



# CAHABA VALLEY FIRE & EMR





- ▶ Established by State Act 1977-62
- ▶ Revised by State Act 1999-245
  - Provided for separation of Hoover's Greystone
    - Six times annual dues or over eight years
    - After 2007, six times annual dues lump sum
    - Restricted dues increase to 5% without referendum
- ▶ CVFD is audited annually by MPK Group, PC



- ▶ 1979–Established as a volunteer fire department
  - Added rescue
- 1997– Added ambulance transport
- 2000– Added two more fire stations
- 2013– Began replacing 10 years old fire engines
- 2014– Added additional ambulance transport to cover peak hours
- 2015– ISO rating improved from class 4 to class 2
- 2017– 16 Full Time, 20 Part Time, & 15 Resident Firefighters



# Public Protection Class

## ► 2015

- Cahaba Valley Fire and EMR District was awarded a PPC of 2/2X from the Insurance Services Office (ISO)
- Improved from a PPC of 4/9
- ISO gives a ranking of 1 through 10, with 1 being the best and 10 being no protection at all. For an insurance company knowing the capabilities of a fire department is important. The better the fire department, the better protected a building is from fire damage and loss. The higher the level of protection, the less likely an insurance company will have to reimburse a claim for fire damage. The fewer number of claims, the lower the cost for the insurance provider.





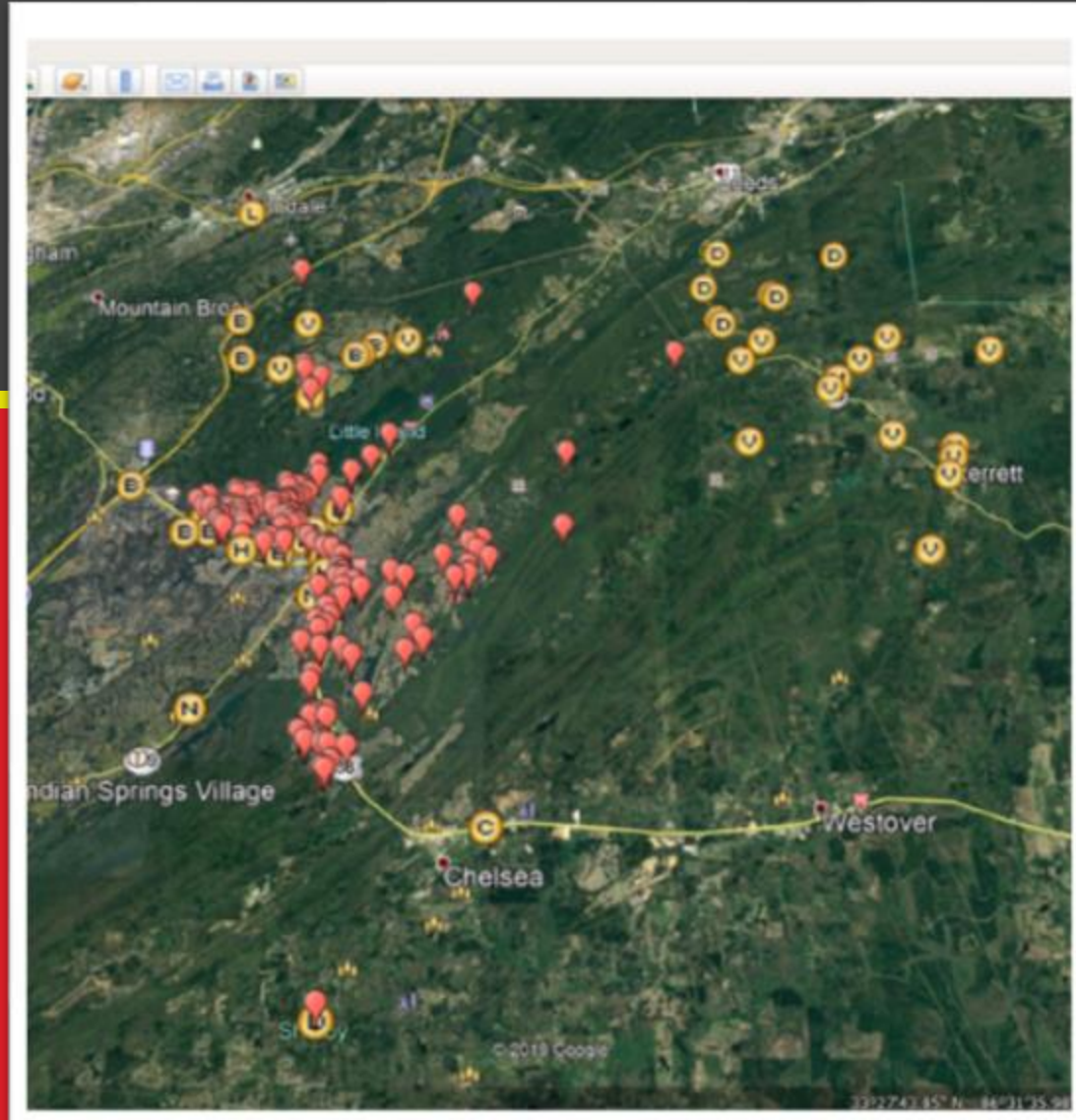
# Call Stats

- ▶ Increase in call volume
  - 2001 averaged 69 calls per month
  - 2017 averaged 261 call per month
  - **An increase of 278%**



# July 2018 Call Mapping

## All Coverage

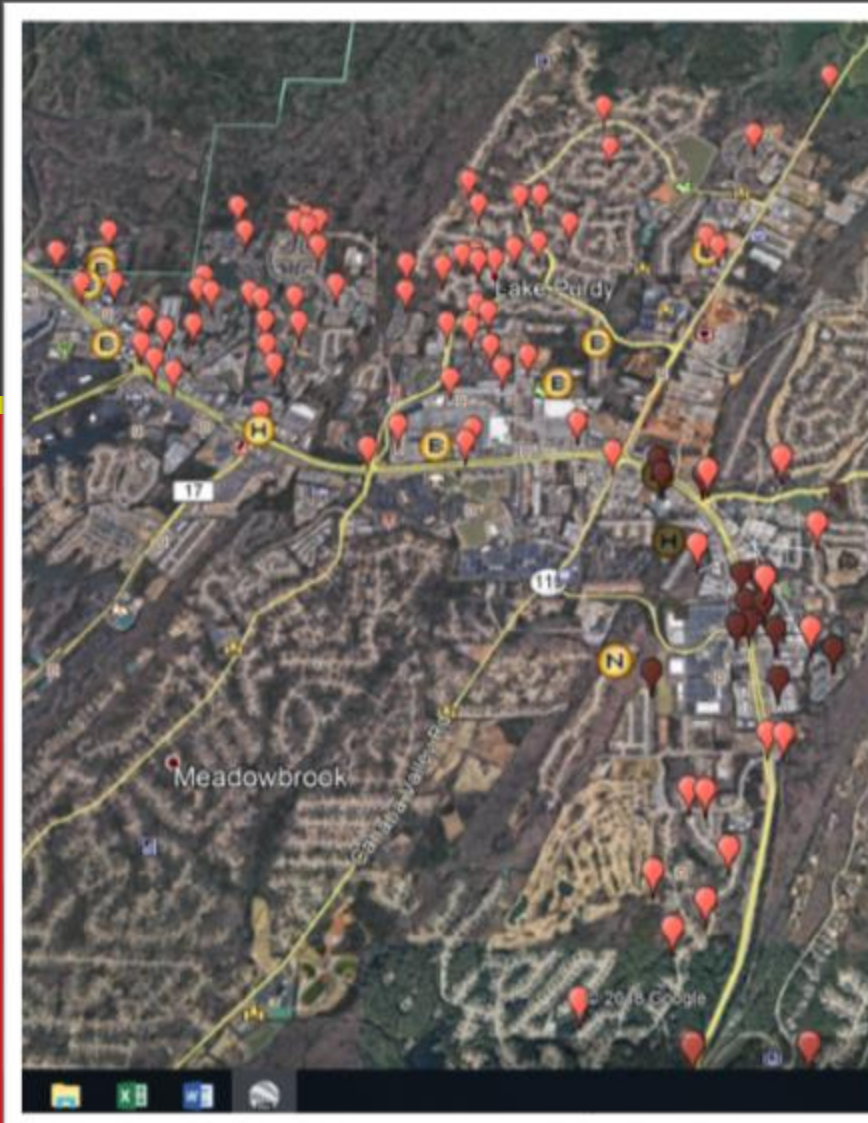






# July 2018 Call Mapping

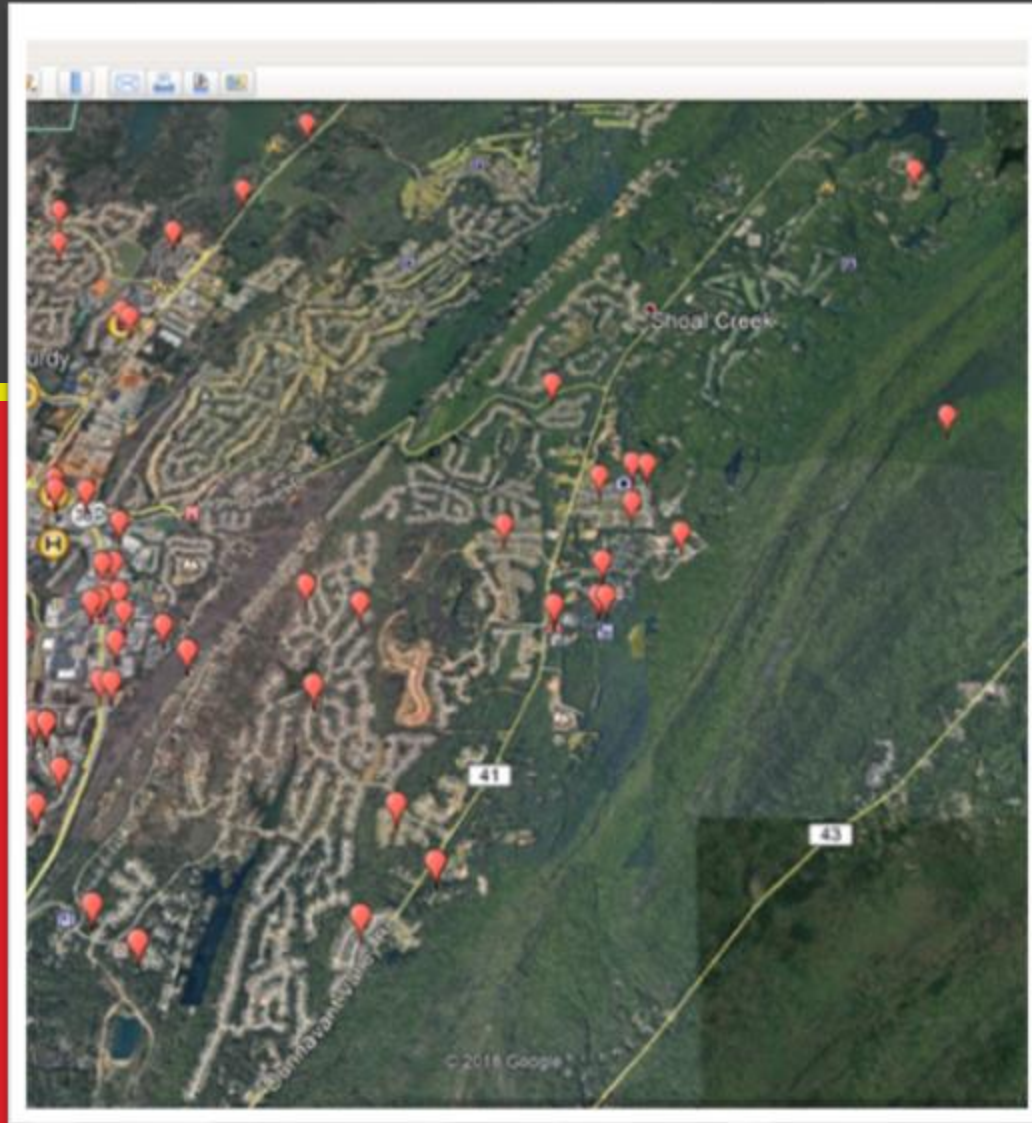
## Station 181





# July 2018 Call Mapping

## Station 183

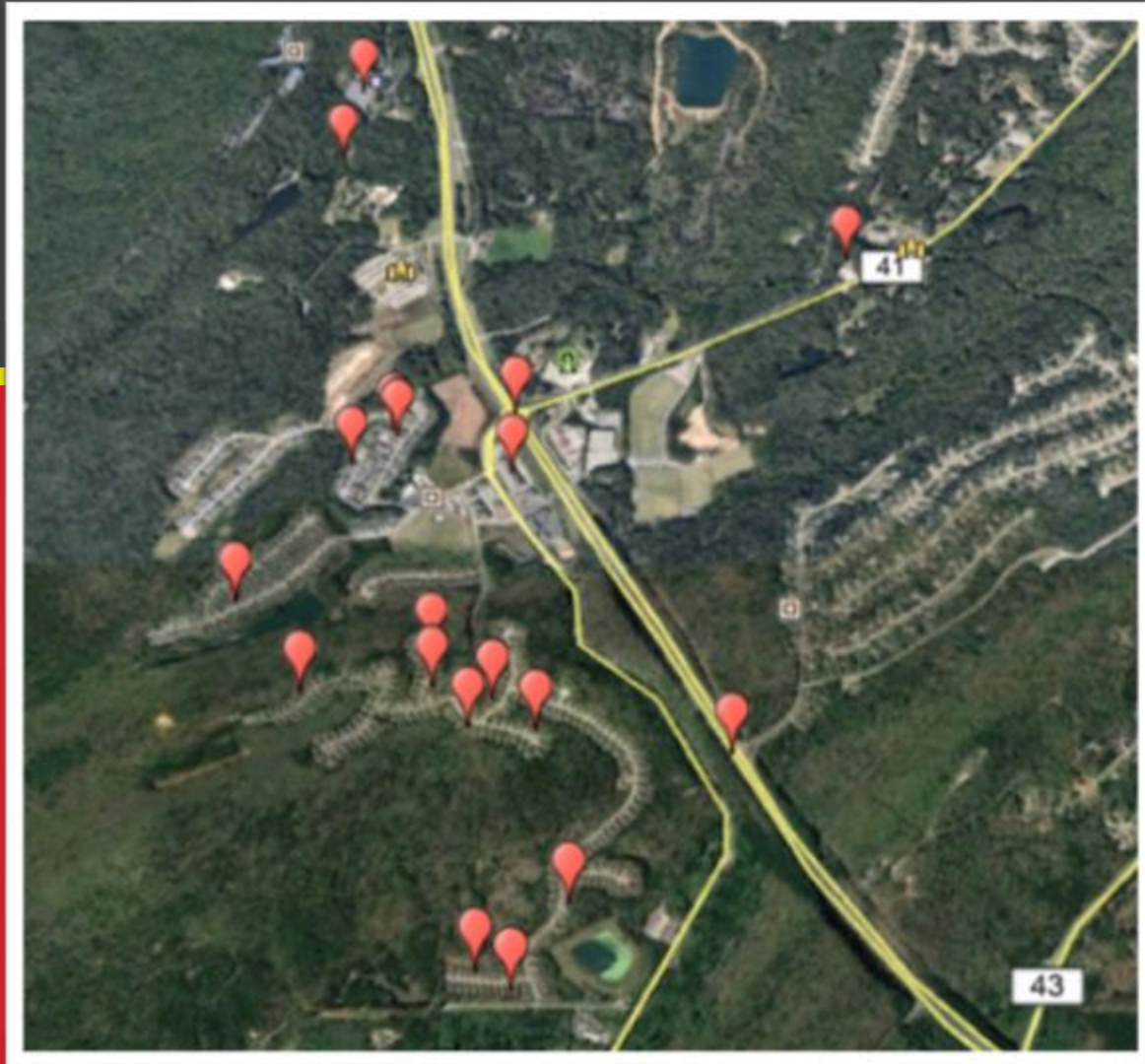






# July 2018 Call Mapping

## Station 185





# A common question answered for tax payers. Why do so many trucks go on a fire call? Why do you need so many firefighters?

Published on February 7, 2018

Chris Campbell, Battalion Chief- Peachtree City Fire & Rescue

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/common-question-answered-tax-payers-why-do-so-many-go-chris>



- First Engine/Ladder- Initial attack & extinguishment- 2 or 3 person team
- Second Engine/Ladder- Water supply, protection of other structures, back up team to initial attack team, rescue team. 2 or 3 person team
- Pump operator- Insures proper water pressure and supply for extinguishment. 1 person
- Search and Rescue- A rapid but thorough process that is carried out under extremely adverse conditions with the removal and initial treatment of victims. 2 person team.
- Rapid Intervention Team- Required team of 3 firefighters for the purpose of rescuing firefighters who become trapped or disabled while operating in hazardous atmospheres. 3 person team.
- Ambulance Transport Crew- On standby for injuries to citizens or firefighters. 2 person team.
- Incident Commander- Overall tactician and strategist who ensures that life safety, incident mitigation, and property conservation is achieved. Coordinator of operations. 1 person, Battalion Chief.
- Incident Safety Officer- NFPA required position to act as another set of eyes to the Incident Commander and to monitor constantly changing conditions. 1 person
- Minimum of **16 Fire Fighters** for an effective and efficient fire attack



Why does the fire department come when I call 9-1-1 for medical issues? Why so many firefighters?



- Why does the fire department respond to medical calls or why does a fire truck show up when I have a medical issue? Most fire departments respond on Advanced Life Support calls . These fire trucks have the same equipment as transport units. In most cases the fire truck is first on scene due to the 9-1-1 dispatch center sending the closest unit to your call.
- Why so many people? CVFD tries to send a minimum of 4 personnel to every EMS call. This allows adequate manpower to carry all necessary equipment and perform medical care. In many cases the patient is unable to walk and has to be carried some distance to the stretcher. Also think about carrying a person up or down stairs. We never know what to expect until we arrive, so we prepare for worst case.





# Cost Saving Measures

- ▶ CVFD makes use of in-house talents and resources when able to reduce costs.
  - In-house maintenance of equipment
  - Station 181 remodel was done with CVFD firefighters.
  - Firefighters painted and performed general maintenance at Station 185
  - Firefighters participate in the budget process and have an active role in cost reduction and awareness.



# Cost Saving Measures





## Resident Program

In 1997 we began a program utilizing resident staff as an alternative method of manning stations. This program was not a new concept at the time on the national level but was new to this region of the country. The resident personnel work and function as a regular member of the fire fighting and EMS staff. These personnel are trained and certified the same as full time and part time employees. They are professional Fire Fighters. Residents exchange work for a place to live, utilities (except phone service), and gym membership. Also residents may choose to exchange extra shifts for tuition assistance for school. Extra shifts may become available for pay at the hourly rate.





# Trends

2007

Dues \$1,333,563

Expenses \$1,644,105

2012

Dues \$1,780,433

Expenses \$2,093,075

2017

Dues \$2,569,710

Expenses \$3,492,390



# Paramedic Shortage

- Jefferson State Community College did not have enough paramedic applicants to make a class for Fall 2018.
- Herzing University Birmingham's numbers dropped from 36 to 18 students for Fall 2018 class.
- Cahaba Valley Fire currently has 3 open paramedic positions and has only received 1 qualified applicant.



## Sources of Revenue 2017

▶ Property Assessments	78%
▶ EMS Services	11%
▶ Contract Revenue	09%
▶ Interest Income	01%
▶ Other Income	01%
▶ Total Revenue	\$3,204,667





## Expenses 2017

▶ Salaries & Retirement	58%
▶ Depreciation	14%
▶ Insurance	07%
▶ Payroll Tax	04%
▶ Utilities	02%
▶ Other	15%



- ▶ 1999
  - CVFD revised dues structure
  - Established dues tied to tax valuation
  - 12 people voted



# Current Dues Structure

Details available at  
<http://cahabavalleyfire.org/duesstructure.html>





## Residential Rates

Residential rates are tied to property value, as assessed by the Shelby County Revenue Department

### Property value

From	To	Dues Amount
\$0.00	\$99,999.00	\$171.00
\$100,000.00	\$199,999.00	\$218.93
\$200,000.00	\$299,999.00	\$264.25
\$300,000.00	\$399,999.00	\$313.49
\$400,000.00	\$499,999.00	\$360.12
\$500,000.00	\$599,999.00	\$408.07
\$600,000.00	\$699,999.00	\$453.39
\$700,000.00	\$799,999.00	\$501.33
\$800,000.00	\$899,999.00	\$549.26
\$900,000.00	\$999,999.00	\$594.60
\$1,000,000.00	1,099,999.00	\$642.53
\$1,100,000.00	And over	\$691.75



## Compared to similar Fire Departments

	CAHABA VALLEY	MOUNTAIN BROOK	VESTAVIA
POPULATION	24953	20691	29546
SQUARE MILEAGE	38	12.2	19.41
# OF STATIONS	4	3	5
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	1.5	6	8
TOTAL STAFFED POSITIONS	46	63	81
TOTAL FIRE BUDGET	\$3,224,481.00	\$8,509,164.60	\$11,003,798.00
TOTAL SALARIES BUDGET	\$2,533,054.00	\$6,978,058.51	\$9,290,603.00
AVERAGE COST PER EMPLOYEE	\$55,066.39	\$110,762.83	\$114,698.80
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	FIRE CHIEF	FIRE CHIEF	FIRE CHIEF
	PART TIME ADMIN ASST. (20 HRS/WK)	DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF-FIRE MARSHAL
		TRAINING/EMS OFFICER	ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF
		FIRE MARSHAL	TRAINING OFFICER
		DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL	EMS OFFICER
		ADMIN ASSISTANT	DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL
			FIRE INSPECTOR (SPLIT)
			ADMIN ASSISTANT



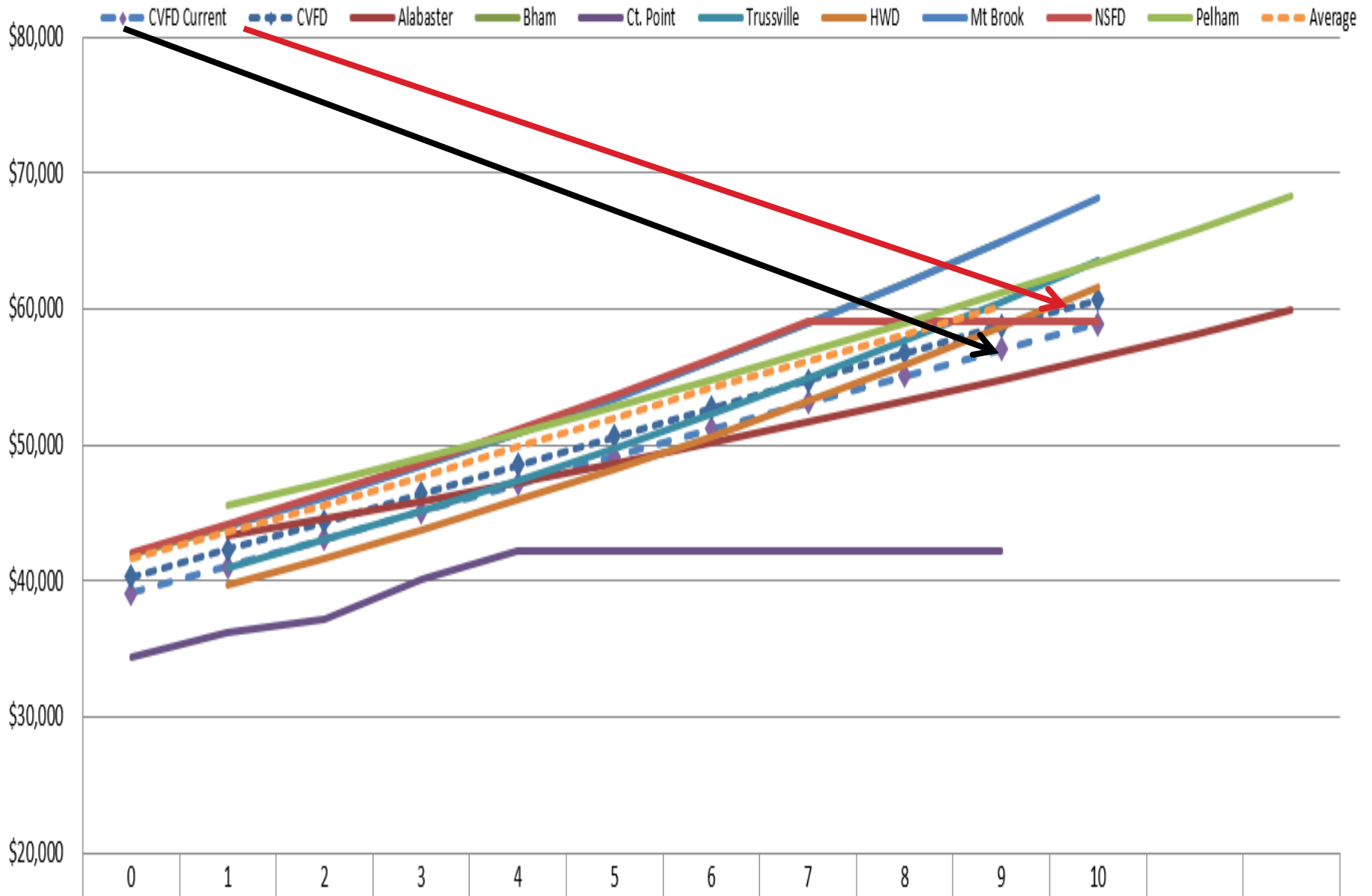
# Budget Considerations

## ► Salaries

- Compared to area fire departments and districts
  - Alabaster
  - Birmingham
  - Center Point
  - Pelham
  - Vestavia Hills
  - Homewood
  - Trussville
  - Mountain Brook
  - North Shelby Fire District



# Firefighter





The Cahaba Valley Fire & EMR district is no longer a rural volunteer fire department.

It is a professional fire department providing top notch services to the residents of this district.

CVFD enjoys a good reputation with the surrounding departments

**CVFD receives no tax revenues and is dependent on the members of the district to provide necessary funding.**



For more information check out  
[www.cahabavalleyfire.org](http://www.cahabavalleyfire.org)