

November 2, 2022

Town of Brooklyn Board of Selectman  
4 Wolf Den Road  
PO Box 356  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Subject: Brooklyn Fire Commissioners ARPA request

The Brooklyn Fire Commissioners know that the two independent volunteer fire departments in town are having difficulties and concerns with qualified staffing during the daytime/weekday hours. Mutually the fire chiefs of both organizations have requested a need to be supplemented by daytime paid staffing.

Over the recent years, nearby communities such as Preston, Canterbury, Scotland, Lisbon, and Salem have resorted to similar solutions. The demand for emergency services within the Town of Brooklyn continues to grow yearly.

**Request:** The Brooklyn Fire Commissioners, in conjunction with the fire chiefs of both Mortlake and East Brooklyn, have concluded that the optimal solution for the town would be to hire three (3) full-time firefighters. These firefighters would work Monday through Friday, respond to all emergency calls, take care of routine maintenance of both stations and maintain apparatus readiness. These full-time paid positions would work in conjunction to supplement the volunteer force of both fire departments.

Three full-time firefighters would provide the town with coverage at both fire department locations, continuing to provide the town with the remaining coverage of one full-time firefighter during an ambulance emergency call.

With the costs of employee benefits unknown to the Board of Fire Commissioners, an ARPA funding request of **\$250,000.00** would cover the costs of salaries and personal protective equipment.

The ideal workweek of these full-time positions would be M-F 0700hrs-1700hrs. All parties understand that with this schedule, each employee would receive 10 hours of overtime per week. The secondary concern both fire chiefs have is guaranteed coverage during both morning and evening commuting windows.

Firefighter Salary -\$23/hr - \$1,265 per 50hr week Multiplied by three personnel= \$3,795/week.

An annual cost of \$197,340 for wages.

\$52,660 remaining to cover personal protective equipment, physicals, training, and fringe benefits?

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Podzaline, Chairman  
Brooklyn Fire Commissioners

Steve Breen, Fire Chief  
Mortlake Fire Company

Brian Pepin, Fire Chief  
East Brooklyn Fire Dept.