



TOWN OF SANBORNTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 112, 565 Sanborn Road

Sanbornton, NH 03269

Phone (603) 286-4819 Fax (603) 286-4703

Paul D. Dexter Jr., Fire Chief

MEMORANDUM

TO: FIRE DEPARTMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

FROM: PAUL D. DEXTER JR., FIRE CHIEF

SUBJECT: MEMBER QUESTIONS

DATE: AUGUST 24, 2016

CC:

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- 1) How many miles have been put on each fire truck over the last 5 years?

Answer: Engine 1 (2001 Freightliner) 5,003 miles and 376 hours

Engine 1 is the "Water Supply" truck which means it goes to the location of the water supply and establishes a means of filling tanker trucks to deliver water to the fire scene, it is also the reserve truck when Engine 3 is out of service for repairs, maintenance or out on another call. It carries 2 firefighters

Engine 3 (2002 E-One) 16,035 miles and 1,180 hours

Engine 3 is the "First Due" to all calls in town and for mutual aid, it carries all the tools and equipment to mitigate a fire, motor vehicle crash, hazardous materials, and also carries ALS (Advanced Life Support) equipment to assist at medical calls and fire scenes. It carries 5 firefighters

Tanker 1 (2012 International) 4,914 miles and 340 hours

Tanker 1 is used for moving water from a water source to the fire scene, the tank capacity is 2000 gals and carries a 2100 gal portable tank. It carries 2 firefighters

Ambulance 1 (2012 Ford F-450) 28,274 miles and hours are not tracked

Ambulance 1 is an Advanced Life Support transport unit

Car 1 (2011 Ford Expedition) 35,902 miles and hours are not tracked

Car 1 is the issued vehicle to the Fire Chief and is used for daily operations to conduct life safety inspections, attend meetings and respond to emergency calls 24/7, Car 1 is command unit which has multiple communication capabilities and is also used by the Emergency Manager for town wide natural disasters since the Fire Chief is the Emergency Management Director.



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Utility 1 (2016 Ford F-250) placed in service 9/15/2015 – 2,874 miles and hours not tracked
Utility 1 is used to carry all of the misc. rescue equipment and as a means to transport personnel to the scene and to return dirty hose and equipment to the station, during the day shift it is used so that a larger vehicle is not used for inspections, trees and wires down type calls and any service type call.

Forestry 1 (1985 Chevy heavy ¾ ton pickup) 6,502 miles and 658 pump hours
Forestry 1 is a seasonal unit used during our forest fire season, it is a vehicle that is designed to go off road for remote wildland fires, it carries a 250 gallon per minute pump with a 300 gallon tank, and all the hose, tools and equipment for forestry type responses, this truck was purchased in 2003.

- 2) How old is the hydraulic rescue system on truck one? What is the cost of the current hose replacement project and to which budge category will the cost be applied?

Answer: The current Power Unit that supplies the hydraulic pressure to the tools was purchased in 1996 with the hoses, subsequent tools were purchased at different times over the last 10 to 20 years – I have supplied the MEMO presented and approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 13, 2016, this shows the particulars of where the funding is coming from.

- 3) Does the state have regulations governing the replacement of fire vehicles? How did you arrive at the 10 year truck replacement schedule?

Answer: The state does not regulate vehicle replacement schedules, this comes from the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) which develops “consensus standards”, this is found in NFPA 1911 “Standard for Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus” 2012 edition, the most common industry standard for replacement of fire apparatus is 20 – 25 years depending on multiple factors. Our plan is to place the front line apparatus into reserve/water supply at 10 years and replace the current reserve/water supply with a front line after 20 – 25 years. I have attached the replacement schedule using the current funding of \$70,000 per year going into the Capitol Reserve Account. From this you will see that we base the replacement on the need, the current replacement of Engine 1 in 2020 is to get a larger spread between the front line apparatus and the reserve/water supply apparatus.



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- 4) What is the yearly mileage of the ambulance over the last 5 years?

Answer: 7,069 miles per year.

- 5) Submit a true profit and loss statement for the ambulance to include:
- Miles driven per year
 - Cost of gas, oil, repairs
 - Include truck depreciation
 - Cost of personnel to "person" the ambulance
 - Equipment costs not covered by the Ambulance Fund
 - Other pertinent costs

Answer: We do not track the fire department operations in this manner, for example we do not use a depreciation schedule since we do file income taxes, we do not track fuel cost per vehicle since we do not assign gas cards to vehicles individually, cost of personnel to operate the ambulance changes daily (one call we will get 6 personnel to go to a call and the next only the duty crew will handle the call) so there are too many variables with this. The Ambulance Special Revenue Fund is only used for capitol type expenditures like a new ambulance, cardiac monitors, iv pumps, items over the \$5,000.00 threshold, it cannot be used to offset operating expenses like bandages.

- 6) Why does the ambulance roll on each truck call? How do other communities respond with their ambulance?

Answer: The ambulance response to all calls since there is always a chance that a firefighter could be injured at a scene and the crew that mans the ambulance is there to treat our own, as well there could always be injured civilians, each incident is different and you never know what you are going to encounter when you arrive, 9 out of 10 times the dispatch information that we receive while enroute is never what we find when we get there.
I can not speak for other communities, we all have different staffing levels and needs based on the diversity of our communities.

- 7) What is the justification for a second ambulance?

Answer: On average we place the current ambulance "Out of Service" 10 to 15 times yearly for maintenance issues like warranty recalls, preventive maintenance and emergency breakdowns, we average another 20 emergency calls for service which are simultaneous calls which we have to call in another town to cover the second call for transport of the patient, we still send an Engine to the scene since the engine carries lifesaving equipment to stabilized a patient



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Question 7 continued:

until a transport ambulance arrives. Over the last two years we had another town transport patients 39 times.

8) Why wouldn't "mutual aid" suffice when our ambulance is "out of service"?

Answer: Under our current mutual aid agreement with adjoining towns, it states that we must be able to cover all of our 1st calls for service and if it becomes a burden on other communities it is no longer mutual aid, secondly, as call volume grows for us as well as our neighbors they are not obligated to cover our calls, which means that we must reach out even further to get an ambulance to transport, our close neighbors are often in the same boat as we are with multiple calls going on at the same time and are unable to come to our aid.

9) Would a second ambulance increase personnel costs?

Answer: NO, as stated already we will still send personnel with an engine with lifesaving equipment to stabilize the patient until a transport ambulance arrives, what we will have is the loss of any possible billing for that transport since we cannot bill for not transporting.

10) Where would the second ambulance be stored? At what cost?

Answer: The ambulance would be stored at the Central Fire Station; the cost would be minimal only the electrical shore power at maybe \$50.00 per year.

11) You mentioned our ratio of firefighter to EMT is roughly fifty fifty. How does this ratio compare with other departments our size?

Answer: The question is confusing, I believe you meant the fire related calls compared to emergency medical calls are approximately 50% to 50% and that is correct, we average 51% of our calls to be emergency medical calls and 49% for fire related calls. I am not sure what other communities run for types of emergency calls.

12) What is the cost to run the Chapel Station for a year?

Answer: I do not track that information, all buildings are in a separate budget run by the DPW, I would approximate that it is minimal, heat and electricity only. We keep the heat at 60 degrees in the winter



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13) Cost of operating the Chief's SUV for a year?

Answer: The approximate cost is \$2,000.00 per year which includes fuel and maintenance.

14) Is the present Safety Building adequate for the FD? What changes might be necessary in the future? If yes, what time frame?

Answer: Currently the portion that the fire department utilizes is not adequate, we have insufficient storage of documents, personnel protective clothing and supplies as well as no decontamination facility for personnel to shower, the engineering study being conducted by the BOS does suggest that the current space for the PD is not sufficient and if the PD moves to other spaces than the fire department will have sufficient space. The time frame is up to the BOS and the taxpayers.

15) Is there any possibility that the FD might need sleeping quarters in the near term? Near future?

Answer: Under the current staffing model, we do not need sleeping facilities as well as under the staffing model that I recommended for the last two years, hiring two full time employees since they will work 12 hour shifts and no overnight shifts.

But with that being said, there are times that we do have personnel in the building for long durations due to natural disasters and since the Life Safety Building (LSB) is the Town's Emergency Operations Center, it would not hurt to have that capability.

16) Is the well and septic suitable for the FD as is? What if we add more personnel?

Answer: The current septic I believe is suitable the company that pumps the tank has not indicated any types of issues, now for the water that is a different story, the water for the town office and the LSB is not potable and we must bring in bottled water to drink, this item has been on the list to resolve for many years.

As for adding personnel, we have no intent to add personnel, our intent is to replace part time personnel with full time personnel, and this should not affect the septic.