

Knoxville Community Fire Protection District

137 N. Public Square
Knoxville, IL 61448

November 27 2024

The Honorable Toby Myers, Mayor

City of Knoxville

33 N. Public Square

Knoxville, IL 61448

Dear Mayor Myers and City Council Members

We respectfully seek your consideration to financially assist the Knoxville Community Fire Protection District with the purchase of a new pumper tanker fire truck. The new truck will replace our current fire truck 1401 that is housed at the Knoxville station. Engine 1401 is our front line or #1 fire engine responding to all structure fires in Knoxville and most structure fires in the district. 1401 responds to the most structure fires of any truck in our fleet. 1401 was unveiled to the community on Saturday, March 24, 2001 at the Knoxville station. The purchase price then was \$230,000 and the district received a legislative grant of \$180,000 towards the purchase. The new fire truck is expected to arrive in the second quarter of 2025 for a purchase price of \$657,953. So, the actual price of a new truck similar to the one we are replacing has increased by \$427,953 in 24 years or nearly tripled in price. There is also a clause in our agreement that could drive the price even higher if Alexis Fire Equipment encounters any unexpected price increases, but none have been shown yet.



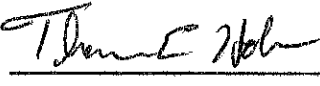
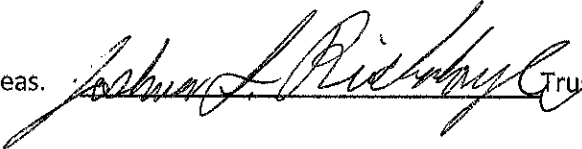
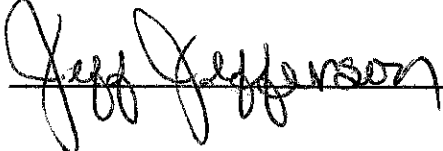
Our objective is to pay cash for the balance due when we receive the new truck in 2025 to avoid paying interest on a loan. We try to be very fiscally responsible to the residents of our fire district by seeking other sources of revenue rather than just raising the property tax rate. We seek outside sources such as grants and we work hard to maximize interest earned on any funds we have. Our district has actually reduced the Corporate Real Estate Property Tax Rate consistently over the last seven years resulting in a 13.34% -(decrease from a rate of .3000 to .25998) which is approximately 2% a year decrease.

Having adequate fire equipment that is in excellent condition helps our district to maintain a favorable ISO rating. The better the ISO rating, the lower the cost of fire coverage on property insurance. Also, our new truck is being purchased from Alexis Fire Equipment which employs local citizens, some have been from Knoxville.

Any financial assistance that you can provide will help us to have adequate fire equipment in excellent condition, keep property tax rate as low as possible, will help us keep a good ISO rating for insurance, and help with some local employment at Alexis Fire Equipment.

We thank you for your consideration and any financial assistance you can provide would be very much appreciated! Please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like for us to attend a City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

 _____	Trustee Pres.	 _____	Trustee
 _____	Trustee Treas.	 _____	Trustee
 _____	Trustee Sec.		