

Proposed Formula for Fire Contract Costs

The Village proposal for a new method to compute Fire/EMS costs utilizes a document titled "County and Municipal Revenues and Expenditures" published by DOR. The report is published annually in January or February using the most recent audited figures from Form C.

The Village PowerPoint presentation cited examples from three different data sets: All Municipalities in Wisconsin, Municipalities with populations between 5,000 to 11,000, and the four-county Milwaukee MSA. The suggested computation method follows.

1. Select the data set. The Village Board proposed that we use the Milwaukee MSA even though the median cost is significantly higher than the median cost for Municipalities with a population size similar to the Village.
2. Select data from the following four categories: "Population", "Fire" and "Ambulance." Eliminate all other categories.
3. Eliminate the Village and City of Pewaukee. Currently there are 88 remaining Municipalities.
4. Add a total column for "Fire" and "Ambulance" for each municipality.
5. Compute a per capita cost for the total of "Fire" and "Ambulance" for each municipality.

You will now have 6 columns: "number", "County Name", "Municipality", "Population", "Fire and Ambulance Total cost", "Fire and Ambulance cost per capita."

8. Compute the median value for all numeric columns except population.
9. Multiply the Villages' population by the median value for "Fire and Ambulance cost per capita."

You now have a contract cost for Fire/EMS services for the next year.

Based on our formula, the total will adjust going forward based on the increase or decrease of fire & EMS costs in the other communities in the data set.

By using the four-county Metropolitan Statistical Area as a data source, the median cost for the level of services provided in the four-county area represents a more valid cost estimate. The validity of the conclusions increase when there are more numerous data points. To make an in depth analysis of the service levels would be cost prohibitive and subject to contention.