



News Release

Unified Government Public Relations
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Facts About the KCK Fire Department and Unified Government

- In 2015, the UG and KCK Fire Union jointly selected a national consulting firm to study the operation of the Fire Department in an effort to improve fire protection. That study found some parts of KCK had too many fire stations, while newer areas of the city didn't have enough.
- A task force of UG officials, fire department officials and fire union leaders are currently meeting to make recommendations about the realignment and rebalancing of fire station locations.
- The independent fact-finder assigned to help resolve a contract dispute between the UG and Fire Union stated in his official report, "KCK is growing and changing. It is crazy to think the location of fire companies cannot be changed to reflect the growth and changing world." The Union later voted in favor of the new contract.
- No proposals call for the closing of fire stations. However, it is likely older, outdated stations will be replaced with new, modern fire stations in different locations.
- The Unified Government Commission is spending \$4-million to build a new, additional fire station at Leavenworth and Hutton Roads to serve the growing Piper area north of Village West.
- The Unified Government has not laid off any firefighters. In 2017, the KCK Fire Department had 473 firefighters. In 2018, the authorized number is 457. The difference is 16 firefighter positions which were paid for with a federal grant which ended. The positions were eliminated through attrition back to the previous level as had been planned when the grant ended.
- Public safety- Police, Fire and Sheriff- make up more than 60% of the total Unified Government budget, with the Fire Department having the largest budget of any other department, at \$56.1-million.

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