



KFA

Chapter 75 Committee

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Current Source of Income

Chapter 75 of the KRS was created in 1944.

At that time, the tax amount was set at \$0.10 per \$100.00.

The purpose of this tax was for defraying the expenses of the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the fire department or to make contracts for fire protection for the districts as provided in KRS 75.050.

It has remained unchanged at this rate for 80 years.

In 2004, the addition of ambulance services in fire departments passed.

Fire departments w/ambulance service were able to include an additional \$0.10 per \$100.00, which places their maximum at \$0.20.



Current Source of Income

The Kentucky Fire Commission allots \$15,000.00 on an annual basis to each qualifying volunteer fire department in cities of all classes.

The Kentucky Fire Commission allots \$4,429.00 on an annual basis to each qualifying career firefighter. This is paid out at a rate of (\$369.08) monthly.

This program is funded from revenues allocated to the Firefighters Foundation Program (funded by insurance surcharge).

These funds are based on the entities meeting criteria set by the Kentucky State Fire Commission and can be revoked if the entity does not comply.



Inflation/Economic Curve

The \$0.10 per \$100.00 tax in 1944 was based on the economy at that time and was probably sufficient to cover the costs of operation.

Looking at the rate of inflation over the past 80 years, the economic curve shows that the numbers are way behind to cover the costs of operations.

The figure of \$0.10 per \$100.00 in 1944 equates to \$1.79 per \$100.00 in 2024!

The cumulative rate of inflation over the past 80 years would be 1,687%.



Costs of Doing Business

In 1944, the cost of a Fire Engine (Pumper) was \$8,083.00 and the price of an 85 ft. Ladder Truck (Aerial) was \$18,250.00.

The price in today's market for these apparatus would be as follows:

A 2024 Pierce Enforcer is \$1,018,132.00. This is from a recent order placed by a Chapter 75 Department in Kentucky.

A Seagrave Apollo 105" Ladder Truck is \$2,235,582.00, again recently ordered by one of our departments.

The manufactures have been notified by the frame suppliers that due to the cost of steel going up, there will be a 16% increase in frame cost in 2025!



Costs of Doing Business

Statistics from National Volunteer Fire Council shows that the costs of equipping and training a firefighter can exceed \$20,000.

Helmet	\$350.00	Gloves	\$123.00
Coat	\$2,070.00	SCBA	\$6,300.00
Pants	\$1,655.00	Radio	\$4,000.00
Boots	\$476.00	Thermal Imager	\$4,300.00
Hood	\$99.00	Training	\$7,800.00



Costs of Doing Business

- ❖ Insurance Costs for Apparatus, Building(s), and Employee(s)
- ❖ Diesel Fuel costs for apparatus, gasoline costs for command vehicles
- ❖ Natural gas, propane or electric for station heating
- ❖ Water bill for station (drinking and sanitation), electricity bill for the building
- ❖ Building maintenance and upgrades
- ❖ Internet and computer systems
- ❖ Fit for Service Annual Physicals for all members
- ❖ Radios and pagers for apparatus, firefighters, and command staff
- ❖ Equipment for apparatus required by NFPA Standards (different hose sizes, nozzles, other appliances, ladders, axes, and many other tools)



Additional Training to Meet the Today's Response Requirements

- ❖ Incident Management Training
- ❖ Medical Training - First Responder, EMT, and Paramedic
- ❖ Hazardous Materials – Awareness, Operations and Technical Levels
- ❖ Trench Rescue – Operations and Technician Levels
- ❖ Confined Space Rescue
- ❖ High Angle and Rope Rescue
- ❖ Search and Rescue/Swift Water Rescue/Dive Team Training
- ❖ Heavy Equipment Rescue
- ❖ Vehicle Rescue
- ❖ Large Animal Rescue
- ❖ Drone Operations

Number of Volunteer Firefighters vs. Call Volume



Stats provided from
NVFC Fact Sheet

Year	Number of Volunteers
1984	897,750
2000	777,350
2011	756,400
2020	676,900

Year	Run Volume
1984	11,890,000
2000	20,520,000
2011	30,098,000
2020	36,418,000



Stats provided from
NVFC Fact Sheet

Aging Profile for Volunteers

Age Profile of Firefighters by Community Size, 1987 (*Mostly Volunteer Firefighters)

Population	% under age 30	% Age 30-39	% Age 40-49	%Age 50 & Up
10,000-24,999	33.0%	33.8%	20.6%	12.6%
2,500-4,999	34.6%	32.5%	19.3%	13.6%

Age Profile of Firefighters by Community Size, 2020 (*Mostly Volunteer Firefighters)

Population	% under age 30	% Age 30-39	% Age 40-49	%Age 50 & Up
10,000-24,999	26.0%	29%	24%	20%
2,500-4,999	28%	23%	20%	34%

Costs Savings

Stats provided from
NVFC Fact Sheet



Of the total 29,452 fire departments in the United States, 18,873 are all volunteer; 5,355 are mostly volunteer; 2,459 are mostly career; and 2,785 are full career departments.

The time donated by volunteer firefighters saves localities across the U.S. an estimated \$46.9 billion per year.

There are 767 fire departments in the Commonwealth, of these 127 are Chapter 75 Taxing District Fire Departments.



In Summary

#1 The costs of operations has risen exponentially.

#2 Recruitment and Retention is a major issue:

- a) Training demands on volunteers is taking too much of their time.
- b) Demands of the increasing call volume.
- c) Employers less likely to let personnel off to make runs.
- d) More demands for specialized training.

#3 Lack of funding to cover the costs of hiring personnel due to lack of volunteers:

- a) Volunteer fire departments are experiencing lack of personnel during business hours.
- b) Need to hire personnel to fill the gap while volunteers are working their jobs.