

Community Workshop #4



May 20, 2026 • 6 - 8 p.m.

Welcome to Community Workshop #4! May 20, 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. The flame has a soft, glowing appearance with a darker orange outline and a lighter yellow-orange fill.

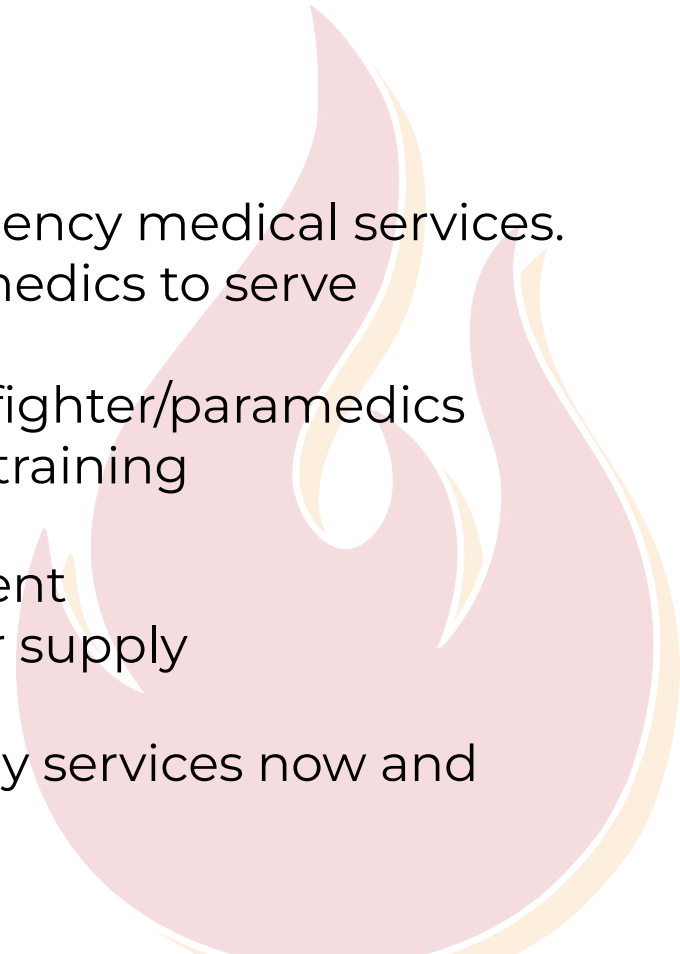
Why We're Here: Our Work

- 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.



Challenges

- **Staffing**
 - 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
 - Ensuring firefighters have up-to-date training
- **Equipment**
 - Updating aging facilities and equipment
 - Protecting large areas without a water supply
- **Financial Stability**
 - Securing stable funding for emergency services now and in the future



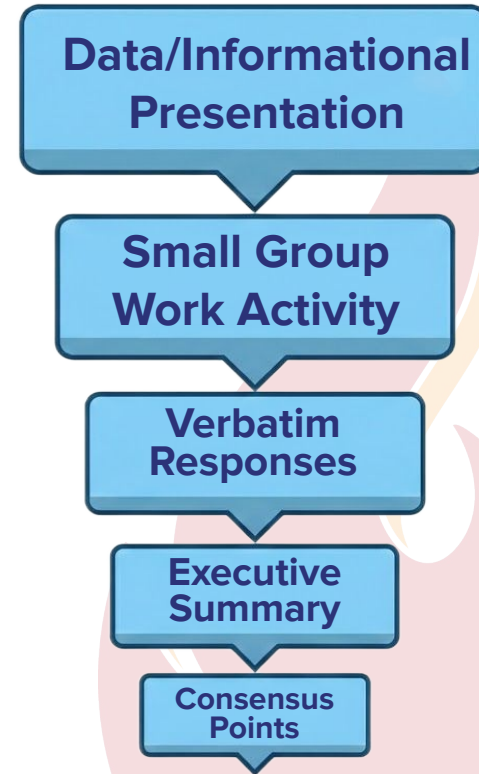
Planning for a Safer Future Calendar

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

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



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 help finalize the recommendations presented to the Board.



Tonight's Presentation



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.



Recap of Workshop #3

A Deep Dive into Fire/Rescue, Staffing and Finances

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



What We Heard at Workshop #3

Points of general agreement across the work activities include:

- Staffing and personnel capacity are the most important foundation for effective emergency response.
- Stable, reliable funding is essential to support all other priorities.
- Maintaining and replacing equipment is widely viewed as critical to service quality and safety.
- Competitive salaries play a key role in attracting and retaining skilled personnel.
- Participants recognize the importance of balancing resources across multiple priorities.



***Options/Recommendations
for a Long-Term Plan***



Equipment

*Options/Recommendations
for a Long-Term Plan*



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

Facilities

*Options/Recommendations
for a Long-Term Plan*



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 and Response Time

*Options/Recommendations
for a Long-Term Plan*

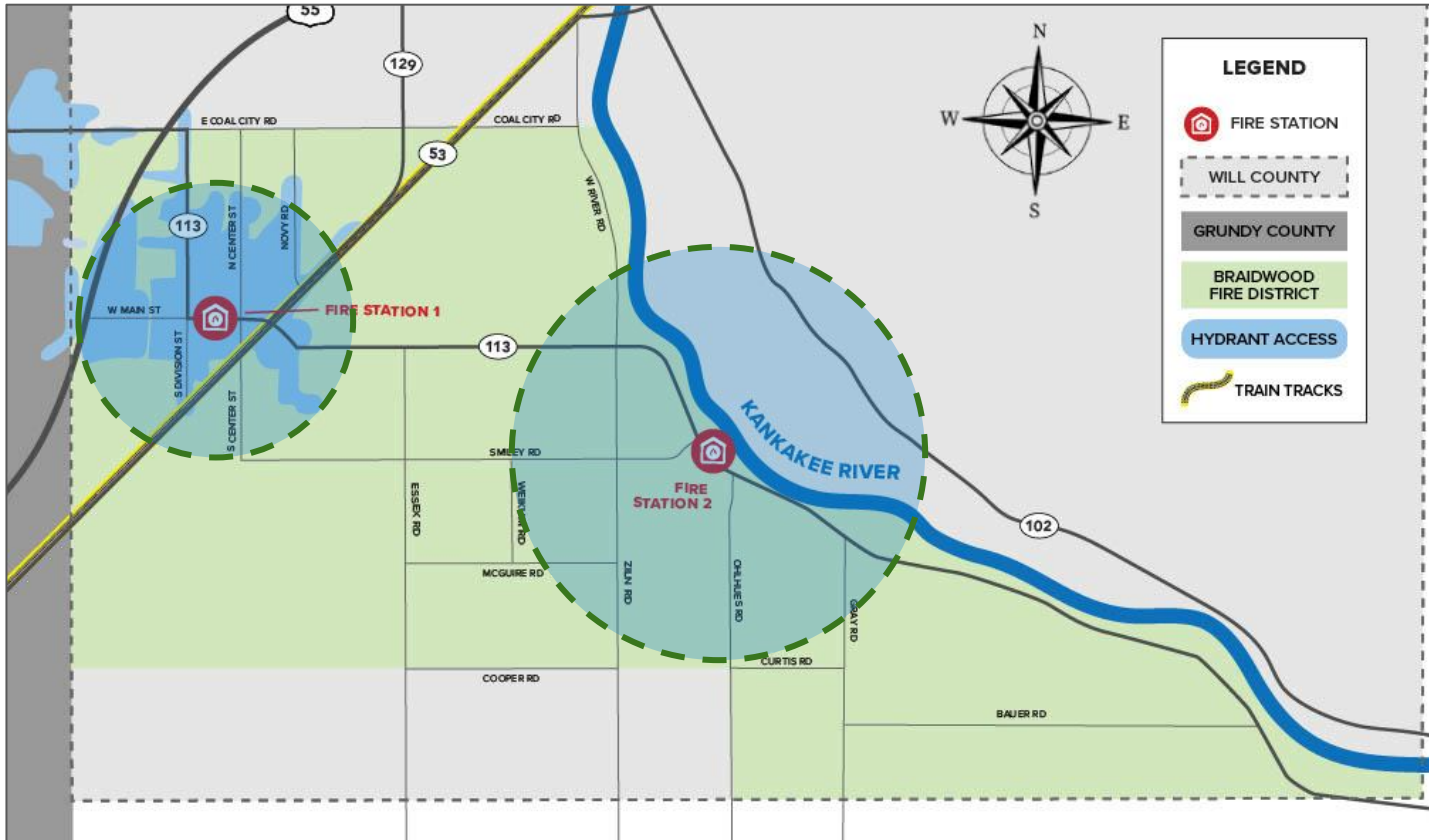


Service Area



- 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



Staffing

*Options/Recommendations
for a Long-Term Plan*



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

National Staffing Standards

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

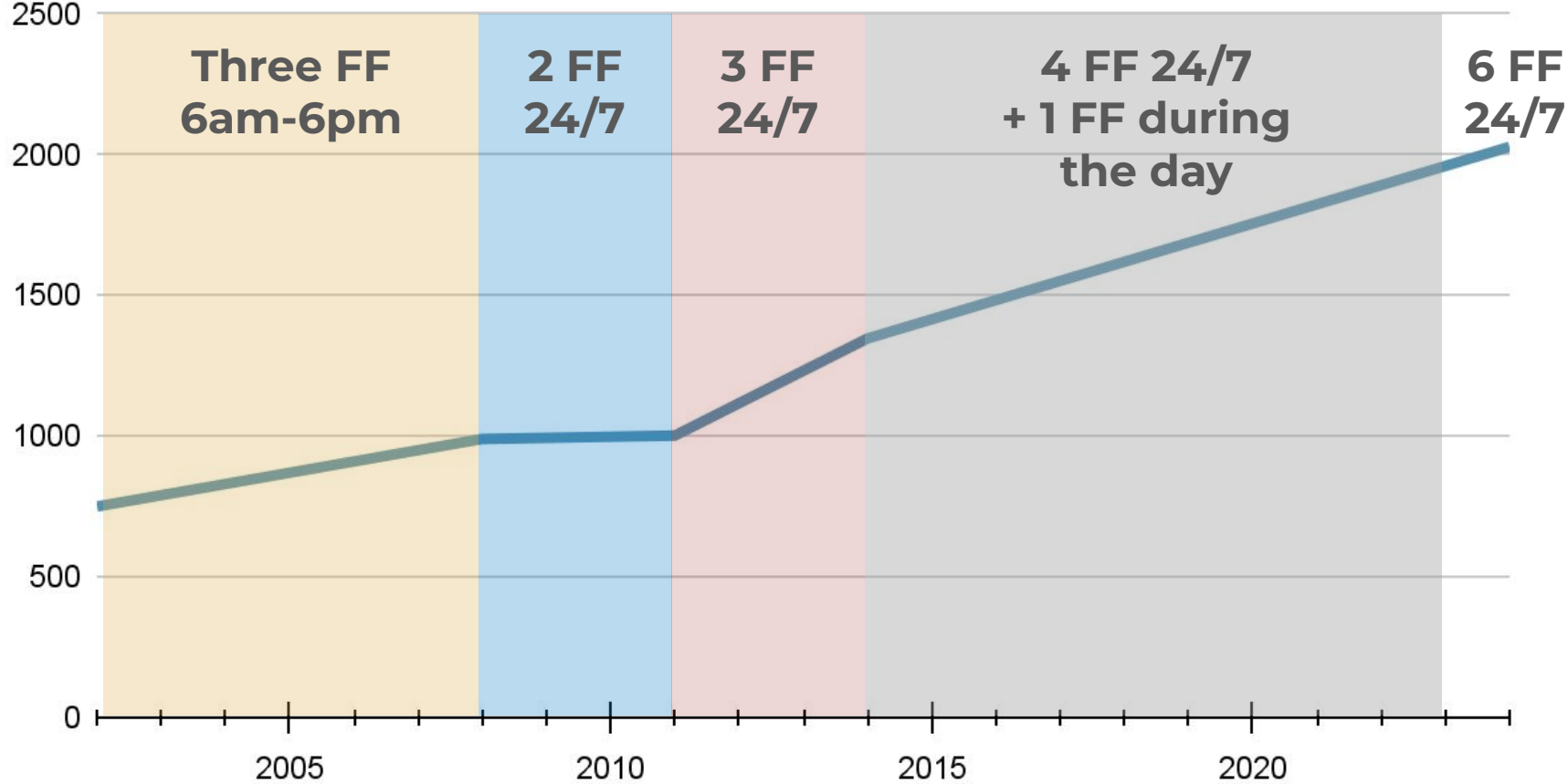
- **Benchmark: Minimum 4 firefighters on the first-arriving engine company.**
- **Full residential structure-fire assignment typically 15-17 personnel.**
- **Focus on safe, timely deployment and task completion.**

Bottom Line

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



Call Volume



Recruiting And Retaining Qualified Firefighter/Paramedics

Department	Starting Salary
Elwood	\$93,180
Coal City	\$80,868
Minooka	\$73,093
Channahon	\$71,397
Wilmington	\$70,875
Braidwood	\$69,187

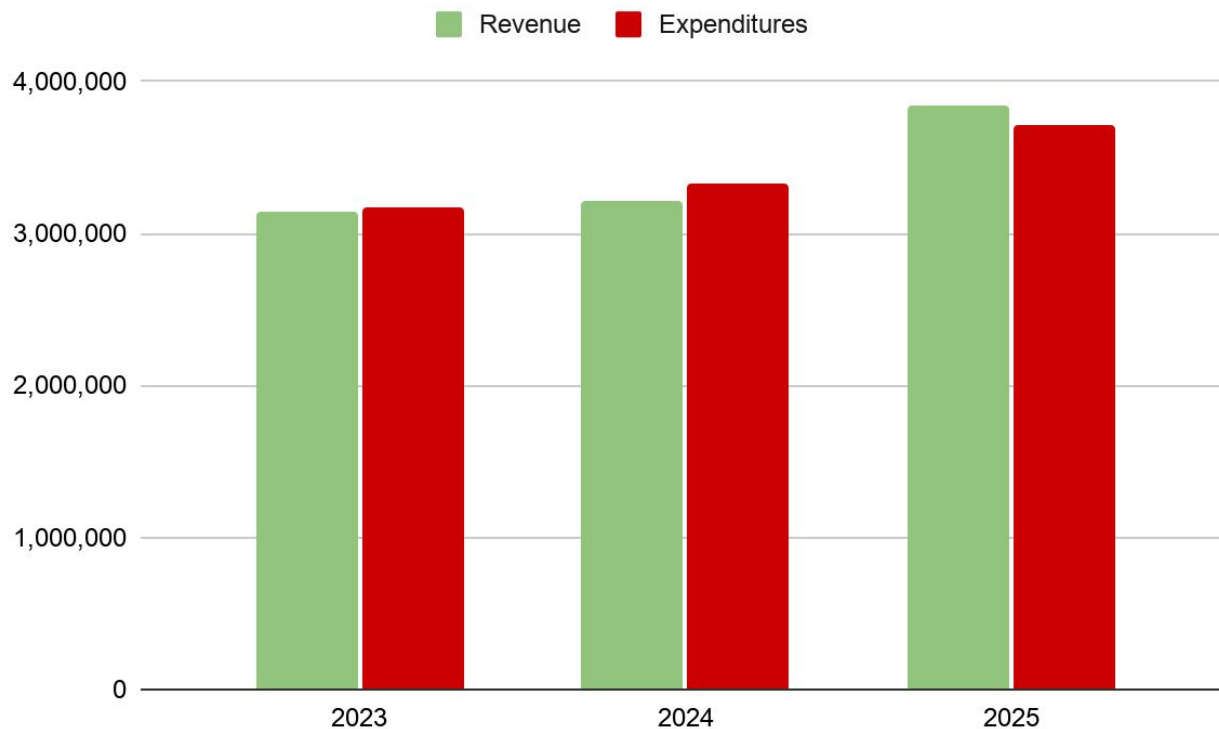


Finances

*Options/Recommendations
for a Long-Term Plan*



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.



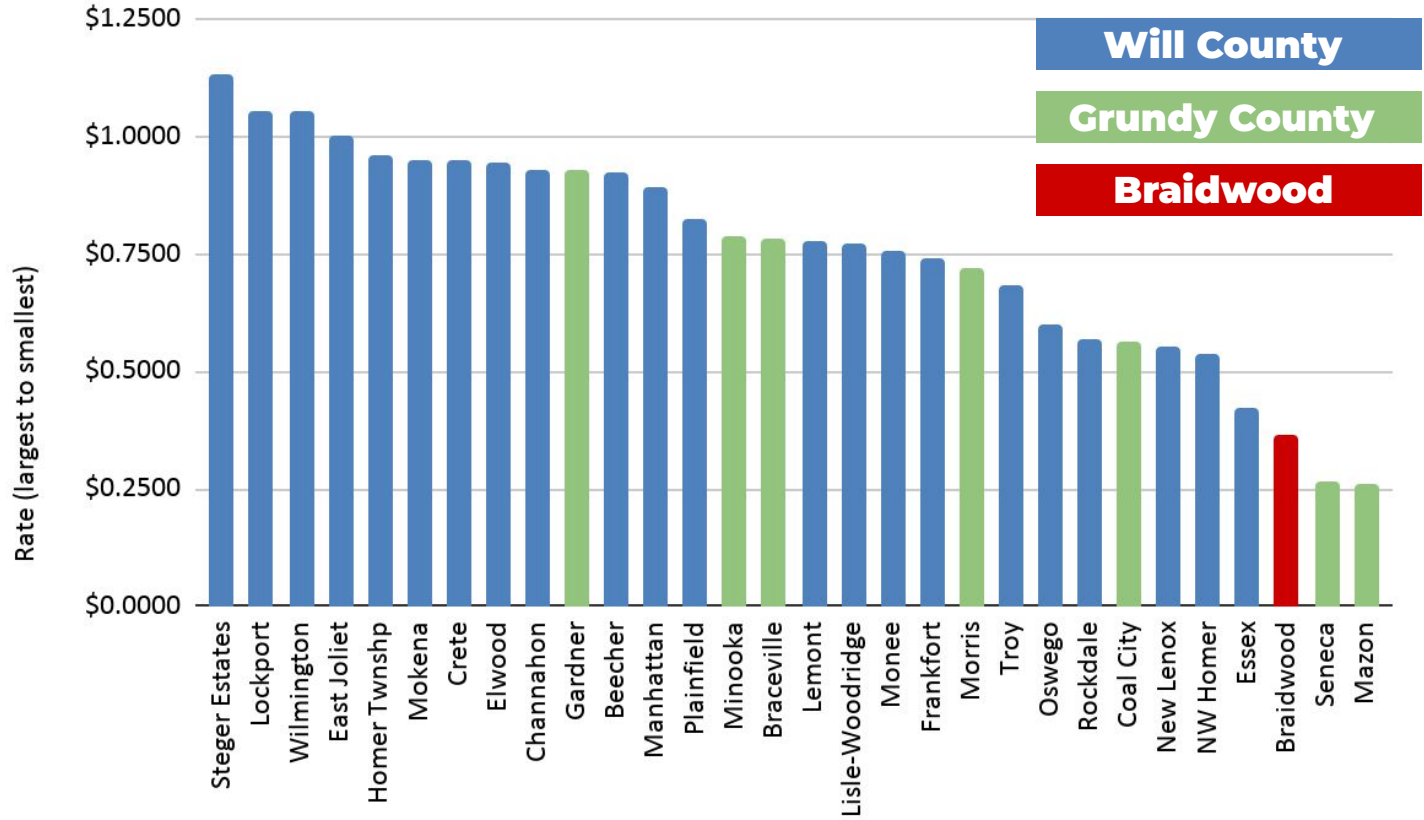
Finances - Comparable Districts

	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.
- Jewel Osco - BFPD received \$2.47 in tax revenue for 2025

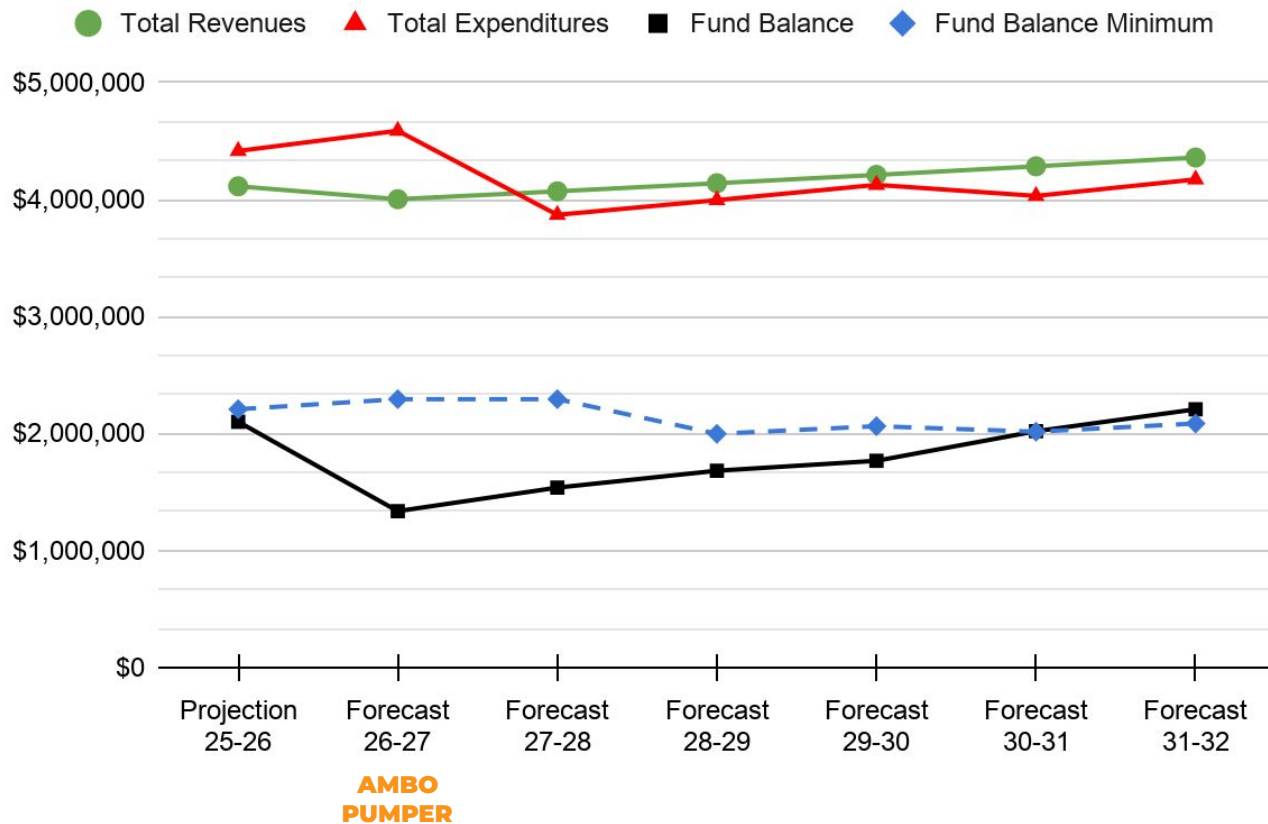


Finances - Rising Costs

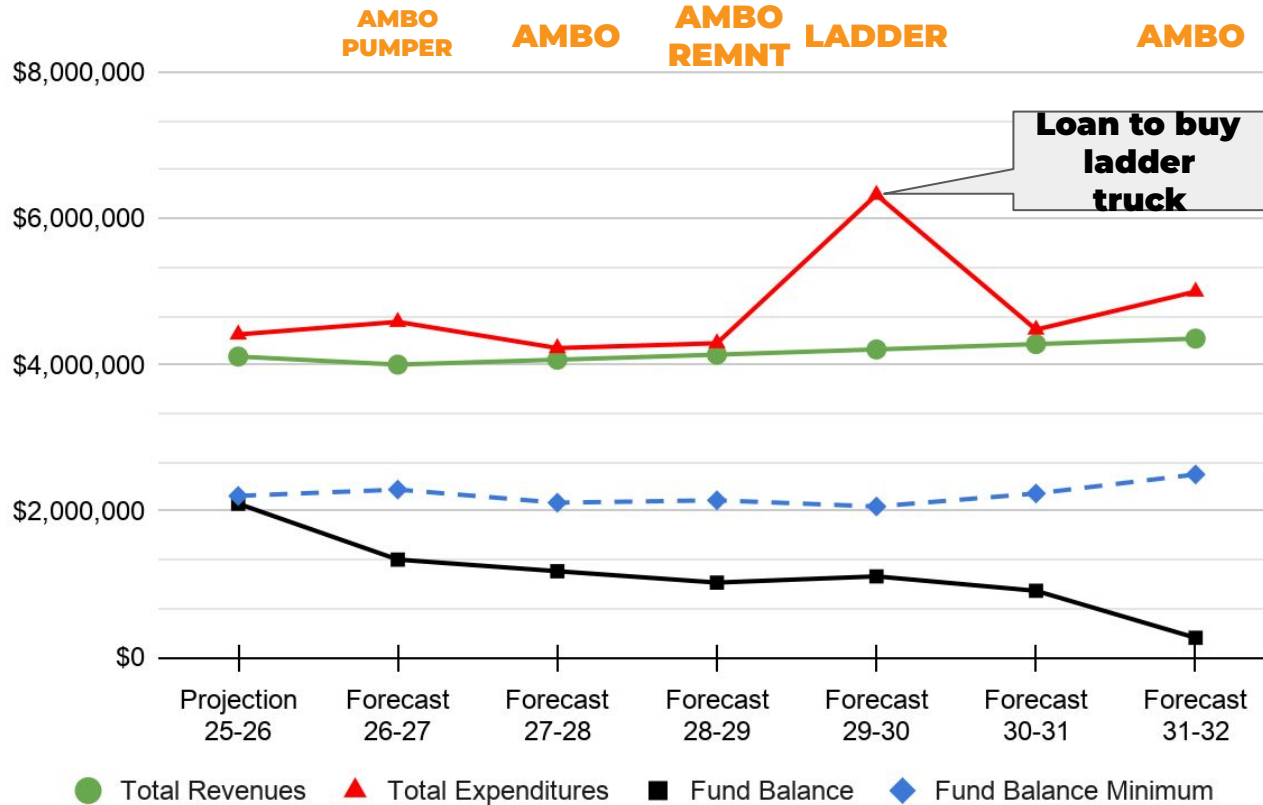
Category	2018	2025
Insurance Costs	\$34,382	\$72,000
Engine Cost	\$650,000	\$1,100,000
Ambulance Cost	\$245,000	\$450,000



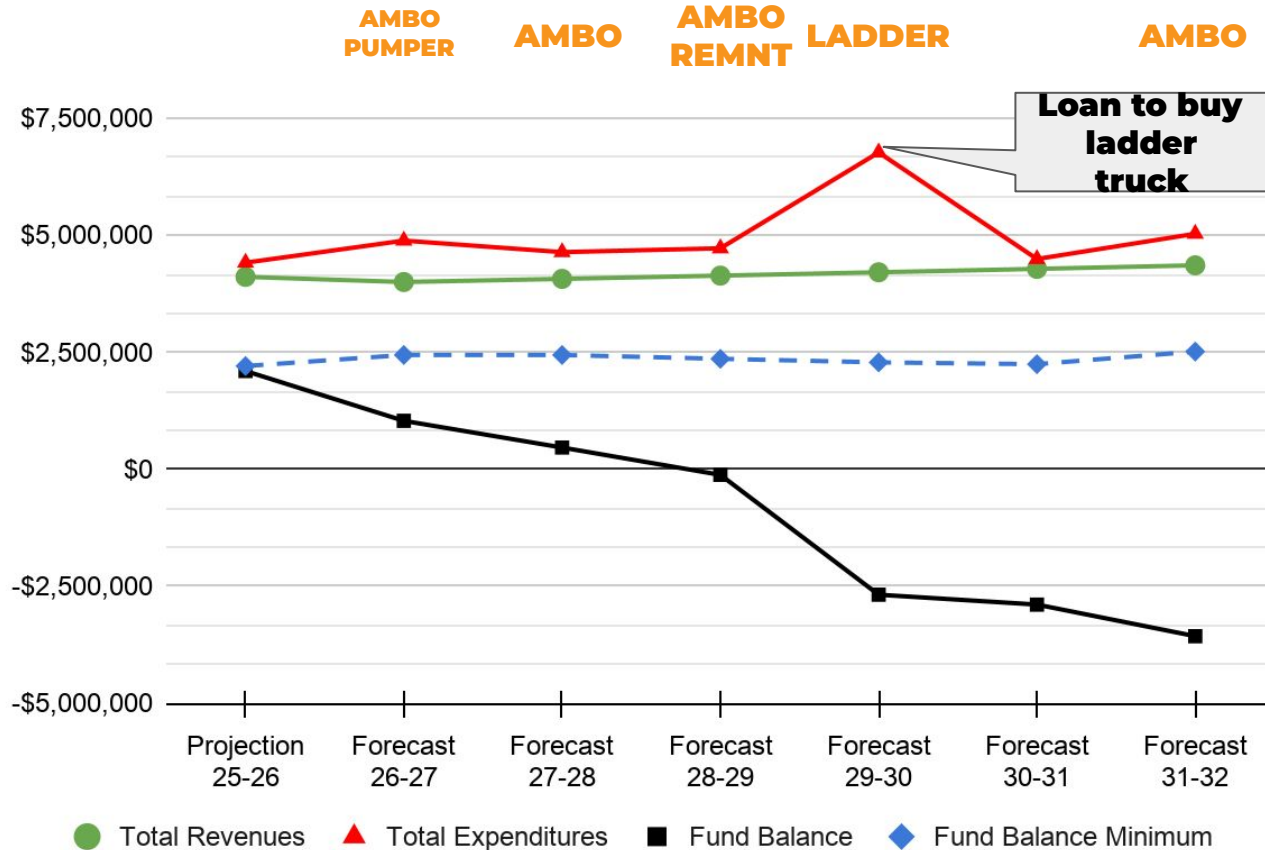
Projections - Status Quo



Projections - Equipment



Projections - Equipment and Staff



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
- Financial Stability



Solving For Our Challenges

- **Staffing**

- 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
- Ensuring firefighters have up-to-date training

- **Equipment**

- Updating aging facilities and equipment
- Protecting large areas without a water supply

- **Financial Stability**

- Securing stable funding for emergency services now and in the future



Options for Moving Forward

- Maintain The Status Quo (Do Nothing)
- 10-Cent Rescue Tax Increase
- 32-cent Property Tax Increase



Option A - Status Quo

Increase Needed: N/A

Fund Balance: Stable

Reserves: 6 months

Passes with: N/A

Investment: No Increase in Property Taxes

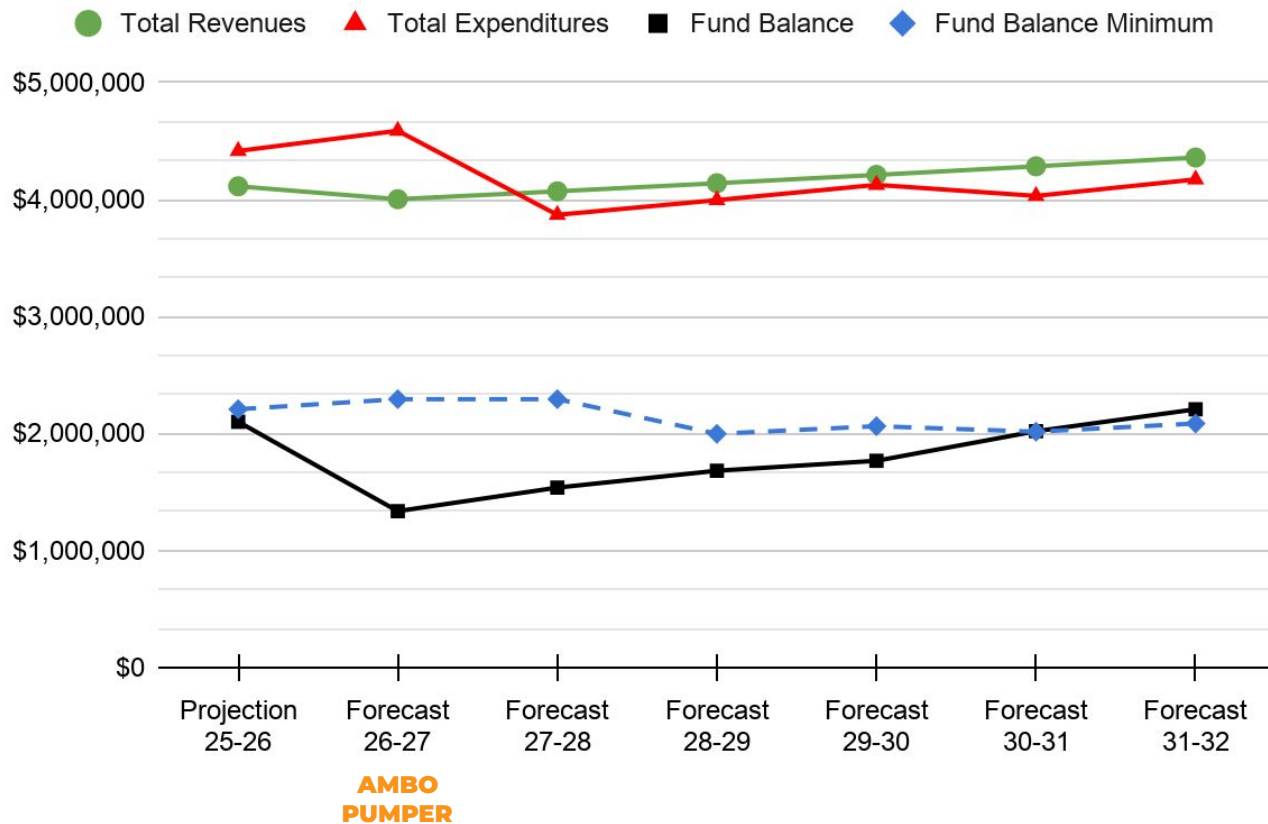
Solves for: Equipment already on order (*Ambulance and Pumper*)

Still Need: Equipment, Staffing and Financial Stability

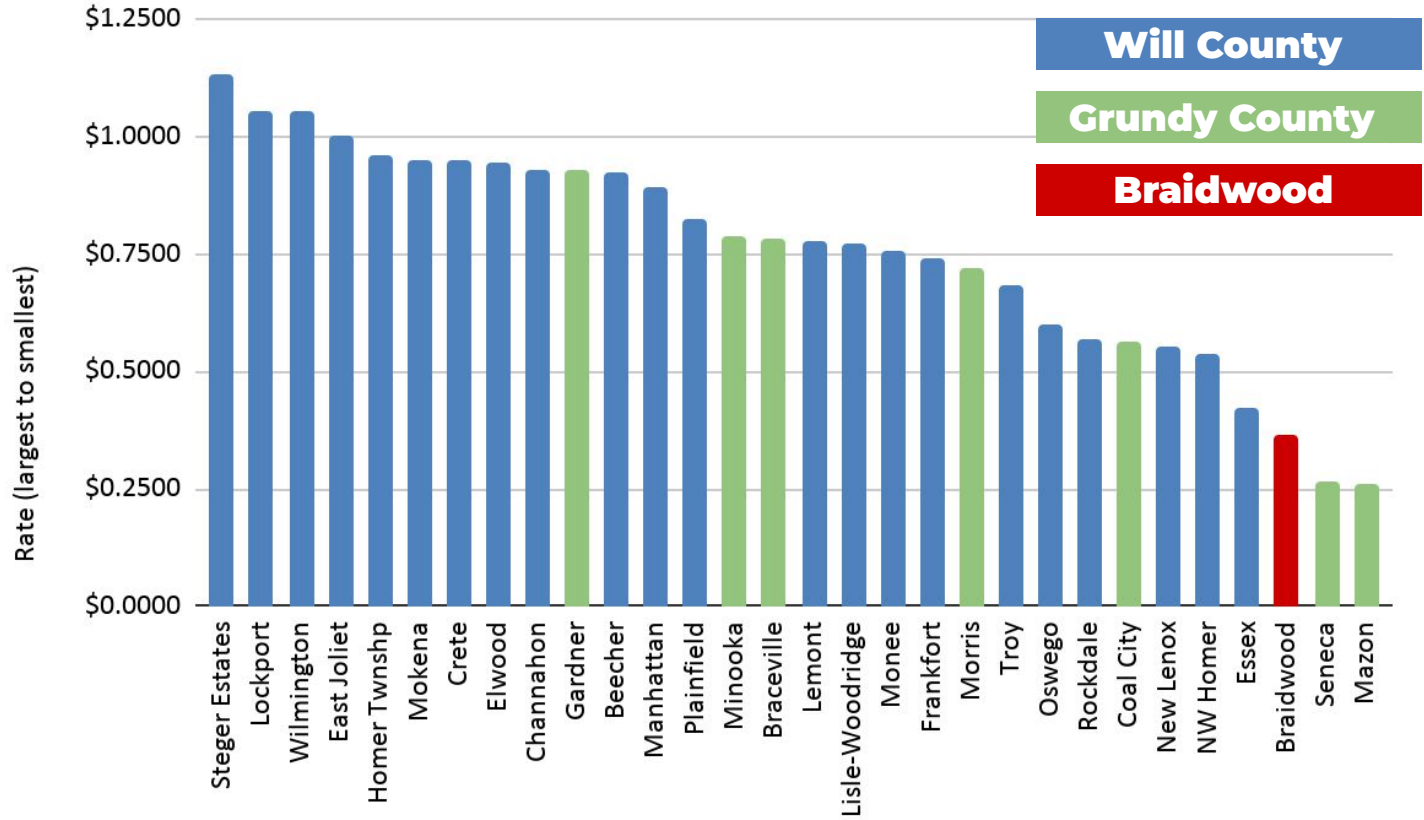
❌ **Equipment**
❌ **Staffing**
❌ **Financial Stability**



Projections - Status Quo



Fire District Tax Rates



Option B - Equipment Only

Increase Needed: 10 cents

Fund Balance: Growing

Reserves: 12 months by 2031

Passes with: Simple Majority (50%+1)

Investment: \$8/month on a \$300,000 home

Solves for: Equipment needs and provides some financial stability

Still Need: Staffing and More Long-Term Financial Stability



Equipment



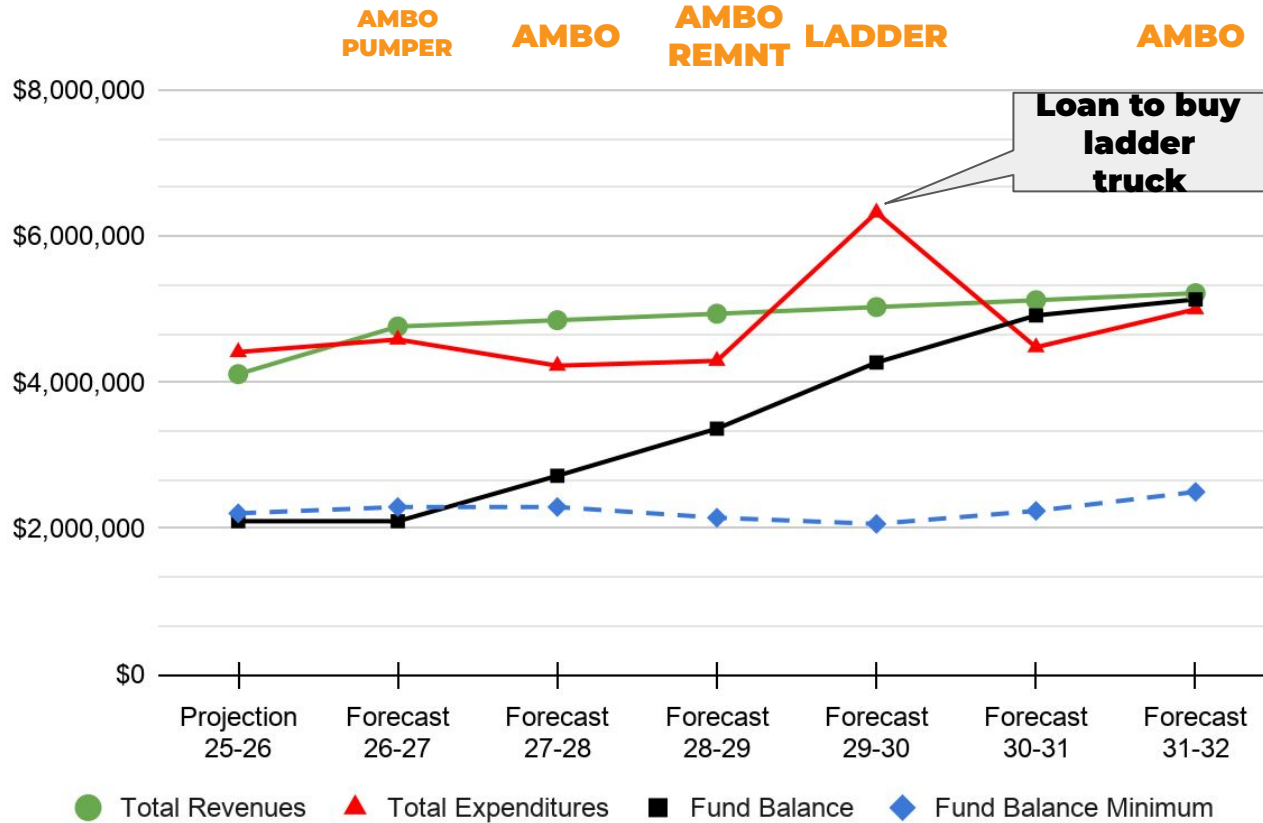
Staffing



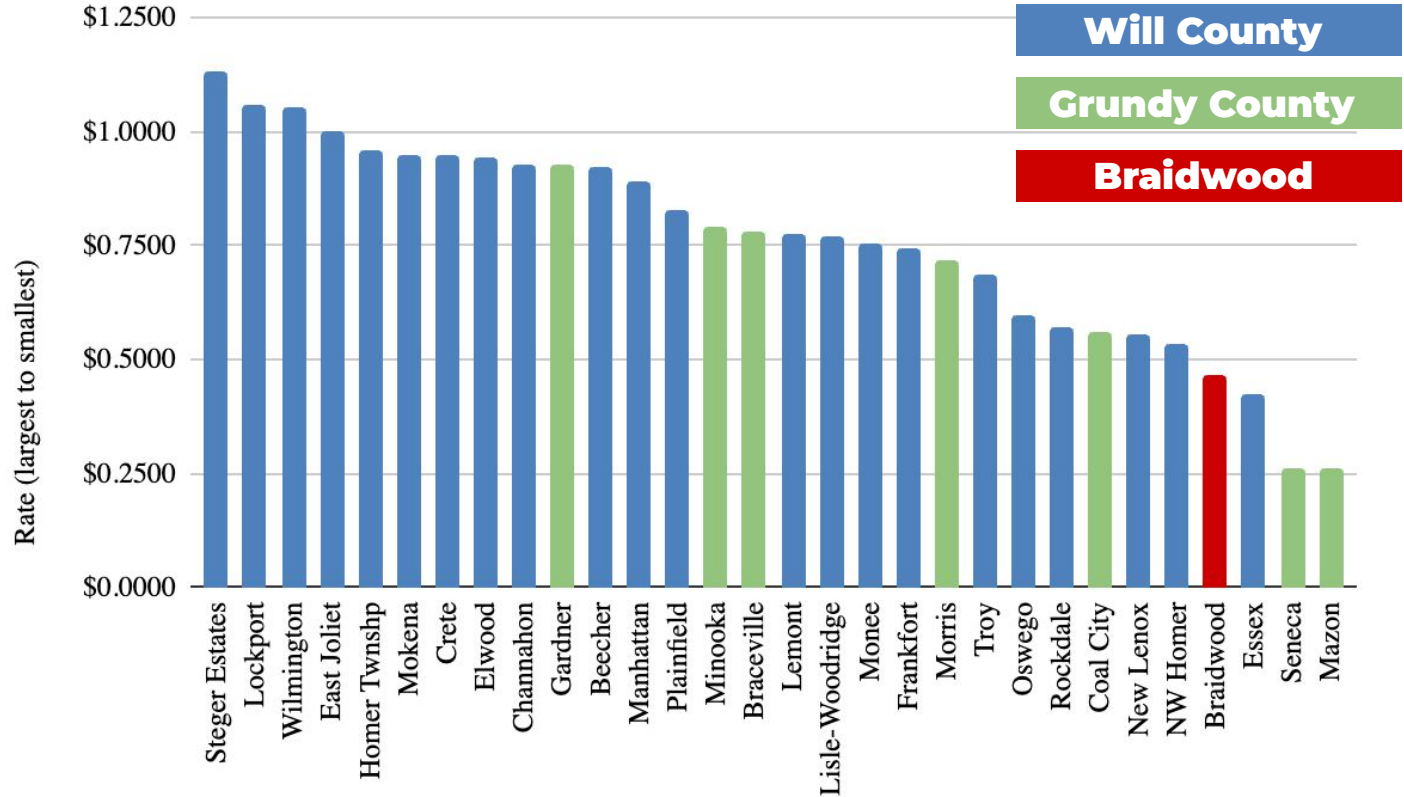
Financial Stability



Equipment Only



Rate Comparison with 10-cent Increase



Option C - Equipment And Staff

Increase Needed: 32 cents

Fund Balance: Growing

Reserves: 18 months by 2031

Passes with: Simple Majority (50%+1)

Investment: \$27/month on a \$300,000 home

Solves for: Equipment, Staffing and Financial Stability

Still Need: Nothing



Equipment



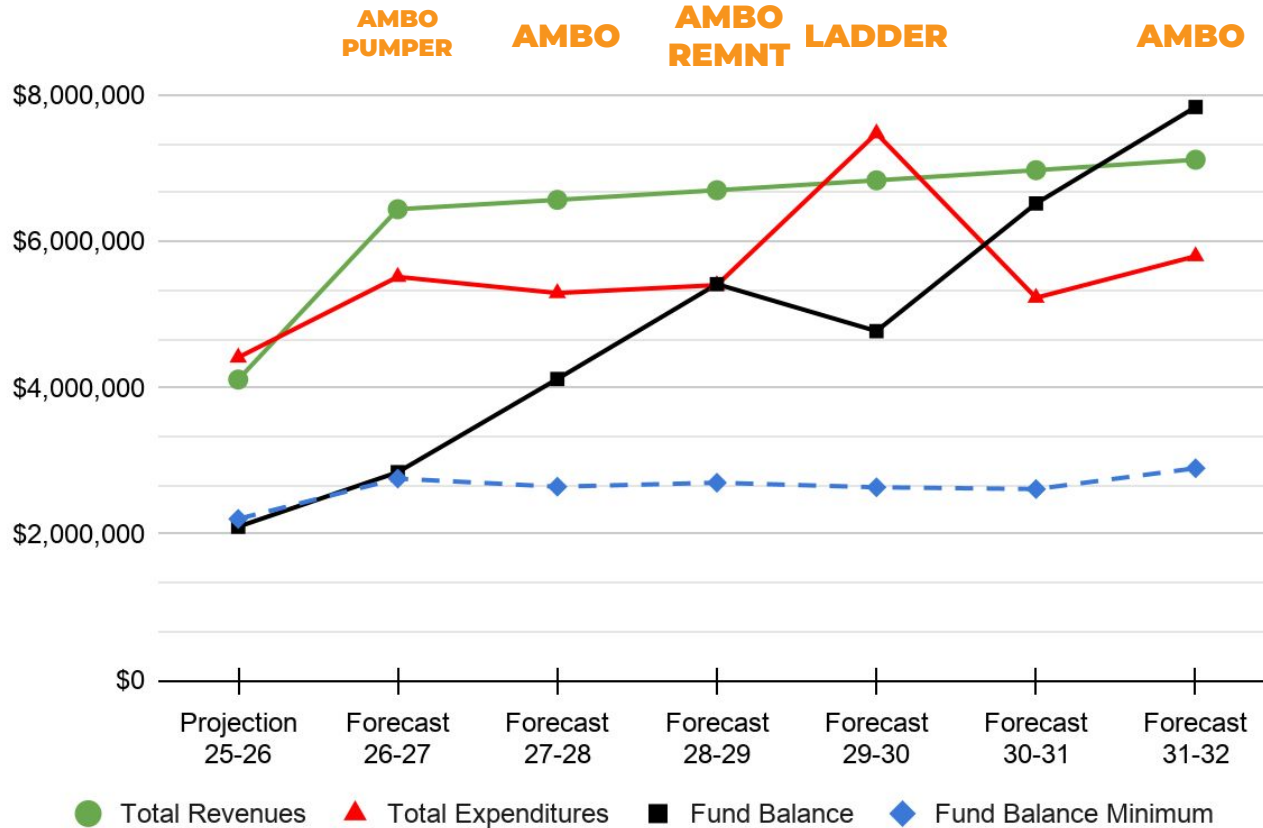
Staffing



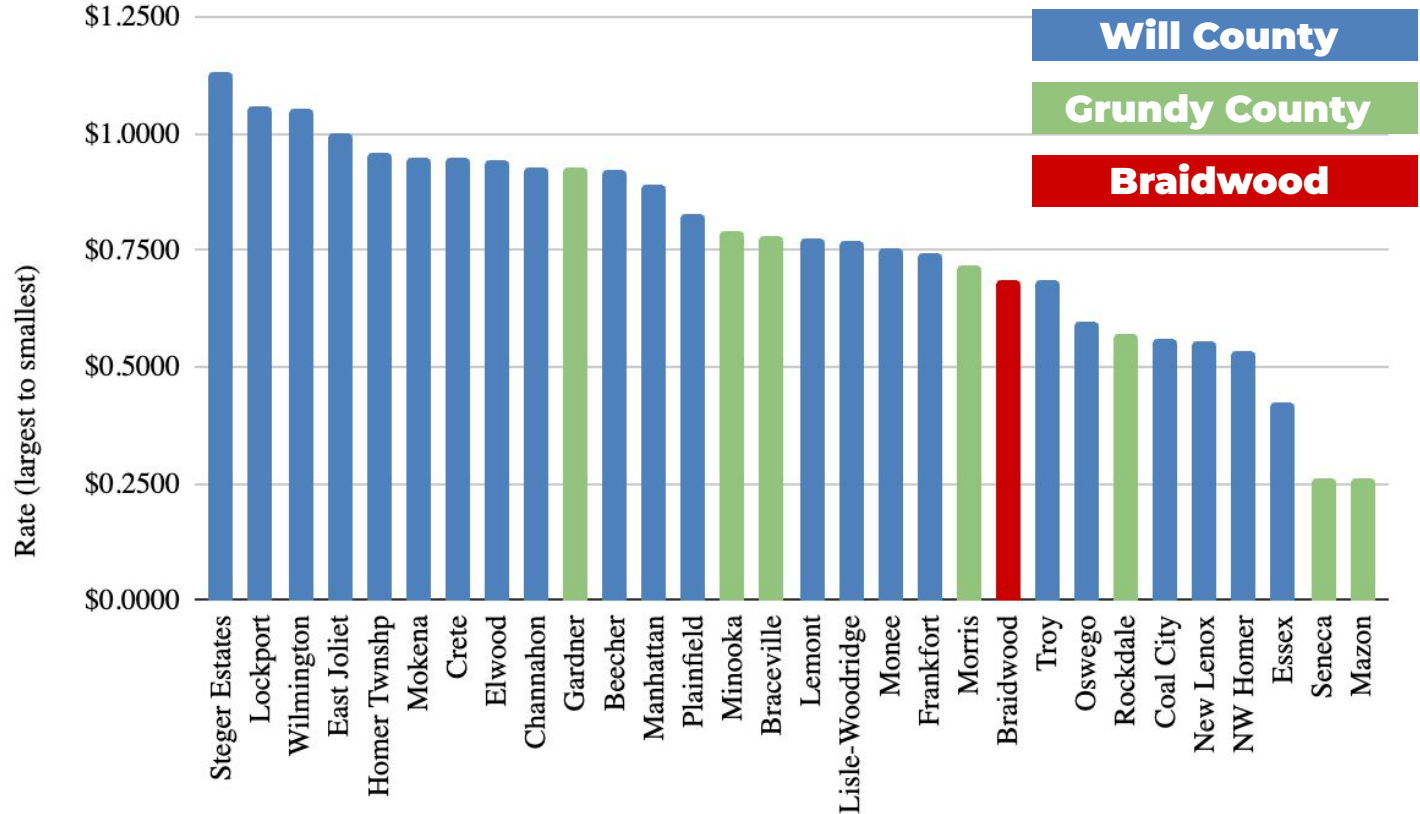
Financial Stability



Equipment and Staff



Rate Comparison with 32-cent Increase



How Long Has It Been?

- The last voter-approved tax increase in BFPD was more than 50 years ago in 1972.
 - Gas was 36-cents a gallon
 - Nixon visited China
 - Final moon landing (Apollo 17)
 - *The Godfather* premieres





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.



Individual Work Activity

Task #1: Prioritize Options

In your packet is a sheet with the three options that were reviewed during tonight's presentation. After learning about these options, we'd like you to help prioritize them. Choose the one option that you feel is the best option for BFPD to consider as it develops its plan for the future. Mark your choice for that option on the sheet. If you feel that there is an option that should be removed from consideration, please mark your choice for that option on the sheet.



Small Group Work Activities

Task #2: Most Preferred Option

Discuss the following as a group and respond to these questions for the option that was the MOST preferred based on the individual activity in Task #1.

- 2A. Is there anything BFPD should do to improve this option?
- 2B. What, if any, roadblocks should the BFPD consider if they decide to ask the community to vote on a referendum to implement this option?



Small Group Work Activities

Task #3: Anything Else?

As we come to the end of the Planning for a Safer Future process, is there anything else that BFPD should consider as it plans for the future of emergency services in our community?





Small Group Work Activity Reporting



Thank You!

*Board Presentation
July 21, 2026 at 9 a.m.*

