



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT STAFF REPORT AMENDMENT ROUND 21-A2

DEO TRANSMITTAL, JANUARY 25, 2021

I. General Data

Project Name: Fire Rescue Element Updates
Element: Fire Rescue Element
Project Manager: David Wiloch, Senior Planner and Jill Gregory, Executive Assistant to the Fire Rescue Administrator
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends *approval* based on the findings and conclusions presented in this report.

II. Item Summary

Summary: This proposed amendment would revise and update the Fire Rescue Element of the Comprehensive Plan to add background language for In-service Emergency Response staffing.

Assessment: This proposed amendment was requested by the Fire Rescue Department to revise and update the Comprehensive Plan to reflect current conditions. There are no policy implications and there are no associated ULDC changes resulting from this amendment.

III. Hearing History

Local Planning Agency: *Approval*, motion by Evan Rosenberg, seconded by Eric Royal, passed in an 11 to 0 vote at the December 11, 2020 public hearing. There was minimal discussion and no public comment

Board of County Commissioners Transmittal Public Hearing: *Transmit*, motion by Commissioner McKinlay, seconded by Vice Mayor Weinroth, passed in a 7 to 0 vote at the January 25, 2021 public hearing. There was minimal discussion and no public comment.

State Review Agency Comments:

Board of County Commissioners Adoption Public Hearing:

T:\Planning\AMEND\21-A2\Reports-Agendas\3-DEOTranPacket\A-1_21-A2_Fire-Rescue-Rpt.docx

IV. Intent

This proposed amendment would revise the Comprehensive Plan at the request of the Fire Rescue Department to add background language for the In-service emergency response staffing.

Specific changes are shown in strike out and underline in Exhibit 1.

V. Background

On February 5, 2020 by Ordinance 2020-002, the Board of County Commissioners adopted revisions to the Comprehensive Plan in order to complete the following:

- Revise the Fire Rescue Element to revise the minimum number of employees staffed on an in-service emergency response unit and to update data and references to reflect the latest information
- Revise the Introduction and Administration Element to update definitions to reflect latest terminology and practices; and
- Revise and update the Existing and Future Fire Station Locations Map (Map FR 1.1)

The changes to the minimum staffing requirements for in-service emergency response units reflected the recently negotiated terms that were agreed to by the County and the Fire Rescue Union (International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2928). This is a follow up amendment to provide additional background language related to staffing.

VI. Data and Analysis

This section provides data and analysis, including an examination of consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. The changes to the Fire Rescue Element are provided in Exhibit 1.

A. Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan

This amendment was requested by the Fire Rescue Department and Commissioner McKinlay to update the Fire Rescue Element to reflect current standards and to recognize in memoriam Palm Beach County Fire Rescue retiree driver operator Ron Jarriel. The proposed amendment reflects revisions adopted in early 2020 to expand the minimum staffing requirements in the Fire Rescue Element. This Element defines the minimum staffing requirements for in-service emergency response units. This change is proposed to reflect the terms that were agreed to in 2019 by the County and the Fire Rescue Union (International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2928). The proposed amendment to the Fire Rescue Element Introduction is outlined in Exhibit 1 in strikeout and underline format. The memo outlining the agreement between the County and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue is provided in Exhibit 2.

B. Unified Land Development Code Implications

This proposed amendment will not require subsequent revisions to the Unified Land Development Code.

VII. Public and Municipal Review

Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee (IPARC): Notification was sent to the County's Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee (IPARC), a clearing-house for plan amendments, on Friday, November 20, 2020. At the time of the printing this report, no calls or written requests for information or objections to the amendment had been received. Correspondence received is added to the exhibits throughout the amendment process.

VIII. Assessment and Conclusions

As demonstrated in this report, the proposed amendment to the Fire Rescue Element will update Fire Rescue Element to reflect the recently negotiated terms that were agreed to by the County and the Fire Rescue Union. The proposed amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and revisions will not result in any changes to the ULDC.

As such, staff recommends ***approval*** of this amendment.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Proposed changes in strike out and underline format	E - 1
Exhibit 2 – Correspondence	E - 2

Exhibit 1

A. Fire Rescue Element, Fire Rescue Element Updates

REVISIONS: To revise and update the Fire Rescue Element. The added text is underlined, and the deleted text ~~struck out~~.

Staffing: Because fire or medical emergencies occur at all hours, emergency personnel must be available on a 24-hour basis. As a result of this, the fire service utilizes a platooning system. This arrangement provides for personnel to be on duty for a continuous 24-hour period and then be relieved by another. In addition, each battalion has one supervisory personnel who works a 40-hour week schedule and responds to emergency incidents on an "on-call" basis. "Daily Firefighting Strength" in 2019 was 295. This is the actual number of personnel available for emergency response throughout the respective battalions. In-service Emergency Response minimum staffing was revised in 2020 to ensure that Fire Pumper and Rescue Units have the appropriate number of personnel.

Deployment: The deployment of personnel is accomplished through the use of several alternative strategies intended to contain costs and improve efficiency. While some fire stations are still staffed with 3-person engine companies and two-person rescue companies, some facilities may have one group of employees performing several functions. For example, "ALS Engines" perform pumper operations as well as advanced life support emergency medical services, and Aerials incorporate ladder capabilities along with pumper operations. In some cases, two separate vehicles are housed at the station and the personnel determine which apparatus is more appropriate to respond to the scene, depending on the nature of the call. These "combination" or "either/or" stations are typically in areas with relatively low alarm activity. This shift in philosophy provides more units with less personnel who perform multiple functions. In all, the department operates 150 first-line emergency response vehicles. The staffing enhancements have been dedicated in memoriam to PBCFR Retiree Driver Operator Ron Jarriel, a fierce proponent and advocate of improving fire rescue services.

Exhibit 2 Correspondence



PALM BEACH COUNTY FIRE RESCUE
Inter-Office Memorandum

Fire Rescue
Chief Michael Mackey
405 Pike Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
(561) 616-7000
www.pbcgov.com



**Palm Beach County
Board of County
Commissioners**

Mack Bernard, Mayor
Dave Kerner, Vice Mayor
Hal R. Valeche
Gregg K. Weiss
Robert S. Weinroth
Mary Lou Berger
Melissa McKinlay

County Administrator
Verdenia C. Baker

DATE: January 24, 2019
TO: Scott Bielecky
President, IAFF Local 2928
FROM: Michael Mackey *Michael C. Mackey*
Fire Rescue Administrator
RE: Staffing

The Fire Rescue Element of the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan shall be amended to provide the following:

- There shall be no either-or stations effective 9/30/2021 except that newly opened stations may run as an either-or station during the first twelve (12) months of operation
- By 9/30/2021 all rescues units shall be staffed with at least three (3) personnel
- By 9/30/2021 all stand-alone suppression units shall be staffed with at least four (4) personnel

Implementation of the staffing changes will be discussed with the Staffing Committee.

Cc: Robert Norton

MM/jg

"An Equal Opportunity
Affirmative Action Employer"

Official Electronic Letterhead