



Jefferson Township Fire Department



Mission Statement

The Jefferson Township Fire Department provides quality public service through education, prevention and mitigation.



Background and Significance

Jefferson Township is located on the eastern edge of Madison County, 15 miles west of the state capital, Columbus, Ohio. Within Jefferson Township lies the Village of West Jefferson.

The Jefferson Township Fire Department was formed in 1947 as all volunteer fire department. As the emergency runs increased, the department started increasing coverage by first instituting part-time, then full-time personnel. The first full-time firefighters were hired in 1983. Currently, the department employs 14 full-time personnel and 30 part-time personnel. The fire department has three shifts, each with 4 fulltime personnel and two part time personnel staffing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are two 40-hour personnel that perform administrative and fire prevention activities. The fire department operates out of one station, located in West Jefferson with two equipped ems vehicles & one reserve, one fire engine, one 75' quint, one water tanker, one brush truck and two staff vehicles

In addition to Jefferson Township, the fire department also covers Fairfield Township; an adjoining township located south of Jefferson Township. The total response area is 79 square miles and according to the 2010 census, the population of this area is 8577.



Jefferson Township – 6935 Residents
Village of West Jefferson

Fairfield Township – 1333 Residents

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Core Values



Honesty

Our personnel are truthful and honest

Integrity

Our personnel are of upright and moral character

Dedication

Our personnel supportive and loyal to the organization and each other

Motivation

Our personnel are driven to enthusiastically accomplish the mission

Pride

Our personnel have a deep sense of satisfaction for the mission of the organization

Professionalism

Our personnel exhibit a high standard of ethics, behavior and competence

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Funding and Budget

In the late 1980's, after hiring its first full-time firefighters, the Jefferson Township Fire Department failed one of its five year renewable levies. Wanting to establish a solid funding foundation for the fire department and knowing that they needed to increase their capabilities, the Jefferson Township Board of Trustees asked for community input through town hall meetings. This community input was the basis for moving from multiple short-term renewable levies to a permanent levy that, based on projections, could be expected to adequately fund the fire department for 10 years. Early in the life span of the levy, the township collects a surplus that is used to cover the deficit in the later years. Since property tax levied income remains constant and operating expenses increase annually, there becomes a point where the budget no longer has an adequate surplus. It was understood that these permanent levies would need to be replaced with other permanent levies that would be based upon current property evaluations because Ohio Property tax law fails to adjust with population or property value increases. For the Jefferson Township Fire Department, that time period occurs every 10-11 years. Also, the State of Ohio has chosen to eliminate a tangible personal property tax levied against commercial facilities with no guarantee of a replacement funding mechanism. This equated to an income reduction of over \$220,000 or approximately 9% of Jefferson Township Fire Department's annual revenue.

The fire department continually reviews expenses and revenue. The current levy cycle is right on track from what was projected but it is understood that in 4 years, it will not adequately fund the fire department and any carryover monies will be spent down.

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Funding and Budget

Jefferson Township Fire Department's 2016 budget expenses totaled \$2,484,386. Revenue for the same time period was \$2,815,656, with \$2,184,601 or 77.5% based upon tax income and \$299,425 or 10.6% based upon income from EMS transport re-imburements.

Various 2016 Expenses:

Personnel: \$1,926,968 (77.5% of expenses)

Machinery & Equipment: \$240,579 (9.6% of expenses)

Repair/maintenance: \$61,396 (2.5 % of expenses)

Supplies: \$45,777 (1.8% of expenses)

2016 per run cost: \$1,367

Equipment Costs:

Fire Gear (Coat, pant, boots, helmet, gloves, nomex hood): \$2,900 (Life expectancy no more than 10 years)

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus: \$1,200 (Life expectancy is 15 years)

Radios (statewide coverage with increased in-building coverage): \$5,000 (Life expectancy 12-15 years)

Cardiac Monitor: \$30,000 (Life expectancy 12-15 years)

EMS Vehicle: \$270,000 (Life expectancy is 12-15 years)

Fire Engine: \$500,000 (Life expectancy is 18-20 years)

Aerial Apparatus: \$875,000 (Life expectancy 20-25 years)

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Services Provided

According to the department's 2016 run report, the Jefferson Township Fire Department experienced 1818 emergency runs, with 83.7% being EMS related, which resulted in 1084 patients transported.

Previous Year's Emergency Runs:

2016: Total 1818, EMS-1522, Fire-296, Industrial Park-156

2015: Total 1637, EMS-1374, Fire-263, Industrial Park-146

2014: Total 1536, EMS-1230, Fire-306, Industrial Park-100

2013: Total 1567, EMS-1290, Fire-348, Industrial Park-92

2012: Total 1700, EMS-1393, Fire-349, Industrial Park-99

2011: Total 1608, EMS-1277, Fire-392, Industrial Park-101

- Fire Suppression
 - Residential
 - Commercial
 - Vehicle
 - Wildland
- Emergency Medical Services
 - Basic Life Support
 - Advanced Life Support
- Rescue
 - Motor Vehicle Accidents
 - Farm Accidents
 - Machinery
 - Grain Bins
 - High Angle Rescue
 - Water/Ice Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
 - Roadways
 - Local Industry
 - Farms
 - Construction Sites
 - Railways
- Fire Inspections/Plans Review
 - Commercial
 - Residential
 - Festivals
- Fire Investigations
- Fire Safety Education/Demonstrations
 - Fire extinguisher training

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Training Requirements

Ohio Training Mandates

Firefighters

- 330 hours initial training, 54 hours/3 years CEU's

Paramedics

- 1500-1800 hours initial training, 86 hours/3 years CEU's

Fire Inspectors

- 80 hours initial training, 30 hours/3 years CEU's

Fire Instructors

- 80 hours initial training, 30 hours/3 years CEU's

EMS Instructors

- 80 hours initial training, 30 hours/3 years CEU's

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Apparatus

1 Engine/Rescue 2016

1 Ladder Truck-75' 1994

1 Tanker-3000 Gallons 1998

1 Brush Truck 2013



2 Medics (Ambulance) 2013, 2010

1 Reserve Medic (Ambulance) 2006

2 Chief's Vehicles 2015, 2010



1 Rescue Boat 1995



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Strategic Plan

In 2016, the Jefferson Township Fire Department contracted with the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association to facilitate a formal community-centered strategic planning process involving both internal and external stakeholders.

Goals identified for completion in the next 5 years :

- Develop and apparatus and equipment replacement maintenance program
- Identify future funding sources and possible alternative sources of revenue
- Develop organizational emergency response goals
- Conduct a staffing and deployment analysis
- Complete MARCS radio implementation
- Identify technology needs and develop plan for integration
- Develop a comprehensive training plan
- Conduct a facility needs assessment

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Needs

The addition of the industrial park equates to more runs (as many as three simultaneous runs at a time), as well as staff time spent on fire safety inspections, training and pre-plans. For us to be able to handle three simultaneous runs, we will need to hire 6 additional full-time personnel, two per each work shift, which would take our daily staffing up to eight and that would not even allow for an “ideal” equipment staffing model but it will help greatly. In their 1st year alone, that will add an additional \$410,000 to our budget. When they reach top pay it then increases to an additional nearly \$600,000 annual increase to our budget.

An increase in runs has placed a strain on our resources and an increase in runs to our industrial park add and even greater strain. Our current staffing allows us to staff 2 pieces of apparatus. Some runs require more than one piece of apparatus as well as it is very common to have simultaneous double ems runs and not uncommon to even have three runs at the same time. That means that we have to rely on the availability and increased response times for mutual aid resources to cover our local emergency runs. Double runs also means that we do not have local resources available to protect the estimated \$250 million commercial property value of the industrial park.

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Needs

We have had an unexpected need to replace our primary fire engine at a cost of approximately \$500,000 due to excessive corrosion and on-going performance issues related to that corrosion. We were projecting to replace our 23 year old aerial truck at approximately \$850,000 because it has started to become unreliable. We also planned to replace at least one ems vehicle at a cost of approximately \$270,000. We are also in need of totally equipping our spare ems vehicle so that it could be utilized during those times when we have three simultaneous ems runs. To accomplish that we need to acquire a new cardiac monitor as well as replace on old out-dated model. Each of those monitors has a \$30,000 price tag. To assist with decreased staffing, we need to purchase three cpr assist devices, one for each ems vehicle. Each one of the cpr assist devices is approximately \$11,000.

We are in our seventh year of this current levy cycle which means we will be spending down any surplus, so without financial assistance will not be able to accomplish what we need to make us more capable of protecting the residents and workforce that we are sworn to protect.

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