



# The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT  
UPDATES  
04/14/23-04/28/23**

**The fiscal year 24 budget continues to move along through the town budget process. To date, the finance committee has finished their budget hearings and agreed upon a final budget to be presented to the residents at the Town Meeting. What does this mean for our fire department budget? All of our operating budget items have made it through the review as submitted. This is a good thing for the upcoming year as the past few fiscal years we had been level funded. What that means is budget lines remain unchanged from the previous years except for annual COLA increases and any contractual items that need to be funded. This puts us in a difficult position since we have seen an across the board increase in the cost of doing our business. For FY24, we did increase many of our line items to reflect the rising costs of equipment and supplies and so far they have been approved which will make next year a little easier to manage. On the capital side, the replacement for the Tower is still in the budget, which makes a lot of fiscal sense due to the annual 20% increases we are seeing on apparatus. We also have a new Lucas device that has been moved forward but unfortunately the finance committee removed the replacement for Car 2, the 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe. Overall, it has been a very positive budget cycle and we just keep moving forward one step a time while the department keeps growing.**

**On Wednesday, the D8 Tech Rescue Team was involved in a MOBEX drill held at Fort Devens on the South Post. This drill brought together the entire Central Mass Tech team with representatives from D8, D7 and D14. Our department was represented by Deputy Smith, Captain Pierce and SFF Chapin. This drill is a great resource for our tech team to practice their skills and work together with the other districts to**

**form relationships and learn everyone's strengths and weaknesses to be better prepared for a true disaster. We are lucky to have this team available to our department.**



**Over the last week or so, our EMS members have been learning about a new Pediatric treatment application called Handtevy. This is a program that has been funded by UMass and offered out to their ambulance services to provide us with new tool for use when treating the pediatric patient. This application is intended to take the place of the Broselow tape as it is a more accurate representation of the actual medication dosages, electrical therapy settings and airway sizes of the pediatric patient. The application is compatible with smart phones and tablets so that it can be available for use and it is also compatible with ESO so that all treatments can be synced with the PCR. Big thanks to FF/P Mark Rogers for attending the instructor training for this program and teaching it to all our Paramedics and EMT's.**

**As we approach the end of the fiscal year, we are looking closely at year end spending. If you have an idea for a piece of Fire/EMS equipment that needs to be replaced (within reason), training equipment or new equipment, please let us know as soon as possible. It will be much easier for us to plan if we have the necessary information sooner rather than later.**

## Vehicles

- 1. Car 3 – McGovern continues to work on the upfit of the vehicle, hopefully we will take possession of it soon and then we will start the mounting of all the tools and equipment. The 2015 version of Car 3 will be kept in service as a spare for the new car renumbered as Car 4. The 2008 Explorer will be traded in.**
- 2. Engine 1 – Some work was done this week re-configuring the compartment for the new struts. Still some parts needed to complete the work.**
- 3. Engine 3 – As everyone in New England knows, the apparatus fell into an undermined construction trench while parked on Main Street. It was removed by Ricky's Towing rather flawlessly and has been looked at by DPW. No damage was found from the incident. Should anyone find any issues, please notify the Deputy ASAP so that we can make sure to bill the contractor.**

## Training

- 1. We have scheduled the following MFA courses to be held here at HFD: 6/10 MTU trailer, 9/16 Cancer awareness, 10/21 Flashover, 12/16 NFPA Electric vehicle safety. Once these classes become available in the LMS system, Captain Pierce will notify everyone. Thank you to the Captain for setting up these classes through the academy.**