



North Conway Fire Department

70 Norcross Circle - PO Box 218 - North Conway, NH - 03860

(603) 356-5327 - Fax: (603) 356-2424 - email:

ncfddep@adelphia.net

Chief: Pat Preece

The North Conway Fire Department answered 873 requests for assistance during the 2006 year. Three Hundred Thirty-Eight (338) of these calls were rescue related, (from medical to auto accidents) and 417 were fire related, (from simple debris fires to structure fires). We saw an increase of 121 calls from the previous year, which is a 16.4% increase.

Fire prevention is busy doing plan reviews and performing life safety inspections. These inspections reduce the loss of life as well as reduce building losses. Fire Prevention is gearing up for one of the busiest inspection years to date, with the construction of large projects including two new box stores, major hospital projects and a mercantile shopping complex. The Town of Conway issued 433 building permits in 2006, which is a decrease from 2005 but the projects are bigger and more complex. Fire Prevention is a key part of making our community a safer place to work, live, shop, and stay at our Hotels / Motels, Bed and Breakfasts as well as dining out in a variety of restaurants. The business owners have worked well with us in keeping and bringing their buildings up to compliance. For that I thank all of them and for their positive attitudes and willingness to make safer places for all of us to enjoy.

The Fire Department issued 265 burn permits for outside burning.

The operations budget for 2007 is \$400,000.00. Some of the increases are due to the increase in health insurance costs, call wages, administrative wages, electricity, fuel and workers compensation. We have a one-dollar an hour raise built into the call firefighter's pay, which increases them from \$10.00 per hour to \$11.00 per hour and minor changes to the hourly bonus program. You will see a \$6,421.87 increase in the administrative budget, which increases the Administrative Assistant to 28 hours per week. The Assistant inputs data and reports to the State of New Hampshire on a monthly basis and enters inspection reports into the computer system. As the number of calls keeps going up, so does the paper work.

The Fire Department has six articles on the warrant, which need voters' approval and support.

The first warrant article is the operating budget for the fire department, totaling \$400,000.00.

The second warrant article is to purchase twelve (12) sets of new structural firefighting turn out gear, which costs \$21,593.00. This is year two of this program to replace the current gear.

The third warrant article is to purchase a Roto Jet Hose Washer. Hose washing is necessary for maximum life of the fire hose. The washer is designed to remove 90% of the hydrocarbons, toxins and carcinogens produced by a fire. The cost of the hose washer article is \$14,898.00.

The fourth warrant article is to do an architectural design and engineering review for the future expansions and renovation of the existing buildings and to the Seavey Street property. We are currently short on office space, records storage, equipment storage, training space and in need of a female bathroom facility. This article was on last year's warrant and was not able to get started. The cost of this article is \$40,000.00

The fifth warrant article is to purchase a new automatic external / manual defibrillator with biphasic waveform. The current defibrillator is obsolete and does not meet the new American Heart Association guidelines or the State of New Hampshire protocols. The defibrillator is a key part of saving life when someone is in cardiac arrest. The cost of the refurbished unit is \$11,300.00 vs. a new unit, which would cost \$22,746.00. The department is proposing to purchase the refurbished unit.

The sixth warrant article is to put \$145,000.00 into the Fire Department Trust Fund for the replacement of obsolete Fire and Rescue Equipment. The last time we funded this trust was in 2003. Approving this article is key for the replacement of equipment and keeping the tax rate balanced.

I hope the budget and warrant articles proposed by the Fire Department have the support of the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct. Each of the warrant articles will assist the members of the North Conway Fire Department and the community, which it serves, to perform their duties in a safer and healthier manner for the precinct.

I would like to thank the North Conway Fire Department Master Plan Committee, Chairman Bob Drinkhall, Deputy Chief Tim Anderson, Lieutenant Stephen Seavey, Commissioner Michelle Seavey and Citizen Richard Ware for all the hours they worked into developing the fire department master plan and having the plan approved by the Board of Commissioners. I would also like to thank Judy Anderson and Sarah Bates for their help with the master plan.

In 2006 I am pleased to announce that the Fire Department received a \$71,394.40 grant for new portable radios. In 2007 I am applying for a grant to replace the radio in the dispatch office with a new dispatch radio console.

The Fire Department is always looking for new members to join. If you are interested, or have any question and would like an application, feel free to stop by the fire station to pick one up. The membership has been dropping over the past few years and we are in real need of some new people. This is a great way for you to help protect and serve your community.

In closing, I would like to welcome Paula Spofford to the Department as the Administrative Assistant. She is doing a wonderful job. I would like to express my thanks to the members of the North Conway Fire Department for their support, dedication and hard work over the past year. Without their commitment, and dedication we would not have the department that we have today. My thanks to the Board of Commissioners and employees of the Water and Sewer Departments for all their assistance when needed and called upon. Thanks to the Officers of the Fire Department for their hard work and assistance in keeping the department operating smoothly over the past year. To the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct, we appreciate your continued support of the North Conway Fire Department. The NCFD will continue to protect and serve the NCWP and the valley with commitment and pride.

Respectfully,

Patrick L. Preece
Chief