A FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE CITY OF Leawood

Type of 500-gallon pumper proposed for Leawood's new Fire Department.

Better Protection  Lower Insurance Rates
Note: The amount written in ink above is your proportionate cost of paying in full for Leawood’s new Fire Department. This amount was arrived at by taking into account the assessed value of your home as shown on the tax rolls. Thus, larger homes carry a larger portion of the cost.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

I hereby subscribe the sum of _______ Dollars toward the purchase, installation and first year’s operation of a Fire Department for the City of Leawood. Payment will be made to the Treasurer of the Leawood Fire Department Committee within 30 days after notice that subscriptions have been received in an amount sufficient to pay in full for the purchase, installation and first year’s operation of said Fire Department.

In the event subscriptions are paid in excess of the total amount required for the purchase, installation and first year’s operation of said Fire Department, it is understood that such excess shall be refunded to those paying said subscriptions.

Signed________________________

Address________________________

☐ My check is enclosed.

☐ Bill me for the above amount.

☐ I would be interested in serving as a volunteer fireman on Leawood’s new fire department.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO C. E. MCLAUGHLIN, TREASURER LEAWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE.
C. E. McLaughlin, Treas.

Leawood Fire Dept., Committee

8000 Lee Blvd.

Kansas City 5, Mo.
BETTER PROTECTION:

A fire department located in Leawood could answer fire calls much quicker than the Overland Park Fire Department which now must travel five miles, and then possibly waste valuable minutes locating unfamiliar addresses and fireplugs. Further, if there were a fire in Overland Park at the same time as a fire in Leawood, there would be no department to answer a call to Leawood.

LOWER INSURANCE RATES:

If Leawood will provide the necessary fire department patterned along the same volunteer basis as the Overland Park department, the Kansas Inspection Bureau, which determines fire insurance rates, has agreed to give property within the city limits of Leawood a protected Class 7 rating instead of the unprotected Class 9 rating now applicable. This new rating would go into effect as soon as the increased water supply now planned by the Kansas City Suburban Water Co., is completed.

HOW MUCH SAVING?

The present fire insurance rate is 44% per $100.00. The new Class 7 rate would be 26% per $100.00. From the following table you can figure what your per year saving would be. In addition there would be comparable savings on your household goods insurance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insurance Carried</th>
<th>Present 1 year policy</th>
<th>Annual Premium if Leawood has its own department</th>
<th>Annual Saving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$44.00</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>66.00</td>
<td>39.00</td>
<td>27.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>88.00</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>34.00</td>
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</tbody>
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HOW WOULD LEAWOOD'S DEPARTMENT OPERATE?

The Kansas Inspection Bureau has suggested a volunteer department of two units, one to consist of Kroh Bros., construction employees who would answer alarms during the day and a second unit of home owners who would answer alarms during the night and Sunday. These two units would serve without pay except for a small fee for monthly drills and for answering fire alarms.

WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT?

The Inspection Bureau suggests a new 500-gallon pumper which they feel would be adequate for 20 years service. In addition would be 200 feet of 3/4 inch booster hose, 1000 feet of 2 inch hose, necessary ladders, chemicals and other miscellaneous equipment.
WHERE COULD THE EQUIPMENT BE KEPT?

A portion of Kroh Bros., warehouse at 96th and Lee Blvd., could be remodeled at small cost to house the pumper and other equipment.

WHAT KIND OF ALARM SYSTEM?

A siren centrally located could be heard throughout Leawood. Fires would be reported to a central office where a 24-hour service is maintained. The central office would then set off Leawood's siren which would continue to sound until the first fireman to reach the fire station answered the call and learned the location of the fire. Other firemen would phone the central office to learn the location of the fire and would meet the driver of the pumper at the fire.

WHAT WOULD THIS FIRE EQUIPMENT COST?

An estimated budget to set up a department that would meet all requirements of the Kansas Inspection Bureau is as follows:

New 500 gallon pumper with ladders, hose, nozzles and other equipment. $8,000.00
Siren, installation; phones, etc. 700.00
Remodel fire house 500.00
Firemen's hats, coats, etc. 300.00
Miscellaneous 500.00

$10,000.00

WHAT WOULD BE THE YEARLY OPERATING EXPENSE?

An estimated yearly budget is as follows:

Telephone for alarm system $150.00
Leawood's share of central office expense 250.00
Equipment repairs and replacement 200.00
Gas, oil and grease 100.00
Fire, theft, windstorm insurance 30.00

$830.00

HOW COULD THIS YEARLY EXPENSE BE FINANCED?

All cities with fire departments levy a small tax for their operation. The small cities in Johnson County levied in 1948 as follows for their fire departments.

DeSoto .1095 per $100,00 valuation
Edgerton .1105
Gardner .1036
Lenexa .1050
Olathe .0468
Shawnee .0690
Spring Hill .0991
If Leawood were to levy the same as Lenexa the tax for the average home would be about $2.00 per year and the total for use by the fire department would be around $1,000.00 per year. This is the same tax now paid by the people in Leawood to the Overland Park fire department. Thus, at no increase in present taxes the average homeowner in Leawood would save a substantial percentage of his real estate fire insurance premium plus a proportionate saving on his household goods insurance. And in addition there would be increased safety for his home, his personal belongings and his family.

HOW COULD THE ORIGINAL COST OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BE FINANCED?

Most cities vote a bond issue to pay for desirable civic benefits such as a fire department. However, Leawood is one of the few debt-free cities in the entire country, and many residents feel that this enviable debt-free situation should be maintained.

A most logical solution has been suggested to Leawood’s Homes Associations and City Council by several public spirited citizens. This suggestion embodies a campaign for voluntary subscriptions from all Leawood homeowners who will benefit materially from the greatly reduced insurance rates when Leawood’s own fire department is placed in operation.

In addition to the substantial savings on insurance premiums in the future each owner would receive a refund of approximately 40% of any prepaid insurance now in force, the refund depending on amount of policy and expiration date.

Thus if each owner in Leawood will agree to pledge a modest amount depending on the value of his house, the new fire department can be paid for without a bond issue calling for future taxes to pay interest and principal on said bonds.

Your Fire Department Committee feels that the fairest method of apportioning the cost is in accordance with the assessed valuation of each home. Accordingly, if each owner will subscribe at the rate of $1.75 per $100 valuation the total can be raised with absolute fairness to all concerned, for the more expensive homes will pay a larger share of the cost (and will of course benefit through larger insurance savings). On the enclosed pledge card has been entered in ink your proportionate share based on the tax valuation of your home. Your Fire Department Committee feels certain that in view of the obvious advantages you will subscribe your fair share of the cost and will return the enclosed subscription blank by return mail.

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER?

1st. Sign the enclosed pledge card and return in the stamped envelope.

2nd. Indicate on the card whether you would be interested in serving as a volunteer fireman.
A modern fire department in Leawood will greatly benefit the entire community, and your own property will take on added value because of the lower insurance rates and the greater protection. Such advantages surely deserve your immediate whole-hearted support. Please sign and return the enclosed card today, for only through 100% response from every owner in Leawood can the low quota per house be maintained.

FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF LEAWOOD

By: R.G. Anderson, President Leawood Estates Homes Association.
J. Howard Fuqua, Councilman City of Leawood.
C. E. McLaughlin, Treasurer of Fire Department Committee.
Hubbard Minor, President Leawood Homes Association.