

Longmeadow Fire Department

Monthly Report

December 2022



- **A Year in Review 2022:**
- **Call Volume:** The Longmeadow Fire Department experienced a 14 % increase in Emergency Medical Service responses from 2021 to 2022. This year marks the highest volume of emergency medical calls since the service was started in 1994. The two advanced life support ambulances are on the go constantly. The department did see a very slight reduction in fire and rescue calls in 2022. This seems to be related to the fact that there were very few major weather events during the year. Weather events contribute to a variety of call types including the number of motor vehicle accidents, property damage, power line and tree related issues. We also did not see the normal volume of water related incidents on the Connecticut River. This was most likely due to decreased activity on the river due to the very low water levels associated with the drought. We did experience a higher than normal volume of brush fires (double). This is most likely also attributed to the drought conditions experienced this year. Property damage or dollar loss due to fires was also the lowest over a five year period. In total, the department provided over 4000 emergency and non-emergency services to our resident is 2022. As previously reported we did see a decrease in some activities during the pandemic. In looking at the trending over the second half of this year, we anticipate a continued increase in activity and call volume going forward.
- **Budget, Revenue, Grants and Reimbursements:** At the half way point of the fiscal year our budget is on track. Due to some employee turnover and call volume our overtime is higher than desired. However, this is being offset by some vacancies. EMS revenue is on track to set another all-time record. At the half way point for the year we have collected \$ 550,531.00. Based on the current call volume we are projected to exceed a million dollars in revenue this year. We have applied for and will be receiving \$ 26,361.00 from the federal CPE / Medicare offset program. This will be applied to EMS revenue. Our revenue from inspectional activities and permits is level at this point. To date in the FY we have received approximately \$ 53,000.00 in grants from the various programs. These grants are used for emergency management, firefighting equipment and training. To date we have received \$ 331,000.00 in FEMA reimbursements for the COVID response. These reimbursements are for primarily Fire Department and Emergency Management activities during the pandemic. They also include all of the vaccine administration activities. We have one additional reimbursement pending which will cover our administration cost relative to cost recovery. As you can imagine all of these financial activities take a great deal of documentation and persistence. Dealing with all of the state and federal agencies to be financially successful in recovering costs and executing grants is incredibly complicated. I want to recognize Andrea Scalise, the department's administrative assistant for her hard work, persistence and dedication to this success.
- **Staffing versus Call Volume:** The department is staffed with a dedicated, highly skilled group of members. Over the last few years we have added two staff positions to meet our operational needs. This enabled the department to be able to staff three of our four shifts to six people and one shift with

five. We have seen the benefits of having the six person shifts. These shifts operate more efficiently and are more cost effective in regards to decreased overtime usage for both coverage and call back. These shifts also generate more revenue due to the fact that they self-perform more of our EMS calls. We have also in the past had what is termed a relief position. This is a position that is not assigned to specific shift and used to fill gaps. When this position has been filled, it was exceptionally cost effective in reducing overtime when we had a vacancy on a shift and increased operational efficiency. In our 2024 budget request we have submitted a supplemental budget to fill these two positions. With our current run volume these positions would be highly advantageous to meeting these demands. We believe that the additional of these positions would continue to help reduce overtime expenses and would provide additional opportunity to self-perform EMS calls, thus increasing revenue. Theoretically, they would pay for themselves within a year or so. We certainly understand the impact of adding FTEs, However, we continue to see increases in demand for our services.

- Projects:** This year we have been working on and completing several projects. In the fire house, we completed the remodeling of the kitchen, gym and two office spaces. Many thanks to DPW facilities and our members for all of the hard work. Using ARPA funding we upgraded the vehicle exhaust system in our apparatus bays. The upgrades provide better sealing of the system evacuating dangerous exhaust fumes out of the building. This provides for much healthier environment for our employees. On the apparatus front, we have completed the purchase and up fit of our UTV. This small vehicle has already been used on two rescues. We have started the refurbishment of our Squad vehicle. All of the components are on order. As of today we are on schedule for the project to be completed by the end of March 2023. We placed two new cardiac monitors in service this year. They are equipped with the most modern technology available. On the emergency management side of the house. We have worked on updating couple of our major plans this year. Our CEPM plan has been fully updated and our Coop Plan is primarily complete and under review. We have received grant money to update our hazard mitigation plan and the work is starting. We have formed our volunteer shelter group and conducted a few trainings. Additional training is in the works. We have purchased and put into place all of the equipment to utilize the new senior center as an emergency shelter.

Calendar Year: Comparisons

<u>Performance Measures:</u>	<u>Calendar Year 2018</u>	<u>Calendar Year 2019</u>	<u>Calendar Year 2020</u>	<u>Calendar Year 2021</u>	<u>Calendar Year 2022</u>
Emergency Medical Calls	1,842 (68.83%)	1,970 (64.51%)	1,721 (67.51%)	1,825 (52.65%)	2,080 (73 %.)
False or Unintentional	350	401	399	344	351
Fires / Estimated Dollar Loss	43 / \$ 608,410.00	31 / \$ 761,870.00	47 / \$ 1,207,400.00	34 / \$ 9,010,00.00	39 / \$ 505,631.00
All Other:(Rescue, Distress, Hazard)	522	652	702	583	366
Mutual Aid: <i>Given / Received</i>	117 / 101	158 / 202	69 / 157	101/182	116/105
Total Emergency Responses	2,758	3,054	2,568	2,786	2,836
Total Non-Emergency Services	984	1,103	1,149	1,226	1,334
Total Services Provided	3,742	4,157	3,717	4,012	4,170

Fire Prevention, Education and Inspectional Services:

Our Fire Inspector and our public education team have been very busy. They have been out in the community insuring compliance with applicable codes and sharing our fire and home safety messages. The inspector works with several other town agencies on a daily basis. These include the Building Department, BOH, Schools and COA. The inspector also administers our SAFE grant and coordinates our education programs. He also coordinates daily EMS support activities including supply management and report consolidation.

The following is a list of activities:

Activity	Dec	CY
Inspection – general (construction site visits, violation specific inspections, etc.)	3	305
Residential smoke detector inspections and re-inspections	24	317
Annual Inspections (including liquor license and follow up)	6	84
Certificate of Occupancy (Commercial and Residential)	2	14
Permits Issued	2	53
Smoke Detector Consultation	2	9
Plan Review	0	14
Residential Smoke Detector installation	2	10
Public Education Events (Classes, Presentations, other activity)	0	87
Fire Investigations / Incident Follow Ups	2	33
Emergency Responses	21	145
Shift Coverage (Minimum Staffing)	6	49
Haz Mat Team Responses	0	6
Total Activity	70	1,126

Respectively Submitted: John P. Dearborn, Fire Chief, January 6, 2023