



# Limestone Township Fire Protection District

Bond Referendum Public Question



# WHO we are?

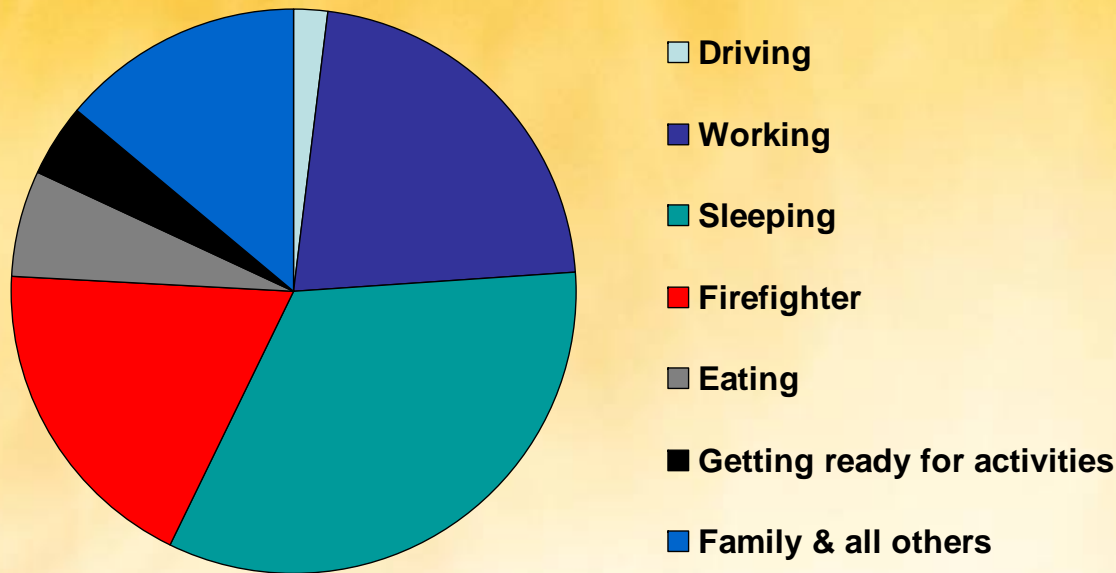
- Mixed part-time and volunteer staff of 35 firefighters
- Fire Protection District founded in 1948
- Covering 38 square miles
- Responded to 1200 alarms in 2011
- Staffed daily, 7 days per week
- 2011-2012 Tax Levy = \$681,500

Separate legal entity from villages, townships, County, and cities



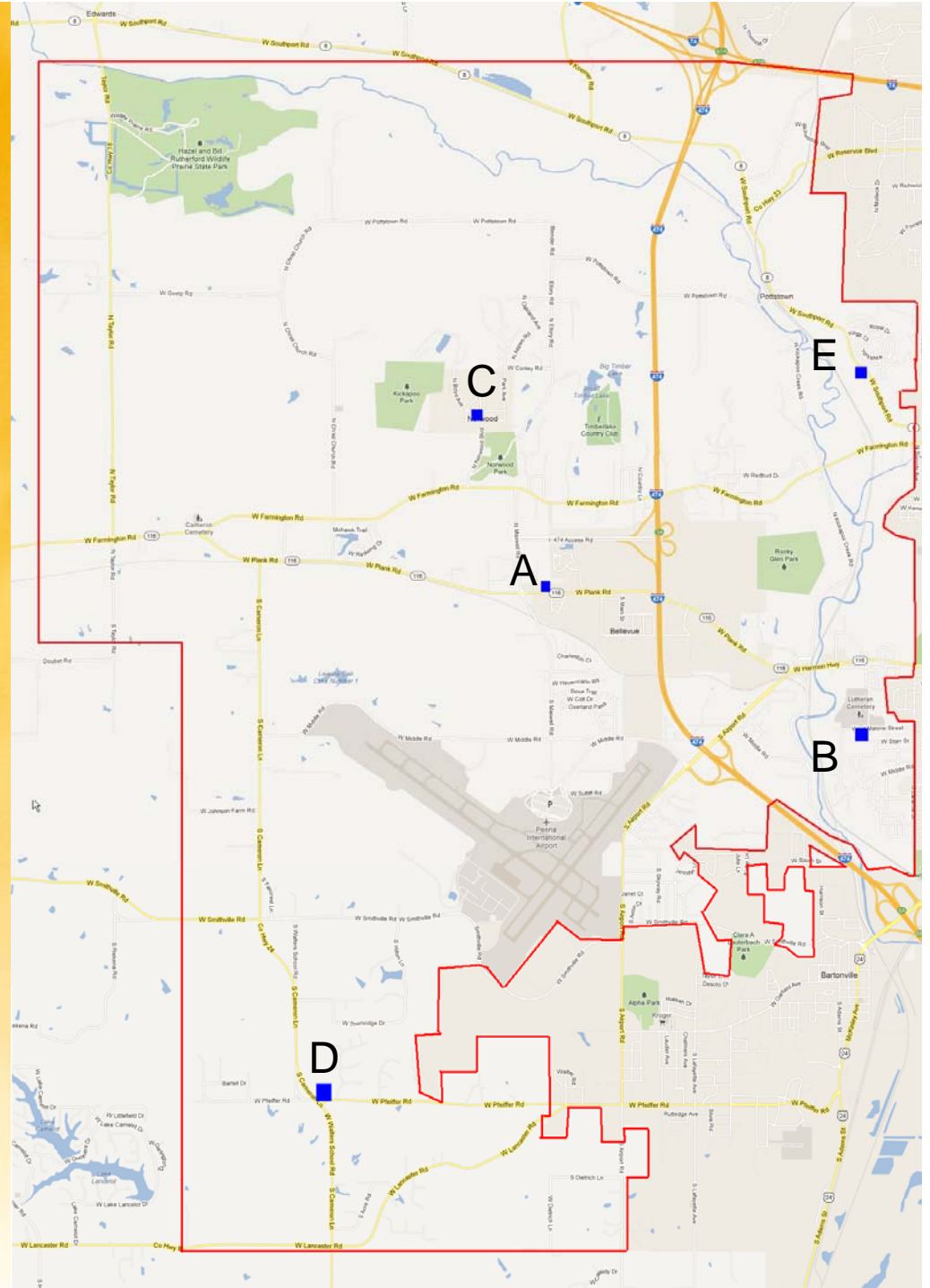
# 1200 Emergency Alarms in 2011

- 3.29 alarms per day
- 1 alarm every 7.3 hours
- 1.35 average hours spent per alarm
- 1620 hours per year (18.5% of a year)
  
- Average time spent at a job = 1920 (22% of a year)
- Average time spent sleeping = 2920 (33% of a year)

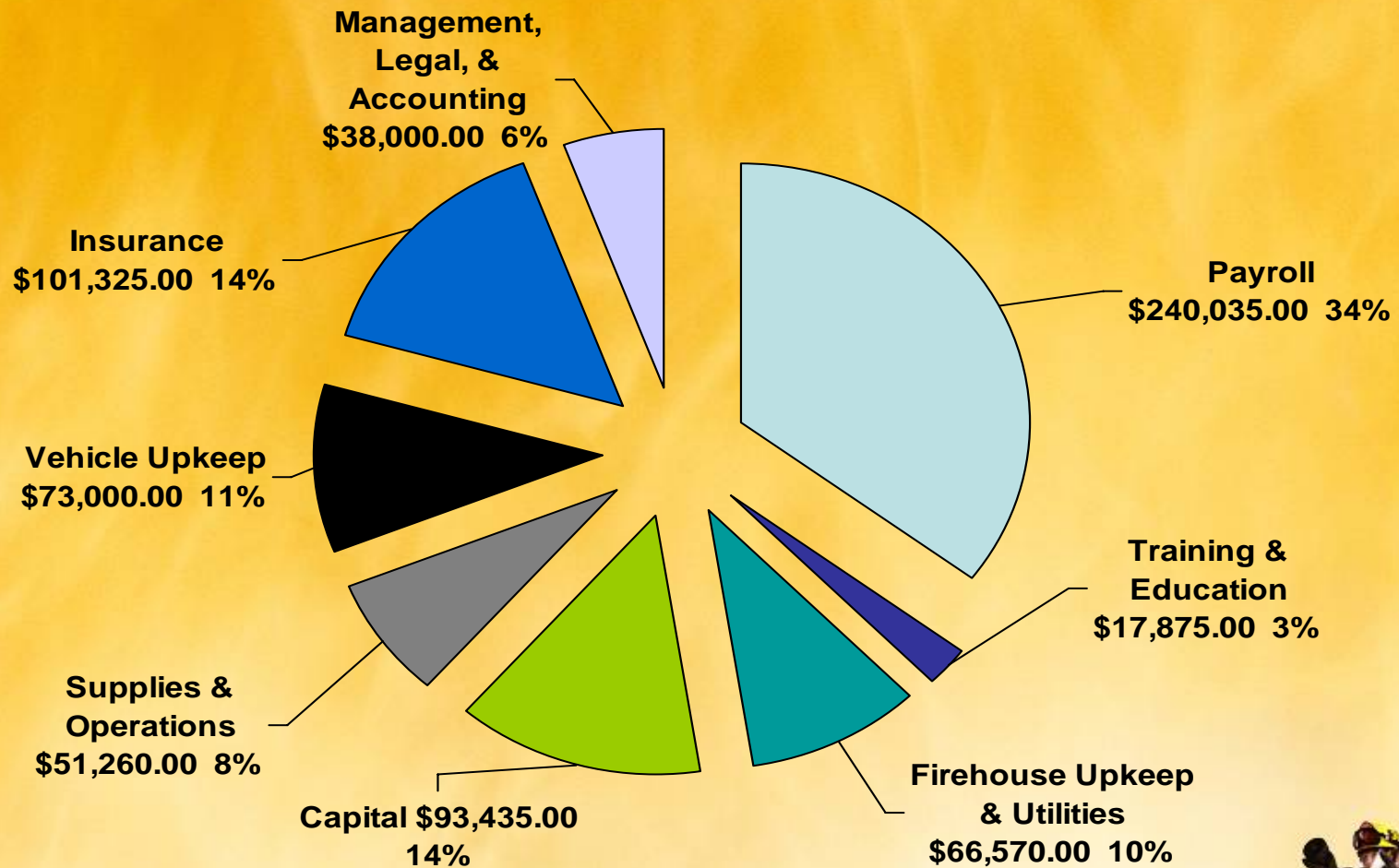


# Stations

- Central (A)
  - Plank Rd.
- Station 2 (B)
  - Malone St.
- Station 3 (C)
  - Norwood Blvd.
- Station 4 (D)
  - Pfeiffer Rd.
- Station 5 (E)
  - Southport Rd.



# HOW your \$\$\$ are utilized



# What you get for payroll

- Full time leadership
- Paid firefighters at station/in district responding to all emergency alarms
  - 14 hrs per weekend day
  - 19 hours per weekday
- Property pre-planning
- School fire drills
- Regular vehicle & facility preventative maintenance

← 73% Coverage



# WHAT we are asking

- Informed decision at the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 general primary election for the public question;

Shall Limestone Township Fire Protection District, in Peoria County, Illinois finance acquisition, construction and installation of a new central fire station, a new fire station #4 and remodel and addition to fire station #2 and fire station #5, including, as applicable, site purchase and design and related furniture, fixtures and equipment and issue its bonds up to the amount of \$6,500,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?



# WHAT does that mean to you

- Authorizing Limestone to spend up to \$6,500,000 to build two new firehouses and to remodel and expand two additional firehouses
- Funding can only be used for those purposes
- Fixed period of repayment of 20 years
- Payment will begin in year following construction
- Payment will appear as separate line item on tax bill
- As district grows each homeowner's portion will decrease year over year (additional growth lowers portions)





# WHAT does this do to your taxes



## Tax Impact Scenario

- Home Value = \$100,000
- Assessed Valuation = \$33,333
  
- Current Fire Tax = \$8.70 p/month<sup>1</sup>
- Bond Payment Tax = \$6.48 p/month<sup>2,3</sup>
- Total Tax = \$15.18 p/month<sup>4</sup>

1. Based on monthly escrow of an annual amount = \$104.40
2. Based on monthly escrow of an annual amount = \$77.74
3. Estimates based on 2011-2012 district assessed valuation and bond rate of 5.5%
4. Based on monthly escrow of an annual amount of \$182.14 beginning in 2014





Peoria County, 0.80004

Limestone Fire,  
0.34607

Limestone H.S.,  
2.15607

Peoria County Soil &  
Water, 0.00024

Bellevue Village,  
0.09961

Airport, 0.18833

ICC, 0.44615

Limestone Township,  
0.17408

Limestone Rd., 0.3534

Alpha Park Library,  
0.25293

**Home Located**  
• Bellevue  
• Norwood S.D.

Norwood G.S., 2.4741



# WHY the need, what's the problem

- **Current facilities do not meet the needs of the Fire District**
  - Current Insurance Services Organization (ISO) Standards require a station to be located within 5 road miles of another station or that 4 firefighters to be available for response at any given time from each station (12 volunteers)
    - **Station 4 located at 7907 Pfeiffer Rd. is not within 5 road miles of another Limestone station and does meet ISO staffing requirements.**
  - Today's fire apparatus are designed to perform more functions, are designed to be safe, require size for emissions and therefore are much larger today than decades ago
    - **Four of Limestone's five stations are not currently capable of housing the latest fire apparatus designs**
  - Current ADA, OSHA, and building codes require fire houses to include specific features and designs
    - **None of Limestone's stations meet current ADA, OSHA, and building codes**
  - Fire departments are required to provide training education and continuing education to all members
    - **Limestone does not have the physical space to meet these needs**



# WHY the need, what's the problem

- **Current facilities do not meet the needs of the Fire District**
  - On duty staffing requires physical space
    - **Duty staff does not have sufficient sleeping and shower facilities**
    - **Duty staff is co-located with training and meeting space**
    - **Living quarters are not isolated from the harmful impact of vehicle exhaust required in fire station designs**
  - Fire departments are expected to function in all weather conditions including during tornado events
    - **None of Limestone's stations meet basic wind resistance requirements of fire station designs.**
    - **None of Limestone's stations are available to the public as shelters from inclement weather**
  - All fire stations have a useful life dictated by usage, age, location, and physical design
    - **Limestone station ages (Central House - 30 years old, Station 2 - 35 years, Station 4 - 35 years, Station 5 - 35 years)**
    - **Plumbing, electrical, and mechanicals have outlived their useful life and are in need of replacement.**
    - **Continued maintenance and the energy inefficiency of these outdated systems drives operating costs**



# WHY the need, what's the problem

- **Limestone cannot afford to fund these needs under current tax structure**
  - Cost of running a fire department are increasing at a higher rate then the revenues to fund them
    - Fire apparatus in 2007 costs \$335,000 compared to \$400,000 in 2010, an increase of 19.4% (typical of all costs)
  - Limited growth and lack of growth initiatives in district
    - Fire District assessed valuation in 2007 was \$172,000,000 compared to \$188,000,000 in 2010, an increase of 9.3%
    - County position on limiting sprawl and protecting crop lands (low tax revenue)
    - Lack of business investment and growth programs
  - Large non-tax paying facilities driving expenses
    - Peoria County Facilities (Jail, County Offices, Bellwood)
    - Churches
    - Schools
    - Wildlife Prairie State Park
    - District visitors via Interstate 474, Route 116, Peoria Airport



# WHY we know these problems

- ISO Audit conducted in 2009
  - Performed by ISO (Insurance Services Organization)
    - Evaluated fire protection capabilities for each homeowner based on location in district and proximity to fire stations and water supplies
- District facility and response study conducted in 2010
  - Performed in conjunction with Bradley University
    - Output of the study helped Limestone understand the future needs for station locations in relationship to travel times and call locations
- Facility needs and costs assessment study conducted in 2011
  - Performed by a leading public facilities architectural firm
    - Defined space requirements based on needs of the fire district
    - Defined costs associated with multiple bricks and mortar scenarios
- Options analysis conducted in 2011
  - Completed by internal staff with input from all other studies
    - Generated multiple options for the fire district moving forward



# What if we do nothing?

- Leave all operations as-is, no funding available for station remodeling
  - Homeowner insurance will increase for some residents (depends upon location and insurance company)
  - Major repairs required for fire stations will have to be funded out of current budget which will require future cuts to services
  - Ongoing facilities maintenance costs will continue to increase with the age of stations
  - Recruitment efforts will continue to be hindered based on public perception
  - Reduction in types of services provided to the public
  - Future unnecessary cost to custom build apparatus to fit in current stations
  - Will not comply with ADA and OSHA requirements
- Taxpayer Impact
  - No new taxes
  - Home owner's insurance rates will increase for some
  - Will require future tax rate increases
  - Quality of services available will be reduced



# Option 1 – Recommended

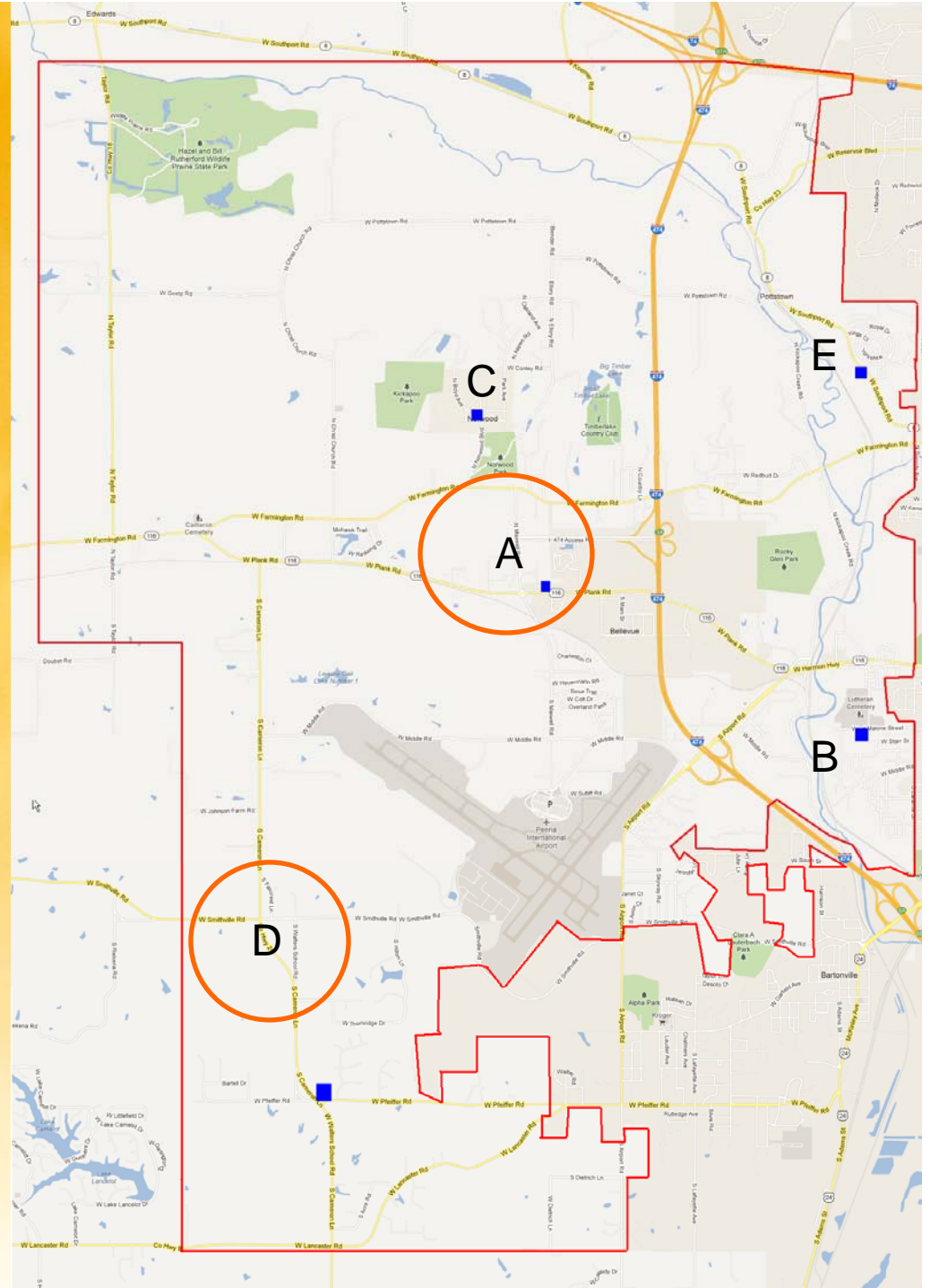
- Current Bond Referendum Proposal to build two new fire stations and remodel and expand two existing fire stations
  - Maintain existing level of service
  - Improvements in locations of facilities to minimize response times
  - Improvements in ongoing maintenance and operating cost of stations
  - Improvements in recruitment and retentions efforts
  - Meet the current and future needs of apparatus placement
  - Comply with ADA, OSHA, and Building Codes
  - Meet the physical space needs for the foreseeable future
  - Borrowing and building cost are at a historically low rate
- Taxpayer Impact
  - Stabilization of property insurance rates based on ISO ratings
  - Each property in district will be assessed a tax to fund bond





# Option 1 Locations

- Central (A)
  - Current General Vicinity
- Station 2 (B)
  - Current - Malone St.
- Station 3 (C)
  - Current - Norwood Blvd.
- Station 4 (D)
  - Area of Smithville & Cameron Ln.
- Station 5 (E)
  - Current - Southport Rd.



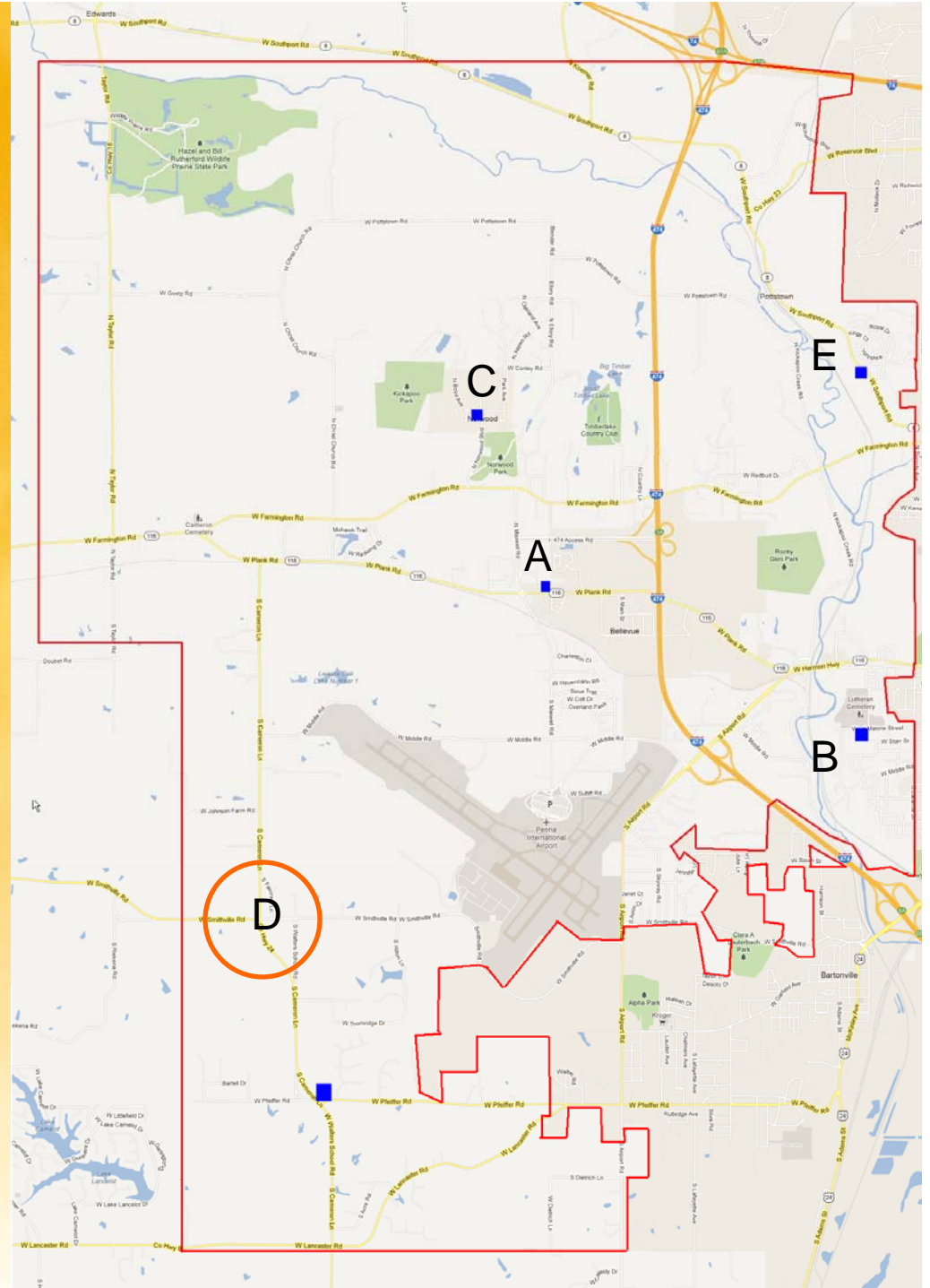
# Option 2 – Alternative

- No new revenue via Bond, build new Station 4 out of current budget
  - Reduction in services by elimination of part-time duty crew
    - Increase in average response time of 2.24 minutes
    - Introduction of missed calls due to availability of volunteers
  - Reduction in types of services provided to the public
  - Major repairs required for fire stations will have to be funded out of current budget which will require cuts to future services
  - Ongoing facilities maintenance costs will continue to increase with the age of stations
  - Recruitment efforts will continue to be hindered based on public perception
  - New construction of Station 4 will be a basic facility that will not meet the needs of long term future (same situation in 30 years we are in today, kicking the can down the road)
  - Not all stations will comply with ADA and OSHA requirements
- Taxpayer Impact
  - No new taxes at this time
  - Stabilization of property insurance rates based on ISO ratings
  - Will require future tax rate increases
  - Quality of services available will significantly be reduced

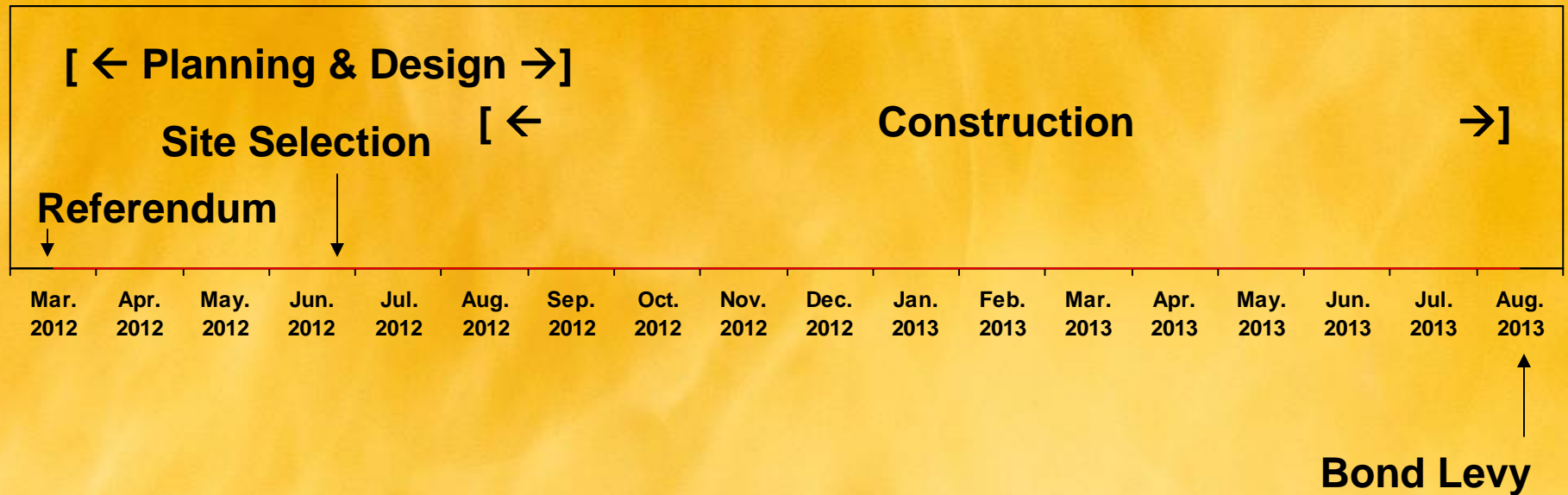


# Option 2 Locations

- Central (A)
  - Current – Plank Rd.
- Station 2 (B)
  - Current - Malone St.
- Station 3 (C)
  - Current - Norwood Blvd.
- Station 4 (D)
  - Area of Smithville & Cameron Ln.
- Station 5 (E)
  - Current - Southport Rd.



# Project Timeline



New Tax To Fund Bond → 2014 Tax Bill



# New Facility Components

- Central Station
  - 5 apparatus bays
  - ADA compliant parking, entrances, and public and private bathroom facilities
  - Duty crew facilities for 6 firefighters
    - Sleeping facilities
    - Lockers and shower facilities for blended staffing
    - Day room with kitchen
  - Management office space
  - Training/meeting Space
  - Storm shelter & wind resistant design
  - Energy efficient HVAC & lighting
  - Isolated EMS and fire equipment storage & repair facilities
  - Vehicle exhaust system to meet OSHA requirements
- Sub Stations
  - 2 apparatus bays with design for additional future expansion
  - Duty crew facilities for 4 firefighters (St. 4) & 2 firefighters (St. 2 & 5) for blending staffing
  - ADA compliant parking, entrances, and bathroom facilities with shower
  - Vehicle exhaust system to meet OSHA requirements
  - New electrical, plumbing, and energy efficient HVAC & lighting





# Questions

