

**IVESDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT**  
**(50 ILCS 70/1)**

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**I. Unit of government submitting this report:**

IVESDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**II. Information about our Fire Protection District:**

- A. The Ivesdale FPD was formed by referendum in April of 1948. Our primary response area includes 46 square miles in South Western Champaign and South Eastern Piatt Counties including the Village of Ivesdale and portions of Sadorus, Colfax and Bement Townships operating out of 1 station located in the Village of Ivesdale. Our secondary response area includes 136 square miles in South Western Champaign and South Central Piatt Counties pursuant to Automatic Aid Agreements. The Fire Protection District is governed by a 3 member Board of Trustees that are appointed by the Champaign County Board. The Board of Trustees meets at noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the meeting room of the Ivesdale FPD. In May of 2000, the Fire Protection District hired a full-time Fire Chief/Paramedic to handle the administrative aspects of the Fire Department, provide day-time coverage for fire and EMS calls during the work week when the number of available volunteers is low and bring Advanced Life Support services to the district (when available). This has been made possible through an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Ivesdale who shares in the cost of this position. Through this agreement/partnership, the Fire Chief also serves as the Village Administrator and handles the administrative aspects of the Village in addition to the duties of Fire Chief. The Fire Chief is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Fire Department and reports to the Board of Trustees. The organizational structure of the Fire Department is made up of the Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, firefighters, EMS personnel and cadets.

The Pension Fund Board by Statute is a five-member board consisting of two members appointed by the President of the Fire District Board, one retired firefighter who was a participant in the fund, and two active members of the pension fund who are elected by the pension fund participants. The pension board is the fiduciary of the pension funds. The Board is responsible for hearings and decisions related to firefighter pensions, fund actuarial and disability determinations. The Illinois Firefighter's Pension Investment Fund is the investment authority and managers of the pension funds.

- B. The population of our primary response area is 500; our secondary response area is 2,400.
- C. There are 1 full-time and 19 pay per call/volunteer employees (not including elected/appointed officials).
- D. Our annual Budget for FY 2023 was: \$300,671.00.
- E. Our FPD's equalized assessed valuation (EAV) for TY 2023 is: \$32,001,637.00.
- F. Revenue sources for our entity include Real Estate Tax (99%), Replacement Tax, out of district service charges and donations.

**FILED**

JUL 22 2024

*Dawn Ammons*  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CLERK

**III. Information about Our Committee:**

**A. Committee Members formed on May 15, 2023 by Ordinance #2023-5-1:**

Board President:	Jeff White
Board Trustee:	Denny Jayne
Board Trustee:	John Flavin
Fire Chief:	James Brewer
Fire District Resident:	Richard Feeney
Fire District Resident:	Jennifer Brewer

Note: Per 50 ILCS 70/10(b), the committee membership must include all the elected/appointed members of the fire district board (President and Trustees) and two residents appointed by the President.

**B. Dates that our Committee met: (50 ILCS 70/20)**

First (Organizational) Meeting: June 20, 2023

Second Meeting: November 21, 2023

Third Meeting: March 19, 2024

Additional Meetings (List all): June 17, 2024

**IV. Programs/Services offered by our Fire Protection District:**

**A. Our Fire Protection District offers the following services and programs:**

- Fire Suppression
- Fire Prevention/Public Education
- Non-transport Emergency Medical Services at the Basic Life Support level and Advanced Life Support level (when available)
- Rescue
- Community Risk Programs- Fire Inspections and Pre-planning
- First Aid, CPR and AED training
- Smoke detector and Carbon Monoxide detector installation
- Fire Extinguisher training
- Fire and EMS training
- Community wellness/Blood Pressure checks
- Jr. Firefighter/Cadet Program
- Sponsor of 2 Public Access Defibrillator sites in the district

**V. Call Volume**

Call volume for the district has increased from 50 calls per year in 2000 to 150 calls in 2023. This is only projected to continue on the upward trend due to an aging population and ever increasing/expanding Automatic/Mutual Aid System. Most departments are experiencing increased call volume and fewer volunteers especially during the work week prompting the need to have multiple departments respond in order to have an adequate number of personnel for us to perform our job in a safe and efficient manner.

**VI. Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating:**

The fire protection capabilities of a community are evaluated every five-ten years by an independent organization commonly known as ISO. The organization evaluates the fire suppression, water supply, response capabilities and community risk reduction efforts within a fire districts primary response jurisdiction. The fire protection agency is then categorized into a numerical class between 1 and 10 with 1 being the highest grade of fire protection (superior) and 10 the lowest grade (no recognized fire protection). The lower the ISO Rating the more favorable insurance premium rates the citizens pay. We are proud to report that we have improved our ISO rating from an 8/9 rating in December of 2000 to a 05/05Y in February of 2022 with missing a Class 4 rating by just a few points. We are working diligently to receive a Class 4 rating at our next inspection.

**VII. Apparatus:**

The following is a list of district's fleet of apparatus:

Type	Description	Year	Age
Engine-1451	Ford Pierce	1988	36
Engine-1453	Pierce	1994	30
Tender-1466	International	1990	34
Rescue-1475	Ford	2003	21
Brush-1481	Ford E-One	2003	21
Command/ALS Rapid Response Unit-1401	Ford Explorer	2021	3

**VIII. Intergovernmental Agreements:**

We partner with or have Intergovernmental Agreements/MOUs, with the following:

	Entity:	Services Offered:
1.	Village of Ivesdale	Job share between the Fire District and Village for employment of Full-Time Fire Chief/Paramedic who in exchange serves as Village Administrator. The Village also shares in the cost of emergency medical equipment
2.	Village of Ivesdale	The Fire District has allowed the Village to utilize a Fire District owned water well for its Public Water Works System in exchange the Fire District has free and unlimited use of water and fire hydrants
3.	Bement Fire Protection Dist.	Automatic Aid agreement for fire and emergency call response, joint training and equipment sharing/purchasing
4.	Sadorus Fire Protection Dist.	Automatic Aid agreement for fire and emergency call response joint training and equipment sharing
5.	MABAS Division 28	Statewide Mutual Aid Network
6.	Piatt Co. FF Association	Mutual Aid agreement for responses, joint training
7.	City of Champaign/METCAD	Handling of 911 calls and dispatching
8.	Piatt Co. Sheriff's Office/ETSB	Handling of 911 calls and dispatching

**IX. Review of Laws, Fire District Policies, Rules and Procedures, Training Materials and other Documents:**

We have reviewed the following non-exhaustive list applicable to Fire Protection Districts to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing need amended.

<b>Compliant</b>	<b>Laws, Policies, Training Materials, Reports and Other Documents</b>
X	State Laws applicable to Fire Protection Districts, including, but not limited to the Fire Protection District Act (70 ILCS/705)
X	Illinois Open Meeting Act (5 ILCS 120)
X	Policy on public comment
X	Trustee compensation and training (70 ILCS 705/6(c))
X	Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a))
X	All Board Officials have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05(b))
X	Schedule of Fire District Regular Meetings for Calendar or Fiscal Year (5 ILCS 120/2.03)
X	Illinois Freedom of Information act (5 ILCS 140)
X	Designation of FOIA Officer (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
X	FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5(b))
X	Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
X	Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS 140/4(b))
X	List of Types or Categories of Records under the FPD's Control (5 ILCS 140/5)
X	Review of Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d))
X	Article 4 Downstate Firefighter's Pension Fund Laws, Rules, Regulations (40 ILCS 5/4)
X	Whistleblower Retaliation Act (50 ILCS 105/4.1)
X	Statement of Economic Interest Statements (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5)
X	Sexual Harassment Prevention Training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(c))
X	Our Intergovernmental Agreements/MOUs/Shared Services
X	Our Budget, Audit and Financial documents
X	Dispatch services contract
X	Exclusive ambulance service contract
X	State Ethics Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employee Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-1)
X	OSHA Form 300A Report Posting
X	OSHA/IDOL mandated policies regarding fire departments
X	Illinois Department of Public Health EMS Act
X	Fire District Ordinances, Resolutions and Minutes
X	Fire Department SOPs/SOGs/Rules and Regulations
X	National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)
X	Grant management and reporting
X	Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act (50 ILCS 70/1 <i>et. seq.</i> )

**X. Reports on Efficiency:**

We have reviewed the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of Fire and Emergency Services Self-Assessment manual (FESSAM), by the Center for Public Safety excellence, Inc. (2015); Managing Fire and Emergency Services, by the International City-County management Association (2012); National Fire Protection Association standards for deployment, EMS safety, etc.; the "local Government Efficiency and Size in Illinois: Counting Revenues, Not Governments" by Wendall Cox (2016); and the "Local Democracy and Townships in the Chicago land Area" by Wendall Cox (January 2012).

**XI. Internal Efficiencies:**

- a. Full-time Fire Chief/Paramedic to provide administrative support and help ensure weekday response when the number volunteers is low
- b. Recipient of multiple Federal and State grants
- c. Intergovernmental Agreements/Partnerships with multiple area Units of Local Government
- d. Member of both the Illinois Statewide Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) and the Piatt Firefighter's Association Mutual Aid System with resources available from the local region and throughout the State of Illinois
- e. Debt free
- f. Very well equipped for a small community with limited funds
- g. Jr. Firefighter/Cadet program
- h. Job sharing with the Village of Ivesdale
- i. Facility sharing with the Village of Ivesdale
- j. Joint purchasing/equipment sharing with neighboring departments
- k. Improved ISO Rating leading to lower homeowners premiums for district residents

**XII. Inefficiencies Identified:**

- Lack of a capital replacement plan/savings for aging apparatus
- Dwindling number of volunteers
- Lack of on-line training options for personnel
- Lack of website/social media account
- Could provide more fire prevention and public education programs
- Lack of recruitment/incentive program

**XIII. Our committee's recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:**

- Continue to maintain strong relationships with the community and with other public bodies/neighboring district's
- Look into creating a website/facebook page for increased accountability and transparency
- Look into the feasibility of acquiring an on-line training program to boost training and allow greater flexibility for volunteers to complete training on their own time and budget for the same
- Create a long term capital replacement/savings plan for aging apparatus
- Continue to apply for Federal and State grant funds
- Explore ways to recruit/retain volunteers-- develop incentive program
- Increase use of social media as a means to improve public outreach/education
- Continue to make use of joint purchasing/equipment and manpower/equipment sharing with neighboring departments

**XIV. Challenges the District is facing:**

- Dwindling number of volunteers
- Increased costs with stagnant funding
- Increasing unrealistic and unfunded governmental regulations
- Increasing unrealistic and unfunded training requirements
- Aging fleet of apparatus and insufficient funds to replace the same

**XV. Resident Surveys:**

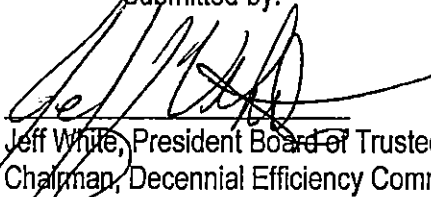
Surveys for Public Feedback were available at each meeting; however, there were no members of the general public in attendance at any of the meetings.

**XVI. Conclusion:**

It is the finding of this committee that while there is always room for improvements, Ivesdale Fire Protection District is providing responsible fire and emergency medical services to the people of the fire district and is making wise, prudent and efficient use of public funds. We are proud of the level of service that we are providing to the community and of the fact we have learned to "do more with less". The Committee recommends that the Fire District continue to be proactive in assessing and improving administrative and operational efficiencies and opportunities for increased transparency on a regular basis.

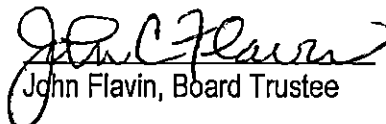
Dated this 12 day of June, 2024.

Submitted by:

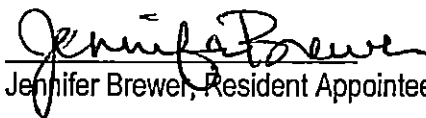
  
Jeff White, President Board of Trustees,  
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee

  
James Brewer, Fire Chief

  
Denny Jayne, Board Trustee

  
John Flavin, Board Trustee

  
Richard Feeney, Resident Appointee

  
Jennifer Brewer, Resident Appointee