

Community Workshop #3

April 29, 2026 • 6 - 8 p.m.



Welcome to Community Workshop #3! April 29, 2026

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

A large, stylized flame graphic in shades of orange and yellow, positioned on the right side of the slide. It has a soft, glowing appearance with multiple tongues of fire.

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.



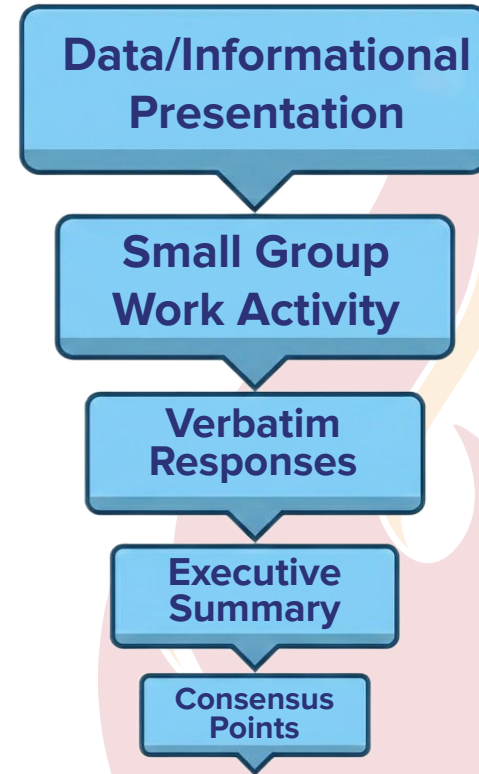
Planning for a Safer Future Calendar

DATE	TIME	WORKSHOP TOPIC	WHERE
February 19	6 - 8 PM	<i>Workshop #1</i> BFPD Today	Reed-Custer Elementary School
March 26	6 - 8 PM	<i>Workshop #2</i> A DeepDive Fire, Rescue and Other Services	Reed-Custer Elementary School
April 29	6 - 8 PM	<i>Workshop #3</i> Staffing and Finances	Reed-Custer Elementary School
May 20	6 - 8 PM	<i>Workshop #4</i> 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.

**Review the
documentation
from previous
workshops at
braidwoodfire.org/pfs**



**Collective Decisions Used In
Formation Of Final Report**

I Have A Question/Comment!

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

Planning
for a**Safer
Future**
Braidwood Fire Protection District

I HAVE A QUESTION!

I would like to be contacted by a BFPD
representative who can respond to this question/comment:

Your question or comment may be directly related to the
community engagement project or any other matter regarding
the fire district.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____



Please Sign In



Community Engagement Workshop
April 29, 2026

Sign in Sheet

Table # ____

Please sign in as a record of your participation in this session.

Name	Mailing Address	Phone	Email	Check All That Apply
1.				☐ Resident ☐ BFPD Staff Member ☐ Former BFPD Staff Member ☐ Other
2.				☐ Resident ☐ BFPD Staff Member ☐ Former BFPD Staff Member ☐ Other
3.				☐ Resident ☐ BFPD Staff Member ☐ Former BFPD Staff Member ☐ Other
4.				☐ Resident ☐ BFPD Staff Member ☐ Former BFPD Staff Member ☐ Other
5.				☐ Resident ☐ BFPD Staff Member ☐ Former BFPD Staff Member ☐ Other
6.				☐ Resident ☐ BFPD Staff Member ☐ Former BFPD Staff Member ☐ Other
7.				☐ Resident ☐ BFPD Staff Member ☐ Former BFPD Staff Member ☐ Other
8.				☐ Resident ☐ BFPD Staff Member ☐ Former BFPD Staff Member ☐ Other



Recap of Workshop #1

BFPD 101

- Overview of the Braidwood Fire Protection District
- Challenges facing the district



What We Heard at Workshop #1

Points of general agreement across the work activities include:

- BFPD is dedicated, professional, and committed to serving the community.
- How fire district funding works & how resources support emergency services.
- Clear understanding of staffing, training, and the growing role of emergency medical response.
- How the district plans for long-term sustainability and future service needs.
- Desire for clear information to thoughtfully consider the district's future.



Tonight's Presentation

- Setting the stage for tonight's small group work activity.
- You'll use the information learned to complete activities together.
- It will answer questions and generate new ones.
- Future workshops will continue to be shaped by what we hear tonight.



Tonight's Presentation



***A Deep Dive into
Fire/Rescue, Staffing
and Finances***



- **Equipment**
- **Facilities**
- **Coverage Area**
- **Response Times**
- **Staffing**
- **Finance**



What we will cover tonight.

Equipment

*A Deep Dive into Fire/Rescue,
Staffing and Finances*



Equipment Basics

Frontline Apparatus

A vehicle that is in full-service and used on a regular basis

Reserve Apparatus

A vehicle that is used when a frontline apparatus is unavailable because of maintenance or other reasons

Active 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	2022	2414	Remount	\$197,000	\$501,388
ALS Ambulance	2019	2415	EMS	\$245,825	\$501,388
Squad	1997	2416	Highway accidents & Specialized emergencies	\$395,572	\$850,000
Brush truck	1997	2418	Brush Fires	\$36,871	\$50,000

Active Equipment

Vehicle Description	Year	Unit ID	Primary Function	Purchase Cost	Replacement Cost
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
Brush/Rescue ATV	2023	N/A	Brush Fires/Rescue	N/A	\$75,000
Chiefs Pick-up truck	2024	N/A	Command	N/A	\$90,000
Deputy Chiefs Vehicle	2018	N/A	Command/Support	\$60,000	\$90,000



Reserve Equipment

Reserve Vehicles	Year	Unit ID	Primary Function	Purchase Cost	Replacement Cost
Engine*	2007	2411	Fire Suppression	N/A	\$1,000,000
ALS Ambulance*	2012	2425	EMS	N/A	\$459,385
Utility Vehicle	2003	2490	Utility	??	\$75,000

*Acquired from Custer



Equipment Standards

National Apparatus Standards

NFPA 1900 (Fire Apparatus)

- *Benchmark:* Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Refurbishment, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles and Marine Fire Fighting Vessels
- Covers critical systems: braking, stability, lighting, warning devices, pump performance, aerial device safety, occupant protection, and equipment mounting.
- Departments adapt specifications based on local hazards, terrain, staffing levels, and operational needs.

National Benchmarks

Frontline fire/rescue: 15 years, shift to reserve

Frontline ambulance: 8 years

Reserve apparatus: 20 - 25 years, retire

Equipment Status

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

Equipment Maintenance

Apparatus is maintained both in house as well as by outside certified mechanic.

Apparatus Maintenance Cost	
2020	2024
\$62,277	\$126,000



Firefighter Equipment

*A Deep Dive into Fire/Rescue,
Staffing and Finances*



Firefighter Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment

- Turnout gear 10 years
 - Bunker coat and pants
 - 2 sets per firefighter
 - End of life span
 - Needs regular replacement
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) 15 Years
 - Mask and air tank
 - End of life span
 - Needs regular replacement



Firefighter Equipment

Average cost: \$4,500 - \$5,000

Average age: Four Years

Replacement cycle: Mandated every 10 years; BFPD begins at year 7 cycling gear to academy students/cadets or use as replacements

Uniform cost per FF/Medic: \$300 - \$500/year



Facilities

*A Deep Dive into Fire/Rescue,
Staffing and Finances*



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



Coverage Area

*A Deep Dive into Fire/Rescue,
Staffing and Finances*



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

Response Times

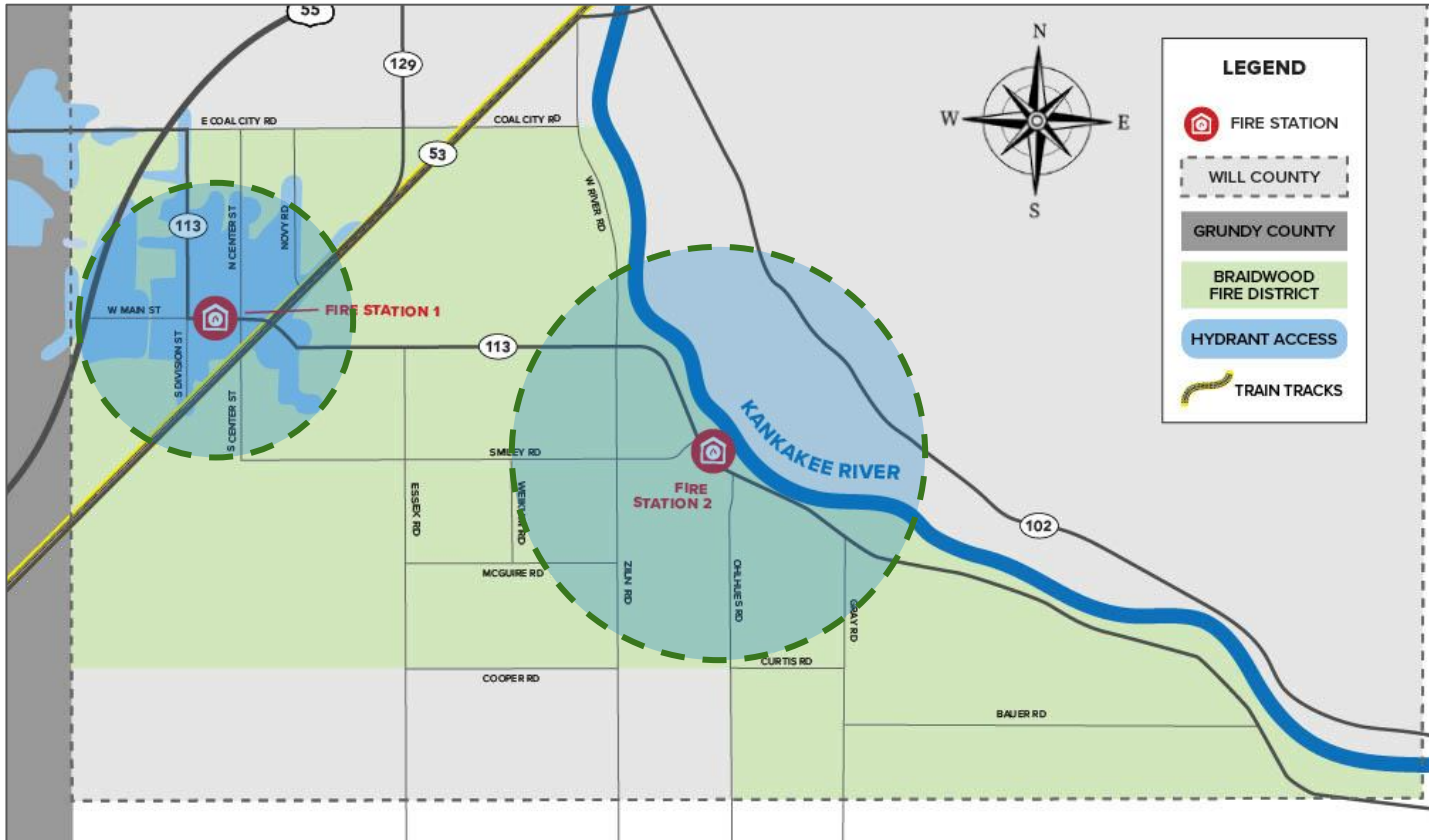
*A Deep Dive into Fire/Rescue,
Staffing and Finances*



Response Times



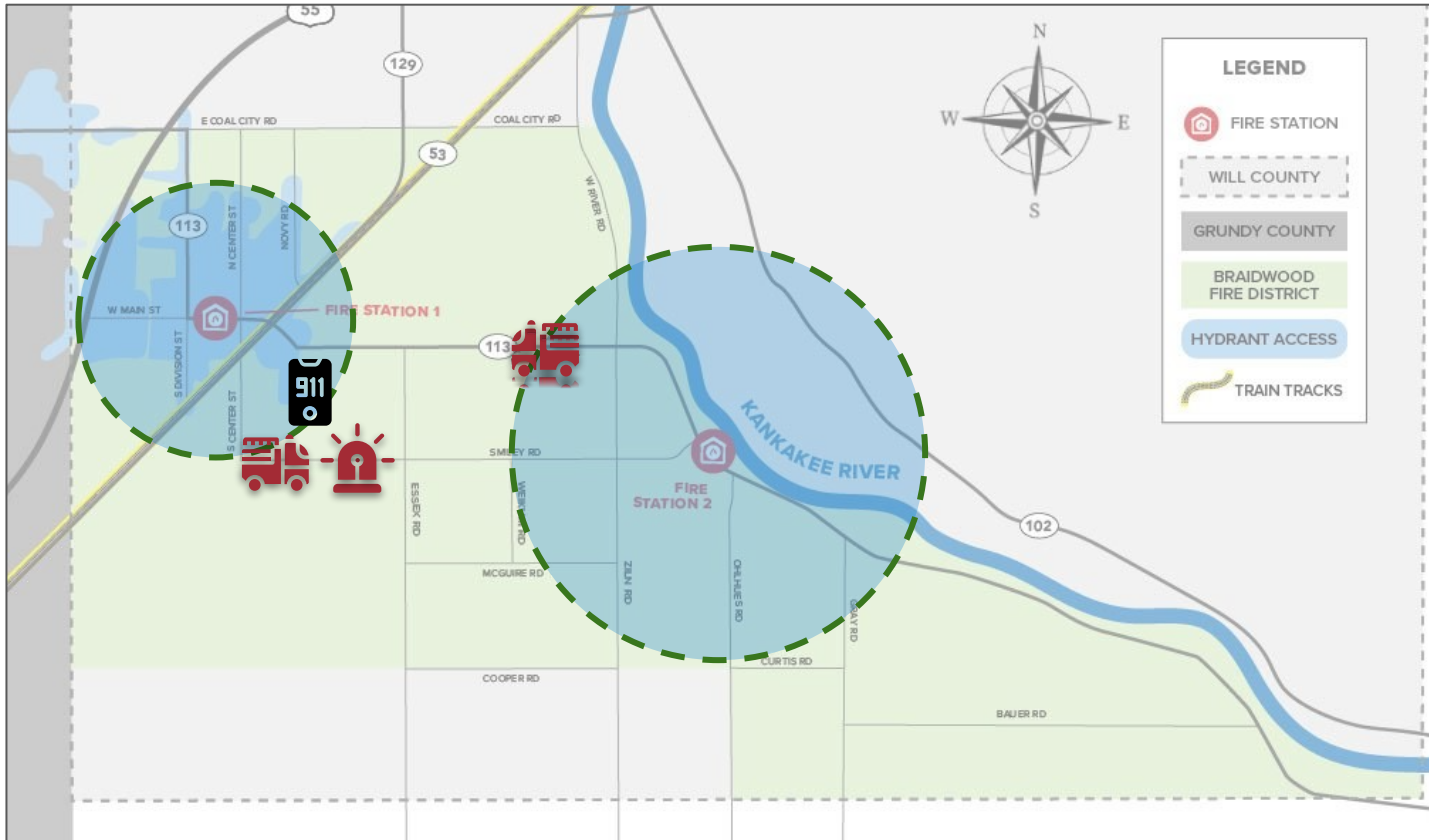
Response Times



Response Challenges - Scenario 1



Response Challenges - Scenario 2



Response Challenges - Scenario 3



Staffing

*A Deep Dive into Fire/Rescue,
Staffing and Finances*



Three 24 Hour Shifts



GOLD

*1 Captain
3 Firefighter/Paramedics
3 Firefighter/EMTs*



RED

*3 Firefighter/Paramedics
3 Firefighter/EMTs*



BLACK

*3 Firefighter/Paramedics
3 Firefighter/EMTs*

Staffing A Shift



Station #1
275 W. Main St

4

2 Firefighter/Paramedics
2 Firefighter/EMTs



Station #2
1750 IL-113

2

1 Firefighter/Paramedic
1 Firefighter/EMT

Staffing

National Staffing Standards

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 (Career Depts.)

- **Benchmark: Minimum 4 firefighters on the first-arriving engine company.**
- **Full residential structure-fire assignment typically 15-17 personnel.**
- **Focus on safe, timely deployment and task completion.**

Bottom Line

- **Local adaptation based on risk, resources & Local policies.**





Incident Commander



Safety Officer



Engineer / Pump Operator



Ventilation Team



Search & Rescue Team



Rapid Intervention Team



Backup Line Crew



Attack Line Crew



Fighting a House Fire = 17+ Firefighters

Responding to Cardiac Arrest

Compressor #1 & 2

At the patient's chest performing compressions.

Airway Manager

Handles bag-valve-mask ventilation or advanced airway.

Defibrillator/Monitor Operator

Performs rhythm checks and delivers shocks.

Medication/IV/IO Provider

Positioned near the patient's arm or leg for vascular access.

Paramedic In Charge

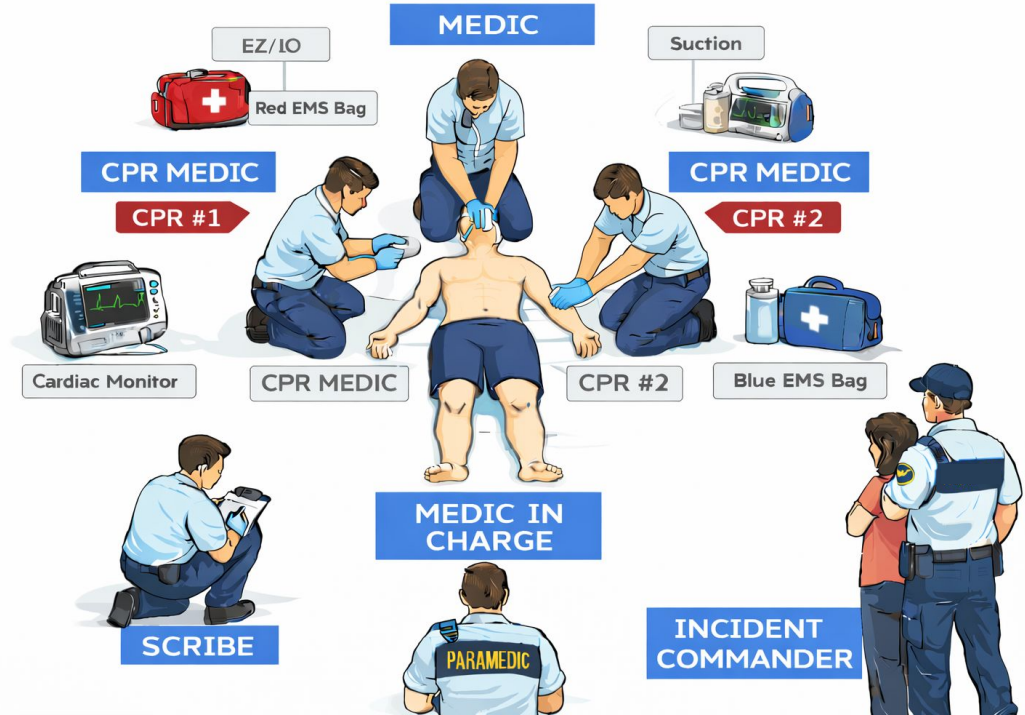
Coordinates actions, gives clear commands.

Scribe

Tracks times, interventions, and medications.

Incident Command

Monitors the entire scene for safety and ensures that all actions are coordinated.



Requires 2 ambulances, 1 ALS Fire Vehicle and Incident Commander

How This Impacts You

6

**Total
Firefighter/
Paramedics**

Or

**Firefighter/
EMTs**

5

Car Accident

4

**Ambulance
Call**

??

**Who's Left
To Respond**

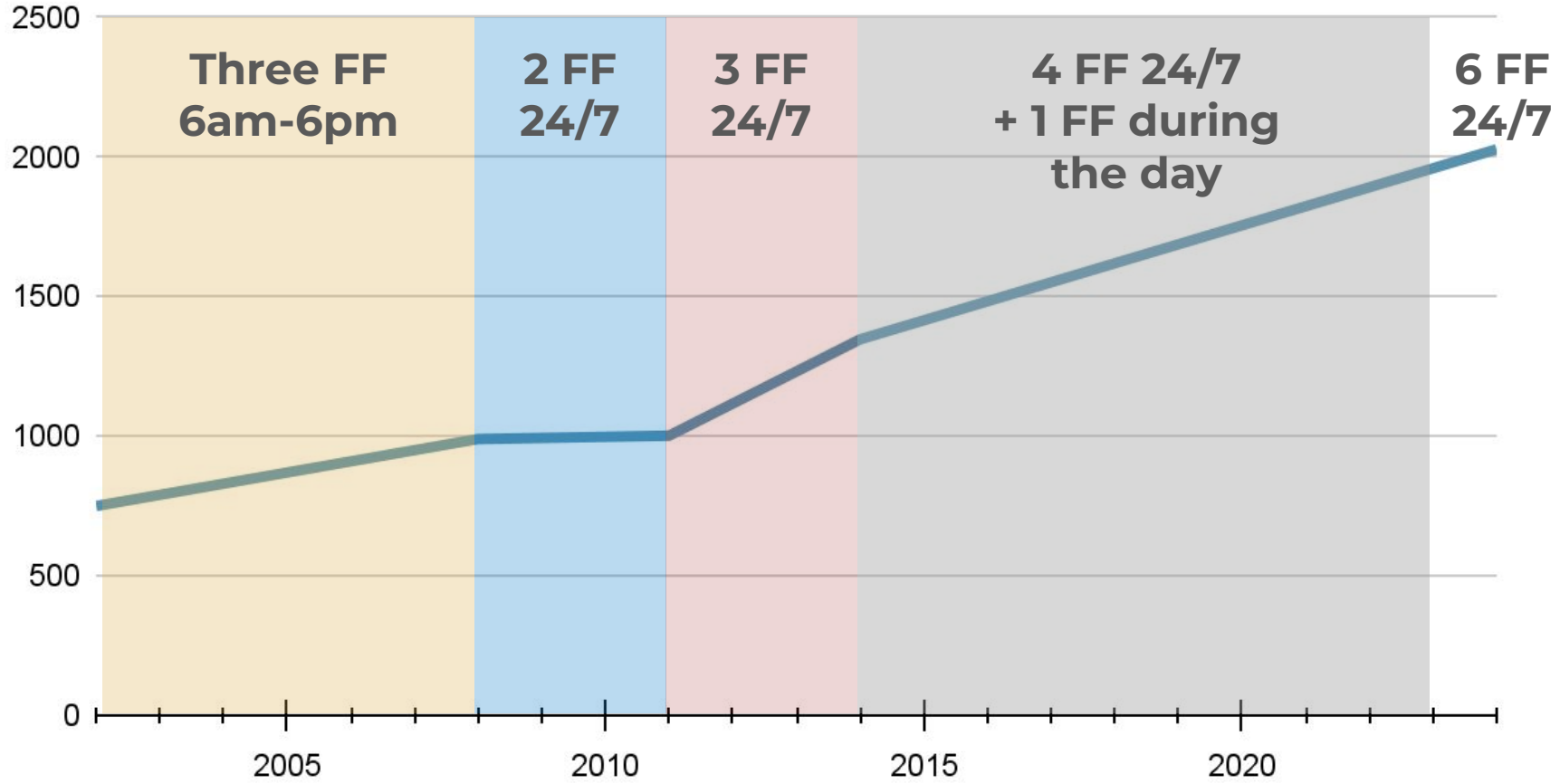
We do not have enough fire personnel on shift to safely fight a house fire.

Staffing Levels

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



Call Volume



House Fire Staffing - Today

⊕ Can Do ⊖ Can Somewhat Do ⊗ Can't Do

TASK ON ARRIVAL	CREW SIZE	
	4 Station #1	2 Station #2
Establish Command	⊕	⊕
Secure Water Supply	⊖	⊗
Advance Hose Line	⊕	⊖
Begin Interior Fire Attack	⊕	⊗
Search for Victims at the Same Time as Fire Attack	⊖	⊗
Ventilate (open roof or windows to release heat and smoke)	⊗	⊗
Have a Dedicated Firefighter Rescue Team Ready	⊗	⊗
Perform Multiple Critical Tasks at Once	⊖	⊗

Cardiac Arrest Staffing - Today

⊕ Can Do ⊖ Can Somewhat Do ⊗ Can't Do

TASK ON ARRIVAL	CREW SIZE	
	4 Station #1	2 Station #2
Start Chest Compressions Immediately	⊕	⊕
Provide Breathing with Bag-Valve Mask at the Same Time	⊕	⊕
Apply Monitor / Defibrillator Pads & Check Rhythm	⊕	⊖
Deliver Shock Quickly When Needed	⊕	⊖
Rotate Compressors Every 2 Minutes (to keep CPR high-quality)	⊖	⊖
Start IV/IO Access & Give Medications	⊖	⊗
Manage Advanced Airway (if needed)	⊖	⊗
Track Time, Meds, and Key Events (CPR cycles, shocks)	⊖	⊗
Coordinate Scene (family/bystanders, moving patient, radio report)	⊖	⊗

Multi-Car Accident Staffing - Today

⊕ Can Do ⊖ Can Somewhat Do ⊗ Can't Do

TASK ON ARRIVAL	CREW SIZE	
	4 Station #1	2 Station #2
Establish Command & Scene Size-Up	⊕	⊕
Protect the Scene from Traffic	⊖	⊖
Assess Multiple Patients Quickly	⊖	⊗
Provide Care to More Than One Patient at the Same Time	⊖	⊗
Stabilize Multiple Vehicles	⊗	⊗
Begin Extrication While Treating Another Patient	⊗	⊗
Manage Fire Hazards (fuel leaks, sparks, batteries)	⊖	⊖
Coordinate Incoming Units & Ambulances	⊕	⊕
Keep Scene Safe for Responders & Victims	⊖	⊖
Perform Multiple Critical Tasks Simultaneously	⊖	⊗

House Fire with Additional Staff

⊕ Can Do ⊖ Can Somewhat Do ⊗ Can't Do

TASK ON ARRIVAL	CREW SIZE	
	5 Station #1	4 Station #2
Establish Command	⊕	⊕
Secure Water Supply	⊕	⊕
Advance Hose Line	⊕	⊕
Begin Interior Fire Attack	⊕	⊕
Search for Victims at the Same Time as Fire Attack	⊕	⊕
Ventilate (open roof or windows to release heat and smoke)	⊕	⊖
Have a Dedicated Firefighter Rescue Team Ready	⊖	⊗
Perform Multiple Critical Tasks at Once	⊗	⊗

Cardiac Arrest with Additional Staff

⊕ Can Do ⊖ Can Somewhat Do ⊗ Can't Do

TASK ON ARRIVAL	CREW SIZE	
	5 Station #1	4 Station #2
Start Chest Compressions Immediately	⊕	⊕
Provide Breathing with Bag-Valve Mask at the Same Time	⊕	⊕
Apply Monitor / Defibrillator Pads & Check Rhythm	⊕	⊕
Deliver Shock Quickly When Needed	⊕	⊕
Rotate Compressors Every 2 Minutes (to keep CPR high-quality)	⊕	⊖
Start IV/IO Access & Give Medications	⊕	⊕
Manage Advanced Airway (if needed)	⊕	⊕
Track Time, Meds, and Key Events (CPR cycles, shocks)	⊕	⊕
Coordinate Scene (family/bystanders, moving patient, radio report)	⊕	⊖

Multi-Car Accident with Additional Staff

⊕ Can Do ⊖ Can Somewhat Do ⊗ Can't Do

TASK ON ARRIVAL	CREW SIZE	
	5 Station #1	4 Station #2
Establish Command & Scene Size-Up	⊕	⊕
Protect the Scene from Traffic	⊖	⊖
Assess Multiple Patients Quickly	⊕	⊕
Provide Care to More Than One Patient at the Same Time	⊕	⊕
Stabilize Multiple Vehicles	⊕	⊖
Begin Extrication While Treating Another Patient	⊕	⊖
Manage Fire Hazards (fuel leaks, sparks, batteries)	⊕	⊖
Coordinate Incoming Units & Ambulances	⊕	⊕
Keep Scene Safe for Responders & Victims	⊕	⊖
Perform Multiple Critical Tasks Simultaneously	⊕	⊖

Recruiting And Retaining Qualified Firefighter/Paramedics

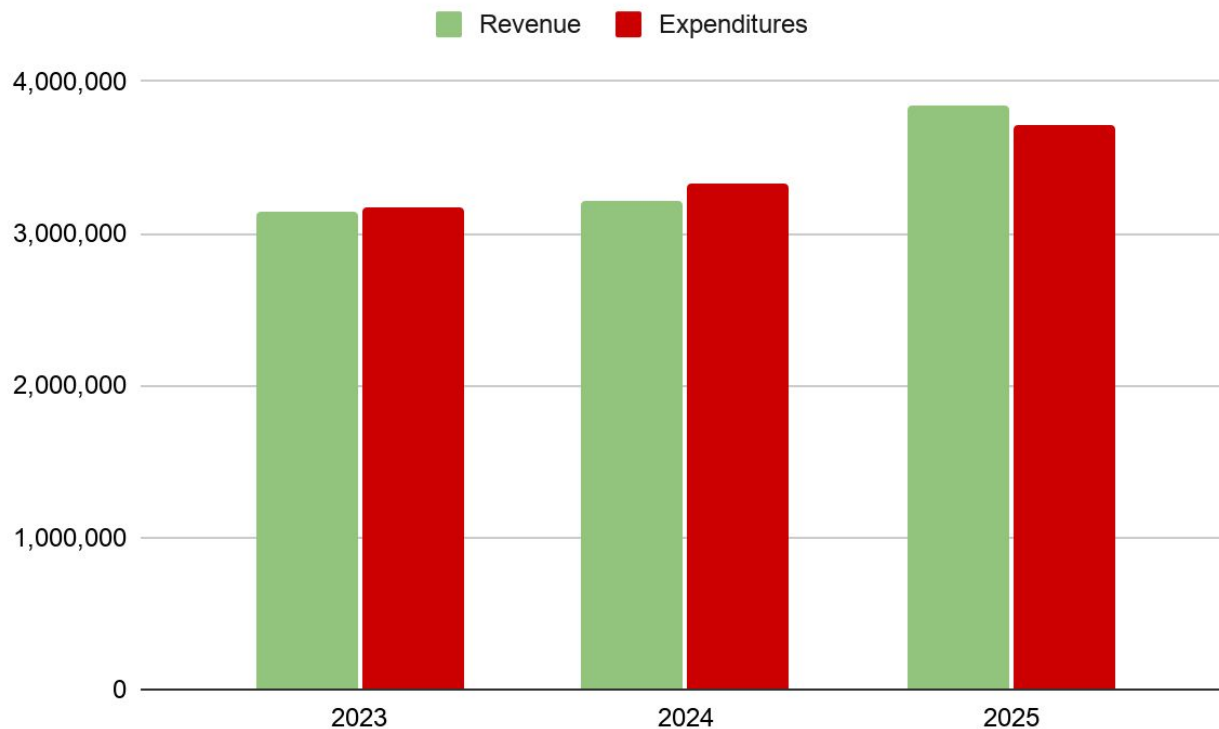
Department	Starting Salary	Top Out
Coal City	\$80,868	\$97,942
Channahon	\$71,397	\$95,197
Minooka	\$73,093	\$95,134
Wilmington	\$70,875	\$82,047
East Joliet	\$64,000	\$81,138
Braidwood	\$69,187	\$77,871

Finances

*A Deep Dive into Fire/Rescue,
Staffing and Finances*



Revenues and Expenditures



Finances - Reserves

- Recommended reserves - six months or 50%
- FY25 reserves - 54%
- Biggest potential impact to reserves: Nuclear Power Plant
 - The power plant accounts for 64% or \$1.73M of Braidwood's tax revenue.



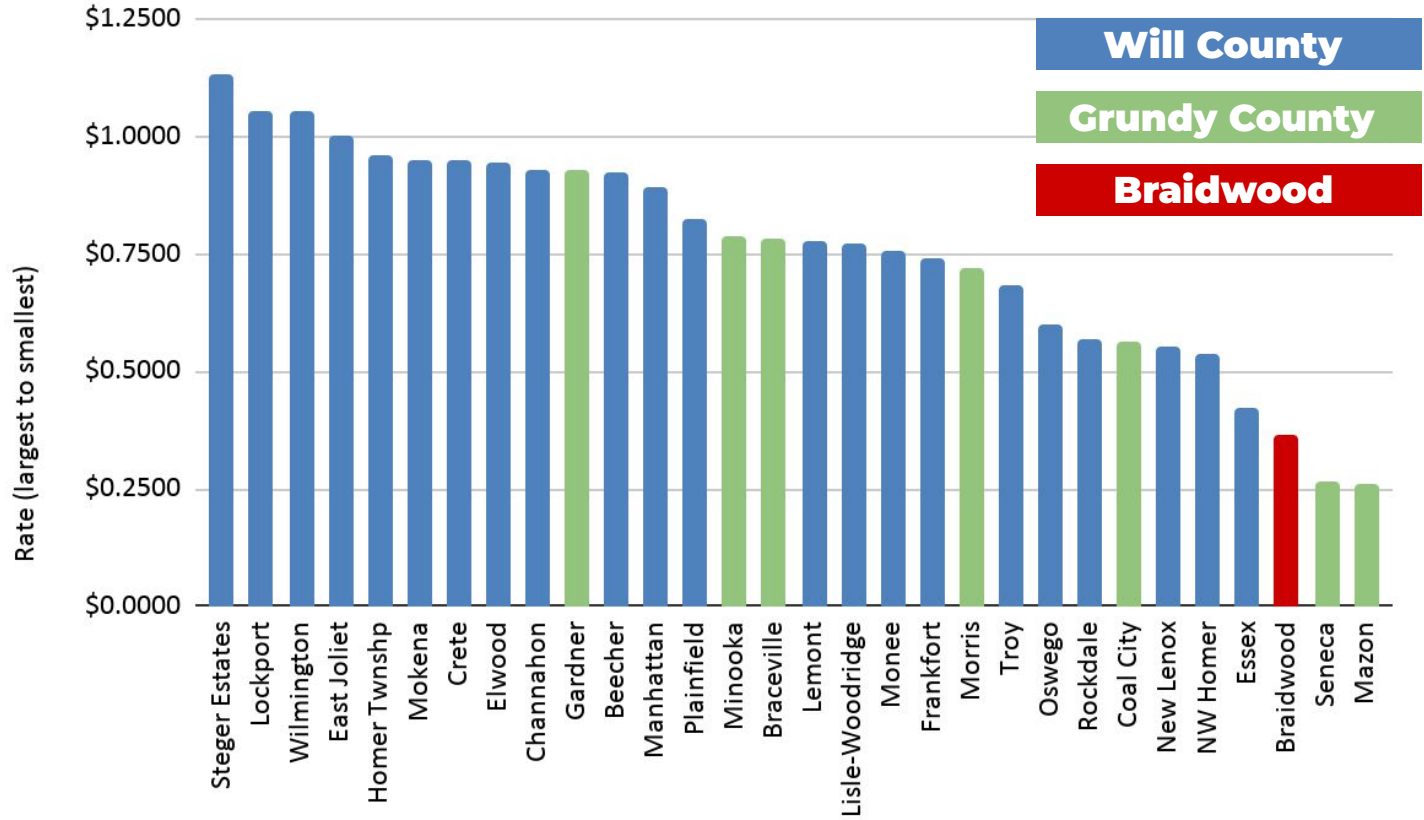
Finances - Comparable Districts

	Braidwood <i>Nuclear Plant</i>	Coal City <i>Nuclear Plant</i>	Byron <i>Nuclear Plant</i>	Wilmington
EAV*	\$741,203,044	\$ 988,388,041	\$712,904,667	\$305,218,299
Tax Rate**	\$0.36760	\$0.56312	\$0.58641	\$1.05450
Ext/Levy 2023	\$2,405,708	\$ 5,153,125	\$4,141,988	\$3,159,748
Ext/Levy 2024	\$2,724,662	\$5,466,971	\$4,348,046	\$3,218,526

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

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

Fire District Tax Rates



Finances - PTELL

- We are currently handcuffed in a **PTCELL** 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.



Finances - TIF

- 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 able to keep pace with the costs of operating the fire district.



Finances - Rising Costs

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



Benefits of Addressing Challenges Over the Next Five Years

- Equipment Meets Recommended Replacement Cycles
- Staffing Meets NFPA Standards
- Ability to Respond in Areas without Hydrant Access Improves
- Recruitment/Retention Improves with Competitive Salaries
- Ensuring Financial Stability
- ISO Rating (Homeowners Insurance) Improves

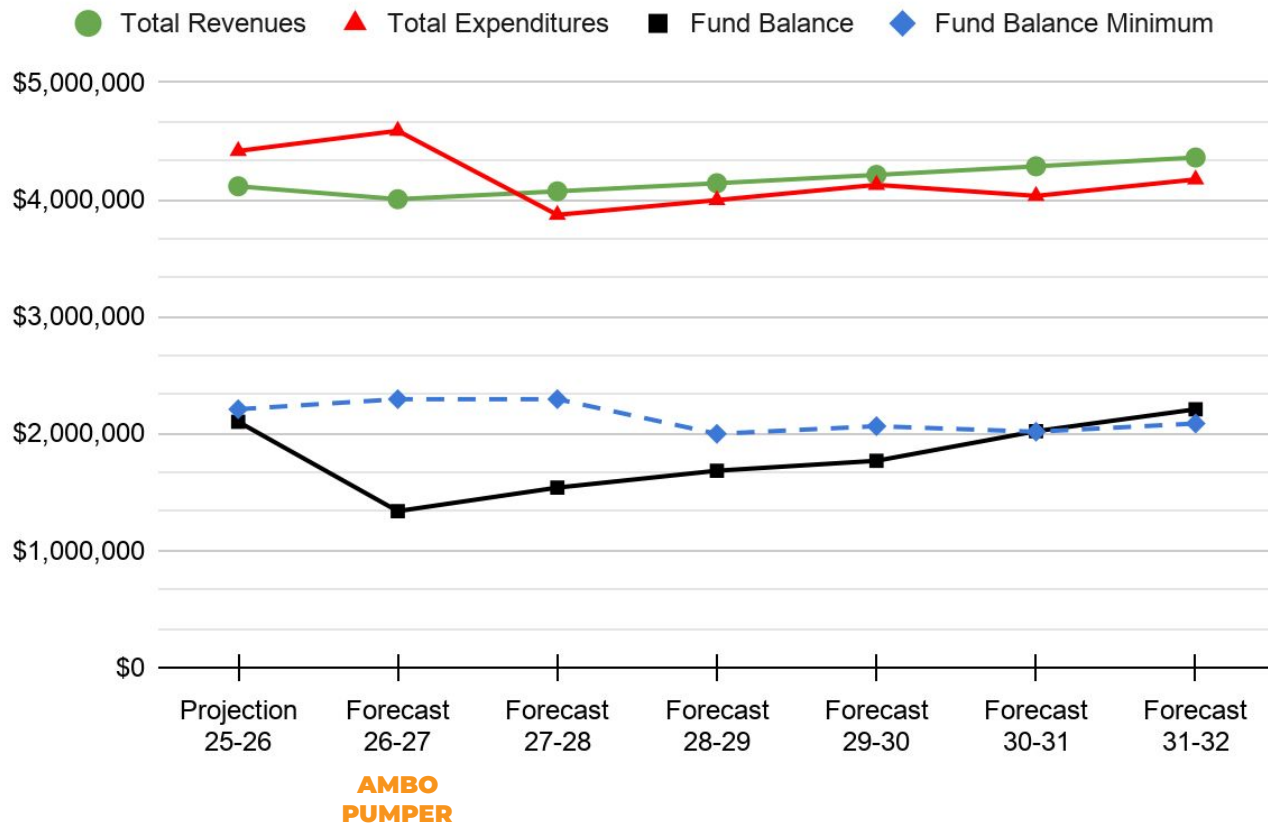


Cost of Addressing Challenges Over the Next Five Years

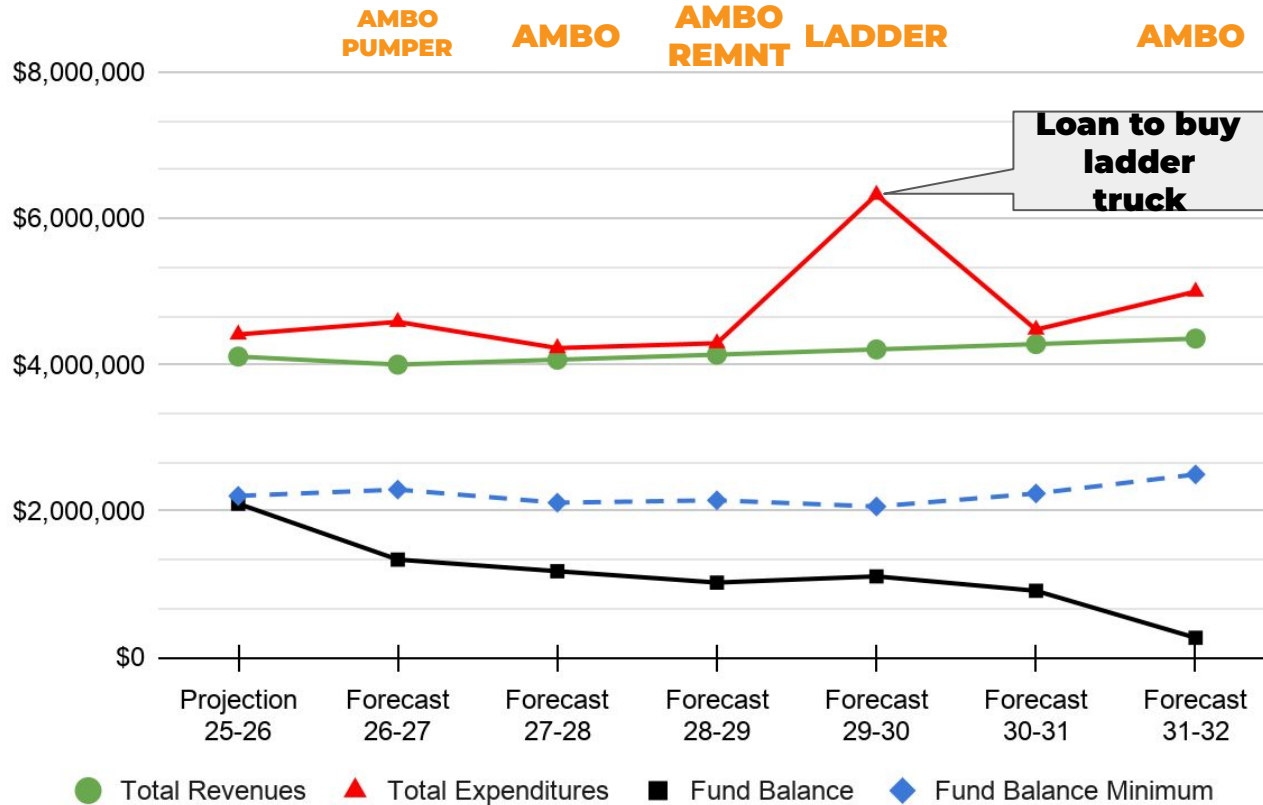
- Equipment Replacement - **\$3,700,000**
 - Ambulance (2027) - \$460,000
 - Ambulance Remount (2028) - \$360,000
 - Brush Truck (2029) - \$300,000
 - Ladder Truck (2030) - \$2,200,000
 - Ambulance Remount (2031) - \$380,000
- Additional Firefighters - **\$250,000/year**
- Additional Lieutenants - **\$100,000/year**
- Station Two Remodel - **\$800,000** (projected, one-time cost)
- Competitive Wages and Benefits for Our Area



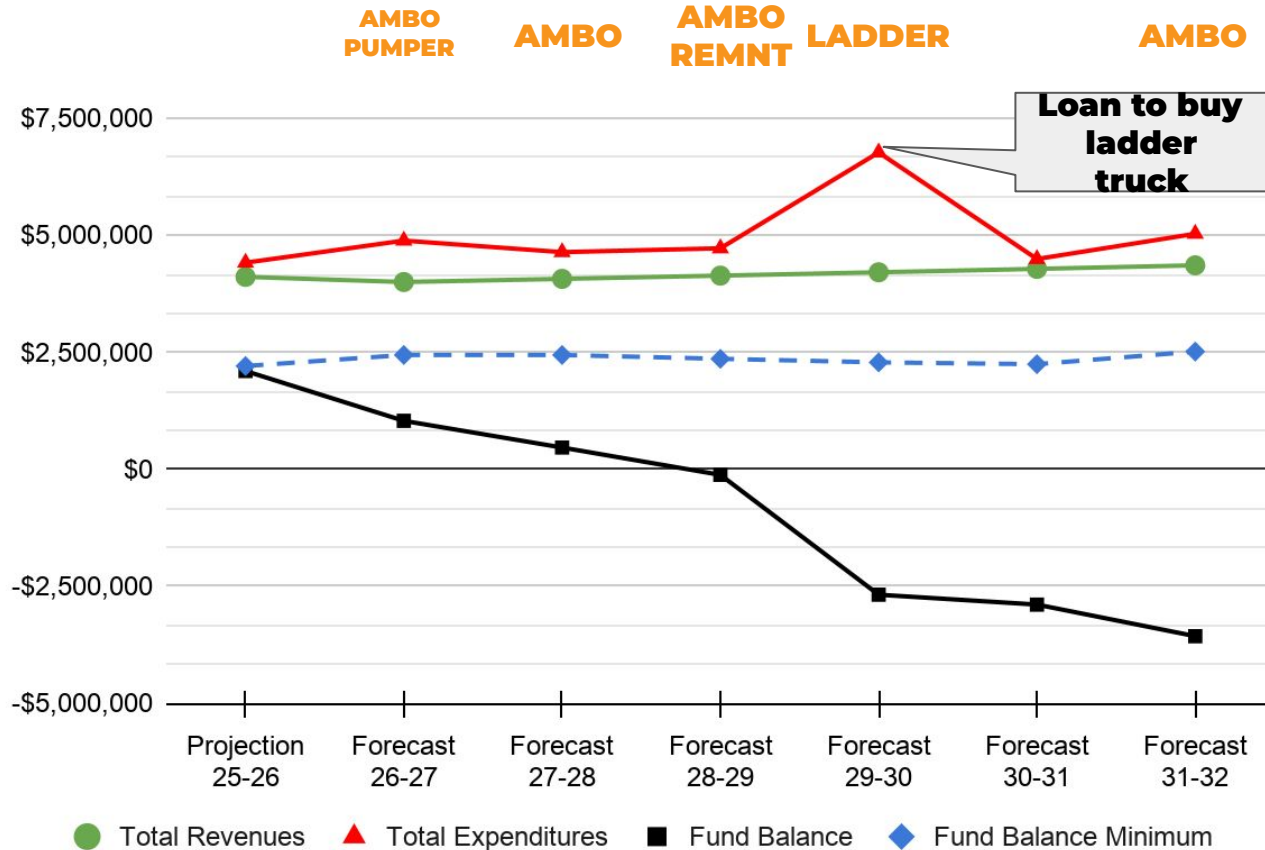
Projections - Status Quo



Projections - Equipment



Projections - Equipment and Staff





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 Work Activities

Task #1

Now that your group has an understanding of BFPD finances and priorities, decide how you will fund them. Your group has \$100 to spend across all the items listed below. Your group may spend your \$100 in any combination you like, but you may not spend more than \$100.

- ___ Address increasing demand for fire and emergency medical services.
- ___ Hire more full-time firefighter/paramedics.
- ___ Improve BFPD salaries to be on par with competing districts.
- ___ Replace old apparatus and equipment.
- ___ Update aging facilities.
- ___ Add apparatus to better protect large areas without a water supply.
- ___ Secure stable funding for emergency services now and in the future.



Small Group Work Activities

Task #2: The Why Behind Your Decisions

- What did you prioritize first, and why?
- Was there anything you choose not to invest in, and why?
- What was the hardest decision your group had to make?



Small Group Work Activities

Task #3: Other Questions

Finally, after reviewing the financial projections related to replacing aging equipment and adding staff to meet NFPA standards, what questions does you have about exploring options to fund each of those scenarios with a tax increase?





Small Group Work Activity Reporting



Workshop #4
May 20, 2026
6-8 p.m.

Options and Recommendations

