

Dear Mr. Lyden,

Thank you very much for your reply and additions to the information Chief Savalle gave us. I will pass your comments on to the whole Public Safety Advisory Committee, which includes several members of our fire department and current fire chief, Ryan Sholes.

One of the factors we are looking at as a committee is our fire department's ability to provide mutual aid to our neighboring towns in New London County, which is why we asked about it on the questionnaire. The statistics you provided about the disparity between Salem's and Bozrah's responses are disturbing, even considering that your town has two stations and we have only one.

In terms of your suggestions about recruiting and incentivizing volunteers, you should know that not only are we a smaller town than Salem (population number from the 2010 Census are Salem 4151 and Bozrah 2627, so 63% of your population), we are an aging population. At last count, your K-8 school had 600 students, while ours has only 200, so only one-third as many children under 14 compared to almost two-thirds of your population. There are similar differences in the teenage population. Although I don't have the figures at hand at the moment, I would estimate that we have one-third of the teens you have from which to draw cadets. Another indication that your community is more diverse in age is that according to the latest Census, 6.6% of your townsfolk are over 65; our percentage of elders is 14%. So we have over twice the percentage of elders, a figure that is reflected in the make-up of our volunteers fire fighters and EMTs. These are all factors which we must take into consideration when recommending solutions to our town's leadership.

Your honest replies and your willingness to partner with us as we study our community's emergency services needs and responsibilities are greatly appreciated. Know that your information and concerns will be included in our final report and recommendations, which will come out sometime in January 2019. There are a few questions we have that may require further contact. I hope you will be willing to talk to us. Please make a note of my home telephone and e-mail address should you have further comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Lang