

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

Fire Department Mount Joy
111 New Haven St.
Mount Joy PA, 17552

January 11, 2010

Fire Department Mount Joy to delay replacement of Rescue-Engine:

At the December Monthly business meeting, the members of Fire Department Mount Joy (FDMJ) decided to delay the replacement of their 1995 KME Rescue-Engine. The reason for this decision was the unavailability of adequate funding to make the purchase at the current time.

The members of FDMJ have been working for over a year to design the specification for the replacement apparatus. During this time they were also in discussion with the four municipalities which they serve, Mount Joy Borough, Rapho Township, Mount Joy Township and East Donegal Township to help fund the purchase. The members of the company developed a funding formula which determines the amount each municipality would provide for the new apparatus based on square mileage, population, number of incidents responded to, and assessed property value. Each municipality was asked to give their portion of the cost of the engine over a five year period. Philip Colvin, President of FDMJ, stated, "We felt this formula was the most fair and equitable way to divide the funds between the municipalities. The formula was based partially on a guidance document from the Department of Community and Economic Development and what we felt were important criteria."

Unfortunately, due the current economic climate, none of the municipalities were able to provide the needed funding to FDMJ for the apparatus purchase. Three of the four municipalities raised funding slightly, but not enough to make the purchase possible.

President Colvin stated, "The funding we currently receive from the municipalities and our annual fund drive covers the cost of our annual operating budget, but does not bring in enough funds for capital purchases. The cost of apparatus has increased greatly over the years. We are looking at an apparatus that will cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000. The committee that designed the apparatus did everything they could to keep the costs down. There is nothing extravagant on this Rescue-Engine, and is as basic as possible but still able to do the job we need it to do." Colvin added, "FDMJ solicited bids from three apparatus manufacturers and will most likely expand that list in the future when funding becomes available."

FDMJ members agreed to hold off on the purchase until the municipalities could provide the funding needed. While none of the municipalities gave any commitment to providing the requested funding, some of them did recognize the need to provide the funding and will look for ways to possibly do so in the future.

FDMJ's apparatus replacement program calls to replace a vehicle after it becomes 15 years old. This program is designed to replace the apparatus before it is out of its usable service life and maintenance costs increase, and to make long range planning and budgeting easier.

The current Rescue-Engine will remain in service until funding becomes available to replace it.

For additional information please contact Philip Colvin, President, FDMJ at 717-664-1203.

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