

## **Question about whether the fire department does a needs assessment?**

The Fire Department does a needs assessment every year. Not only at budget time for equipment, but also for our procedures, response capabilities, types of incidents, personnel, apparatus planning. We follow NFPA standards when reviewing our Department. In that process, we assess everything in the Department, protection of the town to ensure the safety of the firefighters and those we protect: These are just some of those standards.

Apparatus: NFPA 1900 [1901,1906] 1911 [1911]: Standards for fire apparatus requirements and maintenance, replacement, rehabilitation

Equipment, Ladders, Hose, Extinguishers, Rescue equipment: NFPA 10, 1901/1900, 1930, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963,1965: Standards on fire hose, ground ladders, rescue tools, radio communications, thermal images, care-maintenance, replacement, testing

Rescue Rope/Rescue systems: NFPA 1983, 1670, 2500: This standard specifies requirements for life safety rope and associated equipment used to support emergency services personnel and civilians during rescue, firefighting, or other emergency operations, or during training.

Protective Gear, SCBA: NFPA 1970 [1971,1975,1976,1977,1981,1982]: Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural and Proximity Firefighting, Work Apparel and Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services, and Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)

Training/Evaluation of Personnel: NFPA 1010 [1001,1002,1003,1005], 1020, 1021, 1041, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1407, 1408, 1410, 1451, 1500, 1551, 1584: Standard on Training for Emergency Scene Operations; Operation, Care, Use, and Maintenance of Thermal Imagers; Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews; Respiratory Protection Training; Live Fire Training Evolutions; Training and Associated Props; Fire Service Training Reports and Records; duties and job performance, qualifications, occupational safety, safety officer; incident and training rehabilitation

Organization and deployment operations: NFPA 1700, 1720, reference 1710: Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments; Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments; Guide for Structural Fire Fighting;

Incident evaluation, wildland protect, pre-planning, water supply: NFPA: 1140, 1142 [1231], 1660, 2800: pre-incident planning; development of fire protection and emergency services, water supply for suburban and rural areas.

Large scale action plans, threat incidents: NFPA 2800, 3000: 2800 is used for reference and guide; address aspects and planning, resource management, recovery, command, first responders with regards to active shooter/hostile event responses. 2023 planning with PD

### **Question regarding how long the fire truck will last?**

Apparatus Life Span can vary widely based on manufacturer. The manufacturers selected for this process have produced a quality vehicle that can accomplish the anticipated life span of 30-40 or more years and then be reevaluated at that point to determine if extending the lifespan is feasible. Our current Engine 1, built in 1993, was slated to be replaced this year based on that methodology but after analysis, we have determined that truck is capable of performing for a few more years

Depreciation is not a factor with fire apparatus, they are used till they are no longer in service.

Repair and maintenance is based on present apparatus cost; \$1,800 per year per truck, and \$600 per year for two [2] trucks for annual pump testing/certifications.

Delivery: Currently delivery is becoming an issue, because of the backlog created during the pandemic, all manufacturers are estimating delivery times up to 36months. That is more than 2.5 times higher than what used to be. Issue is delay in replacing now will only add costs to the truck. In 2026/27, EPA regulations have a new engine designs and transmissions being required, which will add a minimum cost, just for those two items, off \$110,000.00 to the cost of the truck based on manufacturer estimates.

**Question about the Fire station being able to house the new engine and if there is any extra space?**

The fire station is used to house and protect the following: Four [4] fire trucks which are: 3 engines, 1 tanker. We are asking to replace one of the engines, not add a fourth. There are two [2] NH Forestry response truck [used by the FD], two [2] police cars, firefighter protective clothing, hose storage, gear wash system, maintenance room, SCBA fill station for air bottles.

Any apparatus being designed would be able to fit in the spaces available.

The station was designed, approved and built in 2007. With keeping the future in mind, the building was designed with the possibility of an ambulance becoming part of the town emergency services in the future.

**A question has been posed so to whether replacing the 2000/2001 Dingee Fire Engine is a need or a want?**

Over the past four [4] years, the need of replacing this truck has been a priority. Fire apparatus are built to specific specifications based on what the Town and the department identify as needs. In that process, NFPA standards, call type, growth of the town and other factors are taken into consideration. The MVFD has identified the need to replace this 2 person cab, 4wheel drive apparatus with a 5 person cab, all wheel drive apparatus that is capable of carrying more personal which is needed in certain emergencies in order to properly, safely and effectively handled a variety of calls. Responding to a fire emergency in bad weather with only 2 firefighters on the truck, and 2 more in their own personal vehicle is simply not acceptable for safety and risk management purposes. Prior to the first warrant article, four years ago, the Department was requesting increased capital reserve funding to meet the higher costs of the planned replacement. Updating vehicles or infrastructure to meet the challenges is part of any organization whether FD, PD, DPW, library, town offices or school – we all must meet the needs that our organizations support.

## Question on what standards/codes are being followed to design the new fire truck?

NFPA 1900, [1901, 1906], 1911 states any truck over 20-years old will see no value from upgrading; after 25-years fire apparatus should be retired. The Department follows this standard, which is why the Department will cycle apparatus. ISO uses NFPA standards for apparatus age. If it is decided that a truck will be kept longer, it will be evaluated for rehabilitation to determine its life span, usability, and safety. This truck may fall outside the guidelines of 1900. Each truck is evaluated to see if it has become not reliable, outdated, not serviceable, no longer meeting needs and standards.

The Department also takes into consideration cost of replacing to meet this standard and the effect it would have on all of us taxpayers. That is why we evaluate the apparatus and its need for replacement, and it is planned well into the future. As part of that evaluation is sending apparatus for a refurbishment between the 14 to 16 year of the apparatus to extend their service life. If you look at this planning, apparatus would service life would be: oldest 30yrs+, 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest 10 to 15years+, newest 1 to 2 years. As the engines age, there is always one, less than 10yrs and another less than 20year old.

The tanker as a water supply single source truck is not part of the equation. Tanker is designed for 40 plus years of service because of the type of truck it is.

This is an effective way to manage and ensure apparatus are meeting standards and within safety guidelines for safe operation.

### Need

- Fully equipped fire truck responding to an emergency
- Able to reach, in all types of weather conditions, an emergency as an all-wheel drive capable fire truck
- Replacing a 22-year old truck that could only carry two [2] firefighters with one that is designed to carry five [5] firefighters
- Replacing a 22-year old truck that cannot be updated or refurbished.
- Not having to risk two [2] firefighters responding to an incident in which a larger crew should be responding, especially with an all-wheel drive capable fire truck
- A fire truck that is designed and planned around the needs of today and the town's future
- Improved effectiveness and operational efficiency of the fire department
- Reduce the town's liability by not have a 2-firefighter only truck