

Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants

May 26, 2020

Agenda

- SAFER Grants
 - What is the difference between the 2017 grant and proposed grant?
- What level of service do we wish to provide?
 - Historical Fire Department Staffing Levels
 - Historical Call volume
 - Mutual Aide impacts
 - Stacked calls
 - Dispatch impacts
 - Senior Citizens considerations
- What is the cost to the City?
 - City Costs
 - Cost benefit
 - How do we pay? SEMT

Difference Between Current and New Grant

- City has four SAFER employees, new grant for three employees
- We do not have to pay the 25% match the first two years or the 65% match for the third year under the new grant
- The new grant allows for, and we are asking for the grant to pay the Paramedic Tuition costs for all three positions.

Grant Requirements

- **Must maintain current staffing.**
 - We cannot cut positions from our budget during the grant period without a waiver.
 - Grant requires the City to send a list of employees; the City must maintain this staffing level.
 - If staffing levels fall below the requirements, City required to hire and bring the numbers up.
- **What does that mean?**
 - We have six months to fill an open position.
 - Staffing levels are reported every quarter.
 - We rotate employees off the grant as they replace people who quit or retire.

Council Considerations

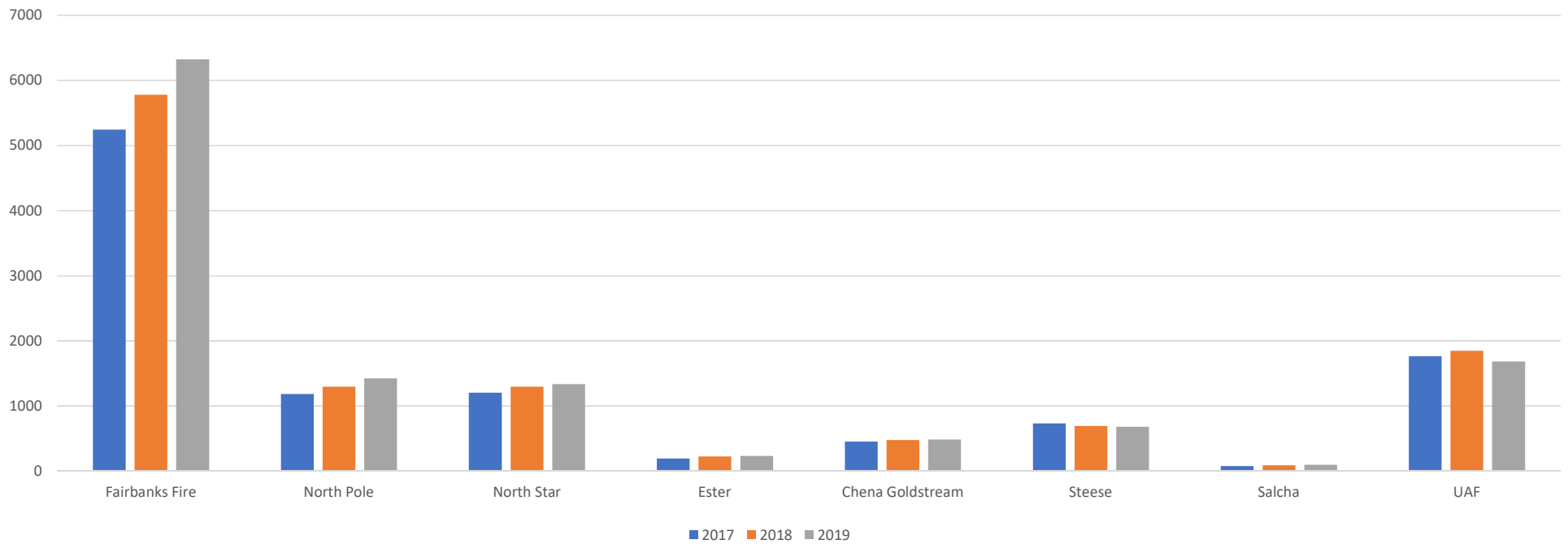
- Level of service

- If you want to maintain current level of service, you need to hire more medical personnel to meet the increase in call volume
- If you want to decrease the level of service, you have two choices:
 - Don't add the three new positions
 - Once the current grant is completed in 2021, do not convert the 4 individuals we currently have to general fund positions
- This logic is not specific to the Fire Department. If 3-year data shows more snow and greater frequency you must make the same type of decisions regarding snow removal. The only difference is these SAFER grants help us meet the standard.

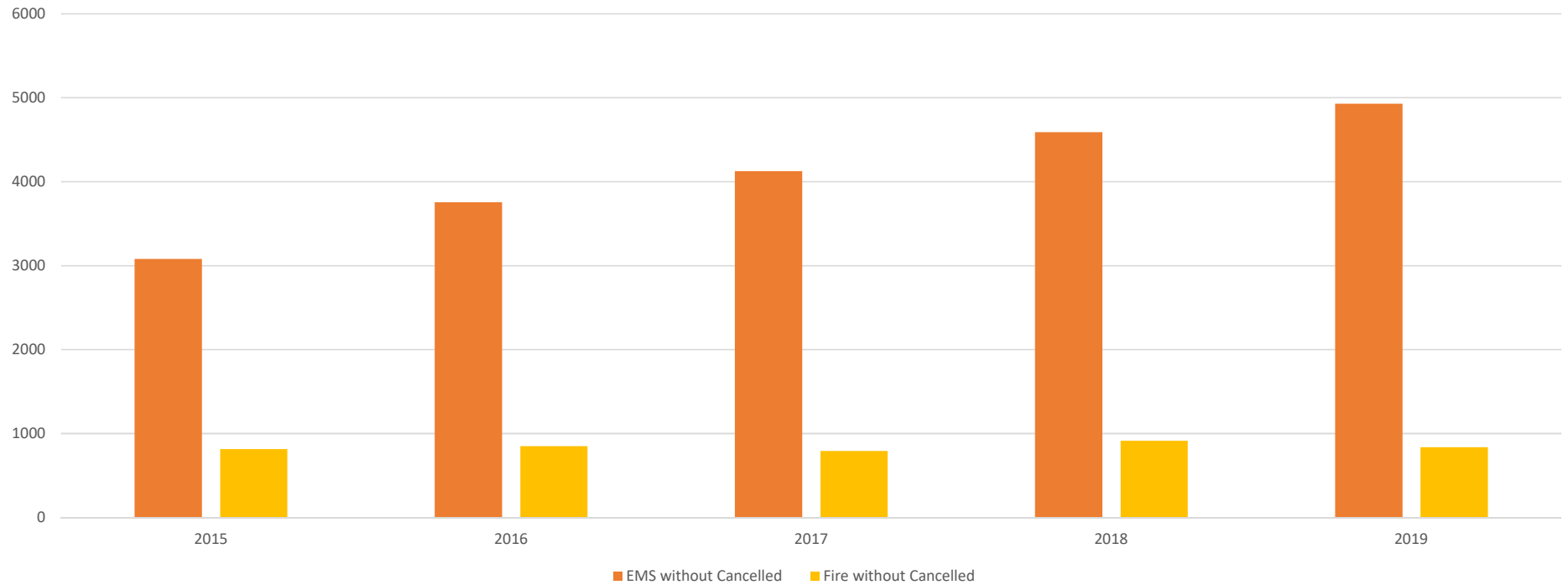
Fire Staffing Levels [2005 – 2020]

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
POSITION	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
ADMIN	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
FIREFIGHTER	36	36	37	36	36	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	38	42	42
	40	40	41	40	41	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	43	47	47
SAFER GRANT	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	4	4
GENERAL FUND	40	40	41	40	41	41	41	41	41	41	44	44	44	43	43	43

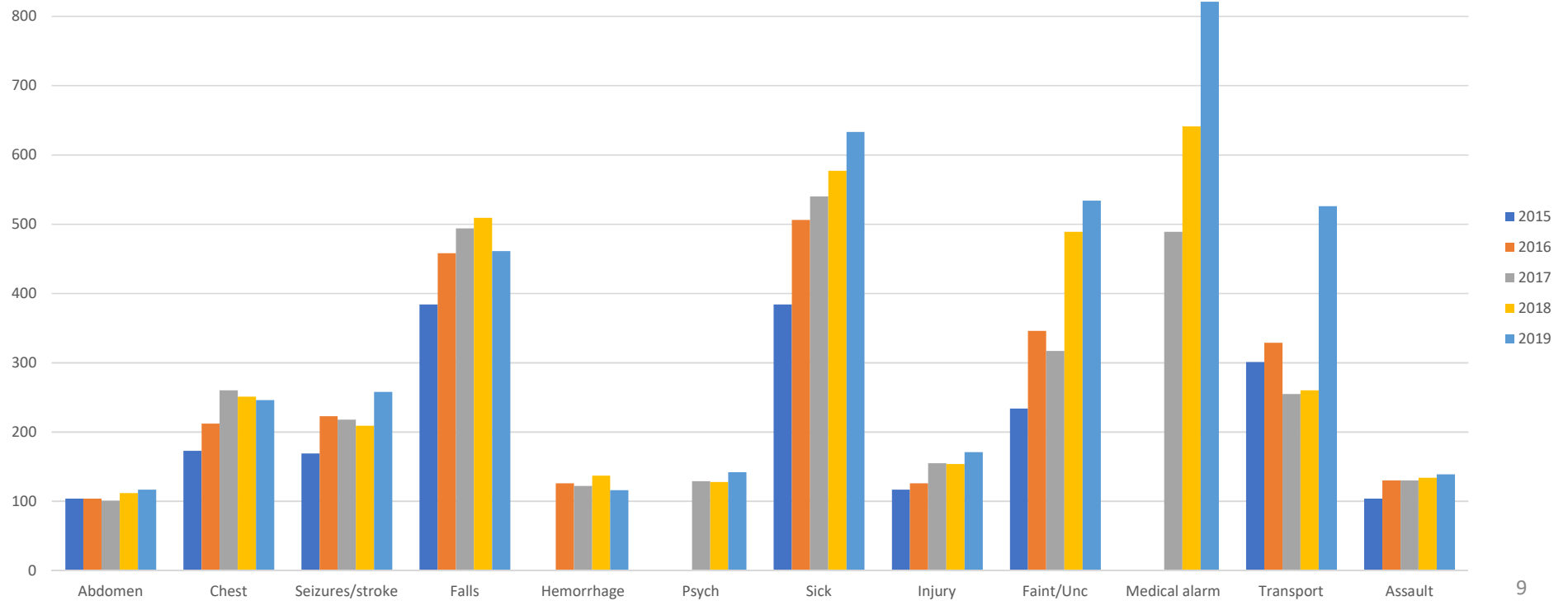
Annual Incident Responses



EMS Calls Versus Fire Calls



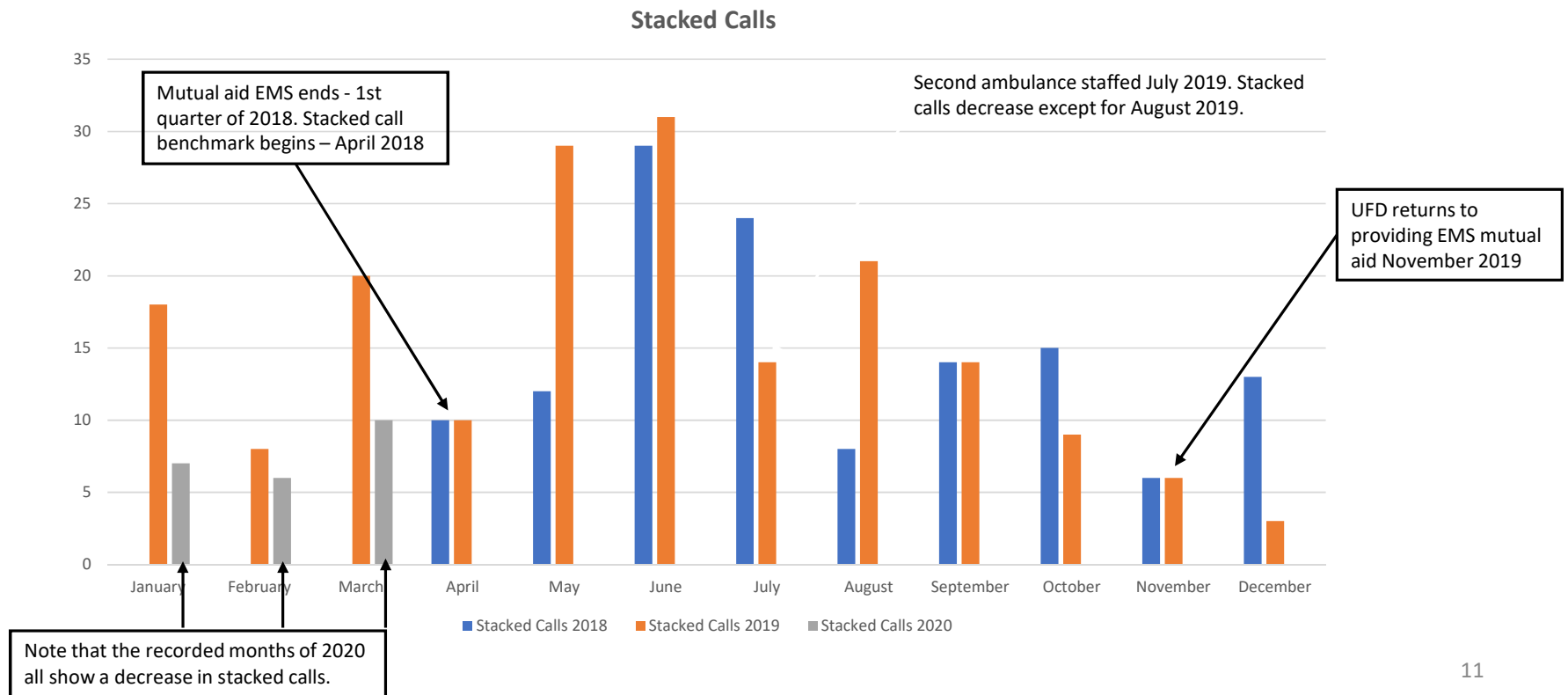
Number of Major Events Per Year



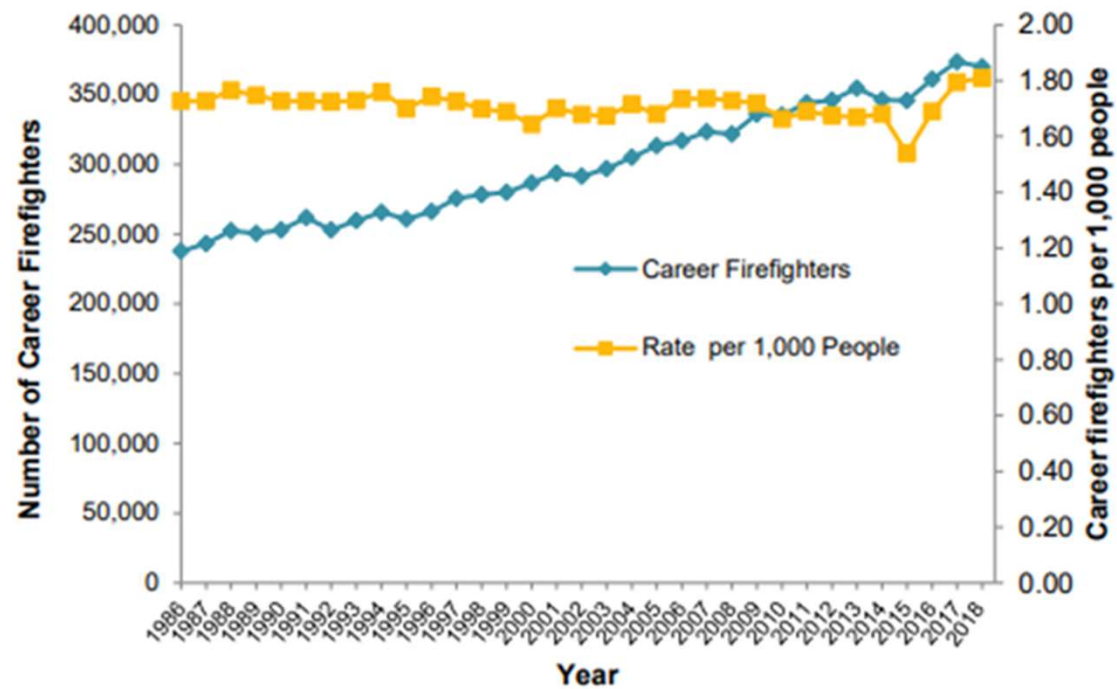
Mutual Aid Considerations

- From January 2018 through March 2018 FFD lost the support of three mutual aid partners.
- Agencies no longer were willing to provide EMS responses.
- City of Fairbanks was receiving more aid than providing.
- Stacked calls creates additional workload for Dispatch
- Staffing two ambulances due to SAFER positions reduced stacked calls.

Stacked Calls

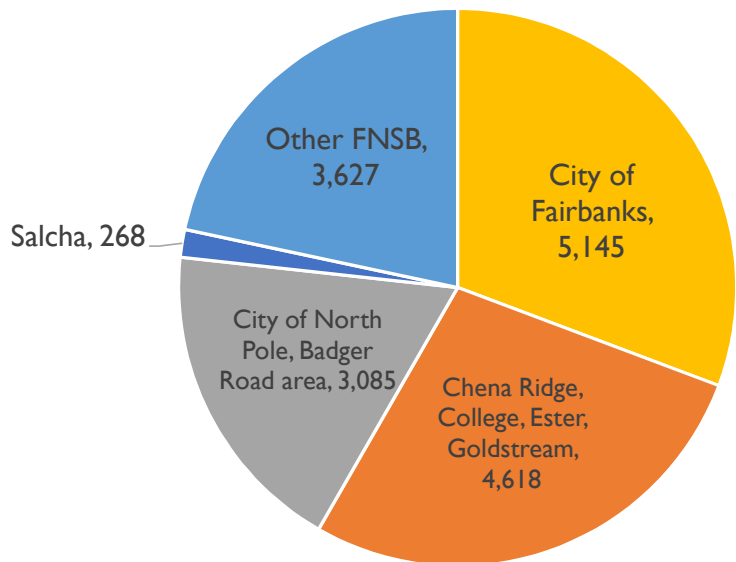


Rate of Firefighters Per 1,000 People

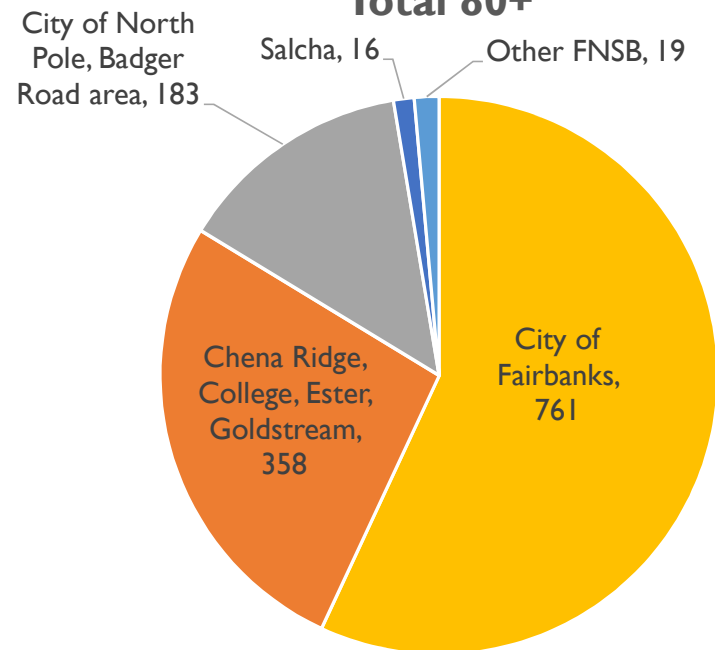


Where Do Seniors Live?

Total 60+



Total 80+



What Is The Cost To The City?

- The City would have to retain four SAFER positions for two additional years; the cost would be \$812,728

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ADMIN STAFF	5	5	5	5	5	5
FIREFIGHTERS	38	42	42	45	45	45
	43	47	47	50	50	50
SAFER GRANT	-	4	4	7	3	3
GENERAL FUND	43	43	43	43	47	47
RETENTION COST					\$406,364	\$406,364

What Is Another Cost Benefit To The City?

Cost of Seven Firefighters For
Three Years

\$2,133,144

Cost of retaining Four Firefighters For
Two Years

\$812,728



How do we pay for this additional cost?

- In 2018, House Bill 176 passed the Alaska Legislature. This bill allows Alaska Medicaid to implement a voluntary Supplemental Emergency Medical Transportation (SEMT). This program makes available additional Medicaid funding to local governments and federally recognized tribes or tribal organizations that deliver emergency air, water, and ground medical transportation services to eligible medical assistance recipients.
- Projected amount from this program **\$690,000** annual