



Maple Bluff Fire Rescue Department

www.mapleblufffire.com



18 Oxford Place
Madison, WI 53704

Phone: 608.244.3390
Fax: 608.244.3901

Date: August 23, 2020

To: Maple Bluff Village Board Members

Re: Proposal for Increased Fire Department Staffing

I am proposing the reinstatement of one full-time staff member in the 2021 Fire Department Budget. The Blooming Grove, Burke, Maple Bluff EMS Ambulance District ceased operation January 1, 2011 and its dissolution took with it the funding for the equivalent of two full-time staff members. At the time, the Village opted to only fill one of those vacancies, leaving our full-time staffing at three personnel. These three personnel (Fire Chief and two Assistant Fire Chiefs) work on rotating 24-hour shifts.

EMS Staffing Deficiencies: Our state EMS licensure requires us to have a minimum of two fully certified EMTs (one Advanced EMT and one EMT-Basic) on call 24/7. In the past 9 years, finding volunteers and/or interns to consistently be on call during daytime hours has been increasingly difficult. Our volunteers work their regular jobs and our interns have college classes to attend during the day. This has led to full and part-time staff covering these daytime shifts and causing full-time staff to accumulate large amounts of unusable vacation/sick time. More recently, we hired several limited term employees (LTE) to also help with our daytime staffing deficiencies.

Altering the Fire Chief's Schedule: With an additional full-time staff member, they would be assigned the rotating 24-hour shift rotation currently held by the Fire Chief. This will allow the Fire Chief to switch to a more traditional, Monday-Friday, work schedule. In addition to providing daytime EMS coverage, this would also better serve the Fire Department and Village by allowing the Fire Chief to:

- Consistently participate in Village-wide working groups
- Consistently participate in Village staff meetings & initiatives
- Conduct community preparedness planning (Emergency Management)
- Increase better continuity between Fire/EMS, Police, and Village Administrative staff
- Better conduct future fire department planning
- Increase mentorship consistency/capabilities with fire/EMS staff
- Lessen the impact to the department operations during transitional staffing periods

I respectfully ask the Village Board to consider a budgetary increase to support an additional full-time position within the Maple Bluff Fire Rescue Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Loy".

Kristopher I. Loy
Fire Chief
Maple Bluff Fire Rescue Department