

PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR BUDGET FOR YOUR 100% VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

VOTE YES ON FEBRUARY 17, 2024, 2PM-9PM

EAST FREEHOLD FIRE COMPANY, 191 DUTCH LANE ROAD

Freehold Township Fire District 2 Budgets: Some Frequently Asked questions and Answers

- *What do I get for my fire tax?*

First of all, residents of Freehold Township get emergency response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year fire protection for you, your family & property.

- *What is a fire district budget?*

A Fire District budget is created by the Board of Fire Commissioners, (Five elected commissioners) with input from the Fire Company Officers. The budget provides the financial means for the fire company to provide services to the community.

- *Who oversees the budget process?*

As stated, the Board of Fire Commissioners, with input from the officers of the fire company develop the budget. All budgets must be within the 2% cap required by New Jersey. Once the Budget is created and voted on by the Board, it is submitted to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, for review and approval. After an approved budget is returned to the Board it is then put up for vote, during Fire District elections, in February.

- *What about audits?*

Every year the Board of Fire Commissioners must submit all of their finances to an independent accounting firm for audit. Once the audit is complete it is submitted to the Department of Community Affairs for review. (Note: audits done for this fire district have always shown no discrepancies)

- *This is a volunteer fire company. Why is the budget 1.1 million dollars?*

Yes, East Freehold Fire Company is all volunteer, but there are many expenses that go into providing 24/7 emergency response, and community relations.

Following are some expenses paid for from budgetary allotments:

- o Liability and Comprehensive insurance for all of the trucks owned by the Fire District.
- o Insurance on all District owned buildings
- o Workmen's Compensation Insurance for all fire fighters
- o Injury insurance for firefighters.
- o Life insurance for all firefighters.
- o Maintenance and repairs on all District owned trucks.
- o Maintenance and repairs on all District owned buildings.
- o Utility (gas, water, electric, phone) costs on all District buildings.
- o Firefighter turnout gear. Consists of coat, pants, boots, helmet, hood and gloves. (Each set costs over \$5,000 and must be replaced, by regulation, every 10 years) Each set of gear currently in service must be cleaned, professionally, annually.
- o Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. Scott Paks approximately are \$10,000 each.
- o Maintenance and repairs on tools and equipment.
- o Maintenance and testing of all SCBA.

- o Testing of all fire hose. The district owns almost 10,000 feet of hose that must be tested each year.
- o Annual truck and pump testing.
- o Annual aerial testing.
- o Annual ladder testing. Over 100 feet of ladders that must be tested.
- o Truck replacements. Fire trucks, even when maintained, are replaced every 15-20 years, per NFPA requirements. Current truck prices are in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000.
- o Mandatory training.

- *1.1 million dollars! How much do I pay?*

The median cost of a home in Freehold Township is approximately \$539,000. That means, if you own a home of that value, you would pay \$205 dollars a year, or \$50 dollars a quarter.

- *What are you doing to reduce expenses?*

Every year the Board of Fire Commissioners, review all vendor contracts and make changes to reduce costs. The Board also uses New Jersey State Bid pricing on equipment purchases. In addition, all purchases and contracts exceeding \$17,500.00 are put out for public bid. Lastly, the Board of Fire Commissioners carries no debt, thus no interest payments on bond costs. This is done by creating a line item in the budget for capital improvement, this money makes interest until it is needed for a large purchase.

- *What is "Emergency Response"?*

Obviously, any type of fire, but the fire company also responds to vehicle accidents, flooding, electrical problems, fire alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, brush fires, water rescue, building collapse, lost family members, and yes even the occasional cat stuck up a tree. These are just a brief synopsis of the emergencies that the Fire Company responds to.

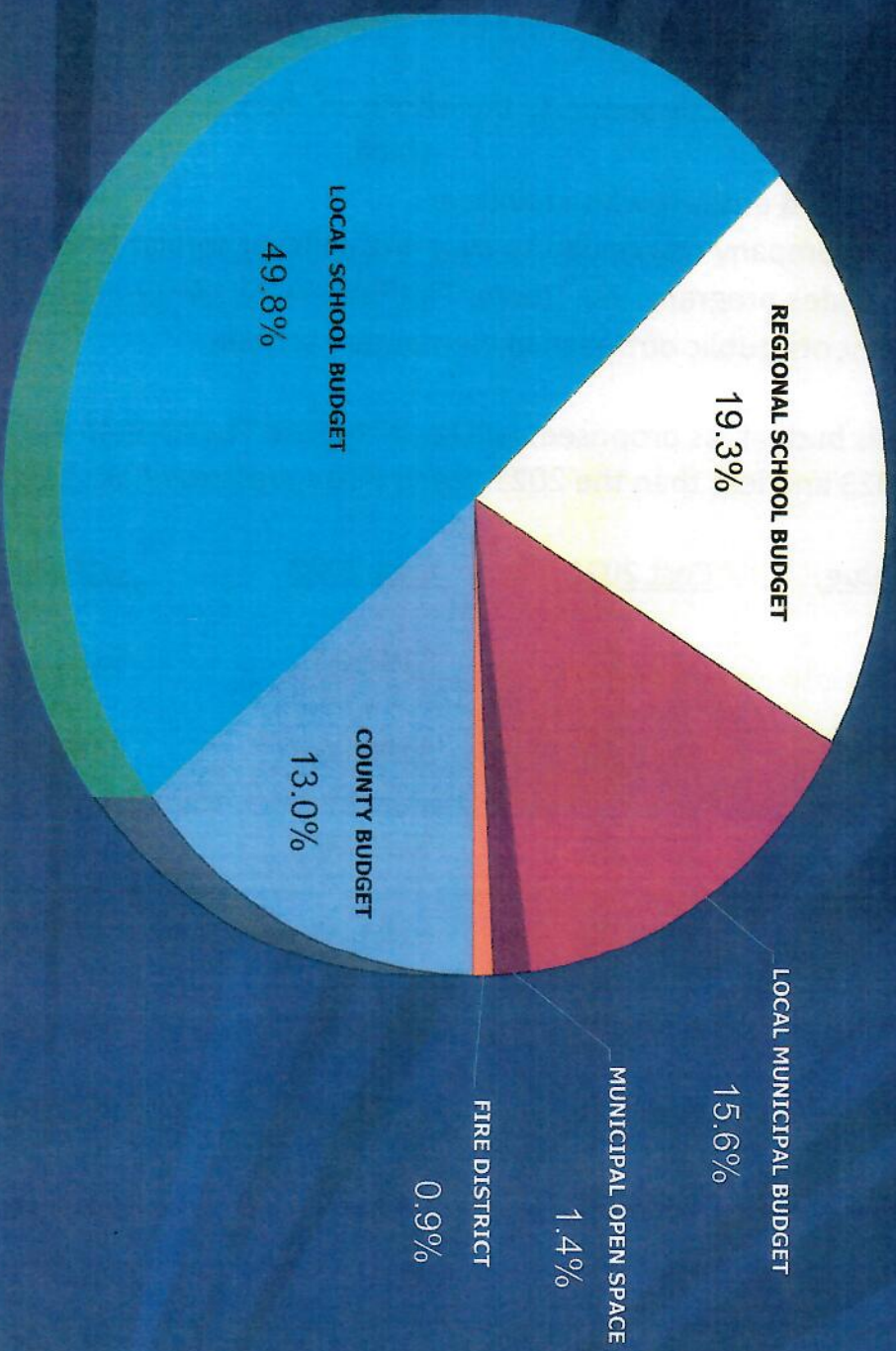
- *What about other types of response?*

As part of the community outreach, the Fire Company attends and/or hosts a number of events for the residents of Freehold Township. A few of these events are:

- o Memorial Day Parade
- o Christmas in July, an event supporting Food Stock.
- o Trunk or Treat at the local schools.
- o Fire protection at Fireworks events.
- o Operation Santa
- o Toys for Tots
- o Fire Safety events at Township Schools
- o Open houses and tours of the Firehouse and trucks

As you can see, there are significant costs associated with operating a Fire District, however the return on investment is immeasurable. The knowledge that no matter what, where or when, a fire truck will respond to your call. By supporting the budgetary process, you, the residents of Freehold Township, will continue to receive unparalleled emergency response.

Where Freehold Township Tax Dollars Go....



Vote yes to support the Freehold Township Fire District # 2 Budget

Please come out and Vote
Saturday February 17, 2024-2PM-9PM
191 Dutch Lane Road

This budget directly supports the efforts of the East Freehold Fire Company which:

- Is staffed entirely with volunteers.
- The company responded to over 442 calls for service in 2022.
- Provides programming (Junior Firefighter) for 14–17-year-old.
- Presents public outreach in elementary schools.

This budget, as proposed, will keep the Fire Tax Assessment cost flat for 2023 and less than the 2021 yearly Fire Assessment as shown below.

<u>Home Value</u>	<u>Cost 2021</u>	<u>Cost 2022</u>	<u>Cost 2023</u>
\$300,000	\$105.00	\$102.00	\$102.00
\$400,000	\$140.00	\$136.00	\$136.00
\$500,000	\$175.00	\$170.00	\$170.00
\$600,000	\$210.00	\$204.00	\$204.00
\$700,000	\$245.00	\$238.00	\$238.00
\$800,000	\$280.00	\$272.00	\$272.00
\$900,000	\$315.00	\$306.00	\$306.00

These numbers are based on tax year 2023