

**FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 26, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Councilor/Chair Starkweather called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. at the Fire Station facility.

**In Attendance**

Councilor/Chair Starkweather, Councilor Dzujna, Councilor/Member Wells, Councilor/Member Zink, City Manager Dragon, Finance Director Milner and Chief LaChapelle.

**Department Presentation**

Chief LaChapelle welcomed all present and asked to start the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chief passed out packets to each member present and briefly touched on the following:

- Responded to 1765 emergency calls last year.
- Calls are up 58% since 1995, handling with the same number of staff since 2002.
- EMS and Fire calls are more complicated with more advanced care being provided.
- EMS Protocols and medications available have changed over the years allowing for transports to other hospitals depending on the patient's condition. Chief explained that 13% of the EMS budget last year was spent on the drug Narcan.
- MOU with Andover – explained that the Town of Andover is covering the cost of these calls as well as patients being billed.
- Amount of concurrent calls – 197 last year.

**Budget:**

The Chief started to go over the lines that were increased when Elizabeth mentioned that the budget she will be presenting to the Council will be slightly different as she had to cut lines in all of the Departments' budgets due to the CPIU only being at .7%. With this being said she explained that all new personal requests were deleted as well as other items. She explained that the bonds were being paid off this year for the trash trucks so they were shifting that money to pay for a new Engine as Engine 1 is 28 years old and needs to be replaced.

Councilor Zink asked about the money that was in the Emergency Management Training line, wondering if we could receive grants for this. The Chief explained about the CERT team and that this money would be used to support their team when they are called to our City for an emergency.

Councilor Starkweather suggested that now with Code Enforcement gaining a full time position that this might be the time to have Chuck go through the existing codes and bring suggestions of what needs to be changed to the Legislative Committee so we can have "bite" to any violations.

**Engine 1 replacement strategy:**

The National Fire Protection Association recommends that after 25 years all Fire Trucks should be pulled out of service. With this being said, Engine 1 has been in service 28 years and Engine 3 is 31 years old. Although Engine 3 is older, Engine 1 is a higher priority because of its deteriorating condition.

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Engine 1's cab and chassis are in good shape, but the "fire body" has major rot. As the City would not receive a good amount in trade, we are hoping to repurpose this truck for the Municipal Services Department.

After much time and research it's been decided to not put the truck out to bid and to buy a truck from the Sutphen Fire Apparatus Company for roughly \$650,000.00. The Chief is hoping to have solid numbers when the budget comes to the full Council. The HGAC Government Bid Purchasing Process will be followed to ensure City rules are followed.

The Chief showed pictures of the recent trip that he and two other fire department members took to the Sutphen Plants in Columbus Ohio.

Councilor Wells asked Judie Milner what the difference was between purchasing and leasing. Judie stated that at this time the rate is better for purchase.

Councilor Zink made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Wells. Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn P. Morrill  
Franklin Fire Department