

Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department

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

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



Proposed Fire Department Budget 2020/21

Thank you in advance for your review of the fire department budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. We are proud to report the proposed budget is down slightly. And, we're also pleased to report that the loan for the rescue boat will be paid in the current fiscal year, so that can be removed from the capital projects budget. Additionally, we are several years away from any new apparatus purchase, and the current fleet of trucks is functioning very well and in excellent condition. We thank the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee and the townspeople for their support of the efforts of the Lamoine VFD and their commitment to public safety.

Please indulge a line by line review of the proposed budget:

Chief's Salary – The town last increased the chief's salary in 2015, and the proposed \$4,000 is in line with what other part time volunteer chiefs are being paid.

Personnel Reimbursements – The proposed line is up \$1,000 from the current fiscal year. We've kind of bucked the trend of most volunteer fire departments in Maine and had a slight increase in numbers of volunteers. You'll notice a higher than budgeted actual line in the previous fiscal year. It's a pretty good problem to have, and while our number of volunteers are up, the dedication of those volunteers has been nothing short of phenomenal. When you consider the cost for one firefighter in a full time department with benefits and overtime can exceed \$90,000, we're getting about 30-firefighters, with many of them trained to professional standards, for \$15,000. That's a very good bang for the buck.

Electricity - No change is proposed to the electricity line. We're waiting to see the impact of the lighting upgrade at the firehouse and what rates will do in the near future – this line might actually drop a bit.

Water – The proposed \$20 is in anticipation of an increase in the annual member rate by the Cold Spring Water Company.

Telephone – No change is proposed to the telephone line, though it seems the Spectrum line has increased a bit in the past few months. We will continue to monitor that.

Heating Fuel – The fire station used more oil than expected in the past fiscal year. Part of that is because it was a very cold year, and the other part is an apparently failed zone valve that caused the upstairs to heat up more than it needs to. We are addressing the latter problem. We managed to pre-purchase fuel for less than budgeted for the current heating season. What the price will do is not known.

Truck Maintenance – You'll notice that the truck maintenance line was very high for the past fiscal year. That was thanks to a major component failure on the "new" ladder truck. A special town meeting approved the repairs. Normal maintenance should remain relatively stable so no increase from the current budget is proposed.

Pump Maintenance – No change from the current budget is proposed.

Rescue Boat Maintenance – No change from the current budget is proposed.

Radio Maintenance - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Equipment Maintenance - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Lights and Batteries – You'll notice a large expenditure for this line in the past fiscal year. We purchased new rechargeable, high powered, hand lanterns for the trucks. Only a \$100 increase is proposed in this budget.

Station Supplies - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Hand Tools - No change from the current budget is proposed.

First Aid - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Inoculation Program - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Respiratory Fit Testing – The department finds itself in need of a medical provider to approve of our interior firefighters annual medical certification that they are able to wear an airpack. Additionally, the required fit testing to see if a mask fits adequately is being farmed out to a company that comes around with their machine that does that. That accounts for the proposed increase.

Station Maintenance – This budget rose significantly in the current fiscal year and the same budget level is proposed in the upcoming year. The big project is to re-paint the floor. The old paint is about 15-years old and has eroded away from use and cleaning over the years. The new paint will be a much better quality and should stick a lot longer.

Hydrants - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Gas & Diesel – A \$100 increase is proposed from the current budget. We've used a lot of diesel this year – the increased call and training volume has to do with that.

Extinguishers - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Oil & Fluids – After a few years of not funding this line, a \$250 expenditure is proposed as some of the trucks and equipment require oils that the department replaces on a regular basis.

Foam – No change from the current budget is proposed.

Air Pack Maintenance – The department and Selectmen recently completed a major airpack upgrade – replacing very old units with much more modern equipment that the City of Ellsworth was replacing. We've upgraded, in some cases, by about 15-years!

There are a few more airpacks, and the budget increased during the current year to maintain those. No change is proposed from the current year budget.

Fire Prevention – Plastic fire helmets when we do school programs for little kids – we'll likely need some in the coming fiscal year.

Dues & Memberships – The Lamoine VFD is a member of the Maine State Federation of Firefighters and the Hancock County Firefighters Association. This line covers both dues.

Training – This line fluctuates from year to year, depending on how many attend the county fire attack school. We anticipate one for the 20/21 year. We have also put on more in-house training, bringing in trainers from private organizations to instruct from time to time, and our members attend other programs in other communities. No change from the current budget is proposed.

Other - No change from the current budget is proposed. You will notice a large expenditure for the current year – this line is used for when we have a major event and need to purchase food for those responding. We had such an event in early July on Eagle Point. There were 13 other departments involved. They were hungry!

NFPA Books – The department felt it would be worthwhile to have a current copy of the NFPA Life Safety Code which can be purchased without joining the organization.

Pager – Two pagers are proposed for the upcoming fiscal year – they'll replace older, obsolete pagers that some members carry.

Attack Hoses - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Supply Hose - Three lengths of supply hose (\$600/100') are proposed.

Turnout Gear - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Radio Purchase - No change from the current budget is proposed.

Air Pack Replacement – No money is allocated for the proposed budget – a drop of \$7,000. The department and town collaborated to purchase the above referenced air packs in the last few months.

Equipment Purchase – The proposed piece of equipment would be a special saw designed to cut through roofs to be used for ventilation. This would be battery operated and have a carbide blade to get through about any material.

Truck & Ladder & Hose Testing – State and federal law requires that the pumps, ladders and hoses be tested annually. We hire this activity out to qualified and certified companies to perform and usually piggyback with other local departments to have it done in bulk.

Total Fire – The total operating budget is proposed to drop \$2,430. This is thanks to no airpacks being purchased.

Respectfully submitted,

George “Skip” Smith, Fire Chief

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