

## **Fire Department Engine One Newsletter / Town Meeting Presentation (Approved 04/04/2023)**

### **Dover Fire Department Engine One capital replacement request for the May 2023 annual Town Meeting**

Three reasons why the Town needs to replace our current Engine One for a not-to-exceed amount of \$990,000. It is important to note that you do not go to a dealership to purchase a Fire vehicle. They are built to current design specifications by NFPA Guidelines (National Fire Protection Association) and the Dover Fire Department. It is purchased through the Massachusetts Area Planning Council Fire Chiefs Collective Purchasing Contract. Once approved it could take approximately 24 months before delivery.

Engine One is the Rescue Pumper. It follows the Ambulance on rescue calls such as auto accidents. If the Ambulance is on another call Engine One is the responding vehicle generally to assist in mutual aid calls. In 2022 it responded to 54 calls.

#### **1. Safety & Protection of Dover Fire Department personnel:**

- Vehicle designed to 2022 NFPA Guidelines. Updated from a 33-year-old vehicle NFPA standard.
- Enclosed Cab for fire personnel with Seatbelts installed in the Seats. Side & front Air bags.
- Vehicle Rollover protection.
- Back-up and side cameras for the driver.
- Connections for Laptop.
- Vehicle entrance and egress stepping and walking surface with lighting.
- 360-degree built-in remote-controlled scene lighting.
- Enhanced storage with roll up doors for equipment, generator, and Jaws of Life. Generator will not have to be taken out of the vehicle.

#### **2. Safety & Protection of Dover Citizens, Vehicles passing through Dover and Property:**

- To reiterate this is our Rescue Pumper that accompanies the Ambulance and if the Ambulance is on another call, it goes out in its replacement to assist in mutual aid.
- Heated & Powered EMS storage compartments.
- Will have a 1,000-gallon water tank (Same as current).
- Water pumps increase from 1,000 GPM to 1,500 GPM to enhance fire suppression in vehicles and structures.
- Has a Compressed Air Foam System with an internal tank.

#### **3. Water for Fire Suppression in structures, vehicles, and property:**

- Dover does have fire hydrants however the towns system does not have the capacity / infrastructure and volume to use the hydrants to fight fires. Therefore, five Fire Department vehicles have water tanks that provide 10,000 gallons, each designed for specific firefighting purposes.

- Engine One is designed to carry 1,000 gallons of water for the purposes previously mentioned.
- Given our roads, driveways and forested areas it is important that we have vehicles of different sizes and purposes to carry and provide water. Also, each vehicle is designed to carry specific size hoses.

If Engine One is out of service as it was in 2022 for 6 weeks for its fuel tank repair, then the Town loses an important rescue vehicle designed for its specific purpose. The vehicle was out of service for 10 days in 2021. If parts are not available for the 33-year-old vehicle, then they need to be manufactured. This is a 33-year-old vehicle that has been on the Town's Capital Budget five-year plan. If the voters turn down this request, we will need to bring the request back at the next annual Town Meeting. What is concerning is in FY25 we have scheduled for replacement our Engine 3, a 32-year-old vehicle, at an estimated cost of \$990,000.

Finally, the Dover Fire Department provides a critical emergency service for the protection of lives and property. It is a Call Department, made up of Dover citizens and employees who volunteer to serve and are paid for their time when on a call or in training. These men and women deserve our protection as they serve professionally to protect each of us. Part of our responsibility is to provide them with dependable and safe equipment to perform their job.

The Capital Budget Committee unanimously voted to recommend the purchase of a new Engine One.