



New York State Professional Firefighters Association

Benchmark Data Questionnaire

Department Stats

How many firefighters?

Are you a combo dept.?

Are there women on the job? How many?

How many engines, ladders trucks, paramedic units and rescue squads do you have?

How many houses?

General issues

What is minimum manning on each apparatus? Normal manning? Response to basic structure fires? Is extra manning available?

What is the relationship with city hall (mayor, council, city attorney, budget director, etc.)

Is equipment and training appropriate?

How would you characterize your relationship with elected officials?

How would they characterize the professional FFs?

What percentage of medical insurance does a member pay as an active member and when retired?

Does your local have a 207a policy?

Do you have outside 207a agency? e.g. "207a resolutions?"

Budget Timeline

Is there a budget calendar or timeline in place?

Does the community vote on a budget; or is it based on action by elected leaders?

Are there hearings, or town halls?

Call Volume

How many calls per year?

How many medical?

How many are fire/accidents/other?

Average response time?

Average response time for vols, if applicable?

Do you have data going back five years? How have the volume and response times changed?

The City/Municipality

What is the population?

How many square miles?

Demographics: Ratio of income brackets, race, elderly, etc.

What major employers, medical facilities or industrial sites do you protect?

Are there any high-rise buildings that you are responsible for? How many? What size?

How are the municipality's finances? Do you have a reserve balance? How much? Get fiscal analysis

Have they targeted the FD for budget cuts in recent years?

What is the structure of the governance? What are the individual party affiliations of the council/trustee/board members?

Community Service

What kinds of community service do you perform?

Visit schools?

Parade participation?

Boot drives?

Firehouse open houses?

What is your relationship with the community?

Business community?

Who would be your champions?

Who would write letters on your behalf?

Who would speak at a council meeting?

Revenue

Are there potential sources of revenue that you've explored or the city has considered (pilot-type payments from major nonprofits such as hospitals, colleges, etc)?

Are there other revenue sources (state and federal grants or aid, support from foundations or charitable organizations)?

Media

What is your relationship with reporters, editors, columnists, and radio and television stations?

Have your issues made it into the news?

Social media

How active are you on social media?



Be proactive, you should already have an active role in your community.

The public should know who you are, the services you provide and the value you bring to every neighborhood.

Don't wait until your back is against the wall!