



STRATEGIES FOR FIRE & EMS EFFICIENCIES

City Council Workshop
March 8, 2016

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1. PRESENTATION RECAP
2. STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS
3. 2+2 CONCEPT
4. NEXT STEPS





PRESENTATION RECAP



CITY COUNCIL PERFORMANCE MEASURE

GOAL 3: To leverage our financial strengths while ensuring the City remains committed to fiscal responsibility in delivering value-added services to residents and businesses

Measurement 3.2.1.30.a: Inventory and evaluate duplication of fire and emergency services between other applicable agencies and present findings to City Council.



QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1. Is there a Duplication of services within the current Fire Department operation and other emergency service providers? **YES**
2. Is the Palm Coast Fire Department achieving their response goal of five minutes or less? **REVISED-YES**
3. Is there an opportunity to provide emergency services more efficiently for today's requirements?
YES



POSSIBLE STRATEGIES

1. Change Response Protocols
2. County Only Responds to EMS Calls
3. Use Alternative Vehicles for EMS Calls
4. Rescue Vehicles in All Fire Stations
5. Eliminate Duplicate Taxing for EMS Services
6. Consolidation of City and County Fire/EMS
7. Improved Coordination with Flagler County



CITY COUNCIL DIRECTION

- City Council directed City staff to meet with County Administration and Fire Department Staff
 - Discuss strategies presented
 - Develop additional strategies
- Strategies should reduce duplication, increase efficiency, and maintain high level of service without increasing cost for either department





STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS



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#1 CHANGE RESPONSE PROTOCOLS – IN PROGRESS

- Currently, Computer Automated Dispatch, (CAD) utilizes a “call type” of “Medical” for ALL medical incidents
- Planned upgrades to the CAD system (Summer 2016), the call type “Medical” will be expanded into specific calls for service and should increase efficiency
- Additional Criteria-Based Dispatch (CDB) software will further increase efficiency



#3 USE ALTERNATIVE VEHICLES FOR EMS CALLS – AS POSSIBLE

- “Jump” Trucks are used to respond to EMS Calls at Station #25 when staffing allows
- For others stations,
 - Staffing would need to be increased to keep engine in service
 - Additional vehicles would also be needed
- “Jump” Trucks are not the most efficient vehicle for medical calls



#4 RESCUE VEHICLES IN ALL FIRE STATIONS - RESEARCHING

- Ambulance is Right Equipment to Respond to EMS Calls
- New 2+2 Concept is Most Efficient Option
- City Ambulance Alternative
 - City purchases and operates ambulances using existing staff
 - With or without transport approval
 - Fire engine could be possibly out of service for extended medical calls



#7 IMPROVED COORDINATION WITH – IN PROGRESS

- ✓ County and City Administration Dec. 9 & Jan. 6
- ✓ City and County Command Staff Jan. 7 & Feb. 12
- ✓ City Field Training Officer for EMS Feb. 3
- ✓ County and City Collective Bargaining Units Jan. 29
- ✓ Flagler County Sheriff Dispatch Center Dec. 22, on going
- ✓ Flagler Medical Director, Dr. Kristen McCabe Phone – Dec. & Jan.





2+2 CONCEPT



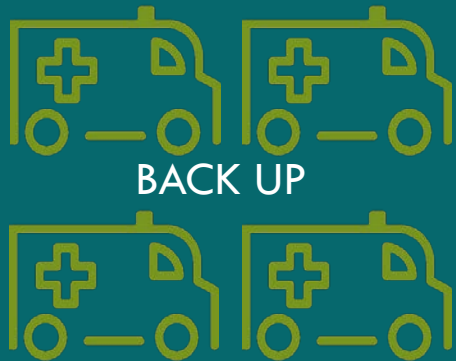
 **PALM COAST**
Fire Department
Protecting Our Florida

2+2 CONCEPT BACKGROUND

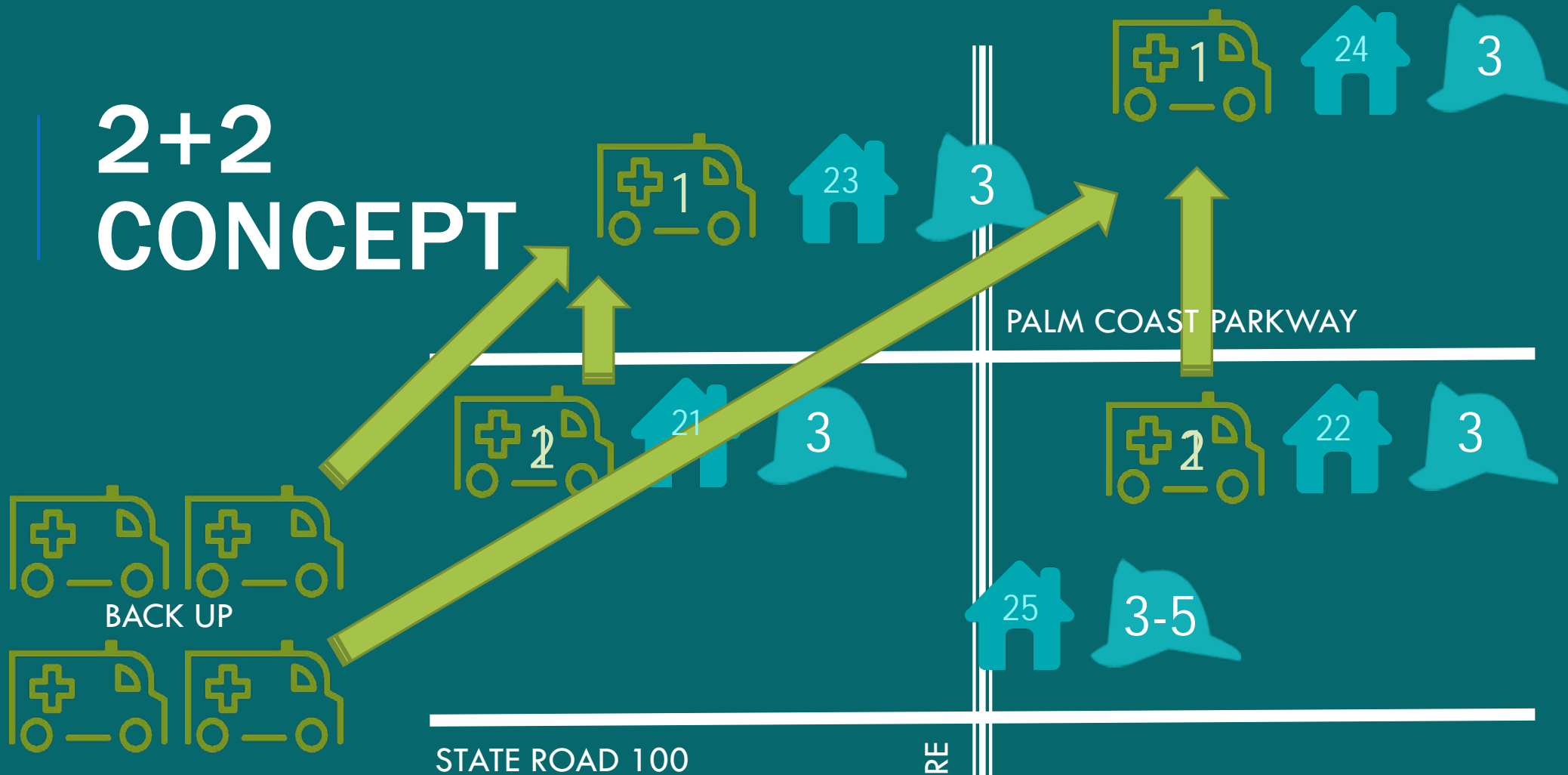
- Developed in consultation with Flagler County Administration and Fire Department
- Addresses City Council Direction
 - Reduce Duplication and Increase Efficiency
 - Maintain High Level of Service
 - Without Increasing Cost for Either Department
- Further Strategies for Efficiency
 4. Rescue Vehicles in All Fire Stations
 7. Improved Coordination with Flagler County



CURRENT



2+2 CONCEPT



2+2 CONCEPT BENEFITS

- Existing Staff = No Additional Personnel
- Right Equipment and Right Personnel for Call
 - **Non-Critical Medical:** Ambulance (2 Personnel)
 - **Critical Medical:** Ambulance (2-4 Personnel)
 - Fire Response If Needed (i.e. Vehicle Accident)
 - **Fire:** Fire Engine (4 Personnel)
- **More Efficient Coverage**
 - Ambulances Available in Northern Section
 - Fewer Times Fire Trucks Roll to Medical Calls
 - Less Move Up / Reassignment of County Ambulances





NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS

- City Council Discussion and Direction
- Request for Joint Meeting with County Commission
 - Discussion and Direction
- If Both Agree to Move Forward
 - Develop Plan and Timeline for Implementation
- As an Alternative, City to Explore Purchasing Ambulance(s) for Northern Section



QUESTIONS?

