

# WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

## CELEBRATING 132 YEARS OF SERVICE

### 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget



The Fire Service tasks are ever changing, due to NFPA & OSHA Emergency Response Rules, which will change the way fire depts. manage, train and respond. Chief Officers are now dealing with declining ranks of volunteers in our society, which has slowed response times, causing towns to hire career Firefighters & EMTs



**WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT INC.**  
A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS SERVING  
OUR COMMUNITY SINCE  
**MAY 08, 1894**

Part-Time Chief & Part-Time Deputy Chief

Full-Time Marshal & Part-Time Deputy Marshal

Full-time Administrative Assistant

Current Membership (120 allowed)

73 Active Members (3 less than last yr)

47 Members are Certified EMS Responders (4 less than last yr)

1 Department Chaplain

## 75% of the Nations Firefighters are Volunteers

It is estimated Watertown saves annually \$5 mil, having Volunteers vs Career. That with the response town volunteers give now, many residents believe they have a full time Fire Dept., but without future volunteers coming forward, the Town will soon face a decision of hiring career.

## Rescue



Vehicle Extrication

## Fire



Live Fire Training

## Medical



**MEMBERS TRAIN EXTENSIVELY ONLINE & IN PERSON**  
IN 2025, MEMBERS LOGGED OVER 2059 HOURS OF  
VOLUNTEER TRAINING, TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLSET



## INCIDENTS ALONG MAIN STREET

**WFD RESPONDED TO 2925 CALLS IN 2025, 854 FIRE/RESCUE AND 2071 EMS INCIDENTS, A DECREASE OF 221 INCIDENTS FROM 2024. BIGGEST DECREASE WAS 226 EMS INCIDENTS, DUE TO A CHANGE IN NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSES RUNS, WITH AN INCREASE OF 5 FIRE/RESCUE**

# APPARATUS REPLACEMENT FUND



The Dept. Requests increasing the Town funding from \$150K to \$300K yearly. This fund allows the town to replace fire apparatus on a 25 yr replacement schedule, due to PM plan, NFPA Guidelines recommends a 20 yr plan. This fund saves the Town thousands in bonding & interest costs. Past years of under funding and cost increases of apparatus has caused delays in the replacement plan.

Currently the account contains approx. \$340,120 due to the recent Ladder 2 Bond purchase coming up short \$161,000. So with funding of \$300,000 in the next three budget cycles FY26 thru FY28, there would be approx. \$1,240,120 to fund the replacement of Rescue 10. If the fund was fully funded each year forward and costs not increasing. That Rescue 10 would be 29 years old when replaced.

RESCUE 10 is a 2000 Spartan GK Medium Rescue. Based on annual funding and current replacement est. the costs to replace it today is \$1,100,000. Delivery of a new Rescue 10 would happen during the 2028-2029 FY.

Engine 4 is a 2003 Spartan GK Pumper/Tanker and is the next unit to be replaced

► 2026 – 2027 Department Budget Request: FY 25-26      FY 26-27      Increase

**Fire Administration 016**

50110-016-1927 - Fire Marshal	yearly wage increase pending	\$ 90,331	\$ 90,327	\$ - 4
50110-016-2110 - Administrative Assistant	yearly wage increase 2.75 % X2	\$ 46,283	\$ 50,458	\$ 4,175
50110-016-2298 - Deputy Fire Marshal	yearly wage increase pending	\$ 29,797	\$ 29,797	
50110-016-1929 - Deputy Fire Chief	yearly wage increase pending, wage adj.	\$ 38,569	\$ 39,728	\$ 1,159
50110-016-2913 - Fire Chief	yearly wage increase pending	\$ 79,772	\$ 79,772	
\$13,294 increase for Fire Chief to full time (5 hours weekly) Total Full – time		\$ 0	\$ 93,066	\$ 13,284

A change to a full time Fire Chief which was originally recommended by Chief Black in 2018 upon his retirement, has now become more evident, that with ongoing regulation changes in the fire service reporting networks and the increased workload of managing, responding and protecting the 76 volunteer members and the 22k+ citizens of our town along with those that pass through daily, the Chief's job is a full-time assignment.

**Fire Suppression & Rescue 017**

50120-017 0069 – Volunteer Firefighters pay per call from \$10 to \$12.50		\$ 315,000	\$ 393,750	\$ 78,750
50120-017-1956 - LOSAP 401 Plan for Volunteer Firefighters		\$ 85,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 5,000
50329-017-0000 – Training / Meetings w/o travel		\$ 25,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 3,000
50340-017-0561 – NW CT Public Safety, Med control with Hospital		\$ 8,984	\$ 9,224	\$ 240
50573-017-1926 – Auto Defibrillator replacement program		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,400	\$ 400

▶ 2026 – 2027 Department Budget Request: FY 25-26      FY 26-27      Increase

**Maintenance & Support 018**

50318-018-0000 - Maint. not bldgs, Testing of Aerials, Pumps, Ladders & SCBA	\$ 16,500	\$ 18,000	\$ 1,500
50819-018-0000 - Vehicle Maint.	\$120,000	\$130,000	\$ 10,000
50415-018-0000 - Equip. Parts, Tires replaced every 7 years (NFPA) Batteries, Etc	\$ 14,000	\$18,000	\$ 4,000
50450-018-0000 – Uniform/Protective Clothing 10 sets of Turnout gear replaced yearly	\$ 50,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 4,000

**FY 25-26 Budget was \$1,182,895 --- FY 26-27 Budget request is \$1,291,564 an increase of \$108,669**

**NOTE:** the following line items were removed from FD Budget and placed in Town Manager budget

50120-017-2617 Emergency Management Director	\$12,500
50120-017-3094 Emergency Management Deputy Director	\$ 2,000
50411-017-2151 Civil Preparedness	\$ 500
Total Reduction	\$ 15,000

The Watertown Volunteer FIRE and EMS Service members, continually serve the TOWN OF WATERTOWN and OAKVILLE and those that pass through daily, with members at times putting themselves in harms way. They respond to Fire and EMS incidents at all hours of the day & night to protect and treat residents, some of who are testing positive for FLU & COVID19, along with other infectious diseases, with the volunteers responding to these incidents receiving a stipend for their time of \$10 per call, whether it's a 20 minutes EMS run or an 8-hour structure fire, or worst yet a natural disaster occurring over several days.

The Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Marshal and I have presented a responsible budget request for the volunteer fire department and town fire marshal office, in an effort to help the Town financially and will make this budget work. We ask that the Town Council support the Fire Department budget request to enhance and maintain the safety of its volunteers and the services to the town residents.



## Watertown Fire Department 2025

The Watertown Fire Department  
stands Ready Day & Night

Thank you!!