



TOWNSEND FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT

Proudly serving the citizens of Townsend since 1875

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Fire-EMS Report 4th Quarter 2019

ACTIVITY

The fourth quarter of the calendar year was busy as usual. The cold weather and the first snow of the year always increase call volume. During the holidays it's always a challenge to fill gaps in the staffing schedule. We were busy working with the building department completing annual inspections of food and beverage establishments in town. The absence of a full-time building commissioner has been a challenge for the Fire Department as well. Most of the authority to enforce fire codes and require inspections lies with the building commissioner. Starting inspections late in the day to accommodate the part-time interim commissioner is increasing cost. Fire-EMS staff are having to stay beyond 5pm for these inspections and costing us overtime to do so.

Hose and pump testing was completed. New police and fire portable radios were received and put into service. New Police mobile radios are in the process of being installed, the central fire station is being used to accomplish this so it can be done inside. The 2020 capital plan radios have been ordered and the procurement process completed. Lastly the new paramedic intercept vehicle was put in service.

POLICY CHANGES

The driver operator standard operating guideline was updated to clarify and streamline the process of becoming a driver of fire apparatus. The officers are working on creating a rehab guideline.

PERSONNEL

During the fourth quarter full-time Firefighter/Paramedic Ron Petrucci was hired to fill the third and final full-time spot for shift work. In November Ron and Lieutenant Ben Niemiera went on shift along with Firefighter/Paramedic Drew Brassard and Paramedic Kaila Moorcroft to provide 24/7 coverage and completing the hiring process.

Unfortunately Paramedic Kaila Moorcroft has decided a career as a firefighter is not in the cards for her. She will not be attending the Fire Academy as planned, Kaila has resigned from the full-time position and will be returning to a per diem paramedic position. The vacant position has been posted.

There were no resignation of per diem or paid-on-call staff during this quarter. However we are experiencing a dry spell of people being interested in joining the department as paid-on-call fighters. The last person to interview and join was in January 2019.

STAFFING

Although we only have 3 months of data thus far we can clearly see in the chart below the number of hours we dropped to BLS level of service dropped to zero after hiring full-time staff that started in September. I am hopeful this will remain at zero but the current vacancy could cause us to drop to BLS if we cannot find a paramedic to work this shift.

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	56	30	0	0	0	20	2	138	58
August	49	54	18	0	0	0	0	0	67	54
September	40	37	6	14	0	0	20	2	66	53
October	63	23	13	0	0	0	30	0	106	23
November	39	35	12	0	0	0	4	15	55	50
December	69	29	30	0	0	0	15	1	114	30
Total	524	303	230	86	24	2	183	15	961	393

BUDGET

Overall the current budget looks good and we are on track to stay within budget. Unfortunately we are experiencing unanticipated expenses with vehicle maintenance. With an aging fleet of apparatus we are experiencing major repairs and expensive maintenance cost putting us over budget in this area. Engine 2 failed pump testing, the pump manifold needed to be replaced costing \$6,500. Currently the aerial ladder on the ladder truck is out of service. Movement was found in the pivot point of the ladder during maintenance. The bushings need to be replaced, the repair is estimated to cost \$4,000. The truck also needs the original 8 rear tires replaced which will cost nearly \$5,000. This repairs will put us \$10,000 over in the maintenance budget with six months left to go in the fiscal year.

GRANTS

As you know last fall we received a \$53,334 grant to send four personnel to paramedic school. We manage to send three leaving a balance of \$13,000 in the grant account. Rather than turn the funding back I requested to amend and extend the grant. In November we provided pump training for 25 department members and held a two day tactical critical care (active shooter) training program for all members to attend.

We applied for and have been awarded two Department of Fire Service grants to replace firefighting gloves/hoods and purchase a turn out gear washer/extractor. These grants are designed to reduce firefighter's exposure to cancer causing contamination by replacing gloves, hoods and giving departments the ability to properly clean turn out gear. We currently have washer/extractors at the central and west fire stations this award will allow us to install a machine at the harbor station. Total grant awards were \$7,638.

COMMUNICATION CENTER

Nothing new to report on the communications, we continue to experience issues with NVRDD including delays and being dispatched to incorrect address. The Ashby, Pepperell, Townsend Regional Communications Committee has reviewed the draft of the feasibility study to regionalize. The study is in final review and should be released before the end of January.

Respectfully

Chief
Boynton