

“The data just doesn’t support having an impact fee stunts the growth of the community, whatsoever,” he said.

During the last seven years, the department has experienced a 7 percent increase in call volume each year. The rational nexus study shows growth of the community is concurrent and proportional with the call volume being experienced, he said.

The fire district lacks a funding mechanism to compensate for capital-improvement projects. It gets about a third of its revenue from property taxes, a third from a contract with the city of Durango, and a third from EMS services and grants. But all money goes toward operations; there is no revenue stream left over to improve fire stations or replace equipment, he said.

The impact fee is expected to raise only 45 percent of the more than \$53 million needed in capital-improvement projects over the next 20 years, he said.

“This is one step of many the fire department is going to need to take in order to continue to fund ourselves,” Doughty said.

“Otherwise, we’ll very likely find ourselves being forced into a reduction of services.”

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