



# The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT  
UPDATE  
04/11/2025**

**As we are getting closer to the end of the fiscal year, we are still monitoring our spending very closely and continually updating year end projections. Although we have reduced some costs recently, we still must get through to the end of the year. For our career staff, please remember to submit your vacation, personal, and personal no sick time as soon as possible prior to the end of the fiscal year. This will help us get an idea of coverage.**

**The upcoming FY26 budget is closer to being finalized by the Finance Committee. As of last week, the operating budgets were finalized and approved as submitted. This next week, the FinCom will be voting on capital. Currently, there is a budget deficit due to the increase in the school budget, but the town will not be placing an override on the warrant, they have decided to use some other funding mechanisms. Hopefully, our submitted projects will be funded as submitted.**

**Station 2 has become more of an issue over the last few months with the increase in water that is leaking in from the roof and with some uninvited mice. The current plan for our station is to move completely out of the Adams Road building hopefully within the next 6 months. This week, the DPW is submitting an RFP for two phases of temporary quarters. Phase 1 will include a trailer for the living/office space and Phase 2 will include a temporary apparatus bay for 3 vehicles. Once we see the bids, then we will have a more definitive timeline for this move. Upper town administration, including the Board of Selectmen, are aware of the conditions at Adams Road and there is mutual agreement that the best course of action is to remove the department from the current facility. The DPW removed the old salt**

shed this week, which was the first step in clearing the site for the temporary fire station. This move will also allow the town to start the process of redevelopment, sale and demolition of the current structure. The result of this process will be the construction of a new fire substation on a portion of the property but there are many layers to that type of project with no concrete timeline. With that being said, we have worked with Buildings and Grounds to come up with a solution to the leaks and hopefully it will take care of the water for the time being. The Deputy, myself and members of Group 3 cleaned the old DPW lunchroom and offices of trash and other items to prevent the mice from making homes. The area is as clean as possible. We are bringing in Fords to work on removing or exterminating the mice, they feel that they are coming and going from the outside, so traps will be setup on the perimeter of the outside of the building. As I get more information on these items, I will pass them along.

The department is pleased to announce we have been awarded two grants from the Commonwealth over the past week. The first is for the second round of the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program in the amount of \$7,932. These funds will be used to purchase 2 sets of PPE. The second grant is for the funding of our SAFE and Senior SAFE programs in the amount of \$8,099. Thank you to both Deputy Smith and FF/P Zach Algarin for putting these together.

### **Personnel**

- 1. We have made an offer to the top candidate for the open FF/P position after completing the background check. We are in the process of scheduling the pre-hire steps prior to a start date.**

### **Vehicles**

- 1. Forestry 1 – The pump has been repaired and normal pump operations can be resumed (I.E. leaving the tank to pump open).**
- 2. Squad 2- Still has no inspection sticker and should not be used except for plowing around the PSB.**

### **Stations**

**1. Annex – The bathroom in the old admin office was found locked and the window was open for an unknown amount of time. We need to make sure that this building is secure at all times and windows are closed, especially with the cold temps. If a group is using the building such as CERT or Explorers, I would expect them to clean up after themselves and take the trash out when necessary.**