

North Station 4-1
12086 M89 Highway
Richland, MI 49083



South Station 4-2
105 W. Clinton
Augusta, MI 49012

**Press Release:
RAFD FIRE PROTECTION MILLAGE RENEWAL**

The Ross Augusta Fire Department (RAFD) would like to encourage all Ross Township residents to vote in the upcoming August 6th election. RAFD's operating millage is scheduled to expire on December 31st, 2024. RAFD operates under this millage, separate from Ross Township. On the upcoming August 6th ballot, the Department has a renewal request of the current millage. The expiring millage was approved at 1 mill and the proposed millage is for 1 mill for the next 5 years.

Support for our previous millage has allowed the Department to replace some of our aging apparatus fleet. The fire service has seen significant cost increases for equipment and apparatus in recent years. Fire trucks have increased significantly since 2020. The millage renewal will help allow the Department to continue to replace outdated critical equipment to serve residents. RAFD expects to see an increase in calls for service like most fire departments. Our Department responded to 461 calls for service in 2023, our highest response total to date. These calls directly correspond with an increase to our operating budget, including payroll, and insurance increases. Maintenance of fire trucks, apparatus equipment, necessary repairs and increases to gas prices also contribute to a higher operating budget. RAFD strives to maintain National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines. Under the NFPA, our turnout gear should be replaced every 10 years. Fire apparatus tires should be replaced every 7 years. NFPA recommends retiring any fire apparatus after 25 years of service. The Department will also need to replace our Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) soon, because the breathing apparatus we wear is at its end of life. SCBA's are arguably the most important tool a firefighter will carry to sustain our life to protect yours during a fire event. Inspections on fire pumps, fire hoses, and SCBA's are completed annually, as are medical & duty physicals for our fire personnel.

RAFD firefighters are also medical first responders. We respond to a wide variety of emergency calls: fire related incidents, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, water related incidents, carbon monoxide/gas leak incidents, and a wide array of special service type of incidents. Our crews not only respond to emergency calls for service, we continually train to stay proficient in life saving skills. RAFD firefighters often interact with our community, participating in public relations events, speaking at schools, teaching fire prevention, and educating the public regarding home safety and first aid. We proudly provide tours of our stations and apparatus to educate our community on the important role we play in our Township.

If passed, this millage will allow RAFD the ability to continue to provide exceptional service to residents in Ross Township and the Village of Augusta.

Thank you from all of us at RAFD!