



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District 7

Fire Chief Gary C. Whitehead

73469 Highway 41 Pearl River La. 70452

Office: 985-863-5111 Fax: 985-863-51110

Current vs. Proposed Funding of Fire District 7

What's at stake

Increased property insurance rates: At some point we will not maintain our current rating and could lose any possible rating through Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL). A lose of rating would at a minimum double property insurance cost.

Failure of Fire Trucks: With an aging fleet, we have had mechanical failure of fire trucks while in response to emergency calls. This will increase if trucks are not replaced.

Care of Patients: With current staffing and equipment the public is at a greater risk on medical calls. We will initially have only one firefighter/EMS personnel arrive on calls with the next person at least five minutes later. For critical medical calls this could reduce the success rate.

Saving Lives and Homes from Fire: We are required to have two firefighters to enter a burning structure to search for trapped victims or to fight fire. With the current delay of the second due truck and person, lives and homes are at high risk. If a firefighter breaks from protocol and codes and decides to enter without a second person, they are placing their life at jeopardy. Neither option is good for anyone involved in this type of incident.

Safety of Firefighters: We go on many types of calls. Some of them are potentially dangerous to our firefighters. This is especially true with only one firefighter/EMS personnel arriving and managing the emergency call alone for at least five (5) minutes. We have had calls where firefighter/EMS personnel safety was compromised. There is a level of risk we accept, but FD7 employees are at a much higher risk due to staffing levels.

Chris Hnatyshyn
Chairperson

Albert Hollie
Vice-Chair

Shannon Thornhill
Secretary/Treasurer

David Howell
Commissioner

Gary L. Ranatza
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What can be accomplished with additional funding

Fire and Rescue: We could begin rescue and fire fighting operations sooner which will increase the chances for a positive outcome including **saved lives and property**. We could have more total firefighters on calls if needed with total increased staffing. This would provide more efficient fire ground operations.

Medical Calls: Medical patients would have two firefighters/EMS personnel on the first arriving truck which would greatly improve survival rates and reduce chances of non-critical patients degrading to critical status. Because 72% of our emergency calls are medical in nature, **we will save more lives** from cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest and trauma with additional staffing.

Firefighter/EMS Personnel Safety: With two firefighters staffed at stations, our **employees will be safer** on emergency calls.

New Fire Trucks and Equipment: We could start a truck replacement plan to have NFPA compliant fire trucks. This will reduce repair/maintenance costs and the risk of failure in response to emergency calls. We can also purchase compliant firefighting gear, breathing apparatus and equipment.

Community Growth: We can strategically plan for population increase and commercial growth. We would be able to upgrade fire stations to house employees and look and locations for needed fire stations.

PIAL Rating: We can improve our class rating thus reducing property insurance rates. **This could offset and in some cases be a net positive to property owners** (see Millage vs. Property Insurance spreadsheet).

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