



Town of Allenstown

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TO: Trustee of Trust Funds
FROM: Allenstown Board of Selectmen
DATE: July 14, 2022
RE: Rescue Tools and Fire Nozzles

The Board of Selectmen request a withdrawal from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to reimburse the Town for the purchase of rescue tools and fire nozzles. The request is for \$19,015.00 to be transferred to the General Fund Account ending in 8125. Attached is a list of the various items to be purchased.

Scott McDonald

Scott McDonald, Chairman

Sandra McKenney

Sandra McKenney, Selectman

M Higham

Maureen Higham, Selectman

Keith F. Klawes

Keith Klawes, Selectman

Jim Rodger

James Rodger, Selectman



Allenstown Fire Department

Memorandum

To: Board Of Selectmen

From: Maurice Paquette, Deputy Fire Chief

cc: Derik Goodine, Town Manager

Date: July 11, 2022

Re: Fire Department Equipment Replacement Plan

It is my pleasure to present this plan for replacement of basic firefighting and rescue equipment that has aged out of reliable service, and to purchase new equipment to upgrade our rescue operations. During the past budget cycle we have funded the Capital Reserve FD Equipment fund and a Life Safety Capital Reserve fund. At my last recollection, we have over \$35,000.00 in that fund.

The use of this fund is primarily to replace and update our current equipment inventory. Through the years of transitions of leadership, there has been a severe insult to our equipment stock; and attrition through normal wear and tear. We have an completed and exhaustive evaluation and inventory of our current equipment stores, and have deemed the items presented the most important to help us fulfill our daily mission. We will focus primarily on the rescue truck with a small caveat related to engine operations.

Since the Town purchased Rescue 2 in 2017, its intended purpose was to be a first response and light rescue vehicle. After extensive discussion, and throughout the FD reorganization, we the members have determined that the vehicle has been underutilized and has greater potential as a first response medical unit, and better utilized as a true Rescue apparatus.

RESCUE 2:

The plan for the upgrading and evolution of the rescue truck has already begun, we have reorganized the current equipment into a more cohesive, task oriented cabinet deployment. We have moved the daily EMS equipment into the cab of the vehicle to provide further protection

from movement or damage. By reorganizing the equipment we currently have, it has allowed us to formulate a plan for the more effective and efficient use of our space and hopefully new rescue and safety equipment.

I have, over the past 6 months, created an equipment list for replacement, and sought out quotes from 4 different vendors for each of the items we are proposing. I have included the quotes as addendum. I will provide a breakdown of the costs further down in the document.

In the fire service, a rescue company or rescue truck, has always been considered a giant "tool box" and is expected to have what the firefighters need, when they need it. Unfortunately, we do not have a giant tool box, but I think we can make our smaller tool box the best it can be for the townspeople and visitors. While the tool list we are proposing is varied, it is cohesive in the fact that we are creating a project to upgrade one response vehicle to its fullest potential.

The rescue truck, and in turn, the rescue company, does not usually operate as a fire engine to put out fires, and it does not have an aerial ladder used to help people off a roof or elevated balcony to safety. What it does do is respond to special calls, unusual operations, and motor vehicle accidents. One of the special operations that we rely on the rescue for is water rescue. Rescue 2 is the primary transport vehicle for Boat 1. Water rescues and water operations can occur both in the summer and winter, it is a year round hazard/concern. Boat operations require a higher level of vigilance and attention to safety. One of those items that is mandatory in boat or water operations are life jackets. We currently are operating in life jackets that are quite antiquated, bulky and questionable as to their operative effectiveness. I would propose purchasing 4 (four) Coast Guard level III life vests for FF and persons being rescued.

		Each	Total
4	4-pocket Hi-Viz Yellow Type II Crew vests	\$75	\$300

The rescue truck is our primary response vehicle for carbon monoxide alarms, odors, etc. It is also available to respond "third due" to fires, and can assist with rehabilitation operations for firefighter health and recovery. One of the items we are missing is a battery operated ventilation fan. We have a portable fan that we are using, but runs on gasoline, produces carcinogenic exhaust, and is bulky/heavy. The alternative fans run on electrical cords, that are incompatible to run off the rescue truck. I propose to purchase one battery operated ventilation fan to help during rescue operations.

		Each	Total
1	Supervac Battery Fan w/batteries, chargers, cord	\$4825	\$4825

In the process of performing firefighting and rescue functions, EMS calls, calls for assistance and service, odor investigations and carbon monoxide investigations, firefighters and EMS personnel enter many foreign environments, and while every situation is anticipated, and precautions are taken, there can always be unrecognized hazards, with potential for dire consequences. In order to mitigate those risks, I propose to purchase three, single gas disposable carbon monoxide meter, that is a passive, always on meter that attaches to our medical bag in all of the front line apparatus; that is designed to alert us if we enter an IDLH (immediate danger to life or health) environment that we did not expect.

	Each	Total
3 Altair CO meter, disposable, 24 month	\$210	\$660

In certain instances, in larger, more metropolitan areas, the rescue company (the firefighters and officer who staff the rescue truck, can be assigned tasks and operate as a ladder company. Their role becomes one of forcible entry, ventilation, and search& rescue. Just because we are smaller, doesn't mean we, as command officers, would not assign those tasks to our members due to our truck size. In order to perform these assigned duties, the firefighters need hand tools designed for opening locked doors, "opening up" walls, and pulling down ceiling seeking out hidden fire. Because of the varying types of construction and construction materials throughout our town and coverage areas (plaster/lathe in the Victorians, drywall in the new builds, manufactured surfaces in our manufactured domiciles) the members require specially designed "hooks" and "rakes" designed to ease the burden of the job. I propose to purchase 3 6' long "hooks" to help facilitate the forcible entry, ventilation and overhaul responsibilities of the rescue truck. This is an upgrade because we currently do not have such tool on the rescue.

	Each	Total
1 6' Drywall Hook w/ D handle	\$85	\$85
2 6' "roof" hooks 1 gas shut off, 1 D handle	\$77/\$80	\$157
		\$242

The rescue truck has always been the apparatus that responds to the most serious of motor vehicle accidents. We agree wholeheartedly in that role. In fact, our rescue truck is set up to be our primary extrication company. We have redistributed our rescue equipment amongst our units in order to most effectively and efficiently effect the services we have sworn to provide. Operations in a severely damaged vehicle, and more dangerously, a vehicle overturned or on its side provides an additional level of risk to our members operating in that environment. One of the ways to best mitigate that risk is to stabilize the vehicle using struts or jacks that attach to the car and the base is driven into the pavement by large steel spikes. This in turn keeps the unbalanced or unstable vehicle from falling while our members are working inside or around. I have researched and after evaluating all the pquotes I propose to purchase the Res-q-Jack 4

point combination, as I feel it is the highest quality tool with the best track record of safety and design.

	Each	Total
1 Res-q-Jack 4 point combination kit	\$8325	\$8325

One of the hazards of our job is operating in the dark. We are tasked with rescue operations in the dark of night, in almost every type of environment. Be it a fire, motor vehicle accident, lost or trapped animal or citizen, night time operations add an additional level of challenge above and beyond. In the past we have relied on large, heavy, bulky "D" lights that are bound by cord, and power supply (not a house 110 outlet). Unfortunately the times have changed, and the equipment has become obsolete, and the rescue is incapable of powering those lights. The most recent innovations involve portable, stand based LED lights with higher level of lumens (brightness) that can be moved to where they are needed, and can be powered by battery or by generator. The generators are smaller, more fuel efficient and quiet, reducing the stress and environmental exposure of our members. I would like to purchase a Nomad Prime area light, and the generator to power it.

	Each	Total
1 Nomad Prime area spot 4000 Lumen	\$1385	\$1385
1 Honda EU 2200, 2000 watt generator	\$1299	\$1299
		\$2684

Engine Operations

The engine company is the workhorse of the fire department and the company/apparatus, that is the most important piece to any fire department because it carries the firefighters, the hose, and the water. It is imperative that if nothing else goes to the fire, this piece has to. Throughout the years I have observed fire nozzles moved from antique apparatus to current models in order to save cost. When Engine 1 was purchased they managed to buy some new hose and nozzles. The majority of the nozzles on our frontline apparatus are antiquated, and unserviceable if they should fail or break. In order to replace the nozzles on one engine company I would like to purchase 3 nozzles, 2(two) 1 ¾ inch nozzles used for fire attack, and 1(one 2 ½ inch) nozzle for commercial and large volume fire attack.

	Each	Total
2 Akron 1.5" Assault midrange w/grip	\$602	\$1204

1 Akron 2.5" Assault High-range nozzle w/grip	\$775	\$775
		\$1979

The total amount that we would request to be spent from the Fire Department equipment and life safety capital reserve funds is \$19,015.00.

If you would support our plan as written, we would need a motion made and approved to spend \$19,015.00 from the FD Equipment Capital reserve fund for the expenses of new rescue tools, and fire nozzles.

If you have any questions please reach out to the Chief or myself.