

# South Madison Fire Territory Email Inquiries

## A. Email from Thomas Bond – 1/26/22

When ambulance merges into fire district, will territory residents pay for their personal use of the ambulance service? The ambulance service will still bill for patient transports, just like Anderson, Fishers, and private organizations. Medicare and Medicaid will only pay for a set amount.

How will the SMFT make up the deficits in year two and three? This is still being sought out one way is to continue with volunteers for an undetermined amount of time to where the shortfall is made up.

Can the district level additional fees on new construction? I know at one time the county had a program where the county, the school district and the fire service received \$1k each per lot in new subdivisions. I am not sure on the \$1K that may go to the Township trustees to be put in the Cumulative fund, I believe this was only done with Summerlake, And I believe we would have to do a bond in order to build a new station.

How many full time firemen will it take to properly cover our district? As it stands we have 35 Full time in the budget. This includes Admin, EMS and fire personnel. Now the staffing is tricky, if we staff one truck fully(4FF) times 3 shifts/2 stations that takes us to 24 firefighters and then 2 on each ambulance ( 2 units, 3 shifts) that's an additional 12, so we have budgeted under what our staffing calls for. This is NOT included the admin of Chief, Ops Chief, Admin Chief, and EMS Capt. This is FULLY staffed so with vacations, holidays and sick time the minimum staffing is 3 on each fire truck and 2 on the ambulance. My hope is when the time to bring Ingalls in we will have 3-5 years of development completed to see where we are at and can increase this number. \*\*\* We started with 50 Fulltime firefighters, but revamped it due to the cost. Once Ingalls comes in the territory we can increase staffing if the area grows like I think it will.

Will volunteers supplement the full time professional fire fighters? YES If so, how long will volunteers be able to provide additional manpower? I plan on using them as long as they are willing to work.

Can the SMFT work with SMCSO to offer our local students a chance to get basic firefighting certifications including EMT certification to prepare them for the profession? We currently have High School rookie program that was started in the early 80's and we take 10 kids each senior year to run with the service.

Will priority be given to qualified residents to fill the full time positions? YES as long as they meet the State of Indiana PERF Requirements,( age, testing requirements set forth by the pension boards).

Will we require a fire fighters to also be paramedics? No, However paramedics with fire certs will be given priority. We will require everyone that applies to be EMTs.

How will the SMFT salary schedule align with local 'competitors' like Anderson, Fishers, Fortville and Greenfield? Will the fringe benefit package be similar or even better to draw in the best possible candidates?

We started at \$50K base salary, After looking at Anderson, Fishers, Brownsburg, Avon, Pittsboro, and Turkey Creek (Warsaw area), we felt to retain and get FFs we needed to cut the number from 50 to 35. And increase the pay to \$60 to be comparable. I DO NOT want to hire and spend the time and money for someone to come here and move on because of a job elsewhere that pays better. I see that all the time with Anderson fire and Anderson police depts.

Will the fire station on Broadway always be used by the SMFT or will two better positioned fire stations be constructed? We will use Pendleton station as one of our stations, We have a lease on the Ingalls station, I spoke of ISO, The International fire Union did a study with ISO stating that the fire stations should be with in a 5 mile radius of another to make the response time set forth by ISO. So placement of another station is dependent of growth and land acquisition.

\*\*\*\* MY personal opinion is to have a station on the north side of 69 somewhere around Smiths, Due to only 2 ways to travel south of 69, that being 650 and St RD 13.

And then somewhere in the vicinity of 500s and Madison or Main St. But in that area that call volume does not support this plan at this time. I would like to have Adams Twsp. Join but THEY HAVE NOT SPOKEN TO ME ABOUT THIS

What additional benefits will residents experience with the SMFT? I realize response time will be a major benefit as will a potential reduction in home owner insurance costs, are there others? Right now the benefit is response times and will allow the town and townships to grow accordingly if the public safety is in place. Business and home owners will always look at "What does the fire dept and police dept look like?" and how quickly do they respond.

The sound wasn't that great on my Zoom connection. YES, I received a text in the meeting about this issue, we have a plan going forward with an additional small speaker next to the zoom computer.

Mike, I appreciate all the questions, if you have any more questions that need answered do not hesitate to send me an email.

I think you and your team have developed a great plan. Honestly, we don't have the amenities that Fishers has because our tax rate is low and are assessed valuations are lower across the board. Smart, strictly governed new developments will help us all but we don't need housing density like Summerlake. I think the town and county are too timid to have more restricted building requirements but with those comes fewer but higher valued homes.

## B. Email from Carol Hanna – 2/24/22

1. Ingalls fire station. The map of the new fire territory appears to include Ingalls, I think Chief Nodine said that Ingalls is not included. If so, what happens to the Ingalls fire station and who will provide services to Ingalls? [This is correct, the map did show Ingalls Fire station, As of today, Ingalls FD is no longer active, Pendleton provides coverage for their entire response area by contract. They \(Town of Ingalls\) has entered into a MOU stating they will enter into the Fire Territory at a later time. This was done due to their area expanding at a rapid rate.](#)

2. Paige Sansone talked about the reallocation of local income taxes and vehicle excise taxes and that Pendleton Town will get more allocated to them because of their higher tax base created from the fire territory. Will all of the increase in allocated funds go towards the fire territory or will they end up with more funds that are not for the fire territory? Am I correct in thinking that the school corporation will get less funds from the vehicle excise tax allocation because of this, and was that decrease included in the financial analysis of the impact of the fire territory on the school's budget? [I am sending this to Paige for her to answer, I do not want to give you misinformation.](#)