



# Fire & EMS Services

Second Reading and Public Hearing  
Council Meeting April 17, 2018





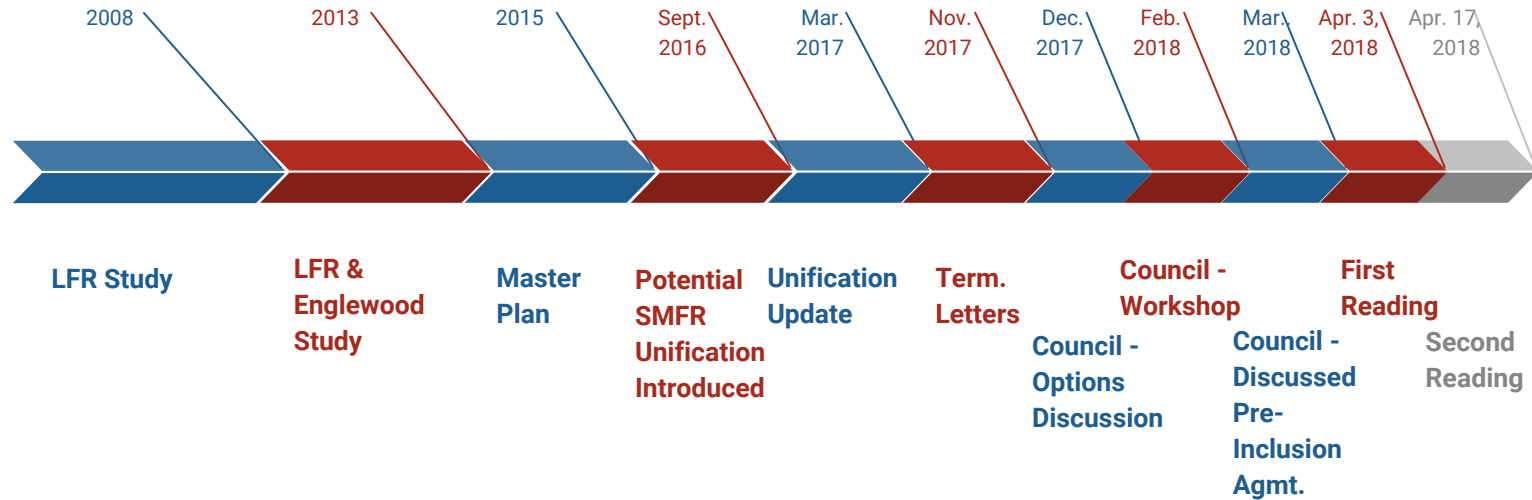
# EXCEPTIONAL FIRE SERVICES



# NEEDED ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Unification with  
South Metro  
Fire Rescue will  
provide affordable,  
effective emergency  
services and high  
quality roads

# Fire Service & EMS HISTORY



## QUOTES FROM PREVIOUS STUDIES

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### 2008 Operational Efficiency Study

- **Future Challenges for LFR**
  - Fiscal realities of increasing costs and unpredictable revenues
  - Service level goals
  - LFR Partners with questions about service, costs, and governance

### 2013 Operational Feasibility Study - Strategies

- Status Quo - "... does not believe this is a viable strategy..."
- Formation of a New Fire Protection District
  - "Englewood, Littleton, HRMD, and LFPD is not feasible..."
- Link with an Existing Fire Authority
  - This strategy was not studied

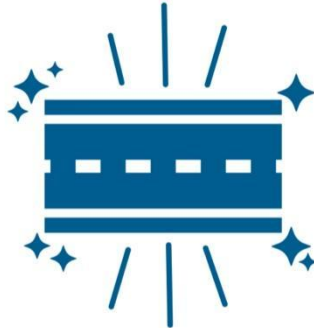
# WHY UNIFY NOW?



Long standing partners  
have moved on

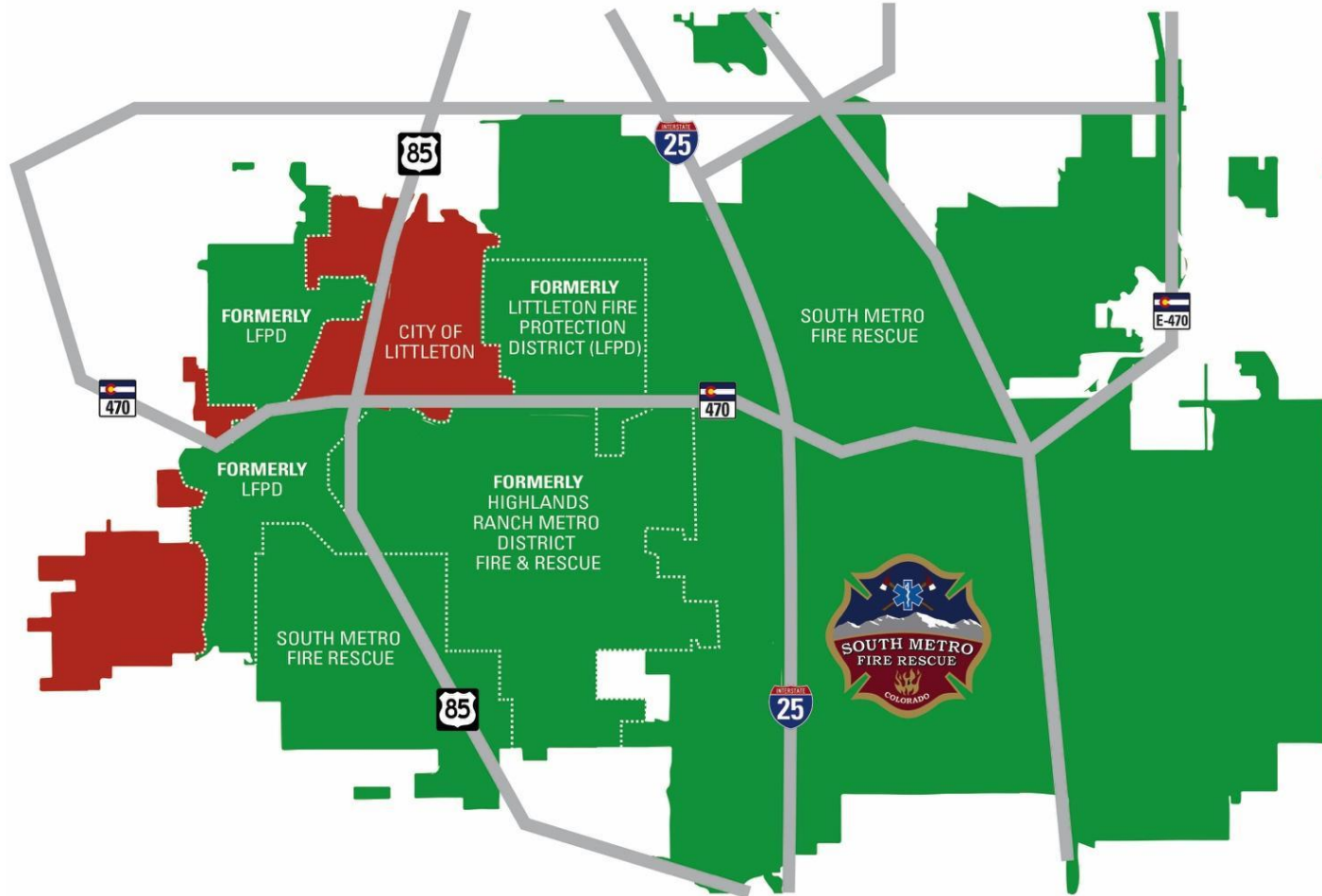


Standalone department  
is not feasible financially  
or operationally



Opportunity to improve  
fire services AND  
roads

# NEW DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



# SERVICE LEVEL COMPARISON

Unification with South Metro Fire Rescue provides the highest level of service for the lowest cost.

	South Metro Fire	Littleton Fire	West Metro Fire	Denver Fire
Cost for Service	\$8M	\$13.6M	\$10.7M	Unknown
Fire Based EMS	✓	✓	✓	✗
Accredited Fire Department	✓	✗	✓	✗
Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating of 2 or Better	✓	✗	✗	✓
Advanced Life Support Engines	✗	✓	✓	✗
4-Person Staffing	✓	✗	✓	✓
Large Contiguous Borders (Efficient Service)	✓	✗	✗	✗
Transport by Medics (versus private ambulance)	✓	✓	✓	✗
Accredited Response Times	✓	✗	✓	✗
Mill Assessment	9.25	16.11	12.38	Contract – Prices Vary

# KEY DECISION FACTORS

- Long-term cost savings
- International accreditation
- Better response times
- Improved ISO rating
- Firefighters may retain position
- Funds for street and infrastructure



# PRE-INCLUSION HIGHLIGHTS

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- Recital H - The ultimate goal is to have a single, unified fire protection district to provide fire department services to the communities, citizens, and property of SMFR, COL, HRMD, LFPD, and Cunningham
- Section 1(a) - Creation of a single, integrated district requires a vote of the people
- Section (1) (iv)(vi)- SMFR with COL will determine a date for the first election

# PRE-INCLUSION HIGHLIGHTS

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Continued

- Section 1(vii) - SMFR and COL will split (50% each) the cost of conducting the election and public education and consulting services for the City election
- Section 1(c) -Transfer of assets
- Section 2(a) - COL shall become a member of the Fire Authority and be entitled to one voting seat
- Section 2 (e) - The intent is that ALL Littleton Fire Rescue personnel will become employees of the Fire Authority on January 1, 2019

# CHANGES SINCE THE STUDY SESSION

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Changes since  
3/13/2018 .

- Section 1 (v) clarify that changes in mill levy as the result of inclusion do not occur until January 2020
- Section 2 (d) (e) clarify leasing of property if the city is a member of the Fire Authority
- Section 2 (m) address environmental responsibilities for above ground fuel tanks

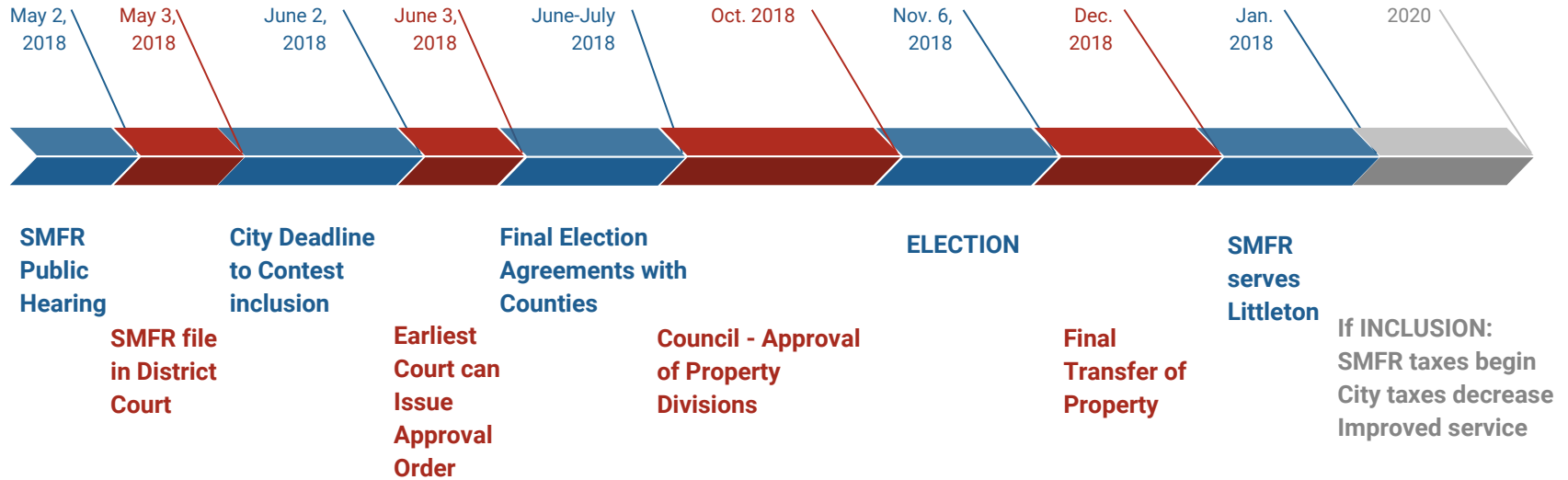
# CHANGES SINCE THE STUDY SESSION

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Changes since  
3/13/2018,  
continued.

- Section 1 (vii) Subsequent inclusion elections may be by mail or polling place and will be determined at the time of calling the election
- Section 1 (vii) (e) (i) addresses the existing service agreement between the City and Lockheed Martin Space Systems
- Section 1 (vii) (e) (ii) addresses the termination of the existing service agreement between the City and the Meadowbrook Metropolitan District

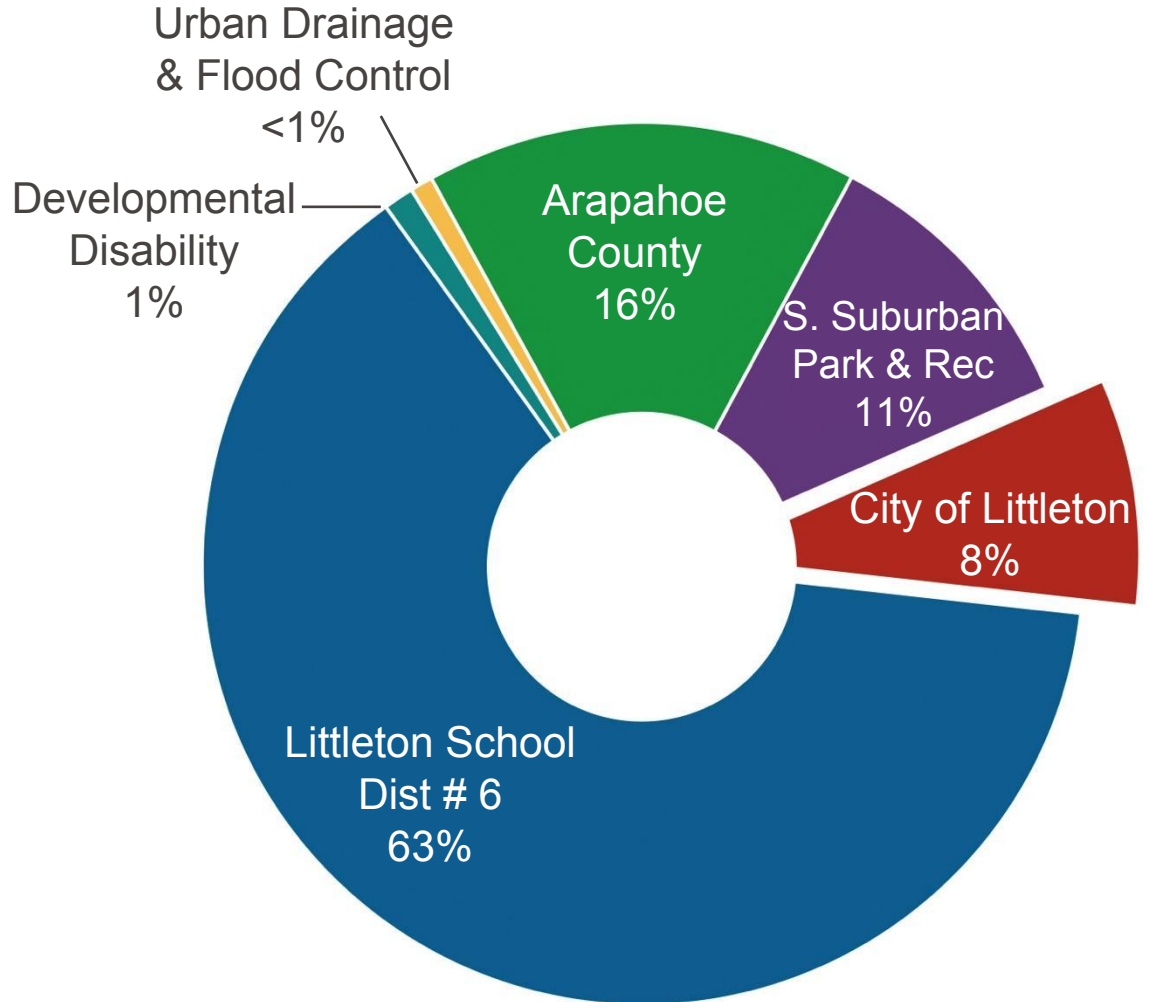
# NEXT STEPS



# CURRENT PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION

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Currently, the City of Littleton receives 8% of property tax paid.

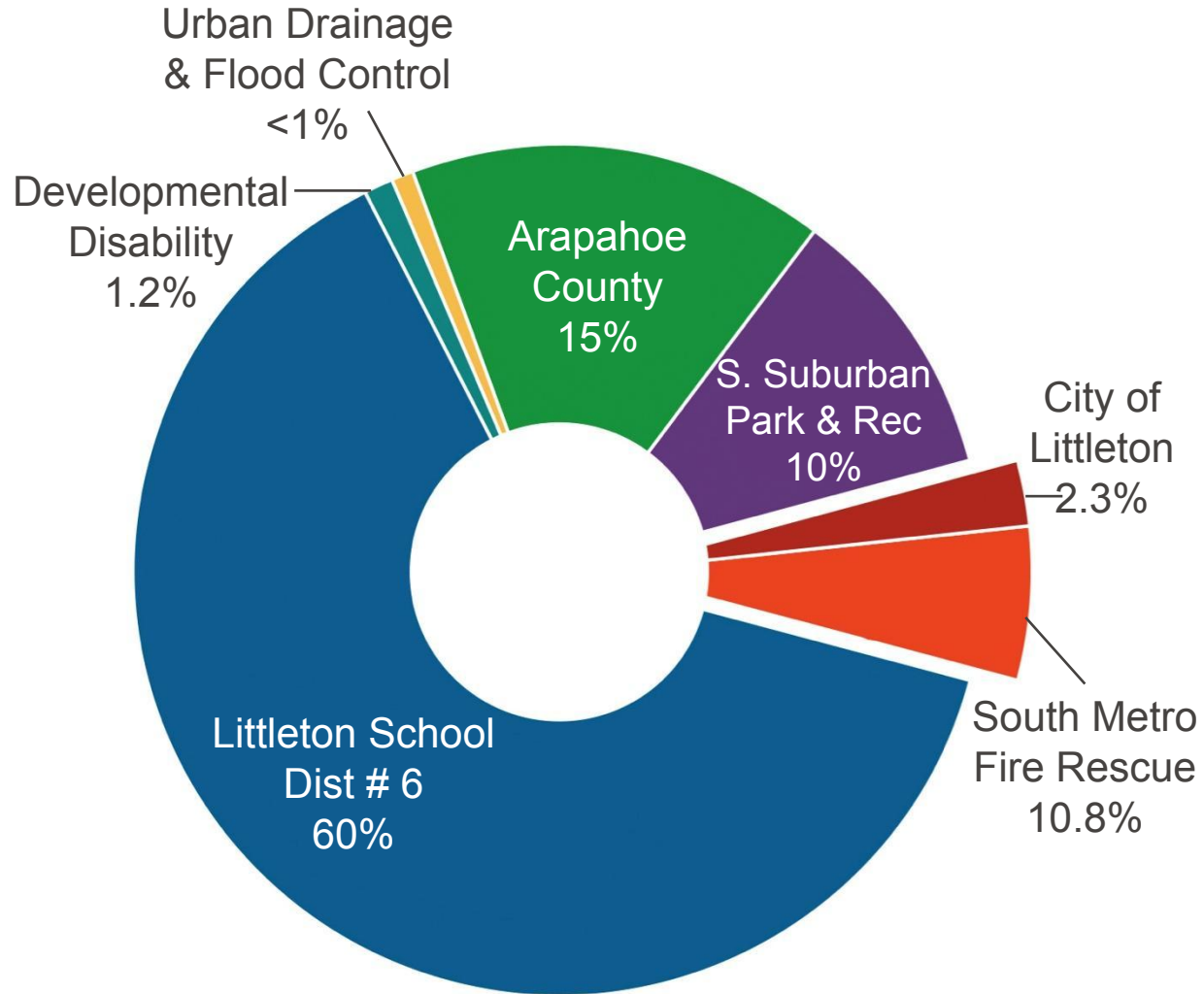


# CHANGES TO PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION

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With unification, the city will receive 2% and SMFR will receive 11% of total property taxes paid.

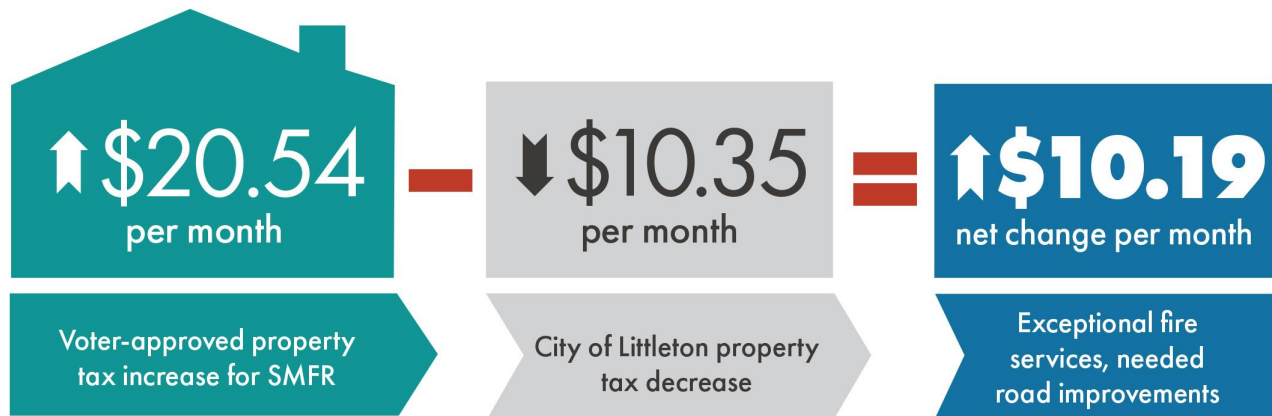
Net increase  
4.588 Mills  
6% of total



# NET CHANGE FOR RESIDENTS

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*Based on median  
home price of  
\$370,000.*





# NET CHANGE FOR COMMERCIAL

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*Based on  
commercial property  
value of \$1M.*



## CHANGE IN CITY FUNDING

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Inclusion allows  
reallocation of  
funds to streets and  
infrastructure.

**\$7.1M**

Fire costs

**- \$4.0M**

Property tax  
reduction

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**\$3.1M**

Improved  
streets

# FUTURE OF FIRE SERVICE

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The vote in November will determine how our community pays for fire service.

## 2019 - Year One

- City contracts with SMFR through Fire Authority
- City pays from General Fund Reserves

# FUTURE OF FIRE SERVICE

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## Continued

The vote in November will determine how our community pays for fire service.

## 2020 & Beyond

- Voters **approve** inclusion
  - Improved fire services and street maintenance
  - Property Tax Change on January 1, 2020
- Voters **do not approve** inclusion
  - City contracts with SMFR at 9.25 mill equiv.
  - Additional \$1.4 million from the General Fund
  - Reduction of reserves
  - Requires review of city-wide operating costs
  - No additional funds for street maintenance



# EXCEPTIONAL FIRE SERVICES



# NEEDED ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

## Unification supporters:

- South Metro/Cunningham Fire Rescue Authority
- Town of Columbine Valley Trustees
- Highlands Ranch Metro District BOD
- Littleton Fire Protection District BOD
- South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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### Approval of the Inclusion agreement:

- Timing is critical
  - Service delivery
  - Cost implications
- No other options provide similar service for the cost of SMFR
- Standalone or contract option are not financially & operationally viable
- A long-term, financially stable approach
- Future Fire Service increases would require a vote of the entire SMFR District
- Redirects General Fund Revenue to a critical public need - street maintenance