

MTFR STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 2.0 Improve the Apparatus Fleet

Objective 2.1 Develop and maintain an apparatus preventative maintenance program in compliance with national standards.

Emergency apparatus are expensive to purchase and maintain. These are vehicles that sit for long periods of time, and then are expected to perform without fault under extreme conditions. Their maintenance is also a significant liability area for the township. As we purchase new, more advanced vehicles, the maintenance becomes more difficult to perform. Currently, our apparatus maintenance is performed by the Road Department, who has served us well for years. However, due to current national standards, it is necessary to have certified emergency vehicle technicians (EVT) maintain the fleet. In an effort to address maintenance and liability issues, we propose the following:

- **Contract with an EVT-certified company to perform annual safety inspections (ASI).** These annual inspections of the entire fleet help to identify maintenance and safety issue before they become a problem and are required under National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.
- **Contract with an EVT-certified company to perform annual pump testing.** This annual testing assures that the mobile fire pumps are performing to specifications.
- **Contract with an EVT-certified company to perform needed maintenance.** By contracting this work out, we will be in compliance with national standards and assure that the work is up to current best practices.

Timeframe and Cost

To help alleviate liability concerns, these action items should be implemented during the first year of the plan. We currently utilize a certified contractor for ASIs, and will need to contract for the other areas. While the initial costs of this program may be higher than our current maintenance arrangement, as we progress through ASIs and the identified maintenance, we will save money and reduce risk. ASIs will cost \$2,500 per year, pump testing approximately \$1,500 per year, and maintenance is estimated at \$15,000 per year. This will require an additional \$2,000 per year to be added to our existing maintenance budget.

Objective 2.2 Evaluate apparatus needs based on current and future fire department operations

Our current fleet was purchased over the last thirty-five years and reflects many different operational priorities. During this time, we have evolved from two separate entities serving the township (Clifton and Yellow Springs) to one. We are in a position now to streamline our fleet to reflect our current and future operations. Part of this process will include:

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- **Eliminate ambulance 835 and tanker 812.** Ambulance 835, currently a reserve unit, is 20 years old and mechanically unreliable. In addition, with two frontline medic units serving the township, it is not needed. Tanker 812 is a 1969 unit that was converted into a tanker after starting life as a dump truck. This vehicle is unreliable, unsafe and does not comply with national standards. The elimination of these two vehicles will result in insurance and maintenance savings, and help to streamline operations.
- **Evaluate current brush truck.** This would include examining the truck mechanically as well as functionally and assessing the need for a dedicated brush truck.

Timeframe and Cost

Both of the items listed above can be accomplished within the first year of the plan and at little to no cost. Selling ambulance 835 and tanker 812 would generate some revenue for the department.

Objective 2.3 Replacement of existing apparatus & purchase of new

Maintaining a modern, state-of-the-art fleet of emergency apparatus is of critical importance to our efforts to constantly improve our services and response to emergencies. As vehicles become obsolete, it is essential to replace them within a set timeframe. The department has set a lifecycle of 12 years for medic units, 20 years for fire engines and 22 years for tankers. However, due to past levy reductions, we are behind on this process. In order to maintain an efficient fleet, we will:

- **Replace medic 815.** The medic units are the most active part of the fleet, accumulating more wear in a year than many cars. Medic 815 is 13 years old, and is showing its wear mechanically and structurally. It will be replaced with a new ambulance mounted on the industry-standard Ford E 450 chassis. This process is already underway.
- **Replace engine 821, preferably with a “quint”.** Engine 821, donated to MTFR by Antioch University in 1995, is currently 30 years old. Maintenance is difficult and at times, cost prohibitive. It is mechanically in poor shape. Replacing this unit with a “quint”, which is a fire engine equipped with an aerial ladder, would help to improve fire ground safety and efficiency as well as maintain our community’s ISO fire insurance rating.
- **Purchase new tanker.** Tanker 802 is 18 years old; replacement of this unit would allow it to be moved to the Clifton Station, providing us with dual-tanker capabilities, thereby enhancing our fire suppression activities.
- **Upgrade engine 811.** Engine 811 is currently 20 years old, and is beginning to show signs of mechanical and structural wear. An upgrade would allow us to keep it in service as a reserve unit.
- **Purchase first responder vehicle for Clifton Station.** This vehicle would be equipped with medical and other equipment, including an AED, and would allow

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Clifton area volunteers as well as other department members to provide immediate aid to those on the east side of the township.

Timeframe and Cost

The proposed timeframe for apparatus replacement can be found at the end of this document. Apparatus replacement is the largest single component of this plan in terms of complexity and cost. It is estimated that it will cost \$906,000 to accomplish the actions listed above, over the ten year strategic planning period. While expensive, this is perhaps one of the most critical aspects of our plan.

Objective 2.4 Provide for safety and operational upgrades to the fleet

It is essential to have the ability to respond to new operational and safety developments as they occur. EMS and fire suppression are evolving fields that change as new information and technology becomes available. This makes it imperative to upgrade equipment when needed.

- **Install headset intercom systems on all apparatus.** Headset intercom systems allow all members of a responding crew to receive radio information updates and speak with each other prior to arriving on scene. This provides for greater efficiency and safety.
- **Install backup cameras on apparatus.** Last year, three firefighters nationwide were killed when apparatus backed over them. Backup cameras, which come on when a vehicle is placed in reverse, show the vehicle operator a view of the rear of the vehicle, hopefully avoiding incident like this.

Timeframe and Cost

These upgrades should be made during the first five years of the strategic plan period. Total costs for these safety upgrades are estimated at \$21,000.

Objective 2.5 Develop a long-range apparatus plan

The development of a long-range apparatus plan, tied to this plan, makes sense fiscally and operationally. This plan would take into consideration not only operational issues but deployment issues tied to growth forecasts for the township and villages. As the plan can be developed by department personnel, there is little or no cost involved. This plan should be completed within the first two years of the strategic planning process.

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