Volunteer Fire Departments: Challenges & Opportunities Q & A

Mike Chaney,
Commissioner of Insurance
And
State Fire Marshal

October, 2016
Quick Facts

- 752 Fire Departments
  - 633 Volunteer
  - 76 Combination
  - 43 Career

  - Approximately 13,200 Volunteer FFs
  - Approximately 3,300 Career FFs
### Incident Types Reported – 2015
All Fire Departments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fires</td>
<td>16,906</td>
<td>10.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMS/Rescue</td>
<td>100,790</td>
<td>64.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Others</td>
<td>38,088</td>
<td>24.45</td>
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Total Incidents: 155,784
## County VFD Funding Comparison

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<tr>
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<th>FY 2000</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local Funds Spent</td>
<td>Local Funds Spent</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$11,116,923.89</td>
<td>$26,246,835.88</td>
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<td>State Rebate Funds</td>
<td>State Rebate Funds</td>
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<td>$6,377,816.62</td>
<td>$7,856,671.27</td>
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<td></td>
<td>State’s share – 57%</td>
<td>State’s Share – 29.93%</td>
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Escalating Costs = MAJOR Issue

- In 1998 we could equip a firefighter with complete personal protective gear from head to toe for $1,320.00
- Today, it cost $8,175.00 to equip that same firefighter
- This represents a 519% increase in just under 20 years
The Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program (RFTAAP) was created by House Bill 255 in 1995.

Provided matching funds up to $50,000.00 toward the purchase of a rural fire truck.

Authorized funding of $8.2 million over the first two years.

Typical rural trucks at this time were averaging $104,000.00.
RFTAAP (cont.)

- Amended in 2004 to increase funding to $70,000.00 (Rounds 7 – current)

- In 2005 House Bill 635 created the Supplemental round which allowed for an additional match of $70,000.00 per county

- Counties must have exhausted all available Rounds to apply for the Supplemental

- Supplemental expanded by MID to provide 5% match not to exceed $20,000.00 toward non-state grants for trucks
RFTAAP Numbers

- RFTAAP
  - 691 Trucks purchased
  - State share - $38,757,731.02
  - Local share - $112,437,562.00
SRFTAAP – A Numbers

- SRFTAAP – A
  - 61 Trucks purchased
  - State share - $3,939,619.50
  - Local share - $12,016,486.00
SRFTAAP – B Numbers

- SRFTAAP – B
  - 80 Trucks purchased
  - State share - $857,816.17
  - Outside share - $18,241,406.32

Outside funds typically come from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighter’s Grant Program
RFTAAP Totals

- Combined totals for all three programs since 1995
  - 832 trucks purchased
  - State share - $43,555,166.69
  - Local share – $124,454,048.00
  - Outside share - $18,241,406.32
Benefits of RFTAAP

- Led to lower PPCs in approximately 70% of our rural fire districts
- Provided fire protection in areas where it didn’t exist
- Conservatively estimated to have saved MS homeowners over $50 million/year in premium costs
- Eliminated antiquated and dangerous equipment
RFTAAP Concerns

- No additional Rounds since 2011 legislative session
- Four years of no additional funding from legislature
- No permanent funding mechanism
- Counties unable to purchase new trucks without state assistance
- Cost of trucks increasing at much faster rate than program can sustain
QUESTIONS?

PROOF

THAT THINGS CAN ALWAYS GET WORSE

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