

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	July 17, 2023
Action Required:	Approval of Resolution
Presenter:	Michael Thomas, Interim Fire Chief
Staff Contacts:	Mike Rogers, Deputy Chief of Business Services Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget
Title:	Fontaine Avenue Fire Station Alerting System update (2nd reading)

Background

The call alerting system currently in use at the Fontaine Avenue Fire Station was installed during the initial construction of the building. The system is now more than ten (10) years old, and the system components and accessories are all proprietary and beginning to fail. The City would have to incur the upgrade cost to update the failing system and commit to an annual maintenance agreement with the current vendor. Since the installation of the original system, any new call types and subsequent programming codes created through the Emergency Communication Center (ECC) are not part of the system configuration and aren't recognized as part of an alert. The current system only allows the fire department to make the necessary programming changes after working through the vendor. Also, unlike the requested system, the current system does not have any backup or redundancy to notify the fire units about incidents.

Discussion

Since the construction of the Fontaine Avenue Station, the Ridge Street Station has been equipped with a newer alerting system that allows the City to program the system in-house and aftermarket product interfaces/usages are available. Additionally, this newer system is used by Albemarle County and other regional partners and is fully compatible with all the newer CAD programming used by the ECC system. The City of Charlottesville Fontaine Avenue Station is the last local agency on the old alerting system server housed and maintained at the ECC. Replacement of this system is currently programmed for FY26 in the 5-year CIP plan at a cost of \$175,000 but the limitations of the old system are requiring the need to continuously find more inefficient operational work-arounds that can not be sustained.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This project supports Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan, to be a Healthy and Safe City and Goal 5, to be a Well-managed and Responsive Organization..

Community Engagement

N/A

Budgetary Impact

\$175,000 is currently programmed as a bondable expense in FY 26 for the replacement of this system. If this resolution is approved, the sale of the bonds will occur sooner but will not change the overall finances of the current 5-year plan.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of this resolution.

Alternatives

Approval could be denied and replacement of the alerting system would have to wait until the future funding programmed for the replacement becomes available.

Attachments

1. Resolution_Fontaine Avenue Fire Station Alerting System