



## LAKE JOHANNA FIRE DEPARTMENT

5545 LEXINGTON AVENUE NORTH • SHOREVIEW, MN 55126

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### Fire Department Needs Presentation - 2019

*Presented to the City Councils of Arden Hills, North Oaks and Shoreview*

#### ***Where We Came From***

The Lake Johanna Fire Department was founded in 1943 by a group of residents. Donated and surplus equipment was converted for the first fire trucks. The original southern border was Larpenteur Ave. and the northern border was County Road J.

**The Original Station** was built in 1943 on New Brighton Road in what is today Arden Hills.

**Station 2** was originally built in 1955 on Hodgson Road in what is today North Oaks.

The Cities of Arden Hills, North Oaks and Shoreview incorporated in the 1950's, at which time they contracted with the Lake Johanna Fire Department for fire protection.

**Station 1** was built on New Brighton Road as a larger building in 1960 north of the original station.

**Station 3** built in 1986 by Shoreview located at County Road I and Lexington Ave.

**Station 4** built in 1988 by Shoreview located at 3615 Victoria St.

#### ***Where We Have Been Operationally***

In 1943 the department started as a Volunteer Fire Department and over time it evolved to a Paid-On-Call department which provided a relief association pension to those who served for 10 years or more. Firefighters were paid a nominal amount of money for the calls and training they attended.

In 2002 a full-time Fire Chief was hired to run the department. Additional full-time staff were added over the years including a full-time Office Manager, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal and Deputy Chief/Emergency Manager.

With an increase in calls and training requirements the department initiated a station staffing program (Duty Crew) which puts firefighters physically in the stations.

#### ***The Stations***

The existing stations were designed as call back stations meaning they were not designed for 24/7 use. There were not sleeping quarters or other dedicated duty areas in the stations. Other than a single office at any one station, there was also no office space for administrative staff.

**Original Station** built by firefighters in 1943 and was decommissioned in 2017 with Station 1.

**Station 1** - 3246 New Brighton Road, Arden Hills

**Built** - 1960

**Remodeled** - 1987

**Decommissioned** - 2017

**Station 2** - 4676 Hodson Road, North Oaks

**Built** - 1955

**Rebuilt** - 1996

**Remodeled** - 2012 (Sleeping Quarters>Showers)

**Station 3** - 5545 Lexington Ave. Shoreview

**Built** - 1986

**Remodeled** - 2005 (Administrative Offices)

**Station 4** - 3615 Victoria Street, Shoreview

**Built** - 1988

**Remodeled** - 2005 (Bay Addition, Offices)

**Remodeled** - 2012 (Sleeping Quarters>Showers)

### ***Where We Are***

Today, the department operates three stations covering 31 square miles and 42,000 residents. Two stations are staffed 24/7/365 with 2-3 firefighters each. The fleet includes (4) Engines, (2) Ladders, (1) Tanker, (2) Rescues, (3) Utilities, (2) Boats and (4) Command Vehicles.

The department is on pace to provide service for 3750 calls in 2019 which is a 4% increase over 2018. Fire, EMS, Rescue, Haz-Mat and Technical Rescue services are provided by the department and in some cases in conjunction with regional teams. In 2018, the average emergency response time was 5:31 minutes.

Staff for the department is provided by (5) full-time personnel including Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief/Emergency Manager, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal and the Office Manager. There are also 81 part-time staff who work in station a minimum of 70 hours per quarter and as much as 180 hours per month.

Emergency calls based on call-type are supplemented as necessary via automatic aid agreements with Little Canada, Roseville, Vadnais Heights and White Bear Lake Fire Departments. Lake Johanna Fire also participates in the Ramsey County wide "Closest Unit Dispatching" program which augments the host agency's response with closer outside agency assets for critical calls.

The Lake Johanna Fire Department operates like any other municipal fire department.

### ***Where We Are Going***

Predicting exactly where this fire department will be in 50 years is difficult at best, however, there are trends and movements that are guiding our projected path forward. In the years to come, it is expected that the department will: staff all three stations, operate as we do today, as a combination department (Career/Part-Time) and enhance response models with partner agencies to provide the best possible service (Regional Coverage).

By 2029, we expect to surpass 6000 calls for service annually. This breaks down to 16-17 calls daily based on 4% annual increases with the current population as well as the anticipated calls from pending development. It is exceedingly likely that these numbers could be conservative as they are derived from known development. Our expectation is that additional development is increasingly likely as open space becomes scarce and less densely populated spaces get redeveloped into denser, potentially more vertical occupancies.

Some of these known pending developments include: Edison Apartment & Townhomes (Shoreview), Marriott Hotel (Arden Hills), Loden II (Shoreview), Summit Senior Living (Arden Hills), North Oaks Housing Projects (North Oaks) and Rice Creek Commons (Arden Hills).

### ***Needs Study***

In July of 2018 the Fire Department Board of Directors authorized the Fire Chief to hire a firm to perform a Fire Station Needs Assessment. Buetow 2 Architects, Inc. was hired and after four months of research they completed the study in November of 2018. The "Executive Summary" of the "Long Range Planning Study" produced by Buetow 2 concluded the following:

- The new Fire Station should be built on a new site to meet the needs of the next 50 years.
- The site should be at least 3 acres to accommodate a building of 28,000 SF
- The station would include at least 6 drive thru bays and living quarters for 7 firefighters
- The new station based on size, training facilities and equipment would transition to the new Administrative Offices.
- The project would take about 4 years from start to occupancy for use by firefighters.

### ***Next Steps***

Based on the findings of the Buetow 2 Architects, Inc, there is a clear need to relocate the southern station all while significantly updating its capabilities. To better serve today and prepare for the next 50 years, we must design and build a strategically placed fire station. This new facility would replace the current station on Victoria St. to better serve the entire southern segment of our coverage area. Administrative Offices would be relocated to prepare for our expanding operation and create an appropriate, purpose-built work environment. Training Facilities would be incorporated to allow for first-class training and educational opportunities with partner agencies within our coverage area.

### ***Where to Relocate***

Lake Johanna Fire Department must service the entire breath of our southern border (County Road D) from Cleveland Ave. to Rice Street. We must prepare to service future development. A location must be sought out that provides for as much safety as possible for both citizens and responders regarding access to/from the facility. Lastly, as was determined in the Long Range Planning Study produced by Buetow 2 Architects, Inc. under the direction of the Board of Directors, a site of at least (3) acres is necessary to accommodate the future needs of the department.

### ***Access and Safety***

Cross traffic at all three existing stations is significant. Without taking road construction traffic flow changes into account and only looking at AADTs (Annual Average Daily Traffic), we find the traffic flows across the driveways of our existing stations to range from 10,700 to 15,300 (2011 to 2016 data). Access to the station off a secondary roadway greatly enhances safety over primary roadways simply due to the reduction in traffic volume being yielding for emergency vehicles. From the secondary roadway, the signals on the primary roadways can be triggered to stop traffic at known locations through standard sequences that are expected for drivers.

### ***Desired Corridor***

Using mapping software, a corridor from Snelling to Lexington along County Road E yields the desirable location to most efficiently provide for balanced response times to the southern portion of our coverage area. This location also lends itself to multiple primary roadways to navigate away from the station including County Road E (East/West) and Snelling and Lexington (North/South).

### ***Potential Timeline***

**Summer/Fall 2019** - Looking for approval from the Board of Directors to purchase property

**Fall 2019 through Spring 2020** - Finalize Design and City Permit Approvals (8 months)

**Spring 2020** - Board of Directors Approval of Project Design

**Spring 2020** - Project Out to Bid (4 weeks)

**Summer 2020** - Site Prep

**Summer 2020** - Begin Construction (12-14 months)

**Fall 2021** - Building Construction Complete, Station Operational