

# MOVIN ON UP!



## Bartlett Fire Protection District

### District Background

The Bartlett Fire Protection District was founded December 22, 1897 by a group of Bartlett citizens gathered for the purpose of forming a volunteer fire department. A total of 26 men, all over the age of 16, signed the by-laws and constitution of the new fire department.

The group not only functioned as a firefighting unit, but soon became the center of social activity in the community. Dances, picnics, and 4th of July celebrations were held. The events were so successful that they quickly planned more events and used the proceeds to fund the purchase of firefighting equipment.

The first piece of firefighting equipment that was purchased was an 1897 Howe hand pumper which is currently displayed in the foyer/museum located at our current station #1. This pumper was refurbished in 1976 and is still able to pump water today.

The Bartlett Fire Protection District was approximately 45 square miles at one time which encompassed the Bartlett, Hanover Park, Streamwood, and unincorporated areas of Elgin. The current area we protect is 25 square miles. The unincorporated area has diminished due to the suburban growth.

The Fire District today protects 42,000 in the Village of Bartlett and 11,000 in the unincorporated areas of our district. The department's assessed property value (E.A.V.) in 2007 was 1,428,656,915 spanning Cook and DuPage counties. We are located 26 miles northwest of Chicago. The district responded to 3,247 alarms in 2007, and has been a member of MABAS Division II since 1969.

### Personnel

The Bartlett Fire Protection District employs a total of 81 personnel, 36 full time and 40 P.O.P (Paid-On-Premise). The administration consists of one Fire Chief, one Assistant Chief of Operations and one Assistant Chief of Administration. We have one Senior Administrative Assistant and one Administrative Assistant. Our P.O.P program offers us the availability to add two more personnel 24 hours a day. The evolution of the volunteer department went from P.O.C. to the current P.O.P.

### Then vs. Now

The Bartlett Fire Protection District is going through a dramatic transition process. The Village of Bartlett and the Fire District signed an Intergovernmental Agreement in 2001. This agreement was concerning the development of a fire station on the west side of the Village, and the purchase of fire equipment to be housed therein. The station was to be built in the TIF district in a 705 acre industrial park. The Fire District was strapped for funds due to the explosive growth and implementation of the tax cap, and the Fire District was unable to proceed without a successful referendum.

Our Board of Trustees agreed to pursue a referendum in 2003 for the purpose of hiring additional personnel to staff the station that would be built due to the Intergovernmental Agreement. Unfortunately it failed and so did the following two attempts. It wasn't until November of 2006 that we were able to pass a referendum which has allowed us to increase our operating budget by 90%.



*1897 Howe Hand Pumper.  
Displayed in the Museum at Station #1.*

With the passing of the referendum, we were able to begin the first steps with the Village to start the process of selecting a different site for construction of the new station. The original site that had been chosen wasn't scheduled to have any road or infrastructure improvements for a few more years, so we actually found a site that was more suitable and one that would allow us to build sooner. The original Intergovernmental Agreement was amended and approved in July, 2007. The amended agreement calls for the Fire District to contribute \$600,000 toward the cost of the new west side fire station, and to pay to equip it.

We are currently in the process of building the station in the TIF district. The station design is unique to the Chicago area because the E.M.S. and B/C are in a smaller apparatus floor that is divided by living quarters. The engine and truck are housed on a separate apparatus floor. In our department we do 65% E.M.S. so when opening the overhead doors all day for the ambulance and the B/C this will certainly reduce the heat

**Editor's Note:** If you would like to have your district featured in *The Fire Call*, please contact us at 800-524-6620 for more information or visit [www.iafpd.org](http://www.iafpd.org).