



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 4, 2026

Re: Public Hearing to authorize the construction of Fire Station #05 at the intersection of Ballenger Lane and Ria Street.

Impacted Ward: Ward 3

Executive Summary

Public hearing for the construction of Fire Station #05 at the intersection of Ballenger Lane and Ria Street. An interested parties meeting was held on March 18, 2026 and preliminary plans were presented to those in attendance.

Discussion

The Columbia Fire Department needs to provide additional capabilities for emergency response personnel due to rapid community growth. With exceptional growth and need along the northeast corridor of the City, it was determined that a replacement fire station with upgraded capabilities at this site would provide coverage, keep pace with our ability to provide adequate emergency response, and provide improved space for additional staff. The current Station No. 5 has outlived its useful physical life. The Station was originally built in the 1970's. Structural issues have been caused by ground settlement over the years, and despite numerous repairs over the past 20 years, the problem remains unsolvable. Additionally, the existing station does not provide adequate space for the staffing needed and does not address modern needs such as individual sleeping areas, gender-specific restrooms, and clear separation between contaminants from fire incidents and personnel.

The site is located at the intersection of Ballenger Lane and Ria Street in Northeast Columbia. Primary access to the site will be from Hector Place. The site will have access from the East and West sides, via Ballenger Lane and Hector Place. The Fire Department seeks to foster a sense of welcome and belonging in the neighborhood and area while developing the building to provide essential life-safety facilities that will serve the community. The living areas will be in scale with typical residential housing in the area. Building material considerations will be guided by the importance that the designs of the buildings represent and a feeling of belonging in the neighborhood. The buildings and site will provide economical, reliable, sustainable, and innovative organizational and infrastructure foundations for the efficient delivery of municipal services to meet the current and future needs of our residents and visitors. The building plans are resilient to anticipated future conditions & the site prioritizes safety and convenience while maintaining maximum existing natural areas and landscaping that implement strategies to mitigate stormwater impacts. The design uses the highest recycled-content materials and regionally sourced materials to the greatest extent possible, while reducing landfill waste by diverting construction and demolition waste. The facilities

are utilizing the highest feasible energy efficiency with on-site renewable energy HVAC & lighting systems and control installations that exceed code minimum requirements, with air conditioning that uses refrigerants with low global warming potentials. Systems designs will manage energy demand to reduce peak energy use, and the structure will be solar-ready. The facilities use water conservation fixtures. This station will provide space for living, sleeping, office, training, and storage, with 3 apparatus bays, a mezzanine for storage and training activities, and mechanical systems. The existing Community Garden will be recreated to the south of the site.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$5,000,000 funded by the CIST
 Long-Term Impact: NA

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Safe Community, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/20/2026 | R69-26 Setting a Public Hearing to authorize the construction of Fire Station #05 at the intersection of Ballenger Lane and Ria Street. |

Suggested Council Action

Approve the construction of Fire Station #05 at the intersection of Ballenger Lane and Ria Street.