Report on the

Improvement of Fire Fighting Facilities

City of Decatur, Illinois

Report of the City Manager,
to the City Council.
March 5, 1961

City of Decatur, Illinois.

March 5, 1961

Honorable Mayor and City Council,
City of Decatur, Illinois.
Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to submit for your study and consideration a summary report on the improvement of fire fighting facilities for the City of Decatur.

The material on which this report is based has been gathered over the period of one year. It is the result of comprehensive study and analysis by many City Departments and the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

Fire protection is the one area where your City Staff has not been able to substantially up-grade the service to citizens. Little more can be done in this service area until modern fire fighting facilities at proper locations are available.

Several previous reports have pointed out the grave risks being taken by not having better fire facilities. This report points out, in addition, that substantial savings could be realized through reduced fire insurance rates, if proper facilities were being utilized. The report also details what these facilities should be, where they should be located, what they will cost and how they can be paid for.

I want to especially thank Fire Chief Byrd Davis who carefully checked all data and studies; the members of the Department of Planning and Develop-

ment who undertook much of the basic research and investigations; and, Mr. A. J. Sella, Engineer for the National Board of Fire Underwriters, who painstakingly spend several weeks studying fire station location needs in the City of Decatur.

I recommend your early approval of the program and action as set forth in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Dever,

City Manager.

JED:ls

Table of Contents

List of Illustrations

Report on the

Improvement of Fire Fighting Facilities

City of Decatur, Illinois

One of the most important services a city provides for its citizens is public safety protection. Over the past two years the City has considerably up-graded and expanded police protection services. The protection against fire damage has been improved somewhat by increasing the number of firemen, the purchase of new equipment and greatly stepped-upped training and inspection programs.

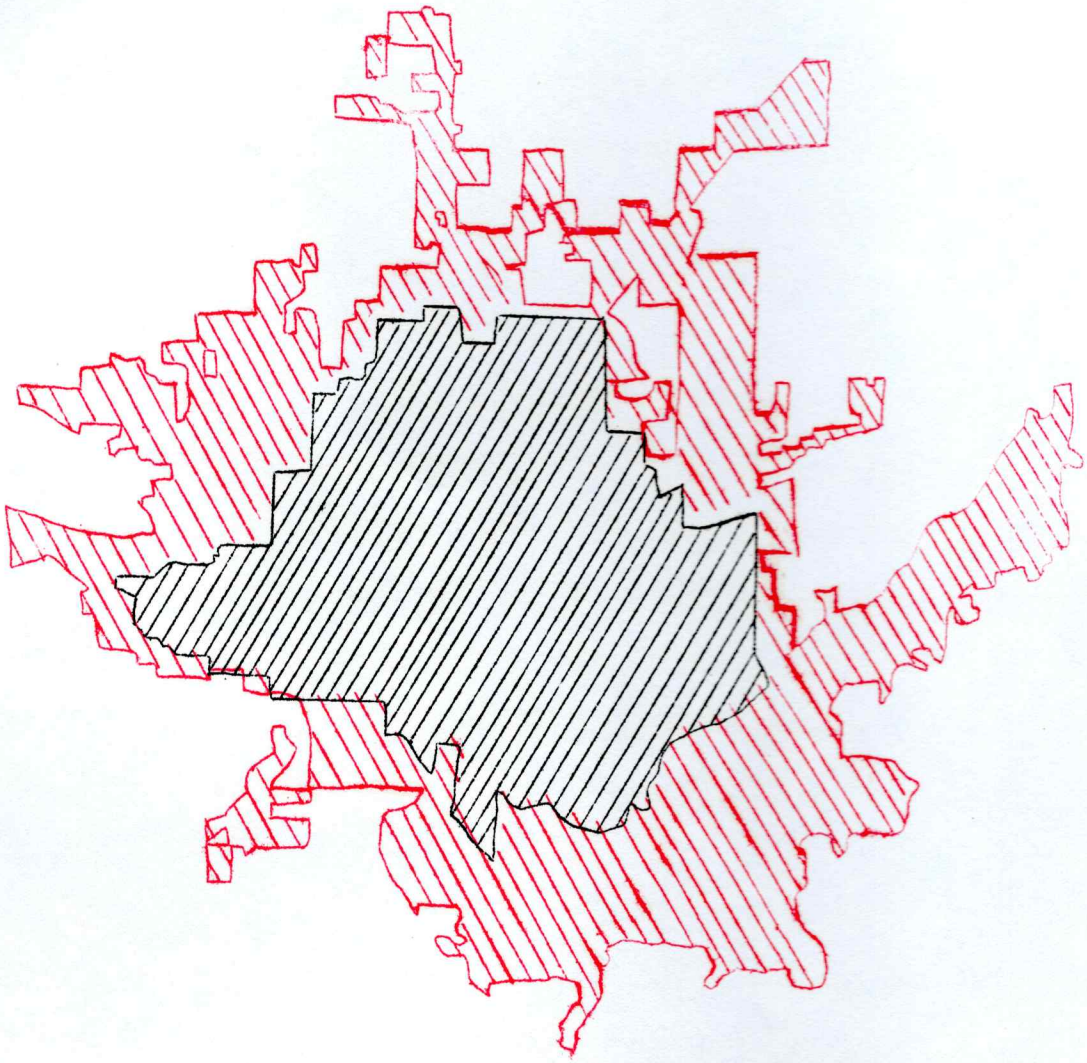
Approximately one year ago, a detailed program of fire facility analysis and re-evaluation was undertaken. This program has included comprehensive tests of all equipment; detailed appraisals of all fire stations; structural, plumbing, heating and wiring inspections of all fire stations; and, a complete fire defense study by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. All of these studies and analysis bear out the critical need for immediate action to improve the facilities and equipment on which good fire protection for the citizens of Decatur rests.

Past Changes

The City of Decatur has not built a new fire station since the early days of the great depression. Since that time the City has increased approximately:

2½ times in area,
1/3 in population,
2 times in manufacturing employment,
2/3 in total employment.

Despite this growth, the City has two less fire stations in operation today than it did in 1935.



DECATUR CITY LIMITS

City Limits in 1935

Present City Limits

Existing fire stations are now located at:

Fire Station	Location	Age
#1	East Wood and Franklin Streets	40 years
#2	North Morgan and Cerro Gordo	27 years
#3	North Main and Grand Avenue	59 years
#4	Jasper and Locust Streets	49 years
#5	Clay and 22nd Streets	34 years*
#6	Eldorado St. & Fairview Ave.	34 years*
#7	Garfield & Water (Site only)	

* Closed (not in use)

Six of these fire stations were used until 1952 when a mandatory state law reduced firemen's hours to 56 hours per week and a referendum to increase the fire protection tax to pay for replacement manpower was defeated. For the last nine years the City has operated with four fire stations - all but one concentrated in the downtown area. The lack of adequate fire fighting facilities and poor distribution of facilities is beginning to tell in an ever increasing number of fires. In addition, the per capita fire loss has been rising steadily (See Appendix for 1960 details).

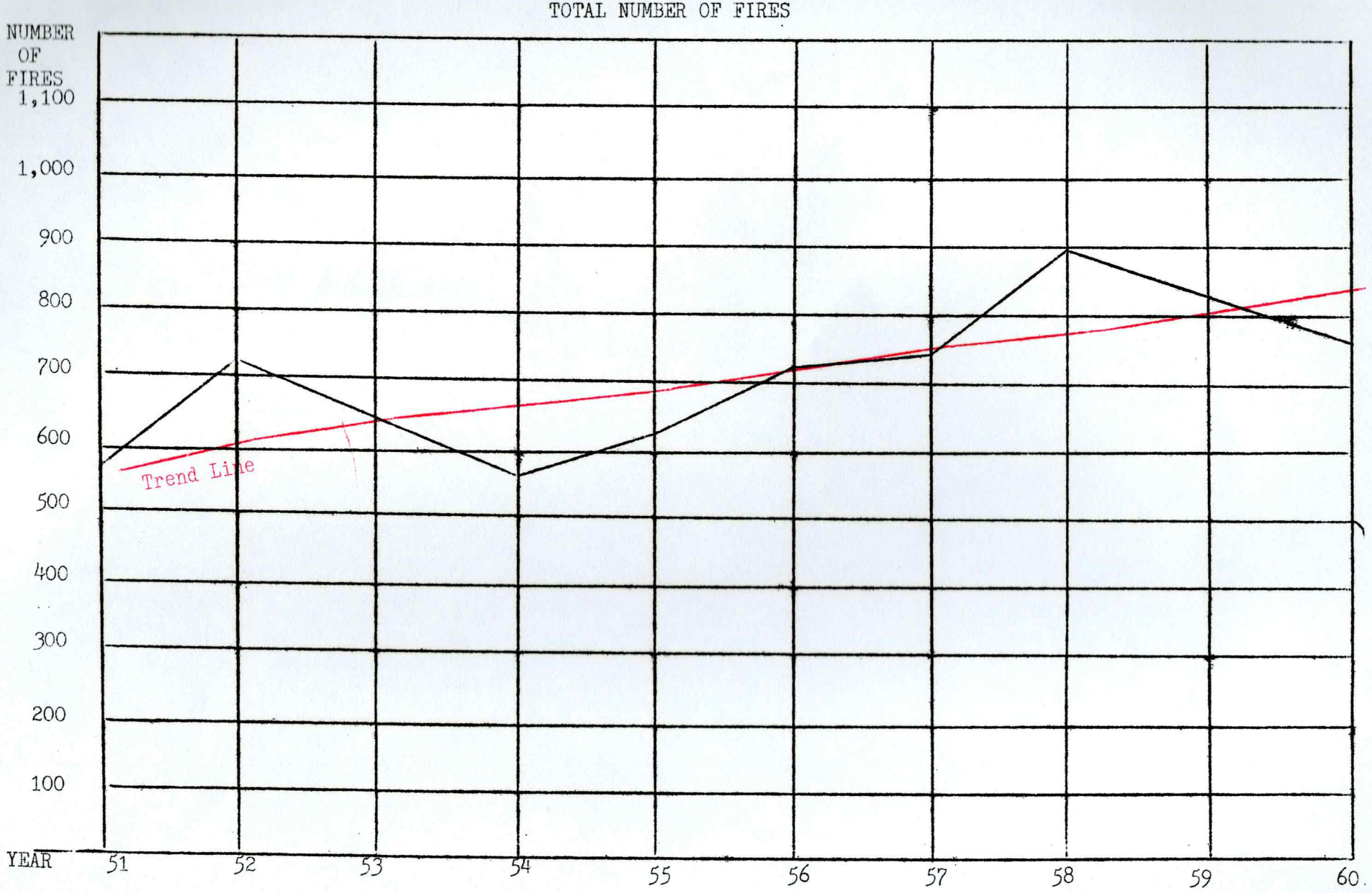
Present Condition

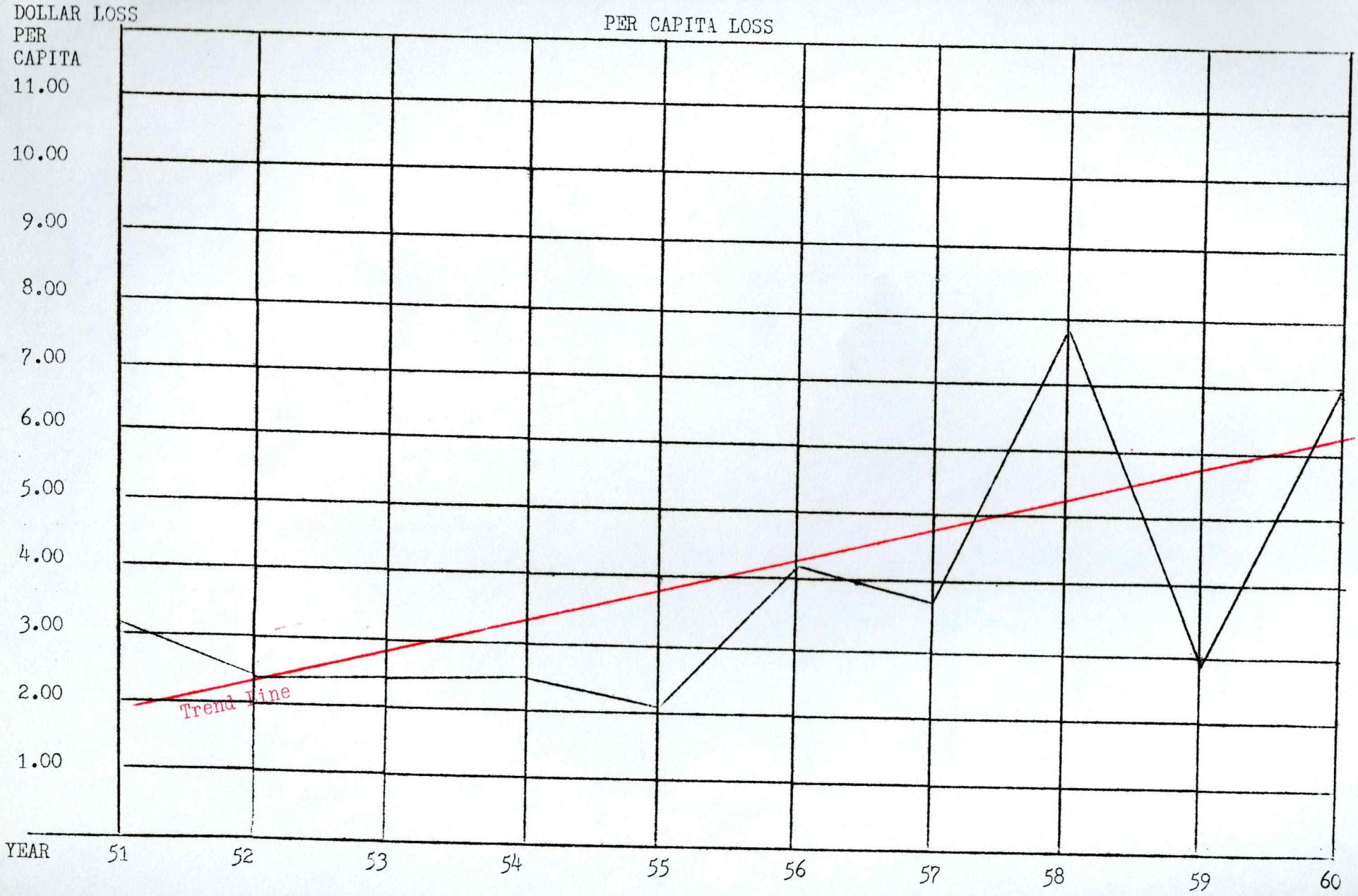
Each of the existing stations is in need of major work to bring them up to acceptable minimum standards as to basic construction conditions and safety for use as a fire station. Even disregarding their adaptability for modern fire equipment this would cost an estimated $53,745.00, (See appendix for details) without any basic improvements - just to keep them open and enable operation.

#3 - $18,300.
#4 - 14,375.
#5 - 7,970.*
#6 - 13,100.*

Total - $53,745.

*Presently closed


TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRES
NUMBER OF FIRES
1,100
1,000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
Trend Line
YEAR
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60


PER CAPITA LOSS
DOLLAR LOSS PER CAPITA
11.00
10.00
9.00
8.00
7.00
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
Trend Line
YEAR
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Present Use

Present stations, except for #5 and #6 are used to capacity. Equipment assigned to these stations is as follows (See appendix for details):

Fire Station #1

2 ladder trucks, 1 pumper, Chief's car, boat, 1 first aid truck, 1 rural pumper, 1 pick-up truck.

Station #2

3 pumpers (2 old reserve units)

Station #3

1 pumper

Station #4

1 pumper

Station #5

Not in use presently.

Station #6

Not in use presently.

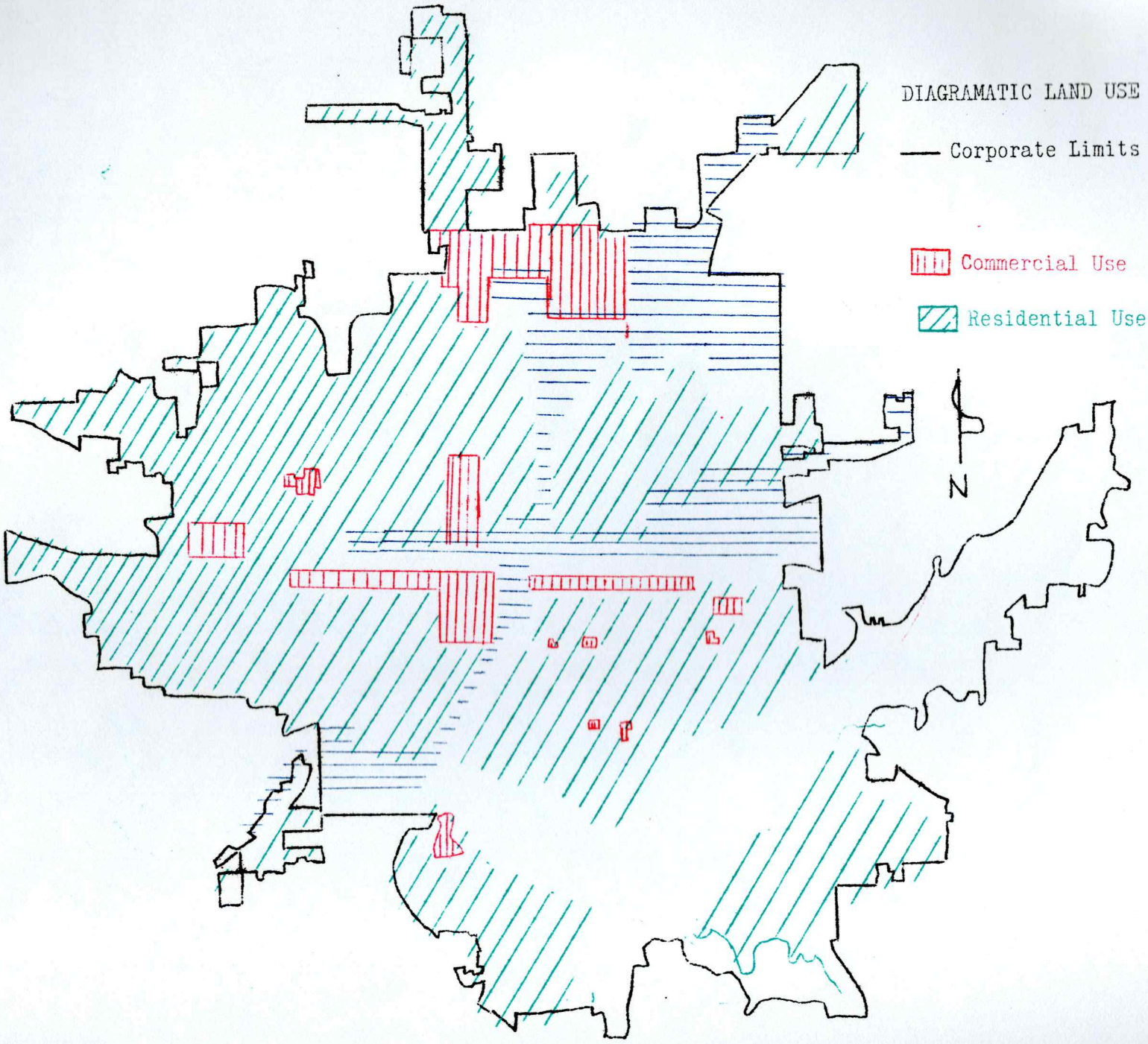
Station #7

(Site Only)

Station Location

Fire protection engineers recommend that a fire station operated on a full time basis be located within 3/4 to 1 mile of commercial and industrial concentrations or where there are unusual concentrations of life hazard. Similarly, authorities recommend that a full time station be located within 2 to 2½ miles of built up residential areas.

Using these standards, approximately 35% of the land area of the City of Decatur has less than fully effective fire protection today. A small fire in any of these areas could become a large conflagration before city fire fight-


DIAGRAMATIC LAND USE
Corporate Limits
Commercial Use
Residential Use
N

ing crews could arrive at the scene of the fire. As the city grows, this situation will be much worse.

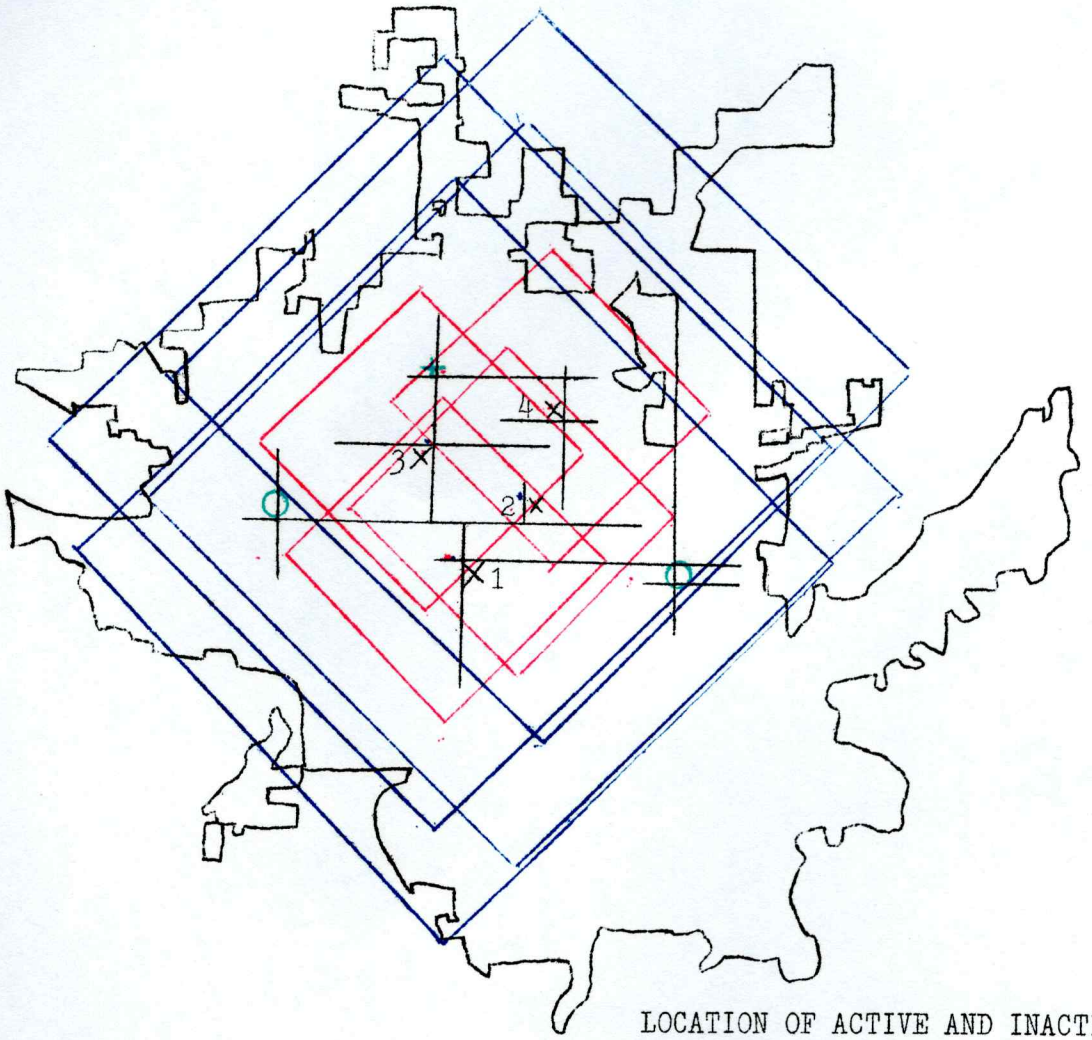
Station Adaptability

With fire fighting forces operating on a 56 hour work week and a cost of approximately $15,000 per year for the City to provide one fireman around the clock 365 days per year, it is necessary that any station use be designed to permit maximum flexibility for modern fire equipment and minimum manpower requirements. Fire protection authorities recommend this be done by concentrating fire equipment in the smallest number of stations possible - consistant with good coverage - and using one piece of equipment to serve a number of purposes. The alternating shift arrangement makes it possible to use off-shift personnel to cover second alarms in an area - if stand-by equipment is available. If reserve equipment is not available at strategic locations, the effective fire fighting forces are cut in half.

This means that stations must have space for housing and servicing at least two pumpers or a ladder truck-pumper and a second pumper. It also means that stations must have adequate, modern living accommodations and training areas. Each station should be located on or near a major through street. Decatur's present stations do not take advantage of the many new roadway improvements of the past few years or those that are planned.

Station Availability

All of the seven fire station sites are available for public use, however, it should be pointed out that every one of the sites is too small by present day standards for a station location. Also only stations 1 and 2 can handle more than one piece of equipment. Stations #5 and #6 while ideally located are not large enough for modern fire equipment or two units without complete remodeling.



LOCATION OF ACTIVE AND INACTIVE FIRE STATIONS, UNUSED SITES, AND SERVICE AREAS.

× Active Fire Stations

○ Inactive Fire Stations

\+ Unused Site

□ $2\frac{1}{2}$ mile Service Area

□ 1 mile Service Area

In addition, the City has been informed that the site of Station #3 will be required for the North-South couple development (See J. J. Cychol letter in appendix). The site of proposed station #7 (Garfield and Water) has been so reduced with widening of Garfield and the planned North-South couple project, that it no longer is of any value for fire station purposes.

Training Facilities

For several years the department used a small, wooden tower for training purposes. It was removed a year ago because of its hazardous condition.

The department has no training tower, no smoke room, no adequate open area for vehicle and hose manuvers, and no area to practice fire stops. As a result, the Fire Department will be severely down-graded by the National Board of Fire Underwriters for its inadequate training facilities.

To be fully effective - even with the best equipment, manpower and stations - the department must have a modern, training facility that can be used on a full time basis. This should be built in conjunction with a station to provide maximum economy of development and operation.

Communications Facilities

With almost every home equipped with a telephone and most large industries and commercial establishments tied directly to a leased fire alarm system, the matter of central communications and communications control is of primary importance to a fire fighting organization. The Department cannot extinguish a blaze unless it can receive and handle an alarm effectively. Again the City of Decatur will be severely down-graded in the fire insurance rating survey, because it does not have a modern fire communications center and has not developed a modern public fire alarm system.

Any improvements to new stations should include a modern communications center with plans for a complete public alarm system to be installed in the

future. Changes should also be made to modernize inter-station communications.

Equipment

The recent National Board survey made a complete inventory of all fire fighting equipment. This falls into four groups:

1. ladder trucks,
2. pumpers (pumping capacity),
3. supplementary fire fighting vehicles,
4. supplementary equipment (including salvage).

The City at present operates two ladder trucks. One is really an old service truck that carries hand ladders and the second is a 85' aerial ladder truck. Fire safety engineers have recommended that ideally the City should have one more ladder truck. This additional ladder truck is scheduled for purchase in 1961.

Tests on the City's six pumpers indicated that all were in acceptable condition and that the total pumping capacity exceeded engineering standards for a city this size. One criticism will be that several pumpers are old and difficult to maintain. During the month of March a new 1,000 g.p.m. will be delivered. The new ladder truck to be purchased in 1961 will also be equipped with a 750 or 1,000 g.p.m. pump. It is planned to replace all other pumpers at the rate of one each year until the department's equipment is fully modernized within four years.

The present rescue vehicles and staff car are planned for replacement in the 1961 - 62 fiscal year. This will provide the City with a full compliment of excellent supplementary vehicles.

In inventorying fire fighting equipment, engineers recommended that a number of pieces of salvage and other special equipment be added. Much of this was acquired this year and the balance will be purchased during 1961 - 62.

Fire Station Needs

Insurance Rates and Recommendations

The report soon to be released is an evaluation of the City's Fire Defenses by the National Board of Fire Underwriters after extensive study by their engineers, will indicate that a most critical need for improving these defenses is relocation and modernization of fire stations. Improvement by completing a portion of the steps recommended by the National Board will mean a reduction in Fire Insurance Rates from Class V to Class IV.

A reduction to class IV will have the following effect on fire insurance rates:

Class	Residential Fire Insurance Rates	
	Buildings	Contents
5th Class	.16	.20
4th Class	.14	.18

The change would mean a reduction in rates for all commercial and industrial property - a saving to every property owner in Decatur.

The Board's Engineers recommend this be done along these lines: (See letter Appendix)

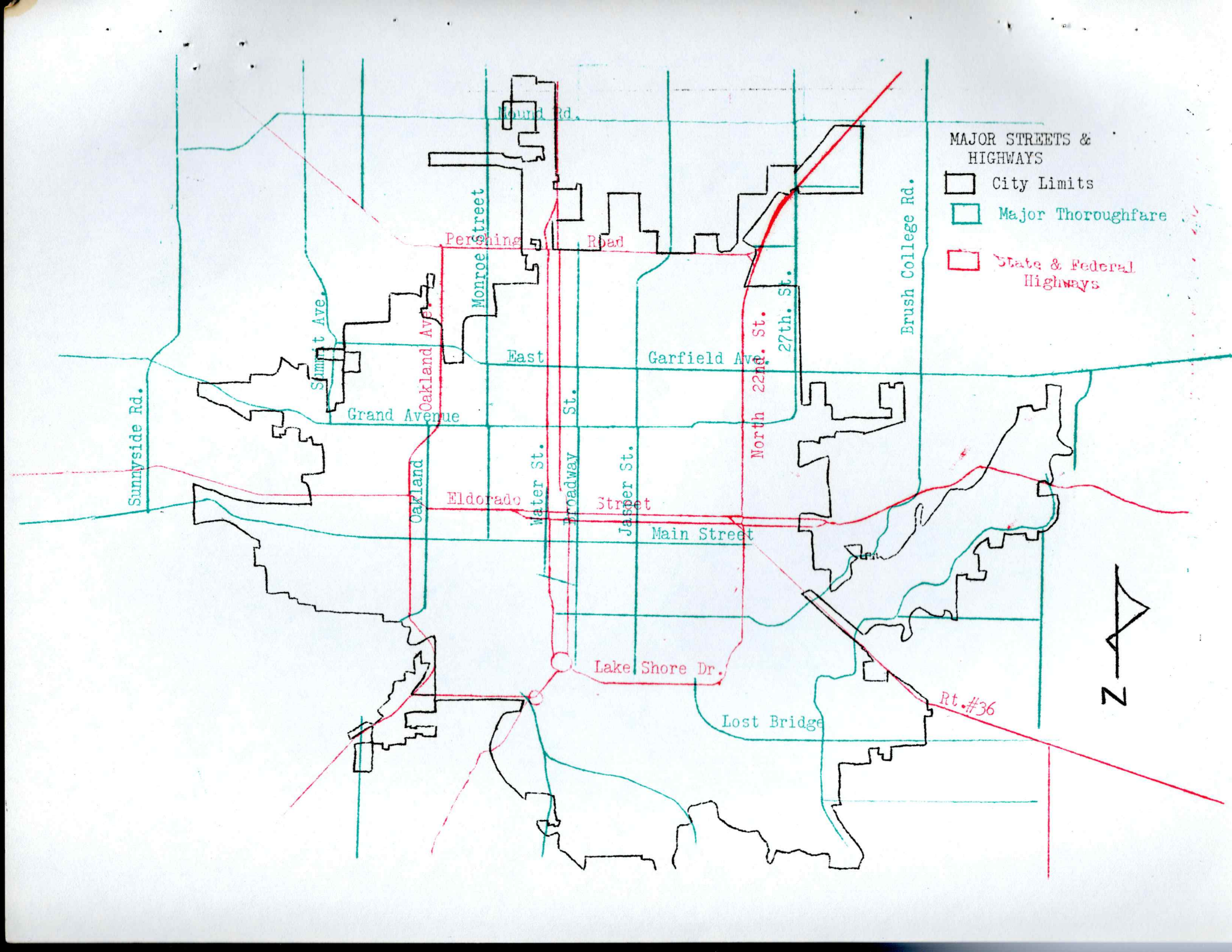
1. Station No. 1 to remain (1 pumper and 1 ladder truck plus 1 reserve pumper).

2. Relocate Fire Stations No. 2 to remodeled Station No. 5 or to a new station to be built in the vicinity of 22nd and Wood Streets. (Station to have one pumper and one pumper reserve).

3. Relocate Fire Stations No. 4 to a new station in the vicinity of 22nd and Garfield Streets. (Station to have one pumper and one reserve pumper and eventually a ladder truck).

4. Relocate Station No. 3 (to be removed by the North-South couple) to remodeled Station No. 6. (Station to have one ladder truck-pumper and one stand-by pumper).

5. Build a new station in the vicinity of Pershing Road and Water Street (Station to have one pumper and one stand-by pumper).


MAJOR STREETS & HIGHWAYS
City Limits
Major Thoroughfare
State & Federal Highways
Mound Rd.
Pershing Road
Monroe Street
Summit Ave.
Oakland Ave.
East Garfield Ave.
Grand Avenue
Sunnyside Rd.
Oakland
Eldorado Street
Water St.
Broadway St.
Jasper St.
North 22nd. St.
27th. St.
Brush College Rd.
Main Street
Lake Shore Dr.
Lost Bridge
Rt. #36
N

6. If the industrial area south or southwest is annexed to build an additional station south or southeast (Station to have one pumper and one stand-by pumper).

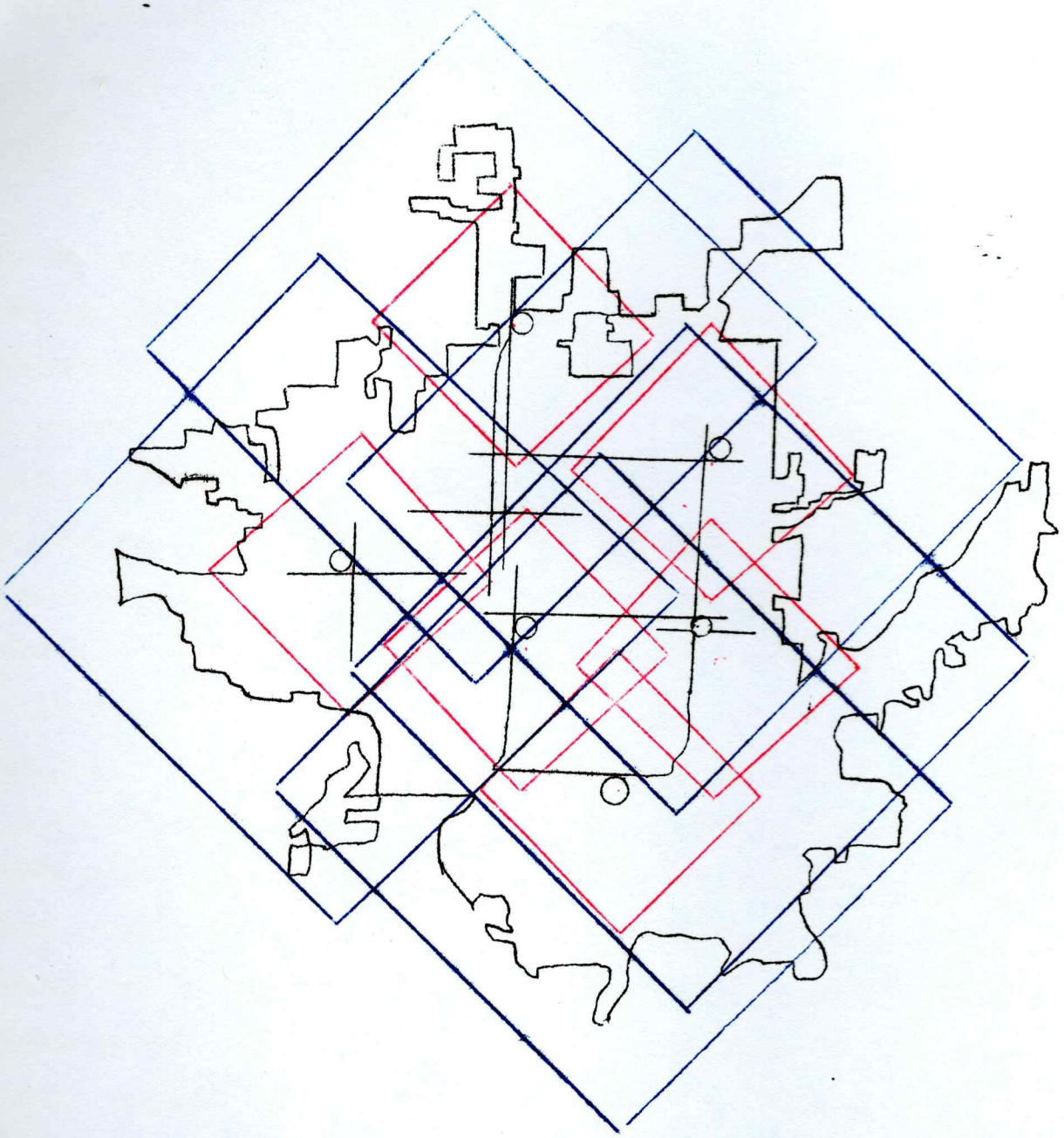
It is anticipated that this will adequately take care of the City's needs for the next ten years to fifteen years.

This plan provides the City with coverage well within acceptable standards for almost 100% of the incorporated area as well as some of the contiguous areas that may be annexed in the next few years. It also makes a maximum use of existing buildings by modernizing and enlarging present structures to accommodate modern fire equipment. It also provides space to store and operate new and existing equipment.

In addition, the Board's report will recommend a training tower and training area be developed with the new station near 22nd and Garfield. Also, Station N. 1 should be modernized for better space utilization and a modern communications center installed.

What Will be Accomplished by Following These Recommendations

Following the recommendations of the National Board, Engineers will place a fire company and equipment close to each of the major hazard areas with respect to property damage and concentrated loss of life. It provides for reserve equipment at each station and will place ladder companies in a position to quickly respond to calls in any area of the City. It will enable the City to expand fire fighting forces and add equipment without further changes in fire stations. It also provides for a new station south or southeast as soon as the industrial area is annexed - increasing the need and providing the tax base to pay for the improvement. Also, it will place the City in a position to request a reduction in fire insurance rates.



PROPOSED FIRE STATIONS AND
SERVICE DISTANCES

○ Fire Houses

1 mile Service

2½ mile Service

N

What Will The Improvements Cost?

Proceeding with the program as outlined above will require the expenditure of $355,000. This would be composed of:

1.	Station vicinity of Garfield and 22nd Street with training tower and area	$ 85,000.
2.	Station vicinity Pershing Road and Water Street	70,000.
3.	Station - south-southeast	70,000.
4.	Remodel Stations 5 and 6	80,000.
5.	Remodel Station No. 1 - (including Communications Center)	50,000.
	Total	- $355,000.

These estimates include all costs of new stations and equipping the stations (except vehicles) as well as remodeling stations No. 5 and 6 to meet requirements of at least two modern vehicles, satisfactory living accommodations, communication center, training area and tower. The estimates were made after viewing new stations in other cities and checking with architects and fire protection engineers.

How Can This Be Financed

The City's Five Year Capital Improvement Plan and Budget, beginning with fiscal year 1961 - 62, carefully analyzes revenue and expenditure estimates of all City funds. This report points out that anticipated revenues can provide for new fire fighting equipment but that fire station additions and improvements must be financed by a bond issue, or delayed for an indefinite number of years.

Value of Present Stations

All of the present fire station properties were appraised by an independent appraiser during February of 1961. The appraised values of these properties (buildings only) are:

#1 - $143,063.
#2 - 33,700.
#3 - 23,213.
#4 - 12,100.
#5 - 22,800.
#6 - 22,500.
#7 - 5,000.

If stations #2, 3, and 4, as well as the site for proposed station #7 were disposed of, the City would realize some $70,000., leaving a net of $285,000. to be raised by a bond issue. In addition, putting all fire stations and station sites to use, or for sale would put them on the tax roll if not actually not needed or used.

Bond Issue

Early this year the City presented a tentative bond program to Chapman and Cutler, Bonding Attorneys, and their approving opinion and a proposed bond referendum ordinance has been received. This ordinance could be voted on at the April 18th election without adding to the cost of the election except for the printing of needed ballots and legal notices. The referendum bond ordinance must be adopted by the March 20th meeting of the City Council. (See appendix for Corporation Counsel's Opinion).

What Would It Cost

If the bonds were set up for repayment over a twenty year period, the principal amounts would be due as follows:

1963 - $10,000.
1964 - $10,000.
1965 - $10,000.
1966 - $10,000.
1967 - $12,000.
1968 - $12,000.
1969 - $12,000.
1970 - $15,000.
1971 - $15,000.
1972 - $15,000.
1973 - $18,000.
1974 - $18,000.
1975 - $18,000.

1976 - $20,000.
1977 - $20,000.
1978 - $22,000.
1979 - $24,000.
1980 - $24,000.

The bonds could be sold with the previously authorized North-South Couple bonds (#1,300,000) which must be issued this year. This would eliminate added bond sales expenses and insure a more favorable interest rate. On the basis of today's bond market and the City's "AA" rating, the payments for principal and interest will average approximately $22,000. per year. (See appendix).

How Will It Be Paid

If the bond issue were paid for out of property taxes and all existing tax levies were kept the same, it would mean taxes would increase approximately $22,000. per year (See appendix)or less than 1¢ for each one hundred dollars in assessed valuation. A home assessed for $5,000 would pay about $0.45 a year for this better fire protection beginning in 1963.

If another revenue source were enacted as mentioned in the Capital Improvement Plan or an existing tax levy reduced, there would be no increase in taxes.

Providing Better Fire Service

The City Council and citizens of Decatur must decide whether they want better fire protection. The City Staff and members of the Fire Department stand ready to provide the better service that these proposed new facilities would insure.

Appendix

Report of Fire Loss - 1960

	Buildings	Contents	Total
Property Involved in Fire	3,075,000.00	1,500,000.00	4,575,000.00
Insurance Thereon	1,881,893.15	1,012,625.00	2,894,518.15
Insurance Loss	347,870.24	157,321.94	505,192.18
Uninsured Loss (Estimated)	3,192.31	7,915.00	11,107,31
Outdoor Fires (Auto-Grass-Etc.	17,864.95		17,864.95
Total Loss Insured and Uninsured	368,927.50	165,236.94	534,164.44

Per Capita Loss $6.98 Average Loss Per Fire $699.56

Number of Alarms

In Brick Buildings----------126
In Frame Buildings----------313
Other Than Buildings----------326
False Alarms 19

Total Alarms----------784

First Aid Calls----------68 Special Calls----------59

Out of City Calls-----30

Number of Blocks Traveled in Answering Alarms----------57,920 Blocks (4,827 Miles)
Number of Feet of Hose Laid----------93,370 Feet
Number of Feet of Ladders Raised----------1,992 Feet

Loss Report by Months

	Fire Loss		Classification of Alarms			
	Buildings	Contents	General	Still	False	Total
January	10,205.84	4,239.50	26	33	-	59
February	24,137.03	944.80	16	34	-	50
March	234,420.39	99,165.50	17	32	2	51
April	6,951.38	1,785.20	26	58	1	85
May	5,143.15	771.80	17	34	2	53
June	28,971.50	11,248.63	20	33	-	53
July	6,616.46	4,884.65	17	36	1	54
August	5,185.25	1,640.00	13	42	4	59
September	9,602.50	2,275.00	25	38	2	65
October	6,904.00	2,310.00	24	54	2	80
November	25,620.00	34,110.00	21	68	4	93
December	5,170.00	1,862.31	32	49	1	82
Total	368,927.50	165,236.94	254	511	19	784

Class of Property in Which Fires Occurred - 1960

Apartment Houses, Flats, and Rooming Houses	19
Bakeries	1
Beauty Shops	1
Barns and Stables	1
Churches	4
Depots, Stations, Waiting Rooms, Etc.	2
Dry Cleaning Establishments	1
Dwellings	268
Factories	14
Foundries	1
Garages	16
Gasoline Service Stations	2
Green Houses	1
Halls, (Lodge-Club-Dance-Public, Etc.)	1
Armory	1
Hangers	-
Hotels and Boarding Houses	7
Hospitals	12
Laundries	14
Nursing and Convalescent Homes	1
Lumber Yards	1
Office Buildings	9
Oil Houses	1
Photo Studios	1
Restaurants	7
Taverns and Night Clubs	3
Sheds	7
Stores	23
Shops	2
Schools and Colleges	1
Theatres	1
Warehouses	4
Wholesale Houses	2
Tire Stores and Shops	2
Tailor Shops	1
T. V. Repair Shops	2
Dairy Plants	1
Miscellaneous	4
Total	439

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

Office of District Engineer,
State Highway Building,
Paris, Illinois

January 19, 1961

Subject: INTERSECTION DESIGN - General
S.B.I. Route 2 (U.S. 51)
With Grand Avenue in Decatur
Section 50Z-2,
Macon County.

Mr. John E. Dever,
City Manager,
Decatur, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of January 18, 1961, regarding the fire station at the southwest corner of Main Street and Grand Avenue, I have studied the proposed intersection at this location and at this date, the land on which the existing Fire Station #3 is located will be required in order to develop the intersection properly.

Very truly yours,

J. J. Cychol,
District Engineer.

DJJ:jf

FIRE STATION INVENTORY
February, 1961

FIRE STATION #1 - HEADQUARTERS

Location - 202 S. Franklin Street
Date Built - 1920
Type of Construction - Masonry - Two stories
Condition of Structure - Fair
Apparatus Capacity - Two Ladder Trucks; 1 pumper and Chief's Car.
Adequacy of Apparatus Space - Inadequate
Number of Men accomodated - Forty-five men
Adequacy of living quarters - Dormitory; dining and sanitation inadequate
Equipment located at station - Two ladder trucks; 1 pumper; 1 first-aid truck; boat and Chief's car.
Description of equipment - one 1947, 85 ft., Seagrave Aerial ladder truck. One 1937 General City Service Truck. One 1936 General, 1000 G.P.M. Pumper. One 1942 Chevrolet First Aid and Rescue Truck. One 1956 Oldsmobile Sedan, Fire Chief's Car. One 1952 Howe 500 G.P.M. Pumper. One Chevrolet, 1948 Pick-up truck.

FIRE STATION #2

Location - 550 North Morgan Street
Date Built - 1933
Type of Construction - Masonry - Two stories
Condition of Structure - Good
Apparatus Capacity - One pumper and one aerial
Adequacy of apparatus space - adequate
Number of men accommodated - twelve men
Adequacy of living quarters - adequate
Equipment located at station - three pumpers
Description of Equipment - One 1952 American LaFrance, 1000 G.P.M. Pumper. One 1928 Seagrave, 1000 G.P.M. Pumper (Reserve).

FIRE STATION #3

Location - 1261 North Main Street
Date Built - 1902
Type of Construction - (Ordinary) brick and frame - two stories
Condition of Structure - Fair
Apparatus Capacity - one pumper
Adequacy of apparatus space - inadequate
Number of men accommodated - twelve men
Adequacy of living quarters - inadequate
Equipment located at station - one pumper
Description of equipment - One Seagrave, 1957, 1000 G.P.M. pumper.

FIRE STATION #4

Location - 1174 East Locust
Date Built - 1910 or 1913
Type of Construction - (Ordinary)brick and frame - two stories
Condition of Structure - poor
Apparatus capacity - one pumper
Adequacy of apparatus space - inadequate
Number of men accommodated - twelve men
Adequacy of living quarters - inadequate
Equipment located at station - one 1956 American LaFrance, 1000 G.P.M. Pumper.

FIRE STATION #5

Location - 240 South 22nd Street
Date built - 1926 (not in use)
Type of construction - (ordinary) brick and frame - two stories
Condition of Structure - fair
Apparatus capacity - one pumper
Adequacy of apparatus space - inadequate
Adequacy of living quarters - inadequate
Equipment located at station - none

FIRE STATION #6

Location - 1308 West Eldorado
Date built - 1926 (not in use by Fire Department)
Type of construction - (ordinary) brick and frame - two stories
Condition of structure - fair
Apparatus capacity - one pumper
Adequacy of apparatus space - inadequate
Adequacy of living quarters - inadequate
Equipment located at station - none

FIRE STATION #7

Location - Southeast corner of Garfield and Water Streets (Vacant Land)

January 12, 1961

To: John E. Dever,
City Manager.

From: M. W. Mochel,
Chief Inspector

Re: Fire Station No. 3
1261 N. Main - Corner of Main and Grand Streets.

As to the outside appearance of this building - it is a very old building. There have been some repairs made. There is a top parapet on this building with an overhang which is approximately 6 feet high, which is in much need of repair and should be removed.

As to the general building condition - the front door should swing out. The stairway should have hand rails. The risers and treads on the steps going up to the 2nd floor should be replaced. The stairway should have a proper door with a closure on it to make a building cut-off from one floor to another. The windows are in much need of repair. Some of the ropes of the windows are broken. Stops are gone on some of them and in some of the windows the glass is loose and should be re-puttied at once. The store room on the 2nd floor needs cleaning up. The ceiling needs to be repaired and painted. As to picture #1, you can see the condition of this store room. It formerly was a hay loft and grain storage. There is evidence of termites in the basement.

As to picture #2, approximately two years ago there had to be new floors, new steel put in basement to support the new truck which was purchased for that house. There was new footings put in to support the steel and the joists were re-enforced. The furnace room should be enclosed in a 1 hour fire resistant room with the door to swing in and the room be supplied with combustion air.

As to picture #3, you can see that the kitchen needs new equipment. You can see that the electrical equipment in the kitchen over the stove is not in accordance with the City ordinance and of good practices.

As to picture #4, you can see there is only one rest room on the 2nd floor, which is inadequate and the room needs new floor covering.

As to the roof, it is in need of repair.

As to the electrical condition of this building, there shall be 200 Amp. service and distribution panel. Either rewire or replace all suspended light fixtures. Remove all B.X. cables and replace in conduit. Rewire sump pump. Rewire boiler on separate circuit. Rewire ventilating fans.

As to the sewer and heating system - connect basement drain to sewer. Change present sewer system to eliminate sump pump. Install new 40 gal. gas auto. hot water heater. Install new bathroom with 2 toilets, 1 urinal, 2 showers, 1 tub, and tile floors and walls.

As to the estimate on this building, to put it in good shape, we estimate

the building work at.....	$10,425.00
We estimate the electrical work at.....	1,200.00
We estimate the heating and plumbing work at.....	6,675.00
Total cost.....	$18,300.00

However, it has been brought to our attention that this building will probably be removed as to the new street program, (north-south couple).

January 12, 1961

To: John E. Dever,
City Manager

From: M. W. Mochel,
Chief Inspector

Re: Fire Station No. 4
1174 East Locust Street

As to the outside appearance of this building - it is a very old building and in much need of repair.

As to the condition of the building - the front door should swing out. The jamb on the door is rotten and the catch does not work. The wall going up to the 1st floor, which has a door in it, is loose and is not fastened to the outside of wall. The treads going up the 2nd floor are in bad shape. The windows are old and in need of repair as the snow and cold air blow in and around every window. The 2nd floor is too small for a bed for each fireman. (there are 12 firemen using 4 beds). This shows on picture #4. The floor needs covering on it.

Picture #1 shows the floor in the toilet room is in bad condition and needs covering on it. Picture #2 shows the inadequacy of the cabinets also their condition.

The only rear entrance to this building is through the basement, and there are no hand rails on the stairway.

The outside cornice and shingles are much in need of repair.

As to the electrical work that should be done in this building, there should be new 200 amp service and distribution panel. All B. X. cable should be removed and replaced with conduit. Rewire ventilating fan in the kitchen. Place battery charger on separate circuit. Provide adequate number of outlets.

As to the plumbing and heating system work that should be done in this building - install new 40 gal. gas auto. hot water heater. Install additional radiation to adequately heat the 2nd floor. Complete new bathroom with two toilets - 1 urinal, 2 showers, 1 tub, tile floor and walls.

The estimated cost to put this building in good shape would be:	$10,000.00.
Electrical work estimated at.....	1,000.00.
Plumbing and heating work estimated at.....	3,375.00.
Total.....	$14,375.00.

January 12, 1961

To: John E. Dever,
City Manager.

From: M. W. Mochel,
Chief Inspector.

Re: Fire Station No. 5
247 South 22nd.

As to the condition of this building - the exterior of this building is in fair condition. The front door should swing out. The north window has a bad sill which must be replaced. Plaster is cracked all over the house and some has come off in the main room. The floors need new covering all over the house. The stairway needs a door with closure, to serve as a cut-off. The house inside and outside needs paint. The trim needs painting. The furnace shall be enclosed in a 1 hour fire resistant room, with the door to swing in, with combustion air supplied.

As to picture #1, you can see the kitchen is inadequate and needs new equipment. The concrete ramp in front of the door needs repair.

As to the electrical work which should be done on this building there shall be 200 Amp. service and distribution panels. Rewire suspended light fixtures or replace with new fixtures. Remove all B.X. cable and replace with conduit. Replace all receptacles and switches. Remove all wiring not in use.

As to plumbing and heating work to be done on this building - complete heating system with gas hot water boiler and all new radiation. Install new 50 gal. auto. gas hot water heater. Furnish additional urinals and toilets on the main floor.

As to the estimated cost of repairing this building.....	$4,000.00
Estimated cost of electrical work.....	1,100.00
Estimated cost of plumbing and heating work.....	2,870.00
Total	$7,970.00

January 12, 1961

To: John E. Dever,
City Manager.

From: M. W. Mochel,
Chief Inspector

Re: Fire Station No. 6
1308 West Eldorado Street.

As to the building structure outside of this building, - it seems sound. However, the gutter on the exterior of this building should be repaired. Also, the trim needs to be repainted, and there should be a new roof.

The front door should swing out. The kitchen needs new equipment. There is evidence of termites in this building underneath the floor tile. The floors all need new covering and all infested wood should be removed and replaced. This building was occupied by the Civil Defense and there are cracks and plastering needed all over the house. The stairway between the first and second floors needs a door with a closure, to serve as a cut-off.

As to picture #1, on the 2nd floor you can see what the water has done to the exterior of the walls. This damage will have to be replaced. The inside of the house, upstairs and down needs painting.

As to electrical work on this building, - new 200 Amp. service and distribution panel should be installed. Either rewire or replace fixtures. Remove all B.X. cable and replace in conduit. Replace all receptacles and switches.

As to the heating and plumbing work on this building:

Install new 40 gal. auto. hot water heater.
Complete new bathroom with 2 toilets - 1 urinal - 2 showers and 1 tub, and tile floor and walls.

Estimated cost of building repairs for this building.....$6,000.00
Estimated cost for electrical work..... 1,200.00
Estimated cost of plumbing and heating work..... 5,900.00

Total.....$13,100.00

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS,
85 JOHN STREET, NEW YORK 38.

January 17, 1961

Mr. John E. Dever,
City Manager,
County Building,
Decatur, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Dever:

On December 30, Fire Chief Byrd L. Davis requested information on our recommendations for fire station locations in Decatur. After consultation with our New York Office, the following are our recommendations:

(a) Relocate Engine 2 to a new station in the vicinity of 22nd and Wood Streets; pending the construction of the new station, relocate Engine 2 in former Station 5.

(b) Relocate Engine 4 to a new station in the vicinity of 22nd and Garfield Streets.

(c) Establish a new engine company in former Station 6 temporarily and eventually construct a new station, the location to depend upon access and cross-over roads on the new expressway and growth in the southwest, west, and northwest.

(d) Establish a new engine company in a new station in the vicinity of Pershing Road and Water Street.

(e) Establish additional engine companies in the southern and southeastern sections, the exact location to depend upon growth in those areas.

We hope that the above-given recommendations will help you in determining locations of future fire stations.

Our printed report, which will be issued in the near future, will contain the above-named recommendations, as well as other recommendations for improving the fire defenses. Copies of this report will be sent to you when completed.

Yours very truly,

A. J. Sella, Engineer.

AJS:BMS
Copy to: Fire Chief Byrd L. Davis,
" " Illinois Inspection Bureau

MEMORANDUM

To: John E. Dever, City Manager,

From: Byron M. Merris, Corporation Counsel,

Date: November 14, 1960

You have asked for a written summary as to procedures in case of a bond referendum for fire stations.

Section 17-1 of Chapter 24 of the Illinois Revised Statutes provides: 17-1: No bonds shall be issued by the corporate authorities of any municipality until the question of authorizing such bonds has been submitted to the electors of that municipality at the next general, state, or municipal election, or any special election called for that purpose, and approved by a majority of the electors voting upon that question. Notice of the election shall contain the amount of the bond issue, maturity of the bonds, the purpose for which issued, and the maximum rate of interest.

Section 18-1 provides: 18-1: Except as hereinafter provided in this article, no municipality of less than 300,000 population, shall become indebted in any manner or for any purpose to an amount including existing indebtedness in the aggregate exceeding 2½% on the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and county purposes, previous to the incurring of the indebtedness.

Section 18-10 provides: 18-10: The limitation prescribed in Section 18-1 shall not apply to any indebtedness of any municipality for the purpose of constructing, purchasing, acquiring and equipping municipal halls and police or fire department buildings.

The proceedings may be instituted by the City Council by Ordinance.

The general election for municipal officers is held on the third Tuesday in April. The notice of the election must be published not more than 30 days nor less than 15 days prior to the election. The ordinance authorizing the submission of the question must be adopted by the Council prior to that date.

However, where the question of the issuance of bonds is concerned, steps for preparing the bond issue should be taken some time prior to the election. For the submission of the question of the issuance of the general obligation bonds for street purposes, the papers were prepared by Chapman & Cutler of Chicago. As you know where bonds are sold by the advertising for bids, it is necessary that an opinion as to the legality of the issue be given by some firm of attorneys whose opinions are accepted by bond buyers in both Chicago, New York and St. Louis, although we have never received any bids from St. Louis.

I think probably that I could prepare an ordinance that would be approved by Chapman & Cutler, but inasmuch as the charge is quite reasonable, it would probably be better if all papers were prepared by this firm. I doubt if their charge would be any less as it is probably quicker for them to prepare the ordinance in the first place than to check one already prepared by somebody else. The bond issue question requires some time as we would have to have estimates of cost, both as to sites and as to structures, as well as their locations of the sites chosen. This will take some time and if this is proposed, steps towards arriving at the information, should be commenced shortly.

Respectfully submitted,

Byron M. Merris,
Corporation Counsel.

BMM:k11

$285,000 - Proposed Fire House Bonds
Dated July 1, 1961 - 3½% (Estimated Maximum Interest Rate)

Due	Principal	Interest	Total	Requirement For Year	Bonds Outstanding	Assessed Valuation (Estimate)	Tax Rate (Estimate)
January 1, 1962	---	---	---	---	$285,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1962	---	$ 9,975.00	$ 9,975.00	$ 9,975.00	---	$254,000.00	.00392
January 1, 1963	$10,000.00	4,987.50	14,987.50	---	275,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1963	---	4,812.50	4,812.50	19,800.00	---	259,000.00	.00764
January 1, 1964	10,000.00	4,812.50	14,812.50	---	265,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1964	---	4,637.50	4,637.50	19,450.00	---	264,000.00	.00736
January 1, 1965	10,000.00	4,637.50	14,637.50	---	255,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1965	---	4,462.50	4,462.50	19,100.00	---	269,000.00	.00710
January 1, 1966	10,000.00	4,462.50	14,462.50	---	245,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1966	---	4,287.50	4,287.50	18,750.00	---	274,000.00	.00684
January 1, 1967	12,000.00	4,287.50	16,287.50	---	233,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1967	---	4,077.50	4,077.50	20,365.00	---	279,000.00	.00729
January 1, 1968	12,000.00	4,077.50	16,077.50	---	221,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1968	---	3,867.50	3,867.50	19,945.00	---	284,000.00	.00702
January 1, 1969	12,000.00	3,867.50	15,867.50	---	209,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1969	---	3,657.50	3,657.50	19,525.00	---	289,000.00	.00675
January 1, 1970	15,000.00	3,657.50	18,657.50	---	194,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1970	---	3,395.00	3,395.00	22,052.50	---	294,000.00	.00750
January 1, 1971	15,000.00	3,395.00	18,395.00	---	179,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1971	---	3,132.50	3,132.50	21,527.50	---	299,000.00	.00719
January 1, 1972	15,000.00	3,132.50	18,132.50	---	164,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1972	---	2,870.00	2,870.00	21,002.50	---	304,000.00	.00690
January 1, 1973	18,000.00	2,870.00	20,870.00	---	146,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1973	---	2,555.00	2,555.00	23,425.00	---	309,000.00	.00758
January 1, 1974	18,000.00	2,555.00	20,555.00	---	128,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1974	---	2,240.00	2,240.00	22,795.00	---	314,000.00	.00725
January 1, 1975	18,000.00	2,240.00	20,240.00	---	110,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1975	---	1,925.00	1,925.00	22,165.00	---	319,000.00	.00694
January 1, 1976	20,000.00	1,925.00	21,925.00	---	90,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1976	---	1,575.00	1,575.00	23,500.00	---	324,000.00	.00725
January 1, 1977	20,000.00	1,575.00	21,575.00	---	70,000.00	---	---
July 1, 1977	---	1,225.00	1,225.00	22,800.00	---	329,000.00	.00693
January 1, 1978	22,000.00	1,225.00	23,225.00	---	48,000.00	---	---