



Presentation to Harrisonburg City Council

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

Timeline and Staffing Plan

February 28, 2023

Background

- January 2022: Presentation to City Council introducing a grant funding opportunity for staffing the new Fire Station
- March 2022: SAFER Application submitted
- December 2022: Notified that the application, while competitive, was not awarded.
 - **\$560,000,000 appropriated**
 - **\$5 Billion requested by applicants**
 - **89% of requested funding was not awarded**
 - **Only 146 of 1500 applications were approved**
 - **90% of all applications were turned down**

Grant Funding Opportunity for Staffing the Fire Department

- SAFER – *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant*
 - Federally-funded through the Department of Homeland Security & FEMA
 - 360,000,000
 - 300 awards to be given
 - Provides 100% of salaries for new firefighters for three years
 - Defrays the personnel costs until January 2027
 - Application period is open now

Proposed Scope of SAFER Grant

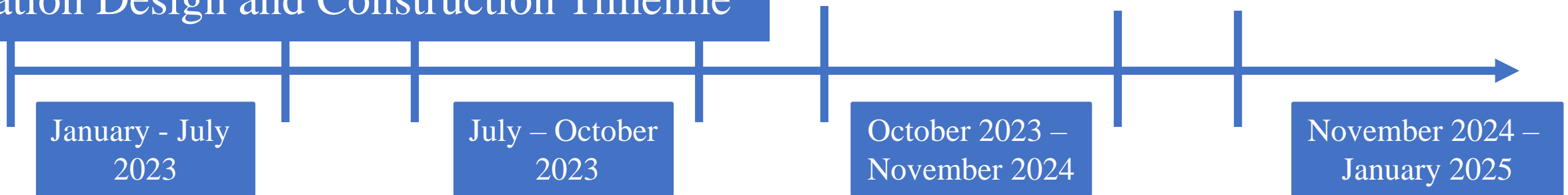
- 15 Firefighters
- Fiscal value over 3 years:
~ \$3,500,000
- Midway through FY 2027,
City assumes financial
responsibility at a cost of
~ \$1,300,000 per year
thereafter



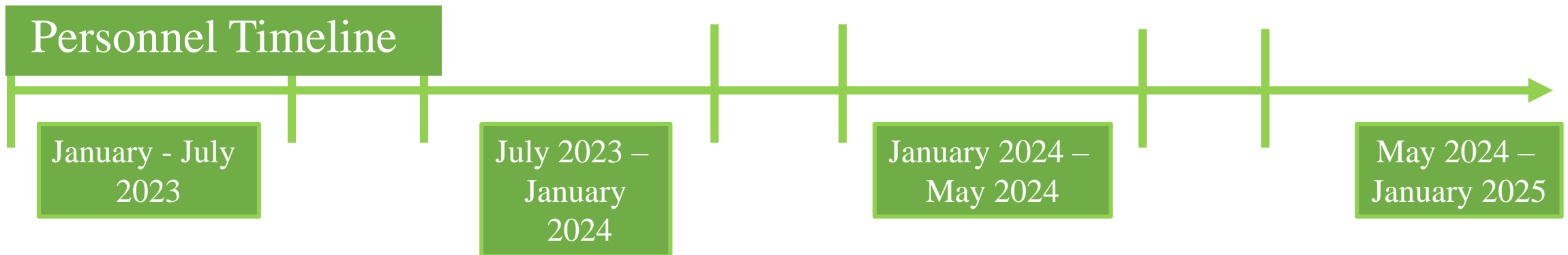
Since SAFER Grant was not awarded in 2022 ...

- Advance timeline by 1 year
 - Preserves ability to use ARPA funds for construction
 - Allows us to re-apply for the SAFER Grant

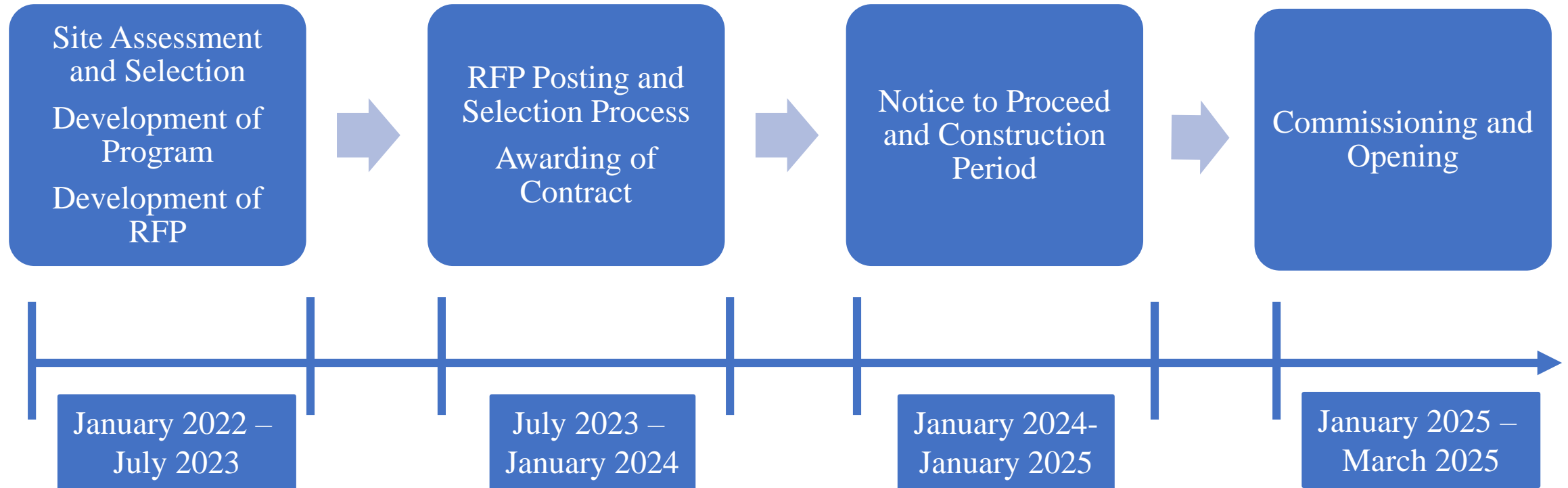
Station Design and Construction Timeline



Personnel Timeline

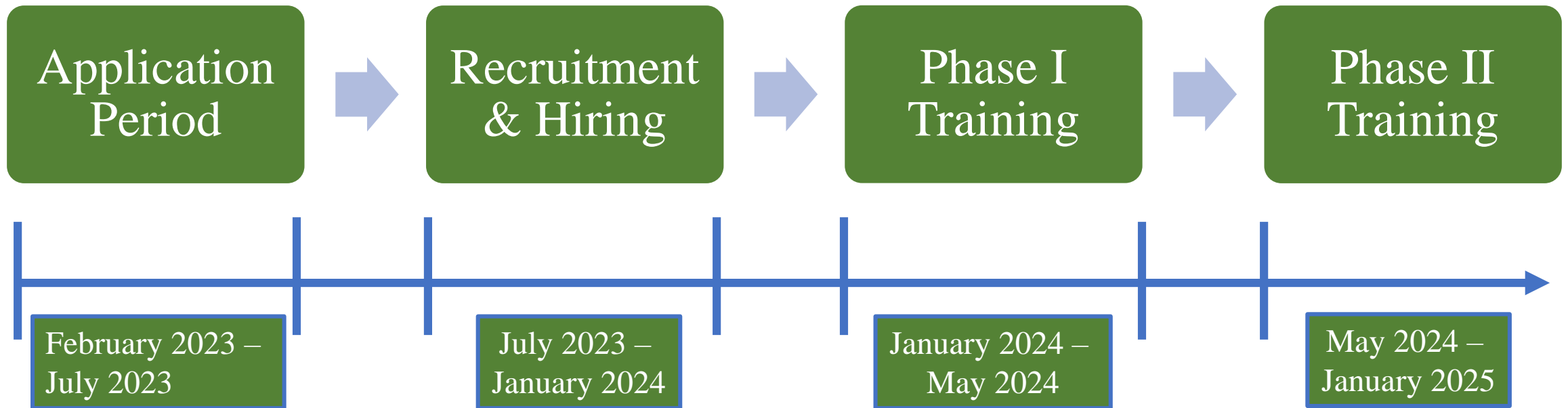


Station #5 Project Timeline - Construction



Station #5 Project Timeline – Personnel

- Personnel should be in place before the new station opens



Probability of Success

Grant is evaluated on nationally recognized criteria

- Improvement in service by reducing response times
- Compliance with NFPA 1710 model based on response times and total staffing
- Awarded in whole based on points earned in the evaluation process

No Guarantees ...

- History of success in Harrisonburg
- Higher probability based on criteria

SUMMARY

- Additional firefighters (in the correct locations) represent the critical factor in achieving ISO Class 1 designation
- On-duty staffing in the City Fire Department improves to 21 firefighters (from 17)
- SAFER exists for this type of investment in public safety
- Supports goal of meeting NFPA 1710: A national consensus standard that defines safe and appropriate levels of service