CITY OF TOPEKA

Topeka Fire Station Relocation Plan 2026

Background

- The City of Topeka consistently reviews its Fire Department's (TFD) fire and medical response times to meet and exceed four-minute response coverage (in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) 1710)

- With a goal of decreasing response times across the city, since 2010, TFD has been evaluating options for new fire stations and how to expand four-minute TFD response coverage

- Station operational challenges that need to be addressed include lack of bay space due to larger apparatus, increased maintenance due to aging stations, and difficulty retrofitting for separate women's facilities

Timeline of Proposed Fire Station

2010

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System, Inc., agreed to donate land in Council District 9 for proposed Fire Station 13.

2012

Agreement between Charity and the City stating the land would revert back to Sisters of Charity ownership if a station were not built on it within three years.

2013

City Officials held dedication ceremonies for the land, where fire station construction was expected to start the following September. But then-city manager Jim Colson said in June 2014 that plans to build the station were on hold due to a lack of available firefighters and apparatus. The land reverted back to the charity in 2015 after inaction by the City.

Background

In the last 16 years, the City has evaluated fire station locations, including the following milestones:

- **2010** – The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System, Inc. would donate land in Council District 9 to build FS #13
- **2016** – Interim Fire Chief Tim Wayne recommended building FS #13 and #14 (in N. Topeka that would consolidate FS #1 and #11)
- **2019** – City Council approved the purchase of land at 6th St. and Governor Pl. for FS #13 priced $290K
- **2021** – City Fire Commission recommendations
- **2025** – Fire Station relocation recommendations

2025 Recommendations

Goal: increase four-minute response time coverage

- Building the new FS #13 at 6th and Governor's Place.
- Repurpose FS #1 and relocate Engine Company 1 to the new FS #13,
- Building a new FS #11 at Hwy. 24/N. Topeka Blvd. and relocating the current Engine and Truck Company to the new location.
- Repurpose FS #6 and relocate it and Engine Company 6 to the Oakland-Billard Park area

Background

Challenges and questions of the 2025 Fire Station recommendations included:

- Costs to build new stations
- Concerns of the public safety presence in certain areas
- Would we repurpose the existing fire stations?
- Questions on the 4-minute response time
- Timeline of relocation plan
- How to address the costs of higher-rate insurance premiums for residents in District 9 (People who live outside of the 4-minute response time)

2026 Fire Station Relocation Plan

To increase four-minute response times and address identified challenges and questions to the 2025 Fire Station recommendations, staff developed the **2026 Fire Station Relocation Plan**, which includes the following phases:

- **Phase I – FS #13**
  - Build the new FS #13 at 6th and Governor's Place
  - Relocate Engine Company 11 to staff FS #13 (this leaves FS #11 operational with Truck Company 11),
- **Phase II – FS #11**
  - Build the new FS #11 at Lyman and N. Topeka Blvd.,
  - Relocate Engine 1 and Truck Company 11 to the new FS #11

  (This would close the current FS #1 and 11)

2026 Fire Station Relocation Plan

- **Phase III – FS #6**
  - Build the new FS #6 at Billard Airport,
  - Relocate current Engine 6 to the Billard location

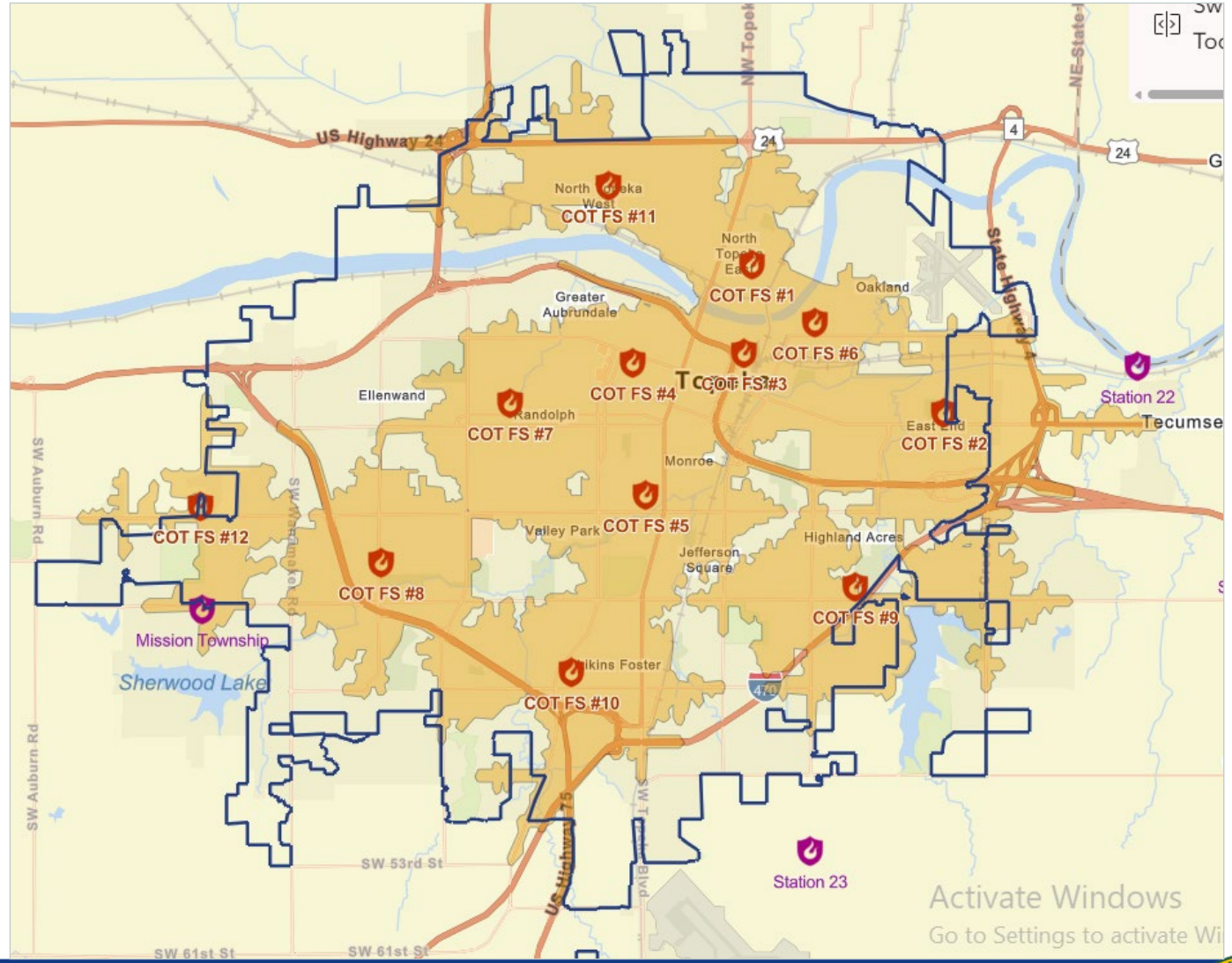
Once relocation is completed, the current FSs #1, #6, and #11 would be repurposed

- FS #1 (934 NE Quincy St.; next to NOTO) would house Topeka Police Department units
- FS #6 (1419 NE Seward Ave.) would house TFD's Fire Investigators (who are also licensed peace officers)
- FS #11 (2000 NW Lower Silver Lake Rd,) would serve as fire apparatus overflow and storage

2026 Fire Station Relocation Plan

Current Fire Station Locations and Four-Minute Coverage

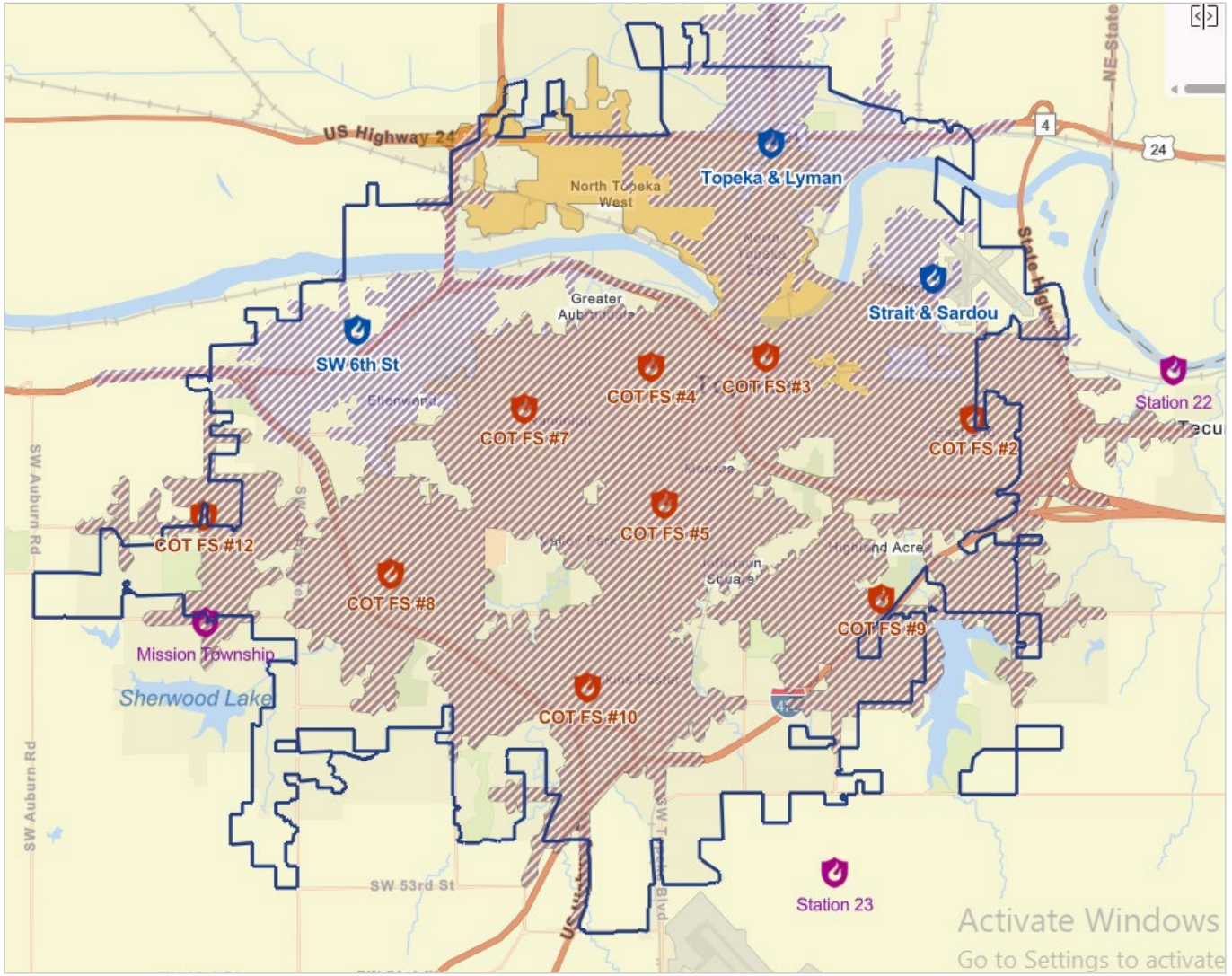
- Orange area shows four-minute coverage
- 75.0% of households (or 41,012 households under four-minute response)



2026 Fire Station Relocation Plan

Recommended Fire Station Locations and Four-Minute Coverage

- Blue/Orange hashed areas notate four-minute coverage areas
- 82.0% of households (or 44,632 households) would be under four-minute response ***(7% increase of four-minute coverage)***



2026 Fire Station Relocation Plan

- Each fire station is estimated to cost between $8M-$12M
- Entire plan to build three stations would cost between $24M-$36M
  - Current examples: Shawnee Heights Fire District is building two stations at a cost of $10M for both stations
  - Example 2: Soldier Township is building a new station with admin and meeting space approx.-15,000 sqft for $12M
- The Proposed FY 2027-FY 2036 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has:
  - $100K in General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds programmed in FY 2026 to begin high-level estimating of FS #13
  - $11.3M in G.O. Bonds programmed for construction in FY 2030

2026 Fire Station Relocation Plan

- Sales tax is an alternate funding source to consider funding this plan
- Staff is considering a ½ cent sales tax that would generate approximately $20M annually for public safety or other priorities such as affordable housing
  - If approved, this could be a cash option to fund this plan
- Should a sales tax not be considered, staff's recommendation would be to proceed with Phase I (Build FS #13) and relocate Engine Company 11 to staff FS #13

2026 Fire Station Relocation Plan

- Next Steps
  - **July** – Hold four public meetings
  - **Aug** – Make any necessary adjustments to recommendations based upon public feedback, brief City Council, and request adoption of plan

Additional details and maps can be found using the QR code below or the following website below

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2643b14015694e07b91dbab3be5dc9a2

CITY OF TOPEKA

Questions?
Email:
tfdpio@topeka.org