

WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF SERVICE

2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget



Oh Ya, Also start reading up on the new OSHA 1910-156 Emergency Response Rule, due to be adopted any day now



WATERTOWN FIREFIGHTERS ARE
VOLUNTEERS SERVING OUR
COMMUNITY SINCE
MAY 08, 1894

Current Membership of 120 allowed

84 Active Members (10 more than last yr)

56 Members are Certified EMS Responders (6 more than last yr)

0 Department Surgeon

2 Department Chaplains

75% of the Nations Firefighters are Volunteers

It is estimated Watertown has a \$5m Annual Cost Savings vs Career. That with the response your town volunteers give, many residents believe they have a full time Fire Dept.

“ 2 FIRE Stations

1 Main St, 1 Buckingham St

Current Apparatus:

- 4 Engines
- 1 Engine Tanker
- 2 Aerial Ladders
- 1 Rescue
- 1 Utility/Brush Truck
- 3 EMS cars
- 1 Utility/Rehab
- 3 FD Command Cars
- 2 Fire Marshal Cars
- 1 ATV
- 2 Trailers
- 1 Rescue Boat
- 1 Ice Rescue Boat/Sled



”

READY TO RESPOND

Rescue



Vehicle Extrication

Fire



Live Fire Training

Medical



MEMBERS TRAIN EXTENSIVELY ONLINE & IN PERSON
IN 2023, MEMBERS LOGGED OVER 2600 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TRAINING



PUBLIC EDUCATION

- ▶ Volunteer Firefighters and the Fire Marshals visit each Daycare, Preschool, Grammar school and Parochial school each year during October fire prevention month. The Department also hosts an Open House for the public to learn about Fire Prevention and how the Department perform and distribute Smoke Detectors for those in need.



INCIDENTS ALONG MAIN STREET

WFD RESPONDED TO 3,083 FIRE, RESCUE AND EMS CALLS IN 2023, AN INCREASE OF 101 INCIDENTS FROM 2022.

APPARATUS REPLACEMENT FUND



Department Requests increased funding annually from \$150K to \$200K. This fund allows the town to replace fire apparatus on a 25 yr replacement schedule per NFPA Guidelines. This fund saves the Town thousands of dollars in bonding / interest costs. Past years of non funding and cost increases has caused delays in the replacement plan.

Current account contains \$926,507, with \$772,735 of that fund approved FY 22-23 for a Bid purchase of Engine 1 due this summer. Leaving a balance of \$153,772. Ladder 2 bond purchase came up short \$201,951, with that balance due on delivery of Ladder 2 September of 2025. So with funding of \$200,000 in the next two budget cycles FY24-25, FY25-26 there would be approx. \$351,821 remaining in the fund after paying off Ladder 2, to begin funding replacement of Rescue 10

RESCUE 10 is a 2000 Spartan Chassis Medium Rescue. Based on annual funding and replacement costs. The replacement cost today is est. at \$900,000. Making delivery of a new Rescue 10 during the 2028-2029 FY, if fully funded each year forward and costs not increasing. Rescue 10 would be 29 years old when replaced.

▶ 2024 – 2025 Department Budget Request:	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	Increase
Pg7 \$15,000 increase for Fire Marshal, for salary pay scale comparision adjustment	\$ 73,128	\$ 88,128	20.5%
Pg8 \$ 3,016 increase for Deputy Chief to equal hourly pay with Deputy Marshal	\$ 34,612	\$ 37,628	8.8%
Pg8 \$15,000 increase for Fire Chief, for salary pay scale comparision adjustment	\$ 62,826	\$ 77,826	24.5%
Pg8 \$10,302 increase hours for Fire Chief to full time (5 hours weekly)	\$ 0	\$ 10,302 *	16.5%
Pg8 \$ 250 increase for Reference material	\$ 750	\$ 1,000	33.5%
Pg8 \$ 5,000 increase for LOSAP 401 Plan for Firefighters	\$ 75,000	\$ 80,000	6.7%
Pg8 \$ 1,150 increase for Annual Hose Testing	\$ 5,100	\$ 6,250	22.5%
Pg8 \$10,000 increase for Medical Services, Recruit & Annual Physicals	\$ 12,000	\$ 22,000	83.5%
Pg8 \$32,000 increase for scheduled Replacement of EMS 7	\$ 0	\$ 32,000	
Pg8 \$ 4,000 increase for Maint. not bldgs, Testing of Aerials, Pumps, Ladders & SCBA	\$ 11,000	\$ 15,000	36.5%
Pg9 \$ 4,000 increase for Equip. Parts, repairs of Power tools, Meters % Extinguishers	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	66.7%
Pg9 \$ 2,000 Medical Supplies increase, Oxygen refills, Gloves, Masks Etc.	\$ 12,000	\$ 14,000 *	16.7%

The pay scale for Fire Marshal and Fire Chief which average \$15k less than the bottom end of the scale compared to similar Towns and departments within Watertown. That allowing the adjustment will only bring the Fire Marshal and Fire Chief to the low end of the comparison scale and should be continually monitored for future budget cycles.

The change to a full time Fire Chief which was recommended by Chief Black in 2018 upon announcing his retirement (see attachment) has become more apparent with the changes in the fire service reporting networks and the increased workload of managing and protecting the 84 volunteer members and citizens of our town, along with the upcoming enactment of OSHA 1910-156 Emergency Response Rule, which will change the way the fire service trains and performs.

* Items adjusted or cut by Town Manager

FY 23-24 Budget was \$1,055,054 --- FY 24-25 Budget request is \$1,156,772 a 9.64% increase of \$101,718

Survey Report:: CT Municipal Salary Survey - Fire Marshal

Municipality	Mill Rate	Population	Land Area	Government Type	Fire Marshal	
Berlin	33.93	20505	26.4	Council - Manager	134,041.00	Risk manager
Bloomfield	37.46	21560	26	Council - Manager	88,000	
Brookfield	29.14	17543	19.8	Selectman - Town Meeting	84,000.00	
Darien	16.47	21926	12.9	Representative Town meeting	142,625.00	
Farmington	29.32	25572	28.1	Council - Manager	105,752.00	P.Safety
Guilford	33.25	22283	47.2	Selectman - Town Meeting	138,000.00	& Chief
Madison	28.35	18196	36.2	Selectman - Town Meeting	80,000.00	
Naugatuck	47.75	31461	16.4	Mayor - Council	98,500.00	
Newtown	34.77	27965	57.8	Selectman - Town Meeting	89,000.00	
Plainville	34.62	17705	9.7	Council - Manager	96,000.00	
Ridgefield	28.43	25187	34.4	Selectman - Town Meeting	113,407.00	
Thomaston	36.53	7602	12	Selectman - Town Meeting	16,405.00	per diem
Waterbury	60.21	108629	28.6	Mayor - Council	129,315.00	
Cheshire	34.32	28733	33	Council - Manager	115,733.00	
Watertown	34.94	21661	30	Council - Manager	73,291.40	

Survey Report:: CT Municipal Salary Survey - Fire Chief

Municipality	Mill Rate	Population	Land Area	Government Type	Fire Chief	
Berlin	33.93	20505	26.4	Council - Manager	stipend- vol	
Bloomfield	37.46	21560	26	Council - Manager	vol	
Brookfield	29.14	17543	19.8	Selectman - Town Meeting	vol	
Darien	16.47	21926	12.9	Representative Town meeting	vol	
Farmington	29.32	25572	28.1	Council - Manager	105,752.00	P Safety & Marshal
Guilford	33.25	22283	47.2	Selectman - Town Meeting	138,967.00	Chief & Marshal
Madison	28.35	18196	36.2	Selectman - Town Meeting	vol	
Naugatuck	47.75	31461	16.4	Mayor - Council	99,960.00	
Newtown	34.77	27965	57.8	Selectman - Town Meeting	vol	
Plainville	34.62	17705	9.7	Council - Manager	vol	
Ridgefield	28.43	25187	34.4	Selectman - Town Meeting	123,978.00	
Thomaston	36.53	7602	12	Selectman - Town Meeting	stipend- 6000	
Waterbury	60.21	108629	28.6	Mayor - Council	136,600.00	
Cheshire	34.32	28733	33	Council - Manager	139,290.00	
Watertown	34.94	21661	30	Council - Manager	30hr 62,821.20	

WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pay Comparison
February 12, 2018

POSITION	2016 / 2017	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019
Admin. Assist.	\$43,156	\$46,032	\$40,500
Dep. Marshal	\$48,480 (2 Part Time 15 hr each)	\$52,168 (2 Part Time 15 hr each)	\$23,400 (1 Part Time 15 hr)
Chief/Marshal	\$113,713 (filling 2 positions)	\$116,601 (filling 2 positions)	
Dep. Chief	\$10,813 (Part Time 10 hr)	\$12,774 (Part Time 10 hr)	\$15,600 (Part Time 10 hr)
Chief	-----	-----	\$72,800 (35 hr per week)
Marshal	-----	-----	\$72,800 (35 hr per week)
TOTAL	\$216,162	\$227,575	\$225,100

The Watertown FIRE and EMS Services, continually serve the TOWN OF WATERTOWN and OAKVILLE and those that pass through, with members putting themselves in harms way daily. They respond to Fire and Medical Emergency incidents and treat residents who are still testing positive for COVID19 and other diseases.

The Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Marshal and I have presented a responsible budget request. The Fire department last year (FY 23-24) was asked for a zero increase, as all departments were, which the fire department not only did, but was the only department with a zero increase last year and also reduced the budget request by another approx. \$5,000, in an effort to help the Town financially, which delayed some of our projects.

That with most projects completed and a budget presented that is fiscally responsible, the Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Marshal and I will make this budget work and ask that the Town Council reinstate the Town Managers cuts of the full time \$10,302 Fire Chief position and the \$2,000 in medical supplies and ask that no further cuts be made.



Watertown Fire Department 2023

The Watertown Fire Department
stands Ready Day & Night

Thank you!!