

**Mount Vernon Volunteer Fire Department  
Staffing Presentation**

**April 5, 2022**

# Franklin County Fire Departments

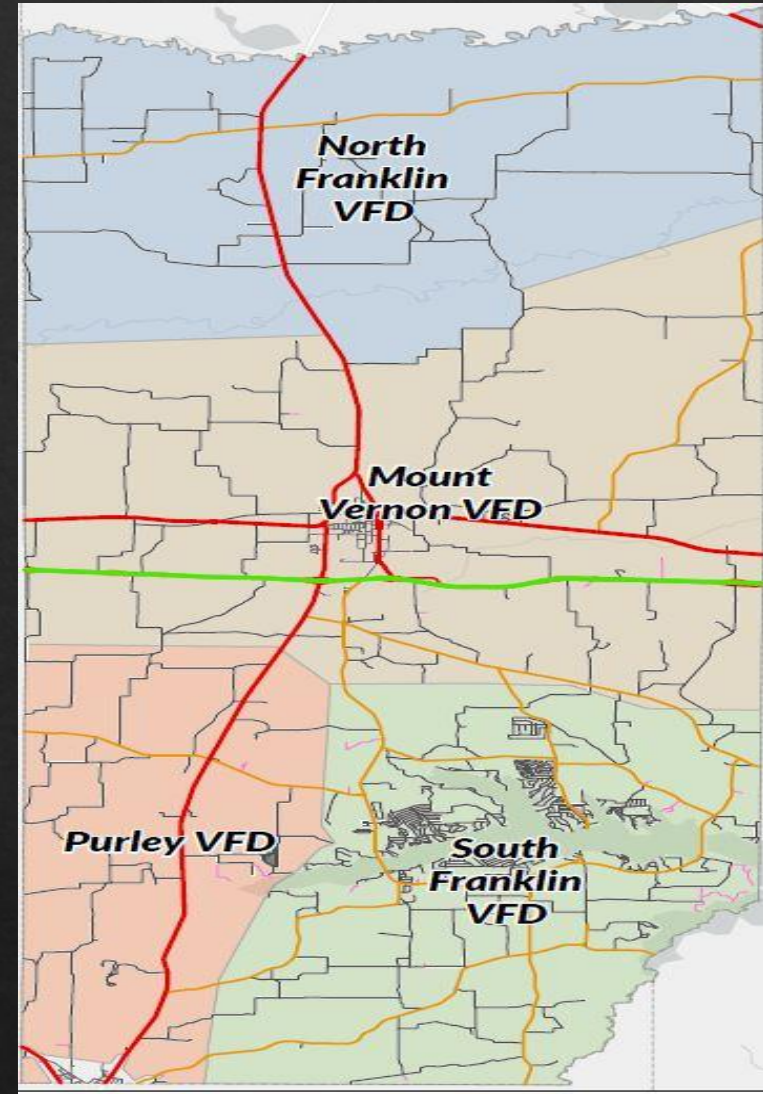
Mount Vernon- 107.506 sqmi  
Structures-2513  
Population-4580

North Franklin- 77.568 sqmi  
Structures-492  
Population-728

Purley- 42.688 sqmi  
Structures-932  
Population-1461

South Franklin- 66.168 sqmi  
Structures-3072  
Population-3058

Winnsboro-



# North Franklin VFD

- 12 Volunteers
- 3 of the 12 volunteers are active (25% of all calls and trainings)
- 1 of the 12 volunteers are active during M-F 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Average age of volunteer = 50.41
- Average years of service = 16.58

\*Data compiled on January 21, 2022

# Mount Vernon VFD

- 11 Volunteers
- 3 of the 11 volunteers are active (25% of all call and training)
- 1 of the 11 volunteers are active during M-F 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Average age of volunteer = 38
- Average years of service = 10.5
- \*Data compiled on January 21, 2022



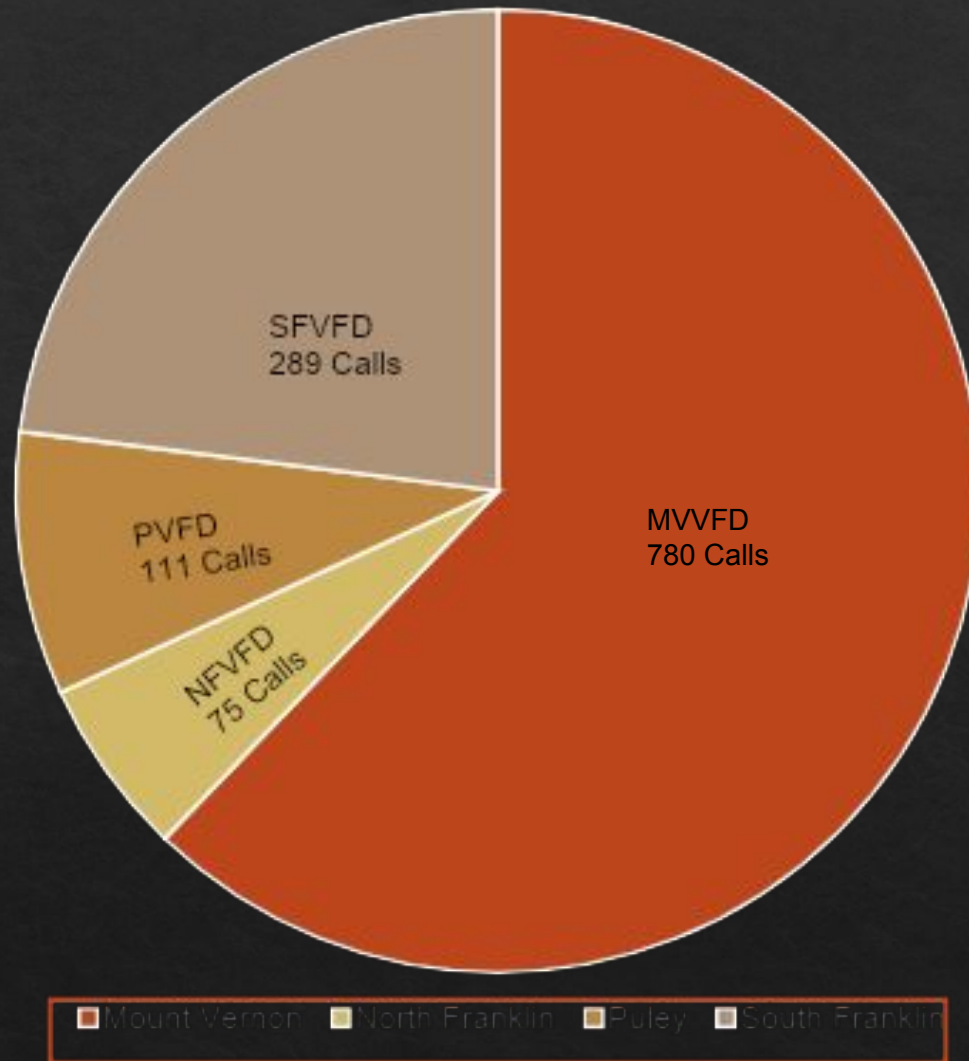
# Purley VFD

- 8 Volunteers
- 3 of the 8 volunteers are active (25% of all call and training)
- 1 of the 8 volunteers are active during M-F 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Average age of volunteer = 38.87
- Average years of service = 6
- \*Data compiled on January 21, 2022

# South Franklin VFD

- 19 Volunteers
- 11 of the 19 volunteers are active (25% of all call and training)
- 1 of the 19 volunteers are active during M-F 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Average age of volunteer = 55.47
- Average years of service = 14

## 2019 Total Calls



## 2019 Call Information

| Departments    | Structure Fire | Grass Fire | Vehicle Fire | Medical | Accident | Misc. Fire |
|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------|----------|------------|
| Mount Vernon   | 25             | 42         | 15           | 550     | 107      | 41         |
| Purley         | 21             | 9          | 5            | 58      | 13       | 5          |
| North Franklin | 21             | 6          | 3            | 34      | 7        | 4          |
| South Franklin | 22             | 21         | 7            | 184     | 32       | 23         |

## 2019 City Call Information

| Departments    | Structure Fire | Grass Fire | Vehicle Fire | Medical | Accident | Misc. Fire |
|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------|----------|------------|
| Mount Vernon   | 4              | 7          | 6            | 405     | 38       | 26         |
| Purley         | 2              | 0          | 2            | 2       | 1        | 0          |
| North Franklin | 3              | 0          | 2            | 0       | 1        | 0          |
| South Franklin | 3              | 0          | 2            | 4       | 1        | 0          |



# 2019 Call Information (Cont.)

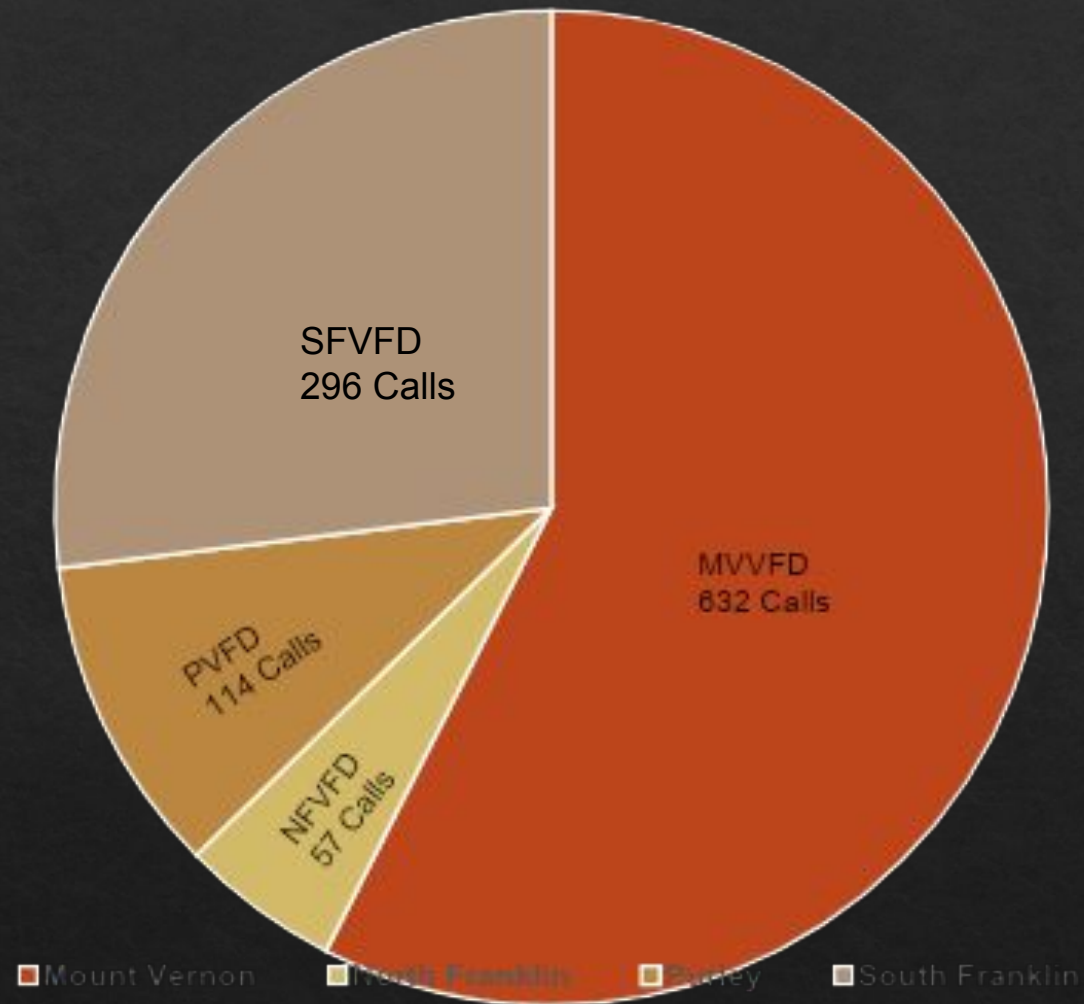
## **Total**

- ◆ 495 calls were in the City Limits (46.65%)
- ◆ 566 calls were outside the city limits (53.34% )

## **Mount Vernon Fire Department**

- ◆ 488 calls were in the City Limits (62.56%)
- ◆ 292 calls were outside the city limits (37.43% )

## 2020 Total Calls



## 2020 Call Information

| Departments    | Structure Fire | Grass Fire | Vehicle Fire | Medical | Accident | Misc. Fire |
|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------|----------|------------|
| Mount Vernon   | 17             | 27         | 19           | 397     | 128      | 44         |
| Purley         | 15             | 15         | 6            | 57      | 8        | 13         |
| North Franklin | 13             | 5          | 1            | 24      | 10       | 4          |
| South Franklin | 15             | 25         | 6            | 192     | 30       | 28         |

## 2020 City Call Information

| Departments    | Structure Fire | Grass Fire | Vehicle Fire | Medical | Accident | Misc. Fire |
|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------|----------|------------|
| Mount Vernon   | 5              | 2          | 6            | 284     | 50       | 29         |
| Purley         | 4              | 0          | 2            | 3       | 2        | 5          |
| North Franklin | 4              | 0          | 0            | 0       | 0        | 3          |
| South Franklin | 4              | 0          | 2            | 2       | 0        | 5          |

# 2020 Call Information (Cont.)

## **Total**

- ◆ 380 calls were in the City Limits (41.30%)
- ◆ 540 calls were outside the city limits (58.69% )

## **Mount Vernon Fire Department**

- ◆ 377 calls were in the City Limits (59.65.34%)
- ◆ 255 calls were outside the city limits (40.34% )



# 2021 & 2022 Call Information

# NON-EMERGENCY DUTIES

- **Training/Drill Preparation and Presentation**
- **Apparatus Repairs/Preventative Maintenance**
  - Pump Maintenance
  - Pump Testing
  - Appliance Testing
  - Ladder Testing
  - Hose Testing
- **Cleaning of Apparatus and Station**
  - Weekly Apparatus and Compartment Cleaning
  - Weekly Bay Floor Cleaning
- **Small-Equipment Repairs/Preventative Maintenance**
  - Rescue Tools (aka Jaws of Life)
  - Cascade System
  - Gas Monitors
  - SCBA's
  - Portable/Stationary Generators
  - PPV Fans
- **Record Keeping**
  - Training Records
  - Incident Reporting
  - SCBA/Equipment Logs
  - Fire/EMS Continuing Education Credits
  - ISO Ratings
- **Administrative**
  - Monthly Reporting
  - Grant Writing/Management
  - Personnel Records
  - SFFMA/TCFP/DSHS Compliance
  - Fire Inspections
  - PPE Ordering/Inventory Management
  - Equipment/Apparatus Procurement
  - Public Education/Relation Events
  - Fundraising

# STAFFING CONCERNS

- Lack of qualified applicants who meet the department's minimum standards for volunteering (criminal background, residency, employment history).
- Very minimal availability of volunteers during the work-week daytime hours.
  - Quality of service that can be provided during these times.
  - Safety of our volunteer responders.
  - Fire/Rescue Protection capabilities for our citizens.
- Decline in volunteerism nationwide.

# STAFFING CONCERNS (Cont.)

62% of all calls received from January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 were during the hours of 6AM - 6PM

59% of all calls received from January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 were during the hours of 6AM - 6PM



# STAFFING CONCERNS (Cont.)

- In Texas, 77% of active firefighters are volunteer.
- The number of volunteer firefighters nationwide has dropped 15%
  - 2015 - 814,850
  - 2016 - 729,000
  - 2017 - 682,600
- Over 92.3% of those leaving volunteer fire organizations cited lack of time according to a 2004 study by St. Joseph's University.

# POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

- Implementation of compensated personnel:
  - Guarantee a response during peak times according to data analysis
  - Decreased response times
  - Increased ISO ratings
  - Reduce non-emergency workload on volunteer staff

# COMPENSATED PERSONNEL

- Ensures that qualified (TCFP/DSHS certified) personnel are available to respond to calls for service during the M-F workweek hours.
- Reduces the non-emergency workload on the volunteers and maximizes the maintenance of apparatus/equipment/station, fire/pre-plan inspection, and cleaning schedules.
- Aids in the delivery of training/drill presentation to volunteers to improve the quality of service delivered to the end-users, our citizens.
- Improves capabilities related to ISO ratings, potentially resulting in a reductionn homeowners insurance rates related to fire protection.

# COMPENSATED PERSONNEL (Cont.)

- Cost Prohibitive
  - Personnel Salaries/Benefits (workman's compensation, death benefit, retirement contributions)
  - Personal Protective Equipment
  - TCFP Compliance (if any individual person makes in excess of \$15,000 in a calendar year)
    - Annual PPE Inspections
    - Annual SCBA Fit/Flow Testing
    - Annual wellness physical
    - Cascade Air Sampling
    - PPE Storage
    - Training/CE Requirements
    - Policies/Procedures Manual



# COMPENSATED PERSONNEL (Cont.)

- Proposed Staffing Plan
  - Staff two compensated, TCFP certified personnel for the peak hours where volunteer staffing is limited
    - Monday-Friday (6:30AM – 6:30 PM)
    - Will need a pool of personnel (8-10) to staff the 2 daily positions in order to remain under the \$15,000 per person compensation cap for TCFP regulation
    - If utilizing an 8 person roster, they would be required to work 5 twelve hour shifts per month; 10 person roster would be required to work 4 twelve hour shifts per month to cover 2 spots for each weekday.
- Proposed Pay Rate
  - \$14.00 per hour (average in area is \$12.50-\$15.00 per hour)
  - 60 hours per week

## COMPENSATED PERSONNEL (Cont.)

- Estimated Annual Costs:

Personnel: \$87,360

Payroll Taxes: \$6,683.04

Workman's Comp. Insurance: \$781.28

Retirement: \$5,826.92

**TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES: \$100,651.24**

# COMPENSATED PERSONNEL (Cont.)

- *Preliminary Capital/Operating Costs:*

**PPE:** \$35,728.00 (estimate a pool of 8 part-time employees to cover 2 positions each day)

**Uniforms:** \$3,000

**On-Boarding Physicals:** Estimated at \$500 per person (\$4,000)

**Station Modifications:** Existing station will not have to be modified to accommodate the new staff.

**Time Reporting/Scheduling Software:** \$360

**TOTAL ESTIMATED PRELIMINARY CAPITAL/OPERATING EXPENSES: \$43,088.00**

# County/ City Information

- ◆ Total Overall estimated cost of this project- \$143,739.24
- ◆ Average cost of a home in Franklin County- \$275,000.00 (February 2022)
- ◆ Average cost of a home in Mount Vernon- \$192,500.00 (February 2022)
- ◆ Average cost per square foot to build- \$130.00 to \$150.00
- ◆ On a 2000 Square foot home that's \$260,000.00 to \$300,000.00



# SUMMARY

IT IS UP TO THOSE SERVING ON THE CITY COUNCIL, AND COMMISSIONERS COURT, AND THE COMMUNITY TO DETERMINE WHAT LEVEL OF PROTECTION IS ACCEPTABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND REASONABLE.

WHEN SOMEBODY CALLS 911 AND NEEDS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, THEY EXPECT US TO RESPOND WITH READILY AVAILABLE AND QUALIFIED PERSONS THAT CAN HANDLE THEIR EMERGENCY; CURRENTLY, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE TO DELIVER ON THAT EXPECTATION.

A PRICE CANNOT BE PLACED ON THE LIFE OR PROPERTIES THAT COULD POTENTIALLY BE SAVED OR DAMAGE LESSENER BY THE INCLUSION OF ON-DUTY PERSONNEL DURING VOLUNTEER STAFFING DEFICITS.

# SUMMARY

WITH THE INCREASING CALL VOLUME, THE DECREASED LEVEL OF CAPABLE, QUALIFIED, AND AVAILABLE VOLUNTEERS, THE INCREASED EXPECTATIONS PLACED UPON FIRST RESPONDERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE GROWING DYNAMICS OF OUR COMMUNITY, IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT A FULLY VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION TO BE ABLE TO MEET THIS DEMANDS AND COMMIT TO THE GUARANTEED DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY SERVICES.

IT IS TIME TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AND SET THE PATH FOR THE FUTURE.