

## **FIRE SERVICE FUND**

The Village and Fire Company have had a strong and symbiotic relationship for decades as both agencies have worked collaboratively to provide vital services to the community. This long standing affiliation was formalized through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) in 2014 in conjunction with the approval of the Fire Service Fee.

In 2013, the Village completed a statistical comparison of Glen Ellyn to nine other comparable communities in the area. This analysis resulted in the 2013 Financial Scorecard which provided some insight as to how the GEVFC benefits the entire Glen Ellyn community. According to the study, the Volunteer Fire Company saves the Village over \$3M per year by using the volunteer model. In addition, Glen Ellyn has the lowest amount of unfunded pensions in the sample group on a per capita basis, which is a direct result of not having a career fire department which creates additional pension liabilities. These benefits are substantial, but do not tell the entire story. The GEVFC is an ISO 3-rated department, which has provided emergency services for this community for over 100 years and oversees and supports EMS services that are provided on a contractual basis. Currently there are over 60 Volunteers that continue to provide this critical service to the community for \$1 per year.

On December 9, 2013, the Village Board approved a monthly fee for Glen Ellyn residents and businesses in order to fund the Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Company (GEVFC) and maintain a path of financial sustainability. In the past, the GEVFC had a donation program which for many years had met their funding needs. However, the donation program had dwindled and was no longer deemed a fair and equitable approach to funding an essential service like fire and emergency response when only 20% of the properties were participating. Given the operational, capital and facility needs of the Company and how the long-standing donation program was not keeping up with those needs, the Village Board instituted this new fee that went into effect May 1, 2014. The Fire Services Fund was created when this new fee went into effect.

In 2017, the Village Board instituted a Capital Fire Service Fee which would be dedicated solely to meeting the needs of the Fire fleet of vehicles as well as to meet ongoing building maintenance and improvements to the two aging fire stations. This Capital Fire Service Fee went into effect on the October 1, 2017 Village Services Bill.

In addition to this funding, the Village supports the Volunteer Fire Company in a number of ways. The Village owns and maintains two fire stations, maintains the Fire fleet and assists in coordinating a replacement schedule, as well as provides IT, HR, and some accounting/financial assistance. The Village also pays for dispatch services through DuComm and assists the overall management of EMS services through a Village contract with Metro. These life safety responsibilities are critical functions for all municipalities, so the Village and Fire Company have and will continue to work closely to provide emergency services through the volunteer model that has saved the Village and Village taxpayers millions of dollars annually.