



BRENTWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT INC.  
3716 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, BRENTWOOD MD 20722

PHONE: 301 927-5713 FAX: 301 927-5713

TO: Mayor & Council members

2-09-2025

FROM: The Brentwood Volunteer Fire Dept.

This letter is to officially request the budgeted disbursement towards the maintenance of the 2022 fire engine, equipment, recruitment/retention and the required insurance due quarterly at a rate of \$1,900 with a \$2,500 deductible.

We are still unable to generate the maximum funding from our traditional source, the Hall, due to having to share 50% Hall rental revenue with the Mt. Rainier Vol FD housed in the building with us by order of the PGFD Administration. Also, the Farmer's Market that was imposed on us restricts some of our potential rental requests for morning or midday usage (Repasts, Community events etc.) yielding up to an 60% loss in revenue per day if this event happens.

In light of the current climate of restricted County funds, we are looking for assistance to help defray the costs of doing business. I have enclosed several documents showing the savings volunteers bring to the community both on a national average and local average. This information is to support the investment and importance of the volunteers to the community that we serve. We are requesting \$10,000, however, any amount that you can help the Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department with will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William F. Broadus".

William F. Broadus – President

Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department.



*Supporting Those Who Serve*

Dear Friend,

The volunteer fire service has a strong and proud tradition in our nation. From the earliest colonial days, community members have worked together to fight fires that threatened their towns. Many of the leaders who helped found our nation, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, felt this call of duty and served in or supported their local fire brigades.

2011-2012 marked what can be considered the 275th anniversary of our nation's volunteer fire service. It was in 1736 that Benjamin Franklin founded the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia. While there were firefighting societies in the Northeast before this, the founding of the Union Fire Company is considered by many to truly be the start of America's modern volunteer fire service.

Much has changed in firefighting technology, training, equipment, scope, and understanding over the past 275 years. But one thing has remained consistent: When disaster strikes, our nation relies on brave volunteers who are willing to put themselves in harm's way to protect their neighbors and their communities. These individuals routinely put others before themselves and serve their communities without thought to personal gain.

Today, over 70 percent of all firefighters in the U.S. remain volunteers, carrying on the noble tradition that started with our forefathers. The National Volunteer Fire Council is dedicated to serving the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue community, providing advocacy, resources, and programs to support these individuals and departments. Our goal is to make sure the volunteer tradition continues to thrive, now and in the future.

We hope you enjoy this publication as it looks back at the beginnings of our nation's fire service, how the volunteer fire and emergency services have changed over time, the continued importance of volunteers in today's society, and where we are headed in the future. Please also take time to visit the NVFC web site at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org) to learn more about the organization and the resources and programs we offer.

Thank you to all those who serve your communities and keep our nation and our citizens safe.



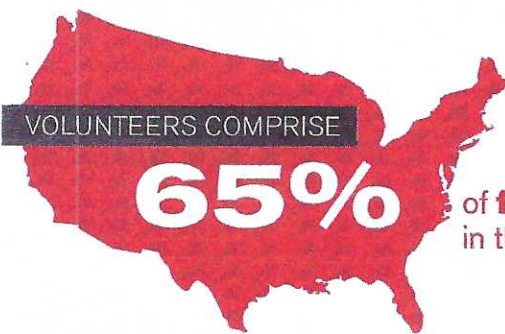
Sincerely,

*Philip C. Stittleburg*

Chief Philip C. Stittleburg  
Chairman  
National Volunteer Fire Council



# The Fire Service in the United States of America



of **firefighters**  
in the United States.



The first fire company in the United States  
was founded in **1678**.

In  
**2021** >  
there were

**36,624,000** fire department calls

**26,291,000** medical aid calls

**1,353,500** fire calls

**8,979,500** other

TOTAL



**18,873**  
are all volunteer

**5,335**  
are mostly volunteer

**2,459**  
are mostly career

**2,785**  
are all career

**29,452** fire departments in the country



The time donated by volunteer firefighters  
saves localities across the country an estimated

**\$46.9 billion** per year.



In **2021** a fire department  
responded to a fire every

**23 seconds**



The number of  
volunteer  
firefighters  
reached a low of

**676,900**  
in 2020.

The volunteer fire service is an aging population. In communities under 2,500:



are under 30



are 30-39



are 40-49



are 50 and up



Call volume has  
**tripled** in the  
last **35**  
years.

Volunteers are Often the First Line of Defense During:

- » Fires
- » Emergency Medical Incidents
- » Natural Disasters
- » Vehicle Accidents
- » Hazardous Materials Incidents
- » Terrorist & Active Shooter Events
- » Search and Rescue

Recruitment and Retention Challenges Include:

- » Time Demands
- » Increased Training Requirements
- » Increasing Call Volume
- » Aging Communities
- » Leadership Problems
- » Internal Conflict



[www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org)

Sources: National Fire Protection Association; National Volunteer Fire Council

## Effects of the decline in Volunteers

Effects of the decline in Volunteers The erosion of the volunteer fire service in the United States has economic and social effects. The economic ramifications are obvious, as towns are forced to hire career firefighters in place of volunteers. The 75 % of the country served by volunteer firefighters relies on them to be the first line of defense in almost any type of emergency from fires and medical emergencies to technical rescues and hazardous materials spills. Volunteers are the initial mitigators before the arrival of county, State, or Federal backup emergency response teams for all types of natural disasters. Of the over **30,000** fire departments in the United States, **88 percent are volunteer**, protecting 40 percent of the population.

On September 10, 2004, the NVFC Foundation officially released its Cost Savings Study and Calculator at the National Associations of Towns and Townships Conference in Washington, DC. The study, which was conducted by the Public Safety and Environmental Protection Institute at St. Joseph's University with the assistance of VFIS, found that it would cost U.S. taxpayers \$37.2 billion annually if they had to replace all volunteer firefighters nationwide with career staffing. Some have indicated they cannot afford to hire career firefighters, and that the services of firefighters would not exist if their departments failed. Others have said that their towns could afford to hire a few career firefighters, but that volunteers would still be necessary to supplement the career staff.

According to the Cost Savings Study, an average figure that can be used for a career firefighter's salary and benefits is \$71,500 per year. The actual figure varies by area of the country. The loss of volunteers also would have more subtle social ramifications.



In many communities, particularly small towns, the volunteer fire department has been a social center. Dinners, dances, family reunions, and weddings all have been held in the fire station. Volunteer firefighters embody and represent the spirit of the community. They are often the centerpiece in parades. The loss of the volunteer fire service would be a major social loss for any community.

**U.S. Fire Administration Retention and Recruitment for the Volunteer Emergency Services Challenges and Solutions FA-310/May 2007**

## **Volunteer economic impact for taxpayers**

The NVFC provides calculators to assess "volunteer firefighter values" in dollars and savings to taxpayers.

### **Annual Value of Volunteers**

This calculator will show the retention value of all members for their donated time to the fire or EMS department for the current year. This is a conservative value for one volunteer station, 20 riding members, 40 hours a month (4 hour weekly duty crews/24 hours of alarms), 9600 hours a year. As the total retention value of the donated time is the sole focus of this calculator, onboarding and investment costs are not considered (*PGFD covers onboarding costs*).

**\$321,504**

### **Average Annual Value per Member**

**\$16.075**

Results created using the estimated hourly value of \$33.49 for United States Average

Source: Independent Sector, Last Updated: April 23, 2024

### **Cost Savings**

#### **Career Versus Volunteer Comparison Calculator**

This calculator will show the cost of positions if staffed by career responders, representing the cost savings of volunteers filling those positions. Below example would be for one career staffed day station with volunteers covering nights/weekends.

The annual cost savings if volunteers cover 6 staffed positions, 12 hours per day is

**\$1,051,801.98**

Results created using the estimated volunteer hourly value of \$33.49 for United States Average<sup>1</sup>. An increase in the fringe benefits of paid staff results in the hourly rate of \$40.00.

1. Source: Independent Sector, Last Updated: April 23, 2024

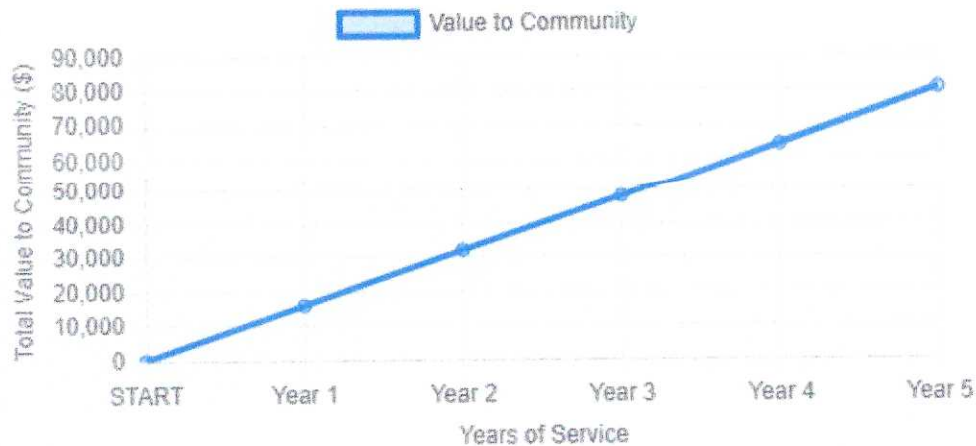
## Value of Retention of one volunteer firefighter over 5 Years

The total contributed value of this volunteer over a period of 5 years is **\$80,376**, if they average 40 hours per month.

Results created using the estimated hourly value of \$33.49 for United States Average. This illustration uses that hourly rate assumption for all years shown. Source: Independent Sector, Last Updated: April 23, 2024

### Value of Retention over 5 Years

Created 11/13/2024 using the estimated hourly value of \$33.49 for United States Average.  
Average hours per month: 40. Onboarding costs: \$0



# Maryland

Incident types

2021  
STATEWIDE  
NATIONAL  
VOL FIRE  
COUNCIL

