



**Contact:**

Chief Tom Krueger, [tkrueger@lrfpd.org](mailto:tkrueger@lrfpd.org)

Battalion Chief Steve McCaughey, [smccaughey@lrfpd.org](mailto:smccaughey@lrfpd.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 11, 2025

**Residents to Decide on Critical Upgrades to Emergency Services**

*New station to enhance emergency response times and meet future demands.*

**Lincolnshire-Riverwoods, IL** – Residents in the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District (LRFD) will soon decide on a \$25 million referendum to strengthen local emergency services. If approved, the funding will support the construction of a modern fire station designed to improve response times, enhance firefighter safety and meet the growing needs of the District’s 19,233 residents. The referendum question will appear on **the April 1, 2025, consolidated election ballot.**

The LRFD currently operates three fire stations, located on Woodlands Parkway in Vernon Hills, Schelter Road in Lincolnshire and Saunders Road in Riverwoods. The existing fire stations on Schelter and Saunders Roads have reached or are nearing the end of their useful lives (30 years) and would need to be completely rebuilt or remodeled to meet current codes and accommodate a diverse workforce. Additionally, they are not optimally located to best respond to emergency needs.

If approved, the referendum would fund a new, strategically located fire station at 3750 Deerfield Road, combining operations from Stations 51 and 52 (on Schelter Road in Lincolnshire and Saunders Road in Riverwoods, respectively). Staffing levels will remain the same.

A recent study conducted by the [Illinois Fire Chiefs Association](#) (IFCA) highlighted the District's need for an updated and optimally located station to address increased call volumes and evolving community needs. Emergency call volumes to the LRFD rose 23% from 2020 to 2024, underscoring the importance of modernizing the District’s infrastructure.

After reviewing studies and planning for five years, LRFD partnered with Riverwoods and Lake County, Illinois, to purchase land at 3750 Deerfield Road for the new fire station.

**Proposed Improvements and Benefits**

- **Improved Emergency Response Times:** Relocating two stations into one in an optimal location will help increase the number of arrivals at emergency scenes across the entire

District within the [National Fire Protection Association's \(NFPA\)](#) current 4-minute response time standard, ensuring earlier care when every second counts.

- **Enhanced First Responder Safety:** The new station will include modern training aids, enhanced decontamination areas and additional in-house training opportunities.
- **Cost-Effective Operations:** Combining two older stations into one while retaining the most modern station will reduce maintenance and operational costs, improve efficiency and maintain the current staffing levels.
- **Ensure Fiscal Responsibility:** Upgrading the existing stations to meet modern safety and operational standards would cost between \$27 million and \$40 million, significantly more than the proposed \$25 million investment for a new, state-of-the-art facility.
- **Investment in Public Safety:** The new station will provide modern space and equipment to meet the community's growing needs while achieving long-term cost savings through operational efficiencies.

The referendum is for \$25 million over 20 years, and residents can expect an increase of approximately \$19 per month (\$232 annually) for a home valued at \$600,000. Funds will cover land development, construction and new equipment. This approach prioritizes long-term savings by eliminating the need for costly repairs to outdated facilities. It is important to note that the District has committed \$5.5 million to the project and continues to apply for grants and other funds to leverage tax dollars.

Without funding from the referendum, the station will not be built and critical upgrades will be delayed, resulting in increased costs and limited ability to address the community's changing needs.

The Board of Trustees approved the resolution to pursue the referendum at their regularly scheduled public meeting on December 17, 2024.

LRFD is committed to ongoing community engagement. On January 29, 2025, two discussion groups gave residents the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback. Additional open houses and information sessions will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

Visit [www.lrfpd.org/MinutesMatter](http://www.lrfpd.org/MinutesMatter) to learn more about how this project would improve emergency response across the entire District, what it means to your family, tax impacts and information sessions.

## **ABOUT THE LINCOLNSHIRE-RIVERWOODS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

*The Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District proudly serves 19,233 residents across a 16.6-square-mile area. Dedicated to providing outstanding emergency response services, the district prioritizes community safety, engagement, and preparedness. For more information, visit our website.*