

**City of Marysville
Safety Service Infrastructure
Assessment/Report
January 2009**

Executive Summary

Over the last 25 years, the City of Marysville (Marysville) has seen unprecedented growth. With this growth has come increased need for services and resources. Specifically, the Fire and Police Departments have seen an upsurge in demand for services across the board.

To begin addressing this need, the City Administration formed an internal working team to assess the current state of our safety service infrastructure (Marysville Police Division [MPD] and Marysville Fire Division [MFD]) and the Municipal Court.

This assessment identified significant gaps between the City's current fire and police resources and those allocated in comparable cities. Additionally, deficiencies were identified with the current Municipal Court facilities. Including:

- MPD operates out of 3,500 square feet – 1/7th the space comparable cities use.
- MPD lacks basic facility security resources (e.g., secure prisoner entrances, temporary holding facilities and sally-ports.)
- MPD operates with 3 fewer cruisers than comparable cities.
- MPD operates with 5 fewer officers, 1 less communications officer and 5 fewer civilian positions than comparable cities.

- MFD utilizes one station to provide coverage to 16.22 square miles – comparable cities have 1 station for every 4.83 miles
- MFD utilizes one station to provide service to 5,563 households – comparable cities service 3,800 households per station.
- MFD operates with 6.8 fewer firefighters than comparable cities.

- The Municipal Court utilizes a holding cell for prisoners that does not meet minimum standards and does not provide segregation from the general public.
- The Municipal Court clerk's office lacks appropriate security
- The Municipal Court lacks room for growth and appropriate storage for case files.

The working group, in conjunction with consultants, discussed several avenues to address these gaps and to attain needed funding to provide for these resources. To fully explore these options, the comparable results and the consultants' input should be presented to stakeholders within the community and community input must be garnered regarding the existing gaps and the desired services.

Introduction

Over the last 25 years, the City of Marysville (Marysville) has seen unprecedented growth. The 1980 population of Marysville of 7,414 citizens has grown to approximately 18,941 citizens today, a 155% increase. The actual land size of Marysville has also increased since 1980 from 4.05 square miles to 16.22 square miles today, a 300% increase.

With this growth has come increased need for services and resources to adequately serve the citizens of Marysville. In recent years, resources have been allocated to improving the water and wastewater systems and to improve the road infrastructure in order to support this growth. However, many city services have not been accorded similar allocations even as demand for these services expanded. Specifically, the Fire and Police Departments have seen an upsurge in demand for services across the board. The following chart shows the increase in population and businesses over the last 8 years and corresponding increases in Fire and Police services.

	From	To	Percent Increase
Population – short term	15,932 citizens in 2000	18, 941 in 2008	19%
Businesses	519 in 2000	615 in 2005	18 %
EMS Runs	1,797 in 2000	2,034 in 2007	13 %
Fire Runs	654 in 2000	768 in 2007	17 %
Fire Inspections	394 in 2000	667 in 2007	69 %
Police Calls for Service	10,771 in 2002*	11,569 in 2007	7%
Police Incident Reports	1,656 in 2002*	2,403 in 2007	45%
Sq. Miles Patrolled	15.26 in 2002	16.22 in 2008	6%

*Implementation of new reporting system in 2002. Data prior to 2002 was categorized differently thus prior software does not produce comparable data.

To begin focusing on this increased need for Fire and Police services and resources, the City Administration formed an internal working team to examine our safety service infrastructure (Marysville Police Division [MPD] and Marysville Fire Division [MFD].) This working team was tasked with assessing the current state of our safety service infrastructure. The team studied comparable Ohio cities to create an “average city” model for both fire and police services in terms of facilities and personnel. This model was then compared to MFD and MPD to assess the city’s operations and service to our citizens. Additionally, the Municipal Court was examined to consider issues of growth, security and storage.

The following report outlines the process and results of this assessment.

Comparables for Safety Service Infrastructure Surveys

An analysis of current and past practice regarding the selection of comparable cities was used to determine a current list of comparables. Five criteria (population, tax rate, square miles, # of households and median family incomes) were utilized as selection criteria. Additionally, county

seats were utilized when possible. The results were the following 14 cities, with 9 county seats (**bold/blue font**):

<i>City's Name</i>	<i>Population (1)</i>	<i>Tax Rate (2)</i>	<i>Sq. Miles (3)</i>	<i># Households (4)</i>	<i>Median Family Income (5)</i>
Ashland	21,852	1.5	10.4	8,327	\$42,755
Athens	21,342	1.65	8.3	6,271	\$53,391
Avon Lake	18,145	1.5	11.64	8,711	\$76,603
Chillicothe	22,000	1.6	9.7	9,481	\$42,477
Fremont	17,375	1.5	7.7	6,856	\$39,493
Forrest Park	19,463	1.5	7.6	7,505	\$55,618
Marysville	18,941	1	16.22	5,563	\$55,464
Mason	26,000	1	17.87	7,789	\$75,697
Oxford	22,000	1.75	5.7	5,870	\$52,589
Sidney	20,500	1.5	10	7,981	\$45,672
Steubenville	19,000	2	10.6	8,342	\$36,597
Tiffin	18,100	1.75	6.25	7,330	\$41,329
Troy	21,999	1.75	11.6	8,920	\$46,889
Wadsworth	18,437	1.3	23	7,276	\$58,850
Xenia	24,000	1.75	12.1	9,378	\$43,046
Totals:	290213	22.05	152.46	110,037	711,006
Average:	20,730	1.57	10.89	7,860	\$50,786

Information Gathering:

A series of survey questions were developed to obtain significant data from comparable cities to determine a model for each safety service. These questions are detailed in the below charts.

MFD Questions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How many firehouses do you have? 2) What is the square footage of each facility, apparatus bays, crew living quarters, administrative offices? 3) When was each facility built? 4) Are there plans to expand and add a station-if so, what year? 5) Are there plans to replace any of your current stations/update? 6) Do you have existing mutual aid agreements with nearby departments/jurisdictions? 7) How many EMS runs do you go on per year? (2007 figures) 8) How many fire runs per year? (2007 figures) 9) How many fulltime firefighters do you have? 10) How many part time FFers? 11) How many volunteer FFers? 12) Does your service area have issues with train traffic? 13) How are Fire and EMS services funded (income tax, levy, etc.).

MPD Questions

- 1) Is there a Municipal Court in your jurisdiction?
- 2) Is the police department co-located with the court?
- 3) Do you have a satellite police office?
- 4) Is the police department co-located with the fire department?
- 5) Is the police department co-located in city hall?
- 6) How many sworn officers?
- 7) How many civilian employees?
- 8) Do you have a dispatch center?
- 9) How many dispatchers? Are they included in your civilian employee total?
- 10) Are police cars equipped with mobile computers?
- 11) How many marked police cruisers do you have?
- 12) What is the area of your police department in square feet?
- 13) What is the area of your municipal court in square feet?
- 14) Do you have a Temporary Holding Facility? If so, how is it classified as to how long prisoners can be held?
- 15) Do you have a sally port? One vehicle width or two?
- 16) Do you have a secured entrance for prisoners?
- 17) Is your building one floor, two or more?
- 18) Do you have separate secured parking for police vehicles?
- 19) Do you have a training room, fitness center and locker rooms?
- 20) How old is your facility?
- 21) Where is it located in your city? Downtown, edge of city etc.

Additionally, site visits were conducted for 5 cities for police and 5 cities for fire. Selection of the 5 cities was based on feedback from the working group as well as the data derived from our first round survey. Site visits provided the opportunity to ask follow-up questions, examine floor plans, take pictures and/or video, and gather more detailed data. The *Focused Five* for Police and Fire were:

Police	Ashland	Sidney	Wadsworth	Mason	Avon Lake
Fire	Chillicothe	Forest Park	Sidney	Troy	Wadsworth

Creation of a Comparable Model

The survey questions were utilized to collect data points from each of the comparable cities. These data points were then evaluated to create the model fire department and the model police department based on the “average city.” These models are:

Comparable Fire Department Model	Comparable Police Department Model
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avg. # of Stations: 2 (8 plan increases) - 1 Station per 4.83 sq. miles - 1 Station per 3,800 households - Average construction date of Station is 1973 - Average # bays per house is 5.57 - Avg # of EMS Runs 2,832 (year 2007) - Avg # of Fire Runs 759 (2007) - Avg # of Firefighters is 34.8 - 11 of the 14 deal with train track obstruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 of 11 PDs co-located with Court - Avg. construction date of facility is 1992 - Avg. # sq. feet is 25,485 - Avg. facility has a secure prisoner entrance, a Sally-port (garage style secure entrance), and a temporary holding facility (THF) - Avg. # of sworn officers is 36 - Avg # of dispatchers is 7.2 - Avg # of civilian positions is 5.4 - Avg. # of cruisers is 14.3

Comparable results

The resulting survey data revealed a model for each safety service. This model is compared to the City of Marysville below:

Comparable Fire Department Model	Marysville Fire Department
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avg. # of Stations: 2 (8 plan increases) - 1 Station per 4.83 sq. miles - 1 Station per 3,800 households - Average construction date of Station is 1973 - Average # bays per house is 5.57 - Avg # of EMS Runs 2,832 (year 2007) - Avg # of Fire Runs 759 (2007) - Avg # of Firefighters is 34.8 - 11 of the 14 deal with train track obstruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Station - 1 per 16.22 sq. miles. - 1 per 5,563 households - MFD first constructed in 1934 - MFD has 6 bays - MFD had 2,034 (2007) - MFD had 768 (2007) - MFD has 28 - MFD deals with train track obstruction

Comparable Police Department Model	Marysville Police Department
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 of 11 PDs co-located with Court - Avg. construction date of facility is 1992 - Avg. # sq. feet is 25,485 - Avg. facility has a secure prisoner entrance, a Sally-port (garage style secure entrance), and a temporary holding facility (THF) - Avg. # of sworn officers is 36 - Avg # of dispatchers is 7.2 - Avg # of civilian positions is 5.4 - Avg. # of cruisers is 14.3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MPD co-located with Court - MPD first built in 1882 - MPD has 3,500 - MPD does not have a secure prisoner entrance, a Sally-port, or a THF - MPD has 31 - MPD has 6 - MPD has 1 part-time - MPD has 11

Municipal Court Information: The Marysville Police Department and the majority of the comparable city police departments are co-located with the municipal court. This co-location created efficiencies with processes as well as addressed major security and safety concerns. Since there are strong reasons to continue co-location of the MPD and the Municipal Court, the Marysville Municipal Court provided a brief assessment of issues with the current facilities. A brief summary of these issues is as follows:

a. Security:

- Absences of effective screening and physical security including an x-ray scanner manned by one or two attendants, closure of various City Hall/Finance doors.
- The courtroom is a multi-use room (city council chamber, various city boards and commissions) which impedes the use of specialized electronic equipment by the court.
- The court entrances from/to the holding cell (prisoner entrance) not segregated from public. The lack of a sally port hinders appropriate security of the courtroom and prisoner and protection of the public.
- The current holding cell does not meet minimum standards.
- The clerk's office lacks appropriate security (e.g., teller's windows) for dealing with threatening circumstances.

b. No Room for Growth:

- Deficient Jury Room
- Deficient Witness Room
- No room for additional people or equipment.

c. Storage:

- Lack of storage space for current or future case files (H.B. 163, imposed greatly increased file retention requirements).

Consultant Input

After gathering information and creating the comparable model, the working group utilized two architectural firms to provide options for addressing the gaps identified by the assessment. Each contractor was asked to consider both current needs of the city and likely needs over the next 10 years. The consultants presented and discussed possible approaches to address the City's increased needs for fire and police resources.

Conclusion

This assessment identified significant gaps between the City's current fire and police resources and those allocated in comparable cities. Additionally, deficiencies were identified with the current Municipal Court facilities. Including:

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