

POUDRE FIRE AUTHORITY (PFA)

Revenue History & Trends

In past years, the City has provided funding to PFA based upon a revenue allocation formula (RAF). This formula worked well for over a decade, but in 1992, it was modified by the City in response to voter approval of Article 10, Section 20 of the State constitution, which is a tax limitation measure. City and PFA staff personnel recognized the inadequacy of this funding modification, and have struggled to provide adequate funding to PFA for the last decade. Lack of funds has created delays in the addition of resources needed to meet the community's increasing emergency service needs.

As the largest user of PFA services, the City funds (through sales, use and property taxes) approximately 80% of PFA's budget. The remainder comes from the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District. During the recent economic challenges, the City has maintained the same level of contribution to PFA. As PFA looks to the future, the town of Timnath will be asked to provide additional resources, and the District plans to pursue a ballot measure to generate the revenue needed to fulfill their portion of the additional costs.

Service Impacts & Resource Needs

Although the City contribution to PFA has remained stable, as costs have increased, PFA has also had to implement cost-savings measures. Four firefighter positions and a half-time code inspector position remain unfilled due to budget shortfalls. Refilling these positions (\$445,000 per year) is PFA's most pressing need. Similarly, during the 2010 budget process, the City eliminated maintenance service for Stations 1 – 4, which PFA is requesting be reinstated.

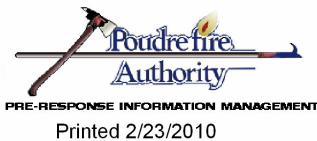
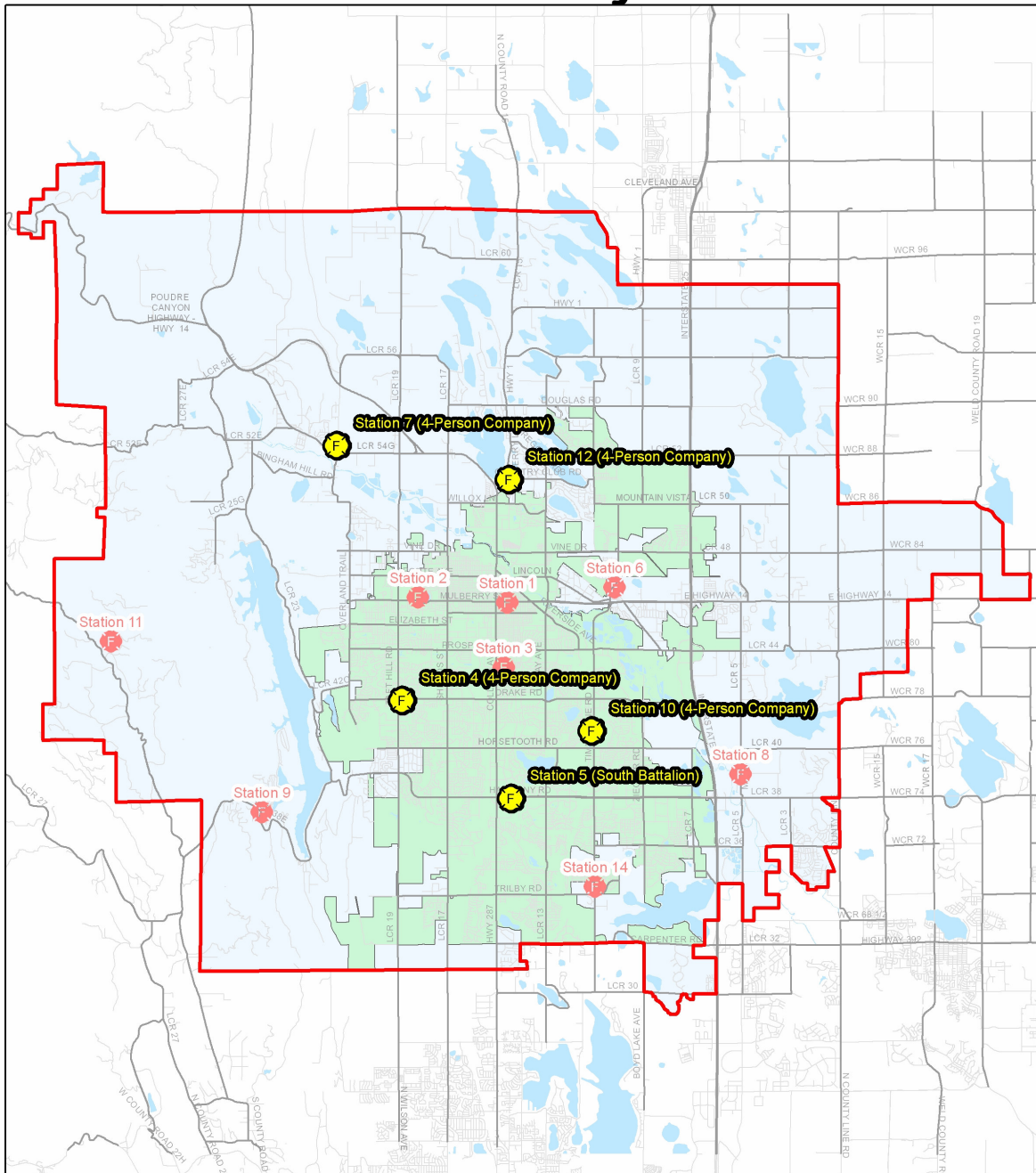
Since the formation of the authority in 1981, PFA has used a strategic planning process as a primary tool for identifying community emergency service needs. To meet changing community needs, new plans are developed approximately every seven years, and plans are reviewed annually. The most recent plan, completed in 2004, identifies several pressing needs.

To provide adequate personnel supervision and emergency scene management for the south portion of the City and District, PFA needs to hire four firefighters and promote three captains to battalion chiefs (BC). BCs provide an important safety role for the public and firefighters as they establish command and control of multi-company incidents. With only one battalion, PFA is unable to consistently meet the eight-minute target response time for BCs and personnel management is becoming less effective. We are not aware of any department our size that has only one battalion. Increasing staffing at outlying, multi-function stations (7, 10, 12, and 4) from three personnel to four per shift will add 15 positions. These positions will provide additional resources for areas that have longer response times for incoming support companies, and have additional multiple response apparatus such as tenders, brush trucks, and hazardous materials units. This complexity in the community's emergency response needs and organizational management requires advanced firefighter training and information technology solutions. Organizational support positions and training dollars are needed. The City also needs to enhance its emergency management programs, including public education, training, technology and planning for preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery.

Summary

PFA needs an additional \$3.5 million annually for staffing and other operations and maintenance needs, as well as \$500,000 for City emergency management programs. The City's share of these needs is approximately \$3.2 million.

Poudre Fire Authority Jurisdiction



Legend

- PFA Boundary
- Major Streets
- F Stations
- Fort Collins City Limits

