RECOMMENDATIONS & OPTIONS

I. The following recommendations should be implemented regardless of the funding alternatives selected by the Town.

1. Regardless of the number or identity of response organizations, require all agencies conducting emergency operations in the Town to become compliant with the National Incident Management System and the associated Incident Command System. Reinforce the principles that district and rank do not dictate the identity of the incident commander at any particular incident. Establish the authority of all fire officers in the Town to command incidents anywhere in the Town regardless of response district, in accordance with NIMS/ICS principles.

2. Work with Oneida County and other relevant jurisdictions to establish a single, full-service PSAP/dispatch center that provides all necessary call-taking, data collection, dispatching, and related services.

3. Work with Oneida County and other relevant jurisdictions to establish a consolidated, county-wide radio system such that responders from all agencies involved in emergency response (including non-traditional responders such as public works, utility, and public health responders) can communicate reliably with each other using a single portable radio.

4. Regardless of the number or identity of response organizations, require the reliable collection and submission of incident response data from all entities (including fire, EMS first response, and ambulance service) in a uniform and complete format to the Town of Whitestown on a periodic basis.

5. Regardless of the number or identity of response organizations, utilize professional response zone development software (Fireview™ or similar) to draw response districts that provide for response of the closest fire department to all alarms in the Town of Whitestown.

   Figure 5 provides an approximation of what closest-station response zones would look like, omitting the duplicate coverage provided by the Yorkville fire station. This drawing, based on street network analysis accomplished using Network Analyst® from the Environmental Systems Research Institute, measured overlapping coverages of the street network regardless of the speed limit. Use of Fireview™ or a similar product, with accurate street impedance data underlying the analysis, would likely provide a slightly different view.