



OAKLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Serving Stonycreek Township (Cambria) & Lorain Borough

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2025-2026 Adopted Budget

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This budget is placed into effect this 1st of February, 2025.

INTRODUCTION

OVFC Profile

Oakland Volunteer Fire Company (OVFC) is a completely volunteer fire company located just outside the City of Johnstown, in Cambria County Pennsylvania. We are one of two distinct independent fire companies serving Stonycreek Township, as well as the fire service coverage for Lorain Borough after a merger in 2010.

OVFC is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit entity, governed mutually by our business executive officers and fire side chief officers. We hold a meeting every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, along with a Relief meeting on the 1st Monday and a Mortuary meeting on the 3rd Monday.

We are an all-hazards emergency response organization as well as a community service organization. Our mission is the protection of life, property and environment of our own districts as well as those we mutually assist, for the purpose of providing and preserving the safety of all residents and all those even just passing through.

We also do and run a variety of community services for the welfare of our direct districts, including fire prevention training and smoke/carbon monoxide detector installations, all with the goal of reducing the risks of actual incidents that could bring harm to life, property or the environment.

Our funding is heavily provided by the donations of our residents and those that come or participate in our fundraising events, along with any grants we may be beneficial enough to be awarded. We are not supported by any form of fire tax in either district, and there is no current plans to implement one due to our areas being notably lower-income individuals and families.

We currently have a total membership of 119 personnel, with around 30 on average meeting active status every year. 84% of our personnel are nationally certified in either Pro-Board or IFSAC, with in-house training every 4th Monday of each month.

Executive Board

The following is our 2025 Executive Board Leadership as of this Budget

President: Dave Thomas

Treasurer: Tom Carstensen

Vice President: Larry Plovish

Asst. Treasurer: Nathan Bishop

Recording Secretary: Joshua Buchanan

Financial Secretary: Renee Bendick

Membership Secretary: Cassy Miller

Fire Officers

The following is our 2025 Fire Line Officers Leadership as of this Budget

Chief: Stephen Bendick

Captain 1: Lenny Sendak

Deputy Chief: Josh Buchanan

Captain 2: Scott Graham

Assistant Chief: Mike Wilson

Captain 3: Dave Thomas

Battalion Chief: *vacant*

QRS Commander: Andrew Block

Safety Officer: Dominick Hocker

Districts

We currently have two districts involved in our primary coverage considerations, Stonycreek Township and Lorain Borough. Counting both together it comes to a roughly 4 square mile coverage area with a total of 3,285 residents as of 2022 census data.

Stonycreek Township, incorporated in 1876 and containing the unincorporated communities of Oakland and Riverside, is comprised of 2,762 residents with a median age of 54, and median incomes of \$32,642 for individuals and \$61,061 for households. It's a heavily residential area with a minimal amount of commercial property, mostly in the form of some vehicle dealerships and mechanics, several bars, a large concrete plant and a variety of small local businesses. We are situated on one side of the township with our independent sister station, Riverside Volunteer Fire Company, located on the other side, and we are mutually on each others automatic alarms.

Lorain Borough, incorporated in 1915, is comprised of 523 residents with a median age of 44, and median incomes of \$31,328 for individuals and \$50,573 for households. It's extremely similar zoned as Stonycreek in that it is heavily residential, with it's most notable commercial properties being a couple bars and mechanics garages.

Mutual Aid

Beyond our own district coverage, we're also on automatic aid for 4 neighboring municipal fire departments/companies, and have the potential to be on next-nearest mutual aid dispatches for 2nd alarm and above elevated calls for another minimum 6 nearby municipal stations.

Counting all our automatic aid neighboring areas, we further assist an extra 31,752 residents (per 2022 census data) over 100.4 square miles of area on top of our own.

Apparatus

Oakland Volunteer Fire Company currently operates with five apparatus units; Engine 6, Rescue Engine 6, Brush 6, Squad 6 and ATV/UTV 6

Engine 6 is our primary first-due apparatus for structure fires and service calls such as carbon monoxide and smoke detector calls. It's a 2006 Spartan CAFS Pumper with 7 seats, a 2000GPM pump, 1000 gallons of water with 30 gallons of Class-A foam. It carries 2500 feet of 5" LDH supply line, as well as 1900 feet total of assorted hand and master lines. It also contains ventilation and minor rescue equipment, as well as a large scene lighting tower.

Rescue Engine 6 is our primary first-due apparatus for vehicle accidents and rope/water rescue dispatches. It's also our primary response apparatus when dispatched on automatic or mutual aid for RIC/RIT calls. It's a 2003 Spartan Pumper with 6 seats, a 2000GPM pump, 750 gallons of water, and two 25 gallon Class-A foam tanks. It carries 1400 feet of 5" LDH supply line, as well as 1100 feet of assorted hand and master lines. This is also our secondary QRS certified apparatus.

Brush 6 is our primary first-due apparatus both in-district and on automatic or mutual aid dispatches for brushfire related dispatches, as well as public service dispatches involving trees down. It's a 2002 Ford F-550 with 4 seats, and contains a small 250GPM trash pump and a 300 gallon water tank and 10 gallon foam tank. It carries two 100 foot rubber booster line reels. It's equipment layout is primarily brush/wild fire equipment and several chain saws.

Squad 6 is our primary QRS response apparatus, containing all our QRS response equipment and supplies. It's also a general personnel response vehicle seating 4 people, and used often for traffic control at incidents on notable roadways.

UTV/ATV6 is our first-due response unit attached to Brush 6 for all brush fire incidents and remote area rescues. It's a 2024 Can-Am Defender XT HD-10 6x6 seating mainly 2, it carries a skid unit with a 90 gallon water tank and 5 gallon foam tank, 100 feet of $\frac{3}{4}$ " reel hose and 100 feet of forestry line. It also contains a skid basket for potential remote rescue incidents.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Accounts

We currently have the following distinct banking accounts;

General Funding is our general funding account is our primary funding account, all functionally budgeted and spendable money is kept in this account, it's largely funded at the start of each fiscal year by a calculation of values from other accounts as described on page 6.

Fundraising is where all fundraising oriented programs are deposited to through the year and expenses of are generally pulled from. At the end of each fiscal year we pull 80 to 90% of the balance towards the next year calculated spendable budget and leave the remaining funds to kick start next year fundraising expenses. Occasionally for smaller non-catastrophic expenses we will reallocate funds from this account into general funding if needed throughout the year.

Mortuary is a dedicated high-interest account for personnel mortuary considerations. Members pay dues into this account and upon death their beneficiaries will receive a certain payout based on years of dues paid into the account. Interest generated from this account is carried over at the end of the fiscal year to be utilized as spendable budget into the next year.

Relief Funding is reserved exclusively for program funding from the Pennsylvania Relief Association funding, a state program intended to provide additional funding to volunteer fire companies in the state based on a variety of factors. All funding in this account is and can only be used for items and uses outlined in the VFRA guidelines.

Fire Police is for donations from when services are provided by Fire Police go into the Fire Police fund (with a \$5,404.44 balance starting into 2025) for use towards Fire Police traffic-safety oriented equipment needs and training.

Radio Savings was established in response to a county radio infrastructure upgrade. It was initially utilized to pay towards the purchase of the mandatory new radio equipment, and the remains of this account (with a \$7,734.08 balance starting into 2025) is currently being reserved towards any critical repairs or maintenance of our new 800MHz radio and communications equipment.

Emergency fund is a dedicated minimum \$100,000 high-interest account kept for catastrophic financial needs. Interest generated from this account is carried over at the end of the fiscal year to be utilized as spendable budget into the next year.

Fundraising

Annually we have several primary fundraising programs for raising operating funds, they are;

Mailer Drive is the very first fundraising run of every year. We send out a mailer letter to our communities giving a summary of the previous year, and an overview of what we hope to accomplish in the coming year, with a petition for any donations that people may be able to provide, with an envelope they can mail back donations in.

Cash Bash is our second major fundraising effort, with a fundraising mailer sent out with raffle tickets in May and a drawing for winners done at the beginning of July.

Turkey Raffle is our third major fundraising effort, with a fundraising mailer sent out with entry tickets in August and our turkey raffle event occurring at our social hall the first or second week of November.

And finally **Bingo** is a year-round active program that we run on the 3rd Saturday of every month in our social hall, also as part of the PA small games of chance system.

Misc Programs

Tipboards are a year-round active program we do on square in which we sell tips on a variety of items within PA's small games of chance regulations/program. We had a temporary hiatus of this program in the latter half of FY 2024-2025 but plan to get it going again this year.

Future Programs

We have started looking into and researching some other ideas for coming years, not likely to be launched during the 2025-2026 fiscal year but possibly 2026-2027 and beyond. They currently are;

Vehicle Raffles; In 1946 our station had started a fundraiser program in the form of an annual vehicle raffle, where they would raffle off tickets year long for a new car in cooperation with local dealerships. This program went on a fairly extensive amount of time, being discontinued only in 2007 due to less cooperation of dealerships and the overall dropping numbers of manpower in volunteer fire to help do the program.

We plan to reach out to our local dealerships and see if there may be some viable way of re-introducing this program, as other volunteer fire stations have had great success in recent years.

Community Block Sale; A program currently being done by our independent sister station, Riverside VFC, where we would host both in our parking lot as well as guide the community in whole to do a large scale weekend community yard/block sale, where residents can sell things and share whatever percentage of their sales as a donation to the station.

Apparatus Fundraiser; For the FEMA AFG 2024-2025 cycle we applied for a new apparatus grant to obtain a new Rescue Engine. We plan to try and apply the next 2-3 years to replace all of our 20+ year old apparatus as well, and as such will likely over the next several years focus on year-long donation runs for each apparatus dependent on AFG awarding.

BUDGET DETAILS

2024-2025 FY Data

For the Fiscal year of 2024, we had a total revenue of \$159,368.45 with a total carry-over budget of \$30,016.27 after all expenses.

We currently have an expected standard expenses of \$66,507 along with \$5,836.34 planned one-time purchases for 2025.

The remaining \$42,327.07 over our carry-over budget will be covered one of two ways depending on the expense category;

- Reimbursements via PA Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant; Assuming the program doesn't change at all, at the end of the year we should be eligible for reimbursement of up to \$40,000 for certain eligible projects such as maintenance, equipment and training.
- We'll also utilize our active fundraising revenue earned through the year as a funding basis in the latter part of the year to cover our standard operating expenses.

2024-2025 Spending Details

Through concentrated efforts as well as the sale of an apparatus unit in 2023, we saved up a notable amount of money in the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. We took that extra revenue and put it towards some preventative maintenance focus on our aging hall and apparatus the previous year to try and reduce future long-term expense concerns.

We are also increasing our training allocation for this fiscal year, as in 2024, some of the training our personnel attended to was covered by our county fireman's association by way of a grant they had received. This benefit doesn't exist this year, as such we expect to be spending more on training ourselves.

Notable mention as well that this is our very first fiscal year actually operating under a dedicated budget allocation model like this, and we plan to continue this model going forward for all future years.

Budget Calculation

As we have no tax-based income, our fiscal-year budget is compiled year-end like this;

80-90% of Fundraising Income (10-20% is left to start the new year tip-boards)

- + All Donations Income
- + All Service Contracts Income
- + All Interest gained in Emergency Fund
- + All Interest gained in Mortuary Fund

The total of those values becomes our main spendable budget going into the new fiscal year.

OAKLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY – FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 ADOPTED BUDGET

Projected Standard Operating Expenses

	2024-2025 FY Actual	2025-2026 FY Budgeted	2025-2026 FY Actual
Fuel	\$3,707.04	\$4,000.00	
Training	\$2,736.00	\$3,800.00	
Equipment Maintenance	\$6,959.97	\$10,000.00	
Apparatus Maintenance	\$26,759.18	\$12,000.00	
Buildings Maintenance	\$32,660.09	\$6,000.00	
Utilities	\$13,632.28	\$14,000.00	
Insurance	\$17,808.00	\$16,707.00	

Planned One-Time Purchase Expenses

	2025-2026 FY Budgeted	2025-2026 FY Actual	Details
Alterations	\$3,500.00		NFPA compliant alterations to 10 pants per to support belt harnesses.
Dash Cams	\$149.38		Two new dash cams and memory cards to replace two defunct ones.
Wall Vent/Fan	\$1,000 (Estimate)		Item and Labor estimate for an exhaust fan in our compressor room to manage humidity issues causing long-term pump damages.
Tire Chains	\$1,186.96		Tire chains for our Engine and Rescue Engine to compensate for issues repeatedly encountered with our automatic/drop chain systems.