

Community Workshop #1



Feb. 19, 2026 • 6 - 8 p.m.

Welcome to Community Workshop #1! Feb. 19, 2026

*Please introduce yourself to others at your table.
Put on a nametag.
Sign in at your table.*

Why We Are Here

BFPD Challenges

- Increasing demand for fire and emergency medical services.
- Hiring more full-time firefighter/paramedics to serve the BFPD community
- Recruiting and retaining qualified firefighter/paramedics.
- Updating aging facilities and equipment
- Ensuring firefighters have up-to-date training
- Protecting large areas without a water supply
- Securing stable funding for emergency services now and in the future

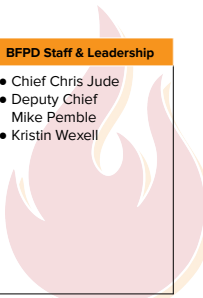


Why We're Here: Our Work

- Actively involve residents directly in developing a long-range plan for fire and emergency medical services in our community.
 - Provide the community with accurate and transparent information about the District's current operations and challenges.
 - Build understanding of how growth and regional changes impact fire, rescue and EMS services.
 - Engage the community in discussions about the level of service expected and the resources required.
 - Explore sustainable funding options for the staffing, facilities, and equipment required to provide quality emergency services.



Facilitating Team

Community Members		BFPD Staff & Leadership
Community Chairs • Angie Antos • Thomas "TJ" Sforza	Members (cont'd) • Ken Heberer • Andrew Hughes • LuAnn Bolatto • Tammy Favero • Debbie Rozak • Wanda Alderson • Dianne Schaal • Mike Compton • Cheryl Schott • Ashley Gossman • Carl Davies	• Chief Chris Jude • Deputy Chief Mike Pemble • Kristin Wexell 
Members • Joe Byers • Heather Rozak • Melissa Hughes • David Coronelli • Scott Favero • Deacon Greg Cummins		

Community Engagement Sessions

• PARTICIPANTS •
ANY BFPD RESIDENT
CAN PARTICIPATE

• WORKSHOPS •
DESIGNED AND LED BY
FACILITATING TEAM

• TOPICS •
RELEVANT TO THE
DISTRICT PLANNING
PROCESS

• DISCUSSION •
DIALOGUE IN SMALL
GROUP SETTING



Our Workshops

- Welcome and review of previous session
- Data/informational presentation
- Small group work (dialogue/decisions)
- Small group reporting to large group
- Closing/preview of next session



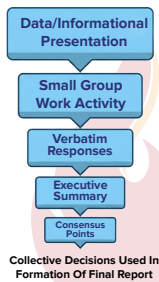
Planning for a Safer Future Calendar

DATE	TIME	WORKSHOP TOPIC	WHERE
February 19	6 - 8 PM	Workshop #1 BFPD Today	Reed-Custer Elementary School
March 26	6 - 8 PM	Workshop #2 A DeepDive Fire, Rescue and Other Services	Reed-Custer Elementary School
April 29	6 - 8 PM	Workshop #3 Staffing and Finances	Reed-Custer Elementary School
May 20	6 - 8 PM	Workshop #4 Options/Recommendations for a Long-Term Plan	Reed-Custer Elementary School



Session Documentation

Our work tonight, and the entire Planning for a Safer Future process works to develop consensus towards collective decisions.



I Have A Question/Comment!

- Complete a form
- Email cjude@braidwoodfire.org
- Call: 815.458.2000
- Ask during small group work time

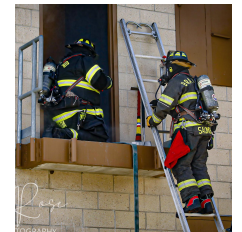


Tonight's Presentation

- Setting the stage for tonight's small group work activity.
- You'll use the information learned to complete activities together.
- This won't answer every question, but it will give us a shared starting point.
- Future information shared will be shaped by what we hear tonight.



Tonight's Presentation

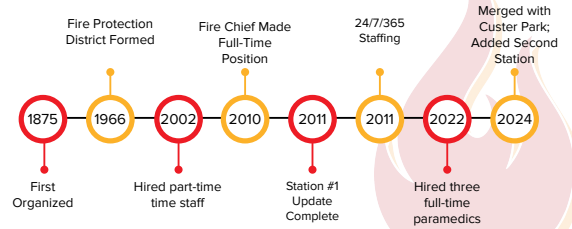


Braidwood Fire Protection District

Proudly Protecting Our Community



History



About The District

- Independent taxing entity
 - Not part of a city or village government
- Led by an elected three-member board of trustees
 - Appoint the fire chief, who leads operation of district



About The District

- Total of 55 members
 - Command Staff
 - 1 Full-Time Chief
 - 1 Part-Time Deputy Chief · 3 Part-Time Captains · 1 Part-Time Lieutenant
 - 8 full-time firefighter/paramedics
 - 22 part-time Firefighter/EMT's
 - 12 part-time Firefighter/Paramedics
 - 3 Medics Only (No Firefighter Certification)
 - 1 Executive Administrative Assistant
 - 3 Trustees
 - 3 Interns and 2 Cadets



Service Area



- 38.57 square miles
- Residential, multi-family and commercial properties
- Protect portions of Diamond, Village of Godley, Custer Park
- Nuclear Plant and Cooling Lake
- Part of the Kankakee River
- Two recreational camping areas
- Shadow Lakes Community
- Portions of Interstate 55
- Commercial/freight train lines



Services Provided

Advanced Life Support Ambulances
 Fire Suppression
 Technical Rescue
 Water Rescue
 Life safety inspectors
 Fire investigations
 Rescue Task Force support
 Fire/EMS/Rescue training
 Fire Prevention Education
 Safety and Medical Education/Training



Stations, Equipment and Staffing

Station 1 • 275 W. Main St



Updated: 2010

Equipment & Programs

District Headquarters
Engine 2413
ALS Ambulance 2415
Squad 2416
Ladder Truck 2419
Rescue Boat
Water Rescue 2491
Brush/Rescue ATV

Staffing

2 Firefighter Medics
2 Firefighter EMTs

Stations, Equipment and Staffing

Station 2 • 21750 IL-113



Included in BFPD: 2023

Equipment & Programs

Pumper Tanker 2412
ALS Ambulance 2424
Brush truck 2418

Staffing

1 Firefighter Medic
1 Firefighter EMT

Training Facilities

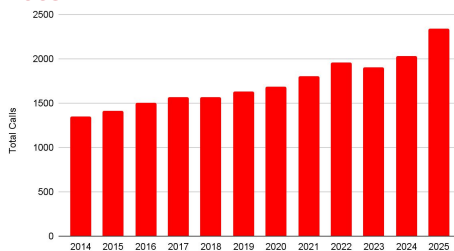


Challenges

- Increasing demand for fire and emergency medical services
- Hiring more full-time firefighter/paramedics to serve the BFPD community
- Recruiting and retaining qualified firefighter/paramedics
- Updating aging facilities and equipment
- Training as emergencies become more complex
- Protecting large areas without a water supply
- Stable funding for emergency services now and in the future.

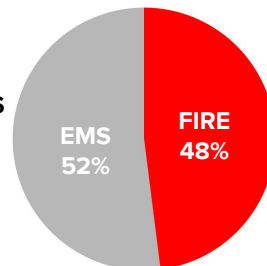


Increasing Demand for Fire/Emergency Services



Increasing Demand for Fire/Emergency Services

2025
TOTAL
INCIDENTS
2,239



Hiring More Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedics



Station #1
275 W. Main St

4

2 Firefighter/Paramedics
2 Firefighter/EMTs

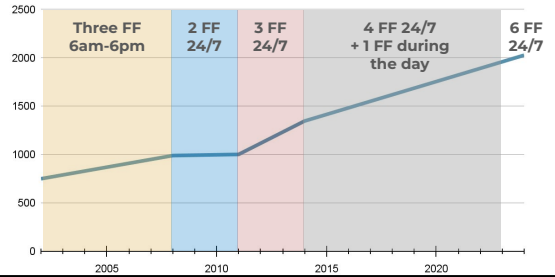


Station #2
7750 IL-113

2

1 Firefighter/Paramedic
1 Firefighter/EMT

Hiring More Full-Time



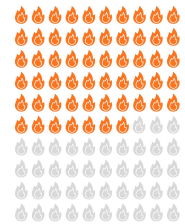
Hiring More Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedics

STAFFING LEVELS		
Fire District	First Responders Per Shift	2025 Emergency Calls
Braidwood	6	2,239
Coal City	8	2,462
Wilmington	9	2,640



Recruiting And Retaining Qualified Firefighter/Paramedics

Since 2020 we have had a total of 57 resignations.



Recruiting And Retaining Qualified Firefighter/Paramedics

Department	Starting Salary	Top Out
Coal City	\$80,868	\$97,942
Channahon	\$71,397	\$95,197
Minooka	\$73,093	\$95,134
Wilmington	\$70,875	\$82,047
East Joliet	\$64,000	\$81,138
Braidwood	\$69,187	\$77,871

Updating Aging Facilities And Equipment

BFPD Frontline Apparatus

- 2412 (Pumper/Tanker) - **23 years old**
- 2413 (Engine) - 7 years old
- 2416 (Squad) - **28 years old**
- 2418 (Brush Truck) - **28 years old**
- 2419 (Ladder Truck) - **21 years old**
- 2491 (Water Rescue) - 14 years old

BFPD ALS Ambulance

- 2414 (Ambulance) - 4 years old
- 2415 (Ambulance) - 7 years old

BFPD Reserve Apparatus

- 2411 (Fire Suppression) - 19 years old
- 2425 (ALS Ambulance) - 14 years old

National Benchmarks

- Frontline fire/rescue: 15 years, shift to reserve
- Frontline ambulance: 8 years
- Reserve apparatus: 20 - 25 years, retire

Updating Aging Facilities And Equipment

Vehicle Description	Year	Unit ID	Primary Function	Purchase Cost	Replacement Cost
Pumper/Tender	2002	2412	Water Shuttle/Fire Suppression	\$350,000	\$1,100,000
Engine	2018	2413	Fire Suppression	\$650,000	\$1,000,000
ALS Ambulance	2019	2415	EMS	\$245,825	\$501,388
Squad	1997	2416	Highway accidents & Specialized emergencies	\$395,572	\$850,000
Ladder Truck	2004	2419	Rescue	\$803,979	\$2,000,000
ALS Ambulance	2020	2424	Remount	\$190,000	\$501,388
Water Rescue Pick-up	2011	2491	Water Rescue Support	\$125,000	\$200,000
Rescue Boat	2020	N/A	Water Rescue	\$40,000	\$75,000

Ensuring Firefighters Have Up-to-Date

Training Specialized Teams

- Technical Rescue team
- Water Rescue team
- Rescue Task Force team
- Drone team
- Fire Investigator team
- Life Safety Inspection Team
- Car Seat Inspection team
- Fire and EMS Instructors

Training Costs for Specialized Teams*

2020	2025
\$90,000	\$187,500

*Does not include overtime.

Equipment Costs for Specialized Teams

2020	2025
\$94,565	\$121,700



Protecting Areas Without a Water Supply



Stabilizing Funding For Emergency Services Now And In The Future - Flat Revenue

	Braidwood Will County	Braidwood Grundy County	Wilmington	Coal City
EAV*	\$739,973,394	\$1,229,650	\$305,218,299	\$988,388,042
Tax Rate**	\$0.36760	\$0.36760	\$1.05450	\$0.55312
Ext/Levy 2023	\$2,402,671	\$3,037	\$3,159,748	\$5,154,882
Ext/Levy 2024	\$2,720,142	\$4,520	\$3,218,526	\$5,466,971

*The power plant accounts for 64% or \$1.73M of Braidwood's tax revenue.

** Tax rate is per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Stabilizing Funding For Emergency Services Now And In The Future

- We are currently handcuffed in a **PTELL** county.
- What is PTELL?
 - Commonly referred to as the "Tax Cap Law" because it limits property tax revenue collected by the district to 5% or Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is less.
 - Districts face budget constraints during high inflation periods, impacting their ability to meet operational costs without additional revenue sources;
 - Intended to have districts seek voter approval for additional revenues in excess of the tax cap.



Stabilizing Funding For Emergency Services Now And In The Future

- Around 80% of our area that can be developed is **TIF'd** with taxes frozen for another 9 years. The city is looking to TIF more properties that will freeze those taxes for up to 20-25 years.
- What is TIF?
 - Uses the increase in tax revenue (the increment) from improved property values to fund infrastructure improvements, site preparation, and developer incentives.

Both PTELL and TIF contribute to revenues not being about to keep pace with the costs of operating the fire district



Stabilizing Funding For Emergency Services Now And In The Future - Rising Costs

Category	2002	2018	2025
Insurance Costs	TBD	\$34,382	\$72,000
Engine Cost	\$350,000	\$650,000	\$1,100,000
Ambulance Cost	\$90,000	\$245,000	\$450,000



Now we're turning things over to you!



Small Group Work



Select Recorder & Facilitator

Recorder Responsibilities

- Complete the information on the **COLOR** Activity Sheet your table.

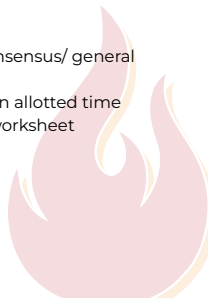
Facilitator Responsibilities

- Facilitate the discussion.
- Keep group focused and on task.
- Report group's information.



Small Group Worksheet

- Information recorded should reflect consensus/ general agreement of group members
- Monitor progress to complete all tasks in allotted time
- Group recorder will document on the worksheet



Small Group Work Activities

Task #1:

Based on your knowledge of our fire district and the information you learned tonight, what four words would you use to describe the Braidwood Fire Protection District today? Then, what four words would you like used to describe them in the future?

Task #2:

Based on the information you learned tonight, what are your group's biggest surprise and concern about our fire district?



Small Group Work Activities

Task #3:

Come to consensus on the top three to five questions or topic areas your group needs more information about before fulfilling the charge from the Board.



Small Group Work Activity Reporting



Workshop #3
March 26,
2026
6-8 p.m.

*A Deep Dive into Fire, Rescue
and Other Services*

April 29
Workshop #3
Staffing and Finances

May 20
Workshop #4
**Options/Recommendations
for a Long-Term Plan**



**TAKE OUR
SURVEY**