



FACT SHEET

RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

BERKEY, OHIO 43504



MEMBERSHIP

➤ **Current numbers and location**

- We currently have 25 volunteers/day crew.
- Out of those 25 members 12 live in Richfield Township (4-6-minute response time).
- Out of those 12 members, 10, respond on a regular basis, to runs when they are available.

➤ **Age Breakdown of those 12 members:**

- 7 are over 60 years of age.
- 2 are over 50 years of age
- 3 are between 20-49 (one of these is a new member with no training)

➤ **Membership who live on border of township who respond to runs (7-12-minute response):**

- 6 members (one of these over 50 years of age)

➤ **Membership who live outside of township and border area. Primarily work day shift.**

- 7 members-the majority attend our evening drills and meetings, and help with events.

➤ **Volunteers**

- In spite of frequent attempts, we have been unable to recruit volunteers to continue full time volunteer coverage. Due to the aging volunteers, we will lose the majority of our first responders in the township in the next 1-2 years. We are not alone, recruitment for volunteer firefighters/EMT's is a national problem.

CURRENT APPARATUS

➤ **List of current apparatus and how they were obtained:**

- **1992** white engine-Pierce Lance, donated to RTFD by Cincinnati FD. (28 years old) Cost to outfit unit \$800
- **1998** Mid Pierce engine, purchased used in 2013 for rescue truck. (21 years old)
- **2011** Tender 3500-gallon vacuum tanker. Purchased with FEMA grant of \$240,000. (9 years old)
- **2003** Ford Medic Tec Type III from Finley Fire. (17 years old)
- **1997** Mini pumper (Brush Truck) purchased from Sylvania FD in 2008. (23 years old)
- **1998** Engine, Pierce Saber 1000 gal/1250 GPM-Top Mount purchased new. (22 years old)
- **2008** Medic 58-2 donated from Lucas County LS. Refurbished cost \$24,000

- **Note:** As you can see, not only is our personnel aging, our apparatus is as well. We have saved money for the township by applying for grants (\$240,000-tanker grant), and buying used apparatus. We recently sold an engine which did not meet the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards, and are currently evaluating our apparatus needs. Both medics have frequent mechanical issues, and need frequent repairs.

EQUIPMENT & FIREFIGHTER GEAR

➤ **Firefighter gear:**

- We were able to purchase all new fire gear for department members in 2009, through a grant. By the NFPA standards that fire gear is now all "out of date". Even if we recruit new volunteers, they cannot complete fire training until the gear is updated. Cost to replace each set of gear is estimated at \$3000 dollars a set. \$3000x25 sets=\$75,000.

➤ **Other equipment:**

- These NFPA out of date standards also apply to other equipment, such as oxygen canisters, air bottles used in firefighting, ladders etc.

EMS EXPENSES

➤ Residents vs Non-Resident Services

- For the residents of Richfield Township, we currently utilize a system called “soft billing”, accepting what the insurance pays. For Non-Residents we bill for services provided.
- Medications and equipment: These can be very expensive. An example is the Epi Pen used for allergic reactions. These pens cost approximately 400 dollars for two, and are subject to an expiration date.

REVENUE

➤ Current Revenue

- In 1989 there was a 2-mill levy place on the ballot, it was increased to 2.5 mills in 2001, where it remains today. There has been ***NO*** increase or ***REQUEST*** for funds in ***19 years***. This generates around 109,000 dollars/year which has to cover everything, including utilities, repairs, wages, equipment needs and vehicle replacements.
- The bond levy in 2003 was for the building of the fire station, this will expire in 2024.
- Transports brought in 18,418 dollars in 2019. There is a large variation in revenue from year to year.
- Grants are applied for on a regular basis. These are for specific use and are not guaranteed.
- What about the ***FEATHER PARTY?*** The proceeds from this event are utilized by the fire department association. We buy needed equipment and EMS supplies, often splitting the cost with the trustees.

➤ Past Revenue that is no longer available

- The stroke unit leased space at Richfield Township FD in 2016 and part of 2017. This generated \$44,980 in revenue. We were able to increase staffing to a two-man crew during the day.
- For a period of time, Sylvania Fire Department did not have a transport ambulance, Richfield volunteers responded to Sylvania calls, and were able to generate money through mutual aid transport. While it generated an increase in income, it was extremely difficult on our volunteers, who were on call 24/7 to respond to this huge increase in calls. Sylvania eventually purchased 2 transport units.
- Inheritance taxes are no longer given to the townships. This revenue was used to complete the inside of the fire station.

WHY DOES RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDING?

➤ Staffing

- Current staffing is 2 firefighter/EMT or paramedics from 8AM-4PM. These hours were recently reduced to save money. They currently receive no benefits and wage range is \$15-\$16 dollars/hr. The day crew responds to calls in Richfield Township as well as mutual aid calls. Volunteers assist as able, and are paid \$4 dollars/hr. The goal is to increase staffing to 12-hour days, 7 days a week, for better coverage. Volunteers will be utilized for night calls, as well as continued response during the day. We do have mutual aid contracts with Sylvania, Metamora and Springfield to assist as needed.

➤ Gear and Equipment

- The current plan is to continue to apply for grants and replace as able. As money becomes available, we need to put in place long term plans to replace our out of date gear and our aging apparatus.

➤ Dispatch Expenses

- Recently increased from 5500/year to 13,738/year.

WHY NOT JUST CONTRACT WITH SYLVANIA OR SPRINGFIELD FOR COVERAGE?

➤ Contracts

- To contract coverage, it would cost an estimated 500,000 dollars/year.