



Bill No. 21-08
 Concerning: Fire and Rescue Services –
Accreditation Standard Revisions for Volunteer
Companies
 Introduced: June 22, 2021
 Revised: _____ Draft No. _____
 Enacted: _____
 Effective: _____
 Expires: September 13, 2021
 Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-2, Article IV
 Section(s) 1-2-67 and 1-2-69

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council Vice President Michael Blue

AN ACT to: Amend the Frederick County Code Chapter 1-2: Administration, Article IV: Fire and Rescue Services; to revise the minimum standards to remove residence proximity requirements for active volunteer members; change the frequency of verification/accreditation to every two years; to add definitions of: ‘active operational volunteer member’; and removed definitions of: ‘active member,’ ‘live,’ and ‘operational volunteer member.’

Executive: _____ Date Received: _____

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Vetoed: _____ Date: _____

By amending:

Frederick County Code, Chapter, 1-2, Art. IV Section(s) 1-2-67 and 1-2-69

Other: _____

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law.</i>
***	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

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The County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, finds it necessary and appropriate to amend and clarify Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-2, Article IV: Fire and Rescue Services, to revise the minimum standards to remove residence proximity requirements for active volunteer members; change the frequency of verification/accreditation to every two years; to add definitions of: ‘active operational volunteer member’; and removed definitions of: ‘active member,’ ‘live,’ and ‘operational volunteer member,’ as shown on the attached Exhibit 1. .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, that the Frederick County Code shall be amended as shown on the attached Exhibit 1.

M. C. Keegan-Ayer, President
County Council of Frederick County,
Maryland

§ 1-2-67. FIRE, RESCUE, AMBULANCE OR FIRST RESPONDER MINIMUM STANDARDS.

(A) As minimum standards, each fire, rescue, ambulance, truck, first responder company, or special operations team shall:

(1) Maintain an active company/team membership of a sufficient number of active operational volunteer members necessary to meet the minimum response criteria pursuant to § 1-2-66, including at least 3 active operational officers as determined by established officer qualification standards;

(2) Maintain an adequate means of receiving an alarm and alerting the company membership;

(3) Complete and file incident reports and maintain records of each response in the manner required by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

(4) Comply at all times with the applicable minimum standards contained in subsections (B), (C), (D) and (E) of this section for the service being offered.

(B) As minimum standards to conduct fire operations, each fire company shall at all times have:

(1) Five active operational volunteer members trained to drive and properly operate the company's primary fire attack pumper, and who are in accordance with County Fire and Rescue standards;

(2) Ten active operational volunteer members who:

~~[(a) Live in the fire company's first due response area or within the prescribed distance from the station required in subsection (B)(3) based on the company's classification as follows:~~

~~—— Urban Stations — 5 Miles~~

~~—— Suburban Stations — 6 Miles~~

~~—— Rural Stations — 8 Miles;]~~

~~[(b)]~~ (a) Have successfully completed required firefighter certification training as conducted by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), Frederick County or its equivalent;

~~[(c)]~~ (b) Have successfully completed ~~other~~ technical training and/or certifications required by established County standards;

~~[(d)]~~ (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

~~[(e)]~~ (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

(3) A heated fire station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the apparatus and equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations that house County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an employee

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1 workplace. Including but not limited to; potable water, food storage and food preparation
2 facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities, sleeping facilities
3 equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility that is structurally
4 sound and hazard free.

5 (4) A motorized pumper which is:

6 (a) In good operating condition;

7 (b) Of at least 1,000-gallon-per- minute pumping capacity;

8 (c) Listed by the Maryland Rating Bureau;

9 (d) Registered as an emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle

10 Administration; and

11 (e) Annually inspected and certified by the Fire and Rescue Standards Committee as
12 meeting the current minimum equipment standards and a satisfactory pump test.

13 (C) As minimum standards to conduct rescue operations, each rescue company shall at all
14 times have:

15 (1) Ten active operational volunteer members who:

16 [~~(a) Live in the fire company's first due area or within the prescribed distance from~~
17 ~~the station required in subsection (C)(2) based on the company's classification as follows);~~

18 ~~——— Urban Stations — 5 Miles~~

19 ~~——— Suburban Stations — 6 Miles~~

20 ~~——— Rural Stations — 8 Miles;]~~

21 [(b)] (a) Have successfully completed the course in rescue or truck operations as
22 offered by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), Frederick County or its equivalent;

23 [(e)] (b) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications
24 required by established County standards;

25 [(d)] (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as
26 prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

27 [(e)] (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory
28 protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

29 (2) A heated station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the apparatus and
30 equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations that house
31 County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an employee
32 workplace. Including but not limited to: potable water, food storage and food preparation
33 facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities, sleeping facilities
34 equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility that is structurally
35 sound and hazard free.

36 (3) A motorized piece of apparatus of minimum one-and-one-half-ton capacity which is:

37 (a) In good operating condition;

38 (b) Registered as an emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle

39 Administration; and

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1 (c) Annually inspected and certified by the Fire and Rescue Standards Committee or
2 the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Committee as meeting the current minimum equipment
3 standards and pump test.

4 (D) As minimum standards to conduct ambulance operations, each ambulance company shall
5 at all times have:

6 (1) Ten active operational volunteer members who:

7 [~~(a)~~ Live in the company's first due response area or within the prescribed distance
8 from the station required in subsection (D)(2) based on the company's classification as follows;

9 ~~—— Urban Stations — 5 Miles~~

10 ~~—— Suburban Stations — 6 Miles~~

11 ~~—— Rural Stations — 8 Miles;~~]

12 [~~(b)~~ (a) Have successfully completed the basic emergency medical technician
13 course as certified by the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services;

14 [~~(c)~~ (b) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications
15 required by established County standards;

16 [~~(d)~~ (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as
17 prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

18 [~~(e)~~ (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory
19 protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

20 (2) A heated ambulance station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the
21 apparatus and equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations
22 that house County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an
23 employee workplace. Including but not limited to; potable water, food storage and food
24 preparation facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities,
25 sleeping facilities equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility
26 that is structurally sound and hazard free.

27 (3) An ambulance which is:

28 (a) In good operating condition; and

29 (b) Adequately equipped with medical equipment and supplies and registered as an
30 emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration; and

31 (c) Annually inspected and certified by the EMS Committee as meeting the current
32 minimum equipment and supplies standard.

33 (E) As minimum standards to operate a first responder special unit, each first responder
34 special unit company shall at all times have:

35 (1) Ten trained active [~~operations~~] operational volunteer first responder members who:

36 [~~(a)~~ Live in the company's first due response area or within the prescribed distance
37 from the station required in subsection (E)(2) based on the company's classification as follows:

38 ~~—— Urban Stations — 5 Miles~~

39 ~~—— Suburban Stations — 6 Miles~~

40 ~~—— Rural Stations — 8 Miles;~~]

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1 ~~[(b)]~~ (a) Have successfully completed the basic medical first responder course as
2 certified by the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services;

3 ~~[(e)]~~ (b) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications
4 required by established County standards;

5 ~~[(d)]~~ (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as
6 prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

7 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory
8 protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

9 (2) A heated station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the apparatus
10 and equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations that house
11 County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an employee
12 workplace. Including but not limited to: potable water, food storage and food preparation
13 facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities, sleeping facilities
14 equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility that is structurally
15 sound and hazard free.

16 (3) A first responder special unit which is:

17 (a) In good working condition;

18 (b) Adequately equipped with medical equipment and supplies;

19 (c) Registered as an emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle
20 Administration; and

21 (d) Annually inspected and certified by the EMS Committee as meeting the current
22 minimum equipment and supplies standards.

23 (F) As minimum standards to conduct truck operations, each truck company shall at all times
24 have:

25 (1) Ten active operational volunteer members who:

26 [~~(a) Live in the company's first due response area or within the prescribed distance~~
27 ~~from the station required in subsection (F)(2) based on the company's classification as follows:~~

28 ~~— Urban Stations — 5 Miles~~

29 ~~— Suburban Stations — 6 Miles~~

30 ~~— Rural Stations — 8 Miles;~~

31 ~~[(b)]~~ (a) Have successfully completed the course in truck operations by the
32 Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), Frederick County or its equivalent;

33 ~~[(e)]~~ (b) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications
34 required by established County standards;

35 ~~[(d)]~~ (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination,
36 as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

37 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory
38 protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

39 (2) A heated station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the apparatus
40 and equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations that house
41 County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an employee

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1 workplace. Including but not limited to; potable water, food storage and food preparation
2 facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities, sleeping facilities
3 equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility that is structurally
4 sound and hazard free.

5 (3) A motorized piece of aerial apparatus with a minimum of 100 feet of aerial ladder
6 reach and a 500 pound tip load rating which is:

7 (a) In good operating condition;

8 (b) Registered as an emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle
9 Administration; and

10 (c) Annually inspected and certified by the Fire and Rescue Standards Committee
11 or the EMS Committee as meeting the current minimum equipment standards, aerial ladder test
12 certification and pump test, if applicable.

13 (G) As minimum standards to operate as a "Special Operations Team", each special
14 operations team shall maintain the following at all times:

15 (1) Approval of the Director of Fire and Rescue Services to operate as a County
16 authorized specialized response team. Such approval shall be considered in consultation with the
17 Fire and Rescue Advisory Board.

18 (2) A sufficient number of active operational volunteers members that have and maintain
19 the required training and certifications for each special operations function to ensure the
20 operational responsibilities of the special operations team can be carried out on a reliable
21 response basis, and as determined by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

22 (3) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications required by
23 established County standards.

24 (4) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as
25 prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

26 (5) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory protective
27 equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

28 (H) ~~Annual~~ Biennial verification of compliance with all applicable standards specified in §§
29 1-2-66 and §§ 1-2-67 shall be the responsibility of the Director of Fire and Rescue Services, in
30 consultation with the Fire and Rescue Advisory Board.

31 (1) Verification of compliance shall be required ~~annually~~ biennially, but may be
32 required at anytime if the Fire and Rescue Advisory Board or Director of Fire and Rescue
33 Services has reason to believe a volunteer corporation fails to meet minimum standards.

34 (2) A formal process for ~~annual~~ biennially standards verification shall be administered
35 by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services, in consultation with the Fire and Rescue Advisory
36 Board.

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38 § 1-2-69. DEFINITIONS.

39
40 The following words have the meaning indicated.

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1 **ACTIVE OPERATIONAL VOLUNTEER MEMBER.** A person who meets the training,
2 certification, medical, physical and SCBA Fit Test requirements set forth by the Director of Fire
3 and Rescue Services and the Frederick County Code, as amended.

4 [~~**ACTIVE MEMBER.**~~ A person who has qualified as active within the past 5 years under the
5 guidelines of the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).]

6 ASSOCIATION. The Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Inc.

7 [~~**LIVE.**~~ For the purpose of determining if a member "lives" in the first due response area or
8 prescribed distance from the company station, LIVE refers to the location where a member
9 resides full time for more than 183 calendar days per year and any measurement of distance
10 requirements shall be point to point by air miles, from the station to the individual's place of
11 residence.]

12 [~~**OPERATIONAL VOLUNTEER MEMBER.**~~ A person who meets the training, certification,
13 medical physical, SCBA Fit Test and residency requirements set forth by the Director of Fire and
14 Rescue Services and the Frederick County Code, as amended.]

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FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Local Government Fiscal and Policy Note

CONTACT INFORMATION AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Bill Number/Reference:	21-08
Bill Title:	Fire and Rescue Services – Accreditation Standard Revision for Volunteer Companies
Local Government Agency:	Frederick County Finance Division
Prepared By:	Erin White
Title:	Director of Finance
Phone Number:	301-600-1193
E-Mail Address:	ewhite@frederickcountymd.gov
Due Date:	July 6, 2021
Date Submitted:	July 6, 2021

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Local Government Fiscal and Policy Note

Date:						
Please respond to the questions below. If you prefer to provide responses or additional information in a separate file or document, send the file or document in a separate e-mail to rcherney@frederickcountymd.gov with the bill number/reference in the subject line.						
1.	Describe the impact of this proposed legislation on your agency (operations, revenues, expenditures, etc). If there is no impact, <u>please explain why.</u>					
This legislation amends Chapter 1-2 of the Frederick County Code (Administration). The amendments included in this bill primarily 1) remove the residency requirement of an active operational volunteer 2) moves accreditation from an annual process to a biennial process and 3) provides a more concrete definition of an active operational volunteer member. This bill should not have a fiscal impact on the County.						
2.	Please indicate whether the proposed legislation will affect small businesses in Frederick County, and if it will, please provide any information you may have which could be useful in determining the economic impact on small businesses.					
This legislation should not have an impact on small businesses in Frederick County.						
FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY – SHOW (DECREASE) IN PARENTHESES						
<u>REVENUES</u>						
3.	Analysis of estimated increase (or decrease) in government revenues. Please estimate below any anticipated increase (or decrease) in revenues resulting from this legislation. Please be aware of any delayed effective dates in the bill or other factors that may cause revenue increases/decreases to begin in later years.					
	<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
	N/A					
	TOTAL \$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Please explain how the above estimated increase(s) or decrease(s) were arrived at, including any calculations and/or assumptions made. Please also explain any variation if the revenue increase(s)/decrease(s) are not constant.					
N/A – This legislation will not impact County revenues.						

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Local Government Fiscal and Policy Note

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
4.	Analysis of estimated increase (or decrease) in government expenditures . Please estimate below any anticipated increase (or decrease) in expenditures resulting from this legislation. Please be aware of any delayed effective dates in the bill or other factors that may cause expenditure increases/decreases to begin in later years.					
A. Salaries & Wages		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
FTE Employees - _____ # of positions						
Fringe Benefits						
TOTAL (Salaries, wages & benefits)		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
		Please provide an explanation of the need for the number and type of any personnel listed above, including (1) what specific provision(s) of the bill necessitate additional staff; (2) what the duties of each type employee will be; and (3) why existing personnel cannot absorb the additional work. Please also certify the wage/salary rate and % fringe rate (if differing rates apply) for each personnel classification.				
B. Other Operating Expenses		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Technical/Special Fees, Grants/Subsidies						
Communications-Phone, Postage						
Travel, Food, Auto, Fuel & Utilities						
Contractual Services						
Supplies						
Equipment-Replacement						
Equipment-Additional						
Land & Structures, Fixed Charges						
Other (Please Specify on Extra Page(s))						
TOTAL (Expenditures)		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
		On the next page, please provide brief descriptions/breakdowns of the above "Other Operating Expenses."				
		Please explain below any additional calculations or assumptions made in estimating the "Other Operating Expenses" that will help us to understand the amounts and timing of the expenses.				
N/A – This legislation will not impact County expenditures.						

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Local Government Fiscal and Policy Note

4. (cont'd)

C. Operating Expense Descriptions/Breakdowns

Please provide below a short description of the specific purpose of each expense listed under 4B. If any amount(s) listed under 4B represent(s) a total of multiple expenses, provide a breakdown of the fiscal 2021 amount with a short description of each expense (for example, if \$2,500 is listed for Communications – Phone, Postage, a statement such as “\$1,500 for cellphone charges for two new inspectors and \$1,000 for postage for mailings to permittees to notify them of changes to inspection requirements.”)

Fiscal 2022 Expenditures

Technical/Special Fees, Grants & Subsidies description/breakdown	\$
Communications – Phone, Postage description/breakdown	\$
Travel, Food, Auto Operations, Fuel & Utilities description/breakdown	\$
Contractual Services description/breakdown	\$
Supplies description/breakdown	\$
Equipment-Replacement description/breakdown	\$
Equipment-Additional description/breakdown	\$
Land & Structures, Fixed Charges description/breakdown	\$
Other (Please Specify) description/breakdown	\$

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Local Government Fiscal and Policy Note

<u>ADDITIONAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS/CONCERNS</u>

Please submit BY E-MAIL to: Ragen Cherney, Legislative Director/Chief of Staff
Frederick County Council • E-Mail: RCherney@FrederickCountyMD.gov