

Protecting Our Community: The Need to Fully Fund Lake Country Fire & Rescue (LCFR)

A message to our residents from the Village President and Board of Trustees

What's This All About?

"The Village isn't doing anything TO the people in our village. The Village is simply required to provide adequate emergency services FOR the people in our village."

When you call 911, you expect someone trained, capable, and professional to respond quickly. That's exactly what we're working to ensure.

To maintain the emergency services our residents deserve, the Village will assess a fire protection fee starting in the 2025 tax year. We want to be completely clear about why this is necessary and how it supports everyone's safety.

Two Key Realities Behind the Fire Protection Fee

1 The Fire Service Industry Has Changed

For nearly 100 years, communities have relied on volunteers, paid-on-call and part-time firefighters. But nationwide, this model is no longer sustainable due to:

- Increased training requirements and time commitments
- Declining recruitment and an aging workforce
- Budgetary pressures and unfunded mandates
- A national shift toward full-time staffing and professionalization

To keep up with modern demands and ensure proper emergency coverage, LCFR needs to transition toward full-time staffing and reliable funding.

2 The Services Residents Expect Need Sustainable Funding

The people of our village rightly expect a basic, dependable level of emergency response—but our current financial model can no longer support it.

That's why a fire protection fee will be assessed per parcel.

This fire protection fee helps to:

- Distribute costs fairly, without relying solely on property taxes
- Ensure all users—including schools, churches, nonprofits, and businesses—contribute to the fire service in which all benefit.
- Maintain legal compliance with state emergency service requirements
- Prevent reductions in service or costly increases in insurance premiums

What a Fully Funded LCFR Means for You

- 8-minute response times (NFPA & American Heart Association standards as a max/target time)
- Reduce/eliminate unexpected station closures
- Stable staffing, retaining skilled part-time employees and interns
- Ongoing training for top-quality emergency care
- Peace of mind knowing emergency services will be there when needed
- Reduce the potential impact of increased home insurance costs from higher ISO rating

A Final Word from Your Village Leaders

We want all residents to live safely and happily, knowing we're doing everything possible to provide the best value and protection. This approach—sharing the cost fairly while investing in high-quality emergency services—is the best path forward for our entire community.

Let's work together to protect what matters most.