

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 29, 2024

The Public Safety Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on February 29, 2024, at 8:54 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Mark Freeman, Chairperson
Alicia Goforth
Scott Somers

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Butler
Holly Moseley
Alfred Smith

Chairperson Freeman conducted a roll call.

1. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on the City's public safety funding.

Management and Budget Deputy Director Samuel Schultz displayed a PowerPoint presentation and provided an update on the public safety funding. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mr. Schultz recollected that the voters approved a sales tax rate increase in 2018 to support Public Safety and the City of Mesa is committed to continue prioritizing its funding. He referenced the primary funding sources for Public Safety, noting the revenue of each as follows: (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

- General Fund Utility contribution from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024 budget was \$104 million
- Quality-of-Life Sales Tax generated \$35 million in revenue
- Public Safety Sales Tax generated \$35 million dedicated to support 120 officers and 65 Fire personnel
- Public Safety Bonds approved by the voters in 2018 generated \$85 million, and the 2022 Bond generated \$157 million
- Federal Funds and Grants amounted to \$5 million for Police and \$1 million for Fire

In response to a question from Committeemember Goforth, Mr. Schultz recalled that the Quality-of-Life Sales Tax was approved by the citizens in 1998.

Mr. Schultz highlighted the accomplishments made in the past five years. He provided details on how Mesa Fire and Medical has utilized the funds to accommodate the changing needs of the City. He reported that a City ambulance program has been implemented in response to the need for a more efficient and coordinated medical response and will require continued expansion and support to meet the needs of the growing community. He pointed out that 104 full-time employees (FTE) were approved in the City adopted budget for FY 2023/2024. (See Pages 3 through 5 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Schultz said that the City has invested in supporting health and safety for employees by providing regular health screenings and encouraging cancer abatement protocol. He provided details of FTEs added to support the growth and changes in the City. He reported a 34% increase in positions over the last five years. He detailed the financial forecast, focusing on the Net Sources and Uses through FY 2028/2029. He described the use of reserves to staff Fire Stations 223 and 224 early, while waiting for the Public Safety Sales Tax to catch up. He illustrated the capital investments and increased operational costs pointing out that the increase was due to the number of projects as well as necessary apparatus purchases. (See Pages 6 through 9 of Attachment 1)

Additional discussion ensued regarding funding allocations.

In response to a question from Committeemember Somers, Mr. Schultz confirmed that retired employees receive lifetime medical benefits.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the medical benefits and ongoing cancer screening for high-risk employees.

Mr. Schultz gave an overview of how the Mesa Police used the funding to meet the demands and needs of the community. He highlighted the expanded services, noting the increase of 200 FTEs in the Police Department (PD) over the past five years. He reported that in addition to the increase of sworn and civilian employees, additional positions for dispatchers and 911 operators were added as well. He pointed out the innovative initiatives for crime response, such as the Real Time Crime Center and the expansion of the Downtown closed circuit video network. (See Pages 10 through 12 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Chairperson Freeman, Assistant Police Chief Daniel Butler stated that the Police Department runs at a 6% vacancy, noting that there are currently 320 patrol officers and fully staffed would be 346. He added that PD are constantly working toward being staffed at full capacity.

Mr. Schultz explained that the City has continued to invest in the current Police infrastructure by revitalizing current assets including updating the Public Safety Training Facility, construction of a new evidence building, helicopter conversions, remodel of the Family Advocacy Center and remodel of the Police Headquarters. He identified that the City has taken a proactive approach and has increased staffing by 13% over the last five years with a 79% increase for Police operations and capital improvements. (See Pages 13 through 16 of Attachment 1)

Chairperson Freeman thanked staff for the presentation.

2-b. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on the City's enforcement of fireworks.

Mesa Police Commander Jeffrey Cutler introduced Police Commander Jason Reno and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 2)**

Commander Cutler outlined the Mesa Police Department (MPD) Fireworks Enforcement Operational Plan. He provided the dates and times that the sale and use of legal fireworks will be allowed and described the prohibited consumer fireworks while specifying what makes them illegal. He invited residents to report fireworks concerns and tips to the MPD at fireworks@mesaaz.gov where reports can be made, noting that the online reporting portal is still in development. He recommended that citizens take photos of the violations they report in case of a possible delay in Police response and the department will follow up to deliver a citation or provide education about the law. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 2)

Commander Cutler explained the MPD plan of action during the days that sales are allowed as well as. (See Pages 4 through 7 of Attachment 2)

In response to a question from Committeemember Somers, Mesa Fire & Medical Assistant Fire Marshal Kevin Bush advised that the process to obtain a permit to sell fireworks in Mesa is rigorous and that the illegal fireworks are likely coming from areas outside of the city or purchased online. He reported that firework-related injuries have not increased but the amount of responses for fires and property damage due to discharge and improper disposal of fireworks has increased significantly.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the Legislative Bill that has been proposed at the State level.

Chairperson Freeman thanked staff for the presentation.

2-c. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on the City's development of fire stations.

City Engineer Beth Huning introduced Mesa Fire Chief Mary Cameli and Deputy Director Tara Acuna and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 3)**

Ms. Huning explained that the 2022 Bond program funded several Fire Station Development projects. She reported the status of the Northeast Public Safety Facility located at 1333 North Power Road is currently under construction and project completion is scheduled for summer 2025. She pointed out that staffing is already in place and the crews are currently residing at Fire Station 205. (See Page 2 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Huning identified the next project as Fire Station 223, which is located on East McDowell Road between Lindsey Road and Val Vista Drive. She confirmed that this station is new construction of a four-bay fire station and project completion is expected to be spring 2025. (See Page 3 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Huning stated that Fire Station 224 is located on 80th Street, North of Elliot Road, and confirmed it is new construction of a three-bay fire station. She said that the project is expected to be completed in spring 2025. (See Page 4 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Huning mentioned that Fire Station 205, located at 730 South Greenfield, is a more challenging site. She confirmed that the building was originally constructed in 1978 and the whole building will be demolished and reconstructed. She said that due to staffing constraints, construction will not begin until Fire Station 222 is completed. She verified that the new building will be larger; and due to the lot size, the living quarters will be in the two-story section. She reported that staff will be back for Council approval when the costs are verified. (See Page 5 of Attachment 3)

Additional discussion ensued regarding other potential projects and the possibility of funding being added in the next budget cycle.

Chairperson Freeman thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 29th day of February 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING UPDATE

Samuel Schultz

Management and Budget Deputy Director

CONTINUED AND PRIORITIZED SUPPORT

In 2018, voters of Mesa approved a 0.25% increase of the City's sales tax rate to support *Mesa Police and Mesa Fire & Medical services, personnel, equipment, training, and related costs.*

The City of Mesa has committed and will continue to prioritize support for Public Safety.

Primary Funding Sources for Public Safety include:

- General Fund
- Quality of Life Sales Tax
- Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST)
- Public Safety Bonds
- Federal Funds and other Grants

PUBLIC SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS: FIRE AND MEDICAL

- **STAFFING FOR 4 FIRE STATIONS**
- **STAFFING FOR 2 X 12 HR DAYTIME
MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAMS**
- **IMPLEMENTED AN AMBULANCE SERVICE**
- **IMPLEMENTED AN INHOUSE PARAMEDIC
SCHOOL**

AGILE FIRE AND MEDICAL RESPONSE

FIRE AND MEDICAL RESPONSE IS EVOLVING EACH DAY THROUGH CHANGING NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND MESA'S GROWTH

How Mesa is meeting these needs:

- Implemented 2 x 12 hour daytime Medical Response Units* for medical response coverage - 8 FTE per unit (16 FTE total)
- Continued station expansion with new crews
 - Station 221* in FY 20/21 - 6 Firefighters, 3 Engineers, and 3 Captains
 - Station 222* in FY 22/23 - 6 Firefighters, 3 Engineers, and 3 Captains
 - Station 223* in FY 23/24 - 6 Firefighters, 3 Engineers, and 3 Captains
 - Station 224* est. FY 24/25 - 6 Firefighters, 3 Engineers, and 3 Captains
- Added 4 additional 12-hour Firefighter rovers

**Public Safety Sales Tax Funded*

IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AMBULANCE PROGRAM

PROVIDING CITIZENS A MORE EFFICIENT AND COORDINATED MEDICAL RESPONSE

How Mesa is meeting these needs:

- Continued expansion of the program to support the needs of the community
- Adopted Budgeted Positions for FY 23/24 - 104 FTE
 - Emergency Medical Technicians - 36 FTE
 - Paramedics - 44 FTE
 - Billing - 10 FTE
- Other Support Positions - 14 FTE

SUPPORTING NEEDS OF EMPLOYEES AND CITIZENS

HEALTHY AND TRAINED EMPLOYEES PROVIDE A SAFE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY

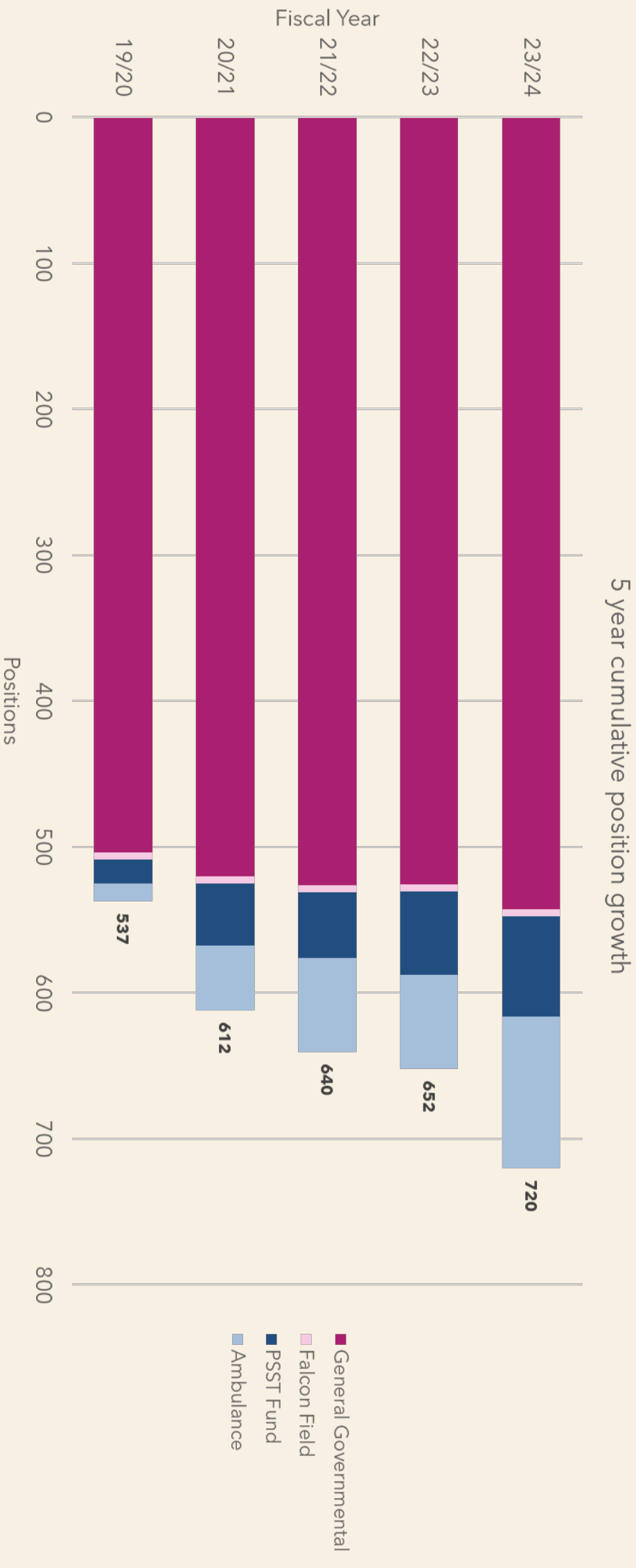
How Mesa is meeting these needs:

- Additional funding for cancer abatement and ongoing screenings*
- Additional Training* and Peer Support Captains to support employee growth
- Alternative Response Crew* to support coverage for employees to attend training during the week and provide additional overtime coverage during the weekend - 8 FTE
- Instituted a full-time training opportunity for paramedic certification training - 11 FTE
- Additional Diversity Captain to promote outreach for opportunities to represent Mesa's community
- Additional Fire Inspectors and support staff to keep up with growth and promote fire safe practices - 5 FTE

**Public Safety Sales Tax Funded*

POSITIONS - FIRE AND MEDICAL

34% INCREASE OVER 5 YEARS



FINANCIALS

FIRE AND MEDICAL PSSST

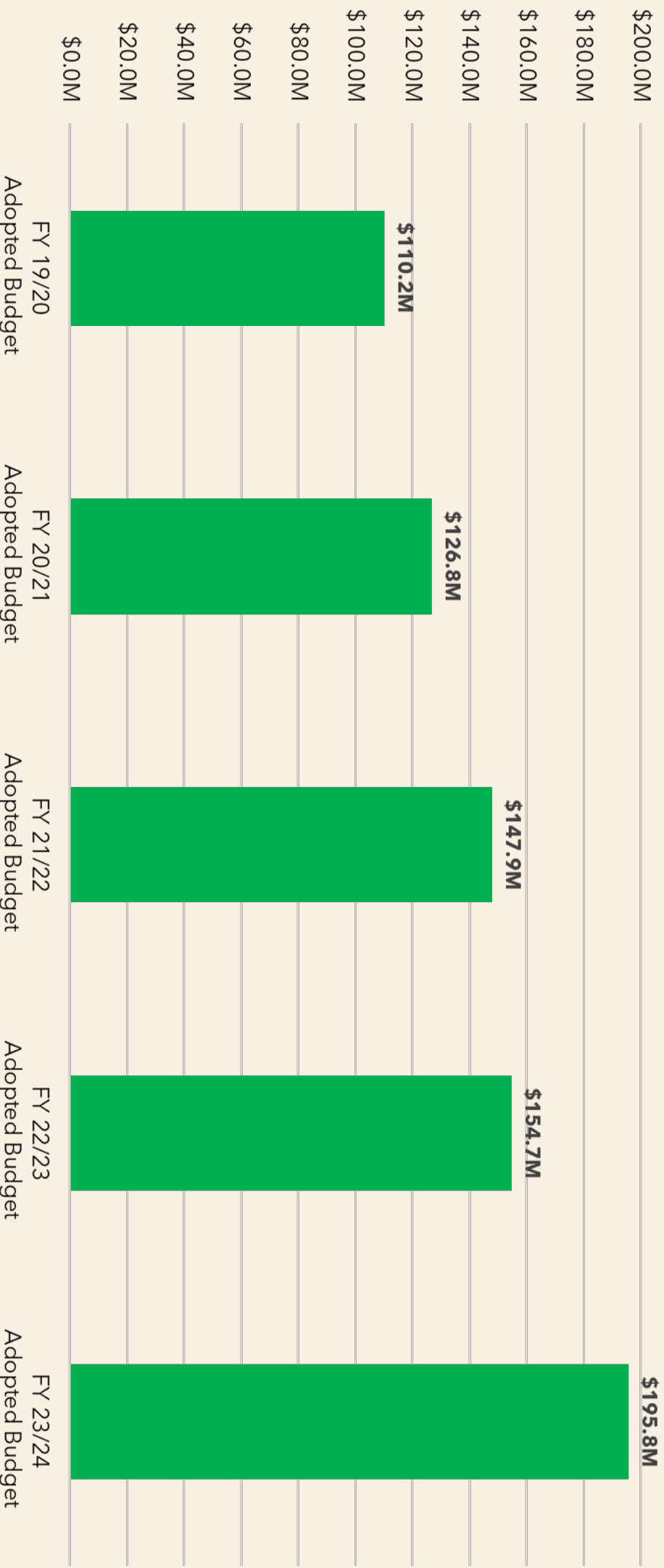
	Actuals	Projected	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29
Beginning Reserve Balance	\$16.3	\$22.4	\$27.7	\$23.9	\$19.7	\$15.8	\$12.1
Total Sources	\$16.7	\$16.9	\$15.8	\$15.7	\$16.1	\$16.5	\$17.0
Total Uses	\$10.6	\$11.6	\$19.7	\$19.8	\$20.0	\$20.2	\$20.6
Net Sources and Uses	\$6.2	\$5.3	(\$3.8)	(\$4.1)	(\$3.9)	(\$3.7)	(\$3.7)
Ending Reserve Balance	\$22.4	\$27.7	\$23.9	\$19.7	\$15.8	\$12.1	\$8.4

Dollars in Millions

Note: Includes economic recession beginning FY 23/24

data as of January 2024

FIRE AND MEDICAL: OPERATIONS & CAPITAL - 78% INCREASE



*Includes Mesa Fire and Medical Department costs and other supporting expenses

PUBLIC SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS: POLICE

- **SINCE FY 19/20, 88 NEW SWORN POSITIONS AND 112 NEW CIVILIAN POSITIONS**
- **IMPLEMENTED A REAL TIME CRIME CENTER**
- **CONSTRUCTION AND STAFFING FOR A NEW SUBSTATION**
- **REMODEL OF MESA FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTER**

EXPANDED SERVICE

AS THE CITY OF MESA CONTINUES TO GROW, THE MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT IS EXPANDING TO MEET THE DEMANDS AND NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

How Mesa is meeting these needs:

- Increase of 200 FTE in the Police Department since FY 19/20
 - 88 new sworn FTE (includes 58 FTE new sworn patrol positions*)
 - Staffing of the Northeast Public Safety Facility - 14 FTE (Civilian)
 - Increased positions for dispatchers and 911 call takers to account for growth - 17 FTE
 - To support transparency, the City increased the positions for records to assist with meeting the demand for requests - 25 FTE (2 PSST Funded)

**Public Safety Sales Tax Funded*

INNOVATING CRIME RESPONSE

WITH NEW TECHNOLOGIES, THE CITY IS ABLE TO ENHANCE RESPONSE AND SUPPORT TO ADDRESS CRIMINALITY

How Mesa is meeting these needs:

- Established a new Real Time Crime Center* which allows for immediate observations of potential crime scenes to support arriving officers
 - Software funded using Federal dollars and ongoing support will be funded with Public Safety Sales Tax Funds
 - Includes 10 positions which are a mix of sworn (4 FTE) and civilian (6 FTE) to support to video monitoring
- Expanding the Mesa's downtown closed circuit video network* (2 FTE) and implementing a new ambassador program to provide a safe environment for residents and businesses (4 FTE/8 part-time position)

**Public Safety Sales Tax Funded*

INVESTMENT IN CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE

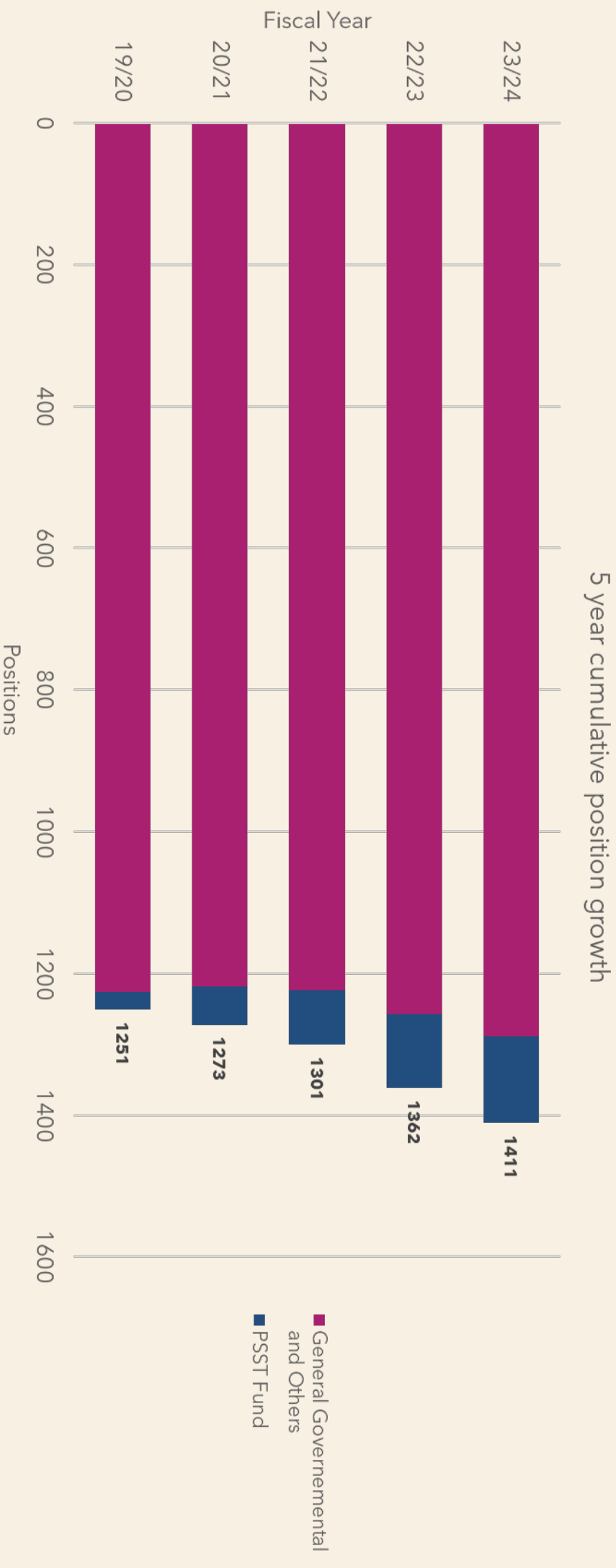
MAINTAINING AND REVITALIZING CURRENT ASSETS TO DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYEES USING PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX FUNDS

How Mesa is meeting these needs using Public Safety Sales Tax:

- Support of the Public Safety Training Facility
 - Drive track reconstruction
 - Concrete/steel structure improvements for training
- Funding for the new evidence building start up such as new shelving, storage, freezers, etc.
- Helicopter conversions
- Remodel of Mesa's Family Advocacy Center
- Reserving funds to support the remodel of the Police Headquarters

POSITIONS - POLICE

13% INCREASE OVER 5 YEARS



FINANCIALS

POLICE PSSST

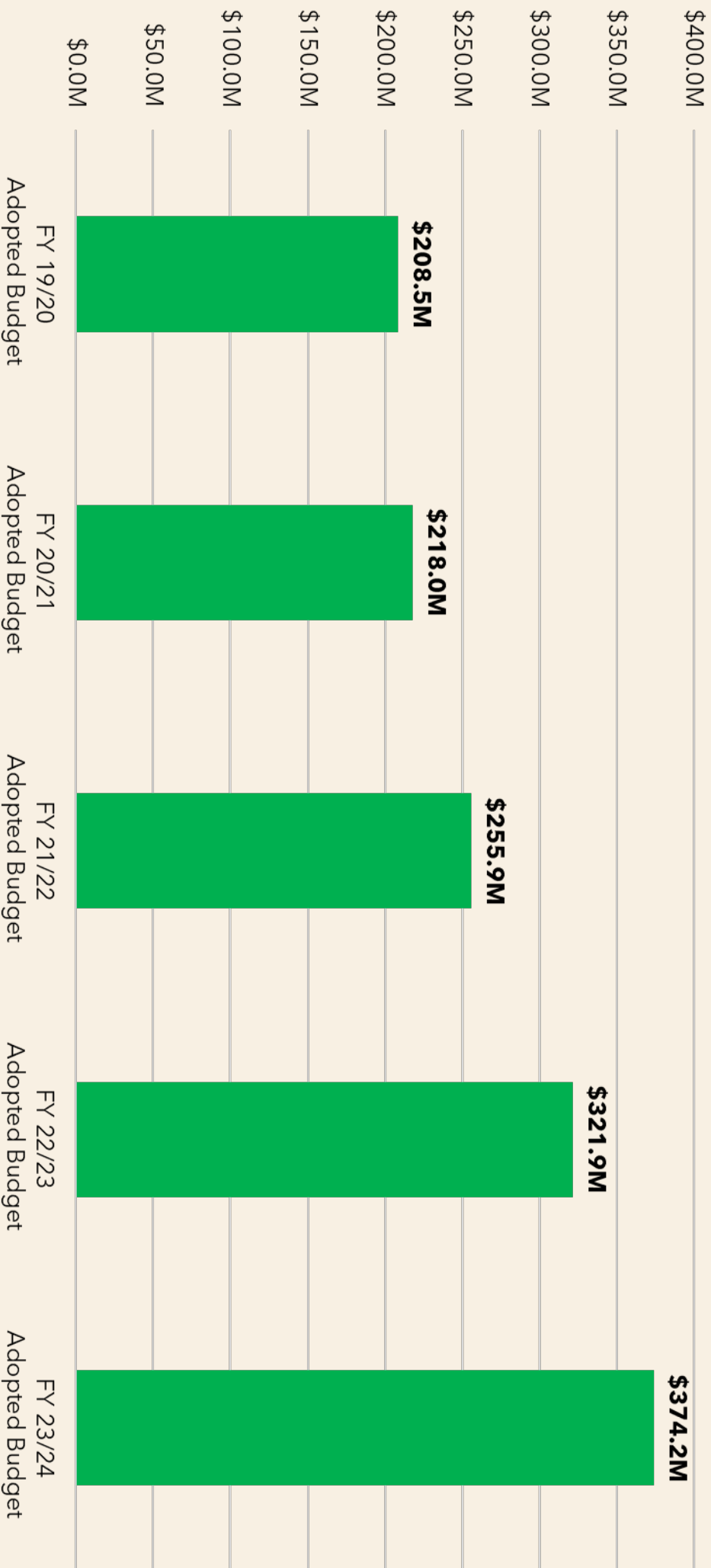
	Actuals	Projected	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29
Beginning Reserve Balance	\$39.4	\$41.3	\$28.7	\$6.1	\$7.8	\$10.8	\$14.1
Total Sources	\$25.4	\$25.5	\$23.9	\$23.7	\$24.3	\$24.9	\$25.6
Total Uses	\$23.4	\$38.2	\$46.5	\$22.0	\$21.3	\$21.6	\$22.1
Net Sources and Uses	\$1.9	(\$12.7)	(\$22.6)	\$1.7	\$3.0	\$3.3	\$3.5
Ending Reserve Balance	\$41.3	\$28.7	\$6.1	\$7.8	\$10.8	\$14.1	\$17.6

Dollars in Millions

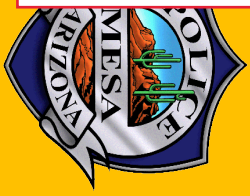
Note: Includes economic recession beginning FY 23/24

data as of January 2024

POLICE: OPERATIONS & CAPITAL - 79% INCREASE



*Includes Police Department costs and other supporting expenses



Mesa Police Department

MPD Fireworks Enforcement Operational Plan





Mesa Police Department

MPD Fireworks Enforcement

MPD Operational Plan Effective Dates

SALE

April 25 - May 6

May 20 - July 6

December 10 - January 3

Two days before the first day of Diwali through the third day of Diwali each year.

USE

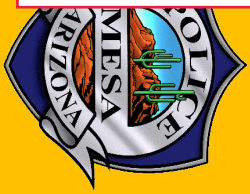
May 4 - 6 from 8 AM to 11 PM

June 24 - July 6 from 8 AM to 11 PM
(July 4 from 11 PM to 1 AM July 5)

December 26 - January 4 from 8 AM to 11 PM
(December 31 from 11 PM to 1 AM January 1)

The second and third days of Diwali





Mesa Police Department

MPPD Fireworks Enforcement

Prohibited Consumer Fireworks

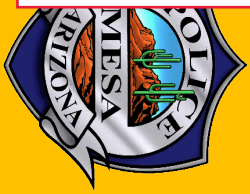
- Skyrockets/Bottle Rockets
- Firecrackers
- Reloadable Shell Device/Roman Candles
- Aerials
- Single Tube Devices

Residents can report fireworks concerns and tips to the Mesa Police

Department

- Phone: (480) 644-2211 (non-emergency)
- Email: FIREWORKS@mesaaz.gov
- **On-line Reporting Portal (Still in development)**





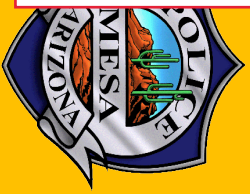
Mesa Police Department

MPD Fireworks Enforcement

Plan of Action – During Sales Dates

- MPD Media Relations Office will post education on the use of illegal fireworks on social media
- MPD Community Action Officers, working with the Mesa Fire and Medical Department's Fire Inspector, will coordinate inspections of sales locations
- MPD Street Crimes Detectives will proactively attempt to purchase illegal fireworks within the City of Mesa from various sources
- MPD Community Action Officers will send out reminder cards to residents identified during previous calls for service and tips from the community about using illegal fireworks.





Mesa Police Department

CONGRATULATIONS!
Someone special let us know about
your amazing fireworks show!

Fireworks that shoot projectiles into the air or explode are illegal in Arizona.

ARS 36-1601

Undercover detectives, officers, and Fire Inspector's will be working to ensure that your fireworks show only includes legal fireworks.

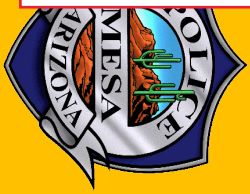


Your safety is our
#1 priority.

It would be unfortunate if your holiday was ruined because of a criminal citation for an illegal fireworks display.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. We hope you have a safe holiday!





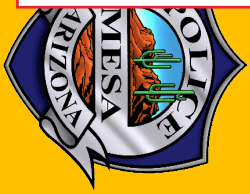
Mesa Police Department

MPPD Fireworks Enforcement

Plan of Action – During the Holiday

- ❖ July 4th
- ❖ December 31st
- Each Division's Street Crimes Squads will be on duty
 - Respond in real time to Calls for Service
 - Proactively look for illegal fireworks in use
 - Respond to Tips received during the night.
- Community Action Officers will follow up on tips and calls for service where no one was located or unable to cite





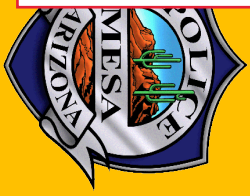
Mesa Police Department

MPPD Fireworks Enforcement

Plan of Action – During Defined Use Dates

- ❖ May 4th – 6th
 - ❖ June 24th – July 3rd & July 5th – 6th
 - ❖ December 26th – 30th
 - ❖ January 1st – 4th
- Patrol Response to Calls for Service on in-progress incidents
 - CAO follow-up on tips and calls for service where no one was located or unable to cite





Mesa Police Department

MPD Fireworks Enforcement

Questions



Fire Station Development Public Safety Committee Update

February 29, 2024



Northeast Public Safety Facility

- 1333 North Power Road
- Currently under construction
- Construction Schedule Completion: Summer 2025



Academy – fall '22, in service spring '23



Fire Station 223

- East McDowell Road, between Lindsey Road and Val Vista Drive
- New Build 4-Bay Station
- Anticipated Construction Schedule: Fall 2024 through Spring 2025



Academy – spring '24, in service summer '24



Fire Station 224

- 80th Street, North of Elliot Road
- New Build 3-Bay Station
- Anticipated Construction Schedule: Fall 2024 through Spring 2025

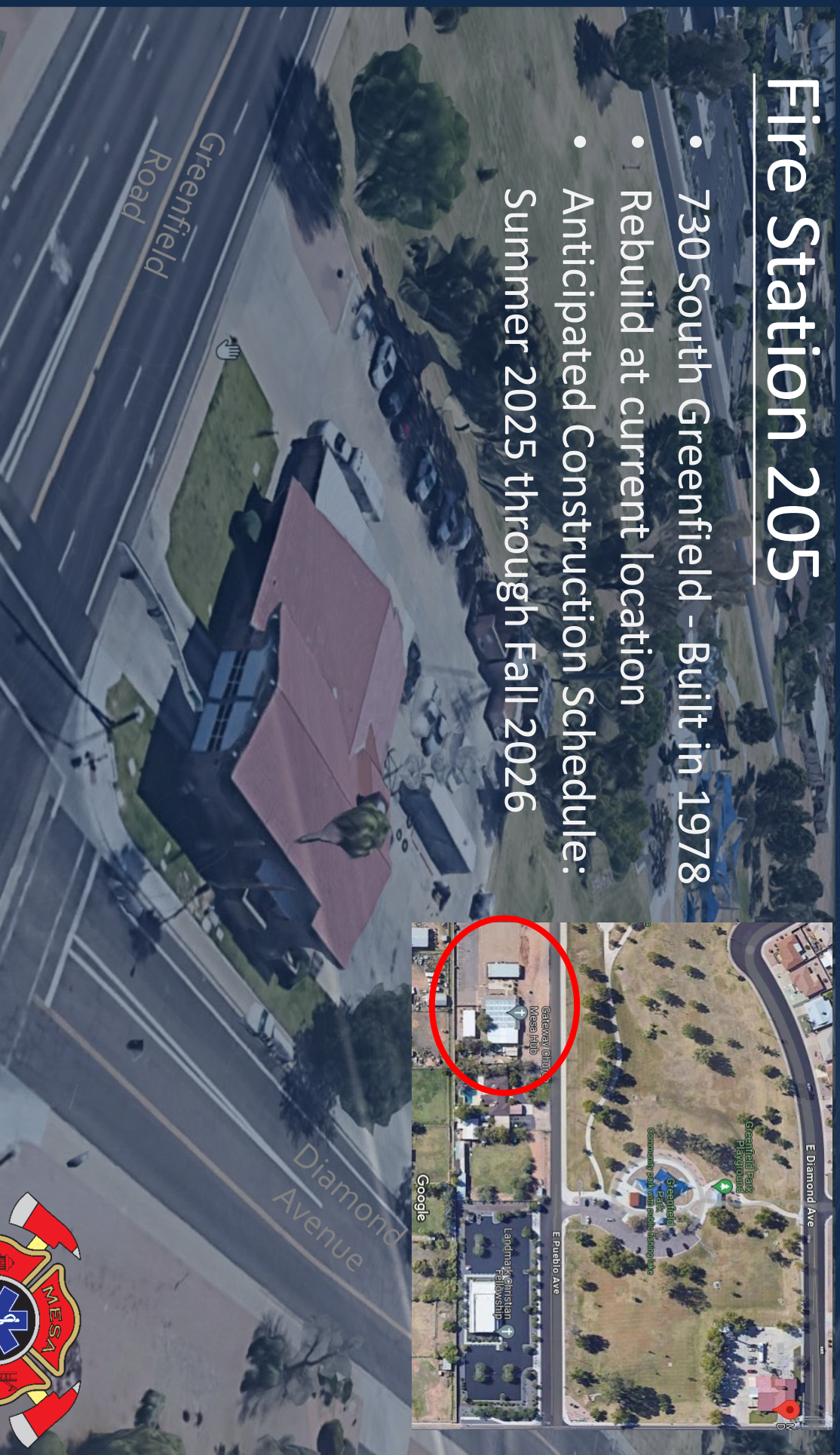


Academy – fall '24, in service spring '25



Fire Station 205

- 730 South Greenfield - Built in 1978
- Rebuild at current location
- Anticipated Construction Schedule:
Summer 2025 through Fall 2026



Relocated to church on Pueblo during construction



Mesa Regional Future Service Areas

Revised: 1/29/2024

