



Wellston Fire Department

Serving Wellston for Over 100 Years
200 North Pennsylvania Avenue
Wellston, Ohio 45692-1248

Phone (740) 384-2128
<http://www.wellstonfd.net>

Fax (740) 384-3357

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

To: Wellston City Council

From: Ryan Pelletier, Fire Chief

Subject: Wellston Fire Department / Coalton Fire Department Transition Update

Presented to Wellston City Council

Since Council authorized the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), the Wellston Fire Department has successfully completed the initial transition of fire protection services for the Village of Coalton.

Transition Status

- **At 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2026**, the Wellston Fire Department officially assumed responsibility for providing fire protection services to the **Village of Coalton, Coal Township, and Jackson Township**.
- The transition was completed **without any interruption in emergency services**, ensuring continuous protection for all residents throughout the process.

Personnel

- Five members of the former Coalton Fire Department have elected to remain and continue serving their community as members of the Wellston Fire Department.
- A **Captain** and **Lieutenant** have been assigned to **Wellston Fire Department – Station 3** to provide daily supervision, personnel management, and operational oversight.
- Four Wellston Fire Fighters have also been assigned to **Wellston Fire Department – Station 3** to provide the adequate amount of personnel to handle all emergency calls for service. That brings to total amount of staff assigned to **Wellston Fire Department – Station 3** to eleven.

Equipment and Assets

- A complete inventory of all apparatus, equipment, tools, supplies, and station assets has been completed.
- This inventory establishes a documented record of all property currently located at Station 3 and will assist with the development of a future Asset Purchase Agreement.

Emergency Operations

- Emergency response operations have been fully integrated into the Wellston Fire Department.

- Automatic mutual aid agreements have been secured with the **City of Jackson Fire Department** and **Liberty Township Fire Department** for the protection of the Village of Coalton, Coal Township, and Jackson Township.
- These agreements strengthen regional emergency response capabilities and ensure additional resources are available when needed.

Government Relations

The Wellston Fire Department has begun meeting with local government officials to discuss long-term fire protection agreements.

Scheduled meetings include:

- **August 3, 2026** – Coal Township Trustees
- **August 4, 2026** – Village of Coalton Council
- **August 11, 2026** – Jackson Township Trustees

These meetings will focus on reviewing current operations, answering questions, and discussing future contractual agreements.

Next Steps

The department will continue working with the Village of Coalton, Coalton Volunteer Firefighters, Inc., Coal Township, and Jackson Township to:

- Negotiate a long-term agreement for the operation of Station 3.
- Complete negotiations for the purchase of the Coalton Volunteer Firefighters, Inc. assets.
- Establish long-term fire protection agreements with Coal Township and Jackson Township.
- Continue integrating personnel, equipment, training, and standard operating procedures into one unified organization.

Summary

The transition has been completed successfully and without disruption to emergency services. The Wellston Fire Department has maintained continuous protection for all communities served while retaining experienced personnel, integrating Station 3 into department operations, and strengthening regional mutual aid partnerships.

I would like to thank the **City of Wellston Administration, Wellston City Council, Village of Coalton, Coalton Volunteer Firefighters, Inc., Coal Township, Jackson Township**, and the members of both departments and the public for their cooperation and professionalism throughout this transition. Their willingness to work together has made this process successful and has laid the foundation for a stronger regional fire service.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Pelletier
Fire Chief
Wellston Fire Department