



Joint Firefighter Recruit School

Brandon Ellis, Director

Georgetown County Emergency Services Department



Career Fire Service Overview

- Georgetown County Government
 - Georgetown County Fire & EMS
 - 750 square mile coverage area west of ICW.
 - 9 staffed stations
 - 63 line personnel
 - Midway Fire Rescue
 - 80 square mile coverage area east of ICW.
 - 3 staffed stations
 - 57 line personnel
- City of Georgetown
 - Georgetown City Fire Department
 - 7.5 square mile coverage area with the city limits.
 - 2 staffed stations
 - 21 line personnel



Career Fire Service Overview

- Georgetown County Government
 - Georgetown County Fire & EMS
 - 750 square mile coverage area west of ICW.
 - 9 staffed stations
 - 63 line personnel **22 vacancies or 35%**
 - Midway Fire Rescue
 - 80 square mile coverage area east of ICW.
 - 3 staffed stations
 - 57 line personnel **16 vacancies or 28%**
- City of Georgetown
 - Georgetown City Fire Department
 - 7.5 square mile coverage area with the city limits.
 - 2 staffed stations **6 vacancies or 28.5%**
 - 21 line personnel



How'd We Get Here?

- Major staffing shortfalls in the fire & EMS departments.
- Lack of qualified applicants.
- Failed recruit processes in the past.
- Complaints versus solutions.
- Competitiveness of neighboring jurisdictions.



Solution Based Approach

- Eliminate barriers.
- Collaborative approach by the stakeholders involved.
- Shared resources to meet the need.
- Creating opportunities.
- Leadership buy-in.



The Product

- Nine week firefighter training program.
 - Training up to the Firefighter 1 level.
 - Driver/Operator Training.
 - Basic first aid.
 - Hazardous materials operations level training.
- Formal graduation ceremony.
- Emergency Medical Technician Training.
- Well-rounded emergency services professional.



Challenges

- Funding
- Resources
- Sustainability
- Covid-19



Successes

- Reduction in staff vacancies.
- Reduced overtime.
- Reduction in turnover.
- Leadership support.
- Stronger partnerships.
- Enhanced opportunities.



Final Product



Final Product



Final Product



Final Product





Brandon Ellis, Director
Georgetown County Emergency Services Department
843-545-3545 (Office)
843-461-7055 (Mobile)
bellis@gtcounty.org