



TOWNSEND FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT

Proudly serving the citizens of Townsend since 1875

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Fire-EMS Report 2nd Quarter 2019

ACTIVITY

We are thankful for the support of the Selectmen, Town Administrator and the Citizens for supporting an increase in staffing for the Fire-EMS Department in this year's budget. In addition to the day-to-day workload and finishing up end of the year projects we have been busy preparing for the changes additional staffing will bring. A job description was created and the positions were posted. We received eight applications, seven of these were interviewed and one dropped out during the process. Six completed the process of an interview panel, skills assessment and interview with the Chief Officers. Two will be recommended to be hired leaving us with one vacant position. Two did well and are in the process of obtaining their paramedic license. These two have been informed we are going to repost the vacancy and attempt to find a firefighter/paramedic to hire. If we are unable to find a good candidate we will reconsider them. The final two did not do well in the process, were not a good fit for Townsend and were informed they were not being considered.

POLICY CHANGES

Since the last report legal council and the Board of Selectmen have reviewed and approved the majority of Fire-EMS policies and procedures. Several new policies are still under review by council and will go to the board for approval when we get them back from council.

PERSONNEL

Paid-on-call firefighter Mike Meadows, Nicolas Girard, Brendon Lawrence, Shayne Araujo graduated from the call-volunteer firefighting academy in June after six months of training. Mike recently completed is EMT certification, Brendon, Nicolas and Shayne have expressed interest and hope to attend an EMT class held here at Townsend Fire-EMS this fall/winter. Firefighter Araujo was the recipient of the Ryan McNamara award for being an outstanding student in the recruit class.

Firefighter Jonathan Moore is currently attending call-volunteer firefighting academy and will graduate this November. Paid-on-call Firefighter Cory Lopez has moved to Lunenburg outside of our membership requirements and has resigned. Cory was also a recipient of the Fire Act Grant to attend Paramedic Training at no cost. Cory is no longer eligible for this grant as she is no longer employed by the town.

STAFFING

Nothing new to report, the total hours short staffed for the second quarter are very similar to the second quarter of 2018. We have been tracking staffing shortages since 2015 and the trend continues. We are grateful and excited to see these numbers go down with the addition of the approved full-time staff.

2018-2019 Shift Shortages

	ALS Short (HRS)		No ALS (HRS)		NOBODY WORKING		Fire Short (HRS)		Total	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
January	13	41	42	3	0	2	0	11	55	57
February	16	14	1	15	14	0	0	0	31	29
March	5	24	0	2	0	0	10	0	15	26
April	24	22	24	38	10	0	20	0	78	60
May	55	20	27	0	0	0	34	0	116	20
June	63	35	27	14	0	0	30	0	120	36
July	88		30		0		20		138	
August	49		18		0		0		67	
September	40		6		0		20		66	
October	63		13		0		30		106	
November	39		12		0		4		55	
December	69		30		0		15		114	
Total	524	79	230	72	24	2	183	11	961	228

BUDGET

We ended the fiscal year with a surplus in wages mainly due to staffing shortages. On the expense side of the budget we were overspent due to major repairs made to apparatus over the past year. The overall budget was a surplus of \$10 to \$20 thousand.

GRANTS

As you know last fall we received a \$53,334 grant to send four personnel to paramedic school. As of this report one has completed the program and two are currently attending. We have one remaining open slot that has been awarded to TFD members twice and they have had to back out due to unforeseen circumstances. Time is running out on the grant but I remain hopeful a member of the department will take advantage of this opportunity before it's too late.

In January we received a \$15,000 grant from the Nashoba Community Foundation to purchase advance life support simulation manikins. These have been purchased and have

already been very valuable to us. They were used during the skills assessment portion of the hiring process to assess candidate skills. They were also used to train paramedics on recent changed to protocols.

The Mass Health Ambulance CPE program applications were submitted back in October. We should be receiving approximately \$22,000 in additional Medicaid reimbursement from this program that will go into the ambulance receipts account.

FIRE STATIONS

This spring the landscaping and monument was completed finalizing the West Fire Station project.

Utilizing end of the year funds we also added a card access system to the Harbor Station. All three stations now have card access for security.

COMMUNICATION CENTER

Nothing new to report on the communication center. The Ashby, Pepperell, Townsend Regional Communications Committee continues to meet on a regular basis. We are currently waiting for a feasibility study to be completed that was funded with Monachusset Regional Planning Commission grant funds. .

Respectfully

Chief
Boynton