



City of Bluff City
Mayor Percy J. Brown

Office of the Mayor

City Hall / 100 Broad Avenue
Bluff City, Ohio

April 30, 2008

Dear Bluff City Citizens:

Fellow citizens, crisis continues to rear its ugly head in Bluff City. It seems like we continually go from frying pan to fire, don't we? What's the latest dilemma, you ask? Well, I'm afraid our current problem revolves around the city's budget. Or you could say "lack of budget".

Yes, the City of Bluff City is running broke.

We here at Bluff City city hall worked very hard to trim all the fat from the 2008 Bluff City operating budget. Many necessary services and expansions programs were not funded in 2008 so that we could focus on the basic services provided to the fine citizens of Bluff City. We believe those basic services – free fire and police protection, free snow removal and trash collection, free parks and recreation programs, free high-speed internet access for every Bluff City citizen – are all crucial to the high quality of life we all enjoy here in Bluff City!

Now even those basic programs are in jeopardy. Tax revenues were down this first quarter, which translates into fewer operating dollars, which forces us to tighten our belts even more. And higher fuel costs for police, fire, and service vehicles have also negatively impacted our currency crisis. Think thin people!

It also doesn't help that our main fire truck, a 1978 Grumman Ford Firecat Pumper, finally bit the dust. According to Carl from our city garage, which is actually Joe's Garage on 14th Ave, he can no longer find affordable replacement parts for the fire truck without looking on Ebay. And since the vehicle is so old, the parts cost a premium because they're used for old fire truck restoration. I also wish to remind all of you that we contract out for vehicle maintenance because the voters denied our 2001 bond package to build a new state-of-the-art vehicle maintenance facility to house our Fleet Maintenance Division, which was subsequently disbanded and the employees laid off when we made drastic budget cuts in 2002.

And everyone keeps asking *me* what the plan is! "How will we recover, Mayor Percy?" "What are you going to do about the budget crunch, Mayor Percy?" "Where's our next meal, Mayor Percy?"

Well, here's what I propose: we're going to rip off public radio and have a charity membership drive here at Bluff City city hall. We'll set up a bank of telephones and televise live on government access channel 3 for 96 hours straight as we encourage you, our fine citizens, to join us as "members". We'll be asking all of you to join our Bluff City Governmental Budget Deficit Prevention Group. Your contributions will help us eliminate the budget deficit and keep our city strong! And they're tax deductible!

Remember, you should all be receiving your government stimulus checks soon. Please, won't you give a little stimulus to your favorite local government? I do mean Bluff City, of course!

Sincerely,
Percy J. Brown
Your Honorable Mayor