



MINUTES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing – 2026 Proposed Budget
7:00 PM, Tuesday, October 21st, 2025

ATTENDEES: Chairman Marc Komorsky
Commissioner Barry Ward (*absent*)
Commissioner Robert Taft
Treasurer Mark Pozniak
Commissioner Anthony Pignataro
Commissioner Vincent Tierney
Deputy Chief Scott Merritt
Secretary Bria Le

At 7:02 pm, Chairman Marc Komorsky called the Public Hearing on the 2026 Proposed Budget to order for Tuesday, October 21st, 2025.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Vincent Tierney – Here
Commissioner Robert Taft – Here
Commissioner Anthony Pignataro – Present
Chairman Marc Komorsky – Present

Chairman Komorsky noted that Treasurer Mark Pozniak, Secretary Bria Le, and Deputy Chief Scott Merritt were also present for the hearing.

Chairman Komorsky requested for everyone to stand and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated for the record that Commissioner Barry Ward was not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET –

• **BUDGET SUMMARY WITH TREASURER**

Treasurer Mark Pozniak gave a brief summary of the proposed budget. He noted that there were some changes discussed at the last meeting that were not officially voted on and he reviewed those changes and said he would like the Board to consider those for the final budget. Chairman Komorsky asked if there was any way to get an exemption on the MTA tax as a first responder agency and Treasurer Pozniak said he wasn't optimistic but he would reach out to the state to ask.

• **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Fire Captain Jason Ryan asked if anyone had reached out to get a copy of the budget and Secretary Le responded that a few individuals have contacted her by email to request a copy.

There were no additional questions.

• **QUESTIONS FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

There were no questions from the fire commissioners.

CLOSING

BoFC 10/21/25 Public Hearing on 2026 Budget & 10/21/25 Special Meeting

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY - AND the Public Session portions of the meeting were open for public viewing via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



As there were no additional comments questions, Chairman Komorsky requested a motion to close the public hearing.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Taft and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to close the public hearing on the 2026 Budget. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

At 7:19 pm, Chairman Komorsky declared the public hearing on the 2026 Budget closed.

MINUTES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting (immediately following 2025 Budget Hearing)
Tuesday, October 21st, 2025

At 7:19 pm, Chairman Komorsky called the Special meeting to order for Tuesday, October 21st, 2025.

2026 BUDGET:

- Resolution to Override the Real Property Tax Cap – Commissioner Pignataro read the full resolution.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to approve the Resolution to Override the Real Property Tax Cap for 2026 (resolution attached). Pignataro – Aye, Taft– Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky – Aye, Ward - Absent. **Motion Carried.**

- Resolution to Approve the 2026 Final Budget – Commissioner Tierney read the full resolution.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to approve the Resolution to Approve the 2026 Final Budget (resolution and budget attached). Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky – Aye, Ward - Absent. **Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Station 2 Septic – Commissioner Tierney reported that the District got the final stamp from the Dutchess County Board of Health on the septic system plans. Chairman Komorsky thanked Denise (Hanus) and MJ Engineering for their work and he also thanked Commissioner Taft for his assistance with the lot lines and everyone else on the Board who participated in the process. Commissioner Tierney said they would like to go out to bid soon and noted that they could get the septic piece done and not the blacktop work because blacktop plans close down at Thanksgiving. He said he would like to get the inground septic piece down to stop paying the pump out fees every week. Treasurer Pozniak said that the plan is for the project to be paid out of the reserve funds and typically when they pay out of reserve funds, they don't want to award a bid until they know they have the funding available via the permissive referendum. He said that in this scenario they will need to move forward either way. Chairman Komorsky noted that it was an emergency repair and they needed to do it either way. Treasurer Pozniak said that in the event that the permissive referendum doesn't pass then the cost will come out fund balance. Chairman Komorsky said that he spoke to the attorney who said he didn't need to go over everything as it was pretty standard and MJ Engineering is very experienced with the bid process.

BoFC 10/21/25 Public Hearing on 2026 Budget & 10/21/25 Special Meeting

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Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to go forward with the bid process for emergency repairs that MJ engineering put together for the septic at Station 2 with the primary intention of paying for it with Land & Building Reserve funds but using fund balance, if necessary, as a contingency. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Brief discussion followed about a potential bid timeline to get responses quickly but still allow enough time for vendors to put together bids.

- Station 3 - Commissioner Tierney said he was tasked with dealing with the asbestos at Station 3 and Commissioner Pignataro questioned how much of the work was required. Commissioner Tierney noted that the mold has contaminated the tiles so they have to be removed which will require the whole area to be abated. He said he was getting three quotes on that work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:44 pm, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to go into Executive Session to discuss one contractual item from Commissioner Tierney and one contractual item from Commissioner Komorsky. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

OPEN SESSION & OLD BUSINESS:

At 7:59 pm, the Board resumed Open Session.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED approve spending \$1250 to winterize the construction trailer for the career staff at Station 1. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:01 pm, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting. Pignataro – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bria Le – District Secretary

Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 11/11/25

BoFC 10/21/25 Public Hearing on 2026 Budget & 10/21/25 Special Meeting

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY - AND the Public Session portions of the meeting were open for public viewing via Microsoft Teams.

RESOLUTION TO OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR 2026 ONLY

LaGrange Fire District
in the Town of LaGrange
Dutchess County, New York

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the LaGrange Fire District (The Board) must adopt a proposed budget for 2026 which includes an estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and

WHEREAS, the board did adopt its proposed budget in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the LaGrange Fire District held its annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 21st, 2025, wherein the Board considered the proposed budget and comments received for and against the proposed budget at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the fire district for 2026 needs to exceed the real property tax cap established pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c for that budget year due to financial considerations discussed by the board at its meeting in preparation of the budget, and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget for 2026 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap which allows a tax levy increase of no more than 3.55%; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, the fire district may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year only if the board of fire commissioners first enacts a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners approves this resolution to override the real property tax cap for the 2026 budget only, in order to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap which permits only a 3.55% increase in said tax levy which will result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$13,270,820.

Motion to approve the Resolution – Commissioner Pignataro
Second - Commissioner Tierney

Roll Call: Commissioner Anthony Pignataro - Yay
 Commissioner Robert Taft - Yay
 Commissioner Vincent Tierney - Yes
 Commissioner Barry Ward - Absent
 Chairman Marc Komorsky – Yes

Dated: October 21st, 2025
LaGrange, NY

RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL BUDGET FOR 2026

LaGrange Fire District

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the LaGrange Fire District (The Board) must adopt a proposed budget for 2026 which includes an estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and

WHEREAS, the LaGrange Fire District held its annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 21st, 2026, wherein the Board considered the proposed budget and comments received for and against the proposed budget at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget for 2026 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap which allows a tax levy increase of no more than 3.55%; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, the fire district may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year only if the board of fire commissioners first enacts a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the fire district for 2026 needs to exceed the real property tax cap established pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c for that budget year due to financial considerations discussed by the board at its meeting in preparation of the budget, and

WHEREAS, preceding this resolution, the Board passed a resolution to override the real property tax cap for the 2026 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the Final Budget for the LaGrange Fire District for 2026 attached hereto and made a part hereof in the amount of \$13,270,820 with a total tax levy of \$11,118,242.

Motion to approve the Resolution – Commissioner Pignataro
Second – Commissioner Vincent Tierney

Roll Call:

Commissioner Anthony Pignataro - Yes
Commissioner Robert Taft - Yay
Commissioner Vincent Tierney - Yes
Commissioner Barry Ward - Absent
Chairman Marc Komorsky - Yes

Dated: October 21st, 2025
LaGrange, NY

LaGrange Fire District
2026 Budget

	Adopted <u>2025</u>	Proposed <u>2026</u>		Adopted <u>2026</u>	
Estimated Revenues					
1001 · Real Property Taxes	10,447,512	11,118,242	6.42%	11,118,242	6.42%
1081 · Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	100,000	100,000	0.00%	100,000	0.00%
2401 · Interest and Earnings	102,508	150,900	47.21%	149,578	45.92%
2705 · Gifts and Donations	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
2771 · EMS Cost Recovery	650,000	1,000,000	53.85%	1,000,000	53.85%
3210 · Insurance Dividends	95,000	95,000	0.00%	95,000	0.00%
3500 · Reimbursement Income	5,000	20,000	300.00%	20,000	300.00%
3524 · Ref of Exp - Personnel Services	10,000	0	-100.00%	0	-100.00%
4389 · Federal Grant (SAFER)	1,314,000	287,000	-78.16%	287,000	-78.16%
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>12,725,020</u>	<u>12,772,142</u>	0.37%	<u>12,770,820</u>	0.36%
Appropriations					
1 · Personal Services					
7322 · Payroll	5,234,760	5,788,560	10.58%	5,823,560	11.25%
Total 7322 · Payroll	<u>5,234,760</u>	<u>5,788,560</u>	10.58%	<u>5,823,560</u>	11.25%
Total 1 · Personal Services	5,234,760	5,788,560	10.58%	5,823,560	11.25%
2 · Equipment & Capital Expenditures					
7000 · Equipment					
7010 · Equipment - Fire & Rescue	312,650	185,000	-40.83%	185,000	-40.83%
7019 · Equipment - IT & Admin	40,000	46,000	15.00%	46,000	15.00%
Total 7000 · Equipment	<u>352,650</u>	<u>231,000</u>	-34.50%	<u>231,000</u>	-34.50%
7020 · Capital Expenditures					
7021 · Land	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
7022 · Buildings	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
7023 · Apparatus	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
Total 7020 · Capital Expenditures	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	#DIV/0!	<u>0</u>	#DIV/0!
7030 · Transfers to Reserves					
7031 · Transfer to Land and Building Reserve	480,000	540,000	12.50%	515,000	7.29%
7032 · Transfer to Apparatus Reserve	680,000	732,000	7.65%	710,000	4.41%
7033 · Transfer to Equipment Reserve	300,000	160,000	-46.67%	160,000	-46.67%
Total 7030 · Transfers to Reserves	<u>1,460,000</u>	<u>1,432,000</u>	-1.92%	<u>1,385,000</u>	-5.14%
Total 2 · Equipment & Capital Expenditures	1,812,650	1,663,000	-8.26%	1,616,000	-10.85%
4 · Contractual & Other Expenses					
5000 · Blanket Accident Ins	104,000	92,000	-11.54%	92,000	-11.54%
5500 · Contingency	50,000	25,000	-50.00%	25,000	-50.00%
6000 · Buildings & Ground					
6020 · Fuel	47,500	40,000	-15.79%	40,000	-15.79%
6030 · Electricity	59,500	63,000	5.88%	63,000	5.88%
6040 · R & S Buildings and Grounds	240,000	260,000	8.33%	260,000	8.33%
Total 6000 · Buildings & Ground	<u>347,000</u>	<u>363,000</u>	4.61%	<u>363,000</u>	4.61%

6010 · Travel and Training	68,000	80,000	17.65%	80,000	17.65%
6100 · R & S Apparatus	185,000	200,000	8.11%	200,000	8.11%
6200 · R & S Equipment	76,500	70,000	-8.50%	70,000	-8.50%
6220 · Gas, Diesel, Oil	52,000	53,000	1.92%	53,000	1.92%
6250 · Telephone	38,000	41,500	9.21%	41,500	9.21%
6330 · Office Supplies, Postage	33,000	25,000	-24.24%	25,000	-24.24%
6350 · Association Dues	5,000	6,000	20.00%	6,000	20.00%
6360 · Uniforms, Badges	38,000	42,000	10.53%	42,000	10.53%
6380 · Awards	550	1,000	81.82%	1,000	81.82%
6400 · Public Events	13,000	13,750	5.77%	13,750	5.77%
6420 · Publications of Notice	950	1,100	15.79%	1,100	15.79%
6430 · Maint Fire Alarm Systems	550	550	0.00%	550	0.00%
6500 · Professional Services	6,000	12,000	100.00%	12,000	100.00%
6510 · Payroll Fees	18,000	21,000	16.67%	21,000	16.67%
6511 · Legal	150,000	275,000	83.33%	275,000	83.33%
6512 · Audit & Accounting	30,000	35,000	16.67%	35,000	16.67%
6520 · IT Services	80,000	100,000	25.00%	100,000	25.00%
6540 · Physical exams	31,000	35,000	12.90%	35,000	12.90%
6560 · Miscellaneous	10,000	12,000	20.00%	12,000	20.00%
6600 · Expendable Supplies	80,000	95,000	18.75%	95,000	18.75%
6700 · Service Charge	500	750	50.00%	750	50.00%
6999 · Uncategorized Expenses	10,000	10,000	0.00%	10,000	0.00%
Total 4 · Contractual & Other Expenses	1,427,050	1,609,650	12.80%	1,609,650	12.80%
8 · Benefits					
6270 · Life Ins.Career	19,500	20,500	5.13%	20,500	5.13%
6280 · Life insur.Volunteers	23,000	24,000	4.35%	24,000	4.35%
7120 · Dental Ins Career	60,000	65,000	8.33%	65,000	8.33%
7130 · Vision Ins.-Career	8,000	6,000	-25.00%	6,000	-25.00%
7140 · Hospitalization	1,587,800	1,740,520	9.62%	1,740,520	9.62%
7210 · MTA	17,600	19,681	11.82%	19,834	12.69%
7500 · State Retirement System	1,419,040	1,505,406	6.09%	1,513,253	6.64%
7600 · Service Awards	107,000	93,000	-13.08%	93,000	-13.08%
7700 · Social Security	398,620	442,825	11.09%	445,503	11.76%
7800 · Workers Comp/VFBL	280,000	294,000	5.00%	294,000	5.00%
Total 8 · Benefits	3,920,560	4,210,932	7.41%	4,221,610	7.68%
9 · Debt Service					
BAN Principal	0	0		0	
BAN Interest	0	0		0	
Total 9 · Debt Service	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
7900 · Transfer to SAFER Surplus	330,000	0	-100.00%	0	-100.00%
Total Appropriations	12,725,020	13,272,142	4.30%	13,270,820	4.29%
Appropriations Less Estimated Revenues	0	500,000		500,000	
Approp. Fund Balance/ Use of SAFER Reserve	0	500,000		500,000	