

# Did you know how your Fire and EMS service is funded?

Jefferson County has dedicated Volunteers that work hard to keep the costs for Fire and EMS Service down. They hold Bingo games, have pancake breakfasts, sell Christmas trees and much more. Oh, and they answer emergency calls! They have the same financial struggles we all do, but they give selflessly to their Community. The Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency provides supplemental staffing as to allow them to work, go to school and spend some family time. While our Volunteers are working, JCESA needs to increase staffing during the busiest times of the day. JCESA needs to provide “Peak Time” core staffing to ensure we provide service to the Community and preserve our valuable Volunteers! Let’s not burn them out!

Did you know that the total cost of Fire and EMS service in Jefferson County WV is \$4,422,843.00 without an overall Capital Improvement Plan? Donations and fund drives are not included in this figure because these methods have not proven to be a consistent source of revenue. The County funds a total of 46.8% of the EMS and Fire budget.

- Volunteer Ambulance Billing 23%
- Volunteer Commission General Fund 13.4%
- Volunteer Deficit 6%
- WV State Funding 7%
- JCESA Commission General Fund 33.4%
- **JCESA Ambulance Fee 17%**



***Did you know the expense for Fire and EMS Capital items is significant? If you had to replace the front line fleet in Jefferson County Tomorrow, the cost would be catastrophic. The Volunteers own the Fire Stations (which they have worked hard to pay for).***

**Apparatus: \$350,000 per Ambulance; \$1,000,000 Fire Truck; \$600,000 per Engine; \$800,000 per tanker.**

**- Approximate cost of new front line fleet less brush tankers = **\$14,250,000**. This includes 7 new ambulances, 7 new engines, 7 new tankers, 2 new fire trucks.**

**- Replacement standards anywhere between 7 to 15 years (many of our front line units exceed the NFPA 1901 standard).**

#### **ADDITIONAL CAPITAL**

- Personal Protective Equipment (fire fighting gear): \$2,500 per one set (each member should have one set. Many jurisdictions have two sets). 80 members = **\$200,000.00**
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (air tanks): \$5,000 per one SCBA (quantity needed is based on riding positions) **7 engines (28); 2 trucks (12); 7 ambulances (14). Total SCBA = 245,000.00**

## DID YOU KNOW HOW MANY Fire and EMS incidents have occurred in Jefferson County for 2016

- 2016 is shaping up to be at least a **5.5% increase** in call volume (average over the last 11 month period is 527 calls. End of November 5,801.  $5801+527=6,328$ . **This places a greater demand on service needs!**
- **6,006 total in 2015**
- Over 80% is EMS
- **5,910 total in 2014**

**Did you know that the Ambulance Fee you pay funds staffing in the Fire Stations and supplies some critical Emergency Medical Support equipment?**

- Currently funds 8 fulltime staff
- Has been utilized to buy critical gear and equipment needed to run Emergency Medical Incidents

# DID YOU KNOW Why many Cities and Counties in West Virginia charge fees for Ambulance Service?

- Because the Tax base was not set up to fund services such as public safety, WV code 7-15 was passed.
- **§7-15-17. Imposition and collection of special emergency ambulance service fee by county commission.**

A county commission may, by ordinance, impose upon and collect from the users of emergency ambulance service within the county a special service fee, which shall be known as the "special emergency ambulance service fee." The proceeds from the imposition and collection of any special service fee shall be deposited in a special fund and used only to pay reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred and the cost of buildings and equipment used in providing emergency ambulance service to residents of the county. The proceeds may be used to pay for, in whole or in part, the establishment, maintenance and operation of an authority, as provided for in this article: *Provided*, That an ambulance company or authority receiving funds from the special emergency ambulance fees collected pursuant to this section may not be precluded from making nonemergency transports.

**DID YOU KNOW:** Even though we are paying a small fee for ambulance service, and we need to discuss increasing the service we provide to be responsible and take proper care of you...., we are providing these services for a lot less because of our dedicated volunteers!

- Local regional costs of Fire and EMS in other combination systems:
- 222.3 million = Montgomery County Maryland
- 55,905,882 million = Loudon County Virginia
- 54,032,956 million = Frederick County Maryland
- 11,120,268 million = Frederick County Virginia
- 4,422,843 million = Jefferson County West Virginia

# Please make informed decisions!

- Have a safe and happy New Year! Oh, and don't forget to thank a volunteer Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic!
- Support "Peak Time" supplemental staffing and help us preserve our very valuable Volunteers in Jefferson County! Help JCESA help out our Volunteers!
- *Questions? Please e mail JCESA Director Denise S. Pouget at [dpouget@jcesa.org](mailto:dpouget@jcesa.org)*