



To our Gunflint Neighbors, Friends and Visitors....

On behalf of the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department we would like to extend our thanks to the entire community for your support and wish everyone a happy and healthy winter season.

Your fire department is robust with 29 active members and 7 associate members committed to serving your community. We staff and maintain three fire halls and two community centers. Both community centers are being actively used by the community at large, the various adjunct agencies that work hand in hand with our department and by the GTVFD for training and events.

As 2017 comes to a close we would like to make you aware of our upcoming goals and needs. The funding for the department comes primarily from three main sources. A small portion of your property taxes is earmarked for all local fire departments. This year that amounted to about \$80,000 or about 41% of our budget. The balance is made up from the community in the form of donations, fundraisers and grants. Typically any year-end balance is earmarked to paying down our loan that was incurred for construction of the community centers. We have approximately \$160,000 remaining on that loan.

Your fire department values your support and is very diligent in how we spend those funds. We are the only fire department of the 9 in Cook County and very possibly the only volunteer fire department in the State of Minnesota that does not pay its volunteers a stipend for training, or for responding to fire, ambulance or search and rescue calls.

Our goal is to purchase and maintain the latest Emergency Medical Service (EMS) technology and equipment to help us better serve our community. Through intensive training we can now administer a variety of life saving drugs, start IV's and monitor heart activity with our 12 Lead EKG. But we see on our immediate horizon a glaring expenditure that will require a significant outlay of finances. It's your ambulance.

Your department has numerous redundancies with firefighting equipment and vehicles, but we have only one ambulance to service to 200 square mile Gunflint Fire District. Though we are a fire department over 95% of our calls are EMS related. The ambulance responds to all medical, fire and search and rescue calls. This year it will be 18 years old and needs to be replaced.

We have been able to function by purchasing used fire trucks at a significant discount. But the ambulance is another story. We have estimated that a new 4 wheel drive fully equipped ambulance will cost around \$200,000 or more. We intend to use as much equipment from our existing rig that is possible in order to keep the cost down. Thus we are now starting a campaign to raise these funds and are looking to you for support at any level.

Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department
7401 Gunflint Trail
Grand Marais, MN 55604

Volunteers Serving the Gunflint Trail Community

A donation to the GTVFD is tax deductible. We encourage you to be a part of this movement and would appreciate your considering us as a worthy recipient. All funds would be designated to an ambulance fund used only for the new vehicle and necessary equipment.

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW AMBULANCE?

- **THE CURRENT AMBULANCE WILL BE 18 YEARS OLD**
- **YOUR AMBULANCE IS THE ONE CRITICAL VEHICLE THAT RESPONDS TO ALL CALLS (FIRE, MEDICAL, SEARCH & RESCUE, EVENTS)**
- **YOU HAVE BACK UP REDUNDENCIES WITH OUR FIRE FIGHTING VEHICLES BUT ONLY ONE AMBULANCE**
- **IF YOUR AMBULANCE IS NOT OPERATIONAL YOUR CLOSEST BACKUP AMBULANCE WILL COME FROM GRAND MARAIS**
- **DEPENDABILITY IS PARAMOUNT (Although we constantly maintain our vehicles age is now a factor that needs to be addressed)**
- **WE HAVE HAD ISSUES WITH OUR AMBULANCE BECAUSE IT IS A 2 WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE. UPGRADING TO A 4 WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE GIVES US MORE VERSATILITY AND DEPENDABILITY (If you drive the back roads up here, especially in the winter, you know what we mean)**
- **THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS ESSENTIAL UPGRADES TO VEHICLES OVER THE PAST 18 YEARS WITH NEW OPTIONS AND AMMENITIES (ie: Back up cameras, better suspension and traction options, hands free controls, etc..)**

WHY DO WE NEED YOUR FUNDING HELP

- **COUNTY LEVY FUNDS CANNOT BE USED FOR AMBULANCES (FIRE FIGHTING VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING ONLY)**
- **PROVIDING YOU WITH AN AMBULANCE SERVICE IS EXPENSIVE. THERE ARE ONLY THREE AMBULANCE SERVICES IN COOK COUNTY (GRAND MARAIS FUNDED BY THE HOSPITAL, GRAND PORTAGE FUNDED BY THE RESERVATION AND YOUR AMBULANCE FUNDED BY THE GUNFLINT COMMUNITY)**
- **THE PRIMARY REASON WHY CAN PROVIDE AMBULANCE SERVICE IS BECAUSE THE GUNFLINT COMMUNITY SUPPORTS US THROUGH DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISERS.**
- **THE AMBULANCE IS OUR MOST EXPENSIVE VEHICLE TO OPERATE. WE ARE CONSTANTLY UPGRADING EQUIPMENT, REPLACING MEDICATIONS AND SUPPLIES THAT ARE EXPIRED, ANNUAL INSURANCE, MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION FEES ARE THE HIGHEST FOR ALL OUR VEHICLES**
- **OUR ANNUAL BUDGET ALLOWS THE GTFVD TO FUND OPERATIONS, TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE. WE NEED YOU TO HELP US RAISE THE CAPITAL NECESSARY TO PURCHASE A NEW AMBULANCE**
- **PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND LOOK FOR AN UPCOMING LINK WITH A LIST OF OPTIONS ON MAKING A DONATION TO THE GUNFLINT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT... www.gunflint911.org**

THANK YOU...

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