



About the Brooklyn Park Fire Department

HF 4131 and SF 3814

With a growing population of more than 86,000 people, Brooklyn Park is the sixth-largest city in Minnesota and the fourth largest in the metropolitan area. Established in 1957, the Brooklyn Park Fire Department is a full-service emergency response organization that provides fire protection, emergency medical care, technical rescue services, hazardous materials response, and community-focused health and safety risk-reduction services and programming.

Brooklyn Park firefighters respond to over 8,200 fire and medical calls per year. The fire department provides automatic aid to five surrounding cities with a combined population of over 210,800, and mutual aid throughout the county and region. Brooklyn Park is one of the only full-time staffed suburban fire departments in the seven-county metro region and one of the busiest throughout the entire state. All Brooklyn Park firefighters are certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) or Paramedics; ambulance service is provided by a private third-party service.

Brooklyn Park firefighters operate out of four strategically located fire stations in the city. The fire department is also responsible for citywide emergency management functions and operates the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) from the central fire station.

A Strategic Plan for the Future

In 2019, the fire department finished a collaborative strategic planning process that involved both internal and external community stakeholders, and a comprehensive data analysis. The five-year strategic plan established key data benchmarks and a blueprint for the future to meet the growing needs of the community and the region.

As a result of the strategic plan, the city committed to making immediate investments to improve the overall day-to-day staffing of the department and to handle increasing demands for service, specifically medical-related calls that account for over 72% of the department's call volume.

Also recognizing the aging infrastructure of each of the four fire stations, and the fact that the stations were never designed for full-time, 24/7 staffing, the city also engaged in a third-party assessment of its stations.

The result of this assessment identified more than \$40 million of needed improvements to all of Brooklyn Park's fire stations, including either complete renovations or entirely new construction.

Recent Staffing Investments

- To better serve the community, the fire department has transitioned from a combination staffing model to a career model **with fully staffed stations 24/7.**
- Hired **20 additional full-time firefighters** over the past two years to handle an increasing call volume, and improve operational efficiency and safety. A 3-year, \$3.3 million **federal grant** is funding 12 of the new positions.
- Recruiting **directly from the Brooklyn Park community.**
- Created a **model** six-month firefighter and EMS academy to train and on-board new firefighters.



HF 4131 and SF 3814: An Investment into Public Safety

The results of a comprehensive analysis of Brooklyn Park's fire stations identified a combined **\$40+ million** of investments needed to all of the city's stations. In all cases, either a complete remodel or new construction is recommended. The most notable investment is to the **central station** which also houses the city's EOC. The EOC has been activated several times over the past few years.

With immediate investments necessary to improve the health and safety of firefighters, and to provide a central location for training and emergency management operations, the city and fire department is requesting **\$20 million** in state funding to acquire and improve property, predesign, design, construct, engineer, furnish, and equip a new fire station with space for a multiagency emergency operations center, regional training opportunities, and other associated site improvements.

Primary Issues

- The current central fire station requires an **additional 18,635+ square feet** to accommodate full-time firefighters, administration, training, and a secure EOC.
- The current location **does not provide appropriate separation or ventilation** from the apparatus bays to firefighters' living quarters, fire administration, civilian staff, and the public. Turnout gear is stored in contaminated apparatus bays.
- The main restrooms are used for daily living as well as for **decontamination** after a fire.
- There are only two private bedrooms; there is **no room** for expansion to accommodate additional full-time staff. The on-duty shift supervisor (Battalion Chief) sleeps in a shared office area.
- Emergency vehicles have difficulties **safely accessing** 85th Ave, a heavily traveled road.
- Full-time firefighters train **thousands of hours per year**. There is currently no dedicated firefighter training location in the city or in the immediate metro area.





Multi-Agency Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The Brooklyn Park Fire Department is the lead agency for providing emergency management support to the City of Brooklyn Park. During a major incident, the fire department operates a multi-agency EOC. The department's meeting/training room is completely converted into a work space to accommodate stakeholders from within the city as well as local, county, regional, and state partners.

Case Study: Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19)

In March 2020, the city's EOC was opened and staffed for 10-12 hours per day; the longest activation of the EOC in the city's history. Recognizing that public safety staff had no option to work-from-home during the pandemic, and on-duty firefighters, command staff, and those working in the EOC were in close proximity to one another, the decision was made to relocate firefighters out of the central fire station. The current EOC lacks the adequate space to appropriately function as an EOC while continuing day-to-day operations.



Case Study: Civil Unrest

During the timeframe the EOC was activated for COVID-19, it was also activated as a result of significant civil unrest in the area, and in preparation for the trials of Derek Chauvin and Kim Potter. Brooklyn Park's EOC became a multi-agency coordination center for not only Brooklyn Park agencies, but also for neighboring jurisdictions and public safety partners from the region and state. Even in the middle of a pandemic, the room was completely full of leadership for over a dozen agencies and partners. During the civil unrest, every firefighter that was able to work was called to duty. Lacking adequate space for both EOC command staff and firefighters, every usable space was



used, including the Fire Chief's Office. The age and design of the facility also lacks appropriate security safeguards; contingency plans were developed in the event it had to be evacuated if the building was compromised.

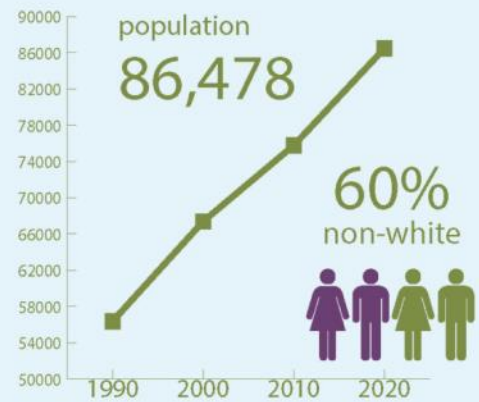
Brooklyn Park

Unique. United. Undiscovered.

Snapshot of the city 2021



Who we are...



Brooklyn Park

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