

Jefferson-Monroe Fire Department, Inc.

Swisher Firefighters and First Responders

P.O. Box 246 • 2559 120th Street NW • Swisher, Iowa 52338

jmfd.org

Citizens of Swisher

Establishing a Municipal Water System in Swisher

The members of the Jefferson-Monroe Fire Department, Inc. are taking this opportunity to discuss our support for establishing a municipal water system in Swisher.

The Fire Protection Rating for this district is a 9 for structures within 5 road miles of the fire station and a 10 for those beyond. (ISO scores are rated on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the best score) Meetings with ISO about a potential municipal water system being installed in our community have assured us of a significant drop to our rating. Neighboring volunteer fire departments, including, Ely, Solon, and Fairfax are similarly staffed, similarly trained, and similarly equipped as JMFD. Each of those communities have a Fire Protection Rating of 4. The difference; they each have had municipal water supplies for some time and have made improvements over the years to bolster that supply. This improves their ratings, thus, lowers insurance premiums for their homeowners and businesses.

50% of the ISO rating is on the fire department, 10% percent on the dispatching agency and 40% on the local water supply. JMFD has maintained our apparatus, fully equipped our apparatus, performed annual testing on our apparatus and equipment, documented training for our personnel, maintained records, and preplanned for events, just like our neighboring communities. All this was done with the goal of obtaining maximum points in the fire rating schedule. The Johnson County Joint Emergency Communications Center has consistently received high rating points when evaluated by ISO for other departments.

Water supply is where this district comes up short. Currently we pull resources from Linn County & Johnson County to meet our water needs on scene. A municipal water system will allow our fire department to connect to a reliable pressurized water supply to effectively use our responding personnel in controlling the fire and make for a safer city.

The Jefferson-Monroe Fire Department, Inc. asks that you evaluate our position on this subject, look at how this will affect the future of the community as a whole, and please, vote.