



GROSSE POINTE PARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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What is an SCBA? Why do we need to replace them?

An SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) is a wearable device that includes a harness, mask, and air-tank that supplies firefighters with clean, compressed air in hazardous, smoke-filled, or oxygen-deficient environments. It works by delivering air from a high-pressure tank to a sealed facepiece, protecting the lungs from toxic gases, chemical fumes, and superheated air. The system also maintains positive pressure inside the mask, meaning that if the seal is ever slightly compromised, clean air will push out to prevent toxic smoke from seeping in.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets strict service-life maximums for rescue equipment, mandates the total replacement of this equipment at 15 years. Our current SCBAs were manufactured in 2013, we must replace our entire inventory within the next two years to remain compliant and safe.

What does GPP currently use?

Currently Grosse Pointe Park is using the following SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus)

- (13) MSA Scott AirPak75 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) harnesses
- (26) 45-minute air cylinders, and one 60-minute Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) rescue cylinder.

What are the benefits?

Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety is in a mutual aid pact with the other Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. Any critical incident such as a fire requires multiple cities to respond to mitigate the hazard. Having the same, interchangeable equipment is critical.

- Our current MSA tanks are NOT interchangeable with the other Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. Having the same equipment that can be used by other communities is essential, especially with the heavy reliance on mutual aid.
- Updated breathing apparatus ensures the safety of our firefighters in smoke-filled, toxic environments.

What do we need?

- (13) Harnesses
- (26) 45- minutes of breathing air - 4500psi breathing air tanks
- Alarm Batteries and Battery Charger for Firefighter Alarms



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- Warns of low air and activates if firefighter becomes trapped
- (35) Masks
- (1) Rapid Intervention System
 - Portable rescue air system in case of a trapped firefighter
- (1) Quick-connect fill adapter for our current air compressor
- Professional Fit-testing
 - Ensures each firefighter has a custom fitted mask

How much are we trying to raise?

\$300,000

Why doesn't the City just pay for it?

Public Safety accounts for approximately 60% of the overall City budget. Of that, 80-85% of the Public Safety budget goes to personnel costs (salaries, benefits, retiree benefits, and other legacy costs). That leaves 15-20% to support the rest of Public Safety (maintenance, repair, software, utilities, vehicles, training, supplies and capital outlay projects).

Public Safety has several capital improvement projects that it is seeking to fund. These include upgrades to in-car computers, emergency power generator for the building, body-cameras, radio equipment, facility security cameras, and replacing one of our fire trucks that is closing in on 26 years of service.

Public Safety is currently seeking alternative funding through other sources, such as grants and federal/state appropriations. These are competitive grants and are not guaranteed.

Closing

The replacement of our SCBA breathing air-tanks is a matter of life safety for our firefighters. It's imperative that they have clean air and protective equipment in order to go into these hazardous environments of smoke and heat to save lives and protect property. Proper breathing apparatus also helps shield our firefighters from the lingering aftereffects of exposure to cancer causing toxic environments.

Thank you for your consideration and supporting your Public Safety Officers.