RESEARCH PROJECTS

Question 1 - LEAD TEAM MEMBERS (3): Ireland, Howell, Faircloth

Better identification of benefits of volunteer firefighters for communities, especially relative to savings in insurance premiums.

Question 2 - LEAD TEAM MEMBERS (6): Kelly, Alfonso, Mosley, Cash, Bradley, Humphrey

Survey volunteer firefighters; examples
  a. What motivated you to become/continue to serve as a firefighter?
  b. What are the challenges with being a volunteer firefighter?
  c. What incentives would be beneficial to support volunteerism in firefighters?
     i. 1-5 years
     ii. 5-15 years
     iii. 15-25 years

Question 3 – LEAD TEAM MEMBERS (3): McLamb, Mosley, Cash

Conduct an analysis of why volunteer firefighters have left the service.
North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal
HB 287 Volunteerism Initiative Steering Committee
November, 2016 Group Consensus on Priorities

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority 1 – LEAD TEAM MEMBERS (4): Cash, Bradley, Faircloth, Mosely

Leadership Training for Fire Chiefs/Leaders for recruiting and marketing as a necessity.
- Chief 102
- Leadership and management training with required participation
- Review with School of Government Staff
- 12-16-hour class as a maximum length
- Attention given to involving Millennials

Priority 2 – LEAD TEAM MEMBERS (3): Afonso, McLamb, Mosely

Provide state licenses and passes for qualifying firefighters – hunting license, fishing license, Zoo passes, State Fair passes, toll fees, etc.
- Consideration of waivers for other groups up in review and up front
- Potential of discount initially then waiving the fee later
- Consider 10 or 20 years of qualifying volunteer fire service to equal lifetime membership
- Use the existing ID system of NCSFA and NCAREMS

Priority 3 – LEAD TEAM MEMBERS (3): Giles, Cobb, McLamb

Promote firefighter volunteerism statewide through advertising, social media, high school, scouting and other outlets.
- Lamar/Fairway Billboards partnership for use of electronic billboards
- “Make Me A Firefighter” program targeted at Millennials
- Engaging students
- Regional approach
- Development of a tool kit for local use

Priority 4 – LEAD TEAM MEMBERS (3): Afonso, Bradley, Ireland

Exempt payments from the NC Firefighters and Rescue Squad Worker’s Pension Fund from state taxable income.
- Consider HR 1546
- Need to examine if this action is legally or judicially possible

Priority 5 – LEAD TEAM MEMBERS (3): Afonso, Bradley, Ireland

Restore firefighter state tax credit that was cut in 2013.
- Was a NC benefit in the past; was removed with a host of others
- Legislative Committee – bill to restore
- Consider shifting the burden off of small rural governments
- Consider using the NVFD cost calculator