

Bullet points for the Testimony: These were not going to be part of my testimony.

- 1 station consisting of 1 fire engine and salaries for 5 personnel and 3 or 4 shifts cost over \$1 Million Dollars.
- The estimated proposal cost is \$1.3 Million for THE WHOLE STATE, for the 365 Volunteer Company's members.
- In Baltimore County, of the 1290 that we have eligible for the deduction, 1225 live in Maryland. The 75 members likely do not file Maryland taxes anyway. Of Cecil County's 415 qualified, 103 live out of state. Washington County, for instance, by virtue of her geography has nearly 30% of the members that live in Pennsylvania, Virginia or West Virginia. So, the \$1.3 Million cost is likely much lower than anticipated.
- Of the 365 Volunteer Companies in the State of Maryland, most have more than 1 engine company.
- The cost saving provided due to volunteer staffing is immeasurable.
- Nationally, there is a decline in volunteer fire department recruitment and retention. Incentives like these have a marked difference on retention and also cause the volunteers to do more to meet their requirements.
- The increases were slated to occur in past years but got stalled. The name change of the Maryland State Fireman's Association was made to the more inclusive Maryland State Firefighter's Association was made, which was one of the factors stalling the increases occurred.
- In my County, Baltimore County, the two of the last 3 Line of Duty Deaths were Volunteer Firefighters, both were searching a well involved structure fire looking for reported trapped victims, when they became trapped.
- Volunteers throughout the state not only respond on emergency fire and EMS incidents, but also have to put in countless hours for activities like training, fund raising, administrative work, meetings, building and equipment maintenance.
- Baltimore County units, career and volunteer together, recorded over 50,000 responses in 2024.

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