

2025-0007



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: SAFD Needs Assessment
DATE: February 6, 2025

COSA - CITY CLERK
2025 FEB 06 PM 04:02:19

Issue Proposed for Consideration:

After coordinating this Council Consideration Request (CCR) with the City Manager, we ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

San Antonio Fire Department Resource and Future Needs Assessment Through 2040

Brief Background:

San Antonio continues to experience rapid population growth and housing expansion, the demand for fire suppression, emergency medical services, and disaster response is expected to increase significantly through 2040. To ensure that the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) remains fully equipped and prepared to meet this demand, the City must conduct a comprehensive assessment of the department's current resources, operational capacity, and long-term needs.

This analysis should provide a data-driven approach to determine the investments needed to maintain and enhance SAFD's ability to minimize emergency response times, improve service delivery, and ensure firefighter and public safety over the next two decades.

The comprehensive analysis should include:

- Staffing Capacity and Future Needs
 - Assessment of the need for additional firefighters, paramedics, and specialized personnel;
 - Analysis of call volume trends and anticipated response demand based on projected population and housing growth through 2040;
 - Recommendations for recruitment, training, and retention strategies to sustain an adequate workforce over the long term.
- Facility Conditions and Geographic Coverage
 - Assessment of the condition and functionality of existing fire stations;
 - Identification of gaps in service coverage, with recommendations for new fire station locations or facility expansions in high-growth areas;
 - Review of facility maintenance, upgrade, and modernization needs to ensure SAFD facilities remain resilient and capable of supporting future operations.
- Fleet and Equipment Readiness
 - Evaluation of current fleet quality, including: Frequency of breakdowns and repair needs; assessment of frontline and reserve fleet readiness; replacement and expansion recommendations for fire trucks, ambulances, and specialized emergency vehicles.
 - Analysis of firefighting and emergency response equipment to ensure SAFD has the necessary tools and technology to operate safely and effectively.



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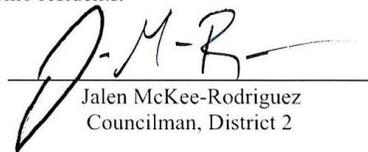
- Review of future equipment and technology needs, including enhanced communications systems, fire prevention tools, and life-saving medical technologies.
- Emergency Response Time and Service Efficiency
 - Review of current response times and identification of barriers to faster emergency service delivery.
 - Recommendations for optimizing deployment strategies, reducing response delays, and enhancing coordination between SAFD and other emergency response agencies.
- Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness
 - Assessment of SAFD’s readiness for increased climate-related emergencies, including extreme heat, wildfires, and flooding.
 - Recommendations for infrastructure and training improvements to enhance SAFD’s ability to respond to natural disasters.
- Long-Term Financial Planning and Funding Strategies
 - Review of potential funding mechanisms, including bond allocations, impact fees, federal and state grant opportunities, and public-private partnerships.
 - Identification of budgetary needs for maintaining high-quality emergency services while planning for future growth.
 - Recommendations for cost-saving measures and operational efficiencies to maximize the department’s resources.

By conducting this comprehensive, forward-looking assessment, the City can develop a strategic plan to ensure SAFD remains fully equipped, well-staffed, and prepared to meet the city’s growing emergency response needs through 2040 and beyond.

Request:

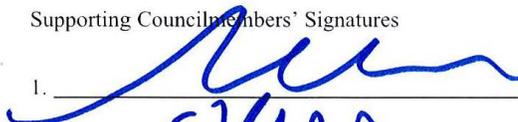
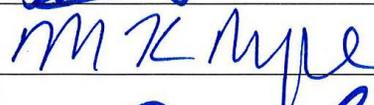
We formally request City staff to conduct and present a comprehensive analysis of SAFD’s resources, facility conditions, staffing capacity, fleet, equipment, and anticipated future needs based on projected population and housing growth through 2040. This analysis should include recommendations for investments, funding strategies, facility expansions, fleet modernization, disaster preparedness, and service improvements to ensure SAFD remains fully capable of delivering timely, effective, and life-saving emergency response services for all San Antonio residents.

Council Consideration Request Submitted by:


 Jalen McKee-Rodriguez
 Councilman, District 2

Supporting Councilmembers’ Signatures

District

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2. 	1
3. 	10
4. 	7