



Future of the Fire Service in Greece

An Evaluation the Existing Conditions in and Considering Options in the Town of Greece

June 16, 2020



The presentation will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please place yourself on "mute" unless called upon to speak. We will go over meeting ground rules at the start.

This meeting will be recorded. Your participation is consent to be recorded.



“Meet”ing Ground Rules

- This meeting is being recorded, your participation is considered consent to be recorded.
- Please keep yourself muted (a red line through the mic symbol) unless called on to speak 
- Ask questions or request to speak using the chat button feature in Meet 
- We will be monitoring the chat feature during the call
- We will be using a polling software during the presentation to get audience opinion – cellphone or tablet is preferred to participate.
- You can also use chat function for questions
- Goal is to inform participants and gather feedback for districts

About CGR

- **Founded in 1915, CGR is the Northeast's leading firm on issues of municipal efficiency, reorganization and service delivery**
 - Headquartered in Rochester, NY
 - Deep portfolio of government service evaluations for clients across the Northeast
 - Thought leadership partner with clients, tailoring solutions to individual community desires and needs
- **Four major practice areas delivering expert support on the range of issues facing local governments**

CGR Personnel

- **Paul Bishop, Project Director**
 - Principal at CGR, leading all of the firm's public safety, emergency services and law enforcement engagements
 - Recent fire and EMS clients include City of Cortland(NY), Cities of Lewiston and Auburn (ME), Racine (WI), Schodack (NY), Templeton/ Phillipston (MA), and Dutchess County (NY)
- **James Harrington, Fire Service Operations**
- **David A. Riley, Senior Associate**
- **Data Science Team**

Study Background

- *Charge: Evaluate the existing conditions for the fire service in the Town of Greece, identify options for improvement and assist in the creation of an implementation plan for change, if desired.*
- The four fire districts (Barnard Fire District, Lakeshore Fire District, North Greece Fire District and Ridge Road Fire District) have made a series of incremental changes to adapt to a multitude of new challenges, but certain key aspects have remained static
- *The current fire service system functions well at providing assistance in an emergency*

Methodology

- Interviews and information gathering from May to August 2019
- Data request for financial and operational information
- Follow up phone calls and data requests
- Initial report and options presented in October
- Key pieces were revised in January 2020
- Revised report and expanded options shared as final draft in March 2020

www.cgr.org/greece-fire

The screenshot shows a webpage with a dark header on the left containing the text "Shaping the Feasibility of Developing Shared Services in". Below this is a blue "HOME" button. A large image of a fire station is on the left side of the page. The main content area features the CGR logo and the title "Future of the Fire Service in Greece: Evaluating the Existing Conditions in and Considering Options in the Town of Greece" dated June, 2020. It lists the project was prepared for Barnard Fire District, Lake Shore Fire District, North Greece Fire District and Ridge Road Fire District, and prepared by Paul Bishop, MPA, NRP, Project Director. A box notes funding from the New York State Local Government Efficiency grant fund. On the right, a sidebar has a "LINKS" button and text about community services and a presentation on June 16th at 7:00 pm with a link to participate.

Key Characteristics

	Barnard	Lake Shore	North Greece	Ridge Road	Total
Minimum Shift Staffing	5	2+	11	13	31
Total Career Full Time Firefighting	27	11	45	60	143
Volunteer Interior FF /Total Volunteer FF	20 / 24	20/ 40	5/ 33	0	45 /97
Engines (including Spare)	2	3	4	4	13
Ladder/Quint	1	0	1	1	3
Rescue/Squads	4	3	2	2	11
Stations	1	2	3	3	9
ISO Rating	3	4	2	2	
Calls for Service (4 yr. avg.)	3,590	1,017	3,539	7,389	15,536
Share EMS	77%	67%	62%	68%	69%
2020 Budget Expenses	\$5.44 m	\$ 2.14 m	\$9.96 m	\$13.16 m	\$30.7 m
2020 Tax Rate per 1000	\$6.57	\$3.74	\$3.82	\$6.32	

Demographic Overview

	Barnard	Lake Shore	North Greece (Parma)	Ridge Road	Total
Area	3.7	9.5	27.6 (+7.2)	13.8	27.6
Estimated Population	20,450	9,900	41,100 (+3,200)	27,100	98,600
Share over 65 years old	16%	18%	20%	22%	20%
Housing Units	8,901	4,465	16,089	11,961	41,416
Per Capita Cost	\$270	\$220	\$240	\$480	\$310
Career FF Per 1,000 Residents	1.32	1.11	1.10	2.21	1.45
Volunteer FF Per 1,000 Residents	1.17	4.04	0.80	0.00	0.98

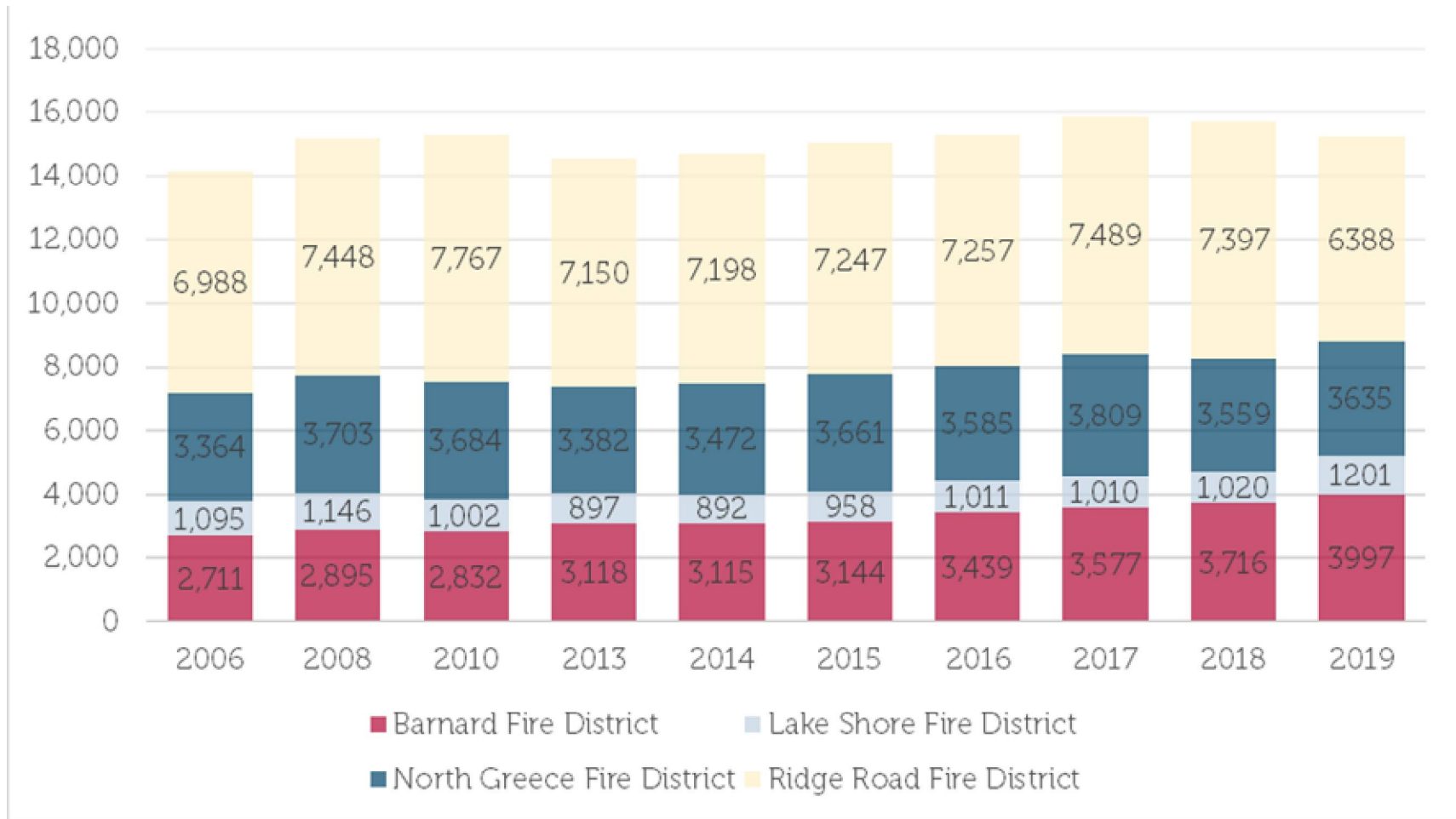
Key Findings (1 of 2)

- All districts provide a high level of service
- Mutual aid and automatic assistance are prevalent and a key to the high level of service
- Decline in number of active volunteers in last 20 years
- All career firefighters are EMTs except in Barnard where they are paramedics
- Three departments have a paid chief and the last has begun the hiring process for one
- While career FF are adequate in the town, volunteers still play a key role, especially in LSFD

Key Findings (2 of 2)

- RRFD and NGFD are rated in top 2% of fire protection. BFD and LSFD are both above average.
- Some redundancy is aerial devices and heavy rescue equipment
- Districts spend \$30.7 million on fire protection. 70 to 80% is on personnel
- Firefighting cost increase of a third to half in six years
- Majority of firefighters (66%) support the merger of all departments

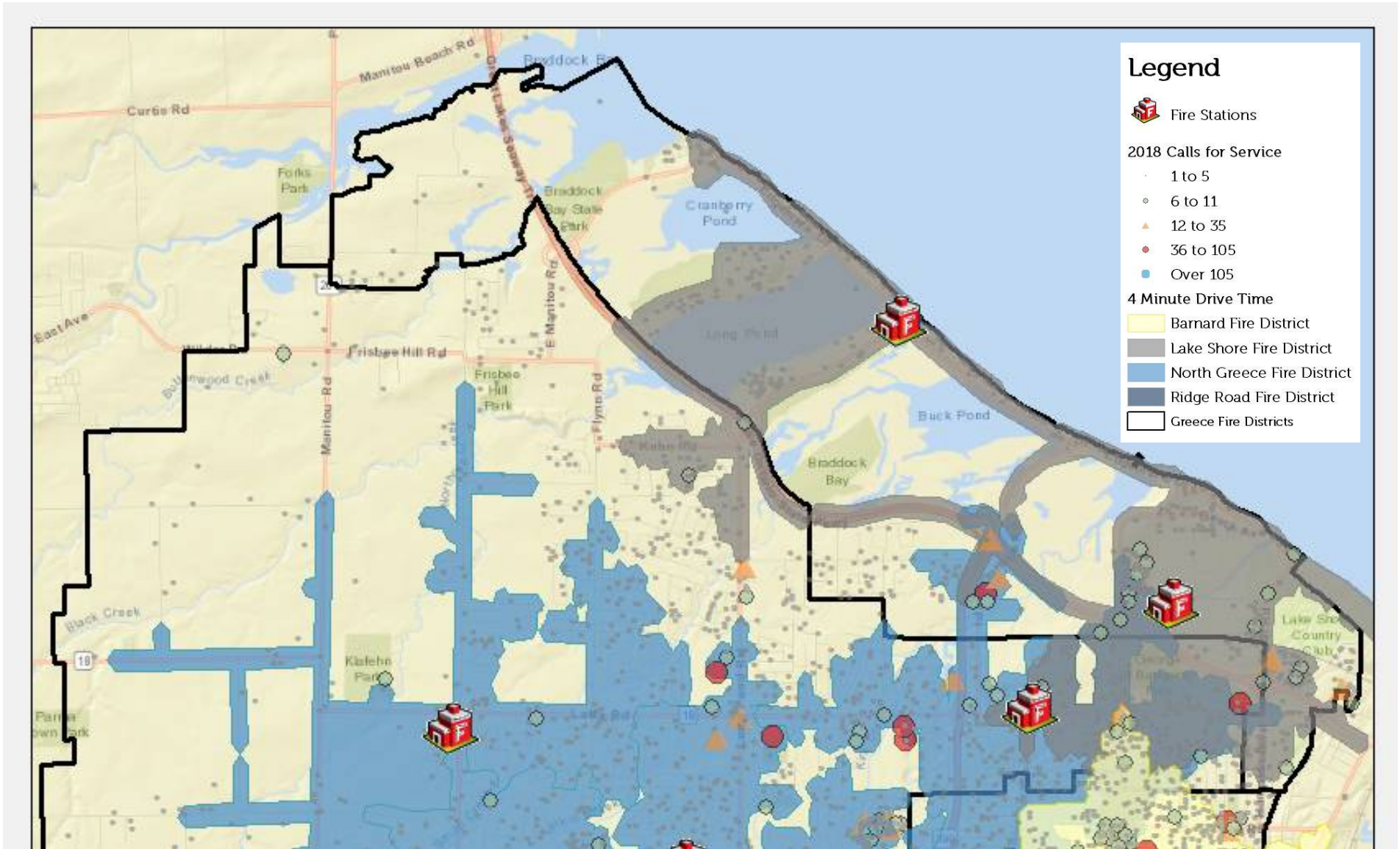
Long Term Call Trend



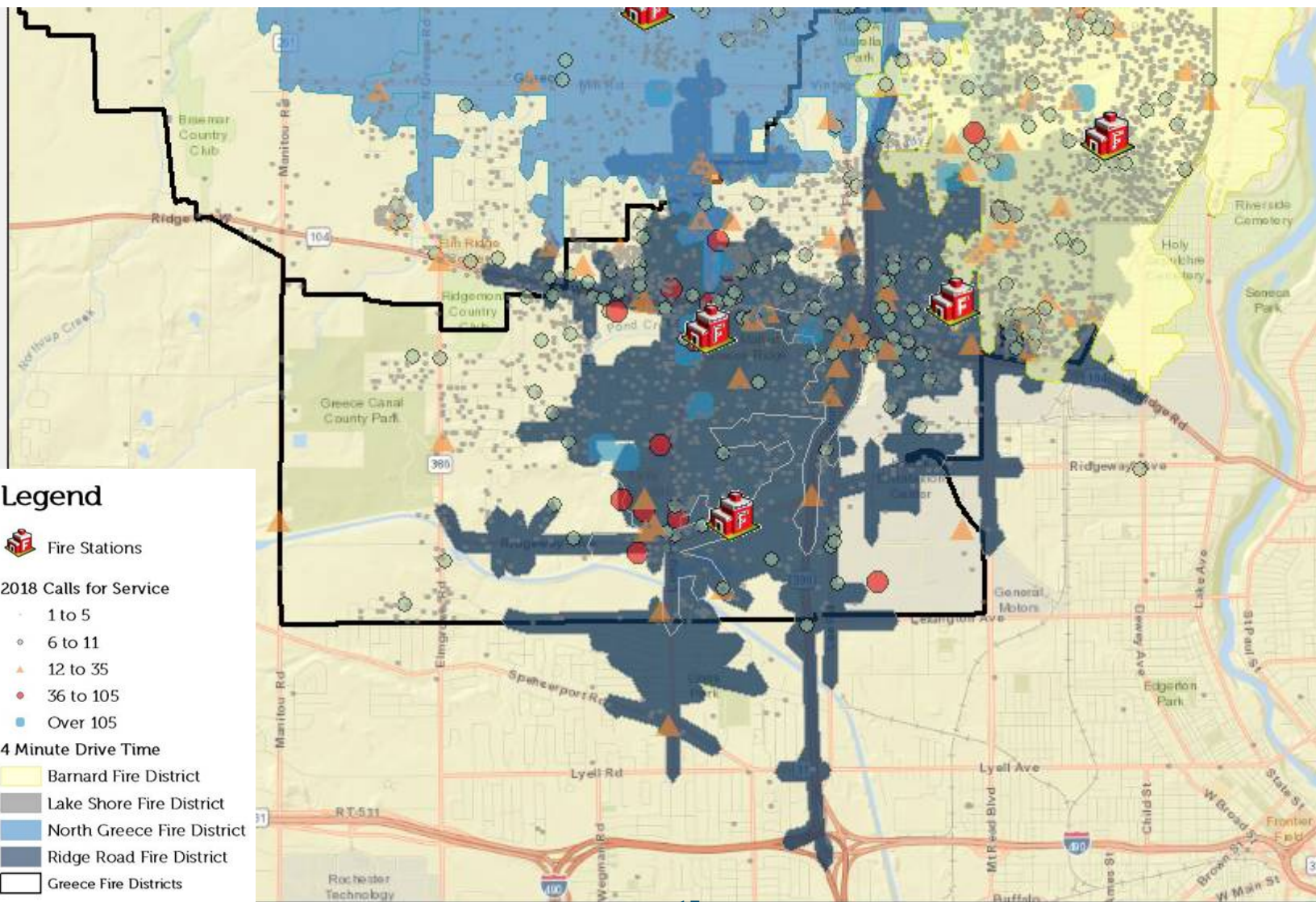
Calls for Service Comparison

Call Category	Barnard		Lake Shore		North Greece		Ridge Road		Combined	
1-Fire	118	3%	30	3%	93	3%	170	2%	411	3%
2-Overpressure, Etc	3	0%	0	0%	2	0%	16	0%	22	0%
3-Rescue & EMS	2755	77%	684	67%	2207	62%	5052	68%	10,699	69%
4-Hazardous Condition	189	5%	54	5%	269	8%	359	5%	871	6%
5-Service Call	120	3%	87	9%	126	4%	602	8%	935	6%
6-Good Intent Call	127	4%	79	8%	323	9%	297	4%	827	5%
7-False Alarm & False Call	254	7%	66	6%	510	14%	630	9%	1460	9%
8-Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0	0%	11	1%	7	0%	8	0%	26	0%
9-Special/Other	24	1%	3	0%	1	0%	252	3%	280	2%
Unknown	0	0%	2	0%	1	0%	3	0%	5	0%
Total	3590	0%	1017	0%	3539	0%	7389	0%	15,536	0%
Total Calls per 100	18		10		9		27		16	
EMS Calls per 100	13		7		5		19		11	

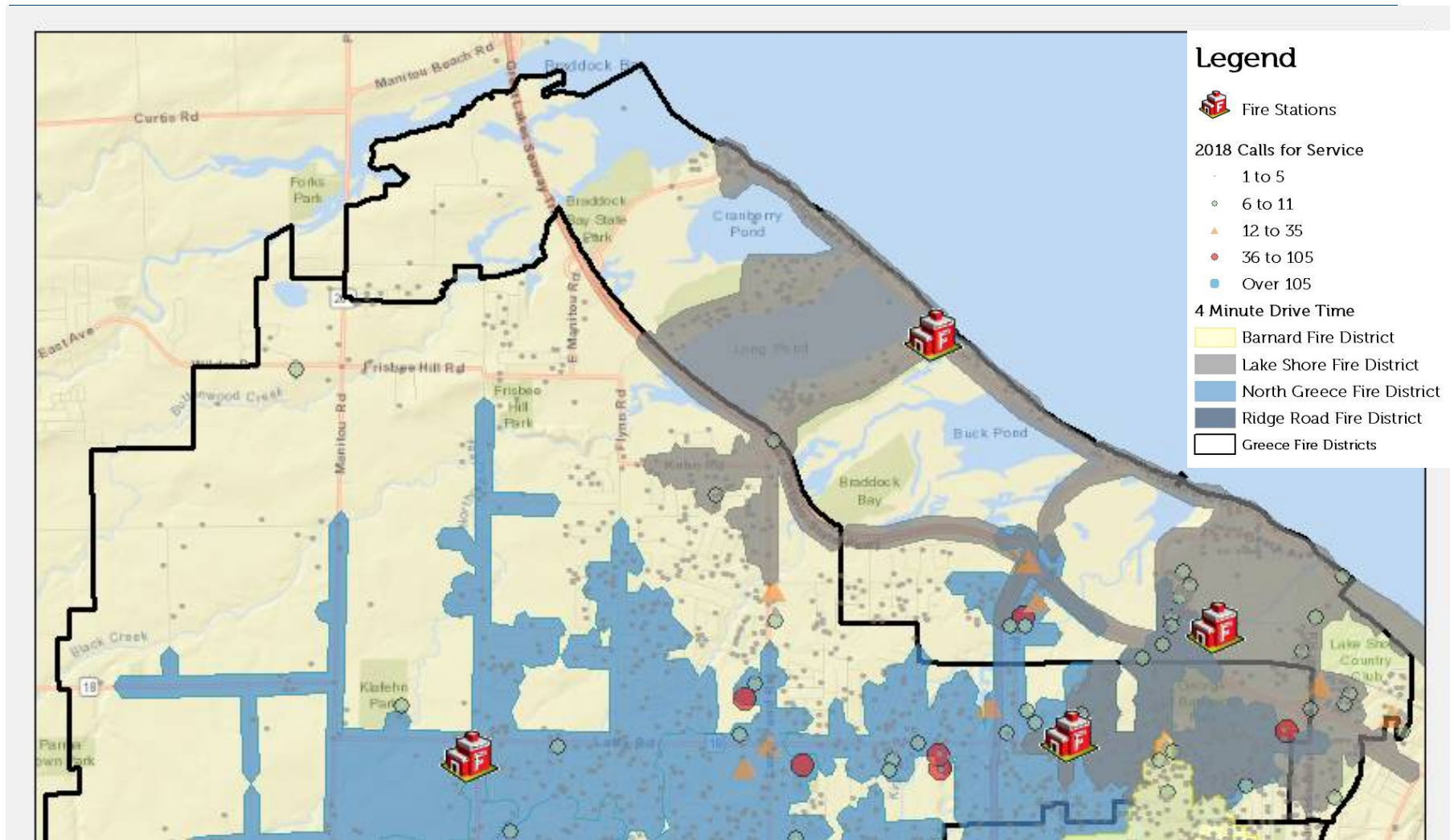
Call Distribution - North



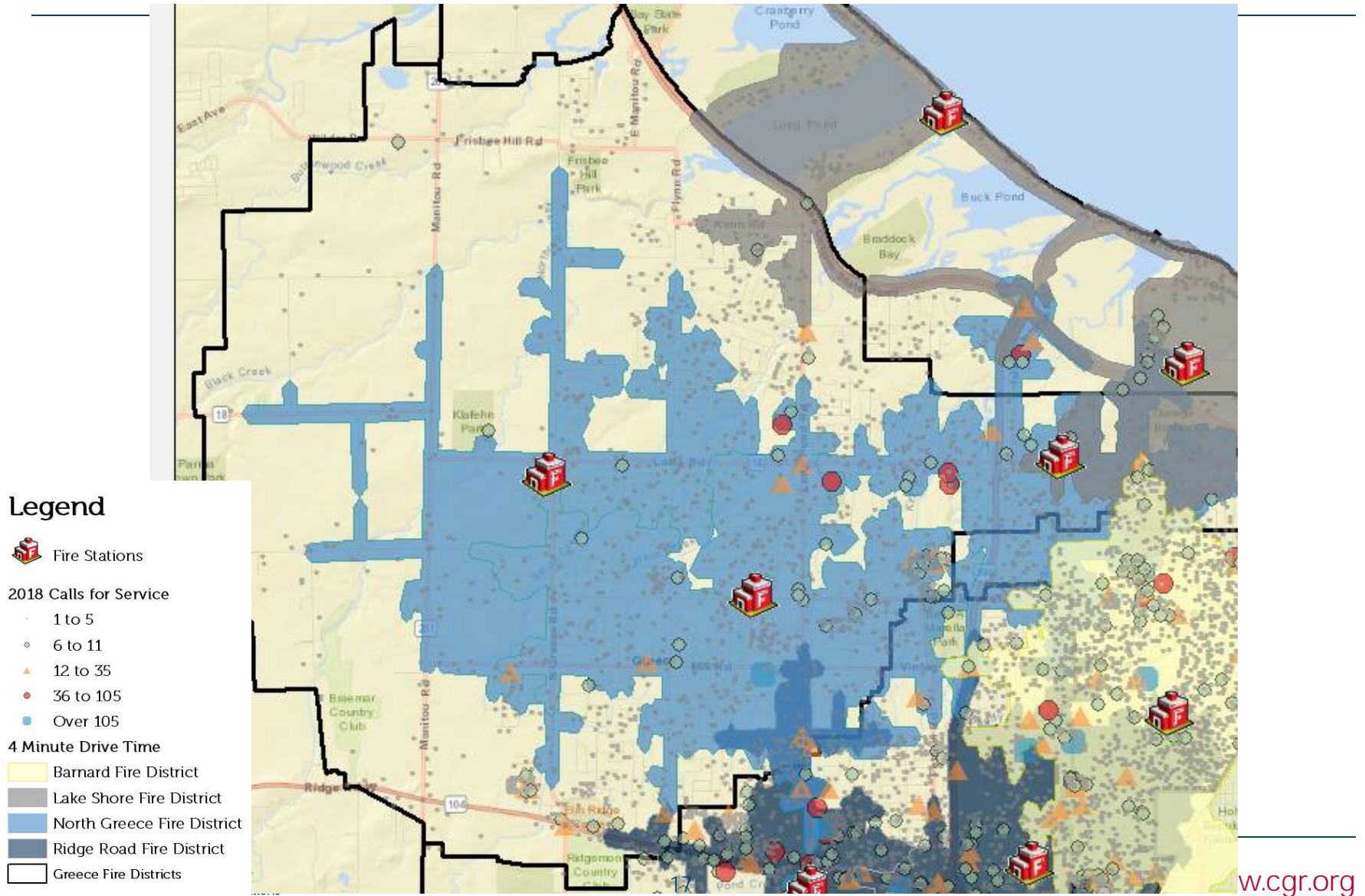
Call Distribution - South



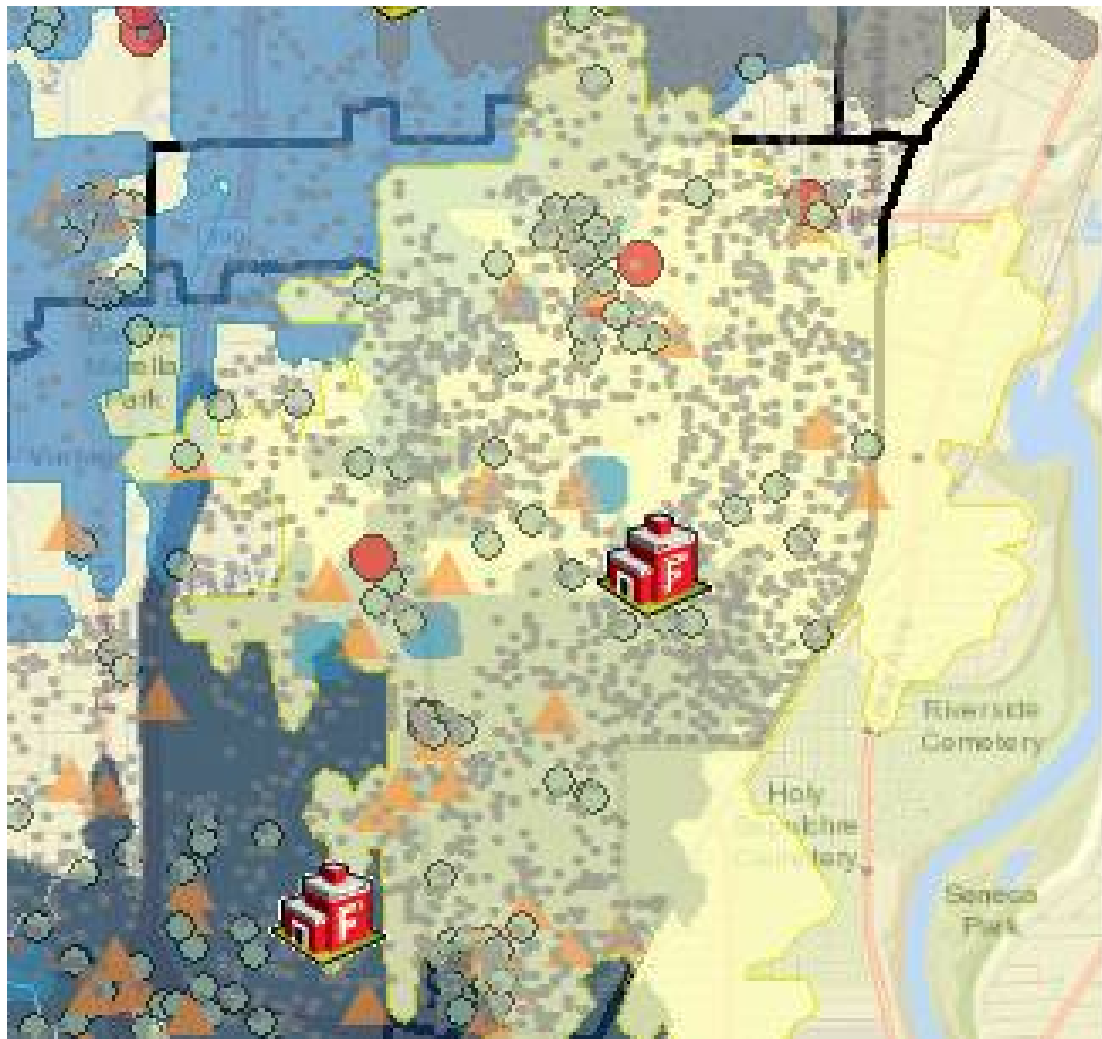
Calls in Lake Shore



Calls in North Greece



Calls in Barnard



Legend

 Fire Stations

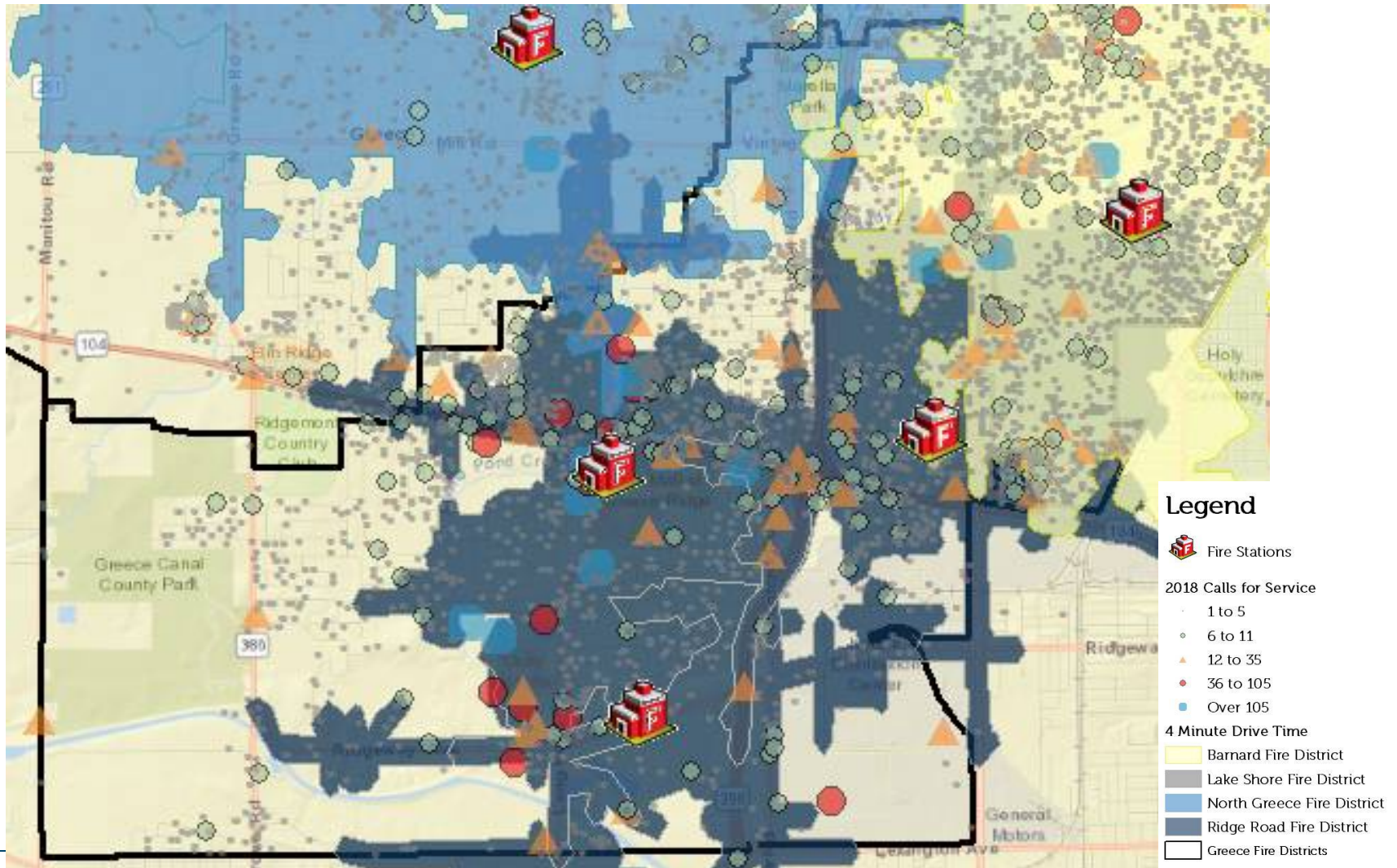
2018 Calls for Service

-  1 to 5
-  6 to 11
-  12 to 35
-  36 to 105
-  Over 105

4 Minute Drive Time

-  Barnard Fire District
-  Lake Shore Fire District
-  North Greece Fire District
-  Ridge Road Fire District
-  Greece Fire Districts

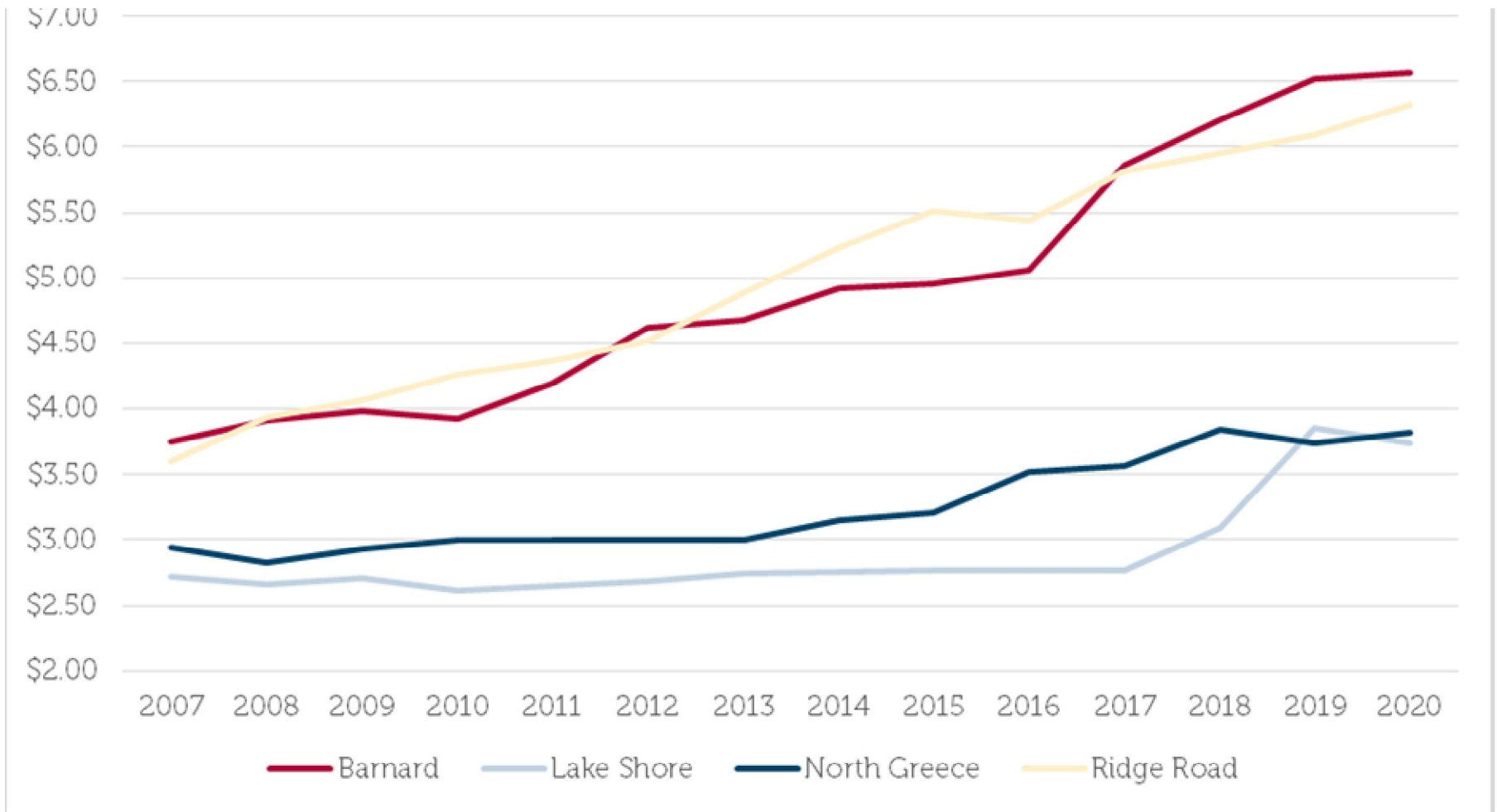
Calls in Ridge Road



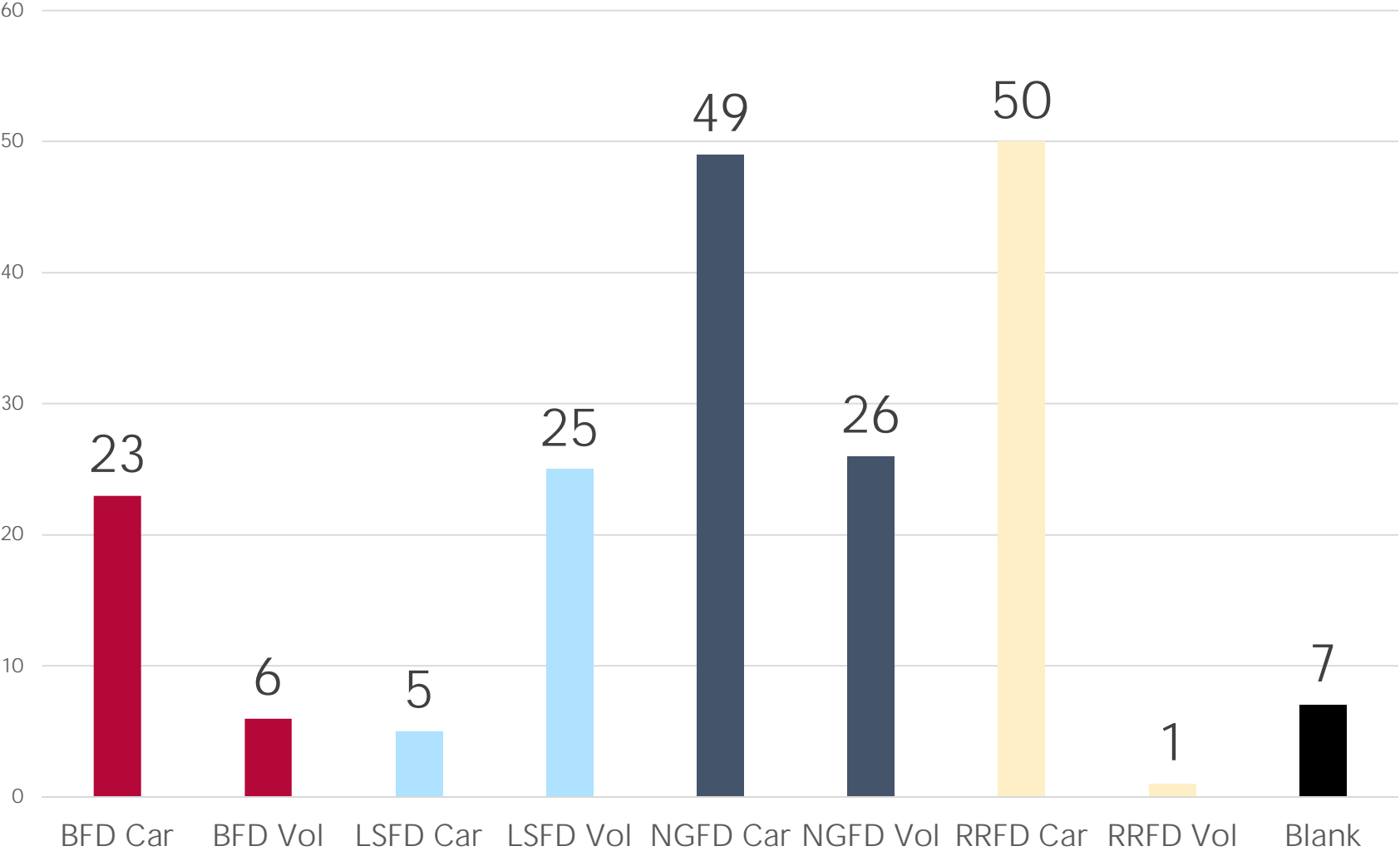
Taxes in Greece

	2020 Tax Rates per \$1,000	Estimated Cost for Median Home	Fire District as % of Total Tax Bill	2020 Total Property Tax Bill Estimate
Median Home Value	\$146,000			
Town of Greece	\$6.22	\$909		
Monroe County	\$7.24	\$1,057		
Greece Central School District	\$24.52	\$3,580		
Barnard	\$6.57	\$959	15%	\$6,505
Lake Shore	\$3.74	\$546	9%	\$6,092
North Greece	\$3.82	\$558	9%	\$6,103
Ridge Road	\$6.32	\$923	14%	\$6,468

Tax Rate Trend



Workforce Survey Distribution



Workforce Survey (211 Responses)

- 66% of surveyed firefighters support the merger of all four departments, compared to 11% who oppose it. 23% are “Not sure at this time”.
 - Clear majorities of both career and volunteer firefighters support a full merger, although support is stronger among career than volunteers.
 - A partial merger, while still favored by a majority, is less supported across the board and by all sub-groups than a full merger is.
- Firefighters want to maintain a role for volunteers in any consolidation:
- Feel positive about training, response times, staffing levels at most departments and a high level of competency and professionalism.
- Concerned about dwindling numbers of volunteers, the lack of a unified town Command/SOP for fire incidents, lack of common training standards/ability to train together, and lack of closest-unit response to incidents due to district borders.
- 41% of respondents who answered the age question were 50+ and only 10 firefighters stated they were under 30.

Options for Change

- Status Quo
- One Fire District
- North and South District
- Career and Combination District
- Maintain Active Volunteers
- Expand Sharing of Services
- Adjust District Borders

Option: Status Quo

- Four separate districts and departments
- Potential capital purchases in the near future
- Consider how to address growth in West Ridge/North Greece Road area
- Probable need for LSFD to continue to expand career staff
- Address role of volunteers

Option: One District

- Join all four districts
- Could retain separation of companies and volunteers
- Little savings anticipated on total cost of fire service – maximum 5 %
- Keep existing manpower, most stations, most apparatus and adjust leadership structure
- Expand paramedic service and enhance volunteer
- Tax rate forecast of \$4.90
 - Down 33% in Barnard and 24% in Ridge Road
 - Up 21% in Lake Shore and 24% in North Greece

Option: North and South Districts

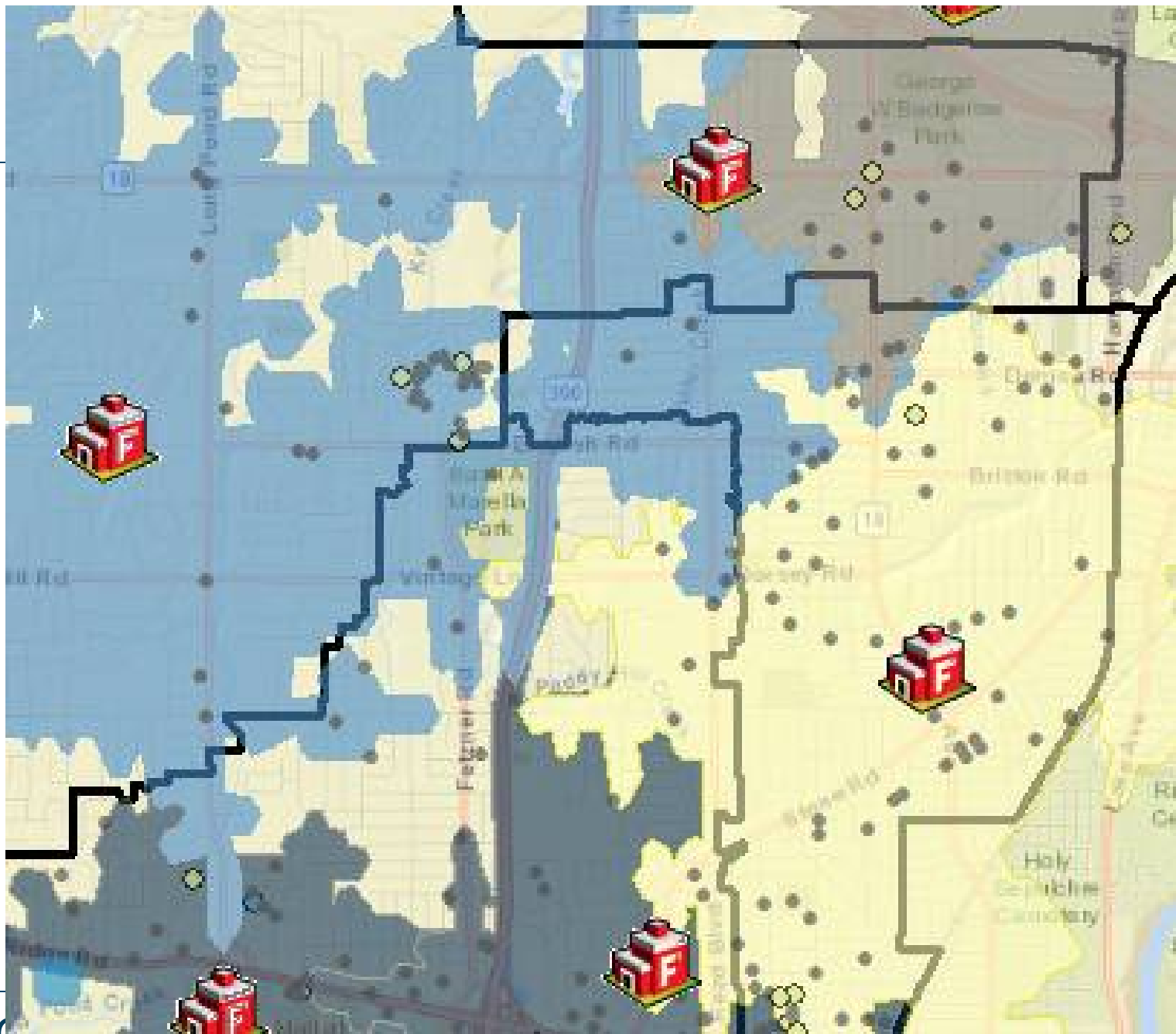
- Barnard and Ridge Road join together, Lake Shore and North Greece join.
- Minimal cost savings forecast
- Changes in tax rates are minimal as they are close to each other right now
- Some operational changes and melding of districts would need to occur

Option: Career and Combination Districts

- RRFD is not involved in this option
- BFD, LSFD and NGFD merge into a single combination department
- Paramedic service would be expanded
- Some response areas would realign for closest staffed unit
- Slight increase in taxes for two (\$0.47 per 1000 in LSFD and \$0.59 in NGFD) and a major drop for BFD (\$2.20)

Other Options

- Maintain Active Involvement of Volunteers
 - Dozens of volunteers are active and their contribution saves the taxpayers thousands of dollars
 - Serve as recruiting pool for career firefighters
- Expanded Sharing of Services
 - Already share in many areas
 - Could expand in areas of training and purchasing
- Adjust District Borders
 - They were created decades ago when town has farmland
 - Certain boundaries make no sense



Questions



www.cgr.org/greece-fire

Shaping the Future of the Fire Service

Feasibility of Development of a Unified Fire Department and Other Opportunities for Shared Services in Greece, NY

HOME

ABOUT THE STUDY

MEETINGS

DOCUMENTS

GET INVOLVED

MAP

LINKS



This website is designed to facilitate community engagement as the communities of Greece consider expanding shared services or possible merger of the four fire districts that serve the Town. The Barnard, Lakeshore, North Greece and Ridge Road Fire Districts have engaged [CGR](#) to conduct an overview of the operational factors, public opinion and community impacts.

Virtual Report Presentation on **June 16th at 7:00 pm**. Please [click this link to participate at 7 pm on 6/16/2020](#).

Please check back often for updates, and be sure to sign up online to receive email alerts as new information is added.