

FIRE / EMS / RESCUE GOVERNANCE REFORM

20th Century Fire Departments

Operating in the 21st Century

- Operating well beyond expectations of original charter
- Misunderstanding of how we are organized/authorized
- Misunderstanding of how we are elected
- Misunderstanding of our authority/responsibility
- Limited revenue authority

DECREASING/DISAPPEARING/LIMITED

- ↓ Volunteers
- ↓ Labor pools
- ↓ Revenue authority & sources
- ↓ Grants/Alternative funding

INCREASING

- ↑ Residential/Commercial growth
- ↑ Run volume
- ↑ Service demands/expectations
- ↑ Personnel costs
- ↑ CERS contribution rates
- ↑ Operational costs

CREATION OF A NEW ENTITY WITH THE FOLLOWING CRITICAL CORE COMPONENTS

- ✓ **Voluntary opt-in for various existing emergency service entities**
 - Existing Chapter 75 Fire Districts or other organizations can opt to remain independent entities
 - Municipalities/Counties can opt to continue to provide their own services
- ✓ **Clear accountability of governing board – majority elected on general November ballot**
 - Election boundaries would conform with recognized electoral districts
- ✓ **Diversified revenue and taxing authority**
 - Same revenue authority as other governmental bodies providing these services
 - Local control over best taxing model for local conditions
 - Ensure all users of system share tax burden

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS OF CONSOLIDATION

- Reduce/Eliminate redundant capital
- Increased purchasing power, better pricing
- Strengthen mid-level officers/supervision/management
- Expand/Strengthen specialized divisions/services to the public
- Combine administrative functions and eliminate redundant administrative efforts
- Creation of a diverse specialized-skill career path for personnel currently unsustainable as individual smaller agencies
- Recruitment and retention improvements by growing workforce strengths instead of everyone having to do everything