

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT 2 SHARED CAPITAL APPARATUS PURCHASE



SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICTS 2 AND 4

- Started in 2018, the Shared Services Agreement combined the full time firefighters from Fire Districts 2 and 4 to form three platoons.
- A schedule was developed which allowed for the staffing of one engine with 4 firefighters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- The staffed apparatus, known as Engine 88, is the first 24/7/365 on-duty fire engine in the history of the Gloucester Township Fire Service.
- Platoons rotate their time between the stations of the Chews Landing Fire Department (Station 82) and Blackwood Fire Company (Station 84).
- The program has improved response times and ensured a consistent and immediate response to calls for service.
- Engine 88 responds to over 1,150 emergency calls per year.

APPARATUS NEEDS – ENGINE 88

- Engine 88 is currently using a 16 year old fire engine that is owned by Fire District 2
 - When the engine was designed in 2003, the Engine 88 program did not exist, and the equipment needed by the crew to safely perform the tasks expected of them were not known or anticipated.
 - Prior to being assigned as Engine 88, the engine responded to an average of approximately 182 calls per year. Since being assigned as Engine 88, the engine is handling almost 1,200 calls per year.
- The above factors have led Fire Districts 2 and 4 to prioritize replacement of the engine with a new apparatus, with the costs to be shared equally.
- We are asking the residents of Fire District 2 to support the purchase of a new Engine 88, at a cost not to exceed \$710,000.00, and for authorization to participate in jointly funded lease purchase financing relative to the project.
- This new fire engine will be designed to meet the needs of the Engine 88 mission, and is part of a larger plan to reduce and replace other fire apparatus within our fleet.

JUSTIFICATION

- The shared services agreement has enabled Districts 2 and 4 to expand their full time firefighter coverage from 50 hours a week to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- By sharing the costs of the project, District 2 will be able to fund the program and the requested purchase within our existing budget.
- Our dedicated volunteer firefighters remain a vital and much needed component of our organizations.
- Our budgeting plans will allow us to fund this purchase, while still maintaining our truck fund for future replacement of apparatus used by our volunteer firefighters.
- The commissioners have properly planned for these purchases, and feel they are in the best interests of our firefighters and the residents we serve.
- A Yes vote for our operating budget and capital apparatus purchase will allow us to continue providing the best possible fire protection to the residents of our fire district.

OUR REQUEST

- Please vote YES to approve the Fire District Budgets - Question 1
- Please vote YES to approve the acquisition of one fire engine to be shared by Fire District 2 & Fire District 4, with the cost to be shared equally by the districts – Question 2
- For questions, or if you're a member of a civic group and would like us to speak on this matter at your next meeting, please contact Administrator Bill Robb at 856-282-3370 X125, or via e-mail at wrobb@gtfd2.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Polls are open
February 15th from 2pm – 9pm

Chews Landing Fire Station
43 Somerdale Rd
Blackwood NJ 08012