

Ordinance

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department Tax Abatement Program

1. Statutory Authority

C.G.S. Section 12-81wMunicipal option to abate or exempt a portion of property taxes of local firefighters and certain emergency and civil preparedness personnel.

2. Purpose

In recognition of the dedicated service the volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel provide to the town, and to attract and retain said volunteers.

3. Definitions

Active member: A member of the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department who meets criteria set forth in the Department by-laws.

Incentive: Members meeting all requirements shall be eligible to a real estate or motor vehicle property tax abatement not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Program period: The qualifying program shall run from January 1st to December 31st.

Points system: Points will be awarded to members for attending and participating and various department meetings and activities, participation in the Bridgewater County Fair is not in the point system.

Tax Abatement Committee: The Fire Chief, President, and Ambulance Coordinator shall administer the program

4. Incentive Approval

4.1 The Tax Abatement Committee shall certify and submit a list of eligible members to the Bridgewater Board of Selectmen prior to January 31st.

4.2 Members who have meet all requirements to be considered active then need to meet the 60 points required per the point system.

4.3 The tax abatement may be applied to property taxes, motor vehicle taxes, and if the applicant rents property he/she may transfer the abatement to the lessor.

4.4 The Town of Bridgewater shall reward the abatement July 1st based upon the list provided to the town prior to January 31st. The tax abatement will be based upon participation in the previous year.

5. Tax Abatement Program

5.1 Members need to meet requirements set forth in the department by-laws.

5.2 Members must maintain and keep current all certifications.

5.3 Members must provide a department physical and attend department mandatory training.

5.4 Members must acquire 60 points. Points are attained for attending drills and meeting, participating in department committee's, and attending fire or EMS calls.

5.5 The department may change the point values for events to increase participation in areas lacking, 60 points will be the goal for the program. Any changes will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen prior to January 31st to be applied in the upcoming year.

5.6 The Tax Abatement Committee is responsible for maintaining all records and ensuring the accuracy of the reports

5.7 The Tax Abatement Committee shall provide records of eligible members activity upon request.

5.8 The tax abatement may only be applied to Town of Bridgewater taxes.

5.9 Department members who have meet the requirements and then pass away will transfer the tax abatement to their spouse or estate for the current year only.

Attachment #1
Point System of the BVFD
(to be resubmitted yearly for informational purposes)

Activity	Points
Training	
HazMat awareness / refresher (required)	1
Bloodborne pathogens (required)	1
Airborne pathogens (required)	1
Required EMT-B refresher (25 hour class)	20
Approved Courses < 8 hours	4
Approved Courses 8-10 hours	5
Approved Courses 10 to 20 hours	10
Approved Courses 20 to 40 hours	20
Approved Courses 40 + hours	30
Drills	
Attend/participate (includes ambulance meeting/drills)	3
Organize / lead drill	5
EMT case review	2
Attend / participate in "truck night"	3
Meeting	
Monthly department meetings	3
EMS Monthly department meetings	2
Emergency Response	
Fire or Ambulance call	5
Non-Emergency Participation	
Chair of a committee or organizing an event	2
Participate in committee / event per meeting *	1
Elected Offices	
Line or Administrative officers	40
Engineers, Chaplin, Parliamentarian, fire police	
Coordinator, etc..	20
Discretionary	
At the discretion of the personnel committee	up to 20

Total points need annually to qualify for Reward Program

60

***Note: Only "duty crew" hours will be counted for Fair coverage.**