

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: FIRE STATION IMPROVEMENTS, Authorization for application to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and acceptance of \$4,596,896 in Federal 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant Funds for Upgrades to five Fire Stations (Chief Administrative Officer).

REPORT: 1431-05

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The City of New Haven is applying for \$4,596,896 in federal 2009-ARRA stimulus funding for the upgrade and improvements to five of the City's fire stations. A local match is not required but will be viewed upon as favorable. As a match, the City is offering \$280,000 allocated in the 09-10 capital budget for facility improvements in the Fire Department. This amounts to 6% of the federal request. The City proposes to undertake renovation and upgrades to the following 5 fire stations, as determined by priority of need: 357 Whitney Ave - \$740,096, 125 Goffe St - \$2,100,000, 830 Woodward Ave - \$1,311,200, 120 Ellsworth Ave - \$466,400, and 73 East Grand - \$259,200.

The cost benefit to the project will allow for all of the firefighters to be adequately housed and not have to share quarters or "hot bunking" space in the occupied quarters of the station. Adequate sleep time and upgraded alarm and lighting will allow for a more rested and alert crew to respond to calls. The upgrades for adequate locker and shower facilities will enhance the personal hygiene needs of the firefighters and allow for improvement in morale and physical presence. Window and door replacement will allow for seamless and quick response to calls. The re-design of the locker/shower areas will also allow for expansion of inadequate storage of personal and firefighting gear.

By introducing "green" or sustainable materials and controls in the station, operational costs can be significantly reduced. The replacement of all doors and windows with energy efficient double glazed, low-e argon filled glass will greatly reduce heating and air conditioning costs and will not require the use of window treatments to reduce glare and ultra violet rays from breaking down interior finishes. As a result, the R-values of the building will greatly improve. Water conservation due to the replacement of plumbing fixtures will be significant and when coupled with new air economizers and climate controls will show an economy of savings that will be in the area of 25% environmental savings. The replacement of apron and parking areas will stop continued damage to our fire equipment due to shock and warping of the units and could possibly delay purchasing of new fire equipment. The City is providing a total of \$280,000, in the capital budget for fiscal year 2010-2011. This will be split proportionately among the 5 stations. It is also providing, in-house, the project management of jobs. Temporary construction jobs will also be generated at each of the sites proposed for renovation within the next 10 to 15 month period.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

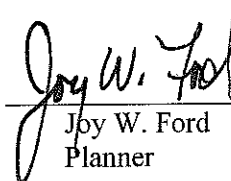
As buildings with modifications, the fire stations identified above will become much more efficient from an operational standpoint and a work/use function. The identified improvements will allow the staff to operate efficiently within its established parameters of service. By having personnel that does not have to deal with ongoing constant repairs, they can relax when necessary, maintain a clean and efficient living pattern, and have a modern up to date fire facility that will be environmentally sound and relatively maintenance free. By enhancing the male/female occupancy level, a balanced and relaxed atmosphere will allow for a workforce that is focused on services needed and mutual support of each other.

The City's Fire Department is responsible for New Haven as well as serving as a regional mutual aid provider for other jurisdictions; at the very least the well being and safety needs of the City's firefighters while standing ready to provide the necessary services required to protect life and property in the City and surrounding communities should be accommodated.

ADVICE Approval

ADOPTED: August 19, 2009
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Joy W. Ford
Planner