

Project: Analysis of Cooperative Solutions to Improve Rural Fire Protection in Monroe County, Indiana

Clients: Benton Township Trustee Michelle Bright; Bloomington Township Trustee Lillian Henegar; Salt Creek Township Trustee Don Hall; Van Buren Township Trustee Rita Barrow

Term: Spring 2011

Faculty Mentor: Professor Justin Ross

Summary:

Trustees of Bloomington, Benton, Van Buren, and Salt Creek Townships in Monroe County, Indiana, represent a predominantly rural area immediately surrounding the city of Bloomington. Trustees are responsible for fire service and faced with a challenging terrain that features lakes, rolling hills, and narrow roads. Fiscal constraints confronting these townships include state limits on tax revenues, a limited tax base, and numerous mandatory equipment purchases. The Capstone team conducted an extensive analysis to explore new and existing collaborative strategies for the townships to reduce fiscal stress and ensure a high quality of fire service.