

# Lexington Fire Department



# SBM Fire Department cost comparisons

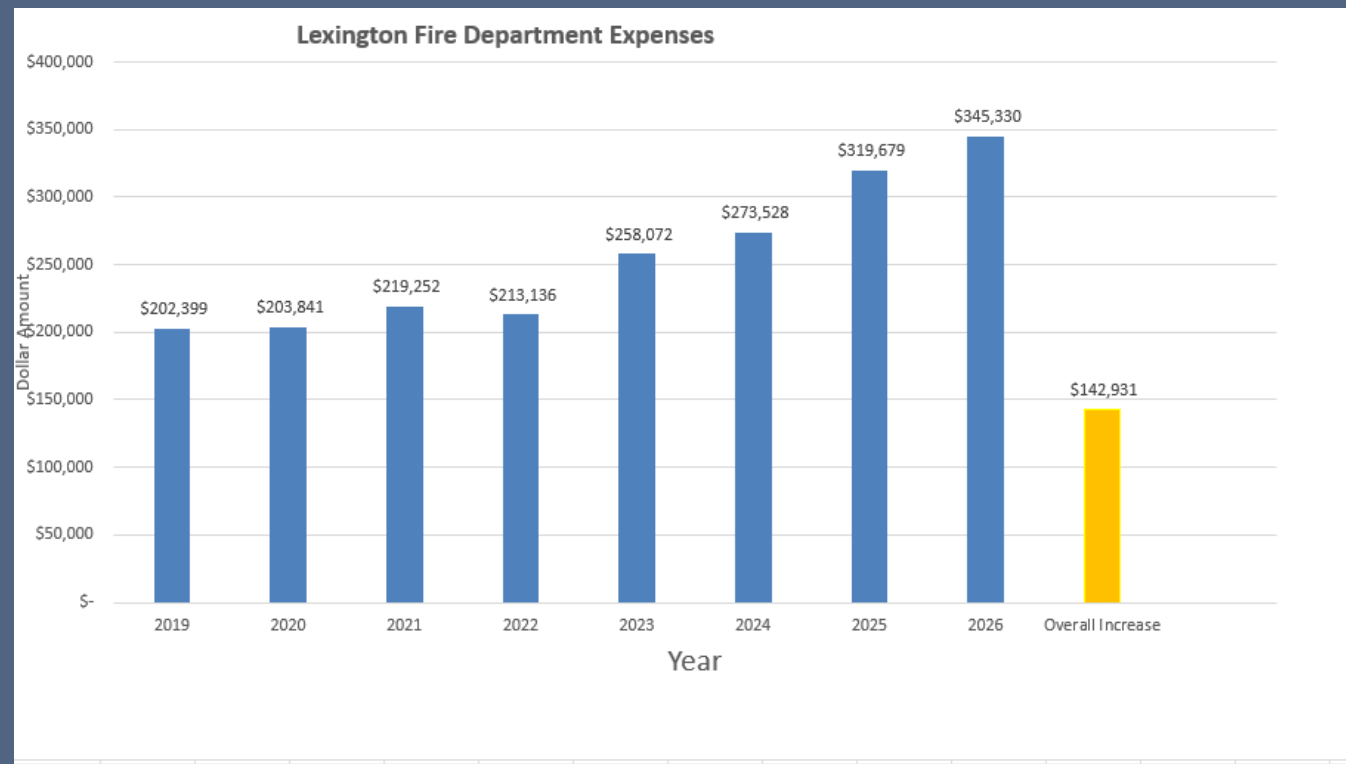


# SBM Annual Contribution

- 2026 - \$345,000
- 2027 - \$360,000
- Beyond these years, annual increases or decreases shall follow the percentage adjustments established by the SBM Joint Powers Agreement – Blaine, Spring Lake Park, and Mounds View

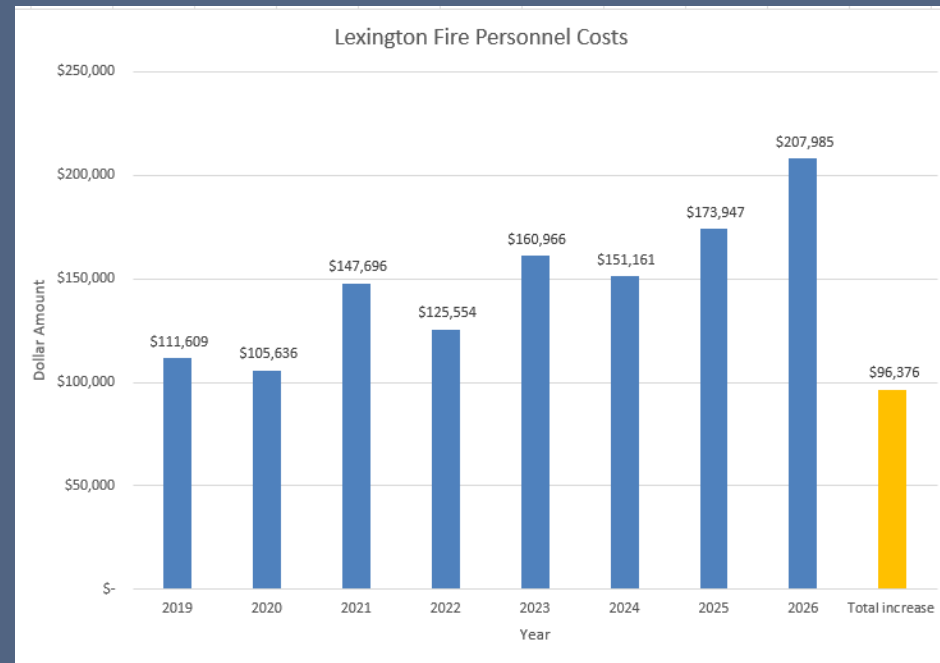
# Lexington Fire Department Operations Expenses

- Fire Department operational expenses have gone up 70% (\$142,931) Since 2019



# Fire Department Personnel Expenses

- Fire department wages and benefits have risen \$96,376 (86%) since 2019 – 10.75% increase /year – increased retirement contribution to PERA.
- In 2026, Fire fighters received a 15% increase on all levels of their payscale – current base salary is \$14.55/hour



# Proposed 2027 Budget

- The former fire chief discussed raising salaries to the level of Lino Lakes Fire Department pay. He wanted to increase pay to compete with Lino Lakes and other surrounding fire departments for recruits.
- He also discussed adding full duty crews 5-days/week – two fire fighters on duty 8 hrs/day.

# Lino Lakes Fire Department Pay Scale

## Part-time Duty Crew Firefighters:

2026 Lino Lakes Salary Range Matrix and Steps												
Position(s)	Grade	Step-1	Step-2	Step-3	Step-4	Step-5	Step-6	Step-7	Step-8	Step-9	Step-10	2026 Maximum
Firefighter (PT)	130	\$27.84	\$28.60	\$29.39	\$30.20	\$31.03	\$31.88	\$32.75				\$32.75

## Paid-On-Call Firefighters:

POC FF Wage Grid	1 = Start	2= Upon Completion of 5 Years of Service	3=Upon Completion of 10 Years of Service	4=Upon Completion of 15 Years of Service	5=Upon Completion of 20 Years of Service
2023	21.00	22.50	24.00	25.50	27.00
2024 (Market Adj and Cola)	21.79	23.34	24.90	26.46	28.01
2025 (3% Cola)	22.44	24.04	25.65	27.25	28.85
2026 (3% Cola)	23.11	24.77	26.42	28.07	29.72

# SBM Fire Department Payscale

## 2026 (all hourly rates)

- Duty Crew Firefighters \$16-\$20 / hour
- Duty Crew FAOs \$17 - \$21/hour
- Duty Crew Officers \$20 - \$24/hour
- Double pay for holidays
- 1.5x for “Off holiday” or office closed days

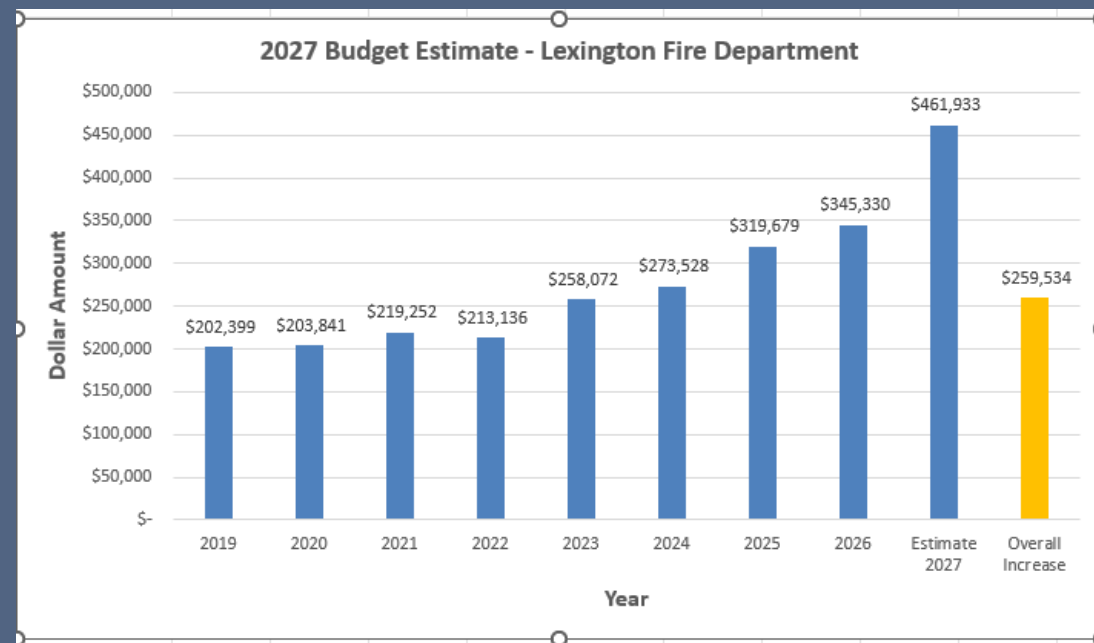
## 2027 proposed rates

- Duty crew Firefighters \$20 - \$24
- Duty crew FAOs - \$21 - \$25
- Duty crew officers \$24 - \$28

\*\*All include a pension either SVF or PERA Coordinated.

# Estimated 2027 Fire Department Budget

- If we were to compete with Lino Lakes and adopt their pay scale, as well as, fully fund duty crews, there would be a \$116,603 (34%) increase over the 2026 budget. This would be a 128% or a \$259,534 overall increase since 2019.
- This increase in expenses equates to a 9-10% increase to the General Levy for fire services alone – this does not include police, public works, and administration needs for 2027.



- Questions??