

Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department

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

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



Proposed FY 2024/25 Budget

The Lamoine VFD is pleased to present its 2024/25 Budget Proposal. The overall budget is proposed to rise less than 1% for the fiscal year. The chief and members of the fire department compiled the budget on November 29, 2023

Chief's Salary – The proposed salary is up to \$5,000 which is still an excellent bargain for the town and in line with other volunteer chief payments in the area. Chief Smith has been at the helm for 46-years, one of the longest serving chiefs in the state, and certainly in Hancock County.

Personnel Reimbursements – The town has been paying its volunteer firefighters a small amount annually as a stipend. The salary line is unchanged from the last couple of fiscal years. We would note that under a grant shared by Ellsworth, Lamoine, Trenton and Hancock, members who respond to calls will be reimbursed a per-call rate. That is not part of the operating budget.

Electricity – The fire station is now heated and cooled by heat pumps, and the electric bill has risen dramatically. Last month it was over \$500. The good news is that oil use is way down. The proposed budget is based on \$500/month consumption (it should be lower in the summer), so the budget has essentially doubled.

Water – No change is proposed from the current fiscal year. This is the payment to Cold Spring Water Company.

Telephone – The department ended cell service in the fire truck, as most members have their own cell phones and can make calls on scene if needed. The land line is the only line, and that's been running between \$60 and \$65/month. That's why the \$100/increase.

Heating Oil – With the heat pumps, the amount of heating oil used for the furnace will be drastically reduced. Since this is the first winter with the heat pumps, we're not really sure how much. The line has been cut from \$13,200 to \$5,000; a reduction of \$8,200.

Truck Maintenance – Based on the actual cost in 22/23, the proposed line is up \$1,000 to \$11,000. This covers the annual inspection and preventive maintenance on all five trucks.

Pump Maintenance – The proposed line is \$3,500, which is up from the previous year. It's been a while since there has been any kind of pump issue.

Rescue Boat Maintenance – No change is proposed in this line. The boat gets an annual preventive maintenance on the motor, and this should cover it.

Radio Maintenance – This line has been reduced by \$150. Most of the radios and pagers are in excellent condition and should not need a lot of work.

Equipment Maintenance – No change is proposed to this line. Equipment includes things like chainsaws, the rescue cutters, fans.

Lights & Batteries – A \$100 increase is proposed to this budget line. The current year has overspent this line already as we had to replace a couple of rechargeable lights on the trucks as they've failed and were very old.

Station Supplies – No change is proposed to this budget. This includes things like soap, paper towels, toilet paper and office supplies.

Hand Tools – No change is proposed to this budget for small tool replacement.

First Aid – No change is proposed to this line. We generally have to replace AED pads which expire and resupply the med kit from time to time.

Inoculation Program – No change is proposed to the line. The \$1,000 covers hepatitis shots for firefighters which are required to be offered. It'll cover two firefighters.

Respiratory Fit Testing – Firefighters who wear SCBAs (airpacks) are required to annually be tested to make sure their masks fit. A \$150 increase is proposed to this line.

FF Physicals NFPA 1582 – This is a new line this year. The physical is a comprehensive check for firefighters and would be used as a baseline. The proposed \$3,600 would cover three firefighters.

Station Maintenance – With the installation of new epoxy on the floor and newly painted walls in the apparatus bay, things are in much better shape. The hope is to paint the upstairs meeting room, and whatever other repairs might be needed.

Hydrants – A \$1,000 increase is proposed to the hydrant maintenance line. This will hopefully replace a head at a Douglas Highway tank that was broken many years ago.

Gas & Diesel – No change is proposed to the current \$4,500 budget.

Extinguishers – No change is proposed to this line – the extinguishers have to be inspected annually and this covers that cost plus minimal maintenance.

Foam – This budget has been cut by \$300. We have a fair amount of Class "A" Foam on hand. We do have some Class "B" Foam which expires in 2024 which will need to be properly disposed of at some point.

Air Pack Maintenance – The airpacks must be flow tested annually and bottles tested when they reach a certain period between inspections. There is no change to the proposed budget.

Fire Prevention – Occasionally the department does some activities with younger folks on fire prevention and this covers purchase of educational and promotional materials. No change is proposed in the budget.

Dues & Memberships – This includes membership in the Hancock County Firefighters Association, Maine State Firefighters Federation, and two memberships in the Maine Fire Chief’s Association (Chief Smith, Asst. Chief Martens). The proposed budget is down \$50.00.

Training – No change is proposed to this budget. We hope to have two members going through the county fire academy this coming spring!

Other – Occasionally there are expenses that we are unable to categorize and small in nature. This is booked here and unchanged at \$100.00

Pager – No change is proposed – the \$1,000 should purchase two pagers which are used to alert the volunteers to fire calls.

Attack Hose/Nozzles – A \$200 increase is proposed, this will buy 3-lengths of 1.75” hose.

Supply Hose – A \$1,000 reduction is proposed. This will buy at least 2-lengths of 4” hose.

Turnout Gear – One set of gear is proposed at \$5,000. That’s a reduction of \$2,200 in the budget.

Radio Purchases – We have been upgrading 2-way hand held radios to digital so that we can talk to our mutual aid departments. This will add another to the “fleet”. No change from the current budget.

Equipment Purchases – Our positive pressure ventilation fan is on its last legs, and the proposed budget of \$3,500 will likely replace that.

Truck, Hose & Ladder Testing – These are required by the Bureau of Labor Standards and are conducted by hired companies. No change is proposed from the current budget.

Total Fire Budget – As noted in the beginning, the budget is up \$650.00, or 0.74%.

Respectfully Submitted,



George “Skip” Smith, Fire Chief