

The following is a report from Chief Daryl Amrozowicz

Given to the Board on August 8, 2022 at the Board Meeting:

As for the assignments I have received from the board and grant committee, I shall attempt to cover the basics in the following paragraphs.

- 1) Station location – The location of the fire station is important to the response times to the location of the emergency. While we are currently located as close to the geographical center of the Township of Lee as possible, there are other considerations in selecting a location for a possible replacement station. The lowest ISO rating (the lower the number the better the rating and the lower the cost for homeowner's fire insurance fees) we carry is for the area within five (5) road miles of the fire station AND for those within 600' of a fire hydrant. Several years ago, I met with the fire chiefs of Homer and Midland Townships, and we instituted an AUTOMATIC aid agreement with all three townships. Due to that agreement, all three township fire stations are considered as belonging to the same fire department. Therefore, any home within five miles of the Homer Township fire station AND has a hydrant within 600' will be rated with our lower rating, even if they are more than five road miles from our station. If we were to move our station as far north as M-2-/Isabella Road and even as far as a mile west on M-20, very few or no residents would be negatively impact and we could possibly impact a few in the northeast corner in a positive manner. Any further south of our current location or any significant movement west on Prairie Road will negatively impact residents with fire insurance. Exact impact would depend on the exact location proposed. I can do a more detailed analysis of any specific location but would need the specifics as this does take significant time if a location is chosen outside the parameters of the 1500-2000 West Isabella (M-20) and 0-500 South 9 Mile Road.
- 2) Apparatus replacement costs – On Thursday August 4, about 4:36 pm, Trustee List called me to inform that he and the board are interested in prices and lead time for a tanker-pumper to replace our current tanker that could be taken out of service at any time. He indicated that this information would be appreciated in time for the next board meeting. He also was kind enough to state that he realized this is only two business days away. Fire truck pricing is very difficult to nail down in the past, and even more so with the ongoing supply chain issues. I have contacted sales personnel from Pierce, Spartan, Sutphen, CSI and Alexis – all of whom are fire apparatus manufactures that I have some experience with. The first four from other department with their apparatuses already and the last one I saw an apparatus at a fire service expo. Pierce have consistently supplied me with updated budgetary numbers, the most recent from last January was \$550-650k.

However, there's been a huge change over the past few months in the fire apparatus business as in many others. There are increased costs for the components that make up the apparatus – the chassis, the body and the pump in particular. These are being quoted by the suppliers, and then the manufacturer is adding surcharges on as the rest of their costs to build the components continue to rise before they can build it. The costs are continuing to climb as I write this, and we discuss this at the meeting.

Pricing that I have determined as best as possible is as follows:

Pierce -	\$675 – 700k for a truck like East Tawas	2 years
Alexis -	\$740 – 850k	2 years
CSI -	\$500 – 600k For a truck like Whitewater Tws	2 com, 1.5 cus
Sutphen -	\$500 – 600k commercial, \$700-800 k custom	1.5 com, 2.5 cus
Spartan -	Still waiting, but they're working on it	

Also pricing fire trucks isn't like going to purchase an SUV at a car dealer. Fire trucks are very unique vehicles with very unique characteristics and used in a very unique setting. A fire engine designed for New York City, or most any city, would not be a fit for our department and the way we operate. The water tank they have would be woefully undersized for our rural environment. I can show you what a fire apparatus specification for quotes contains: 155 pages in the one that I have that is not correct for our department. To attempt to establish and review this kind of document is not realistic in two days, and difficult in two months.

We have a truck committee established that will look into this for us, but they could not handle the short notice so I've done what I can.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Daryl J. Amrozowicz, Chief