

**FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 18, 2012**

Call to Order

Chief LaChapelle called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. at the Fire Department facility.

In Attendance

Chair/Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Cournoyer, Councilor Dzujna, Chief LaChapelle, Finance Director Milner and City Manager Dragon.

Proposed FY13 Fire Department Budget

Chief LaChapelle reviewed the budget line by line and a copy of the proposed budget is attached to these minutes.

Public Safety-Fire Administration

Finance Director Milner commented that the amount shown for wages maybe a little less as Chief Smith's wages are still included in that figure. Chief LaChapelle commented on Staff Development and the \$450 which is used for classes for Administrative Assistant Morrill. Through a 40 hour class undertaking, Mrs. Morrill has become a certified car seat installer as well as performing safety checks. People come to the Fire Station and Carolyn is able to assist them or give a safety inspection that takes about one hour. This also allows for growth in technology training.

Chief LaChapelle advised concerning the annual physicals for personnel, the figure shown in the budget of \$560.00 through negotiations with Lakes Region Hospital, they will perform the annual physicals for a cost of \$454.00. Question was asked by Councilor Cournoyer if annual agility testing is done. Chief advised that has been replaced with Air Consumption testing.

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commented that perhaps the hospital as part of the physical given could include a stress test (tread mill etc.). Finance Director Milner commented under Machine and Equipment, the detail concerning the copier need to be corrected. Councilor Cournoyer ask if the MetroCast charge is standard and City Manager Dragon advised that the charge is discounted in a package deal with the City. Under Printing Chief LaChapelle advised that he will wait to have his business cards printed as they will receive a better price with additional orders which they will have for a new Deputy, and Captain.

Concerning Uniforms there is an increase due to promotions within and also funds for new hire.

Capital Outlay – Engine 1 is 25 years old and needs to be replaced soon, Engine 3 is 28 years old, the bucket truck was purchased in 1984 and maintenance of the bucket truck is shared with MSD.

Fire Station

Chief LaChapelle advised that the use of natural gas has cut the cost of heating in half, electricity charges are down as everyone has become more conscious of turning lights off and the temperature is turned down out in the area where the trucks are kept and the lights are turned off.

Chief LaChapelle advised they received a quote on putting a pitched roof on the building and it came in at \$380,000 so that is not an option at that cost. Chief LaChapelle stated that personnel perform maintenance of the facility and that the fire department personnel continue to keep labor cost down.

Fire Suppression

Over-time Wages is increased 3% due to proposed step increase.

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Chief LaChapelle explained that personnel do most of the *apparatus* mechanical work; they not only go on the internet and find parts cheaper they save tremendous labor cost by doing in house work and not send the work out to shops who have \$85-\$100 per hour labor rates. Just last week \$5,000 was saved by an employee who salvaged valuable parts that can be used for future vehicle projects.

Training

Chief LaChapelle advised that the State of New Hampshire, Homeland Security has a 4+ million dollar grant that can be used for firefighters throughout the State to attend all kinds of training classes and that many of the Franklin personnel have signed up for different classes that they will attend in addition to continuing to work their regular shifts.

Fuel cost are increased, which is for 2 engines, the ladder truck (14 years old this year) and utility and staff vehicles. Fuel costs continue to rise.

Code Enforcement

No outstanding increases.

Fire Alarms Dispatch

The Lakes Region Dispatch Service fee will be reduced to \$53,000+. The new Coordinator at LRMFA has done outstanding work to save money. Chief LaChapelle explained that under Vehicle Maintenance the \$1,000 is a security blanket as the Fire Alarm truck was manufactured 1984. MSD uses the bucket truck a lot and pays for most of the fuel and maintenance.

Public Safety-Ambulance EMS Rescue

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Chief LaChapelle announced that he had a meeting with Mr. Tom Claremont, CEO of Lakes Region Hospital and the hospital has agreed to include the Franklin Fire Department in on their Tuition Link Program for Paramedic Training. The cost of this training is \$10,000. The Hospital and the City of Franklin will have an agreement with the firefighter that if once the training is complete if he/she were to leave Franklin and go to Laconia that would be acceptable but if they left and went to any other community there would be a clause for reimbursement to the hospital. Chief LaChapelle commented that he will be discussing this further with the City Manager and perhaps some kind of agreement with the City of Franklin would be part of this program. Under Mach & Equip, 2 ice rescue suits will be replaced this year.

Public Safety – Emergency Management

Councilor Dzujna inquired as to where the emergency shelters are located in Franklin. Chief LaChapelle advised any of the schools could be used and that the high school would be a good one for overnight as the building is sprinkled. However, it all depends upon the kind of emergency or disaster. There was a discussion concerning generators and Chief LaChapelle advised the USDA and Emergency Management are agencies that you can apply for money for generators.

Motion made by Councilor Cournoyer that the Fire Committee supports the proposed FY13 Fire Department budget whereby the focus is the new ambulance and new roofing for the Fire Department facility. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna. All in favor, motion passes.

Relations with LRGH

Chief LaChapelle advised the Committee that he just recently met with Mr. Tom Claremont, CEO of Lakes Region and during that meeting is when the offer was made to provide the Paramedic Training at no cost to the City.

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Chief LaChapelle will continue to build upon a solid relationship with LRGH. The ambulance makes several trips to Laconia and Concord because the service is not offered at the Franklin Hospital and Chief LaChapelle stated he wants to work on billings to the hospital on trips to these locations. He stated it appears that the ambulance will be making a lot more trips to Concord and in some cases 2 or 3 EMTs are needed for one trip which leaves coverage at a bare minimum and other personnel has to be called in to cover.

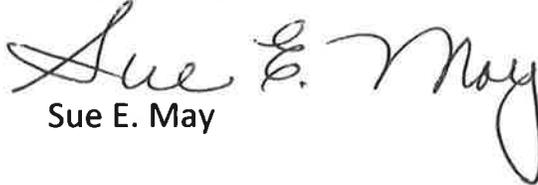
Update on Ambulance

The old ambulance has been sold; \$5,000 of equipment was removed from the ambulance. The ambulance was 10 years old and the motor had catastrophic failure. Laconia has loaned the City one of their ambulances until other arrangements can be made or arrival of the new ambulance which the Chief stated probably would not be in service until the late fall.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Dzujna, seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Note: After the meeting adjourned, Chief LaChapelle gave the new members of the Fire Committee a tour of the facility and equipment.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May