



## The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT  
UPDATES  
2/17/23-3/3/23**

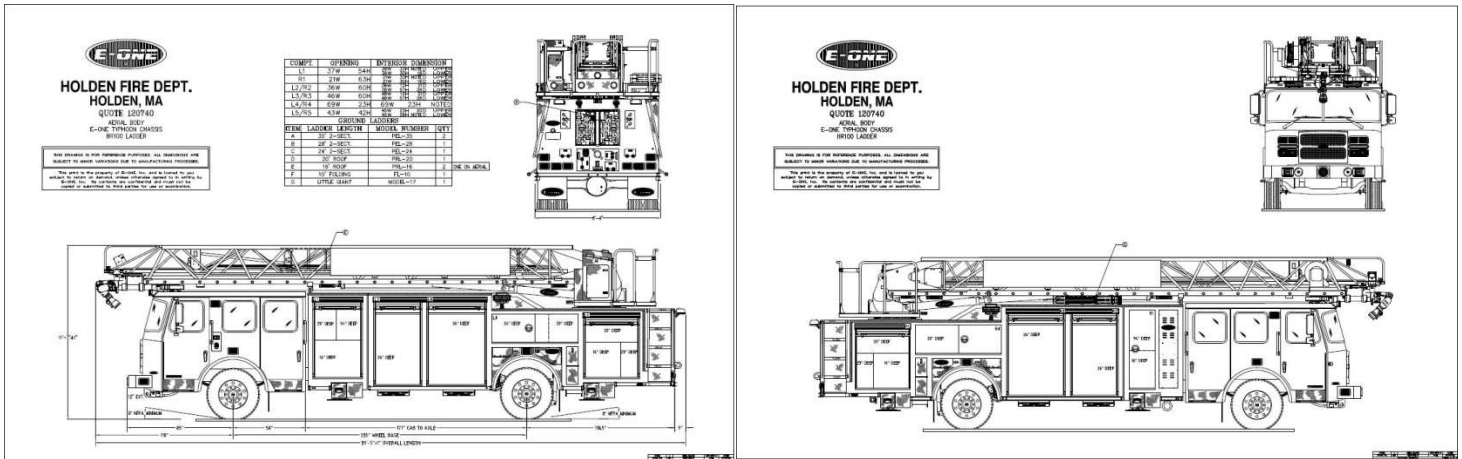
**Over the last week, the department presented our requested FY24 budget to the Finance Committee. Overall, the presentation went well and now we wait until the entire budget is reviewed, the school budget is accounted for and the FinCom finalizes their votes on all the items.**

**With that being said, we have added some departmental changes to the upcoming budget that will change the makeup of the department. The intent is to realign the department into 2 divisions, the Division of Operations/Administration and the Division of Community Risk Reduction. The Operations/Administration Division will include all of our fire and EMS field operations, personnel, vehicles/equipment, Fire Prevention and Fire Training. The Division of CRR will include Emergency Management, Emergency Preparedness, Public Education and the addition of Public Health.**

**Recently, we have been working with the town to assume operations of the town's Public Health program and work with both the regional health consortium and the Board of Health. With personnel changes in the Growth Management department, we felt that this was the opportune time to make a change and bring another public facing emergency response and planning sector under our departmental control. During the pandemic, it was apparent that public health would be better with HFD since we did a majority of the public health work for the town. This will be an organizational change but I do feel that this will be a positive for the department and the Town of Holden.**

**The other big item in the budget is obviously the replacement of the Tower. We presented this request last night with backing from the Town Manager. Currently, the budget request is at 1,450,000 for a rear**

mount EONE HR 100 Ladder truck. With such a large request for a vehicle replacement, there were many questions but the meeting seemed to be very positive. We will keep you posted on where it goes from here.



Lastly, we have reworked the payroll sheet for recalls. This is going to allow us to better track our EMS and Fire recalls for statistical data analysis. The top header of the payroll sheet will now allow for checkoffs on Fire, EMS, Other and Training with a spot to write the address and call reason such as Fire Alarm, CO alarm, Unresponsive, Ladder Training etc. The Other category would only be used for items such as details, public education, CPR, vehicle delivery etc. Any questions please see me. We should have them out in both stations by next week.

### Fire Prevention

1. The new Greenwood II Subdivision on Union Street is close to being occupied. The first house at the intersection of Union and Deanna Drive received its final inspection from us last week. We just received 6 building permits to review this week, so construction will be picking up. Please familiarize yourselves with the where it is and how to access the homes.

### Vehicles

1. F1 and F2 have been de-winterized. Please still use caution when parking the vehicles outside during the cold weather.
2. Engine 1 – Mounting of Vehicle Stabilization jacks to begin, may be inermittently out of service.

## Training

1. **Message from Captain Pierce** - If your interested in the MFA class Fires in 2 1/2 story structures on 4/1 from 0900-1300 hrs please sign up soon. This is a very popular and informative class that will fill up very quick. Reserve code is OZ00 for class. Any questions let me know.
2. **\*\*\*MASK FIT TESTING\*\*\*** will be held at Fire HQ the week of 3/20. All department members will be required to be tested while we have the machine here. Any questions, please contact Deputy Chief Smith.

## Stations

1. With winter still upon us, please make sure to close the apparatus bay doors behind you when leaving on calls at both stations and especially the Station 2 ambulance annex building.
2. Annex – We had an issue with the boiler during the week. It seems that this is an ongoing issue. Please check the heat especially over the cold weekend to make sure that it is still operational.
3. With the DPW moving out of the building, we will be assuming control of the 2 former mechanics bays upstairs. We are still awaiting the DPW to move items out of the bays and liquidate equipment left behind at auction. The plan going forward is to use those 2 bays only and not the office space/day room or bathroom areas. Those rooms will be placed out of service, heat/water shut down for the foreseeable future.