



City of Saint Paul Capital Budget Proposal

Funding years 2022-2023

Thank you for your interest in the Saint Paul Capital Improvement Budget. Through the capital improvement budget process, we strive to reflect and uphold the values of our community. Our funding decisions are guided by the principles of equity and inclusion, strategic investments, and fiscal responsibility.

Please respond to each question listed below as it applies to your project. Please do not submit your proposal until the application is complete.

Before proceeding with the application, please read and indicate your awareness of the following requirements.

ADA requirements available at: <https://www.ada.gov>

I am aware of ADA requirements.

CERT requirements available at: <https://cert.smwbe.com/>

I am aware of CERT requirements.

Saint Paul's public art ordinance available at: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/financial-services/public-art-ordinance-program>

I am aware of the City's public art ordinance.



Contact Information

Contact Person: Jill LaCasse

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Project Overview

1. Project Title:

Replace Fire Station 7

2. Brief (1-2 sentence) Summary of Project:

The Fire Department has an urgent need to replace existing Fire Station 7. The new station would include a five-bay, two-story fire station containing dormitory rooms on the second floor and apparatus and firefighter support spaces on the ground floor.

3. Project Location:

The current fire station is located at 1038 Ross Avenue. The potential site for the new location is the viaduct site located at Ross Avenue and Earl Street.

4. Affected Ward(s): See the [Saint Paul District Council and Ward Lookup](#)

- Ward 1 Ward 5
- Ward 2 Ward 6
- Ward 3 Ward 7
- Ward 4

5. Affected Neighborhood District Council(s): See the [Saint Paul District Council and Ward Lookup](#)

- District Council 1 District Council 6 District Council 11 District Council 16
- District Council 2 District Council 7 District Council 12 District Council 17
- District Council 3 District Council 8 District Council 13 Citywide
- District Council 4 District Council 9 District Council 14
- District Council 5 District Council 10 District Council 15

6. Estimated Project Completion Date:

2023

7. Submitting Department:

Fire



8. Department Priority (numerical priority out of total submitted projects, ex. 3 of 6):

This project is a high priority for the Fire Department due to gender equity, general employee wellness, and reduced exposure to carcinogens. Also, the new fire station would provide the Fire Department operational flexibility to have various response vehicles and additional personnel located at this station.

9. Which category best describes your project?

- Buildings
- Streets and Utilities
- Residential and Economic Development
- Parks and Trails
- Other

Project Description

10. Please describe the project including a physical description of the project noting important sub-elements at and information on project timing and/or phasing.

Fire Station 7 is 91 years old and is in the worst shape of any active fire station. Currently, this station houses an ambulance, ladder truck, and a District Chief vehicle. A five-bay fire station will not fit on the current location of Fire Station 7. If this project is approved, the firefighters could continue to work out of the current Fire Station 7 while the new station is being built.

Purpose and Justification

11. Please provide pertinent information on the purpose and justification for this project. Please consider the following questions in your response:

- Why is this project important? (eg. opportunity for collaboration, condition, significant need, etc.)
- What problem is this project trying to solve?
- What benefits does it provide to residents or users? What is the historical context of this project?
- Is this a new project, an improvement or expansion project, or maintenance on an existing asset?
- Does this project address any specific health and safety concerns?
- Does this project address an inequity or otherwise support diversity and inclusion?

The current layout of the station and its advanced age and deteriorating condition preclude adding an engine and additional personnel to the existing station. Replacement of this station would allow the fire department flexibility to provide resources such as a ladder truck, fire engine, District Chief, rescue squad, ALS ambulance, and BLS ambulance working



out of the new station. This would allow the department to maintain fire assets in an area of the City where fire and EMS demands and risks are high.

This station lacks facilities that would be conducive to gender equity and to general employee wellness (e.g., shower facilities for men and women, adequate locker room space, appropriately private sleeping quarters, etc).

This station cannot be fitted for measures that would otherwise markedly reduce exposure to, such as spaces for decontamination and storage of personal protective equipment (PPE) separate from both living quarters and apparatus bays (where firefighters often spend considerable time maintaining the apparatus and equipment).

This priority building project should result in a station scaled to the emergency response needs of that area. The station would also support a gender inclusive workforce, with room for fitness and wellness activities, and reflect best practices in cancer risk mitigation.



Funding Request

Anticipated Funding Source*	Prior 5 Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5-Year Total
[Eg. Grants]							
[Eg. Bonds]	\$1,000,000	\$8,000,000					
Total							

Anticipated Expenses*	Prior 5 Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5-Year Total
[Eg. Design]	\$1,000,000						
[Eg. Construction]		\$8,000,000					
Total							

***Add rows if needed.**

Additional comments regarding funding request:

The Fire Department received \$500,000 in 2019 for this project. During the 2020-2021 capital project process, the Fire Department received \$2,000,000 towards the Fire Station 7 project. In 2020, the decision was made to reduce Fire Station 7 funding by \$1,500,000 to reallocate the funding to the general fund due to budget pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fiscal Responsibility

12. Have grants or other matching funds for this project been secured?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

13. How does this project further City goals of fiscal responsibility? As applicable, include details such as:

- Status and timing details of grants applied for and/or secured or other non-City funding sources.
- Estimated annual increase or decrease in operating costs for this project.
- How operating cost increases or decreases were determined (include details such as personnel costs, materials, maintenance, contracts, energy savings, etc.).
- If new infrastructure, how the department will pay for the increased operating costs.
- Whether the project is currently underway.
- If/how the project prevents a measurable financial loss or reduces future expenses.
- If/how the project contributes to growth in the City's tax base.



The Fire Department received \$500,000 in 2019 and \$500,000 in 2020 to begin the process of designing a new fire station. There is a plot of land that the Port Authority has available near the current location of Fire Station 7.

The Fire Department invests considerable time and resources into maintaining Fire Station 7 and would continue to maintain and repair the new and expanded facility using department expertise and resources.

Currently, this a three-bay fire station and it is in dire need to be updated. The bays are small, and the District Chief vehicle barely fits in the garage and there have been numerous accidents there over the years. It is costing us money to repair the garage door and replace the mirror on the vehicle.

Condition

14. Facility/Pavement Condition Index: Poor

15. Expected useful life of the project: 50-75 years

16. Please elaborate on any issues relating to condition. Consider things such as:

- Whether/how this project remediates health or safety issues that pose a danger to users.
- Whether/how this project addresses code violations or other mandates or legal requirements.

Not only would this project close a major Fire/EMS gap for East Side residents and businesses, it would provide a more effective Fire Department response to important commercial corridors along Payne Avenue, Arcade Street, East 7th Street, and Phalen Parkway. This project will ensure shorter response times for a significant area of the City.

Usage

17. Describe the current and potential usage of this project, using the following questions as a guide:

- If this is an existing asset, who currently uses it?
- How is it used?
- Who might use it if this project is funded?
- How will this project/improvement meet the needs of the surrounding community/those who do or will use it?

This project would allow the Fire Department to improve fire and EMS coverage on East Side and replace an aging fire station in very poor condition. The rebuilding of Fire Station 7 is a one-time investment that will create on-going benefits to the entire East Side and the surrounding areas. By not having to have “their” neighborhood resources sent to cover a service gap near Fire Station 7, all areas of the City will benefit from the improvement in the City’s critical infrastructure.



Equity and Inclusion

The City of Saint Paul and the Capital Improvement Budget Committee are committed to advancing equity and inclusion in Saint Paul.

Economic Impact

18. Describe the economic development impact of the project, using the following questions as a guide:

- How does this project create jobs?
- How does this project promote business opportunities?
- How does this promote economic development in underserved or underdeveloped neighborhoods?

This project would allow the fire department to improve fire and EMS coverage on the East Side and replace an aging fire station.

Community Impact

19. Please describe the impact this project will have on the community. As applicable, address issues such as:

- Potential to enhance neighborhood stability or quality of life
- Right fit (supports or enhances the cultural characteristics of the surrounding community)
- Proximity to Area of Concentrated Poverty where 50% or more of residents are people of color (ACP50)
- Art/aesthetics
- Unmet need
- Accessibility
- Transportation
- Potential long term positive/negative effects on community
- Historical or cultural significance of asset
- Public safety
- Equitable and inclusive design



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Strategic Investment

20. How does this project further City goals of strategic investment? As applicable, include details such as:

- Collaborative arrangements with outside project partners, including who they are and what their role is with the project.
- Collaborative arrangements with other City departments for this project (example: bundling materials).
- How this project promotes innovation (incorporates new technology, uses resources strategically, etc.).
- How this project takes climate change/environmental sustainability/energy efficiency into account.
- How this project complies with a need or goal identified in an adopted City or neighborhood plan.

This project would allow the fire department to improve fire and EMS coverage on the East Side and replace an aging fire station. Also, the areas in the fire station need to be updated to include more inclusivity like private gender-neutral bathrooms, shower facilities for men and women, adequate locker room space, and private sleeping quarters.

Currently, there are no female firefighters assigned to work in this fire station. They do not want to work at this station due to the present bathroom and sleeping quarters situation.

Other

What else you would like to tell us about this project that was not addressed in the questions above?

Click or tap here to enter text.
