



## Regional Fire Services Study

To: Davidson Board of Commissioners  
From: Jamie Justice, Town Manager  
Bo Fitzgerald, Fire Chief  
Date: March 26, 2019  
Re: Regional Fire Services Study

### 1. OVERVIEW

The Town of Cornelius is proposing that the towns of Huntersville and Davidson join with them in a regional study of how fire services are provided within the three towns in North Mecklenburg. Huntersville is participating in the study. The Town of Davidson's fire department is a municipal department that is a part of the town government. Cornelius and Huntersville have volunteer departments that are separate entities from the towns. The cost of the study for Davidson is \$13,500.

The intent of this study is to look at how services are provided and determine if there are better ways to do it in partnership. Partnership opportunities identified in the study might be cooperative purchasing to save money, other ways to provide fire and medical services delivery, etc. Staff believes there may be partnership opportunities to explore that would be beneficial to the town of Davidson.

A part of the scope is to look at consolidation of the departments. Staff believes we are in a good position with our department as the town has made strategic decisions and investments to set up the service for our area which is well defined. The idea of consolidation of the departments is not something we are thinking is a viable option that would be beneficial for the town of Davidson at this time. We have shared this concern with our colleagues from the other towns.

Our recommendation is to participate in the study and make sure to communicate our expectations/concerns regarding consolidation.

### 2. RELATED TOWN GOALS

#### Core values:

Davidson must be a safe place to live, work, and raise a family, so the town will work in partnership with the community to prevent crime and protect lives, property, and the public realm.

Davidson exists in proximity to and is interdependent with other jurisdictions, so we strive for local, regional, state and federal cooperation.

#### Strategic plan:

Operations goal: the town of Davidson will maintain organizational excellence through sound financial management, training and retention of quality employees, and superior service to the community.

Partnerships goal: the town of Davidson will build on existing relationships to strengthen partnerships with strategic organizations and institutions.

### 3. OPTIONS/PROS & CONS

**Option 1:** Participate in the regional fire services study.

**Pros:**

By participating we will determine if there are some partnership opportunities that would be beneficial to the town.

**Cons:**

Consolidation will be a part of the study. Because Commissioners have a duty to vote, a Commissioner who can participate in the discussion but not vote may feel frustrated.

**Option 2:** Do not participate in the regional fire services study.

**Pros:**

Consolidation is not studied and we don't devote our time and resources to such.

**Cons:**

We are not able to study other partnership opportunities.

There is no participation in a regional effort.

### 4. FYI or RECOMMENDED ACTION

The action needed to approve participation in the study with a budget amendment allocating \$13,500 from the general fund balance.

### 5. NEXT STEPS

If the Board approves the budget amendment, staff will execute the study agreement and participate in the study. A report will be brought back to the town board upon completion.