

# Mountain Iron City Council Presentation

## January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Fire & EMS Overview and Proposal

Fire Chief Mark Madden, Mountain Iron  
Fire Chief Allen Lewis, Virginia



# Agenda



- Shared Service Study Recap
- Current Operational and Performance Picture
- Proposed Solutions



# Shared Service Planning Grants



- Executive Order 09-13
  - Governor’s Task Force On A Shared Services Approach to Fire and Rescue Services in Minnesota
- Minnesota State Fire Marshal
- Purpose “Develop A Blueprint for Shared Services”
- Three Categories:
  - Exploratory
  - Planning
  - Implementation

State Paid	Participants Paid
90%	10%

# Study Methodology



- On-site Assessment of each Department
  - Qualitative Analysis
- Met with Stakeholders – Municipal & Department
- Data Analysis
  - Quantitative Analysis
- Identified Shared Services Opportunities
- Prioritized all Report Recommendations



# Study Components

- Culture Observations
- Departments Overview
- Governance
  - Municipal
  - Department
- Emergency Activities
  - Suppression
  - EMS
- Standard of Response
  - Distribution
  - Concentration
  - Reliability



# Study Components cont.



- National Standards
- Staffing
- Personnel Management
  - Legal Compliance
- Public Safety Answering Point (Dispatch)
- Facilities
- Apparatus
- Training

# Study Components cont.

- Fire Prevention
- Safety Education
- Fiscal
- Shared Services Opportunity
- Summary of All Recommendations



# Consolidation – Full



- Two agencies completely merge into a single legal agency. All services demands in each community are looked at as a single function of the department and political boundaries become invisible.



# Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)



- St. Louis County Dispatch Center
- Response Times
  - Detection Time
  - Notification Time
  - Turnout Time
  - Travel Time

Processing Time: NFPA 1221 = 64 seconds

PSAP Processing Time		
Incident	Processing Time	Exceeds NFPA 64 Sec
Fires	2 min 34 sec	140.63%
EMS	2 min 45 sec	157.81%

# Response Times



## Response In Each City:

Activity	Fire In Mountain Iron	Fire In Virginia
PSAP Dispatch Time	0:02:25	0:02:45
FD Response Time	0:10:23	0:01:41
PSAP Dispatch to FD on Scene	0:14:42	0:06:49
PSAP Call Received to FD on Scene	0:16:58	0:09:34

## Response In Mountain Iron:

Fire In Mountain Iron	Mountain Iron	Virginia
Dispatch to On Scene	00:14:42	00:08:45

# Facilities



- Mountain Iron – Shared Facility
  - Extremely Tight Quarters
    - Expand or Eliminate
    - House Cleaning
  - No Emission Exhaust
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor egress
  - Emergency Generator (100%)
- Virginia – Built in 1909
  - Facility Needs to be Replaced

# Shared Services Obstacles



- Loss of Local Autonomy
- Current & Past Members
- Political Will
- Resistance to Change
  - Tradition
- Hidden Agendas
- Different Fire Department Cultures
- End Product Could Cost More

## **Mt. Iron, Virginia: Service Planning**

### **Ground Rules as agreed upon September 30, 2019:**

1. I will respect other opinions.
2. I will look at others as equal, and treat others with equality.
3. I will treat others utilizing the "Golden Rule".
4. Everyone will be expected to "weigh in" on topics and I will provide input.
5. I will listen respectfully, and try to hear what is being said.
6. I will share information with all in the group, within data practices.
7. I will start and end on time
8. I agree and support one media/information point of contact.
9. I agree to be open minded to ideas, and concepts
10. I agree to honesty and integrity
11. I agree to meet regularly and complete assignments on time
12. I agree to confidentiality as a measure to respect and support the decision making process.
13. I agree to consensus as a measure to support collective decision making

# **The Committee Meetings**





## Problem/Gap Identification

Raw Data: Followed by grouping of topics

1. How to provide the effective service
2. Shortage in Labor Force
3. Response Times
4. Duplicating Equipment
5. Sustainability
6. Need for professional Management
7. Cost reduction/Public cost-taxes
8. Mrs. Smith/Improve Service
9. Public Perceptions
10. Wages/Benefits/Labor Contracts
11. Professional Security
12. Who is Decision Making
13. Fire Prevention/Code/PE Efforts

## Outcomes

2,4,5,7 (Sustainability) 22 points

1,3,8,9,13 (Service Gap) 14 points

10,11 ( ) 7 points

6,12 ( ) 5 points



## Mt. Iron/Virginia FD

Continuance from Nov 4, 2019 meeting, finalized December 2, 2019

Brainstorming, Proposed solutions 12/2/19

- ~~1. Close the doors~~
- ~~2. Contract service with Eveleth, Fayal, Gilbert after they merge.~~
3. Full Merger with Eveleth, Fayal, Gilbert
4. Staff Stations (with FD personnel)
5. Separate Fire/EMS
6. Fire District
- ~~7. Do Nothing~~
8. Full Merger MIFD/VFD
- ~~9. Referendum, Let public Decide~~
10. EMS Taxing District
- ~~11. Contract Fire Protection, Disband one of the FDs~~
12. Share budget for equipment
13. Share Maintenance
14. Joint Training
15. Joint Officers
16. Joint Public Education, Fire Code, Investigation,
- ~~17. Shared Officer~~
18. City/Rural Fire Protection in MI
19. EMS S2 in MI Collaborative Sharing
20. Alternative staffing (college, coop work experience)
21. Pool resources,/Examine Gap



# Final Planning Committee Vote



**Full Merger:** 3, (4), 6, 8,10

27 Points

**Partial Merger:** (4), 12,13,14,15,16,18,19

16 Points

**Separate Fire/EMS:** 5

1 Point

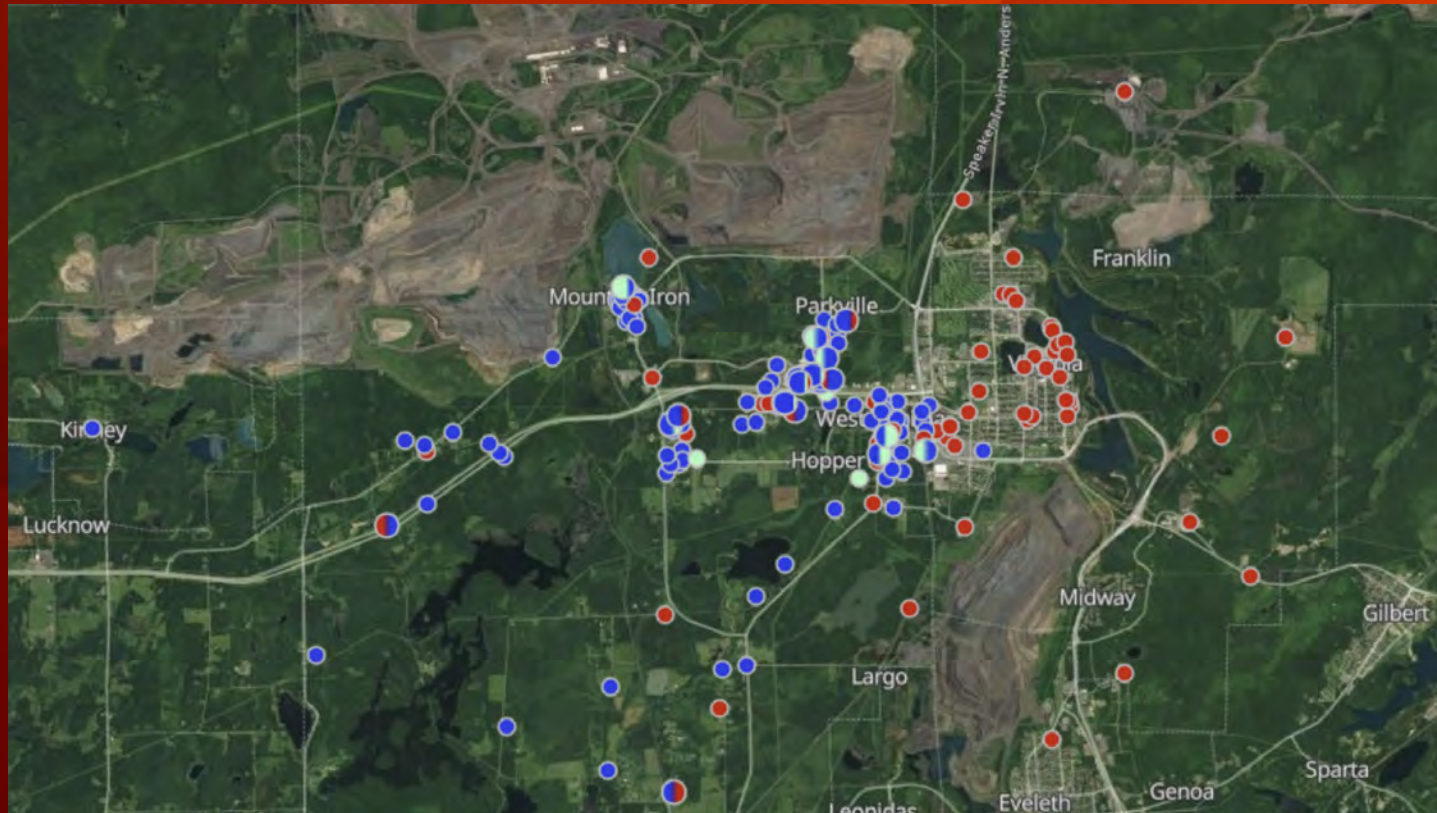
~~City/Rural Protection 18~~

**Alternate Staff:** 20,21

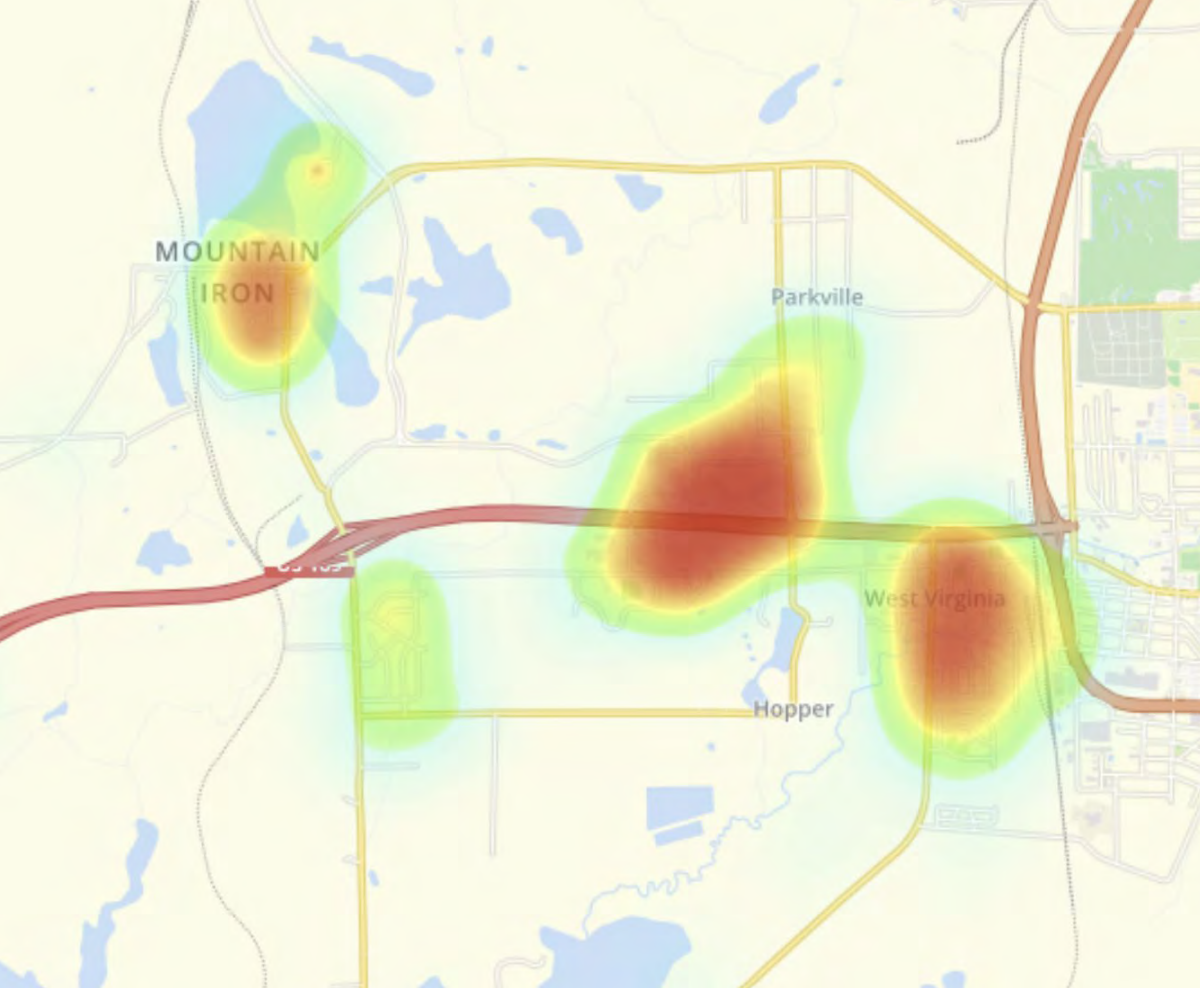
4 points



# Where We Are Today – All Calls 2020



# Heat Map of All Mountain Iron Calls - 2020





# Frequency of Incidents - 2020

**8517 Raintree Dr**

8 incidents

**8583 Unity Dr**

30 incidents

**8585 Unity Dr**

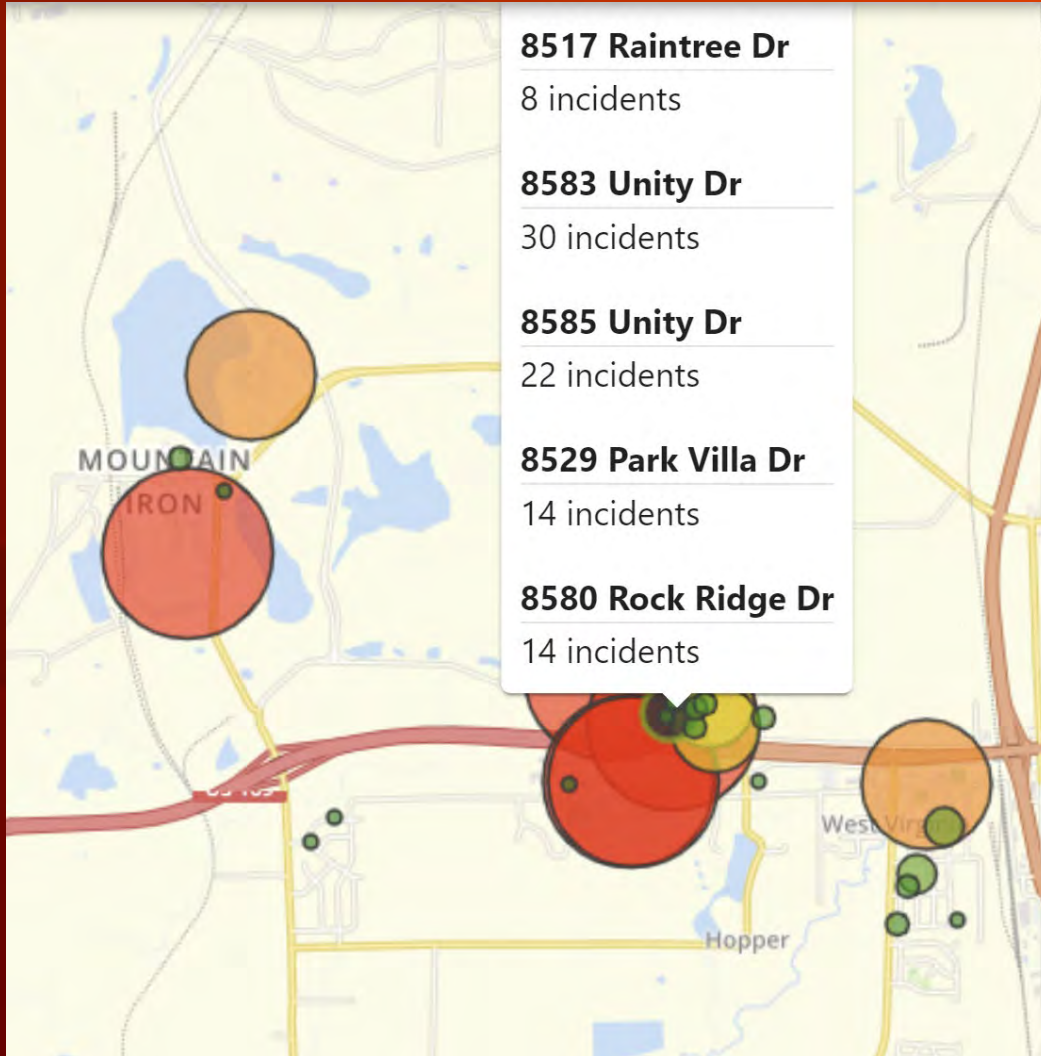
22 incidents

**8529 Park Villa Dr**

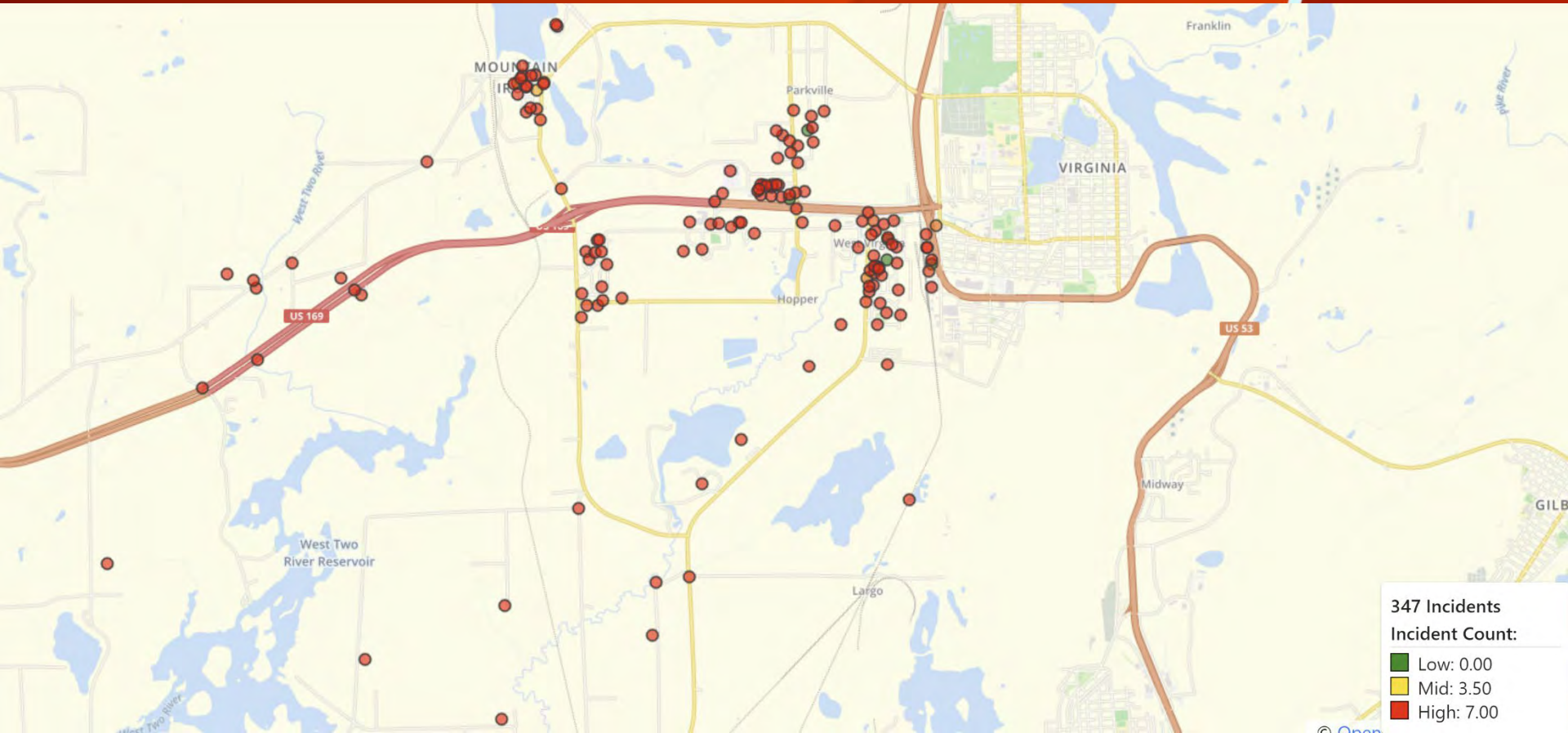
14 incidents

**8580 Rock Ridge Dr**

14 incidents



# 2020 - Time of Call to First Unit on Scene



Row Labels	Count of ID
<b>KINNEY GREAT SCOTT FD</b>	<b>1</b>
Other EMS	1
<b>MT IRON FD</b>	<b>304</b>
Cardiac	14
Fire Alarm	19
Metabolic	5
MVA	1
Other EMS	204
Other Fire	7
Psych	10
Respiratory	15
Service	21
Structure Fire	2
Trauma	2
Vehicle Fire	4
<b>PIKE SANDY FD</b>	<b>1</b>
Structure Fire	1
<b>VIRGINIA FD</b>	<b>36</b>
Brush Fire	3
Other EMS	1
Structure Fire	31
Vehicle Fire	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>342</b>

Row Labels	Sum of Priority
<b>EMS</b>	<b>253</b>
MASLT-MEDIC FROM ASLT	2
MCVA-STROKE	6
MDIAB-DIABETIC EMERGENCY	5
MDIFFB-DIFF BREATH	15
MEDIC-MEDIC	194
MHEART-HEART	8
MOD-OVERDOSE	6
MSEIZ-SEIZURE	10
PIORV-OFF ROAD VEH PI	1
PI-PERSONAL INJ	2
SUICA-ATTEMPTED SUICIDE	4
<b>Fire</b>	<b>68</b>
FALRM-AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	14
FCO-CO ALARM	5
FGAS-GAS LEAK IN/OUT	5
FGRAS-GRASS/WILDFIRE	3
FMISC-MISC FIRE CALL	2
FSTRUC-STRUCTURE FIRE	34
FVEH-VEHICLE FIRE	5
<b>Other</b>	<b>21</b>
ASTINV-LIFT ASSIST	17
FFLOW-WATER FLOW ALARM	1
FLINE-LINE PROBLEMS	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>342</b>

# Mountain Iron Call Performance

Incidents	Number of Calls	% of Total Calls
Total Calls 2020	342	100%
Total Responses	130	38%
Not Responded To	212	62%





# Mountain Iron Call Performance

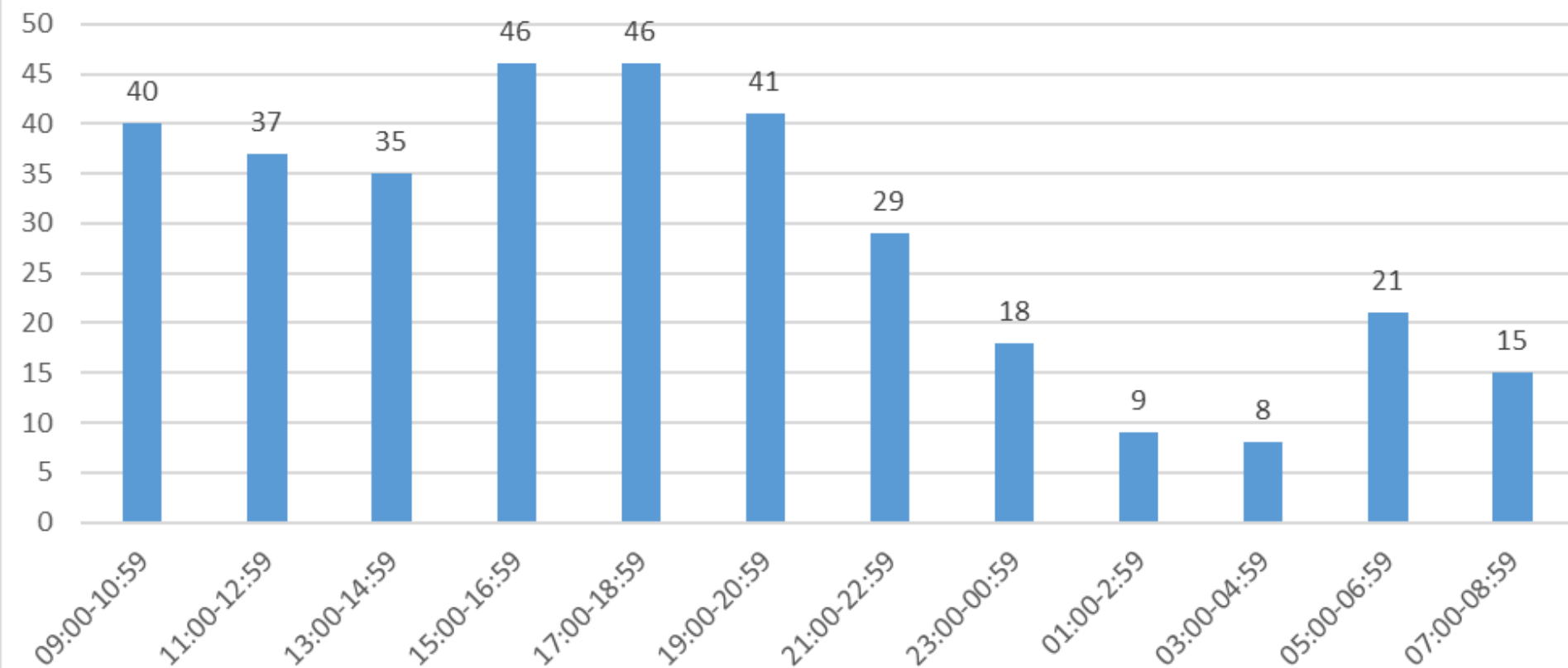
Incident Type	Number of Calls	% of Total Calls
Medical (Mt. Iron)	272	80%
Fire	70	20%
Mt. Iron Fire	32	9%
Mutual Aid Fire	37	11%

- Medical incidents are four times (4x) more frequent than fire incidents.
- **Two in three (67%) medical incidents are unanswered.**





## Mountain Iron Emergency Calls in 2020 by Time



# 2020 Call Times in Mountain Iron

Time	Number of Calls	% of Calls	Possible Shift Coverage	
11:00 PM to 12:59 AM	18	5%		
1:00 AM to 2:59 AM	9	3%		
3:00 AM to 4:59 AM	8	2%		
5:00 AM to 6:59 AM	21	6%		
7:00 AM to 8:59 AM	15	4%		16 Hr period accounts for 84% of all calls
9:00 AM to 10:59 AM	40	12%	12 Hr period accounts for 71% of all calls	
11:00 AM to 12:59 PM	37	11%		
1:00 PM to 2:59 PM	35	10%		
3:00 PM to 4:59 PM	46	13%		
5:00 PM to 6:59 PM	46	13%		
7:00 PM to 8:59 PM	41	12%		
9:00 PM to 10:59 PM	29	8%		



# 2020 Mountain Iron Paid Personnel Hours

Category	Hours	% of Total Hours
Fire/Emergency Calls*	536	37%
Training and Work	912	63%
<b>Department Hour Distribution</b>		
Officer Hours (2 Officers)	<b>331</b>	<b>23%</b>
Total Firefighter Hours	581	40%
Average Hours Per Firefighter	39	Non-Fire

-Roster increased in 2020 from 13 to 17 Firefighters.

\*Does not include First Responder hours, Responders are paid a per call stipend.



## 2021 Mountain Iron Personnel Hour Forecast

Category	Hours	% of Total Hours
Fire/Emergency Calls	600 (Est.)	18%
Training (50 Hours per FF)	950	28%
Planned Monthly Work Night	200	Estimate 50% Participation
NFPA Required Operational Checks, Recordkeeping and Maintenance	1400	42%
Community Work and Preparedness	400	12%
<b>Additional Manhours Hours Needed</b>	<b>1600</b>	
Average Hours Per Firefighter	145	Non-Fire

Current Roster - 19 Firefighters





## Transitional Staffing Plan

Staffed Positions	Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM	Hours Per Month	Annual Hours	Cost Per Hour	Annual Cost
<b>Option 1</b> - Mountain Iron FF/First Responder (2 on shift)	12	520	6240	\$15.00	\$93,600.00
<b>Option 2</b> - Mountain Iron FF/First Responder (1 on shift)	12	260	3120	\$15.00	\$46,800.00

- Increase hourly wage to \$15.00 and \$3,000 annual PERA for all MIFD staff.
  - Creates flexibility to fill shifts with all rostered members.
- Purchase Command Vehicle (Tahoe or similar, \$45,000 state pricing).
  - MIFD Officers scheduled on call, respond direct to scene for size up and coordination of incoming units.
- Hire and designate 4 or more Firefighter/First Responders as part time to staff the station 12 hours per day.
  - Respond to all medical calls during shift with MIFD apparatus (Engine 16).
  - Required to train for EMT certification.
  - Perform operational checks, training and other assigned work while on shift.

### Mountain Iron Fire Department Annual Budget

**Option 1 - \$235,000** (does not include command vehicle purchase)

**Option 2 - \$186,000** (does not include command vehicle purchase)



# Immediate Impacts of Transitional Plan Implementation

- Increase personnel availability for incident response. Estimate response improvement to more than 70% of all medical incidents.
- Reduce response time to high volume call areas. Especially critical for medical incidents.
- Increase efficiency by Officers responding directly to incidents, setting up command and coordinate incoming units.
- Increase staff safety by having part time firefighters ensuring operational readiness and maintenance of equipment while freeing other members to focus more hours on training.



Future Staffing Plan & Cost Calculation								
	Monthly Hours	Cost per Hour	Total Monthly Staffing Cost	Total Annual Staffing Cost	Virginia Staffing Cost Annually	Mountain Iron Staffing Cost Annually	Average Pay Per FF	Monthly Time Commitment per Firefighter
Totals	2,880	\$71	\$51,120	\$613,440	\$354,240	\$259,200		
Staffed Positions								
Mountain Iron FF/EMT (15)	720	\$15	\$10,800	\$129,600		\$129,600	\$720	48 Hours
Virginia FF/Medic (3)	720	\$23	\$16,560	\$198,720	\$198,720		\$5,520	240 Hours
Virginia FF/EMT (3)	720	\$18	\$12,960	\$155,520	\$155,520		\$4,320	240 Hours
Mountain Iron FF/EMT (15)	720	\$15	\$10,800	\$129,600		\$129,600	\$720	48 Hours

## FD merger Question and Answer

1. Why are we merging our Fire Departments?

a. To provide a better more consistent service to the residents in our area.

2. Will the Firefighters be safer?

a. Training together will provide a more structured environment where we can work together regularly. Working together will make us more efficient and will improve communications and safety.

3. How will this improve my Fire/EMS protection?

a. This will improve response times across the area. Emergency personnel will be at your emergency sooner.

4. Will this cost more? Short term, long term and future cost avoidance?

a. Short term- Yes, the cost will go up. Long term- Costs could be reduced with funds being brought in from EMS calls. It depends on the model being used. We must remember this is a public service and Public service does cost money. Future cost avoidance- Cost avoidance can be handled with less duplication in equipment and training.

5. Will the same firefighters be coming to help?

a. Yes, the name may change but the faces will remain the same. The hope is that this will also help us to get more members as well.

6. How will this affect my insurance?

a. This has the possibility of improving the cities ISO rating. Improving this rating means lower insurance rates for homeowners and businesses.

7. Will you close my fire station?

a. No. We hope to increase services, not decrease them.

8. How can I provide input for the process?

a. You can contact your local Fire Department representative or contact your city councilors. Keep communications open and be honest.

## Discussion

