



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



• 15 Firefighters

• Fiscal value over 3 years:

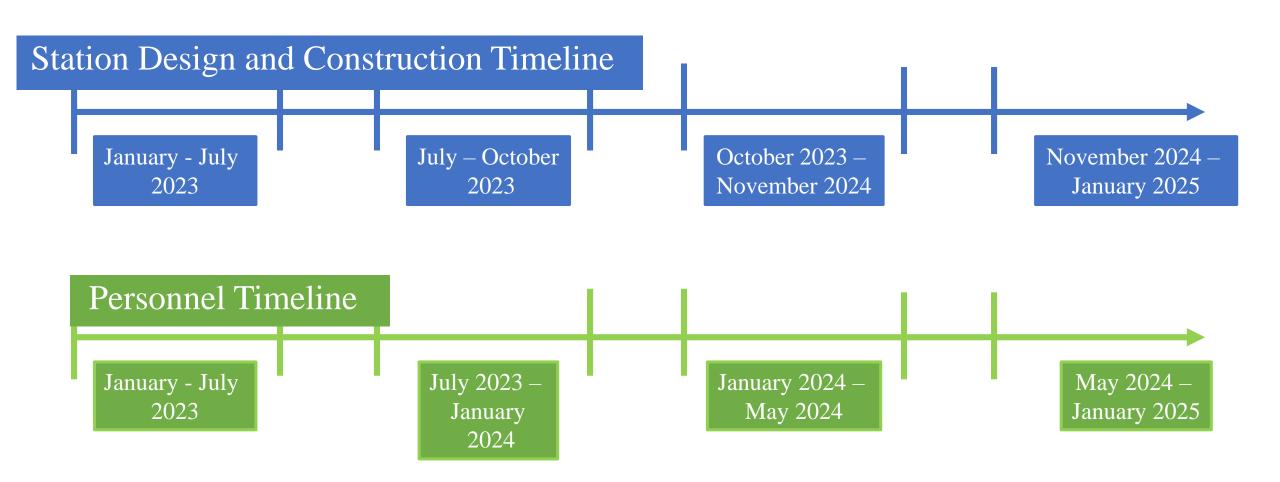
~ \$3,500,000

 Midway through FY 2027, City assumes financial responsibility at a cost of ~\$1,300,000 per year thereafter

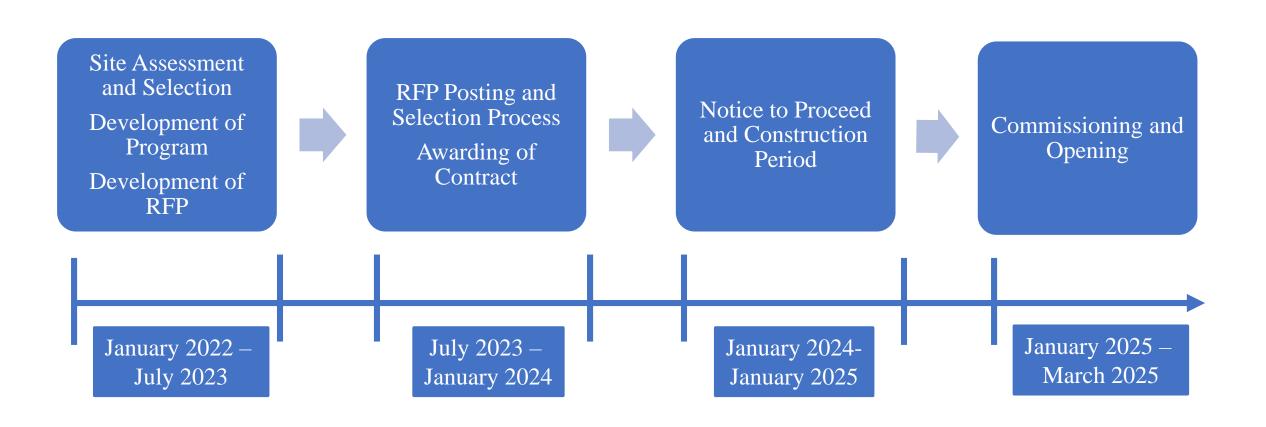


#### Since SAFER Grant was not awarded in 2022 ...

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



## Station #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