

PS COMMITTEE #3
March 4, 2010

Note: Please bring your packet from the February 24 PS Committee review of the Fire and Rescue Service CIP (Item #1) to the March 4 worksession. The packet is available online at http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/agenda/cm/2010/100224/20100224_PS1.pdf.

MEMORANDUM

March 3, 2010

TO: Public Safety Committee

FROM: Minna K. Davidson, Legislative Analyst *MKD*

SUBJECT: Worksession: Recommended FY11-16 CIP, Public Safety, Fire and Rescue Service (*continued*)

On February 24, the Committee conducted an initial review of the Executive's FY11-16 CIP for the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS). For each project, the Committee reviewed the status, any relevant issues, and Council staff recommendations.

For the March 4 meeting, the Committee will develop its recommendations for the MCFRS CIP. The Cabin John Fire Station #30 Addition/Renovation is the only project with a major outstanding issue, and is discussed below.

Cabin John Fire Station #30 Addition/Renovation

At the February 24 review, the Committee was concerned that issues have not been resolved regarding ownership of the station after the project is complete. Executive staff explained that station ownership and other related matters will be addressed through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department. Committee members wanted assurance that the MOU would be completed before the project moves forward. An MCFRS response on © 1 says that it will take six to eight weeks for the parties to reach agreement on a draft MOU, and that a final MOU will have to be prepared after that.

If the Committee wishes to require completion of the MOU before the project moves forward, some options would be:

- Approve the project as recommended by the Executive, but request that Executive staff agree not to expend any money until the MOU has been completed.
- So far, \$717,000 has been appropriated to partially fund the cost of design. An additional appropriation of \$132,000 is requested for FY11 to fully fund design. The Committee could recommend approval of the Executive's proposed Expenditure Schedule, but recommend against appropriating the additional \$132,000 at this time. The Committee could recommend including language like the following in the PDF.

No additional funds will be appropriated for this project until the Executive provides the Council with a final signed Memorandum of Agreement between the County and the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department.

The Executive would have to request a supplemental appropriation (but not a CIP amendment) after the Council receives the signed MOU.

- Remove all but the design funding from the Expenditure Schedule, and do not approve the additional appropriation in FY11. This would mean that the Executive would have to request a CIP amendment and supplemental appropriation to add the other funding back to the expenditure schedule and appropriate the additional design money after the Council receives a signed MOU. Language like the following could be added to the PDF.

The expenditure schedule includes design funds only. The Council will consider adding funds for construction after the Council receives a final signed Memorandum of Agreement between the County and the Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department.

- Do not approve the project.

For the worksession, the Committee will have an opportunity to discuss the timing of the MOU in more detail with Executive staff, and determine how it wishes to approach its recommendation to the Council.

**MCFRS RESPONSE TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FOR MARCH 4, 2010 WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEMS
ON FY11-16 CIP AND MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

FY11-16 MCFRS CIP

The Committee requested that the County work with the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department to resolve as quickly as possible the question of who will own Cabin John Station 30 after the renovation of the station is completed.

PSC Request: What is the anticipated timeframe for completion of a Memorandum of Understanding that will address the issue of station ownership?

MCFRS Response: Presently, MCFRS and the Department of General Services are meeting with representatives of the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department to discuss and finalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning station ownership. It is likely that a draft MOU will be completed in the next 6-8 weeks, followed by the final MOU.

FIRE-RESCUE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

1. PSC Request: Data showing the reduction in the number of vehicles dispatched to incidents in areas with four-person staffing. (The Fire Chief said that he might be able to provide this information for pockets in the County, but would not be able to provide it on a Countywide basis until four-person staffing is fully implemented.)

MCFRS Response: MCFRS pre-planned that the blizzards in February 2010 would produce an increase in call load and that it would be difficult to navigate roadways and operate within the County. It was decided to reduce the number of apparatus dispatched to most emergency calls from February 5 to February 12 because of these environmental challenges. This was a temporary contingency that was enabled by the emergency increase in staffing to a minimum of four qualified staff on all engines and on several aerial units and rescue squads. On February 12, the dispatch assignments were returned to levels identified in current MCFRS dispatch protocols when apparatus staffing went back to normal levels.

During the weather emergency, MCFRS changed its apparatus assignments as shown in the table below.