



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kevin Richardson, Fire Chief

Date: March 27, 2018

Reference: Texas Fire Chief Association's Lone Star Achievement Award

2030: Sense of Community and Special Place to Live

Introduction:

Presentation to the Coppel Fire Department on receiving the Texas Fire Chief Association, "Fire Safety Award."

Analysis:

The Coppel Fire Department is the recipient of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association's 2018, "Fire Safety Award, recognizing a Texas Fire Department for implementing an innovative and progressive program that enhances their community's fire and life safety service delivery."

In 2017, the City of Coppel opened Life Safety Park, a 15,000-square foot multi-building facility, which has a rooted mission of combining the community education directives of the fire department, police department, and other life safety aspects into one location. The feasibility, funding, planning, and construction spanned over several years before the grand opening of the \$7.3 million facility in January 2017. The facility welcomes a broad spectrum of visitors, ranging in age from toddlers to senior citizens, including children, families, corporations, organizations, and general citizens. Of the five-building campus, the main educational building houses ample classroom space, a fire equipment museum, and the City's Emergency Operations Center. The four remaining buildings comprise the outdoor 5/8 reduced-scale "Safety Town", including an interactive house for home safety education, additional multipurpose classroom space, a public safety building with permanent fire and police apparatus, and a storage building for the battery-operated motor vehicles, bicycles, and other equipment. In addition to structured classes, the classrooms are utilized as meeting spaces by local businesses or organizations, while learning a life safety lesson taught by Life Safety Park staff.

“Safety Town” consists of streets, fully functioning traffic signals, pedestrian crosswalks/signals, varying building facades (e.g. City Hall, train station) and site props such as railroad tracks, a gas meter, and electrical transformers. Safety Town is true to life of what students see around Coppell and in their communities. Life Safety Park’s holistic vision is such that safer individuals lead to safer, healthier communities.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC), within the main education building, provides the City of Coppell a central command and control facility responsible for ensuring municipal operations are maintained throughout the city’s planned and other unforeseen events. In the case of an emergency incident, the EOC allows local government to provide interagency and interdepartmental coordination and executive decision making in support of incident response and recovery operations. The EOC can be expanded to the classrooms, adding more than fifty additional work spaces, voice-over-IP phones, and network infrastructure and connectivity for emergency staff. The EOC was designed for fault-tolerant redundant capabilities for local network, internet, radio, telecommunications, and power. Additionally, the core of the facility is a hardened structure with features such as steel reinforced concrete walls/ceiling and high-wind rated windows.

Life Safety Park class topics include, but are not limited to, motor vehicle and pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, fire and burn prevention, first aid, cooking safety, smoke alarms, exit drills, fire extinguisher training (panel and stove), water/swimming and heat safety, CPR/AED training, severe weather awareness, Junior Police Academy, Police Explorers, and self-defense.

Currently, Life Safety Park is one of only two such facilities in the DFW Metroplex, making it special to Coppell and surrounding cities. As such, Life Safety Park has established itself as an innovative and valuable tool in the pursuit of fire and life safety education. Life Safety Park and the partnership between citizens and many City departments is a notable example of how Coppell make life safety and public education a City-wide priority.

Legal Review:

Agenda item did not require legal review.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact for this agenda item.

Recommendation:

The Fire Department recommends that they be recognized for receiving the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, “Lone Star Achievement Award,” for their innovative Critical Care Paramedic program.