



5 June 2012

To: Beech Grove City Council Members,

In order to maintain the capitol assets of our City, the Beech Grove Fire Department is requesting support of the Council with the proposed 2012 Bond Issue. There is a critical need to maintain and repair the infrastructure of our stations. Within the Bond, we have requested vehicle replacement for a new fire engine and ambulance. Currently we are faced with the financial challenge of maintaining a fleet of aging, unreliable fire apparatus. Firefighters depend heavily on the performance and capabilities of their vehicle while operating to protect life, property and the environment of our citizens. To maximize these capabilities and minimize their risk of injury, it is imperative that the apparatus not only be equipped with appropriate manpower but be able to mechanically function under emergency operating conditions.

As Fire Chief, I need to ensure that each and every Council member is aware of the current condition of fire apparatus provided serving the citizens of Beech Grove. Below is a breakdown of our current fire apparatus, along with recommendations. Some of our own apparatus exceed the commonly recognized maximum recommended total life span of 10-15 years for fire engines. NFPA 1901 requires that apparatus that does not meet the 1991 standard be removed from front line service and/or considered for upgrading or replacement.

- **Engine 101** located Station 101, 330 E. Churchman Ave.

This vehicle is currently at Global Fire Apparatus for repair, it was also sent to Clark Diesel for engine repair. (5 June 2012)

Age: 10 years in-service as front line Engine.

Current Condition: Fair. We must prepare for mechanical issues due to age and service with increase volume of runs.

In December 2011, this vehicle mechanically broke down during a vehicle fire on the interstate. Replaced pump impeller/drive shaft.

Cost: \$9023.00

In 2011 the total maintenance and repair cost for this Engine was: \$20,762.45

Recommend: Plan for replacement within 3 years and place in reserve status.

- **Engine 102** located Station 102, 1202 Albany St.

Age: 15 years in-service as front line Engine.

Current Condition: Poor. Totaled in vehicle accident, off frame rebuilt in 2010
This apparatus is plagued with numerous electrical and other mechanical issues.

2011 Total maintenance and repair cost for this Engine: \$30,077.67

Total Maintenance cost to date in 2012: \$11,542.24

Recommend: Emergency Purchase for apparatus replacement from the Bond, place this vehicle in reserve status. Sell apparatus within three years when replacing current Engine 101.

- **Engine 103** (Reserve) Age: 25 yrs. Fifteen years as front line Engine, served ten years in reserve status.

This vehicle is currently out of service for pump repair. Without a reserve apparatus, we are currently operating out of a 1994 Indianapolis Fire Department Reserve Engine

Current Condition: Out-lived service life, presents a life safety risk to firefighters and citizens responding in antiquated equipment. **Recommend to take out of service immediately with emergency purchase and place current Engine 102 in reserve status.**

The Beech Grove Fire Department is not immune in the financial struggles of the City and we understand limitations bound by economic restraints. Each department contributes operationally and becomes intrinsically important for a functional City. If there is no replacement plan established for apparatus it will soon be extremely difficult, if not irreversible to maintain a fleet of safe and reliable apparatus. Now is the time to work together and make concessions for replacement needs of our department. Fire apparatus are a large and substantial financial burden, but are truly a necessary tool for us to protect life and property for our citizens. I hope that this information has been helpful and the needs of a replacement plan are understood. If there are any questions please contact me.

Additional information on stations and equipment is included in the 2011 Annual Report online at, www.beechgrove.com. Thanks for your concern and continued support to the Beech Grove Fire Department and its members.

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