



Fire Department
Charter Township of White Lake

To: Rik Kowall, Supervisor

From: Justin Templeton, Interim Chief

Date: 10/14/2026

Re: 2026 Budget Line Item Discussion

Dear Supervisor Kowall,

I would like to request that an item be placed on the agenda for the October 20th Board meeting to discuss the Fire Department's overtime and part-time firefighter wage budgets.

Current projections indicate that maintaining our current six-person minimum staffing level will cause the department to exceed its budgeted overtime allotment. Reducing the overtime staffing threshold to five personnel would yield immediate cost savings and help to align expenditure with the budget. However, this adjustment will directly impact our operational capabilities by reducing the total number of personnel for critical incidents, reducing our availability to staff all 3 stations simultaneously. These changes could reduce our ability to provide timely service throughout the Township, increase response times when units must respond from outside their primary coverage areas, and limit the personnel and resources immediately available during simultaneous or high-priority incidents.

I respectfully request this be placed on the October agenda to receive policy direction from the Board on this matter. In the meantime, I will continue to pursue additional solutions to ensure responsible fiscal management while maintaining the high standard of public safety our residents expect and deserve.

I look forward to updating you and the Board on these efforts soon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justin Templeton
Interim Chief
White Lake Township Fire Department