



# The Cost of Sprawl and What it Means to Our Community:

## Fire Rescue Services

# What is the cost for protecting sprawl?

- Demand-for-Service is the driver of cost
- More populated or built-upon areas require more service
  - Increased Population
  - “Protected” Buildings and Homes
  - Highway System
- Performance drivers such as NFPA or ISO should be evaluated against the Demand-for-Service being created in the municipality

# What is the cost for protecting sprawl?

- A higher demand-for-service will increase the general Operating Costs for Fire Rescue services
  - Facilities cost
  - Fuel / Maintenance for apparatus
  - Equipment
  - Other programs (Public Education, etc)

# What is the cost for protecting sprawl?

- A higher demand-for-service *may* increase the general Operating Costs for Fire Rescue services when considering staffing:
  - Volunteer
    - Incentives, retirement
  - Live-In
    - Facility, costs to operate facility
  - Career staffing
- National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) created a calculator to show the value of volunteers vs. career. Can be used to predict costs should the demand overwhelm the volunteer system

# What is the cost for protecting sprawl?

- Capitol Costs
  - Fire Apparatus
    - Engines \$400,000-\$700,000
    - Ladders \$650,000-\$1,000,000
    - Tankers \$500,000-\$700,000
  - Equipment
    - Self Contained Breathing Apparatus \$5,000-\$7,000 each
  - Facilities

# What is the cost for protecting sprawl?

- Where does the money come from?
- When the revenue drops and the expenses increase where will the firefighters come for money? ***YOUR MUNICIPALITY!***
- Today's Funding Streams:
  - Volunteer Fund Raising
    - Direct-Mail Fund Drive
    - Other events
  - Municipal Contributions
    - General Contribution
    - Fire Tax
  - Fireman's Relief

# What is the cost for protecting sprawl?

- Other funding
  - Office of the State Fire Commissioner Grant
    - \$15,000 grant each year
    - Not guaranteed beyond 2010 (slots money)
  - DCED
  - Federal Grants
    - AFG, SAFER, Fire Prevention
    - Appropriations fluctuate each year
  - Relief
    - 10% drop in 2009 funds

# What is the cost for protecting sprawl?

- *Are there any solutions?*
  - Limit sprawl?
    - Build up rather than out?
      - May not reduce demand-for-service, same square footage and same population = same call volume
    - Increased density?
  - Combination department?
    - Reduce the burden on the volunteers so they can be retained
    - Does increase personnel costs but prevents transition to full career
  - Regionalization?
    - Decrease the number of facilities?
      - Geographic or demand based coverage should still apply
    - Reduce duplication of resources?
      - A logical conclusion that not every fire company needs every piece of equipment!

# What is the cost for protecting sprawl?

- Conclusions

- Uncontrolled growth and sprawl will increase the costs for Fire Rescue services in your community
- Increased demand-for-service will drive the cost
- Existing sources of funding that today may be adequate today will be stretched beyond their capabilities to keep up with expenses
- Ultimately additional funding requests will be made upon the municipality

# What is the cost for protecting sprawl?

- *Thank you for your time and attention!*

*- Questions?*