



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jack Sherzer
Communications Manager
Lower Paxton Township
717-919-6694
jsherzer@lowerpaxton-pa.gov

Lower Paxton Township introduces stipend program to boost volunteer firefighter numbers ***Volunteers can receive up to \$14,392 annually***

Lower Paxton Township, PA (Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023) – In an innovative move to strengthen community safety, Lower Paxton Township today announced a new stipend program, offering up to \$14,392 annually, to attract volunteer firefighters from across Central Pennsylvania.

This initiative welcomes qualified volunteers from the region, not just local residents. Participants are required to join one of the township's three fire companies — Colonial Park, Linglestown, or Paxtonia — and commit to a 4, 8, or 12-hour shift.

Home to Pennsylvania's largest municipality with an all-volunteer firefighting department, Lower Paxton Township is setting a precedent with this program.

- **For more information, visit <https://www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov/510/Become-a-volunteer-firefighter>**

"Our goal is to bolster our ranks with skilled volunteers, ensuring our community's safety is never compromised," said Lower Paxton Township Supervisor Robin Lindsey. "By extending this opportunity beyond our borders, we aim to enrich our pool of dedicated volunteers."

Deputy Fire Chief Brett Graham highlighted that the stipend program is strategically crafted to address staffing challenges when volunteers often find it difficult to respond to fire calls.

The stipend structure is set at \$40 for a four-hour shift, \$80 for eight hours, and \$120 for twelve hours, with an annual cap of \$14,392 due to federal wage and hour regulations.

"Our fire companies have pinpointed the critical times when staffing is most needed," Graham said. "Having volunteers present in the firehouses during these times will significantly reduce response times and enhance the level of protection for our citizens."

###

Lower Paxton Township is the largest municipality in Dauphin County and the 15th largest in Pennsylvania, covering a 28-square-mile area. To learn more, visit www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov and follow Lower Paxton on Facebook @LowerPaxtonTwp, Twitter @LowerPaxtonTwp & Instagram @lowerpaxtontownship



Lower Paxton Township Supervisor Robin Lindsey is joined by Deputy Fire Chief Brett Graham (left) and volunteer firefighters to announce the new volunteer firefighter stipend program.