

ORDINANCE 2022 – 100

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EXCELLENCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Mason is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Mason; and

WHEREAS, fire, rescue, and emergency medical services are vital services that residents and visitors rely on in a time of immediate and unexpected need; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the City spent considerable time studying operations of the Fire Department and developing strategic plans to better align the department with the City's mission for providing emergency services in the community. Those plans included projections for improving community safety over the next 10-15 years and paved the way for additional command staff, improved training, and a full time staffing model to better address the safety, health, and welfare of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Fire/EMS call volume in the City of Mason has increased by 1,100 calls for service annually since 2005 and the need to provide the safety resources to address the continued growth in the community is apparent; and

WHEREAS, scientific data and experience indicates that building fires have become increasingly threatening to building occupants since fires today grow exponentially faster than years ago due to the increased use of plastics in furnishings and lightweight building construction techniques; and

WHEREAS, due to the increased threat to the public, building fires require a faster response from properly staffed and strategically located fire response units to provide for the fire extinguishment and search and rescue tasks that create a greater chance of survival for residents and visitors in peril from the effects of smoke and fire; and

WHEREAS, scientific data and experience indicates that access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those in distress due to sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, improved patient outcomes are directly linked to faster response times and access to emergency medical care from properly staffed and strategically located EMS response units that provide life-saving measures that give residents and visitors a greater chance of survival from an unexpected medical event, particularly children and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the future will require strategic and thoughtful decisions on flexible and adaptable resource allocation and staffing plans and a total of three to four strategically located fire stations to create and maintain a service delivery plan that responds to fire and medical emergencies in a manner consistent with providing the best opportunity for life safety, property conservation, and incident stabilization; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Council to better the culture of health, wellness, and safety by improving the City's Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification rating and developing a plan to pursue international fire accreditation; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Council that the administration work to develop a Fire Department strategic plan that improves the culture of health, wellness, and safety and responsibly minimizes the tax burden on residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Mason, Ohio, six members elected thereto concurring:

Section 1. That City Manager, working in conjunction with the Safety Director and the Fire Chief, coordinate the development of a strategic plan for the purpose of guiding the Fire Department into the future.

Section 2. That, upon extensive research, the City of Mason accepts the quoted price and agrees that the Center for Public Safety Excellence is the best vendor for the development of the Fire Department strategic plan.

Section 3. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with the Center for Public Safety Excellence for strategic planning services for the Fire Department.

Section 4. That the Finance Director is hereby authorized to pay the Center for Public Safety Excellence the sum of up to \$56,400 for strategic planning services for the Fire Department.

Section 5. That, once adopted by Council, the strategic plan be utilized as the planning tool to guide the Fire Department into the future.

Section 6. That this ordinance is intended to support the safety, health, and welfare of Mason's residents and visitors.

Section 7. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall be effective immediately upon its passage. The reason for said declaration of emergency is to execute the contract to take advantage of cost containment opportunities and to begin the strategic plan development process immediately.

Passed this 10th day of October, 2022.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council