



VOLUNTEER FIRE COMMISSION

Presentation to the Public Safety Committee

Update

Timothy G. Fleming, Chair

October 10, 2017

WHO WE ARE

- Volunteer fire service started in the 1900's
- All volunteer departments are nonprofit, private corporations
- Corporations are managed by their boards and staffed by 280 administrative and 350 operational volunteers - county wide
- Diverse members that reflect the community
 - EMS-only providers are 49% female
 - Highly educated, multi lingual
 - Lawyers, doctors, IT professionals, engineers, active duty and retired military, federal employees





WHAT WE PROVIDE

- Corporations own and maintain 8 fire stations worth \$27 million
 - Maintenance of these facilities
- 87 pieces of apparatus at 15 fire stations worth over \$30 million
- Over 200,000 volunteer service hours annually worth \$6 million
- Everyday, emergency, surge, and special event staffing

WHAT WE DO



- Recruit and assess new members
- Train new members and incumbents
- Manage people and maintain facilities
- Community outreach
- Provide 28 frontline pieces of apparatus everyday
- Upstaff county units 2-3 per day
- Staff 2-3 volunteer units per day
- Generate revenue through EMS billing
- Farm team concept



COUNTY FUNDED

- \$25k per year per station is applied to apparatus loans
- Vehicle maintenance, fuel, and insurance
- Station utilities
- Training is paid out of volunteer liaison budget and some grant funding
- Personal protective gear
- VFIS-workmen's compensation equivalent

VOLUNTEER FUNDED

- Facilities maintenance and mortgages
- Apparatus loans
- Liability insurance for stations and members
- Length Of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) administrative costs
- Volunteer management system
- Station uniforms
- Appurtenances for career staff



CONCERNS



- Retention
 - Meaningful role
 - Potential impact to possible change in service delivery
- Future leadership and succession planning
- LOSAP
- Finances
- High cost of apparatus and facilities

QUESTIONS?

