



Wellston Fire Department

Serving Wellston for Over 100 Years
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Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Anthony Brenner, Mayor
203 East Broadway Street
Wellston, Ohio 45692

Mayor Brenner,

I am requesting your support for the proposed acquisition of the Coalton Fire Department, Inc. and the consolidation of fire protection services under the Wellston Fire Department. I have also attached a brief business plan to help explain.

This opportunity allows the City of Wellston to acquire a modern fleet of apparatus, emergency equipment, and real estate while preserving fire protection for the residents of Coalton and strengthening emergency services throughout our region. In addition, the city will secure long-term fire protection agreements with Coal Township and Jackson Township, creating recurring revenue to help offset operational costs.

As part of this plan, I recommend that the city negotiate an agreement with the Village of Coalton to utilize the existing fire station as **Wellston Fire Department – Station 3** in exchange for providing fire protection services. This partnership preserves a local fire station, improves response times, and expands our operational capabilities without the expense of constructing a new facility.

This proposal is more than the acquisition of vehicles and equipment. It is a strategic investment in public safety that will position the Wellston Fire Department as a stronger regional department, improve firefighter safety, enhance service to our citizens, and protect millions of dollars in community assets that might otherwise be lost.

I believe this consolidation is in the best long-term interest of the City of Wellston, the Village of Coalton, and the surrounding townships. I respectfully recommend that the City move forward with negotiations and authorize the acquisition of the assets and real estate of Coalton Fire Department, Inc., subject to legal review and Council approval.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the Wellston Fire Department. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal with you in greater detail. I am willing to discuss this with Council pending your approval and after you have consulted members of Council and our legal Counsel Joe Kirby.

Respectfully,

Ryan Pelletier
Fire Chief

Strategic Consolidation Plan

Wellston Fire Department Expansion

Acquisition of Coalton Fire Department, Inc. Assets and Establishment of Wellston Fire Department – Station 3

Executive Summary

The City of Wellston proposes to assume fire protection for the Village of Coalton while acquiring the assets and real estate of Coalton Fire Department, Inc. The acquisition will dissolve the association, preserve emergency services, establish Wellston Fire Department Station 3, and secure recurring revenue through contracts with Coal Township and Jackson Township. The purchase will include all assets valued at 4.0 to 4.3 million at a cost of under 650K.

Acquisition & Partnership

- Purchase all assets including: 2020 Spartan Rescue Engine, 2020 Spartan Pumper, 2020 Spartan Tanker, 2021 Dodge 5500 Mini Pumper, 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe Command Vehicle, brush truck, service van, two side-by-sides, all equipment and PPE.
- Purchase all real estate owned by Coalton Fire Department, Inc.
- Dissolve Coalton Fire Department, Inc. after transfer.
- Negotiate with the Village of Coalton to acquire use of the fire station in exchange for fire protection, establishing Wellston Fire Department – Station 3.

Why This Makes Sense

The acquisition preserves local fire protection, expands Wellston to a three-station department, improves response times and firefighter safety, avoids purchasing millions of dollars in replacement apparatus, increases grant competitiveness, and protects decades of community investment.

Implementation

Phase 1 (0–30 days): Execute agreements, inventory assets, transfer titles. Phase 2 (30–90 days): Establish Station 3, transfer apparatus, update insurance and signage. Phase 3 (90–180 days): Integrate operations, standardize training, pursue grants, and report outcomes to Council.

Recommendation

Authorize the acquisition of all assets and real estate of Coalton Fire Department, Inc.; approve agreements with Coal Township, Jackson Township, and the Village of Coalton; establish Wellston Fire Department Station 3; and complete the regional consolidation.

Financial Benefit	Estimated Value/Impact
Assets Acquired	Approx. \$4.0-\$4.3 million
Recurring Revenue	Coal Township & Jackson Township contracts and Bingo Sales
Capital Avoidance	Nearly \$3 million in apparatus replacement avoided
Community Benefit	Regional fire protection from three stations