

FIRE FEE FACT SHEET

1. A Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) in your vicinity **lowers your insurance premiums**. The Fire Association encourages all residents of Upshur County to ask your insurance agent what your premium would be if the VFD did not exist. The annual fire fee is **far below** that cost.
2. There is a **severe decline in volunteerism** nationwide. Paid Firefighters may be the only option in the very near future.
3. The annual fire fee has not increased in 22 years, but the **cost of everything has continued to rise**. For example, a postage stamp in 2001 was only 34 cents, compared to the current cost of 63 cents; Gasoline in 2001 was \$1.46 per gallon compared to \$3.49 per gallon today. Deisel fuel in 2001 cost an average of \$1.40 compared to today's average of \$3.92.
4. All Fire Fighting equipment is mandated by law to be replaced at certain intervals, most commonly every ten years.
5. Providing the **personal protective equipment** needed for a single fire fighter costs approximately **\$13,480.00**, this includes just what they are wearing to work at a structure fire and does not include the cost of the tools and other equipment they carry in their training, or the apparatus to get to the fire. The uniform must be replaced at ten years.
6. The average price of a firefighting truck: Basic Ladder Truck \$650,000-\$950,000; Mid-range Structural pumper, \$500,000+; Basic Engine/bush Truck (simply pumps the water), \$100,000.00-\$300,000.00.
7. VFDs pay basic operating costs of mortgages, building maintenance, water, electric, internet/phone, garbage, insurance, vehicle maintenance/repair and office supplies.

VFD Expenditures paid by Fire Fees:

1. Firefighting equipment
2. Fire Truck payments
3. Outfitting Fire Fighters
4. Training
5. Equipment testing
6. Gasoline/Diesel for Fire fighting vehicles
7. Electricity
8. Heating Fuel
9. Telephone/Internet
10. Water
11. Garbage
12. Cleaning supplies
13. General Office supplies/equipment
14. Insurance: building/vehicles
15. Auto maintenance/repairs/parts
16. Building maintenance/repairs
17. Pest control
18. Secretarial work
19. WV Fireman's Association Dues
20. Audit fees
21. Bank statement fees