

TOWNSHIP OF VERNON

ORDINANCE 23-17

**ESTABLISHING A LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD
PROGRAM (LOSAP) FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF VERNON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon deems it appropriate and necessary to act to ensure retention of existing members and to provide incentives for recruiting new volunteer Firefighters/Emergency Medical Services organization members; and;

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has determined that the creation of a Length of Service Award Program will enhance the ability of the Township to recruit and retain volunteer Firefighters/Emergency Medical Services organization members;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex that:

1. A Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) is herewith in accordance with Chapter 388 of the Laws of 1997, to reward members of the volunteer firefighting/first aid organizations for their loyal, diligent, and devoted services to the residents of the Township of Vernon.
2. The LOSAP shall provide for fixed annual contributions to a deferred income account for each volunteer member that meets the criteria set forth below; that such contributions shall be made in accordance with a plan that shall be established by the Township of Vernon pursuant to P.L. 1997, c. 388; and that such plan shall be administered in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and this ordinance.
3. The LOSAP shall provide for annual contributions to each eligible member that meets the criteria as per the attached schedules.
4. The estimated cost of the program has been calculated as follows:
 - a. For regular annual services: \$75,000.00 per year for the Fire Departments.
 - b. For regular annual services: \$45,000.00 per year for the Emergency Medical Services Departments
6. Each active volunteer member shall be credited with points for volunteer services provided to the volunteer Fire/Emergency Medical Services organization in accordance with the attached schedules.
7. That this ordinance shall not take effect unless it is approved by voters as a public question at the next general election.

8. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7 (d), the Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby requests the Sussex County Clerk to print on the official ballot to be used in the General Election to be held on November 7, 2023 the following public question:

“Should the Township of Vernon provide a monetary Length of Service Award Program for volunteer fire departments and volunteer emergency medical services organization members on an annual basis as a tool for recruitment and retention of volunteers?”

Yes [] No []

9. The Sussex County Clerk is further requested to print on said ballot the following interpretive statement of the public question presented above:

If passed by the voters, this referendum will approve the provision of a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for volunteers with the Vernon Township Fire Suppression Division and the Emergency Medical Services Division. If passed by the voters, additional monetary provisions to the Township Annual Budget will be added for this annual award based on a point system for call responses, training, fundraising, recruitment, community services, specified prior years of service, etc.... The maximum annual contribution per volunteer will not exceed more than \$1150.00 or the maximum amount legally permitted by the State of New Jersey. Copies of the proposed program documents are available for public view at the Vernon Township location of the Sussex County Public Library, as well as the Township Clerk's office located at 21 Church Street, Vernon, NJ 07462.


10. A certified copy of this Ordinance upon passage shall be immediately forwarded to the Sussex County Clerk.

11. A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Division within 30 days of the date of the referendum.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at the Meeting of the Township Council held on July 10, 2023, and the same came up for final passage and was adopted at the Special Meeting of the Township Council held on August 8, 2023 at which time all persons interested were given an opportunity to be heard. The above ordinance will be in full force and effect in the Township of Vernon according to law.


Marcy Gianattasio, Clerk
Township of Vernon


Howard Burrell, Mayor

Township of Vernon

INTRODUCED: July 10, 2023

NAME	M	S	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Distasi, P.		X	X			
Rizzuto, P.						X
Sparta, B.	X		X			
Tadrick, J.						X
Buccieri, N.			X			

ADOPTED: August 8, 2023

NAME	M	S	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Distasi, P.		X	X			
Rizzuto, P.	X		X			
Sparta, B.			X			
Tadrick, J.						X
Buccieri, N.			X			