

# Lanark Proposal –

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

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### **Where will the proposed fire station be built?**

The south east corner of Hwy A and Hwy 54 on land pledged to us from Helbach Farms.

### **Will the alignment of the 54/A intersection be an issue?**

No, we have already met with the State DOT and Helbachs and the design of the new intersection will not negatively affect the proposed fire station.

### **What is the difference between a fire “department” and a fire “station”?**

The Lanark Station will house enough equipment to have a primary response to the southern 2/3 of the township. It will not have all of the same features as the Headquarters station located in Amherst.

### **Will fire fighters and fire trucks still respond from Amherst?**

Yes, the response from Amherst will be supplemented by the response from the Lanark station. This will cut response times for the first arriving fire unit nearly in half. Additional fire fighters and fire trucks will still respond from the Amherst station.

### **Will fire fighters and fire trucks from the Lanark station respond outside of Lanark?**

Yes, as a member of the Amherst Fire District, personnel and equipment is owned by the municipalities. Response protocols will dictate when and where the AFD equipment responds and then returns to its home station. Mutual aid requests may also be granted from the equipment in the Lanark station. When this happens equipment from the

Amherst station will be temporarily be relocated to Lanark until that equipment returns.

### **Do we have enough fire fighters in Lanark to support a station there?**

Currently we have 8 firefighters that would be assigned to respond to the Lanark station. Recruitment of additional firefighters in the Lanark area would be a high priority if the proposal is accepted.

### **Will the DNR Ranger from Hartmans Creek still respond to fires in the southern areas of Lanark?**

Yes, but this is directed by the DNR Ranger in Whiting. For nonemergency situations the Whiting Ranger has jurisdiction. On a related note, often the Whiting Ranger and Heavy Unit stage at the corner of 54/A to cover for the Hartman Creek Ranger. This benefits all of Lanark by putting the DNR fire fighters closer to everyone in Lanark.

### **Will fire response times to Lanark be improved?**

The top 1/3 of the township will likely not see a change as the fire trucks from Amherst will be closer than the fire trucks located in Lanark. A significant reduction in response time will be seen for the bottom 2/3 of the township from the Lanark station. The “Evergreen Hills” subdivision should also see a significant reduction in the arrival time for the first fire apparatus to the scene.

### **How much good does it do to have a small crew arrive 10 minutes ahead of the other fire trucks and fire fighters?**

The first arriving fire truck provides vital feedback to the other responding units. This feedback is used to determine if the incident will need other additional resources like Mutual Aid, Ambulance, First Responders, Helicopter and Law Enforcement to name a few. This fire truck and its fire fighters will be fully equipped to perform rescue and fire attack.

### **What other capabilities will the equipment at the Lanark station have?**

The fire engine that will be located there is fully equipped to provide fire suppression, fire rescue and much more. We will be adding a “Jaws of Life” rescue tool to this truck as well to provide for rapid extrication for both automobile and farm rescues.

### **Will my home owners insurance go down?**

For Lanark residents that live more than 5 miles from the current Amherst Fire Station located at 4585 Fairgrounds Road, you will likely see a significant reduction. Often this reduction can only be achieved by having a new policy written. So existing policies may not be impacted. As more equipment is purchased and additional fire fighters are added, ALL residents of the Amherst Fire District should see additional reductions. No reductions are possible unless a fire station is constructed and operated in Lanark.

### **How much will all of this cost the tax payer?**

The financial plan will be decided by the Lanark Town Board. They have indicated they will likely extend the current loan on the Town Hall to finance the building of the fire station. This plan will not increase the tax bills but rather extend the number of years that the current loan is paid off. They have also calculated the actual annual costs, and a reserve account, will increase town taxes by \$1.70 per month on a \$100,000 property or \$3.40 per month on a \$200,000 property. This is 6 – 12 cents a day!

### **What else does Lanark get with joining the Amherst Fire District?**

Membership will give Lanark a representative on the Amherst Fire Commission. The commission works with the budget and provides direction and oversight. As a contract Lanark has no representation. Membership also gives Lanark ownership in the assets of the entire AFD. All costs are evenly calculated for future purchases and are spread across the entire fire district.