

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As you may already know, our Fire Department headquarters station was struck by an EF2 tornado on July 06, 2022. Due to factors out of our control, the cost to repair the station and bringing it up to the current consensus codes far exceeds what the building is insured for currently. Also, fuel, labor, and materials continuing to go up has made this more difficult to achieve because it is well above the current available funding.

The Fire Department's current state is inoperable and is in the center of the community where it once was able to receive calls in a timely manner in any direction. The fire fighters are currently meeting out of a single wide trailer and sharing space with the road crews to house their trucks. This is not how any fire department should operate!

I do water/fire restoration and if the Fire Department cannot get to home in a timely manner it can mean total devastation to that homeowner. I just did a fire job about a month ago that required help from another township. But, because of the help, the damage was minimal, and the homeowners did not have to relocate temporarily until their home was repaired.

Location is key for any Fire Department to be successful in helping anyone who is in need of their services. I believe all first responders should have every tool, facility, and training that allows them to do their jobs. So, they can better serve their communities without delay.

I am asking that the Fire Department in Goshen, Ohio, please be reconsidered for funding to help us rebuild so that the fire department can serve in a better capacity than what it is currently. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Paul Abney
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