

**INFORMATION SHEET ABOUT THE PROPOSED
SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM FOR
ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF THE
TOWN OF BATAVIA**

- ❑ On October 19th registered voter residents of the Town of Batavia Fire Protection District will have the opportunity to vote “yes” or “no” to establish a Volunteer Firefighter Service Award Program for its volunteer firefighters.
- ❑ Service Award Programs are simple pension-like programs which, by financially rewarding active volunteer firefighters, are intended to help recruit and retain active volunteer firefighters.
- ❑ The proposed Town of Batavia Volunteer Firefighter Service Award Program will be a “defined contribution” program.
- ❑ For each year of active volunteer firefighter service credit earned, a \$1,200 “Service Award” is credited to the firefighter’s Service Award Program account balance at the end of the calendar year. These funds are then invested and the investment income earned is added to the firefighter’s account balance. On January 1 of the calendar year next following a participant's sixty-second birthday, a participant is paid his or her Service Award Program account balance.
- ❑ A firefighter earns a year of credit by accumulating a minimum number of points for attending drills, responding to calls, completing training courses, attending company meetings, completing a one-year term as an officer, etc., etc.
- ❑ If an eligible participating firefighter dies or becomes disabled before age 62, a lump sum is paid equal to his or her Service Award Program account balance as of December 31 following death or disablement.
- ❑ A participating volunteer must earn five (5) years of credit to be vested in the Program.
- ❑ Under the Program, current active volunteer firefighter members of the Town of Batavia Fire Department, Inc., can earn credit for calendar year 2026 service.
- ❑ In calendar year 2027, taxpayers will begin funding the program based on the 2026 records of firefighter points; each year thereafter the annual cost shall be recalculated and be based upon the annual updated firefighter point records.
- ❑ The program will cost \$1,200 each year for each active volunteer who earns the required number of points during the year. Based on the current roster of active members the earned cost could approach \$38,800 including administrative costs.
- ❑ The program will be funded by the taxpayers of the Town of Batavia Fire Protection District.
- ❑ There will be an informational meeting held September 14, 2026, at the Batavia Town Court Facility located at 4120 West Main Street Road from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.