



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Donni
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Steele
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
Rep. Steckloff
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Bloomfield Township Fire Department Fire Station 3 Replacement
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Bloomfield Charter Township 4200 Telegraph Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Bloomfield Charter Township 4200 Telegraph Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Rep. Donni Steele HD54
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
We are respectfully requesting funds for the purpose of building a new fire station. This new construction project will replace our existing Fire Station 3. Station 3 was originally built in 1960 and remodeled in 1978, with the addition of an apparatus bay. The new station will offer numerous benefits, including enhanced safety for firefighters and the community, functional living quarters and the ability to incorporate modern technology. The station will be designed to accommodate future growth and changing needs of the Community and the Department.

Bloomfield Towns Fire Station is the busiest fire station in our community, responding to over 2000 emergency incidents in 2024. The replacement of Fire Station 3 would directly benefit the residents and visitors of Bloomfield Township. This station replacement would allow for a safer more efficient response to all members of the public whether responding to a residence, business or roadway accident. The efficient and safer response will be attained by allowing the correct apparatus to be housed in the station for emergency response while using state of the art technology to ensure safety and efficiency to the public. Replacing this station will also be a benefit to the firefighters of Bloomfield Township by allowing for the safest facilities for their health and safety, by building a facility that meets or exceeds the safety standards of the 21st Century. This station will be designed and built to reduce the risks of carcinogen exposure, increasing mental health awareness and firefighter wellness. In doing this the firefighters will be better prepared to effectively serve the community.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

12000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

N/A

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



Bloomfield Township

Michael D. McCready, Supervisor • Martin C. Brook, Clerk • Michael E. Schostak, Treasurer

Neal J. Barnett, Trustee • Valerie Murray, Trustee • Christopher M. Kolinski, Trustee • Mark Antakli, Trustee

April 14, 2025

Donni Steele
State Representative
Michigan's 54th District

Bloomfield Township is in critical need of a new fire station. The existing facility, originally constructed in 1960, is now nearly 65 years old and no longer meets the needs of a modern, growing community. An apparatus bay was added in 1978, but even that addition is now outdated and insufficient for today's emergency response requirements. Replacing the current fire station is essential to ensure the safety and efficiency of our firefighters, and to continue providing timely, life-saving services to residents.

A space needs analysis conducted by a professional architectural firm confirmed the urgency of the situation. The study determined that the current 6,750 square foot station is inadequate and that a new facility of at least 12,500 square feet is necessary to support safe and effective operations. Unfortunately, renovation is not feasible due to the structural and functional limitations of the existing building.

Key deficiencies include:

- **Inadequate Apparatus Bays:** The apparatus bays are not tall enough to accommodate the standard size of today's fire apparatus. They also lack the necessary depth to house reserve apparatus, limiting operational flexibility and emergency response capability.
- **Improper Turnout Gear Storage:** The station lacks a designated turnout gear storage area. As a result, gear is stored in the apparatus bay, where it is exposed to harmful diesel exhaust and UV light. This exposure accelerates gear degradation and releases hazardous off-gassing chemicals into the air, creating unsafe indoor air quality.
- **Limited Gear Maintenance Facilities:** The station has minimal facilities for properly washing and maintaining fire gear, which is essential for removing carcinogens and other contaminants after emergency responses.
- **Lack of Gender-Inclusive Design:** The original building was not designed to accommodate both male and female firefighters. This limits privacy, comfort, and inclusivity for current and future personnel.
- **Insufficient Restroom Facilities:** The station does not have an adequate number of restrooms to support the staffing levels required for modern operations.
- **Outdated Technology Infrastructure:** The station lacks the technological capacity and infrastructure necessary for today's emergency communications, reporting systems, and training needs.
- **Inefficient HVAC System:** The current HVAC system was not designed for this facility. It must run constantly to control humidity, yet still fails to provide adequate indoor air quality. A

4200 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township, MI 48303-0489

Phone: 248-433-7700 Fax: 248-642-7610 www.bloomfieldtp.org



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persistent mold and mildew odors remain despite repeated remediation attempts, indicating deeper systemic issues.

- **Aging Infrastructure:** The building still features its original windows from 1978, contributing to energy inefficiency and further exacerbating HVAC issues.

Community Impact:

- This station is critical to the Township's public safety operations. It provides fire suppression and advanced life support (ALS) emergency medical services and serves approximately 46% of Bloomfield Township's population. Its continued performance is essential to maintaining emergency response readiness for nearly half the Township's residents.

Financial Limitations:

- The estimated cost of constructing a new fire station is \$12 million, for construction of a new building, land acquisition and infrastructure, assuming a 2026 construction start. However, Bloomfield Township is limited by Michigan's Property Tax Limitation Act (Act 62 of 1933). Specifically, MCL 211.24e caps the total property tax rate a township can levy for general operating purposes at 10 mills (or \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value).
- Because of this limitation—and the fact that Bloomfield Township is 98% residential with little commercial or industrial tax base—the Township faces significant financial constraints in funding a capital project of this scale.

Conclusion:

The need for a new fire station is both urgent and well-documented. The current building poses health and safety risks, lacks space and modern functionality, and cannot be renovated to meet future needs. Without financial support or alternative funding options, Bloomfield Township may be unable to move forward with this critical infrastructure project, putting residents and first responders at continued risk.

We respectfully request your consideration for funding assistance or support in helping Bloomfield Township provide the safe, modern, and efficient emergency services facility its residents and first responders need and deserve.

Respectfully,

Mike McCready
Bloomfield Township Supervisor



Fire Department

John LeRoy, Fire Chief

Bloomfield Township

State Representative Donni Steele
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representative Steele,

We respectfully request your support in securing funding to replace aging Bloomfield Township Fire Station 3. Bloomfield Township Fire Department greatly needs a new Station 3. The original Station was built in 1960 and in 1978, added an apparatus bay. The proposed new station will offer numerous benefits, including enhanced safety for firefighters and the community, functional living quarters, and the ability to incorporate modern technology. The station will be designed to accommodate future growth and the changing needs of the community and Department. The impact of this project will reach far beyond just the Fire Department.

Bloomfield Township Fire Department (BTFD) is a career-based department, staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our fire department has four fire stations with 67 uniformed firefighters/paramedics and one civilian secretary. BTFD responds to multiple emergencies, including fires, medical runs, citizen assists, hazardous materials, confined space, and technical rescue incidents and frequent mutual aid to all neighboring communities.

Bloomfield Township's Station 3 houses an advanced life support (ALS) Fire Engine an ALS ambulance, and a reserve engine. Station 3 covers the most populated area in Bloomfield Township, responding to over 2000 emergency incidents in 2024. It is the first due Station at some of our highly populated public events, churches, and synagogues. Birmingham Country Club and the internationally renowned Oakland Hills Country Club (OHCC) are within their response area. In 2004, OHCC hosted the PGA Ryder Cup, an international event that drew more than 45,000 people daily. During this week-long event, dignitaries and other high-profile people worldwide visited Bloomfield Township. In August 2008, OHCC hosted the 2008 PGA Championship. We expect to host two more grand slam golf events within the next 5 to 10 years.

When Station 3 was initially built, it was adequate for operations, but over time, it became far from efficient, effective, economic, or healthy. The building is aging poorly, and its internal systems lack performance; boiler heat only, poorly insulated walls and roof, and drafty non-insulated windows. The aged design concepts of the current station present health and safety considerations for our personnel and offer no form of gender neutrality (or actual privacy for that matter).



Replacing this station will benefit the firefighters by allowing for the safest facilities for their health and safety. By building a facility that meets or exceeds the safety standards of the 21st Century, this station will be designed and constructed to reduce the risks of carcinogen exposure, increase mental health awareness, and improve firefighter wellness. Additionally, an efficient and safer response will be attained by allowing the correct apparatus to be housed in the station for emergency response while using state-of-the-art technology to ensure safety and efficiency for the public.

As Fire Chief, I am fully aware of our department's needs. I fully support the continuous mission of improving our members' and community's health and safety. I will remain committed to working diligently to ensure the proper planning and design of the station will result in a safer and more efficient work environment for our firefighters. This new station will strengthen our commitment to serve and protect our community.

I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John LeRoy".

John LeRoy
Fire Chief

Bloomfield Township Fire Department