

Small Group Work Activity

Verbatim Responses

CEW #1 • February 19, 2026



ACTIVITIES

Task #1: Four Words

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?

Table	Today	Future
1	1) Stretched thin 2) Finances - lose fire department? 3) Resources 4) Recruitment	1) Better resources 2) Better finances 3) Better recruitment 4) 1 more station
2	1) Helpful 2) Underfunded 3) Retention 4) Cost	5) Well funded 6) Better response times 7) Updated equipment 8) Better staff
3	1) Under staffed 2) Under funded 3) Efficient 4) Forward Thinking	1) Fully staffed 2) Financially sound 3) Competitive wages / COLA raises 4) Sustainable
4	1) Growth / growing 2) Short staffed 3) Amazing	1) Competitive 2) Retention 3) Work with the TIF district
5	1) Under funded 2) Retention 3) Dedicated	1) Growth 2) Well-equipped 3) Well-staffed 4) Adequate funding
10	1) Salary / manpower 2) Training cost 3) Aging equipment 4) Building maintenance	1) Full staffing 2) Increased training 3) Modern equipment 4) Updated building maintenance

Task #2: Surprises and Concerns

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

Table	Biggest Surprises
1	1) No HMAT plant & RR 2) 2 Stations covering 38 square miles
2	1) Size of our district 2) Lack of fire hydrants 3) Cost
3	1) Age of equipment 2) Lowest funded department in the area 3) Low TIF works 4) Lack of water supply
4	1) Age and price increase of equipment 2) Training expenses 3) Salary compared to other local communities 4) Growth - last few years' increase in calls and staffing
5	1) Cost of equipment 2) Tax rate 3) Retention of personnel
10	1) TIF 2) PTELL 3) Not being at the table when negotiations are taking place 4) Outdated equipment 5) Rising costs of equipment replacement

Table	Biggest Concerns
1	1) No finances for equipment 2) No manpower 3) Upgrade of equipment
2	1) Funding 2) Turnover Recruitment 3) Trains
3	1) Lack of water 2) How to get money without raising taxes 3) Aging equipment 4) Employee retention
4	1) Staff retention, competitive salary, benefits for part time staff 2) Tax income - increase 3) Equipment replacement - cost and age to reserve
5	1) Staffing 2) Availability 3) Replacement of aging equipment 4) Railroad blocking firefighters
10	1) Manpower 2) Retention of staffing 3) Not having enough money 4) Rising costs

Task #3: More Information

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.

Table	Questions/Topic Areas
1	1) Finances - how important? 2) Citizen education - CFA 3) Political awareness 4) Continue to buy PPE / Recycle 5) New Technology
2	1) TIFF / PTOLL 2) Ideas on how to raise funds 3) How would a data center affect the BFD? 4) Is Jewel in our district and is it TIFF? 5) Working together for healthier and safer community
3	1) TIF and Ptell information 2) What happens if Braidwood station shuts down and the fire district loses that funding? 3) Does the city have a way of working with the fire district to negotiate more funding when TIF is in place? 4) How can the community help?
4	1) Any other resources for water?
5	1) How can funding be increased? 2) How can townspeople be more supportive? 3) How can facilities be updated for an increase in personnel?
10	1) Tax levy 2) How much money is coming in from business both in and out of the TFI 3) More info on the PTELL 4) Plan for better retention of staff