

Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department

George Smith, Fire Chief
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605

Emergency: 9-1-1
Station: (207) 667-2623



Fire Department Budget – FY 2015/16

It is with great pleasure that the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department submits for consideration a budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. This budget was developed by the members of the LVFD in order to efficiently yet effectively serve the mission of offering fire and rescue services to the Town of Lamoine.

Chief's Salary – The proposed salary would increase to \$1,600 for the year, up \$100 from the current fiscal year. Lamoine's Fire Chief is still paid on the low end of the chiefs in the immediate area. The Maine Municipal Association salary survey for 2013 lists some of the comparably sized towns in our area:

| Town | Population | Chief's Salary |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Hancock | 2,296 | \$2,000.00 |
| Southwest Harbor | 1,930 | \$6,468.00 |
| Deer Isle | 1,884 | \$9,500.00 |
| Lamoine | 1,659 | \$1,500.00 |
| Dedham | 1,465 | \$12/hour |
| Trenton | 1,449 | \$2,000.00 |
| Castine | 1,444 | \$7,500.00 |
| Penobscot | 1,341 | \$3,250.00 |

Personnel Reimbursements – Several years ago the town started compensating the volunteers for their estimated use of gas, clothing, etc. in service to the town. The biggest check is \$500. The typical check is \$300. Last year's total was \$8,500; more than the budget. The proposed budget increases the amount to last year's actual.

Electricity – The department has no idea what the electric rates will be, but the word is they will go up. A \$400 increase is budget to make sure that there will be enough in the line.

Water – The Cold Spring Water Company fee will rise to \$350.00.

Telephone – The department has a land line in the fire station which runs just under \$50/month. There is also a cell phone in the brush/utility truck which runs \$14/month plus actual minutes used (rarely). The \$750 should be just enough.

Heating Oil – Like electricity, we don't have a crystal ball to see what the price will be one winter from now. The proposed line would remain at \$6,000 on the assumption that the station will use 1,500 gallons of fuel at \$4.00/gallon.

Truck Maintenance – The truck maintenance line remains at \$5,000. This year we started having preventive maintenance done on all the trucks at the time of their inspection, resulting in \$4,300 early on in the year. It's hoped that by doing this, other maintenance costs will be minimal.

Pump Maintenance – No change is proposed in this line. The 5-year average is \$1,762, though there have not been a lot of pump issues in the past two years. We hope \$2,000 will be enough.

Body Work – Stuff happens. \$50 doesn't cover any serious stuff, but it will fix the occasional scratch. We take the trucks out in some pretty awful conditions, and they occasionally get dinged up.

Rescue Boat Maintenance – There's a saying about a boat being a hole in the water into which you pour a lot of money. We hope that \$600 is enough to keep the engine going with its annual maintenance. No change from the current budget.

Radio Maintenance – No change from the current budget of \$800.00. That's been about the average too.

Equipment Maintenance – This is for maintenance on the various power tools we use, including but not limited to chainsaws, the rescue cutting equipment pumps, the positive pressure fan, gas monitor, thermal imaging camera, etc. A \$200 increase is proposed.

Lights & Batteries – A \$50.00 decrease in this line to \$150.00 which is about the 2013/14 actual.

Station Supplies – This is for paper goods and cleaning supplies for the fire station. No change from the current \$300 budget is proposed.

Hand Tools – No change is proposed to the current \$150 budget.

First Aid – The proposed budget is up to \$300.00. We've had to use the defibrillator pads on at least two occasions in the past year (unfortunately), and they are a one time (and very expensive) use only. They also have an expiration date, so they must be replaced from time to time even when they are not used. That has been the bulk of the expenditures for first aid.

Inoculation Program – The \$1,000 budget is unchanged from the current fiscal year. Firefighters must be offered Hepatitis shots and we also supply flu shots to those who desire to get one.

Respiratory Fit Testing – Any firefighter who wears an air pack (and that should be most of our approximately 26-member crew), must have a medical evaluation to do so. This covers that evaluation through Maine Coast Memorial Hospital. The proposed budget is \$200 less than the current fiscal year.

Station Maintenance – You might notice the horrible cost in FY 2014 – that's because we had to replace some structural members above virtually every bay door due to rot. Without that, we are in hopes that \$1,500 will be enough for the maintenance needs for the fire station building.

Hydrants – The department will be repairing a hydrant in North Lamoine, and other repairs are likely on the many hydrants around town hooked either to tanks or natural water supplies (i.e ponds). The budget for this has doubled to \$1,000.

Gas & Diesel – The budget is based on the 5-year average of \$1,518, so depending on the price of gas, the number of calls, etc, we hope \$1,600 will be enough. The line is up \$100.

Extinguishers – We have numerous fire extinguishers around and they need annual service testing. If we actually use one (either for real or in training, it must be refilled. We're in hopes that \$200 is enough.

Oils & Fluids – No change is proposed from the \$200 current year budget.

Foam – This is also dependent on the number of calls for structure fires we respond to. Foam is running about \$25/gallon today.

Airpack Maintenance – State law requires the airpacks to be flow tested annually. No change is proposed from the current year \$1,500 budget.

Fire Prevention – No change from the \$50 budget is proposed. We sometimes purchase those red plastic fire helmets for the school students. It's been a while since we've actually done that.

Dues & Memberships – The LVFD belongs to the Maine State Federation of Firefighters which has increased dues to \$15/member. We also belong to the Hancock County Fire Fighters Association, and the chief belongs to the Maine Fire Chief's Association. The increased cost at the MSFFF is behind the \$100 increase.

Training – Ideally we would like to send at least one person through the Hancock County Fire Academy – but most of our members have already done that. If we get a new member who qualifies, much of this line would go toward that.

Other – This line remains at \$100 – the usual expenditure in here is the occasional meal when we have a fire during a meal time that requires personnel there for a long period of time.

Attack Hose – The line would replace older 1.75" hose and 2.5" hose. The proposed line is up 50% and would replace about 300-feet of hose as needed.

Supply Hose – The \$600 proposed buys about 100-feet of 4" hose.

Truck/Ladder/Hose Testing – We are mandated to conduct this testing. Hose testing is contracted out (and believe me, it's worth it!), and is the biggest part of the expense. We are still able to conduct truck testing with our own crew.

Total Fire Budget – The bottom line budget is up \$2,750 from the current fiscal year to \$47,400. When you compare this to a full time department (such as the one in our neighboring city), it is less than the cost of employing a full time firefighter!

Respectfully submitted,

George “Skip” Smith, Fire Chief