

Information concerning the SPEA study done for The Township

Throughout 2013, township trustee's from across Monroe County came together to discuss many different issues. Chief among them was the issue of continued financing for fire and emergency services in rural areas. For the most part every township found itself in a similar situation, at their maximum property tax levy which limited the ability to continue to fund essential services. Trustee's from Bloomington, Benton, Van Buren, and Salt Creek got together, and approached the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) about the possibility of conducting a study in the rural areas which would look towards cooperative solutions to maintain fire and EMS services, as well as to help to ensure sustained funding. This was not a service which was provided free of charge, and these four townships split the cost. The data which was gathered for the study encompassed all areas to which the named departments responded to through contract such as Washington Township. Salt Creek data was obtained through a review of reports from the Bloomington City Fire Department as they were the responding agency.

How do we decide on spending for gear etc.?

The NFPA standard 1971 outlines the requirements which firefighting turn-out gear (helmet, coat, hood, pants, gloves, and boots) must meet in order to be used for structural firefighting. All gear purchased for structural firefighting personnel meets these standards. Once such gear is purchased, NFPA 1851 outlines the standards for the care and maintenance. This includes the need to decontaminate the gear regularly after exposure to toxic fumes as happens during a fire.

Congruent with the recommendations in NFPA 1851, the department has evaluated the risks to its personnel. As a result of the fact that full-time staff respond to more incidents, they are purchased different turn-out gear than volunteer staff. While both meet the 1851 standards, simply the gear purchased for the full time staff, over time, has been proven to be more durable than that purchased for the volunteer staff. Another reason for the difference is that by and large, volunteer staff are more transient, and only spend a few years with the department. The result then is that the gear purchased for one individual may not be suited for another. Currently each helmet costs approximately \$300 and each pair of boots costs approximately \$250. Full time turn-out gear costs approximately \$2100, and Volunteer gear costs approximately \$1850 per set (pants and coat).

One other facet of the 1851 standard is the requirement to retire gear when it reaches no more than 10 years from the date of manufacture (NFPA 1851 - 10.1.2.). In addition, some exposures such as an inadvertent chemical or other toxic exposure could result in the need to retire and replace garments before that time.

If the new station is going to have two firefighters on duty, given the requirement for four firefighters, reconcile the difference.

In the most ideal world, it would be preferable to have four firefighters working full time on each engine. That being said, the rules which allude to the need to have more personnel are specifically the Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) 1910.134 which is the respiratory protection standard, as well as National Fire Protection Administration 1710 and 1720 which refer to the need to muster an amount of personnel within a given time at the scene in order to safely mitigate an incident. In so far as the OSHA standard is concerned, the four personnel rule is more specifically the “two in – two out rule” which applies where there is an environment which is Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health in our case a residential structure fire would be an example. Effectively this rule means that in order for our personnel to go inside a burning structure to combat a fire, we must have personnel on the outside who are able to perform a rescue should the need arise. There is one caveat to this however, and that is where life safety is a concern. Simply, if there is a trapped occupant, regardless of the rule, our personnel may take calculated risks in order to save a life; including making entry into a burning structure without appropriate rescue personnel outside. Where the NFPA standards are concerned, the Territory operates a “Combination” department with both full time staffing as well as volunteer personnel in order to muster adequate staffing for safe operations. The 1720 standard which applies to this type of organization recommends different staffing muster levels based on the area where the response is occurring. Section 4.3.2, for example, outlines that within a rural area we need to be able to muster 6 personnel within 14 minutes. Within a more suburban area we should be able to muster 10 personnel within 10 minutes. This recommended staffing can be met by any combination of full-time and volunteer staff, along with automatic and mutual-aid from neighboring agencies.

Another interesting tidbit of information is that over the last quarter, nearly 67% of our calls for service occur during the workday or between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. This is when our full time staffing is at its highest and our volunteer staff is at its lowest. Similarly on weekends when more volunteers are available, our full-time staffing is lower.

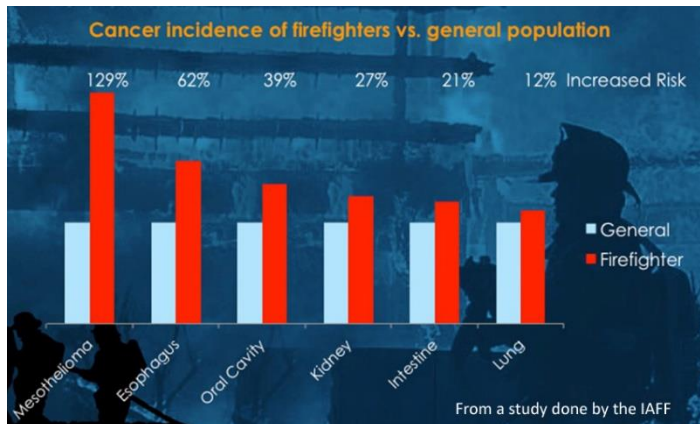
Additionally, on average the amount of EMS related calls account for between 60 and 70% of our responses. Two personnel are standard staff for an ambulance, and similarly are adequate to handle the majority of these types of emergencies.

How did the station cost of \$1.2-\$1.3 million get decided?

First of all, the estimated size of the new station is approximately 7500 square feet. The square footage was then multiplied by a per square foot cost of \$150. This yielded a total cost of \$1.125 million. The remaining \$175,000 was planned for contingencies including the cost of excavation and affiliated land work as well as for allowances which have been included within the Request For Proposal which account for appliances as well as fitness equipment, etc.

Secondly, why the size of the building? The bay area for fire equipment is approximately 2500 square feet of the total facility. The remaining 5000 square feet includes regular living space which includes 4 bedrooms, a kitchen, living room, laundry room, and office space within the residential area. In addition, a trustee’s office is included as well as an exercise facility. It should be noted that also

included within the square footage is an area for fire gear to be stored as well as cleaned and decontaminated, and storage space for supplies and necessary equipment. Ultimately a fire station is many things. It is a garage to store fire apparatus, a house for the on-duty and volunteer personnel, an office for the trustee and firefighters, a training and meeting room, and an exercise facility. Most importantly though, the fire station is a community building which must continue to operate when other areas cannot. As a result the planned cost is for a station which has exterior load bearing masonry walls.



Firefighters are at a far greater risk of contracting cancer than the general public.

NMFT actively engages in cancer reduction programs for our firefighters. This includes incorporating certain aspects of protection into the fire station itself. Cancer reduction elements in the station consist of things such as separation of dirty areas (the bays and turnout gear areas) from living quarters. Other elements include policies that require decontamination of turnout

gear after a structure fire by means of a gear extractor device (large washing machine) as required by NFPA 1851-4.5. Other policies require personnel to shower upon returning to the station after an incident that exposes them to high levels of carcinogens.

Incorporating cancer reduction elements and policies into facilities, may add to the cost of a fire station, but by doing so the department can help drastically reduce the cancer rate that afflicts the firefighting profession.

What is an RFP and what financing option does it include?

The NMFT new station RFP is simply a Request for Proposals for design ideas along with the financing perimeter of Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT). BOT financing is similar to a lease to own where no loans or bonds are involved that would raise taxes to pay for it. The RFP is not a contract to build.

BOT financing allows for the ownership of the building to be transfer to the owner upon completion of the building and then payments are made to the financing entity. In this case the owner would be Washington Township. So upon competition of the building ownership will be transferred to Washington Township.

The BOT payments are included in the 2018 NMFT operating budget. They are included in the total for the budget, and will continue to be part of the budget for the 15-year duration of the BOT agreement.

Why does the new engine cost \$549,000?

Instead of just a fire engine, specifications were developed for a combination Pumper/Rescue. This was done in order to be economical as well as to be space efficient in the new station. Having to purchase and house two separate apparatus would double costs and housing space.

March 2017

The first set of specifications were sent out for bid and we received only one bid back for \$576,000. We decided to re-bid the apparatus in order to get more competitive bids.

June 2017

We re-worked the specification and sent them out again. The second time we received 4 bids:

Hoosier Fire/Smeal	\$573,990,
Donley Safety/Spartan	\$549,741
Darley	\$564,559
911 Fleet/HME	\$554,205

From this set of bids we accepted the bid from Donley Safety for a savings over the first bid request of more than \$26,000.

September 2017

After going through what's called a pre-construction meeting with Spartan, which entails going through the specifications line by line we further reduced the cost of the new engine by \$3,339.

In the end the new Pumper/Rescue will cost \$546,402. This is over \$29,000 less than the original bid we received back in March of \$576,000.

Do we have a grant writer on Staff? What grants have been applied for?

Yes, NMFT has several grant writers on staff.

Bloomington Township Department of Fire & Emergency Services, **now the Northern Monroe Fire Territory (NMFT)** actively seeks and applies for Local, State, and Federal grant assistance as well as grants through philanthropic organizations in many different categories.

Bloomington Township Fire Department has combined efforts with other county agencies to write grants that benefit not only all Monroe County fire departments, but other county agencies as well. These grants total into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Some of the grantors include:

- State Homeland Security Grant
- Hazardous Materials Education Program
- Indiana Department of Commerce
- Homeland Security Foundation Grant
- Community Foundation Grant
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant
- Department of Natural Resources Grant

- Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program

Some awards include:

- On July 25th 2003, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the USFA titled Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG). Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded \$151,515 in the "Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety" category. This grant will help purchase SCBAs, related equipment and SCBA face piece fit testing equipment.
- On September 2nd 2003, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for \$5,000. This grant will help place equipment on the department's new tanker, including a 2100 gallon dump tank.
- August of 2003, Bloomington Township Fire Department was award \$85,685 from part 1 of the SHSP state grant through the Monroe County EMA. This grant was used to purchase a 2004 Ford F350 with a Clark utility cabinet. This vehicle carries the department's first response equipment for hazardous materials and WMD events. These funds also purchased a Zumro decontamination tent, a Bae systems Chem Sentry detection unit and multi-station charging system for the department's portable radios.
- On October 17th 2003, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Commerce - Energy Policy Division - Recycling Market Development Program for \$558.00. For information on the Recycled Product Purchasing Grant see Recycle Indiana This grant will be used to help purchase cribbing made from 100% recycled materials. Cribbing is used to help stabilize vehicles that have been involved in accidents, while extrication of patients is performed.
- July of 2004, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana State Fire Marshall's Office for \$50,000. These funds were used to purchase hazardous materials response equipment. This equipment includes: An onboard computer for the rapid identification of hazardous materials information, communication equipment, level a entry suits, heavy extrication equipment, and other response equipment.
- July 2004, the department was awarded 15,500 through the Monroe County EMA as part of the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) part 1. These funds will be used to upgrade the department's SCBAs to be CBRNE compliant.
- On August 2nd 2004, the department was awarded the Fire Prevention and Safety Program FY 2003 grant. This grant will purchase a Sparky The Fire Dog Costume and related literature for our Fire Prevention Program. This Program is administered by Craig Zollars, the department's Fire Prevention Officer.
- On February 11th 2005, the department was awarded the Fire Prevention and Safety Program FY 2004 grant. This grant will purchase a "Sparky Fire House" used to train children about the various hazards around the home, and a laptop computer and projector, to present the "Risk Watch" program to children of all ages. Visit our Fire Prevention Page if you would like to schedule a fire prevention activity for your organization.

- September 2005, the department received a grant from the USFA titled Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG). Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded \$76,961.50 in the "Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety" category. This grant will help purchase 800MHz radios to facilitate statewide interoperability.
- May 22nd 2006, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for \$5,000. This grant will help purchase turnout gear for the department.
- October 12th 2007, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the USFA titled Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) for \$74,542. These funds will be used to install a Plymovent exhaust system in the bays of both Station 5, and Station 15. These exhaust systems connect directly to the apparatus and help eliminate exhaust fumes from the building.
- December 12th 2007, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) grant. This grant is for haz-mat equipment and includes a Ahura-Raman spectroscopy chemical identifier, and an MSA-Photoionization Detector. This equipment is valued at \$40,000.
- May 2nd 2008, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for \$5,000. This grant will help purchase New Hose and Nozzles for the department.
- December 19, 2008 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded \$3,000 through the Monroe County Community Services Grant. This grant will help purchase New AEDs for the department that are pediatric capable.
- February 27, 2009 Bloomington Township Fire department was awarded \$10,500 through the Indian Department of Homeland Security for hazardous materials equipment.
- June 1st 2009, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for \$4,000. This grant will help purchase a Kawasaki Mule that will be used in remote parts of our response area for both rescues and wildland firefighting.
- February 5th, 2010 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the USFA titled Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) for \$29,100. These funds will be used to replace the department's large diameter water supply hose.
- June 15th, 2010 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for \$5,000. This grant will help the department replace 2-1/2" nozzles, ladders and foam eductors.
- On May 31, 2011 the department was awarded \$11,296 from the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). These funds will be used to purchase monitoring equipment for the department's hazardous materials team.

- On October 11, 2011 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for \$5,000. This grant will help the department replace wildland firefighting equipment.
- On December 22, 2011 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) for \$5,610. This grant will help the department make the transition to VHF narrow banding.
- November, 2012 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee for \$8,037. This grant will be used to purchase level "A" fully encapsulated hazardous materials response suits.
- February, 2013 the department was awarded \$5,973.06 through the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to purchase a level "C" Chlorine Kit and training dome. This kit is used to mitigate a chlorine railroad car leak.
- April, 2013 the department was awarded \$7,142.86 through the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Hazardous Materials Project. This grant will be used to purchase level "A" hazmat suits with incorporated flash protection, and a Nitrogen Dioxide monitor.
- August, 2013 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for \$5,000. This grant will be used to purchase wildland firefighting equipment.
- May, 2014 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Foundation Grant Program for \$4,000. This grant will be used to purchase turnout gear.
- June, 2014 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for \$6,328. This grant will be used to purchase hazardous materials response equipment.
- August, 2014 Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for \$5,000. This grant will be used to purchase turnout gear.
- 2015, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the State Homeland Security Grant program for \$17,360 to purchase various pieces of hazardous materials response equipment and replace our outdated SCBA Facemask fit testing equipment.
- 2015, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Foundation Grant Program for \$4,000, used to purchase AED's.
- August 2015, Bloomington Township Fire Department was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for \$5,000, which was used to purchase wildland turnout gear.