Fire Department



Timothy Reynolds
Fire Commissioner

The East Haddam Fire Department protects lives and property from fire and hazardous incident damage and provides timely emergency medical services in for the town. The Fire Department incorporates up-to-date and efficient fire prevention, fire suppression, hazardous incident mitigation, and emergency medical technologies into its procedures, equipment and methods.

Staffing

CURRENT STAFFING			
Position	**Status**	**Budgeted Hours**	**Elected/Union/Non-Union**
Firefighters/EMT Full Time (3)	Hourly	42 hours per week	Union
Firefighter/EMT Part or Full Time	Hourly	86 hours per week total	Non-Union
Firefighter Volunteer (52)	Volunteer	As needed	n/a

Performance Measures

Description	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017
Calls for Service (does not include EMS)	234	227	199	231	278
EMS R-1 Services to supplement Ambulance Association	314	248	255	223	

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Major Service Level Accomplishments

- **Recruitment and Retention 2021:** We have actively recruited new volunteer personnel, obtaining eight new personnel from 2021-2022 with two additional personnel currently in the recruitment process, which will bring us to ten new personnel. The department currently has a total of 59 personnel: 52 are volunteers, seven are Career Firefighters, nine are female Firefighters. The Bylaws were updated in order to accommodate new volunteer personnel to join the department if they own property in East Haddam.
- **Public Relations:** Captain Kevin Rutty and Lieutenant Nicole Dombroski are assigned to all Public Relations events. Including but not limited to East Haddam Day, Project Safe Halloween, Easter Egg Hunt, Meet and Greet with Santa, Lunch with Firefighters (Elementary School), Christmas Tree lighting, Fisherman's Breakfast, Spaghetti Dinner, and Number Sign campaign.
- **ISO - (Insurance Service Office):** The department will continue to research more effective ways within the ISO Committee to have a better ISO Rating for the residents of East Haddam by Spring 2022. A better rating will lower the residents' insurance rates and identify training opportunities within the department. The committee which includes volunteers and Career Staff are identifying water holes (signage placement), setting up mutual aid department tanker shuttle drills, and hose line drills.
- **Career Staff:** The town hired an additional full-time employee to effectively staff the department for fire and EMS calls Monday through Friday, from 6 am to 6 pm. This will also enable the career staff to have four personnel on during the working shift.
- **Chain Of Command:** The Department currently has the following: one Chief Of Department, one Deputy Chief, four Captains, and six Lieutenants. All officers are assigned particular duties that best fit their skill set. The department functions as one cohesive unit with all information going through the Chief of the department. New to the role in 2021 are Deputy Chief Ray Swol, Captain Kevin Rutty, Lieutenant Matt Swol, and Lieutenant Amber Tremblay.
- **Training 2021:** One new Volunteer Firefighter certified as Firefighter One, one new Firefighter certified as EMT, one new Firefighter certified as a Fire Apparatus Operator. The department also standardized our fire training to include both volunteer and career staff with (3) three training sessions per month. This includes hands-on training as well as classroom work. The training sessions encompass basic and advanced Firefighting skills, Emergency Medical Training, Rope Rescue Training, two live burn events, flashover training, driver training, marine rescue, radio use, hazardous materials, and bloodborne pathogens, just to name a few.
- **EMS (Emergency Medical Services):** The department continues to provide R-1 services to the town of East Haddam to supplement assistance to the East Haddam Ambulance. The Fire Department was dispatched to 314 R-1 Medical calls for service in 2021. 20 Fire Department personnel are medically trained, two are EMRs (Emergency Medical Responders) and 18 are EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians). A volunteer EMS Liaison position has been put in place that works between the Chief of Department (Fire) and the Ambulance Chief when it comes to joint department drills, coordinating in-house training drills, replenishment of medical supplies, conducting in-house recertification drills, and maintenance of R-1 equipment. During the 2021 year, the department obtained (2) two Lucas Devices: The devices allow personnel to effectively maintain CPR compressions during cardiac arrests. This device reduces fatigue for the responder. The devices are located on Ambulance 15-4-A Company # 1 and Utility 15 at Company #2. Additionally, the department received two additional AED's (Automatic External Defibrillator) which are placed on the aforementioned apparatus. Former Volunteer Firefighter Steve Dorfman also obtained a $15,700 grant for Covid PPE which included: Face Masks, Face Shields, Gowns, Gloves, Full body PPE, and Hand Sanitizer.
- **SOP'S:** The department formed a committee to update the SOG's (Standard Operating Guidelines) to SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures). The guidelines we previously updated in 2015. The current guidelines are up to date with the ever-changing world of firefighting.
- **Apparatus:** An aggressive maintenance program to effectively service our aging fleet has been established by Career Firefighter Rob Lenois who works with the Chief of the Department.
- **Equipment Testing:** Annual testing on SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus), Hose Testing, Pump/ladder testing, and Apparatus Preventative Maintenance on the fleet.
- **Capital Expenditure:** The Fire Chief and BOFC have prioritized equipment for replacement over the next (10) ten years in order to maintain fiscal responsibility with high-quality service to the residents of East Haddam.
- **New Quint:** The Quint which will be obtained (Spring 2022 - tentative) was purchased off a federal (1 million) grant made possible by former Volunteer Firefighter Steve Dorfman and Career Lieutenant Eric Kolasinski. The Quint is a combination of apparatus which includes a ladder, pumper, and rescue truck made into one. The Quint will be replacing our 1977 Maxim Ladder truck which was donated to East Haddam by the Essex Fire Department. The 1977 Maximum Ladder truck will be placed in surplus by the town. Lieutenant Kolasinski has continued as the Lead of the committee and has been effective when it comes to decision-making on changes and purchases of equipment for the new apparatus.
- **New Utility Truck:** The new Utility truck has been purchased after a committee was put together in order to plan out the needs for this apparatus (tentative delivery Spring 2022) The 2022 Ford F-350 crew cab will replace the 2006 Ford F-350 extended cab that has 60,000 miles on the odometer. The 2006 Ford F-350 will be repurposed for the fire police division, which will replace their 1999 Chevrolet S-10 pickup that is currently in use. The 98 S-10 will be placed into Surplus by the town. The Utility will serve the department by towing one of our four marine units, towing our ATV trailer, and responding to R-1 medical calls.

- Marine Apparatus: The department currently has four marine units that service (four lakes and one river) in the town of East Haddam: one 18 foot center console (Marine 1-15), one Inflatable Zodiac foot boat (Marine 2-15), one 12 foot Jon boat (Marine 3-15), one Jet Ski (Marine 4-15). The department has been progressive in upgrading its Marine apparatus with the following: recent purchase of the center console, a new 25 horsepower motor for Marine 3-15, and the repurposing of the Marine 4-15 from 'East Haddam Police. The department also has conducted a lot of effective training with all marine units and utilized the recent purchase of a floatable rescue sled which enables rescuers to secure a patient in the water. The jet ski will also allow rescuers to maneuver in the depths of water that the larger units cannot. The jet ski will have graphics applied to mirror the likeness of Marine 1-15. The new 25 horsepower motor will allow rescuers to report more quickly than the previous 9 horsepower motor.
- **Communications:** Town-wide radio upgrade committee to include all new portable radios, mobile radios, pagers for the fire department. Adequate radios are paramount for the safety of firefighters and the public in which we serve.
- **Firefighter Accountability Identification:** The Fire Department purchased an identification machine and software so that the assigned officer can create identification cards for all fire personnel. The identification cards include the following: A photo of the personnel, name, rank, and level of certificate. The ID cards are utilized by personnel in order to be effectively identified by the public during an emergency and for accountability during a major emergency incident.
- **ESO Software:** This new software enables the department to input data from all emergency calls that the fire department is dispatched to. The information from the entered calls is tracked by NFIRS (NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM). This new software is extremely user-friendly for any skill level of fire personnel. The cost for this is paid for by the Shared Services budget.
- **Vector Check Inventory Management Software:** This new software is a database that officers and Career Firefighters utilize during truck inspections to include: managing the apparatus inventory, mechanical defects, fuel management, and mileage, just to name a few. The cost for this is paid for by the Shared Services budget.
- **Watch Desk:** One Junior Firefighter, Nathan Botting (recently promoted to Senior Firefighter), built a watch desk at Headquarters Company #2. The watch desk provides a centralized location for responding fire personnel to meet and take directions from a watch commander during a large-scale incident. The desk is complete with a computer, phone, and officer mailboxes.

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Major Service Level Goals

- Continue to increase our volunteer base by building a more effective recruitment campaign.
- Continue to increase our department training to include but not be limited to the aerial operator prior to the new Quint's arrival.
- Continue to build an aggressive financial capital plan for the department's needs on future purchases of apparatus, gear, equipment, and building updates with input from the Board of Fire Commissioners, volunteer personnel, and career personnel.
- Continue to expand upon the great working relationship between the volunteer and career staff through consistent communication, combined drills, and supportive leadership.
- Continue to research and apply for federal grants in order to reduce town spending on large ticket items: I.E. fire apparatus, appliances, gear, etc.

Additional Budget Information

Salaries: Full-time firefighter's increase is 2.25% in accordance with their collective bargaining agreement. Increase for non-union and clerical employees in accordance with the clerical contract. For the fiscal year 2023, the increase is 2.50%.

Expenditures by Expense Type

There is a $20,000 adjustment that will be removed by the BOF before sending to Town Meeting.

Name	Account ID	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Budgeted	FY24 Requests 2-15-23 (General Fund)	FY2023 Budgeted vs. FY24 Requests 2-15-23 (General Fund) ($ Change)	FY2023 Budgeted vs. FY24 Requests 2-15-23 (General Fund) (% Change)
Expense Objects								
REGULAR EMPLOYEES	10542030-51510	$143,050	$212,306	$234,220	$277,268	$290,744	$13,477	4.9%
Firefighter/ENT Full Time Cptn	*10542030-51510*	*$0*	*$0*	*$0*	*$0*	*$60,800*	*$60,800*	*N/A*
Firefighter/EMT Full-time (3)	*10542030-51510*	*$0*	*$0*	*$0*	*$160,373*	*$109,602*	*-$50,771*	*-31.7%*
Firefighter/EMT Part-time (several per diem)	*10542030-51510*	*$0*	*$0*	*$0*	*$113,677*	*$116,532*	*$2,855*	*2.5%*
Extra DutyHours	*10542030-51510*	*$0*	*$0*	*$0*	*$3,217*	*$3,810*	*$593*	*18.4%*
OVERTIME	10542030-51530	$9,000	$17,499	$17,069	$11,000	$15,000	$4,000	36.4%
PURCHASED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	10542030-53010		$5,382	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%
PHYSICALS	10542030-53080	$3,767	$4,200	$3,535	$4,000	$4,500	$500	12.5%
IN SERVICE (TRAINING)	10542030-53220	$11,838	$6,530	$5,431	$20,000	$20,000	$0	0%
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	10542030-54300	$59,714	$78,483	$59,100	$80,000	$80,000	$0	0%
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	10542030-54301	$16,422	$27,479	$39,011	$30,000	$30,000	$0	0%
TELEPHONE/CELL PHONE	10542030-55305	$1,111	$1,128	$2,319	$2,000	$2,000	$0	0%
SUPPLIES	10542030-56010	$1,824	$4,450	$21,341	$3,000	$3,000	$0	0%
ELECTRICITY	10542030-56220	$15,484	$17,101	$17,553	$13,000	$17,000	$4,000	30.8%
BOTTLED GAS (PROPANE)	10542030-56230	$3,284	$3,948	$4,346	$4,000	$4,800	$800	20%
GASOLINE/DIESEL	10542030-56260	$6,024	$6,811	$6,411	$10,000	$12,000	$2,000	20%
HEAT (FUEL OIL)	10542030-56270	$10,930	$9,273	$16,545	$14,000	$15,500	$1,500	10.7%
UNIFORMS	10542030-56299	$7,439	$9,624	$12,208	$15,000	$15,000	$0	0%
OTHER SUPPLIES	10542030-56900			$0	$5,000	$5,000	$0	0%
FIRE PONDS	10542030-57100	$2,252	$174	$9,587	$8,000	$8,000	$0	0%
EQUIPMENT (GEAR)	10542030-57300	$28,055	$15,673	$56,723	$50,000	$50,000	$0	0%
COMMUNICATIONS (PAGERS AND RADIOS)	10542030-57705	$7,138	$1,586	$4,961	$10,000	$10,000	$0	0%

Name	Account ID	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Budgeted	FY24 Requests 2-15-23 (General Fund)	FY2023 Budgeted vs. FY24 Requests 2-15-23 (General Fund) ($ Change)	FY2023 Budgeted vs. FY24 Requests 2-15-23 (General Fund) (% Change)
DUES AND FEES	10542030-58100	$357	$300	$186	$800	$800	$0	0%
Total Expense Objects:		**$327,688**	**$421,948**	**$510,547**	**$557,068**	**$583,344**	**$26,277**	**4.7%**