



CITY OF WELLSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Consolidation, Fleet Deployment and Debt Reduction Plan

Coalton Fire Department Acquisition

**Prepared for the Mayor and City Council**

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## Executive Summary

The acquisition of the Coalton Fire Department expands the Wellston Fire Department from two stations to three, adds modern 2020 Spartan apparatus, and substantially increases the primary response area. The plan retains apparatus necessary for ISO pumping capacity, rural water supply, frontline response, reserve coverage, Fire Academy operations, and State of Ohio Region 7 specialty-team responsibilities. Surplus and duplicate assets will be sold and the proceeds applied to the \$450,000 acquisition loan.

### Acquisition loan

**\$450,000**

### Minimum asset sales

**\$115,000**

### Expected restitution

**Approx. \$200,000**

### Projected reduction

**Approx. \$315,000 / 70%**

## Consolidation Objectives

- Retain sufficient pump capacity and apparatus distribution for the expanded protection area.
- Move Unit 1904 to Wellston to strengthen frontline coverage and allow Unit 1905 to become the reserve / Fire Academy engine.
- Keep Units 1903, 1916, 1917, and 1918 at Station 3 in Coalton.
- Retain smaller HazMat and Water Rescue vehicles required for the State of Ohio Region 7 teams serving 11 counties.
- Sell surplus assets and apply all proceeds and restitution to acquisition debt.

## Service-Area Growth

The department currently protects approximately 59.5 square miles. Adding the Village of Coalton, Coal Township, and Jackson Township increases the estimated primary response area to more than 117.7 square miles.

| Coverage Component                 | Approximate Area     | Treatment                                           |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Existing Wellston district         | 59.5 sq. mi.         | Working and published figures                       |
| Coal Township                      | 19.4 sq. mi.         | Added; includes Coalton                             |
| Jackson Township                   | 38.8 sq. mi.         | Added                                               |
| <b>Consolidated planning range</b> | <b>117.7 sq. mi.</b> | <b>Final total subject to boundary verification</b> |

**NOTE: This plan keeps the City of Wellston from having to Finance and NEW Large truck purchase for 12 years as long as no major accidents or Infrastructure changes...**

## Consolidated Primary Response Area

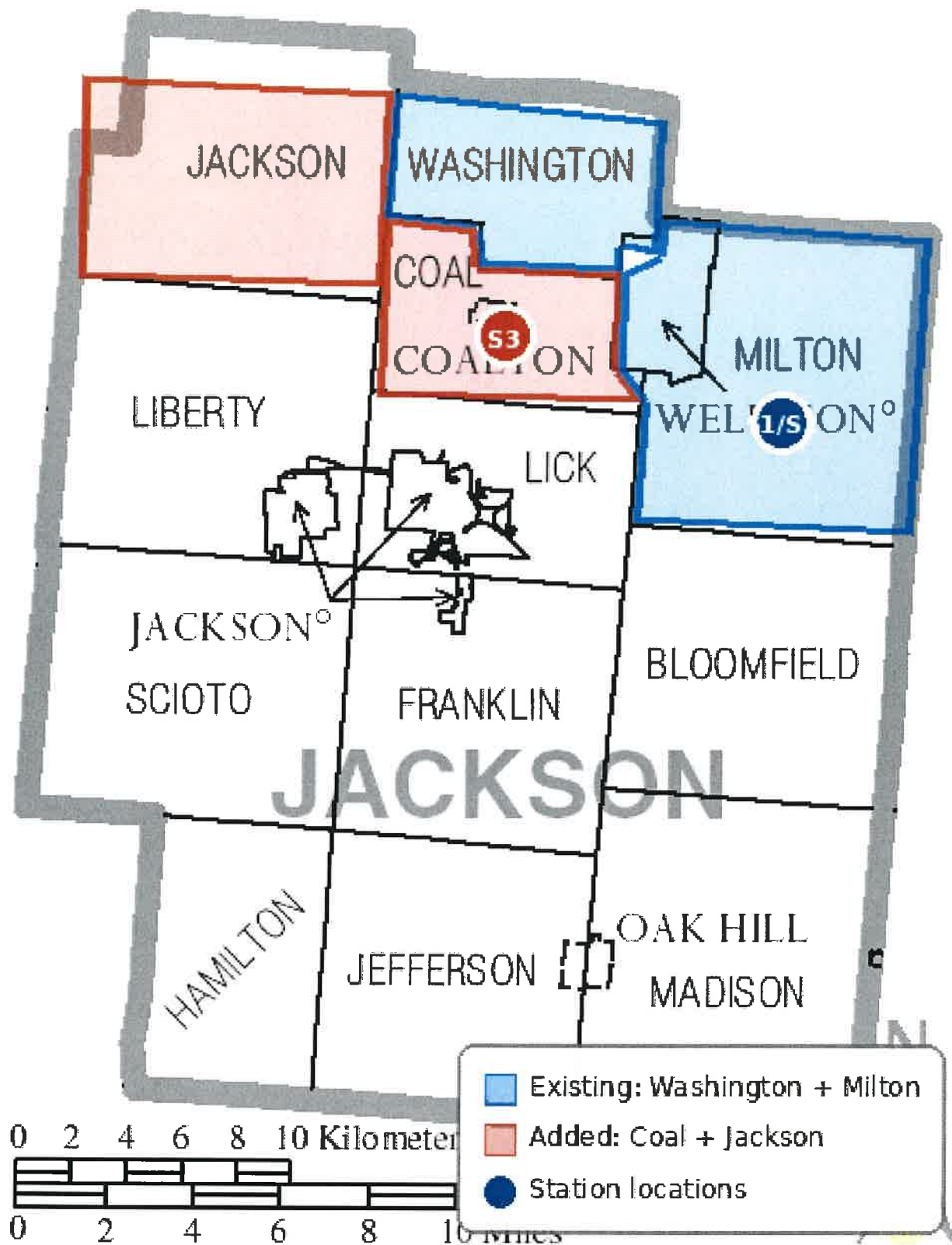


Figure 1. Blue identifies the existing Washington and Milton Township coverage areas. Red identifies the newly added Coal and Jackson Township coverage areas, including the Village of Coalton. Station 1 and Station 2 are located in Wellston; Station 3 is located in Coalton.

## Coverage and Deployment Rationale

The enlarged district requires apparatus to be geographically distributed rather than concentrated at one station.

Station 3 places modern engines, tanker capacity, a mini pumper, and command capability in the newly added northern territory.

Unit 1904 is relocated to Wellston to modernize Station 1 frontline pumping capacity.

The engine/tanker at Coalton supports rural water supply where municipal hydrants may be limited.

## Regional Fire Department

A regional fire department is an organization that provides emergency services beyond the boundaries of a single municipality or township. In addition to protecting its primary response area, a regional department is equipped, staffed, and trained to provide specialized services and mutual aid to neighboring jurisdictions and, when requested, throughout a larger geographic region. The Wellston Fire Department has evolved into a regional department by providing fire protection to the City of Wellston, the Village of Coalton, Washington Township, Milton Township, Coal Township, and Jackson Township, while also serving as the host agency for the State of Ohio Region 7 Hazardous Materials Team and the Region 7 Water Rescue Team, which respond throughout an 11-county area in southeastern Ohio.

Operating as a regional fire department provides significant benefits to the City of Wellston. It brings specialized equipment, advanced training, and state-supported resources into the community that would otherwise be difficult or costly to maintain solely with local funding. The department's regional responsibilities enhance emergency preparedness, strengthen mutual aid partnerships, improve the City's ability to respond to large-scale incidents, and increase the level of protection provided to residents, businesses, and visitors. By serving as a regional emergency response hub, the City of Wellston gains capabilities and recognition that extend far beyond the scope of a traditional municipal fire department, while positioning itself as a leader in public safety throughout southeastern Ohio.

## Regional Impact

Following the consolidation with the Coalton Fire Department, the Wellston Fire Department will provide primary fire protection to approximately **114 square miles**, representing **more than one-quarter (27%) of the entire land area of Jackson County**. This expanded response district includes the City of Wellston, the Village of Coalton, Washington Township, Milton Township, Coal Township, and Jackson Township.

## Asset Deployment Following Consolidation

### Station 1 – Wellston (Rescue Company)

| Unit | Apparatus                           | Assignment                                |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1902 | 2018 Heavy Rescue Engine            | Frontline Rescue Engine                   |
| 1904 | 2020 Spartan Engine                 | Frontline Engine - Relocated from Coalton |
| 1907 | Sutphen Engine                      | Frontline Engine                          |
| 1909 | Brush Truck                         | Frontline Brush Unit                      |
| 1910 | 2014 Explorer                       | Command / First Responder                 |
| 1915 | F-450 Flatbed                       | HazMat Support                            |
| 1911 | F-350 FEMA Water Rescue/Inspections | Assigned to Chief Wright                  |

### Station 2 – Wellston (Ladder Company)

| Unit | Apparatus                          | Assignment                       |
|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1901 | 1995 Sutphen Ladder                | Frontline Ladder                 |
| 1908 | 2003 E-ONE Water Rescue            | Regional Water Rescue Operations |
| 1905 | E-ONE Engine                       | Reserve / Fire Academy           |
| 1914 | F-350 FEMA HazMat/Academy Director | Assigned to Chief Dupree         |

### Station 3 – Coalton (Engine Company)

| Unit | Apparatus                      | Assignment                      |
|------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1903 | 2020 Spartan Rescue/Engine     | Frontline Rescue / Engine       |
| 1916 | 2020 Spartan Engine/Tanker     | Frontline Rural Water Supply    |
| 1917 | 2020 Spartan Mini Pumper       | Initial Attack / Quick Response |
| 1918 | 2020 Tahoe                     | Station Command                 |
| 1912 | 2017 Explorer/ CODE/Fire Chief | Code Enforcement / Fire Chief   |

## ISO Pumping-Capacity and Apparatus Justification

ISO evaluates needed fire flow, available water supply, apparatus pump ratings, station distribution, personnel, and response capability. Square mileage alone does not establish the pump-capacity requirement; however, the larger district increases travel distances and makes reliable apparatus distribution, reserve capability, and rural water-supply operations more important.

### Retained Pumping and Water-Supply Resources

| Unit | Operational Role              | ISO / Operational Value                        |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1901 | 1995 Sutphen Ladder 1500GPM   | Frontline Ladder and pumping capability        |
| 1902 | Heavy Rescue Engine 1500GPM   | Frontline rescue and pumping capability        |
| 1903 | Spartan Rescue/Engine 1500GPM | Station 3 frontline pumping                    |
| 1904 | Spartan Engine 1500 GPM       | Modern frontline engine at Wellston            |
| 1905 | E-ONE Engine 1500GPM          | Reserve protection and Fire Academy continuity |
| 1907 | Sutphen Engine 1500GPM        | Existing frontline pumping capacity            |
| 1916 | Spartan Engine/Tanker 1500GPM | Rural water supply and sustained fire flow     |
| 1917 | Spartan Mini Pumper N/A       | Rapid initial attack and restricted access     |

### Required Documentation Before Disposal

- The regional pump capacity will set at 105,000 GPM.
- Confirm tank capacities, hose loads, portable tanks, and tanker-shuttle capability.
- Provide ISO with updated station assignments and a corrected protection-boundary map.
- Confirm that the sale of Unit 1906 does not reduce credited engine-company or reserve capacity below ISO requirements.

## State of Ohio Region 7 Responsibilities

The Wellston Fire Department hosts the State of Ohio Region 7 Hazardous Materials Team and Water Rescue Team. These teams provide specialized response across 11 counties. Their smaller command, transport, and support vehicles are mission-essential and are not duplicate general-purpose vehicles.

### Specialty Vehicles to Be Retained

| Unit        | Vehicle / Function           | Reason for Retention                                                   |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1908        | E-ONE Water Rescue           | Primary regional water-rescue apparatus                                |
| 1911        | 2019 F-350 FEMA Water Rescue | Regional response; assigned to Chief Wright                            |
| 1912        | 2017 Explorer                | Chief / code / incident command mobility                               |
| 1914        | F-350 FEMA HazMat            | Regional HazMat response; assigned to Chief Dupree                     |
| 1915        | F-450 HazMat Flatbed         | Specialized equipment and logistics trailer deployment                 |
| 1910 / 1918 | Command vehicles             | Incident command and multi-agency coordination boat trailer deployment |

### State Maintenance Support

The department receives approximately \$10,000 annually from the State of Ohio for maintenance of the regional-response vehicles. Retaining these vehicles protects the 11-county mission, maintains deployment readiness, and preserves state support that offsets municipal operating costs.

### Operational Conclusion

The specialty fleet should be evaluated separately from ordinary fleet duplication. These vehicles support state-assigned functions and should not be declared surplus solely because they are smaller or appear like command vehicles used for local operations. As the support vehicles age and FEMA or Ohio EMA fails to assist with replacement costs, the program/service could be eliminated.

## Surplus Assets and Debt Reduction

| Asset                                                 | Disposition            | Minimum Bid |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Unit 1906 - 2000 E-ONE Pumper                         | GovDeals               | \$50,000    |
| Water Rescue School Bus                               | GovDeals               | \$5,000     |
| 2019 Dodge 2500 Commercial Van - approx. 12,000 miles | GovDeals               | \$40,000    |
| 1980 Coalton Brush Truck                              | GovDeals               | \$5,000     |
| Acquired Bingo Equipment                              | Authorized public sale | \$10,000    |
| Duplicate Fire Equipment                              | GovDeals               | \$5,000     |

**Minimum Asset Sale Total: \$115,000**

### Debt Reduction Summary

| Source                                             | Projected Amount  |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Minimum asset-sale proceeds                        | \$115,000         |
| Court-ordered restitution                          | Approx. \$200,000 |
| Total projected amount applied to acquisition loan | Approx. \$315,000 |
| Remaining acquisition balance before interest      | Approx. \$135,000 |

### Implementation Actions

- Adopt the corrected four-township response-area map for planning purposes.
- Complete the pump, tank, hose, and equipment inventory for every retained apparatus.
- Relocate Unit 1904 to Wellston and redesignate Unit 1905 as Reserve / Fire Academy.
- Keep Units 1903, 1916, 1917, and 1918 assigned to Station 3 in Coalton.
- Keep Region 7 specialty vehicles in service and document the annual \$10,000 state maintenance support.
- List surplus assets with GOV DEALS or sell to another Government entity.