Small Group Work Activity
Verbatim Responses
CEW #3 • April 29, 2026

Planning for a Safer Future
Braidwood Fire Protection District

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.

	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
Address increasing demand for fire and emergency medical services.	**$20**	**$0**	**$5**
Hire more full-time firefighter/paramedics	**$30**	**$25**	**$20**
Improve BFPD salaries to be on par with competing districts.	**$10**	**$5**	**$20**
Replace old apparatus and equipment.	**$20**	**$15**	**$20**
Update aging facilities.	**$0**	**$5**	**$10**
Add apparatus to better protect large areas without a water supply.	**$10**	**$0**	**$15**
Secure stable funding for emergency services now and in the future.	**$10**	**$50**	**$10**

Task #2

Now that you have spent your $100, tell us about the decisions you made.

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

Table	What did you prioritize first, and why?
1	Hiring full time personnel is the top investment. That would include addressing the increased EMS demand. It doesn't matter if you ave updated equipment if you don't have staffing to run the calls, there's no point. We did not give any money to the updating of facilities because the stations are still in great shape and the updates would be more cosmetic than necessary.
2	If we secure funds the rest can be addressed / grants /taxes - everyone feels each item deserves a share
3	• Improve salaries • Hire more firefighters • Replace old apparatus and equipment

Table	Was there anything you chose not to invest in, and why?
1	We did not give any money to the updating of facilities because the stations are still in great shape and the updates would be more cosmetic than necessary.
2	We chose what was absolutely most important
3	• Gave all something

Table	What was the hardest decision your group had to make?
1	The toughest part was just trying to spread out the spending and determine what deserves more money than others.
2	We all felt each item needed some funding but we allocated $ to things most imporant
3	Tried to distribute monies to all making 3 most important

Task #3
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?

Table	Questions/Topic Areas
1	N/A
2	Secure funds w/o none of the other things get addresses. • grants/referendum • Hiring needed manpower • Equipment needs to be maintained to respond and keep ISO down • Salaries = retention of best people and trained people • Buildings need to be sound and maintained
3	N/A