

I thought it would be interesting to look at how the Township has changed over the past 20 years and how it has impacted the fire department. So here are some figures taken from the U.S. Census, the Geauga County Planning Commission, and the fire department records.

POPULATION

YEAR	GEAUGA COUNTY	BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	CHANGE
2020	95,397	12,893	Bainbridge's population increased 1,498 people, or by 13.15 % from 2010-2020
2010	93,389	11,395	Bainbridge's population increased 479 people or by 4.39% from 2000-2010
2000	90,895	10,916	Bainbridge's population increased 1,222 people or by 12.61% from 1990-2000
1990	81,129	9,694	

HOUSING UNITS

YEAR	GEAUGA COUNTY	CHANGE	%	BAINBRIDGE	CHANGE	%
2020	37,419	845	2.31	5,008	288	6.40
2010	36,574	3,769	11.49	4,720	740	18.60
2000	32,805	4,883	17.49	3,980	582	17.10
1990	27,922	3,398				

As you can see from the data above, Bainbridge is a growing community. Bainbridge has the highest population in Geauga County. Chester ranks second in the county with 9,957 people, which is decrease of 298 people or 2.9% between 2010 and 2020. Bainbridge Township accounted for 13.52% of the county's population according to the US Census Bureau.

Bainbridge has outpaced all other communities in Geauga County with regards to housing units as well. The number of housing units in Bainbridge Township has increased by 25.83% since 2010. In 2020, Bainbridge accounted for 13.38% of the county's housing units. As you can see, the more people, the more housing. This "more" trend continues as we look at the impact on services.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

Year	Fire	EMS	Total	
2022	648	1456	2104	A 7.6% increase in EMS & 15.7% in fire incidents from 2020
2020	560	1353	1913	A 46.4% increase in EMS & 48.5% in fire incidents from 2010
2010	377	924	1301	A 32% increase in EMS & 14.9% decrease in fire incidents from 2000
2000	443	700	1143	

From 1990 to 2022, the call volume has increased by 84% overall. There has been a 108% rise in EMS calls and a 46% increase in fire calls.

In 2010, the department began EMS billing. The department has utilized soft billing since that time. Soft billing is a mechanism to credit residents for the money they pay through levies to the fire department. If a resident uses EMS, their insurance is billed; the department accepts what the insurance company pays and forgives the balance. Non-residents, however, are responsible for the amount that their insurance does not pay because they do not pay taxes in Bainbridge. In 2011, a 1.85 mil continuing levy was passed and the department began collecting the additional money in 2012.

In 2016 the department consisted of 53 part-time employees and 1 full-time employee. In 2017, the department hired seven full-time firefighters to help the department keep pace with the increasing demands for services, The department experienced several retirements and began to feel the pain of the nationwide shortage of part-time candidates. Between 2018 and 2021, the department added nine additional full-time firefighters, bringing the total number of full-time personnel to sixteen. That staffing is supplemented by twenty part-time members and provided six personnel 24/7. With the addition of full-time employees comes the cost of retirement and healthcare.

The department has seen a consistent rise in overlapping calls – times when there are multiple requests for service. These overlapping calls are responsible for roughly one third of our call volume. It is not uncommon to have three or four calls in a short period of time. In 2022, we answered 98% of all calls and only needed to rely on our neighboring departments for 2%.

Let us look at revenue verses expenses. Below is a table of fire department revenue and expenses.

BUDGET YEAR	CARRYOVER FROM PREV. YEAR	TAX REVENUE	EMS BILLING	TOTAL FUNDS AVAIL.	TOTAL BUDGET	YEAR-END FUND BALANCE
2010	\$1,410,232	\$1,979,992	\$88,352	\$3,478,576	\$2,309,479	\$971,208
2012*	\$1,930,894	\$2,394,679	\$207,007	\$4,532,580	\$1,979,291	\$2,553,289
2020	\$5,362,273	\$2,562,177	\$374,411	\$8,298,861	\$2,966,249	\$5,332,612
2021	\$5,310,400	\$2,605,070	\$374,849	\$8,290,318	\$4,989,776	\$3,300,532
2022	\$3,408,787	\$2,605,339.	\$461,463	\$6,475,589	\$3,909,060	\$2,566,529
2023	\$2,566,529	\$2,478,599*	\$400,000 *	\$5,445,128*	\$4,567,661	\$877,466

2012 – Funding received from a 1.85 mil levy passed in 2011

**2023 figures are projected. All others are actual

Each line contains combined figures from the Fire Fund and the Ambulance Billing Fund.

Total Funds Available is the sum of the 1) Carryover from the Previous Year; 2) the Tax Revenue; 3) EMS Billing Receipts

In 2021, the department purchase a new 3,000-gallon tanker and a 1,000- gallon fire engine to replace our nearly 20-year-old 2500-gallon tanker and a 20+ year old fire engine. The decision was made to purchase both trucks at the same time to realize a \$36,000 discount. The department was able to save the nearly \$1.5 million to purchase and outfit the new trucks over a 10-year period. In addition, since 2016, the department purchased three EMS units. The cost of those ambulances was approximately \$267,000 at the time of purchase. Current pricing is \$400,000 per unit. Below is a list of anticipated capital expenses over the next three to five years.

The following are anticipated capital purchases over the next 3-5 years:

(3) Ambulances @ \$400,000	\$1.2 Million	(3) Cot loading system	\$150,000
Heavy Rescue Truck	\$900,000	Refurbish the Aerial	\$250,000
Roof	\$100,000	40 sets of Turnout Gear	\$176,000
3 SUV's	\$150,000	30 SCBA's	\$450,000
Pickup	\$70,000	Replace Station Generator	\$30,000
Cardiac Monitors	\$200,000	(3) Power Stair Evacuators	\$120,000
2 Rooftop AC Unit	\$30,000	Total	\$3,726,000