

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Discuss Recruitment and Retention of Emergency Service Volunteers

Westminster, MD, Thursday, March 1, 2018 – Today, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) received a briefing regarding potential incentive programs to improve and enhance recruitment and retention of Carroll County volunteer emergency service first responders. Carroll County Department of Public Safety Director Scott Campbell and Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association (CCVESA) President Dennis Brothers presented the information to the commissioners.

The comprehensive report offered potential recruitment and retention incentive programs including: Real Estate Tax Assistance; Income Tax Assistance; Motor Vehicle Driver/Operator Licensing Fees; Fire Station “Live Ins”; Assistance with College and Trade School-related Costs; Assistance with County Government Fees; Personal Services & Amenities Assistance with Housing Costs; Payment per Call/Response; and a Fixed/Flat Annual Stipend.

The briefing provided basic descriptions of the possible programs and estimated annual costs to implement the initiatives. The discussion also highlighted measures which may be most effective in recruiting volunteers from younger and older age groups as well as existing volunteers with less than five years of service.

The presentation is a result of the BCC approving \$300,000 in FY2018 for CCVESA to use to implement recruitment and retention program incentives. These monies are to be used during the current fiscal year and only for the direct benefit of unpaid volunteers. In response to a request by the BCC, CCVESA identified a number of possible ways to utilize these monies.

After discussion, the BCC asked Director Campbell to return to the commissioners with feedback from the 14 individual Volunteer Fire Departments on the potential incentives and to also report on the participation numbers of volunteers over the last three years.

This open session will be available for viewing on the [county meeting portal](#), [YouTube channel](#), and the [county Facebook](#) page. In addition, all meetings will be re-broadcast on Comcast Channel 24.

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CARROLL COUNTY

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