

# City Council Item

April 27, 2026



<b>Item</b>	Fire Department Space Needs Assessment Follow Up	
<b>File No.</b>		<b>Item No:</b> A.1
<b>Agenda Section</b>	<u>5:30 P.M. - WORK SESSION</u>	
<b>Prepared By</b>	Andrew Heger, Fire Chief	
<b>Reviewed By</b>		

<b><u>SUGGESTED ACTION</u></b>	
Provide staff with a preferred direction regarding the pursuit and funding of a Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover study.	
<b>Motion Type</b>	N/A
<b>Strategic Priority</b>	Operational Excellence

## **SUMMARY**

## **BACKGROUND**

Over the past year, the City Council and staff have engaged in a series of discussions regarding fire department facilities and staffing. These conversations have highlighted several key concerns, including effective service delivery, firefighter health and safety, and the ability to plan proactively for continued community growth. Facility needs and staffing needs are tightly interconnected; without adequate facility space, the department will be unable to add the staffing necessary to meet the community’s future demand for emergency services.

The space needs assessment presented to the Council on February 23rd, 2026, identified several needs related to firefighter health and safety, training capabilities, and service delivery. Four scenarios were provided, each with preliminary budget estimates. Staff did not identify a preferred option at that time and noted that additional analysis would be required to fully understand the service delivery impacts

associated with each scenario.

To conduct this analysis, staff have developed a plan that includes engaging a consultant to complete a Community Risk Assessment followed by a Standards of Cover study. The Community Risk Assessment is a comprehensive evaluation of all hazards in the community, not limited to fire, which will identify the overall level of risk present across the entire community. The Standards of Cover study will complement this work by evaluating staffing levels and optimal facility placement to reduce identified risks. If authorized, both studies can be completed within the next year.

Upon completion of the Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover study, staff will have the information needed to accurately assess service impacts and make a recommendation regarding the space needs assessment. The data and insights gathered will support the development of both a master facility plan and a staffing plan. These plans will be grounded in actual community needs and ensure that future investments are aligned with service expectations and growth.

## **DISCUSSION**

## **BUDGET**

These projects are not currently included in any budget requests. The Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover studies are \$25,000 each. Council could elect to utilize funding from the capital facilities fund to move both these projects forward in an expedited manner. Another option, which would likely slow the project timing, could be to include both projects as part of the 2027 budget process.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

[Chanhassen\\_FD\\_CRA\\_Proposal](#)