Memorandum

DATE: September 9, 2016

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee:
Adam Medrano (Chair), B. Adam McGough (Vice Chair), Sandy Greyson, Tiffinni A. Young, Jennifer S. Gates, Philip T. Kingston

SUBJECT: Wildland Urban Interface Program

On Monday, September 12, 2016, you will be briefed on the Wildland Urban Interface Program by Driver Engineer Kevin Luper of the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department.

The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Eric D. Campbell
Assistant City Manager

[Attachment]

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Christopher D. Bowers, (I) City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

"Dallas, The City That Works: Diverse, Vibrant and Progressive"
Vision Statement

• The DFR Vision Statement:

“To be the best trained, technologically advanced, customer-focused fire service organization in the country.”
Briefing Objectives

- History of Wildland Team
- Wildland Equipment
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and its significance
- What is a Community Wildland Protection Plan (CWPP)
- September 14, 2016 – Council Agenda
Program History

• Program started with a $200,000 UASI Grant.
• Coordinator selected to establish DFR first Wildland Strike Team under Special Operations Division
• Partnered with the Texas Forest Service for training and technical support
• Primarily a state asset under Texas Intrastate Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS)
Program History

Grant Funds Paid For:

- Wildland Personal Protective Ensemble (PPE)
- Wildland Hoses and Nozzles
- Hand Tools
- Radios
- Chain Saws
- Protective Shelters
- Initial Wildland Training Course
Program History

• Wildland Team Deployment Highlights:
  • Bastrop Fire 2011
  • Possum Kingdom Fire 2011
  • Trophy Club Fire 2014
  • Hidden Pines Fire 2015 (Bastrop)
  • Rowlett Tornado as a Saw Crew 2015
Wildland Fire Team Today

• The program has evolved into two specialized teams.
  • Both teams are All-Hazards trained.
  • Wildland Strike Team
    • Operates on wildland engines to deploy wildland fire fighting tactics and structure protection.
    • Every member is on the Strike Team.
  • Wildland Hand Crew (One of only two municipal teams in Texas)
    • A highly specialized team that can remain self-sufficient for up to 72 hours in remote areas while wildland firefighting.
Wildland Fire Team

• 50 Member team

• Comprised of ranks Fire Rescue Officer through Battalion Chief

• Not centralized – team has to muster at designated rally point when assigned
Chain of Command

Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator

- Training Officer
- Safety Officer
- Shift Coordinators (3)
- Strike Team Leaders (6)

- Equipment Manager
- Urban Interface Specialist
- Hand Crew Coordinator
- Communications Specialist
Handcrew (Module) Organization

- Crew Boss (Officer) Sawyer
  - Firefighter (Ignitions)
  - Firefighter (Medic)
  - Firefighter
- Squad Boss (Sawyer)
  - Firefighter (Ignitions)
  - Firefighter (Medic)
  - Firefighter
WUI Equipment
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

- Zones where structures and other human improvements meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels
Wildland Urban Interface

- In Texas, 85% of wildland fires happen within 2 miles of a community
Wildland Fire Emergency
Why Now?

- Population
- Climate Weather Cycle
- Changes in Land Use - Fuels
Dallas Fire-Rescue Wildland Team

City of Dallas
Wildfire Risk by Council Districts

Legend

- City Council Districts

WUI Response Index
Rating of potential impact of a wildfire on people and their homes.
- 8 (Most Negative Impact)
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 (Least Negative Impact)

Data Source: Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal and City of Dallas GIS
By: E. O’Conner, TFS
What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?

- A written and agreed upon document that identifies how a community will reduce its risk from wildland fire.

- A CWPP identifies how Dallas Fire-Rescue and our partners will mitigate against, prepare for and respond to wildfires and disasters.
Why Should DFR Have a CWPP?

- Suppression of historic low-intensity naturally-occurring wildfires has caused a buildup of wildland fuels in WUI’s
- Dallas has critical WUI areas (Examples)
  - Trinity River Forest (the largest urban hardwood forest in the United States)
  - Cedar Ridge Preserve/Mountain Creek area
  - Lake Ray Hubbard
The Great Trinity Forest

- The Great Trinity Forest and River cuts through a dense urban core of 1.2 million residents as it flows towards the Gulf of Mexico.
Cedar Ridge Preserve in Southwest Dallas is surrounded on three sides by single family homes.
History

- Lock and Dam #1 along the Trinity River and the establishment of Trinity City in 1916
Today

- The Lock Keeper’s house today still occupied along with many other dwellings in or bordering the Trinity Forest
Staff is seeking the support and recommendation from the Public Safety Committee to move the following upcoming agenda item forward to full Council for approval

- Authorize the acceptance of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan Grant from the Texas A&M Forest Service, and
- Execution of the grant agreement
- Total not to exceed $10,000
Partnerships

- Audubon
- Department of Agriculture
- Master Naturalist
- Texas A&M Agrilife Extension
- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- ELM Fork Fire Module