

JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING DEPT
Courthouse
PO Box H
Boulder, MT 59632
(406) 225-4040



Date: September 2, 2020

To: Jefferson County Commissioners

From: LaDana Hintz, Planner

Subject: Jefferson County Fire Needs Assessment

Dear County Commissioners,

Attached is a copy of Jefferson County's Fire Needs Assessment. Please notice that Appendices 1 and 2 of the assessment have not been attached because they are quite extensive. Those two appendices can be downloaded from Jefferson County's website.

Fire Logistics and Great West Engineering produced the Fire Needs Assessment. The document identifies the needs of each local fire department and compared the resources they should have per the recommendations provided by existing standards, regulations, and nationally recognized guidance documents. This information is meant to help the departments obtain the resources necessary to operate in a safe and effective manner. Having this information will also be beneficial as Jefferson County looks to update its Growth Policy, Subdivision Regulations, and Zoning Regulations to address changing conditions including future growth and development.

While the Fire Needs Assessment is intended to be an appendix to Jefferson County's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), which is also currently being completed, it is important to adopt the assessment now and begin disseminating the document to the public. This valuable information can be used for justification as the fire departments seek grants, by developers as they are planning for new subdivisions, and by the residents and landowners to plan for emergencies and to protect their properties and assets.

Jefferson County's Fire Council and the local departments have received the document to review at various times throughout the drafting process. Jefferson County's Planning Board did review the assessment on August 12, and they recommended that the County Commissioners review and adopt the document.

The final product of this project will serve as a collaborative effort between Jefferson County's Fire Council, the local fire departments, and Jefferson County elected officials and personnel including the County Commissioners, the Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator, the Planning Board, and the Planner. Your efforts to undertake this project should be commended since I am not aware of any county in Montana that has completed a similar study particularly to this extent. The Fire Needs Assessment will certainly serve as a beneficial resource for the fire departments, Jefferson County and the residents and landowners for the near future.

You are scheduled to hold a public hearing regarding adopting the Fire Needs Assessment on September 15, 2020. The complete document, including appendices, is currently available on

Jefferson County's website for the public to review. If you need any additional information regarding this project prior to the public hearing, please contact me.