

National Volunteer Fire Council and Anheuser-Busch Donation Highlights Ellenville Fire District's Commitment to Firefighter Safety and Taxpayer Savings

Protecting Our Volunteers While Pursuing Every Available Resource for Our Community

Every day, the volunteers of the Ellenville Fire District stand ready to respond when our community needs them most. Whether it's a house fire, motor vehicle accident, medical emergency, wildland fire, or large-scale disaster, these men and women willingly put themselves in harm's way to protect our families, neighbors, and businesses.

What many people don't realize is that the greatest danger firefighters face often comes after the fire is out.

Modern fires release toxic chemicals, carcinogens, and diesel exhaust that cling to turnout gear, equipment, and apparatus. National studies have linked repeated exposure to these contaminants with increased rates of cancer, respiratory illness, and other serious health conditions among firefighters. Unfortunately, the facilities currently used by the Ellenville Fire District lack the decontamination areas, gear-cleaning systems, diesel exhaust capture systems, and clean/dirty separation zones that are now considered industry standards for firefighter safety.

The proposed firehouse project is designed to correct these deficiencies and provide our volunteers with the protection they deserve. Dedicated decontamination areas, proper gear storage, advanced ventilation systems, and firefighter hygiene facilities will help reduce long-term exposure to harmful contaminants and improve the health and safety of those who serve our community.

The District also recognizes the financial challenges facing local taxpayers and continues to aggressively pursue grants, donations, and outside funding opportunities whenever possible. A recent example is the National Volunteer Fire Council's partnership with Anheuser-Busch, which provided the Ellenville Fire District with more than 2,300 cans of emergency drinking water to support firefighters during extended emergency operations. The donation not only helps keep firefighters hydrated during long incidents, but the water is packaged in aluminum cans rather than plastic bottles. Aluminum containers eliminate concerns about microplastics potentially leaching into drinking water during long-term storage or exposure to heat, while also providing a highly recyclable and environmentally responsible solution. The donation reflects a commitment not only to hydration, but to firefighter health and wellness.

This contribution is one example of the District's broader effort to seek every available opportunity to offset costs and reduce the burden on taxpayers. District leaders continue to pursue state, federal, and private funding opportunities, including a federal funding request of \$5 million, to help support the construction of a modern firehouse and improve emergency services throughout the community.

The proposed firehouse has also been carefully designed to save taxpayers money in the future. The District's current leased facilities have bay doors too small to accommodate standard modern fire apparatus. The new facility will accommodate standard apparatus, eliminating expensive modifications and reducing future fleet replacement costs.

This project is not about luxury. It is about providing a safe, efficient, and cost-effective facility that protects the volunteers who protect us. It is about ensuring that taxpayer dollars are invested wisely in a building designed to serve the community for generations while improving firefighter health, operational readiness, and emergency response capabilities.

The Ellenville Fire District remains committed to balancing fiscal responsibility with its obligation to provide safe working conditions for its volunteers and reliable emergency services for the community. By investing in modern safety standards while aggressively pursuing grants, donations, and outside funding opportunities, we can protect both our firefighters and our taxpayers for decades to come.



The recent National Volunteer Fire Council and Anheuser-Busch donation demonstrates exactly how the Ellenville Fire District approaches every challenge: protecting firefighters, serving the community, and seeking every possible opportunity to save taxpayer dollars while prioritizing the health and safety of its volunteers.

The Ellenville Fire District gives a big thank you Anheuser-Busch and NVFC for the generous donation of emergency drinking water, and to Dutchess Beer Distributors wholesaler (www.dutchessbeer.com) for delivering it to our fire station! This water will help keep our firefighters hydrated during wildfires and extended responses in extreme heat.

Learn more at www.nvfc.org/water.

#disasterpreparedness, #firefighterhydration, #wildfirerresponse, #wildfires, #anheuserbusch, #nvfc @Anheuser-Busch, @nvfc1