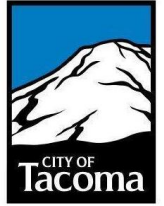


CITY OF TACOMA

2023 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST



\$2 MILLION TO REPLACE SOUTH TACOMA FIRE STATION

Project Request: The City of Tacoma requests \$2 million within the 2023 capital budget to fund the replacement of Fire Station #7 and provide better emergency response to the community.

Background: Fire Station #7 was constructed in 1959 and is located in a shared library facility in South Tacoma. The station serves one of two areas of the city with the highest call volume. The station is staffed with one engine company that responds to over 3,500 emergencies annually. The call volume for this station far exceeds the department's target and national standard of 2,500 calls annually. The station is a single bay station, meaning it can hold only one apparatus. There is a need to add an additional response unit to this area; however, the station is undersized and the existing property lacks the capacity for the needed expansion to accommodate additional emergency vehicles, equipment, and staff.

Why is this needed:

Fire Station #7 serves a low-opportunity area in Tacoma, as identified by the City's Equity Index. This is an area where residents have fewer access to opportunities, including where community members are not able to access services or where services do not meet community needs. The call volume for this South Tacoma station far exceeds department target and national standards. When call volumes are exceeded, it takes longer to respond to emergencies and negatively impacts outcomes. Additionally, when call volumes exceed target levels, responders are unable to engage in necessary activities such as required training, apparatus and equipment maintenance, pre-fire planning, and fire/life safety inspections. All of these things contribute directly to the safety of firefighters and the community. It is important to ensure we are able to promptly respond to calls in this community to ensure equity in the delivery of services. City equity reports demonstrate a need for more investment to minimize inequities and maximize access. Replacement of Fire Station #7 will provide more equitable service delivery to all residents and visitors of Tacoma. Without the replacement of this station, we will continue to see an increase in poor outcomes disproportionately in our areas of highest need.

Finances: The \$2 million in state funds will be matched with \$2 million in city Real Estate Excise Tax Revenues and will be used to acquire, design and produce construction documents to make the project shovel ready. The City is forming a Facilities Advisory Committee of community members to develop a capital bond to complete the project funding.



Current Fire Station #7 Facility