Stations Project 2025

Over the next several years, the fire department is looking to renovate, relocate and build new stations to better serve the growing needs of our community. Several key factors highlight the need for this initiative, including the age of our stations, operational efficiency, and response times.

Age and Condition of Existing Stations

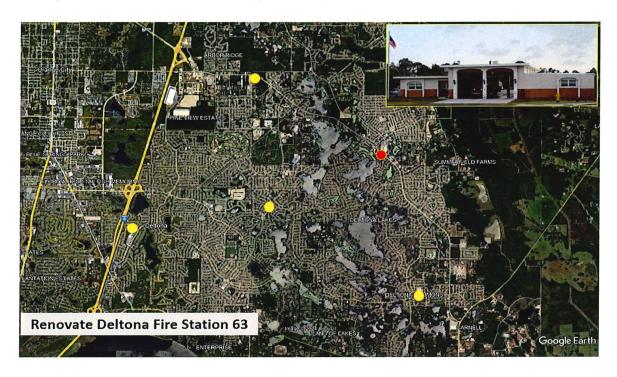
Many of our current fire stations were built decades ago and no longer meet modern operational standards. Below is a list of our stations and their original construction dates:

| Building Name | Year Built | Age in Years | Notes |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------|---|
| Logistics | 1965 | 60 | Our first fire station—now our logistics building. |
| Station 61 | 1974 | 51 | Operations side of building |
| Station 61 add on | 1988 | 37 | Administration side of building |
| Station 62 | 2005 | 20 | Poor location but structurally sound |
| Station 63 | 1978 | 47 | Great location off Howland, needs major renovation and additions |
| Station 64 | 1996 | 29 | Opened as a temporary structure; permanent structure done in 1996 |
| Station 65 | 2012 | 13 | Good building, good location |



Our firefighters live and work in these stations 24/7, often housing extra personnel during student training programs or hurricane deployments. The bay and storage areas are used to house necessary equipment and apparatus to maintain operational readiness. However, many stations are outdated, undersized, and no longer meet the demands of a modern fire service, making it increasingly difficult to provide adequate space for both personnel and equipment. This leads to leaving much of our equipment and apparatus to be kept outside, susceptible to the elements. Additionally, poor station placement contributes to longer response times, directly impacting public safety. Significant improvements are necessary to ensure our facilities support current and future emergency response needs.

- Station 63 was originally built in 1978 for a volunteer fire department. Today, it houses an engine and an ambulance with five to six personnel daily. While bunk rooms were added later, the station remains small and outdated.
 - o A major renovation is needed to support our operational needs.



- Station 64 is a metal-frame structure that has begun experiencing maintenance issues and lacks sufficient space for its engine, ambulance, and five-person crew. The kitchen and living quarters were designed for a smaller team. Additionally, parking is inadequate.
 - We propose constructing a replacement station on neighboring property to better accommodate current and future needs.



- **Station 62** is located within a residential neighborhood; this station creates safety concerns when responding to calls due to pedestrian activity.
 - We propose replacing it with two strategically placed stations to improve response times and reduce call volume at other stations.



• New Station in Northeastern Deltona – Emergency response times in this area are significantly longer than acceptable standards. We recommend adding a new station to close this coverage gap and provide better service to residents.



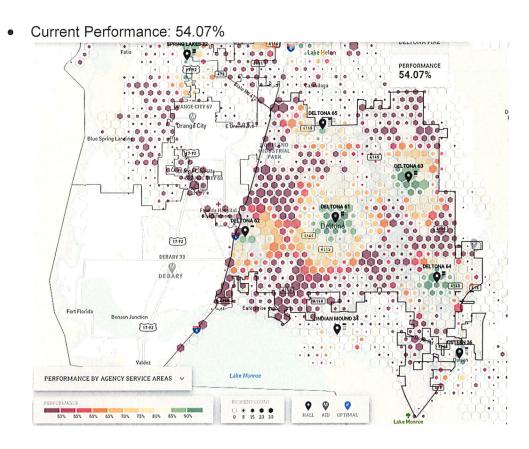
Addressing Response Times

One of the primary reasons for relocating and expanding our stations is to improve response times and especially our travel time. Travel time is the amount of time it takes to drive from the fire station to the location of an emergency incident. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends a travel time of 4 minutes at the 90th percentile. However, our current **2024 travel time average is 6 minutes and 49 seconds**, which is nearly 3 minutes above the national standard.

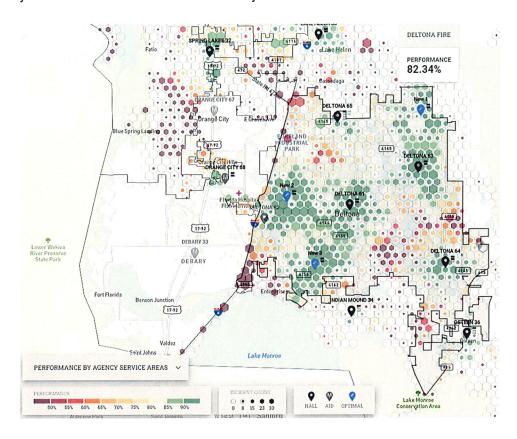
The only way to safely and effectively reduce this time is by strategically placing fire stations. To determine optimal locations, we worked with Darkhorse, a firm specializing in fire department performance analysis. Their data-driven recommendations help fire departments understand what their current performance is and provide a roadmap for maximizing coverage and efficiency. The new station locations are a result of their analysis.

The Impact of Adding and Relocating Stations

This Darkhorse analysis demonstrates how strategically relocating and adding fire stations will significantly improve our performance. They measure performance by determining the percentage of the time that we meet NFPA standards. In the illustrations below our performance would go from 54.07% currently to a projected 82.34% with this project. (These measures only look at the time span from when personnel get the call to when they arrive on-scene)



• Projected Performance After Station Adjustments: 82.34%



- This represents a substantial increase in efficiency, leading to:
 - Faster emergency response times
 - o Improved performance and service coverage for residents
 - o Reduced strain on existing stations and personnel

The goal of this project is to modernize and better locate our fire stations. When complete we will have renovated one station, moved two stations and added two stations. This will take us from 5 stations to 7 stations covering the City of Deltona.



Funding

The funding for these projects to modernize the fire stations would be through a bond issuance or bank loan. This is estimated to cost upwards of \$50 million. The maximum annual debt service would be \$3.9 million over twenty-five years.

The repayment of this debt would be either by ad valorem, general obligation proceeds (voter approved) or through a fire assessment.