



Randy Hess  
Fire Chief

# ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

*"Excellence In The Face Of Adversity"*



Myron Bourg  
Board Chairman

## Budget Statement

Board Members, Employees, and Citizens of St. Tammany Fire Protection District 2

I present the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year of 2021. As with any year the Fire District is presented with new operational and financial challenges in which we must overcome due to growth and population increases. Fire District 2 has been and is still one of the fastest growing fire districts in the parish. We must stay true to our mission to protect life and property within the confines of the fire district. The budget presented attempts to address these challenges and maintains funding in areas which are necessary to the daily operations of the Fire District.

### Operating Budget

Overall revenue from 2020 to 2021 saw an increase of \$518,705 or approx. 11% increase.

Employees and their well-being are the biggest portion of our budget as it should. Our employees are our biggest asset and the reason why we have accomplished so many things over the last few years. Employee related expenses account for roughly 76% of the 2021 budget. We currently have 44 full-time employees and 1 part time training officer. Staffing is still a concern because we cannot meet the requirements set forth by NFPA and PIAL however, we remain committed to doing our best. Employee Expenditures considers not only salaries and benefits but also their well-being and the training necessary for them to provide the services our citizens deserve.

The Fire District will also upgrade our Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) next year on all the trucks. We have been unsuccessful in obtaining a grant for SCBAs for 3 years. This will cost approximately \$150,000.00 which is why the equipment category is much higher than in 2020.

### **Other Operating Expenses**

These expenses are non-personnel related but are essential to the operation of the Fire Department. Operating expenses from 2020 to 2021 increased by about \$28,177, mostly due to adding and maintaining the equipment I feel will improve our response capabilities.



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## **Debt Service/Capital Purchases**

The Fire District continues to make payments on a bond issue with the 2021 payment at \$342,500.00 including principal and interest. We also continue to pay on 2 Engines purchased in 2016 totaling \$95,647.00 annually with last payment due in 2025.

## **Capital Outlay Budget**

We anticipate starting on Station 24 in 2021 and we have budgeted \$1,400,000 toward this project which will come from restricted funds.

## **Summary**

Overall the Fire District continues to move forward. Personnel are and will continue to be our greatest investment. We will continue to strive for ways to cut costs where we can while still being efficient.

We will continue to strive to work within our allotted funding while trying to provide the best service delivery possible. We expect the best from our employees and our taxpayers deserve the best service we can provide.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Hess

Fire Chief