



Chief's Report April 27, 2020

I. Logistics

- a. Progress continues on the second phase of the public safety radio communication project. This is anticipated to be completed within the next two to three months.
- b. Squad 5 was replaced as part of the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant Program. This included all tools and equipment.
- c. The former Squad 5 is now being used for Rescue 2 by Volunteer Company 1.
- d. After discussions with Company 1 they expressed interest in taking the current Squad 5 to replace their current rescue truck that they own and is not a department asset. Company 1 entered into an agreement with Public Service to purchase the truck. Company 1 will then use the current Squad 5 as their rescue truck.
- e. I submitted the 2019 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program; our request was for protective clothing and replacement Lifepaks.
- f. The Fire Marshal vehicle (Car 3) and Training Officer vehicle (Car 6) were replaced with 2020 Ford Equinox's as part of the 19-20 Capital Improvement Plan.
- g. Car 5 the 2005 Ford Plow truck was given to Public Services to use. The replacement for the shift commander car (Car 4) is still being built out.
- h. The department has been heavily entrenched with managing the pandemic. The Connecticut Department of Public Health is the lead agency for the vent. The department is assisting in any way possible and is also directing other departments in town as to guidance provided by the Connecticut DPH and DEMHS.
- i. At the time of the writing of this report the Town of East Haven has 225 cases in town and 30 deaths, 24 of which were at Whispering Pines.

II. Operations

- a. The department has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic. Operations have been adjusted for force protection. I will highlight some of the changes that have taken place:
 - i. Stations have been placed in lockdown, visitors are not allowed and vendors are screened before entering.
 - ii. Personnel are prohibited from wearing uniforms to and from work, uniforms are laundered in-station daily.
 - iii. Medical screening is done twice daily
 - iv. All personnel do not enter a home for patient care, some personnel stay outside until evaluated



- v. An additional person has been added to each shift to allow for decontamination of personnel
 - vi. Volunteer companies have been placed in a stand-down from all EMS calls for force protection.
 - vii. Protective clothing has been sourced from multiple locations wherever available.
 - viii. Masks are required on-duty
 - ix. Arrangements have been made for food and lodging should personnel be unable to return home or shop for meals.
 - x. Housework has been adjusted to take place three times daily.
 - xi. Personnel must shower after every possible exposure.
 - xii. Face to face training in large part has been stopped to abide by social distancing measures.
 - xiii. Meetings for the volunteer companies have been tabled and hall rentals have been cancelled.
 - xiv. Social distancing has been instituted in all stations.
- b. A department activity report is attached since the previous meeting as well as a report of activity form the date of the first COVID-19 positive in town. Calls for service have decreased significantly since the event.

III. Finance

- a. The Town budget process is on-going. The request from the fire department was \$7,128,922.
- b. The Department received a \$30,000 donation from Sprint Wireless for a media spot, this was reviewed by the town attorney and will be used for equipment. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, use of these funds has been slowed somewhat but the department is looking at a new maritime vessel and a side-by-side utility vehicle.
- c. Overtime is running in the red this year, largely due to injuries and, FMLA and now COVID-19. Otherwise all remaining line items are funded.
- d. At the initiation of the pandemic the Mayor was supportive and immediately put in place a plan to acquire \$150,000 for a town wide response to pandemic. Police and Fire Chiefs have been managing the incident jointly with the Mayor.

IV. Buildings & Facilities

- a. Station 4 work has been slowed due to COVID-19. We are working on roof repairs, maintenance free exterior and brick and mortar repairs. The Town Council approved \$100,000 to undertake repairs at the Bradford Manor Fire Station. The



FIRE CHIEF MATTHEW MARCARELLI

FIRE MARSHAL / DEPUTY CHIEF MARK NIMONS

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF CHARLES LICATA

TRAINING OFFICER / DEPUTY CHIEF PAUL J. NORWOOD

bulk of the work will be to the outside to improve the curb appeal. The building like all the fire department facilities are in need of repairs or replacement that exceed that which is included in our annual budget.

V. Personnel Matters

- a. Local 1205 started the 24-hour work schedule at the beginning of the year. It is working well and ironically some departments who were not on the schedule have moved in that direction to assist in force protection.
- b. Retired Battalion Chief William Mayer passed away after a battle with cancer. The department will be assisting with departmental honors at the funeral thanks to Local 1205.
- c. One firefighter is on extended injury leave post-surgery for a shoulder injury and last reports indicate he will not be returning until July. This year there were 6 firefighters either on extended injury leave, sick leave due to serious injury / illness or FMLA. These extended absences may have an impact on the year end budget.
- d. There has been one firefighter who has indicated he may be retiring at the end of the summer.

Sincerely,

Matthew Marcarelli
Fire Chief