

CHAPTER 7: COMMUNITY SERVICES

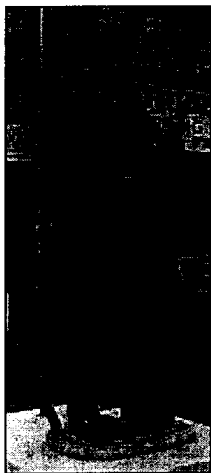
The City of Charles Town provides many but not all of the typical community services found in an urbanized area. Independent groups or associations and the state or county provide some of the needed services.

PUBLIC SAFETY GOALS

Charles Town's goals for public safety are as follows:

- *Maintain a safe community with appropriate numbers of personnel and equipment.*
- *Enhance and maintain emergency service response times during growth periods.*
- *Provide professional and efficient service in a manner that remains personal to the citizens.*

FIRE AND RESCUE



There are two fire departments that serve the fire and rescue needs of the City. Citizens Fire Company is located in the City and the other company is located in Ranson. These companies also provide service in Jefferson County as well. The two companies are independent of the City and operate on a volunteer basis. The income for operations is through fund-raising efforts. At this time the Cities and County provide only minimal support to the fire and rescue services.

According to the Capital Improvement Plan, City of Charles Town; 2003; prepared by the URS Corporation, "the fire departments are finding it difficult to recruit and maintain enough volunteers as well as fund-raise the necessary funds to operate and equip the departments." Also, "There is strong belief that the fire departments will need to become a paid system in the next five years."

Jefferson County currently provides a partially funded Ambulance Authority in the form of staffing and funding for 8 hours per day. Since the service operates 24 hours per day, volunteers fill in for the remainder.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

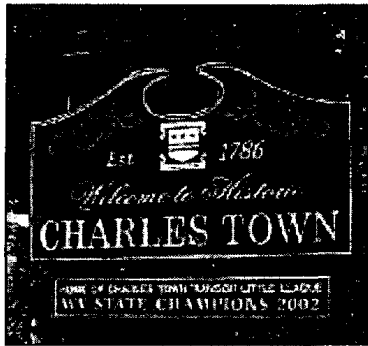
The Charles Town Police Department currently operates with one police station located on west Liberty Street in the downtown section of the City. It's staff consists of 16 officers along with a Police Chief and two support staff. The Department has an annual budget of \$1.5 million.

The Police Department presently accounts for 50% of the City's budget that is double the nationwide municipal average. This greater than average police presence is due to





the location of the Charles Town Races and Slots facility adjacent to the city limits. The CTR&S attracts large crowds late in the day and lasting into the late night. This large influx of non-residents to the area have resulted in more calls to the department as well as more traffic control, citations, arrests, and investigations. The Police Department is actually serving a larger city and its problems than a typical city of 3000 residents.



The 2003 CIP for the City of Charles Town indicates that the growth of the City will require a total of 47 officers by 2023 with a fleet of 47 vehicles. The CIP recommends replacement of 25 percent of the vehicle fleet every year. Vehicle replacement at this rate represents an expenditure of between \$200,000 and 300,000 a year for the next 20 years in 2003 dollars.

The State of West Virginia has mandated that all public safety communications systems are to be upgraded from analog to digital systems by the year 2006. The ability to seamlessly communicate between the Charles Town Police Department and all other law enforcement and emergency service groups should be emphasized.

POLICE SERVICES: RECOMMENDATIONS

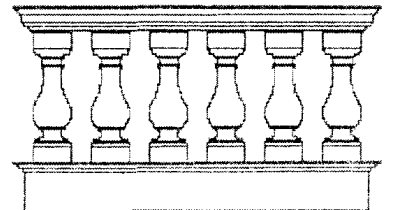
Growth of the City will occur primarily to the south with high value areas following along the major arteries. Response time to these areas will be affected by future traffic conditions. In order to keep pace with the growth of the area the following is recommended.

1. Obtain a substation site in the southern area of the City. Ideally the site would be close to the Route 340 By-Pass in an area that is now within the Urban Growth Boundary area. The best location would be based on accessibility and ability to respond under adverse conditions.
2. Continue to coordinate with other law enforcement entities to eliminate duplication where local/state authority allows.
3. Look for ways to acquire special-use equipment that can be used jointly-or borrowed when the need arises.
4. Upgrade the police communication system in accord with the State of West Virginia mandate by 2006.

HOSPITAL/MEDICAL SERVICES

The only hospital in the area is the Jefferson Memorial Hospital on 6th Street in Ranson. West Virginia University Hospitals-East owns the hospital. Along with City Hospital in Martinsburg, the two facilities are a part of a new regional not-for-profit healthcare system serving the Eastern Panhandle. Jefferson Memorial is a fully accredited 114-bed licensed community hospital and provides the following services:

- Business Health Program
- Cardiopulmonary Services
- Educational Programs
- Radiology/Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Services Department





- Food and Nutrition Services
- Intensive Care/Critical Care Unit (6 beds)
- Home Health Care
- Laboratory/Pathology Services
- Medical Records-Health Information Management
- Medical/Surgical Unit (30-bed unit)
- Medical Education
- Neurodiagnostic Laboratory
- Obstetrics Unit
- Outpatient Surgery
- Pediatric Unit
- Pharmacy
- Rehabilitation Services
- Skilled Nursing Unit (10 bed unit)
- Support Groups
- Surgery

The hospital has made it known that it would like to further modernize and expand its facility. The current facility is also vulnerable to problems with highway access because of potential tie-ups at railroad crossings. It can either choose to solve those problems at its current location or move to another location in the county. The hospital should be encouraged to remain close to the center of the county population.

HOSPITAL/MEDICAL SERVICES: RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City should establish a zoning district that provides for hospitals and ancillary medical facilities in a park or campus-like atmosphere. The zoning district does not need to be restricted to medical uses, but could allow other uses that are considered compatible. The area should be large enough to offer multiple sites in order to give the current hospital a choice. Choice will permit the hospital to bargain in a fair market.
2. The City should indicate proposed suitable areas in the Land Use Plan near major highways and areas that cannot be isolated should a railroad crossing or another highway be blocked.
3. The City should provide in its zoning ordinance the permission for heliport facilities as an allowed accessory use for a hospital.

LIBRARY SERVICE

The Charles Town Library is a private library primarily funded by endowments. The private library contains over 60,000 volumes within 8,000 square feet in a building on East Washington Street. The *West Virginia Library Working Standards (1992)* require 2.13 to 2.53 volumes per capita, 0.6 square feet of floor space per capita, and at least 96 hours of operation. The current library exceeds the minimum standards for the City in all but hours of operation (40 hours per week). The library also serves a substantial County demand for its services.

The annual operating budget is approximately \$250,000 per year with about \$42,000 per year used to fund the purchase of new materials.

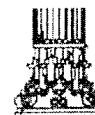




Table 7.1
Library Standards
Old Charles Town Library 2003

Item	Standard	Population	Surplus (Deficit)
67,037 volumes	2.13 vol./capita	3,000	11.20 vol./capita
8,000 square feet	0.6 sf/capita	3,000	2 sq. ft./capita

Based upon the population projections, by the year 2025 the future library needs would be as follows:

- 19,658 people @ 0.6 sq. ft. / capita equals 11,795 sq. ft. of space needed.
- 19,658 people @ 2.13 to 2.53 volumes per capita equals 41,871 to 49,735 volumes.

Based on Charles Town needs only, there would be a deficit of 3800 square feet of library space and approximately 10,000 volumes of library materials by 2025 if the status quo were maintained in that time period. Substantial changes will probably be required. Computer technology will undoubtedly make more major changes than are already being experienced. The existing structure will require upgrading on the basis of age alone. Unless there are additional substantial endowments it is probably unrealistic to expect the existing Old Charles Town Library to be able to keep up with demand for its services and the additional services it would like to provide. Taking into account the three Jefferson County libraries which are also under-funded by state standards, it is obvious that increased funding by the county, the City of Charles Town, and other municipalities would be in order. The other county libraries are the size of branch libraries in a suburban county. Their current area devoted to library needs and their current volume of materials equals the Old Charles Town Library, but they are serving town populations smaller than Charles Town. All four libraries serve the entire population of Jefferson County.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIBRARY SERVICES

1. Increase the size of Old Charles Town Library on its existing site (room to double size) and provide a bookmobile type of service to the new Charles Town neighborhoods.
2. Provide increased, sustainable funding for the Old Charles Town Library so that it can maintain its high level of service.

