located in the area of 600 N. Walnut Street and this would provide access to the downtown area and to areas both to the west and east. The facility should become a minimum of a 6-7 bay station that could house the various apparatus that will be covering the high-rise structures commonly found in the downtown district and the university campus to the west.
 - The living quarters of the structure should contain sufficient housing for the number of personnel that would be needed for the apparatus proposed to be assigned to the station. There should be workout areas provided for personnel and space for future expansion should the need arise.
 - The new facility should be constructed with sufficient office space to accommodate offices for not only for the current staff, but future staff positions as well to meet changes and increase in demands for services. The facility should provide conference rooms where staff

meetings and meetings with outside agencies could be provided. Training rooms to accommodate a large number of firefighters where NFPA and OSHA mandated training could be held is recommended not only using Muncie Fire Department instructors, but also outside instructors where the latest training ideas could be made available to their personnel. Also adequate storage space should be provided for the collection of records, information on the City of Muncie and fire department activities, and training materials.

- The current maintenance facility could be relocated within the new station or could be placed at another site possibly the City garage or another station once these stations undergo reconstruction. The determining factor for this location is space and ease of access for apparatus of all sizes.
- Station 2 and Station 4 should be combined and located in the 2100 Memorial Drive in an area that would continue to provide coverage for both districts. The close proximity of the two stations results in a large overlap of coverage. The station would house apparatus that is currently located in both stations.
- The living quarters of the structure should contain sufficient housing for the number of personnel that would be needed for the apparatus proposed to be assigned to the station. There should be workout areas provided for personnel and space for future expansion should the need arise.
- Station 3 should be moved to the south of the stations current location to provide coverage in all directions. The station is currently located in close proximity of Station 1 and the overlap of coverage is extensive. The area of 23rd and Cowan Road should be a prime location for consideration.

- The living quarters of the structure should contain sufficient housing for the number of personnel that would be needed for the apparatus proposed to be assigned to the station. There would be workout areas provided for personnel and space for future expansion should the need arise.
- Station 5 and Station 7 impose their unique problems. Station 5 is virtually landlocked and expansion is most likely not possible since the university does not appear to be willing to approve the acquisition of additional ground. Station 7 is extremely small and poses several operational problems. It is the recommendation of Senefeld and Associates that these two stations be combined and located in the area of McGalliard Road and Tillotson Avenue.
- Station 6 is currently serving their primary districts and the staff of Senefeld and Associates can only recommend that the access to the Station on foot be addressed.

JUSTIFICATION

- Station 1 currently is located in the downtown area and relocating the facility to the north of its current location will continue to provide fire department presence in the downtown area. Maintaining coverage of the downtown area and locating the facility in such a location will provide access to other high response areas and will maintain coverage for not only the downtown area but to all areas of the city. The current facility is seriously hampered in access from the station onto the street and has serious deficiencies that hamper fire department operations. This recommendation should be given the highest priority since it has the greatest impact on fire department operations. Relocating the fire station and fire headquarters would eliminate several deficiencies that currently exist and would have the greatest impact to improving operations and

services. Relocating the station would also improve response times for apparatus responding to the university campus that is to the west.

- The combining of Station 2 and 4 will reduce operational costs yet continue to provide coverage that meets or exceeds national standards and Insurance Services Organization (ISO) requirements. The new station could house all current apparatus that is found at Stations 2 and 4 for the enlarged fire district. The closing of the existing stations will reduce annual operational costs and with the restrictions that the both of these facilities has the construction of a new combined station will address both the needs at the same time at a reduced cost.
- The moving of Station 3 to the southwest of the current location will reduce the response time to the southwest area of the city and will reduce the overlap of services that currently exist between this station and Station 1. The station is currently housed in a location that restricts response to the north with the volume of train traffic that passes directly behind the facility. The station currently lacks sufficient space for the personnel to maintain physical fitness and space for daily operations that are found in today's fire stations. Relocating the station would also remove it from the hazards associated with train traffic such as a train derailment that results in a hazardous materials release.
- The consolidating of Stations 5 and 7 could accomplish a number of objectives. First the land restrictions on Station 5 could be eliminated with the construction of a new station at a different location. The operational restrictions due to an extremely small Station 7 would be eliminated with the construction of a new station. If both stations were to be combined the reduction of operational costs would be significant and would improve fire department operations at a reduced cost. Apparatus currently housed in these stations could be located in the new facility. The response time to the

university campus would still be well within the recommended response times and with the relocating of Station 1 these combinations only serves to enhance all operations.

- As commercial and residential growth continues along the State Road 332 corridor the department may considerate constructing a new station in the area of Nebo Road and State Road 332 or further west that will provide service to these areas.