

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING WORK SESSION
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL
October 6, 2022
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	D.J. Bott	Mayor
	Alden Farr	Councilmember
	Matthew Jensen	Councilmember
	Tom Peterson	Councilmember
	Ryan Smith	Councilmember
	Robin Troxell	Councilmember
ALSO PRESENT:	Christina Boss	City Recorder
	Rick Bosworth	Human Resource Director
	Mike Christiansen	City Attorney <i>arrived at 6:50 p.m.</i>
	Tom Kotter	Finance Director
	Derek Oyler	City Administrator
	Chad Reyes	Police Chief
	Brandon Thueson	Fire Chief
	Mike Young	Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal

Mayor Bott opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and turned the time over to Chief Thueson. Chief Thueson referred to the recent Fire Department master plan and read a statement addressing the Mayor and Council. Following were the statement highlights:

- Brigham City Fire Department (BCFD) also provides services to Perry City
- BCFD does not meet staffing standards set by OSHA (Two-In, Two-Out) and National Fire Protection Association Standard #1710
 - Budgeted staffing – 5 full-time and 2 part-time employees per day; typically staffed at 6 employees due to employees using leave
- Response support not guaranteed from Corinne and Willard volunteer fire departments
- 2021 BCFD had 2,853 calls for an average of 7.81 calls per day compared to Salt Lake City FD averaging 5.87, South Salt Lake FD averaging 6.6, and Unified Fire Authority averaging 3.56 – calls per day per station
- Master Plan reported 45% of time BCFD has 2 or more units committed to calls; 19% of the time 2 or more calls occurring at same time
- BCFD reliance on “all call” system where full-time employees must dedicate a day off to be on call and ready to respond, costs an average of \$75,000/year and results in overworked staff and potential response delays
 - With 6 people on duty, all call is used 48% of the time; 7 on duty, all call is used 46% of the time; 8 on duty, all call drops to 3%; 9 on duty, all call drops to 1%
- Master Plan recommended total of 24 operations personnel (3 shifts x 8 = 24 personnel)
- Lack of staff to respond to calls for emergency service

Chief Thueson requested funding for 3 full-time employees this year, and 3 full-time employees each year for the next two years as well as an administrative battalion chief.

Captain Poppleton came forward and thanked the Council and the community for their support. He detailed the challenges in scheduling to get to minimum staffing. He also pointed out issues with operating at minimum staffing and how it leads emergency response coverage issues.

Captain Yates spoke about the all call system and shared recent experiences where they received a number of calls for service in a short period of time. They had to use the all call system 4 times and were short staffed on the calls.

Captain Fawcett came to the podium and spoke about his desire to help his crew become unified and help train but with all of the other duties as assigned, such as filling and staffing, he cannot devote the time to help his crew in those ways.

Brigham City Community Hospital CEO Richard Spuhler was invited to come forward. He expressed his gratitude for the outstanding service provided by BCFD; however, on a regular basis, he is seeing delayed care due to BCFD staffing issues. He supported Chief Thueson's request for an increase in staffing.

Councilmember Peterson asked if Brigham City is being paid a monthly fee for covering surrounding municipalities and asked if the City could charge the County a tax for EMS service and coverage. Chief Thueson explained there is a mutual aid agreement with Mantua but no monthly fee is paid. Mayor Bott detailed Staff's recent efforts to meet with municipalities and present the increasing costs for services.

Chief Thueson restated the need for additional staff and raised concerns for the wellbeing of citizens and the possibilities/probabilities for delayed emergency response.

With Councilmember support, Mayor Bott stated the item would be placed on the October 20th agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

The undersigned duly appointed Recorder for Brigham City Corporation hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete record of the October 6, 2022 Work Session.

Dated this 20th day of October 2022.

Christina Boss

Christina Boss, City Recorder