

# Village Fire Department



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*Protecting and Serving the Cities of:*  
**BUNKER HILL VILLAGE**  
**HEDWIG VILLAGE**  
**HILSHIRE VILLAGE**  
**HUNTERS CREEK VILLAGE**  
**PINEY POINT VILLAGE**  
**SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE**

June 5, 2023

The Honorable Tom Jinks

**Mayor, City of Hedwig Village**

The Honorable Robert Lord

**Mayor, City of Bunker Hill Village**

The Honorable Marcus Vajdos

**Mayor, City of Spring Valley Village**

The Honorable Mark Kobelan

**Mayor, City of Piney Point Village**

The Honorable Jimmy Pappas

**Mayor, City of Hunters Creek Village**

The Honorable Robert (Bob) Buesinger

**Mayor, City of Hilshire Village**

Dear Mayors:

In accordance with the terms of the Interlocal Agreement, the Village Fire Commission has unanimously approved and is forwarding for the consideration and approval of each city the following documents (along with additional supporting schedules and documents):

- **Proposed Amendment 3 to the 2022 Budget.** This is the customary post-audit true-up of the 2022 budget and does not require any additional funds from the cities.
- **Proposed Amendment 4 to the 2023 budget.** As your Commissioners should have already advised you, there was a calculation error in the 2023 budget that resulted in a significant underfunding of the costs to provide payroll and benefits

to the existing workforce. This amendment corrects that error, adjusts overtime to reflect current estimates for 2023 based on year-to-date experience, and adjusts several other budget categories to reflect currently anticipated costs for the year. All of this is explained in more detail in the attached memorandum.

- **Proposed 2024 Budget.** The budget is explained in some detail in the attached documents. To briefly summarize, the budget represents a 3% increase over the 2023 budget, as amended. It provides a 3% across the board salary increase for personnel and anticipated step increases, addresses training deficiencies and increases the contribution toward the Capital Replacement Fund. We wish to point out that the Capital Replacement Fund will be examined in detail by the Commission in the coming months. We need to ensure that we are properly accounting for the unprecedented increase in the cost of fire apparatus, properly evaluating the expected life of current apparatus and recommending the proper investment vehicles for the sums in the fund. Future year contributions to this fund may need to be adjusted to ensure the long-term solvency of this fund.

Throughout this process, it has been our goal to provide the cities with a realistic and achievable budget. We want to end the recent practice of multiple budget amendments throughout the year that require additional, unexpected contributions from the cities. While we all must recognize unforeseeable events could result in the need for additional funds, we must also recognize that some unknown events over the course of a year are foreseeable and should be accounted for in a realistic budget. Your Commissioners and VFD personnel, as well as the undersigned, are prepared to answer your questions regarding this proposed budget.

We ask that you place the three items above on your council's agenda for consideration within the time and manner specified in the Interlocal, then advise the department of your City Council's action.

Respectfully submitted,

**Matt Woodruff, Chair**

**Village Fire Department Board of Commissioners**

Attachments

cc: Village Fire Department Commissioners and Alternates

City Administrators/Secretaries