

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad



*Public Hearing
January 28, 2020*

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Background

- Our mission is to provide the residents, commercial businesses, visitors, and surrounding areas of the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad in Avenue, Maryland with the best pre-hospital Basic and Advanced Life Support services with the least possible delay and greatest possible efficiency.
- We run an average of 700-800 calls per year.
- We have 3 ambulances and 1 utility.
- We have approximately 60 squad members and 25 auxiliary members.
- Our skill levels range from CPR Certified to Paramedics.

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Why we are here?

- We are requesting a tax increase from \$.011 to \$.030 on every \$100 of assessed value in order to cover increasing operating expenses, equipment costs, and to remodel the existing facility.
- We have not requested a tax increase in over 20 years. The only tax increase we requested increased the tax rate from the initial \$.009 to \$.011 on every \$100 of assessed value.
- The primary reason for this tax request is to fund a daytime duty crew. We are experiencing a lack of manpower during the day. This manpower shortage has led us to hiring a daytime duty crew. The paid duty crew is on shift Monday – Thursday from 5:00AM to 15:00PM.
- We also need to add on to our existing facility. We last renovated 15 years ago but have identified the need to expand the footprint of our building.
- Some other operational expenses that continue to rise are for medical supplies, medications, ambulance maintenance, fuel bills, protective gear, information technology (IT) expenses, and utilities.
- Even though expenses have increased, we have been able to operate at the \$.011 tax rate for the past 20 years, through fundraising and community support.

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Impact on Homeowners

- The Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad is currently receiving \$.011 for every \$100 of assessed property value and is requesting an increase to \$.030.
- Each property will be impacted differently.
- The actual amount of the increase will depend upon the value of the land and improvements as established by the State Department of Assessment and Taxation
- The average impact per household is projected to be \$35.72 per property.

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad Current Tax Revenue

- **County Tax Code:** Sec. 49-1. Emergency Services Tax
- **How is the emergency services tax calculated?**
 - The rescue tax is imposed at a rate of not more than three (3) cents on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of **assessable real property** other than operating real property of a public utility, and seven and one-half (7.5) cents on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of **assessable personal property and operating real property** of a public utility.
- **How much emergency services tax revenue do we receive?**
 - FY19 Actual \$97,291
 - FY18 Actual \$96,723
- **Can we apply for additional increases to the tax rate?**
 - No, we would be at the max amount allowed of (3) cents on each one hundred dollars (\$100).

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Revenue from the Community

- FY20 Proposed
 - Fundraising \$65,000*
 - Community Donations \$75,617
- FY19 Actual
 - Fundraising \$82,394
 - Community Donations \$73,415
- FY18 Actual
 - Fundraising \$66,102
 - Community Donations \$71,408

**In FY20 we lost one of our major fundraising events (lawn mower race) because they removed St Marys County from their schedule*

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Budget Exhibit - Revenue

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
SUMMARY BUDGET INFORMATION**

FIRE DEPARTMENT / RESCUE SQUAD: Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE NAME: Donald Phetteplace

TITLE: President

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 301-536-0131

	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Approved	2021 Proposed
REVENUE				
Fire / Rescue Tax - Rate	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.030
Fire-Rescue Tax Revenue - Amount	\$ 96,723	\$ 97,291	\$ 98,750.00	\$ 237,374
Operating Allocation from the County				
Grants				
508	\$ 23,077	\$ 23,077	\$ 23,077	\$ 23,077
Other Government Revenue				
Contributions & Donations	\$ 71,408	\$ 73,415	\$ 75,617	\$ 80,223
FundRaising	\$ 66,102	\$ 82,394	\$ 65,000	\$ 67,626
Other Public Support				
Investment Income	\$ 1,725	\$ 5,469	\$ 5,578	\$ 5,804
Other Income (describe if significant)	\$ 3,100	\$ 6,730	\$ 6,898	\$ 7,247
Transfers (from Trust/Investments)				
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 262,135	\$ 288,376	\$ 274,921	\$ 421,351

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Expense Trends

- FY18 Actual Expenses \$204,221
- FY19 Actual Expenses \$227,663
- FY20 Projected Expenses \$632,369
 - Purchased New Ambulance \$250,000
 - Contract for Duty Crew \$145,000

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Budget Exhibit - Expenses

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
SUMMARY BUDGET INFORMATION**

FIRE DEPARTMENT / RESCUE SQUAD: Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE NAME: Donald Phetteplace

TITLE: President

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 301-536-0131

	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Approved	2021 Proposed
EXPENSES - OPERATING				
Operational	\$ 18,862	\$ 31,744	\$ 32,696	34,688
Support	\$ 181,178	\$ 191,796	\$ 197,550	209,581
Other (describe/detail if significant)				
Contract Duty Crew			\$ 145,000	149,383
CAPITAL				
Purchase (describe significant items)				
New Ambulance			\$ 250,000	
Stretcher Maintenance	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Running Gear - PPE			\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
CAPITAL IMPROVMENTS				
Debt service payments (itemize)	181	123	123	\$ 123
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 204,221	\$ 227,663	\$ 632,369	\$ 400,774
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 57,914	\$ 60,713	\$ (357,448)	\$ 20,577

A copy of the full budget, according to the standard chart of accounts, must be attached

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Why are our expenses increasing?

- Ambulance Maintenance has increased to more than \$6,500 per year.
- Fuel costs for the ambulances now exceed \$8,000 per year.
- Utility costs exceed \$17,000 per year.
- Medical Supplies and other patient care consumables that were once supplied by St. Mary's Hospital free-of-charge must now be purchased from outside vendors. The current cost of supplies exceeds \$6,000 per year not including medications.
- Training and continuing education costs for our members have increased.
- The cost of protective EMS gear is approximately \$1,200 per member.
- All reporting is now completed via the internet and use of computers. The cost to maintain computers/laptops and internet access continue to increase.

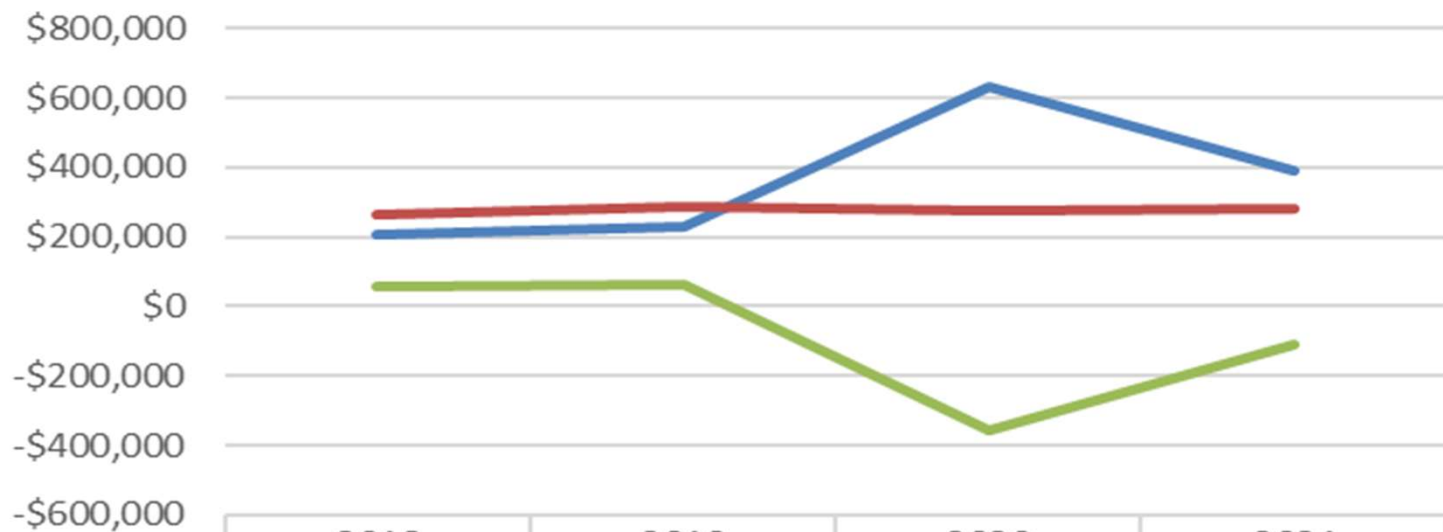
Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Why are our expenses increasing?

- Ambulance Replacement Costs
 - The cost of a new ambulance has increased from \$80,000 in 1999 to \$250,000 in 2020.
 - Our ambulances historically have a 15 year life span.
 - We are currently replacing our ambulances every 5 years.
 - This cost doesn't include the cost of equipment and supplies carried on the ambulance.
 - We usually use the county loan program to finance our ambulances. In 2020 we paid for the ambulance out of our savings.
- Building and Grounds Maintenance
 - We have outgrown our facility to the point that we need to add office space.
 - Our last remodel was @ 15 years ago.
 - We have two outbuildings and an annex building that add to our current utility bill.

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

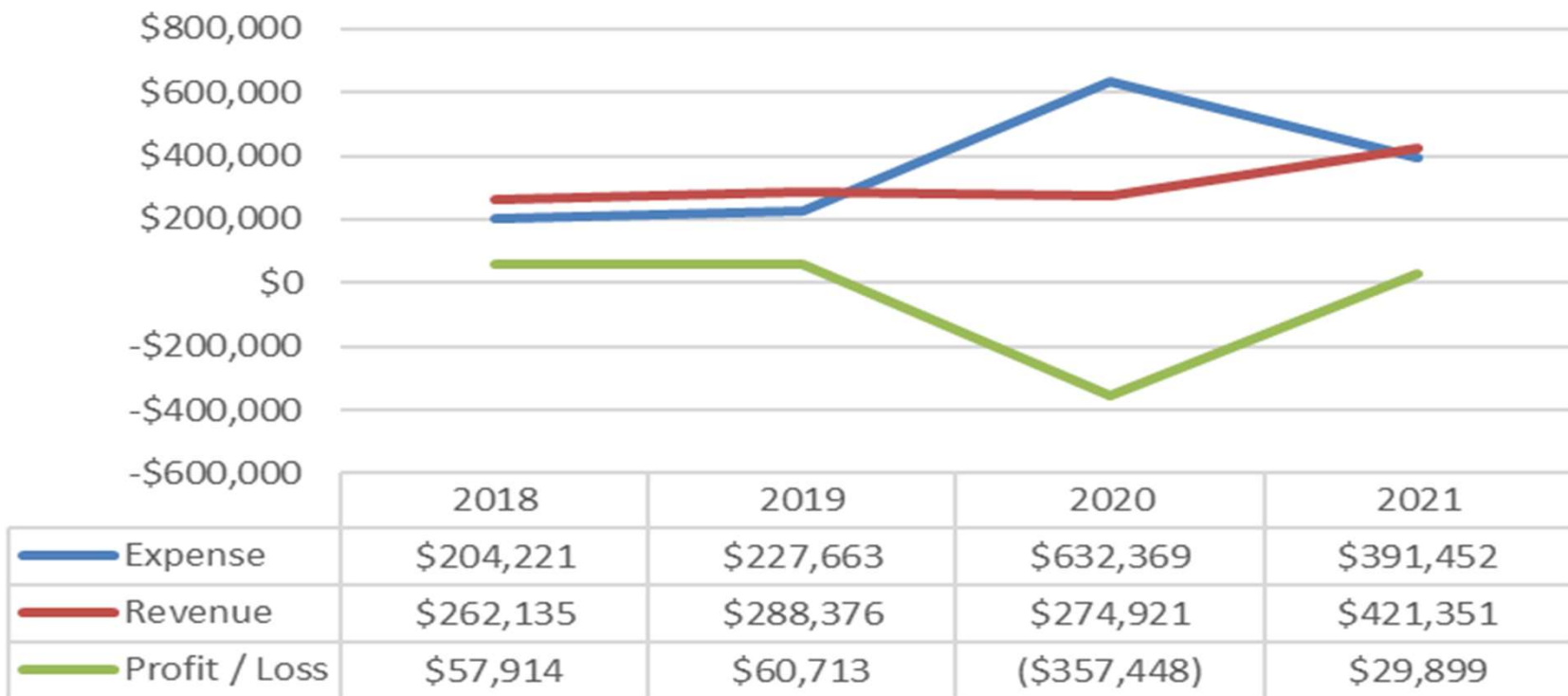
SDVRS Budget Without Tax Increase



	2018	2019	2020	2021
Expense	\$204,221	\$227,663	\$632,369	\$391,452
Revenue	\$262,135	\$288,376	\$274,921	\$280,255
Profit / Loss	\$57,914	\$60,713	(\$357,448)	(\$111,197)

Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

SDVRS Budget With Tax Increase



Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad

Summary and Conclusion

- We are requesting a tax increase from \$.011 to \$.030 on every \$100 of assessed value in order to cover increasing operating expenses, equipment costs, and to remodel the existing facility.
- The average impact per household is projected to be \$35.72 per property.
- The increased property tax will provide the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad with an additional \$150,334 which will adequately fund the contract duty crew.
- Having a contract duty crew will increase the probability of receiving exemplary pre-hospital care with the least possible delay.
- Hopefully we will experience a surge in membership that will result in available EMTs during the day. This would allow us to cancel the contract and reduce operating expenses.
- The tax increase will allow the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad to remain fiscally sound.