

BRISTOL FIRE DEPARTMENT – Department Head Report

Chief Brett LaRose

August 22, 2022

To the members of the Selectboard and Town Administrator,

At this time, I am unable to join you for this evening's meeting as I am facilitating an after-action review of a recent fire department training at the same time. I have prepared the following report to be shared during Department Head reports. Thank you

Greenwood Cemetery Water Tank

The fire department continues to support at the request of the Selectboard, the filling of the Greenwood Cemetery water tank. The FD has filled this tank this season eight (8) times as of 8/21/22.

Perspective Candidates

I have met with three perspective candidates over the last month, two for the position of Paid-Call Firefighter and the other for the Junior Firefighter program. One of the two firefighter candidates is ready to proceed with the hiring process and an interview has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 25. The interview panel will consist of the Town Administrator, Selectboard Liaison to the FD, and the fire department Chief Officers. I have met with the Junior Firefighter candidate and their parents, and we are looking at a few possible dates for an interview. It is my goal to complete the six (6) steps of the recruitment process with each of these candidates and be ready to come before the Selectboard at their first meeting in September for consideration of appointment.

For your awareness, the 6 steps in the recruitment process are as follows:

- Step 1 – Informational Meeting
- Step 2 – Submit Application
- Step 3 – Formal Interview
- Step 4 – Reference/Background Checks
- Step 5 – Medical Evaluation
- Step 6 – Final Review / Appointment

New Fire Pumper Report

Deputy Chief Forand has been in regular communications with Lakes Region Fire Apparatus (vendor) over the last several months and has confirmed the Town's new pumper has made it onto the assembly line. Progress is slow as parts are still trickling in, but as of now the delivery of this vehicle is still expected September 2022. In the coming weeks Lakes Region will provide pictures of progress made and when those become available, we will share those with the Selectboard and Fire Department. We have informed Lakes Region that if the pumper is delayed any further than it already has been, they will need to provide detailed information on what is causing the delay and how they are going to rectify it. As part of the contract, three personnel from the new pumper apparatus working group will be making a trip to Michigan in September to review the pumper prior to it being delivered to New Hampshire for a final inspection by the entire working group. This will also be the time that all tools and mounting brackets will be installed on the vehicle.

Firefighter Recruit Academy

I am extremely pleased to report that two of Bristol's probationary firefighters have enrolled in the Firefighter 1 & 2 program that is being offered in Rutland Town starting this week. The course begins Thursday, August 25 with orientation and starting the week of August 29th, these students will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings for class plus an additional twelve all-day (8-hour) practical sessions at the VT Fire Academy that will occur on a Saturday or Sunday. This course will consist of approximately 304 hours of training and will conclude in the Spring of 2023.

Vehicle Extrication Training

The Bristol Fire Department will be hosting the VT Fire Academy's Vehicle Extrication course this September. This course is 12-hours in length with 4 hours of classroom training Monday, September 12th and 8 hours of practical training Saturday, September 17th. I am extremely pleased to report that 24 of Bristol's 32 Firefighters have enrolled in this course.

Annual Recognition and Awards Event

The Bristol FD will be holding its annual recognition and awards event at the Bristol Fire Station on Saturday, September 10th. This is a very special event where we recognize firefighters' years of service and recognize those who have gone above and beyond during the past year. At this year's event we will also be recognizing two firefighters who are recipients of two of the VT State Firefighters Association annual awards that were presented at the annual convention on Saturday, August 13th. Unfortunately, these two individuals were not able to attend the annual convention that was held in Bennington this year due to personal conflicts so instead, we will recognize them on September 10th by presenting them with these recognitions in front of their peers who nominated them (Shhh, it's a surprise 😊).

Calls for Service Report

As of August 22, 2022, the fire department has been dispatched and responded to 97 calls for service (incidents). The following is the breakdown of incidents by type:

Incident Type	Number of Incidents
Building Fire	6
Passenger Vehicle Fire	4
Cooking Fire	1
Forest Fire	2
Medical Assist, assist EMS Crew	15
Assist VT State Police with Search & Rescue Operation	3
Motor Vehicle Accident	22
Hazardous Material Incident - Flammable Liquid Spill	3
Fire Alarm System Activation	8
Smoke detector activation	6
Carbon monoxide incident	5
Power lines down	3
Unauthorized Burning	5
Dispatched and cancelled in route	2
Service Call	9
No incident found at dispatch address	1
Smoke scare	2

Repeater/Antenna Project

The Bristol Fire Department, in cooperation with the Bristol Rescue Squad, has begun looking into alternative solutions on where to place our antennas and store our repeater equipment to meet the needs of our organizations today and well into the future. Currently both the Bristol FD and Bristol Rescue Squad, are leases of space on the tower here in Bristol. Each organization holds their own lease agreement with the vendor however, due to the current and increasing costs of having such agreements, are looking into alternative solutions beginning with the use of our own facilities located on West Street and Monkton Road respectively. Each location has the necessary infrastructure (e.g., backup power, heated space, etc.) to support this critical communications equipment and it would be the most cost-effective solution in the long term for the fire department (The Town) and the Bristol Rescue Squad to utilize our existing infrastructures. More to follow on this subject.

Hand Sanitizer

Reminder that the fire department took delivery of a pallet of Barr Hill hand sanitizer from Caledonia Spirits on May 10th. The product is packaged in 4oz bottles and there are 24 bottles in a case. As of today (8/8) the inventory is 62 cases remaining from the original delivery of 184 cases.

If anyone would like to take advantage of this FREE hand sanitizer, please call 453-3201 and leave a voicemail message (this is the FD non-emergency number) or email bristolfiredepartment@gmail.com to make arrangements to pick up.

End of Report