

Ginny Giovanniello

From: Diane Cerasoli <dianecerasoli@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2022 6:18 AM
To: Ginny Giovanniello
Subject: Fw: ARPA FUNDING REQUEST FOR EMS/FIRE
Attachments: Copy of Jan 1-15 2022 Call Comparison 3 year MTD.xlsx; Call Stats, Fire-EMS, 2017 to 2021.xlsx; ARPAjustification.docx; ARPA.docx; ems3year.jpg

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Brianna Ruocco <bruooco@brookfieldct.gov>
To: Diane Cerasoli <dianecerasoli@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022, 10:02:53 AM EST
Subject: Fwd: ARPA FUNDING REQUEST FOR EMS/FIRE

For communication

Regards,
Brianna Ruocco

Begin forwarded message:

From: Andrew Ellis <aellis@brookfieldfire.com>
Date: January 17, 2022 at 9:14:24 PM EST
To: Board of Finance <BOF@brookfieldct.gov>, Tara Carr <TCarr@brookfieldct.gov>, Steve Dunn - Archive <SDunn@brookfieldct.gov>, Harry Shaker <HShaker@brookfieldct.gov>
Cc: Louis Menendez <lmenendez@brookfieldfire.com>, Sara Ellis <sellis@brookfieldfire.com>, Derek Broadmeyer <dbroadmeyer@brookfieldfire.com>, Wayne Woodtke <wwoodtke@brookfieldfire.com>, James Whiteside <jwhiteside@brookfieldfire.com>
Subject: ARPA FUNDING REQUEST FOR EMS/FIRE

Good evening BOS/BOF members

Shortly you will be reviewing the recommendations of the ARPA committee which has been meeting over the past several months to determine how to best distribute Brookfield's award.

Back in December, I met with the commission and listened to several proposed uses of the funding before I gave my presentation. In a perfect world, it would be great if we could grant all of the projects that were discussed as they were all worthy. Unfortunately we know that is just not the case as we have limited funds.

I am reaching out to you today to ask for both the BOF and BOS to fully support the requests that both fire companies have submitted. The COVID 19 Pandemic has had an enormous impact on our operation and we desperately need this equipment to continue to operate. The unprecedented increase in both fire and EMS calls and the new processes needed to decontaminate equipment and personnel has decreased the service life of much of our equipment. Much of our equipment is electronic in nature and was not designed to be cleaned with the solvents we are now forced to use.

It has recently come to our attention that volunteers might not be eligible for the hazard pay/stipend. If that is the case, we understand that it is just not possible. We would however strongly urge you to follow through with the hazard pay stipend for our EMS Staff who shouldered much of the weight during this pandemic. The physical and emotional toll placed on these amazing providers over the last 2 years has been tremendous. The town needs to recognize the actions and sacrifices of these essential workers. Our EMS staff could not "work from home", "zoom" or alter their schedules as many other municipal workers had the luxury to do. In fact they were forced to work extra shifts in extremely hazardous environments which placed their own health and welfare in jeopardy on a daily basis.

The PPE requests (turnout gear and 3 season coats) are essential to protect our responders from bloodborne and airborne pathogens and satisfies mandates which were placed on us in 2021 after our OSHA compliance visit. Many of our members have lost or damaged clothing due to decontamination processes and this equipment will help to minimize that.

I would also request to be present at the meeting(s) where the decisions will be made about distributing the funds in case any of you have any questions or require further clarification.

Calls for service for both Fire and EMS grew by 28 and 27 percent respectively in 2021. In the first 2 weeks of 2021 we responded to 68 EMS and 24 Fire calls. During that same 2 week period in 2022 we have responded to 109 EMS calls and 48 Fire Calls. The increases are due to both the pandemic and are in line with the rapid growth of our town and region. This year alone, we have a 140 bed elder care facility opening and there are over 1,100 housing units in various stage of construction both of which will increase calls for service for Fire and EMS.

I have attached the original cover letter and the detailed request for the BVFC for your review. I have also attached the call numbers for the past 3 years.

I thank you for your time and hope you can help us to continue help our community and protect our first responders.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ellis

Fire Chief

203-617-5765 (Mobile)



Brookfield Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

92 Pocono Rd.

Brookfield, CT 06804

203 775-1882 (Firehouse)