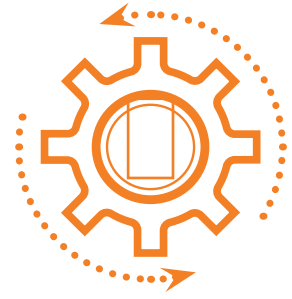# CRITICAL ISSUE F:
SUSTAINABILITY

Initiative 1: Address aging fire and emergency services vehicles and building structures.

Strategies:

1. Establish a comprehensive building renewal and replacement plan and provide the needed funding to address the short- and long-term community needs.

2. Urge the architectural profession and equipment manufacturing industry to anticipate and plan for the future designs needed by the fire and emergency services to address changes in response and deployment methods, building constructions, building densities, road infrastructure, and SMART cities and SMART building design.

Initiative 2: Reconsider and revamp current deployment methods.

Strategies:

1. Ensure response protocols and opportunities for consolidation are explored to ensure effectiveness of service delivery is balanced with cost efficiency.

2. Adopt staffing models based on statistically known call demand factors, such as time of day, special events, and seasonal changes while maintaining an adequate baseline deployment required to meet the health and safety needs of the community and employees.

3. Evaluate consolidation of seldom used specialty and single-purpose pieces of equipment to maintain effective cost management and capacity of those services for the threat environment that exists within the jurisdiction.

4. Develop a better understanding of community needs and their changing demands for services so as to modify the service delivery model(s) to meet them.

Initiative 3: Develop sustainable pension model.

Strategy:

1. Promote collaboration between labor groups, local government, and state government to ensure existing pension financial commitments are met while ensuring adequate service levels within the communities being served.

Initiative 4: Adopt and implement a community risk reduction strategy

Strategies:

1. Embrace a comprehensive strategy to minimize incidents and, if an incident does occur, to minimize the impact on the people, the community, and the emergency responder.

2. Adopt the concepts outlined in "Vision 20/20 – National Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention," and incorporate these recommendations into the daily agency operation to minimize the impacts to the community and emergency responders.

3. Develop strategies locally and nationally that reduce risk through proper vegetation management, designing new fixed fire protection systems that can be used in wildland urban interface, and zoning changes that prohibit building in the wildland urban interface.

4. Embrace the use of fire sprinkler technology in all buildings through the rapid adoption of codes and ordinances at the federal, state, and local government levels to dramatically reduce the incidence of deadly and costly fires. .

5. Urge the sprinkler industry to develop a more cost-effective means to retrofit existing buildings with sprinklers or other fire suppressant technology.

6. Develop standards and a tiered code methodology that would support a phased in retrofit plan for existing buildings.

Initiative 5: Improve resource allocation by focusing on the outcomes trying to be achieved.

Strategy:

1. Evaluate resource allocation using department response data.

2. Alter deployment methods to assure better outcomes and desired services levels for communities including EMS, community paramedicine, or increased prevention efforts.

Initiative 6: Examine fixed costs associated with current delivery models and associated contracts.

Strategy:

1. Negotiate labor contracts with the flexibility to promote innovation in service delivery and servicing models, while still providing a fair and equitable wage, benefit, and pension package for the workforce that is economically sustainable.

Initiative 7: Explore public/private partnership opportunities.

Strategies:

1. Solicit success stories and best practices of effective public/private partnerships related to capital investments and operating costs.

2. Create, maintain, and regularly update a national repository of best practices available to all agencies at no cost.

Initiative 8: Research strategies to assist communities in sustaining their volunteer fire and emergency services or, if needed, how to transition to a new model.

Strategy:

1. Champion the establishment of a federal commission to develop a national plan of action to ensure volunteer fire and emergency services agencies remain viable in the future.

Initiative 9: Dramatically revamp the fire and emergency services education and training model to provide the needed skill sets, knowledge, and abilities required for the anticipated changes in the future and to remain current with the application of emerging technologies.

Strategy:

1. Urge academic institutions to develop the means to speed up their course development model and to be able to quickly adapt and develop new courses that will be required to sustain the needed workforce skill sets.

2. Encourage academia to use of state-of-the-art technology to meet the educational learning styles of future generations.

Case Study: South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR)

Location: Centennial, CO

Coverage area: 540,000 residents over 287 square miles

No. of Employees: 716

Annual Calls for Service: 45,000

Serving 12 municipalities and unincorporated areas of three counties, SMFR has addressed the critical issue of sustainability. A 2016 merger with Parker Fire Protection District lowered the mil levy saving taxpayers $11.2 million over 3 years. An upcoming merger with Cunningham Fire Protection District will result in additional savings of $4.7 million. Consolidating dispatch centers and adopting more efficient coverage models has delivered better service to the community with SMFR rated as an ISO Class 1. Funding is now available for staffing community risk reduction efforts that in turn lead to a reduction in demand for service. Enhanced community connectivity and less susceptibility to changing politics has permitted SMFR to adopt long-term strategic initiatives furthering its sustainability.