

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICTS 2 AND 4 APPARATUS PURCHASE PROGRAM



SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICTS 2 AND 4

- Started in 2018, the Shared Services Agreement combined the full time firefighters from Fire Districts 2 and 4 to form three platoons.
- A schedule was developed which allowed for the staffing of one engine with 4 firefighters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- The staffed apparatus, now known as Squad 88, was the first 24/7/365 on-duty fire engine in the history of the Gloucester Township Fire Service.
- Platoons rotate their time between the stations of the Chews Landing Fire Department (Station 82) and Blackwood Fire Company (Station 84).
- The program has improved response times and ensured a consistent and immediate response to calls for service.
- Squad 88 responds to an average of over 1,200 emergency calls per year.

APPARATUS NEEDS – SQUAD 88

- The current Squad 88 apparatus was purchased and placed in service in 2021
- Since that time, the Squad has responded to an average of 1,200 calls per year
- If our request is approved, New Jersey State Purchasing Laws will not allow us to order the new truck until 2026
- Current apparatus build times are 48.5 to 51.5 months, meaning the completed truck will not be delivered until 2030.
- By that time the current truck will be nine years old, will have responded to almost 10,000 calls for service, and will be in need of replacement as a front line fire truck

APPARATUS NEEDS – SQUAD 88

- If our purchase request is approved, the current Squad 88 will be moved to a reserve status, and will be available as a substitute for any of our fire trucks that are temporarily out of service for repairs, maintenance or other reasons, thereby avoiding any interruption of service
- For the above reasons, we are asking the residents of Fire Districts 2 and 4 for permission to purchase a new Squad 88, at a cost not to exceed \$1,300,000.00, and to authorize the districts to participate in jointly funded lease purchase financing or the issuance of notes and/or bonds relative to the project.
- The cost of the purchase will be shared equally by Fire District 2 and Fire District 4, resulting in a maximum expenditure of \$650,000.00 per district

APPARATUS NEEDS – STATION 82

DISTRICT 2 / CHEWS LANDING FIRE DEPARTMENT

- The District 2 (Chews Landing) volunteer firefighters currently operate a 2023 tower ladder, a 2004 pumper truck and a 2005 heavy rescue truck.
- Fire District #2 is planning to replace the pumper truck and the rescue truck with one truck capable of performing both functions
- If our purchase request is approved, the new truck will not be received until 2030, by which time the pumper truck and rescue truck will be twenty five years old, in need of replacement and beyond the service life recommended by the National Fire Protection Association.

APPARATUS NEEDS – STATION 82
DISTRICT 2 / CHEWS LANDING FIRE DEPARTMENT

- For the above reasons, we are asking the residents of Fire District 2 for permission to purchase a new Squad 82 at a cost not to exceed \$1,300,000.00, and to authorize the district to participate in lease purchase financing or the issuance of notes and/or bonds relative to the project.
- If the purchase is approved, the new squad will replace the existing engine and the existing rescue truck, and District 2 plans to sell both of the replaced vehicles to help offset the cost of the new squad.

FINANCING

- Fire District 2 and Fire District 4 have been preparing for the requested purchases by including capital funds for future purchases in our annual budgets
- Financing for the purchases will not have to be secured until shortly before delivery of the trucks, which is not expected until 2030
- By that time, the districts expect to have significant funds on hand to put toward the purchases, which will lower the amount we have to borrow
- The first loan payment will not be due until sometime in 2031 (12 months after the loan is secured)
- The term of the loan will likely be 8 to 10 years
- The goal of our financial planning is to minimize the impact to our taxpayers for these needed purchases

IDENTIFYING YOUR FIRE DISTRICT

- Click on this link to the GT Tax Office:
<https://wipp.edmundsassoc.com/Wipp/?wippid=0415>
- Enter your address in the Property Location Box and click Search
- Click on the circle next to your address
- On the next screen, look for the Special Taxing District
- Fire District = F02 is Fire District 2
- Fire District = F04 is Fire District 4
- If your address is in any other fire district (F01, F03, F05 or F06), this request does not apply to you

SUMMARY

- Since entering into a shared services agreement in 2018, Fire Districts 2 and 4 have staffed a fire truck 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- By sharing the costs of the project, the districts are able to fund the program and the requested purchases within their existing budgets.
- Our dedicated volunteer firefighters remain a vital and much needed component of our organizations.
- There exists a need for new fire trucks for both the full time and volunteer firefighters.
- The commissioners have properly planned for these purchases, which they feel are in the best interests of our firefighters and the residents we serve.
- A Yes vote for our operating budgets and capital apparatus purchases will allow us to continue providing the best possible fire protection to the residents of our fire districts.

QUESTIONS?

- **Fire District 2 (Chews Landing Fire Department):**
 - Administrator Bill Robb 856-282-3370 X125 wrobb@gafd2.com
- **Fire District 4 (Blackwood Fire Company):**
 - Commissioner John Vannoni 856-227-7037 jvannoni@gafd4.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Polls are open
February 15th from 2pm – 9pm

Fire District 2 (Chews Landing)
Chews Landing Fire Station
43 Somerdale Rd,
Blackwood NJ 08012

Fire District 4 (Blackwood)
Blackwood Fire Station
14 W. Central Ave
Blackwood NJ 08012