

Wilbraham Fire Commissioners Meeting
April 3, 2018

Present: Chief David Bourcier
Commissioner Ralph Guyer, Ed Rigney, Gary Petzold

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Discussion topics:

1% across the board budget increase approved by Finance Committee and Selectmen for FY 2019. Some line items in WFD Budget were able to be level funded.

Additional funds approved for:

1. Uniforms and fire fighting gear \$2000 increase
2. Maintenance of vehicles \$1000
3. Portable radios \$36,000. Wilbraham Monson Academy gift of \$20,000 helping to fund this item.
4. Emergency management costs (chainsaws etc)
5. Funds for sick leave buyback for upcoming retirement approved
6. Funds for sick leave buyback for retiring firefighter

Two new vehicles have been proposed in the coming FY19 Capital Budget. These vehicles will replace our ageing Rescue and Inspection vehicle. The projected cost will be \$110,000 for both.

External radio project build out almost completed after three years to provide better communication for all Police and Fire departments. DPW is currently doing an upgrade on their radio system separately with funds from their budget.

Internal radio project build out in progress to connect VHF and UHF frequencies with vehicle cross-band repeaters so Wilbraham Fire can directly communicate with all other fire departments during mutual aid and other events. This is being funded under existing F.D. Budget and a grant from MEMA (EMPG \$3,220.00).

New joint training program established with Longmeadow Fire for paramedic training in station (no longer need to spend funds on course programs). Program to expand with Ludlow Fire in the near future. By joining resources will give all departments in providing quality education and cost savings.

WFD has hosted the Massachusetts Fire Academy offering training in HAZ-MAT and Ladder Company Operations. Ladder Company training is in preparations to receiving our new ladder truck around August of this year. Once the ladder truck is delivered there will be an additional two days of training on that particular piece of equipment.

WFD will be looking into feasibility and grant money for implementation of a Tactical Paramedic Unit. Special helmets, vest, etc and training will be needed. This Unit will enter warm zones for rescue/medical aid. In addition we will be talking with the school district in providing training which deals in the aftermath of a school shooting and other emergency events.

SCBA replacement will be needed in the next couple of years. WFD has submitted grant paperwork this year and will continually do so.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Submitted by Gary Petzold