



# East Fire Station Project

## CITY IDENTIFIES FIRE FACILITIES NEEDS

After seven years of studying options, the City of Golden Valley is nearing a decision to go from three to two fire stations that will have both public safety and financial impacts for the entire community. The goals are to:

- prioritize timely protection of the safety, well-being, and security of residents, businesses, visitors, and their property, in all areas of the city
- respect the service and sacrifice of firefighters with facilities and resources that meet modern best practices for firefighter safety, health, wellness, and equity
- facilitate prompt and consistent emergency response to residents, businesses, visitors, and their property, in all areas of the city, with a location that complements the service area of downtown Fire Station 1
- integrate consideration of project cost priorities—acquisition, development, construction, operations, and maintenance—for long-term life-cycle cost value and stewardship of public resources



Larger, modern fire equipment is a tight fit in the current buildings.



Firefighting and rescue equipment is packed in the garages, allowing little room to maneuver and sometimes requiring pieces to be moved before others can be accessed. Firefighting gear is crammed into limited storage areas.

### Needs And Solutions

Golden Valley’s paid on-call staffing model is no longer viable. Not only is it difficult to recruit and retain paid on-call firefighters due to family and job obligations, the staffing model makes it difficult to respond to calls within industry standards.

In response, the City is transitioning to the more modern duty crew staffing model like other suburban cities. This creates part-time jobs with predictable scheduled shifts and allows firefighters to use their training on a regular basis, so retention increases.

**NEED:** Current facilities are outdated, undersized for equipment and function, and do not allow for modern firefighting operations and 24/7 duty crew staffing. This includes:

- inadequate locker room space, including gender-equitable amenities
- insufficient physical capacity in site size or building construction to accommodate day-to-day functionality
- lack of adequate training space, which means most training occurs on concrete and outdoors in all seasons

**NEED:** Current facilities do not have adequate measures to protect firefighter health and safety. This includes:

- lack of ample workspace to reduce exposure to carcinogens and proper facilities to clean carcinogens off equipment and gear
- lack of protected space for firefighters to dress for calls



Firefighters must dress adjacent to moving vehicles.

**NEED:** The City’s three current fire station locations are not geographically optimized for today’s updated highway system.

**SOLUTION:** To ensure long-term resiliency of the fire department and its operations, consolidate two remote fire stations into one eastern station and maintain a headquarters station in downtown in a new Public Safety building. Since the downtown station provides optimal coverage for the west side of the city, a main priority is locating the second station east of and near Hwy 100 to provide 4-minute response times.

Facilities must accommodate the duty crew firefighting model and contemporary firefighting equipment, improve safety

measures for staff, and enable best firefighting practices. This includes:

- gender-equitable locker rooms
- ample workspace to reduce exposure to carcinogens and proper facilities to clean carcinogens off equipment and gear
- proper ventilation
- a protected space for firefighters to dress for calls
- drive-through truck bays
- space to avoid conflicts with large vehicles and pedestrians
- improved spaces for maintenance and hands-on training

Facilities must also accommodate the transition to 24/7 duty crew staffing operations, including:

- on-site training
- kitchen and day room
- bunk rooms
- physical fitness/workout facilities
- shower/changing/locker rooms



Current facilities do not offer adequate locker room space, including gender-equitable amenities. Photos show Station 2 locker rooms—left is men’s and right is women’s.

## Schedule And Costs

The cost for land acquisition, relocation, project management, and construction is \$17 million (see chart), which will be financed with a bonding bill.

PROJECT	YEAR	COST
Land Acquisition/Relocation	2024	\$ 4 M
Project Management	2024	\$ 1 M
East Fire Station Construction	2025	\$12 M
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$17 M</b>

## More Information

For more information, please contact Golden Valley Fire Chief John Crelly at 763-593-8065 or [jcrelly@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:jcrelly@goldenvalleymn.gov), or visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/facilities-study](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/facilities-study).