



Town of Zionsville | 1100 West Oak Street | Zionsville, Indiana 46077 | www.zionsville-in.gov

Memo

To: Town Council President Jason Plunkett
From: Fire Chief James VanGorder
Date: May 22, 2025
Re: Request for additional appropriation

The Fire Department is requesting an additional appropriation of \$150,000 towards our overtime budget.

As you know, staffing levels continue to be a concern for the fire department. We currently do not have staffing available to run our fire suppression units at the industry standard of 4 firefighters per unit. The Zionsville Fire Department will not operate a fire suppression unit with less than 3 firefighters assigned to it. Operating at this minimum staffing level has a negative impact on the firefighters, both physically and mentally, while operating on an emergency incident.

The Fire Department has been discussing our staffing needs for the past three (3) months at our regular Safety Board Meetings. At these meetings, Safety Board members asked for a plan to begin to address the shortages in a manner that would not overwork the current short-staffed firefighters. The plan that was developed and approved by the Safety Board would utilize overtime pay to fill one position on a fire suppression fire apparatus for the final six (6) months of this year.

Working to identify funding options, Fire Department Administration met with the Department of Finance and Records and reviewed our potential funds. The Fire Department Operating Fund is projected to have approximately four (4) million dollars at the end of 2025. Therefore, we are recommending the funds for the additional appropriation come from the Fire Operating Fund.

This request was formally introduced at the May 19th Safety Board meeting and approved to forward the recommendation to the full Town Council for the June 16th Council meeting.

Administration 317.344.1167	Finance & Records 317.873.5410	Police 317.873.5967	Parks & Recreation 317.733.2273	Street & Stormwater 317.873.4544
Town Council 317.873.5130	Town Court 317.873.8240	Fire 317.873.5358	Planning & Economic Development 317.873.8247	Wastewater 317.873.2332