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New York State Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Task Force

Subgroup Committee

Identify existing and new incentives and benefits to recruit volunteer firefighters

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- **Existing incentives**
 - LOSAP
 - Income tax benefit
 - Property Tax Exemption
- **New incentive ideas**
 - Service credit for the NYS retirement system - members who are public servants. Encourages both public service for volunteering and career vocations.
 - Enhance State Income Tax Benefit - \$250 in income. – Current Utilization – 72,000 claims 15.5 million - Statewide local option bill – any county or town to opt in - Long Island tax exemptions are non-capped, make more universal, local options. 10 percent with cap of 3000 - 27 of 57 counties offer.

Other benefits discussed-

Free or low cost medical and dental care
Small business loans
Free or discounted game and Sporting license
Empire passport - NYS parks
Burial and funeral allowance
Accidental disability / death insurance coverage.
Physical fitness or gym
LOSAP enhancement / pay per call transition
Home mortgage discount - home assistance fund (pa model)
Childcare benefit
SUNY freshman elective for EMT and Firefighter 1
Public marketing of the volunteer fire service