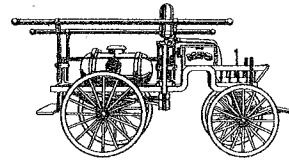




Muncie Fire Department

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SEAN BURCHAM
CHIEF

June 18, 2009

Five Year Plan for Possible Revenue Sources for the Procurement and Maintenance of Capital Projects for the Muncie Fire Department Sean Burcham, Chief

The Muncie Fire Department is currently facing critical circumstances concerning nearly every area of the department due to economic conditions in the City of Muncie. The effects of Indiana House Bill 1001 has created estimated shortfalls of several million dollars over a period of the next three years by limiting tax caps on property owners of every sort – homeowners, landlords, and businesses. This coupled with the fact that the line item in the fire department budget designated for purchasing fire apparatus has been empty since 2003, has created a serious shortage of viable fire apparatus. Many pieces of the Muncie Fire Department fleet has aged well beyond the reasonable life expectancy of apparatus in a city the size of Muncie, and in accordance with the number and types of runs made by the fire department. With the forced retirement of both the 1970 Snorkel aerial and the 1983 Seagrave tiller aerial due to hydraulic and structural failure, respectively, the city, the Ball State University campus, and to some extent the county via mutual aid contracts, has been without adequate aerial protection for over a year to date.

The Delaware County Economic Development Board has graciously offered help in these matters, generously supplying the need with the purchase of new aerial equipment. In good faith, the Muncie Fire Department is constantly looking for ways to supply funding to meet the needs for apparatus, equipment, and station replacement and maintenance. The Muncie Fire Department has been in the process of developing short-, mid-, and longer-term capital goals for no less than two years. The following is a list of funding options that are currently being explored for fire protection funding:

1. **Grants:** The department has had success in procuring grants for the replacement of obsolete air packs and fire gear over the last two years. The Department of Homeland Security/FEMA grants are invaluable in helping supply equipment. We will continue to pursue these and other grant opportunities as they arise. We are currently applying for a FEMA grant to build a new fire department headquarters station. We have applied for a grant this year for a new truck and actively seeking matching funds for this grant through private donations.
2. **Donations:** A quasi-subset of the grants mentioned above is the donations account. We have a few organizations that have been faithful in helping to supply needed matching funds for some grant opportunities. The tough economic times may or may not affect their ability to help in the future.
3. **Corporate sponsorship:** The fire department has also considered corporate sponsorship for the purchase of apparatus and equipment. This is a venue we may be able to explore more freely in the future.

4. **Hydrant user fees:** The Muncie Fire Department pays over \$600,000 annually for the rental of fire hydrants. This expense was originally in the public works budget, but has been in the fire department budget since January, 2008. This cost could be alleviated by affixing a small fee to monthly water bills. The fee amounts per household are negligible, and would greatly alleviate a large sum from the fire department budget. Hydrant user fees must be instituted by City Council.

5. **Federal community development (HUD) funds:** It is permissible to use these funds for the repair, replacement, and building of new fire stations and the acquisition of equipment.

The Muncie Fire Department will continue to work to procure permanent funding sources for capital improvement and the purchase of equipment, apparatus, and stations. The fire department administration shall be diligent in seeking funding from many sources. With the short-term goal of obtaining aerial equipment achieved, the next step is being proactive to prevent any further need for emergency economic intervention in the long term.