



# Decennial Efficiency Committee Report

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Shoal Creek Fire Protection District

Date: April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Location: Engine House #1 | 101 N. Main Street | Sorento, IL 62086

## I. Introduction

In accordance with the Illinois Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act (50 ILCS 70/1), the Shoal Creek Fire Protection District established a Decennial Efficiency Committee to study the district's governance, operations, and potential shared services. This report reflects the committee's findings and recommendations.

## II. Committee Members

Chairperson: Brett Kunkel, President

Board Members:

- Kim Houchlei, Secretary
- Donald Sturgeon, Trustee
- Daniel Fenton, Trustee
- Gerald Knight, Trustee

Additional Appointed Members:

- David Caulk Sr., District Chief
- Kelley Voyles, District Resident
- Daniel Revell, District Resident



### III. Committee Meetings

The committee held three public meetings on the following dates:

- January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025
- March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

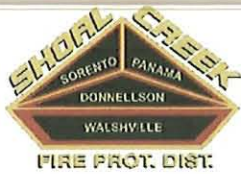
Notices for each meeting were posted and conducted in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

### IV. Areas Reviewed

- Operational Efficiency
- Budget and Financial Management
- Staffing and Volunteer Coordination
- Facility and Equipment Use
- Training and Mutual Aid
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Technology and Communication
- Public Engagement and Transparency

### V. Findings

1. The district operates with lean staffing and relies heavily on volunteer personnel. Response times are within acceptable standards for rural areas.
2. Budget reviews indicated responsible fiscal management, with moderate reserves and a stable tax levy.
3. Apparatus are well-maintained, though some vehicles are nearing the end of their service life.
4. The district participates in mutual aid agreements and automatic response plans with neighboring departments, which have proven effective.
5. Volunteer staff receive regular training. Increased investment in continuing education is recommended.



6. Limited community engagement was noted. Consideration should be given to public education campaigns and increased online presence.

## VI. Recommendations

1. Join regional or state cooperative purchasing programs for equipment and supplies to reduce costs.
2. Launch public safety awareness initiatives and improve social media communication.
3. Develop a long-term capital plan to replace aging vehicles and update facilities.
4. Actively pursue state and federal grants for training, safety equipment, and capital improvements.

## VIII. Conclusion

The Decennial Efficiency Committee commends the Shoal Creek Fire Protection District for its commitment to responsible service and continuous improvement. This report will be submitted to the Montgomery and Bond County Boards and made available to the public as required.

Submitted by:

Brett P. Kunkel, Chairperson

Decennial Efficiency Committee

Shoal Creek Fire Protection District

*Kim Houchley*  
Sect.