



## Antioch Fire Department First Fire Protection District

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*For Immediate Release:*

### **NEWS RELEASE RESIDENT UPDATE ON REFERENDUM FUNDING**

Good afternoon. We promised more transparency regarding the steps the Antioch Fire Department/First Fire Protection District of Antioch will take following the successful passage of the referendum on June 28. Below you will find a list of issues we are working on to push the fire department/district forward. Again, we'd like to THANK YOU for your support during the recent referendum. The fire department is YOUR fire department, and we will work together to bring you the service you deserve.

#### **Buildings**

The district has hired FGM Architects to develop a comprehensive plan to identify, fix and upgrade issues at all three fire stations in the village of Antioch and Antioch Township. We expect to start having information from the architects to present to the public in the coming weeks.

Our critical needs is the septic issues at station 2 and the training tower at station 1.

Regarding the septic issue, the fire district has engaged with Mellon Septic to replace the 300-gallon septic tank at station 2 with a 1500-gallon septic holding tank. This project is in the permit stage and the tank has been ordered. We anticipate construction to begin when the permits are clear and the tank is shipped.

Regarding the tower: We have engaged with a Structural Engineer from FGM to evaluate the training tower at Station 1. Initial review indicated there is a need to potentially replace the entire 3rd floor of the tower, however we also need to the review from structural engineers to create a path to repair the entire tower. We expect to have those engineering studies completed in the coming days/weeks.

A full analysis of all 3 Stations is under way, and we await a project scope and plan on suggestions for repairs to be completed over the next three months. This item will then move to the Fire District Board for discussion on how we can best address the identified scope of the project. The goal is to have a final construction plan in place by spring and work to start in the summer of 2023.

#### **Vehicles**

We have updated and are moving forward with the vehicle replacement plan we promised voters prior to the referendum approval. Finishing touches are being added to a new ambulance specification that we hope to have on the street the second week of August. When that ambulance is operational, we will consider whether to order two new ambulances because it takes two years to build and deliver new ambulances we require to assist patients. We will also going out for bid on a new pumper to replace an aging rig that reached the end of its life in the coming months. This decision remains under review, but if we order it, the new pumper will not be added to the fleet for an additional two years.

In addition, we are looking at replacing the command vehicles between 2023 and 2025. These purchases would also fall under the umbrella of our vehicle replacement plan.

#### Paramedic/Firefighter Wages

As I said repeatedly during the referendum, our staff is our most important priority and I remain passionate about getting the wages for our staff up to the county average. I am pleased to announce the fire district board has approved a wage increase of \$3 per hour for every employee, bringing the salaries for the men and women of the Antioch Fire Department closer to the county average. While this is great news, it still leaves our employees making below the Lake County average. Therefore, in the coming years, we plan to continue to work with the fire district board to continue to increase salaries incrementally to the county average as promised to voters during the referendum.

As we have said since the very beginning, we are always open to discuss any issues the public may have with your fire department. Feel free to contact us through social media, through email, or simply stop in at fire station one and I will happily sit with you and go over our needs and our plans for the Antioch Fire Department/First Fire Protection District of Antioch. This is not my fire department, this fire department is here to serve the people of Antioch and Antioch Township. We will do whatever we can to make sure you are happy with the service we provide. We will release another update in the coming weeks to ensure you are up-to-date with the progress we make.