



BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department mission is to provide superior fire protection for its community. With “Life Safety” being our top priority, the proposed Fire Tax District intention is to improve the quality of services in which we provide to our community by providing 24-hour staffing, adequate staffing for fire related incidents, and upgrading/improving life safety equipment needs. Responding to over 700 emergency calls in 2019, the need for adequate equipment and staffing is ever so paramount. We hope that this document will provide you with an understanding of the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Departments mission and how we intend to improve our Fire Protection Services for the community.



FIRE PROTECTION

Organized in 1889, The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department has provided **SUPERIOR** Fire Service Protection for over *130 Years*. Strategically located in the core of Blacksburg, we are composed of 35 well trained volunteers that provides the best fire protection for our community and surrounding areas. With an *Insurance Service Organization Rating (ISO) of a Class 3 (SCALE of 1-10, 1 being the best)*, we intend to uphold great standards for our community by creating a Fire Tax District. This will be accomplished by providing adequate staffing for all Fire and Medical emergencies 24 hours a day.

The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department provides Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Basic and Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials Mitigation, Fire Prevention, Fire Inspections and Investigations, Public Education, and Mutual Aid Responses not only to the City of Blacksburg, but neighboring Counties and State agencies as well. Blacksburg Fire Department is consistently working to achieve and maintaining the highest level of professionalism on behalf of those we serve. Therefore, on **August 11, 2020**, The Blacksburg Volunteer needs your vote to help create the Blacksburg Fire Protection Fire Tax District.

FIRE DISTRICT BENEFITS

- **IMPROVED** Life and Property Safety
- **Lower ISO Rating**, Thereby Potentially Saving Homeowners Hundreds of Dollars in Homeowners Insurance.
- **Improve Daytime Staffing** of Qualified Firefighters
- **Replacement of Aged and Out of Date Life Safety Equipment**
- Quicker and Efficient Response Times
- **AGGRESSIVE FIREGROUND TACTICS** and Training Program Methods
- **Effective Policies, Procedures, And Guidelines for Safer Operation Standards**
- Adequate Apparatus and Rescue Equipment
- **“High Level of Professionalism”** from Fire Department Members
- Specialized Equipment: Extrication, Rope Ops, & Hazmat Operations

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- **UNSTABLE FUNDING**
- **INADEQUATE DAYTIME STAFFING**
- **REPLACEMENT OF LIFE SAFETY EQUIPMENT (PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, APPARATUS)**
- **INCENTIVE/RETENTION PROGRAM**
- **NO TRAINING FACILITIES/FIRE TRAINING GROUNDS**
- **BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS**

WHAT'S THE COST?

Blacksburg Fire Department is seeking what is termed as "15 Mills." This simply means that the tax rate is \$0.015, or 1.5 cent per \$100. The table below will provide estimated examples:

HOW TO CALCULATE

EXAMPLE

Property Value = \$50,000
 Percentage = 4% Millage Rate = 15Mills
 = \$50,000 x 0.04% x 0.015 = \$30 Per Year

<u>Property Value</u>	<u>Taxes Per Year</u>
\$20,000.00	\$12.00
\$30,000.00	\$18.00
\$40,000.00	\$24.00
\$50,000.00	\$30.00
\$60,000.00	\$36.00
\$70,000.00	\$42.00
\$80,000.00	\$48.00
\$90,000.00	\$54.00



Operational Cost



Outfitting Single Firefighter:

- Gloves = \$130
- Flash Hood = \$130
- Helmet = \$795
- Boots = \$600
- Radio = \$500
- Pagers = \$500
- Air Pack = \$8,500
- Turnout Gear = \$4,000
- Total = \$15,155**

Essential Life Safety Equipment

- JAWS OF LIFE \$32,000 Per Set**
- Rescue Equipment = \$12,000**
- Thermal Imaging Cameras = \$6,000 Per**
- *GAS Meters = \$1,500 (calibrate monthly)**
- *Truck Maintenance & Repairs = \$20,000**
- Fire Hose Per Truck = \$10,000**
- Hazmat Materials = \$5,000**
- Outfitting One Fire Apparatus = \$120,000**
- Unexpected Disasters = \$5,000 (COVID-19)**

Starred items are reoccurring annually cost and can fluctuate frequently

Save The Dates

April 2020

- 04/04 – Petition Signing for Blacksburg City Limits
- 04/11 – Petition Signing for Blacksburg County Limits
- 04/14 – Town of Blacksburg Council Meeting (Approval)

May 2020

- 05/01 – Posting of Tax District Video
- 05/04 – Cherokee County Council Meeting (Approval) for County Fire Tax District
- 05/14 – Public In-House Information Session @ Blacksburg Fire Dept. starting at 6:00pm

June 2020

- 06/11 - Public In-House Information Session @ Blacksburg Fire Dept. starting at 6:00pm

July 2020

- 07/09 - Public In-House Information Session @ Blacksburg Fire Dept.

August 2020

- 08/11 – Voting day for Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department Tax District

Contact Information

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Also Visit our Facebook Page, Webpage, and Local Media for updates