

Station Closure Evaluation Criteria

The Long-Range Business Plan adopted by the Fire Commission on January 27, 2005, and the Wake County Board of Commissioners on February 22, 2005, contains certain criteria that the Fire Commission has determined to be important to assess when conducting a station closure evaluation.

The Fire Commission's Facility Committee developed the criteria to be used in the process of evaluating whether a fire station should be closed. The Fire Commission voted unanimously at its July 15, 2004, meeting to adopt the criteria.

The Fire Commission voted unanimously on January 27, 2005, and the Wake County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on February 22, 2005, to approve the Long-Range Business Plan with the following criteria:

Table 2 - Fire Commission's Station Closure Criteria

Criteria for Closing Fire Stations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ If there is measurably better service at the same cost consider the proposed alternative.➤ If the same service can be provided at less cost, consider the proposed alternative.
Key factors in determining fire service delivery capability:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of firefighters on initial unit—for structural fire dispatch—and response time to get first arriving unit.• Is water supply a problem? If no hydrants, how long will it take to get tankers on the scene?• Change in ISO grade (better or worse).• Compliance with proposed service level response time goals (urban, suburban, rural).• Cost to provide service based upon a long-term contract.• Are other services impacted or provided that will not longer be provided? (rescue, brush, tanker)• What future costs are anticipated, for both the current fire service provider and the proposed department? (i.e., apparatus replacement, station replacement or renovations)
Other Considerations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workload should be considered based on the number of incidents that originate in the primary service area and not based on the number of incidents responded to by units in the station.• Need to evaluate the impact on current forced annexation contract areas (number of responses and the cost for service).• Any savings/efficiencies created by closing fire stations are to be used to support operating expenses in the fire tax fund.