



# DURHAM FIRE & RESCUE

## Chief's Report on Department

### Durham Select Board

04/14/20

**Report Date: 04/13/20**

#### **General Overview:**

- The department is currently functioning well with many discussions and projects underway.

#### **Departmental Changes/Major Projects:**

- SCBA Bottle Replacement Purchase - As of today, 21 of the 29 bottles delivered and in service.
- DFR COVID-19 Response and Preparedness - We continue to monitor the situation locally and state wide. We receive updates daily from Maine EMS, the Maine CDC and other entities. With this information, we update our providers regularly to ensure our preparedness for any response. We have altered our response guidelines and instituted staff monitoring procedures. Any information applicable to public government activity will be forwarded immediately. My goal is to update the public through the Facebook page as needed and what they can expect in regards to DFR responses and availability of services during this time. Updates more often than needed, as we see with the constant barrage on social media, is just confusing people and bolsters the fear that is present right now.
- New Employees/Staffing - Currently onboarding a third new per diem employee and reviewing how we are deploying staff to ensure adequate coverage. This is being done within the current staffing model and with mindfulness of the budgetary impact.

#### **Apparatus:**

- No Issues - All apparatus are in service and functioning.



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### Discussion Topics:

- Well Replacement RFP – As the COVID-19 crisis continues, the need to replace the well and have a safe water source in the station is more apparent than ever. We are now in the circumstance where members are likely to need the ability to shower and change their clothes before leaving the station after a call, as well as the increased need for more recurrent cleaning that happens daily. This is concurrent with the needs we had before in regards to the concerns over washing turnout gear in contaminated water and the fact that the station is listed as the Town's warming and cooling center through Androscoggin EMA with no clean water source.

I realize the financial situation the town continues to function in but I feel this is the right thing to do, advocating for my staff to have the proper facilities and resources to continue their primary mission of caring for the people of the town. Their safety is a top priority. I would like permission to move ahead with creating and RFP with the Town Administrator to present for the board's approval as soon as possible.

- Recognition of the Fire-Rescue Dept. Staff – I want to take a moment to express to the board my deep appreciation for everything my department members have been doing since this pandemic began. This is an unprecedented time for all of us, especially those involved in the front line response to this crisis. The members of Durham Fire-Rescue continue to show resilience and reliability, despite the fact that none of them are doing this to make a living in this town. Their dedication and willingness to continue responding, despite the risk, deserves recognition and respect of the highest order. Not one person has turned in their resignation, no one has run away saying "I didn't sign up for this". I am humbled and honored to be leading such a dedicated group. I would like to specifically single out Deputy Chief John Faith for additional praise. John has been pivotal in our preparation and response ability and I would not be able to manage as effectively as I do right now without his support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph C. Moore, Chief of Department