



# The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT  
UPDATE  
03/13/2025**

**We are deep into the budget cycle for FY26 at this point. So far, the process has been smooth but overall, the town is facing a shortfall with the school budget an unknown at this point. As for the department's budget, we were level serviced for FY26. What that means is that our budget remains at the same level as in the current fiscal year except for increases in personnel costs from COLA's and contractual items. What does this mean for us? Not much, this is not a new experience as we have been at level service for the last few years. To date, our capital requests are still moving forward towards a town meeting vote but there are still some budget deliberations to come.**

**It appears that we have entered our brush fire season for spring. MA DCR is predicting due to the ongoing drought that the season could be as significant as this past fall where the state experienced hundreds of fires. Hopefully we will get some periods of rain to help with the dry conditions. Over the last two days, we have had brush that resulted from out-of-control permit fires. Both Forestry units have been serviced and are ready for use. There are a few small punch list items that need repair but will not take them out of service.**

**Great job by all who responded to the horse rescue call on Mason Road last week. It appears that the rescue was successful. We have seen an uptick in these types of incidents throughout District 8 over the last few months, most likely due to the icy conditions from the constant thawing and freezing. In these types of calls, remember that the District 8 Technical Rescue team can always be dispatched to assist with their specialized equipment. We do house that equipment here in**

**the Annex, if you are interested in learning more about it, contact Deputy Smith, who is our in-house horse whisperer.**

**Call volume for 2025 through 3/12 is 70 calls over last year's volume. We can attribute this to an uptick in EMS mutual aid to Worcester. We have also seen an increase in calls for station coverage and all-calls from last year. Please make every effort to respond when all-calls are sounded so that we can effectively respond to incidents.**

### **Personnel**

- 1. We would like to welcome J.D. Quist to the department in his role as a career Firefighter/EMT. He comes to the department from West Boylston FD where he worked in the same position. J.D. started on 3/3 and has been assigned to Group 2.**
- 2. On Friday 3/14, we will be interviewing 4 candidates for the open FF/Paramedic position.**
- 3. On 3/10, we received the resignation of Call FF Ryan Buckley. He will be starting the Fire Academy for the Worcester Fire Department. We wish him a long and successful career in Worcester.**

### **Equipment**

- 1. Big shout out to FF/P Tyke Lothrop. He has been working on a project to 3D print trays for our ambulance IV drawers. The first prototype has been installed in A3 and it is a great addition which should make finding equipment much easier when taking care of patients. Great work Tyke!**

### **Vehicles**

- 1. Squad 2- The vehicle is unable to get an inspection sticker without a substantial amount of work. A request in next year's budget has**

**been made to either replace or refurbish the truck. It has been decided not to complete any repairs/ work to the vehicle until the budget is finalized and there is a direction to go. The truck will only be used to plow the PSB and not used otherwise. The DPW has been informed that snow plowing will be needed at Station 2 and potentially at scenes during storms.**

### **Stations**

- 1. Station 2 – We have had preliminary meetings regarding temporary quarters and the future demolition of the building on site. Currently, the DPW is working to put together specifications for temporary living quarters and apparatus bays to get cost proposals. The goal is to get something in place soon but we will know more once cost estimates are in.**