

Government Services

Recommendation #1: Continue to recruit potential firefighters throughout the region. (At present, departments are generally well-staffed, but as the population ages, there may be a shortage of qualified personnel.)

- 1) Benefits to the region if implemented: The benefits to the region of sufficiently staffed fire departments are clear. Residents and business owners are safer and have greater peace of mind and when emergency services are well-staffed and well-equipped. In the event of a large-scale emergency, the public will be better served with many responders in all areas.
- 2) Consequences to the region if not implemented: If fire departments lose members, their ability to protect will be jeopardized. Also, property insurance rates will be affected by local departments' inability to respond to calls in a timely fashion.
- 3) Ideas for incentives to encourage implementation
 - a. Help with promotions through the Chambers.
 - b. Educational materials distributed at job fairs, county fairs, etc.
 - c. Market the benefits of the firefighters' retirement program.
- 4) Steps to implementation:
 - a. Departments develop or obtain educational materials/advertising regarding becoming a firefighter.
 - b. Determine methods for distribution.
 - c. Distribute materials.
 - d. Create/add to lists of potential future firefighters.
- 5) Timeline: The above steps could be implemented within a few months, or years, depending on level of need.
- 6) Stakeholders to engage:
 - a. Fire chiefs, firefighters, advertising people, civil service commissions

Recommendation #2: Improve publicity about how businesses can access economic development organizations and information.

- 1) Benefits to the regional if implemented: Increased job creation and small business growth, increased tax base, quality community amenities, improved availability and affordability of housing
- 2) Consequences to the region if not implemented: stagnant economic growth, loss of tax base, migration of workforce to other markets, increased poverty and social consequences that accompany poverty
- 3) Ideas for incentives to encourage implementation
 - a. Encourage public and private sector support.

- b. Satisfy all forms of information networking (internet, print, phone directory, etc.)
- 4) Steps to implementation:
 - a. Improve phone directory listings for all economic development organizations.
 - b. Increase web presence (links from other pages) for organizations.
 - c. Contact regional print and broadcast advertisers to improve marketing.
- 5) Timeline: Changes in print advertising and website presence could be made rather rapidly (within a few weeks), while changes to phone directories will depend on distribution time (usually once annually).
- 6) Stakeholders to engage: economic development organizations, business owners, advertisers

Recommendation #3: As new communications technologies are considered within law enforcement, choose systems that are compatible with those of the surrounding law enforcement agencies.

- 1) Benefits to the region if implemented: Information is easily exchanged across jurisdictions about emergencies, criminal activities, etc. allowing for integrated and consistent law enforcement. Time will be saved investigating and completing reports.
- 2) Consequences to the region if not implemented: Less effective coordination of law enforcement efforts across governmental boundaries, criminals will cross into other jurisdictions without fear of apprehension.
- 3) Stakeholders to engage: Local law enforcement officials (local police chiefs, sheriffs office, state patrol), elected officials at a local, county, and state level, other organizations connected with social services.