

AMBITION FOR A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

To: <u>City of Winchester, KY</u>

Hon. JoEllen Reed, Mayor Commissioner Hannah Toole Commissioner Kenny Book Commissioner Shannon Cox Commissioner Kitty Strode William Dykeman, City Attorney Chris Whiteley, City Fire Chief Mike Flynn, City Manager Clark County, KY Fiscal Court

Hon. Les Yates, County Judge-Executive Magistrate Daniel Konstantopoulos

Magistrate Ernest Pasley Magistrate Steve Craycraft Magistrate Mark Miller Magistrate Chris Davis Magistrate Robert Blanton

William Elkins, County Attorney Steve Asbury, Clark County Fire Chief

From: Jen Algire, The Greater Clark Foundation

Date: August 24, 2023

Re: Joint City-County Meeting Monday, August 28, 2023

Greetings.

Please find enclosed materials that will be presented and discussed at the Joint City-County Meeting Monday, August 28, 2023. I wanted you to have time to review the materials prior to the meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Invitation to Participate in a Feasibility Study to Assess Unifying the Clark County and the City of Winchester Fire Departments

Presentation to a Joint Meeting of the Clark County Fiscal Court and Winchester City Commission

Monday, August 28, 2023



1

Opportunity: Unified Fire/EMS

- County, City and GCF share goal of ensuring high quality services for all residents of Clark County.
- Concurrence of timing = opportunity to think big and do something that will benefit the entire county.
- Unifying City and County Fire/EMS would provide real, tangible, and long-lasting benefits to all residents of Winchester and Clark County regardless of where they live.



2

Anticipated Benefits

- Unified strategic plan -- one common vision for the entire County with all resources aligned toward that vision.
- Unified organizational structure consistent SOP, better staffing, stronger career path for employees
- Better rescue capabilities
- Streamlined communications
- Reduce or eliminate redundant capacity.
- Efficient, consistent, high level of service across the entire geography of Clark County.



3

3

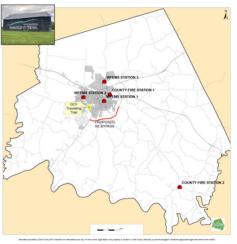
GCF's Interest in this issue

- GCF believes the fate of all people is woven together. We look for opportunities to inspire vision and action for a compelling future.
- Residents need to see that the County and City can work together effectively on forward-looking projects with shared vision and common goals. This project is a chance to do that.
- Common sense solution to a challenge faced by both County and City.



4

Incentives for Joint Fire/EMS



- GCF, County and City jointly share in costs of Fire/EMS unification feasibility assessment.
- If unification is feasible, GCF willing to provide land to incentivize this municipal collaboration and support the goal of unifying the departments.
- \$2 million in savings on land acquisition between County and City.

The Greater Clark Foundation

5

5

Approach

- Request that the City and County participate in good faith in a feasibility study to assess if merging the two fire departments is a worthwhile endeavor.
- GCF willing to fund 70% of the study and willing to hold and administer the contract. Asking City and County to contribute the remaining 30% (15% each, not to exceed \$25,000).
- Will use feasibility study will determine next steps.
- Invite us to resist getting too far ahead of ourselves in terms of "what if?" and "who's in charge?" questions.



6

Roles and Responsibilities

- Draft RFP: Greater Clark Foundation
- Final RFP Approval: City, County, GCF
- Initial Vendor Screening: GCF
- Vendor Recommendation: Feasibility Study Committee
- Final Vendor Selection: Fiscal Court & City Commission
- Contract Administration: Greater Clark Foundation
- Scope of Work Oversight: Feasibility Study Committee
- Final Report Approval: Fiscal Court & City Commission



7

Proposed Feasibility Study Committee

- 13 Members
- · GCF to serve as neutral convener
- Members commit to full and good faith participation
- Suggested Composition of committee:
 - Chief Fire Official for City and County (2)
 - City and County Administrator (City Manager and County Judge Executive) (2)
 - 2 Magistrates to be appointed by Clark County Fiscal Court (2)
 - 1 Commissioner to be appointed by City Commission (1)
 - Mayor (1)
 - 3 At-large and/or subject matter experts (3)
 - · GIS director, Stephen Berry
 - · Bluegrass Emergency Response Team, TBD
 - 911 Dispatch, TBD
 - 2 GCF Trustees (2)



8

Questions and Discussion

The Greater Clark Foundation

9

Thank you.

Questions or for more information: jalgire@clarkambition.org

The Greater Clark Foundation

10