

Strategic Planning for Joshua Fire Department to begin.

The study of the Joshua Fire Department by Emergency Services Consulting Inc. (ESCI) resulted in a Fire and EMS Master Plan that will help guide the City in planning for the future of the Joshua Fire Department and emergency services in the City and Joshua fire district. Kent Greene and Lane Wintermute of ESCI presented a summary of the 193 page Fire and EMS Master Plan to the City Council by during their annual planning session held January 29th. The Master Plan includes pages of short term as well as long term recommendations regarding department operations and planning for future growth of department to meet growing service demands. The City Council will soon begin working on a strategic plan for the Fire Department which will include prioritizing study recommendations, determining which recommendations should be implemented and planning for the implementation of priority items.

Recommendations of the Fire and EMS Master Plan include building at least one new Fire Station as the current station is inadequate for equipment and operations, and is not well positioned for emergency response. The current facility is located west of the railroad tracks at 12th Street and Santa Fe. The close proximity to the tracks was also identified by the Master Plan as a potential danger due to the volume of traffic along the railway. The study offered options for a single station plan or for a two station plan, but the two station plan is unlikely as the second station, although well positioned for response in the fire district as a whole, is located outside the City limits so City funds cannot be spent to build that station.

Other recommendations of the Fire and EMS Master Plan include:

Replacing one of the Engines with a elevating aerial or ladder device

Adding a water tanker to the fleet

Improvements in radio communications with surrounding departments

Upgrades in training including OSHA , Hazardous Materials and Defensive Driving

Paid positions to be implemented over the long term including a Chief, a Fire Marshal and 5 full time firefighters.

Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Plan

Upgrades in fire equipment and personal protective equipment

Joshua 4B Economic Development Corporation Board

The 4B Economic Development Corporation Board currently has a vacancy. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Interested persons should contact Mike Peacock at 817-558-7447 or download an application from the City's web site at

www.cityofjoshuatx.us and submit a completed application to Mike Peacock at mgmtassist@cityofjoshuatx.us

February City Council Meeting moved to February 26, 2009

The regular scheduled council meeting in February has been moved from February 19 to February 26, 2009. Council work session will begin at 6:30 pm and the Council meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

City and Chamber Team up to Welcome New Residents

On Saturday March 28, 2009, from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM, the City will partner with the Joshua Area Chamber of Commerce to host the first Welcome Reception to honor new residents and businesses. The event will be held at the McPherson House, and will likely become a twice a year event. Area business owners will also be on hand to pass out literature and information on services available in Joshua. Local businesses interested in participating should contact Tana Howell at the Joshua Chamber at 817-558-2821 or email at joshchamber@att.net

Upcoming Meetings

4A Economic Development Board Meeting	February 10, 2009 @ 5:30PM
4B Economic Development Board Meeting	February 10, 2009 @ 7:00PM
City Council Meeting	February 26, 2009 @ 6:30 PM
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting	March 2, 2009 @ 6:30 PM