LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Jeremy L. Klein, Fire Chief
Dan Schmidt, Chairman
Mark Huth, Vice Chairman
Robert Ising, Secretary
Herman Buechler, Member
Larry Enlow, Member
Earl James, Member
Charles Staser, Member

Dear Citizens,

The Lafayette Township Fire Protection District provides Fire, EMS, Rescue and Hazardous Materials primary response services to all residence and properties of Lafayette Township since 1958. We also provide response assistance to the neighboring communities of Georgetown Township and Town, Greenville Township and Town, New Albany Township, Franklin Township, Wood Township, Carr Township, Silver Creek Township and Harrison Township in the time of need. We operate out of two stations within Lafayette Township to provide these services to the residence and properties. Station 1 is located at 4002 Scottsville Road and houses one Engine (Pumper) Truck, Rescue Truck, Tanker Truck, Brush Truck and Ambulance. Station 2 is located at 7783 Atkins Road and houses one Engine (Pumper) Truck, and a Brush Truck. These apparatus all serve the various functions of response to the various types of incidents we respond to. Our current apparatus and equipment is aging and we have outgrown and surpassed the functionality of our facilities. The apparatus ages are as follows: Engine 13 – 18 years old, Tanker 12 – 16 years old, Engine 11 – 12 years old, Rescue 1 – 12 years old, Command/First Response Unit 1 – 7 years old, and Command/ First Response Unit 2 – 6 years old. Last year alone the Fire District spent more than $36,000.00 in maintenance expense. For 2011 we are already over $9000.00 in maintenance cost. When a truck has to have repairs that means it is not in service to respond to your emergency. The firehouse is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year with well-trained firefighters, both men and women. These firefighters work 24 hours on duty and 48 hours off duty, so basically they live at the firehouse or you could say it is a second home to them. The firehouse was designed for a non-live-in, volunteer response operation and was not intended for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year coverage.

Over the years we have continued to grow with the community and the needs of the community. We have come to the point in time that some apparatus, equipment and facilities are in dire need of being replaced and renovated. These things are all considered Capital Projects. The State of Indiana Department of Local Government Finance budget does not allow our annual budget to be used for Capital Projects. The budget is used strictly for daily operations only. The only option to secure funding for these projects to continue to grow and provide the services to the community and the people are to seek out a Debt Service (Issuance of Bonds). To be able to do this there is a process that we have to go through. The first step of the process is the District has to approve a Bond Resolution, which was voted on and passed and created, then submitting it to the Floyd County Council to be publicly advertised in the newspaper to be able to be heard at their meeting. There are so many times that the Council gets approached with issues and projects and do not receive enough information about

those issues and projects to be able to make a good decision. We did not want this to happen so we took the time to offer information about the projects we were presenting. Leading up to the meeting date several members of the Floyd County Council visited the firehouse and the projects were explained in depth to them and they were able to see the apparatus, equipment and facilities that are going to get upgraded.

Process:

On April 12 the Fire District attended the Floyd County Council meeting to present to them and seek out approval of issuance of Bonds to upgrade the Apparatus, Equipment and Station. The approval was granted by the Floyd County Council after some discussion and review of information. The District will soon now deliver the notice of determination to issue Bonds and sell Bonds to the local newspaper to be publicly advertised two times each. Then there will be a notice published in the newspaper to publicly advertise the public hearing on additional appropriations. Interested bidders will then have to register with our Financial Advisor in regards to the sale of bonds and they will be notified 24 hours prior to date of sale to submit bids. Once the bonds have been sold the Fire District will hold a public hearing on the additional appropriations and adopt a resolution for this. The process of securing funding is now complete.

Projects:

The Quad will replace one of the old Engines (Pumper) Trucks. This Quad will have everything on it an Engine has and more. This will offer greater capabilities and allow us to better serve the community. The current Engine has 1000 gallons of water, can pump 1250 gallons per minute, and has a ladder compliment of a 35', 16' and 10' totaling 61' of ground ladders. The new Quad will have 1000 gallons of water, 30 gallons of foam, can pump 2000 gallons per minute, and has a ladder compliment of a 35', 28', 2 – 18', and a 12' totaling 111' of ground ladders. Estimated Cost $561,000.00

The Pumper/Tanker will replace the Tanker Truck which is used to transport water to areas that do not have hydrants close enough to be used practically. The current Tanker can transport 2500 gallons and carries 200' of hose. Its current sole purpose is transporting water. The new Pumper/ Tanker will be able to transport 2000 gallons of water, will have a pump that can pump 1500 gallons per minute, carry at least 1500' of hose, will have a ladder compliment of 28', 14' and 10' totaling 52' of ground ladders. This truck will offer greater capabilities and be able to have a more versatile use. Estimated Cost $265,000.00

The new Command/First Response Units will replace existing Command/First Response units with new, safe, more up to date units. The existing units are of age and have high mileage. We currently have 3 units that are staged in three areas of the district, one to the north, one in the mid-section and one to the south. This allows for a quick response to all areas of the Fire District. These units respond on most all incidents and are also used for daily operations of the fire department. These units will carry Emergency Medical Equipment, a Defibrillator, Oxygen, Fire Extinguishers, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and Spare Bottle, Officers Turnout Gear, Water Rescue Gear, Rope, and have all the capabilities of running incident command on all scenes. They will be equipped with some lighting, radios, and accountability system to be used in the field. Estimated Cost $46,000.00

Our current Hydraulic Rescue Tools are 14 years old and are definitely showing severe signs of wear. Every year we get the tools serviced and tested. This year one of the pumps did not test to pumping pressure capacity and needed to be replaced because it cannot be rebuilt because they do not make that model anymore and parts are not available. The tools currently will not cut the exotic metals that are being used in the vehicles of today. The new tools are made to cut vehicles of today and the future and have more cutting power than the current tools. Estimated Cost $51,000.00

The station was built in the 70's with some renovations made in 2002. The renovations that were made then were based on the need of the volunteer department at that time. Since then we have added full time around the clock staffing and the firefighters live at the firehouse for 24 hour shifts at a time. The current station design was not intended for live-in type of environment. Accommodations need to be added so that the firehouse is more functional for the personnel and the community. Currently we have multiple people working or trying to work out of a single office. Office space needs to be added so that our managers can proficiently and effectively conduct business. Currently there is not a room that trainings and meetings can be held without moving furniture and setting up needs to conduct class. Training is a big part of our job and it's a burden every time we have trainings or meetings. We are looking to add space to efficiently and effectively have trainings and meetings or allow the community to have space for their needs such as birthday parties, showers or a meeting, after all this is the communities firehouse. We currently have equipment that is sitting outside because we have no available space in the apparatus bay area. This is causing extreme wear on this equipment which in turn causes maintenance expense. We only have a single bunkroom which houses men and women. This increases our liability and needs to be corrected. The facility is not feasible for the operations of the fire department today or the future. These are just a few of the things that need to be corrected and fixed so that the facility can be functional, efficient and practical. We are looking at a renovation and an addition to correct these problems for now and into the future and create a building we can grow in as everything around us continues to grow. Estimated Cost $828,000.00

I have covered a lot of information in this newsletter and hope that you understand all the information that has been discussed. Everything that has been discussed in the above projects is to allow us to keep up with technology, the times and allow us to continue to provide the best coverage that we can provide to the citizens of the community. If you have any questions or do not understand something, please feel free to stop by the firehouse or contact me.

Best Regards,

Jeremy L. Klein

Jeremy L. Klein

Fire Chief