

Town of Linn & City of Lake Geneva Fire/EMS Partnership: Information Session



September 23, 2024

Linn Town Hall



Stronger Together

Town of Linn & City of Lake Geneva Partnership - Overview

- The City of Lake Geneva provides a minimum of three emergency personnel on-scene to medical emergencies
- Provide paramedic level service to the community
- Response to all emergency calls in less than 10 minutes, 80% of the time or better, in the non-rural areas, and 15 minutes in rural areas
- The City of Lake Geneva will continue to respond to all Fire/EMS calls on the north shore
- Cost effectiveness due to sharing of fleet and equipment, and administrative personnel



Stronger Together

Linn Fire/EMS Staffing Challenges

- Linn has long been served by a paid-on-call (POC) Fire/EMS department
- In the past, the department had 25-30 members, including members available during regular business hours and weekends
- Currently, the department has 6 active members who can respond to calls year-round. Most members are available to a limited number of calls for services per month
- Linn is receiving more Fire/EMS calls due to an aging and growing population
- POC members are unable to meet increasing training requirements for emergency personnel



Stronger Together

Initial Agreement with the City of Lake Geneva for EMS Staffing (2021-2023)

- In 2021, the Town began contracting with the City to provide two emergency medical services personnel stationed at the Linn Firehouse from Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- The partnership resulted in improved response times and more consistent responses in terms of the level of service provided
- During periods of contractual staffing coverage, Lake Geneva EMS staff responded to the majority of emergency calls in 10 minutes or less
- Despite the improvements, Linn continued experiencing challenges with responding to calls in the evenings and on the weekends



Stronger Together

Fire/EMS Staffing Study: Public Administration Associates (PAA)

- In 2023, the Town hired a consultant, Public Administration Associates, to conduct a comprehensive study and analysis to assist the Town in making future decisions concerning Fire/EMS staffing, vehicle, apparatus needs, and facilities
- The study, which included input from Linn Fire/EMS members, reviewed three staffing models:
 - 1) Maintain current Fire and EMS coverage
 - 2) Create a Linn Fire and EMS department to provide 24/7 Fire/EMS coverage
 - 3) Partner with the City of Lake Geneva to provide 24/7 Fire/EMS coverage



Stronger Together

Partnership with the City of Lake Geneva to Provide 24/7 Fire/EMS Coverage

- After considering response times, quality of care, cost options, and feedback from Linn members, the Town Board agreed to a one-year agreement with the City to staff the Linn Firehouse 24/7 with professional Fire/EMS personnel
- The partnership includes the following service levels:
 - **Provide a minimum of three emergency personnel on-scene to medical emergencies**
 - **Provide paramedic level service to the community**
 - **Response to all emergency calls in less than 10 minutes, 80% of the time or better, in non-rural areas, and 15 minutes in rural areas**



Stronger Together

How much will contractual Fire/EMS staffing cost the Town?

- **The total annual cost is \$1.9M**
- \$1.5M for Fire/EMS staffing was already included in the Town annual tax levy for calendar year 2024 via short-term borrowing
- Per the PAA Study, contracting with the City is the most cost-effective option to provide 24/7 Fire/EMS coverage due to sharing of fleet and equipment, and administrative personnel
- No additional costs for recruiting, hiring, and training a stand-alone Fire/EMS department. Start-up time for a stand-alone department would be 2 years
- Cost avoidance for an additional station on the north shore
- Possible reduction in homeowner's insurance premium for full-time Fire/EMS staffing



Stronger Together

Tax Implications

For a home with an assessed value of \$1M in year 2024 and \$1.7M in year 2025, the Linn portion of the tax bill will increase by approximately 18%

- The estimated annual tax increase is \$489.26, or \$1.34 per day
- The 2025 Town Annual Budget also includes a \$2M loan to be repaid in 2025 for the following items:
 - * Fire mini-pumper to access narrow roads and driveways
 - * Fire/EMS Building remodel to include living quarters for 24/7 staffing
 - * Improved roads, drainage, and bridges
 - * Replacement of the Highway bucket truck
 - * Replacement of the storm sirens
 - * Equipment replacement for emergency responders



Stronger Together

Questions?



Stronger Together