



Town of Amherst, New Hampshire
Office of Community Development

Building · Code Enforcement · Planning · Zoning · Economic Development

Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director

CIP COMMITTEE
Minutes 4-23-14

The CIP Committee met on Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at or about 7:00 pm in the Annex Room 222, Souhegan High School.

Attending: Addie, Mike, Danielle, Sally, Eric, Russ, Rich, Chris, Steve, Peg, Betty, John, Sarah.

Brian Gleason presented the capital requests of the Emergency Management Services Department. He presented his professional background and time (14 years) in Amherst. He was brought in to convert the program from a volunteer rescue squad to a paid EMS department. He also teaches paramedics through the Eliot, is able to provide the students with field experience and provide Amherst with discounted staff.

Working with W&M and BOS, has changed the plan for replacing vehicles, in order that no vehicle in the fleet will be more than 5 years old.

Presentation began with the most recent ambulance purchase, a Ford F450 put into service in 2011. (They buy Fords because most Town vehicles are Fords and the Town's mechanics are Ford-certified.) Four-wheel drive vehicles because of difficult driveways rather than sliding patients out to the road on stretchers in the snow.

Highlights:

- 5-point harness for provider in the back of the ambulance – whether standing or seated, the harness locks in if the vehicle stops suddenly.
- EKG machine does 12-point lead, whether from home or on the road can transmit directly to the Cardiac lab at the hospitals. The new ambulance is equipped to secure it so it is not at risk in an accident.
- GPS system accounts for traffic. Back-up camera (since you can't look over your shoulder). New light systems – LED – very bright, draw very little electric power from vehicle.

Proposed for replacement is the current back-up, a 2001 Ford F350. Only goes out about 20-30 times/year, but is required by license agreement (in case of a breakdown). They rotate the vehicles to balance mileage. The F350 has nearly 100,000 miles on it and it isn't heavy-duty enough for the weight it is currently carrying. Build-up of pathogens in the patient compartment.

Restrictions on purchases – size of ambulance bay. Only 4" clearance with the door when parked, overhead door barely clears. They are expecting the APD to move down into their space, and they anticipate they will move the ambulances to the AFD facility. If they could buy larger trucks, they'd be less money (because they are more standard).

New vehicle will include the transport stretcher, extra wheels drop down so attendants don't

have to carry the weight of the gurney/patient at chest height coming off the back of the truck. Can take patient out with a single attendant, lower risk of back injuries. Primax (insurance) will match cost 50/50.

New vehicle – better storage. Equipment changes – iv warming pump (rather than putting them on a heating plate and having to take them out of availability after 14 days). Proper storage of drugs. Car seat, etc have to be stored safely – state can inspect at any time to be sure they are carrying all the required things. New vehicles have HEPA filtration system. Also designed to allow safe transport of second patient (currently they strap them on a backboard on the side bench seat). Electric lift for O₂ tank, better for attendants.

Outside storage compartments – weight is an issue (again, need the bigger, more rugged truck).

Truck will be modified so that layout of compartments, equipment is the same in both vehicles so crews know exactly where things are no matter which vehicle they are in.

Ambulances must be garaged in climate-controlled space. All battery-operated equipment is charging whenever it is garaged.

If they house the EMS in the FD there is more grant money available.

All the equipment we own will be moved into the new ambulance.

We provide service by contract to Mont Vernon (about 80 calls/year). Doesn't add anything to his department costs.

Cost he projects about \$200,000, about what is in the capital reserve after this years' vote. They decided to put it off one year because of the replacement schedule.

Ford Explorers were purchased in 2005 with unanticipated revenues. One is Incident Command and the other is Paramedic Response. They will rotate them to keep mileage balanced. They are stored outside, so there are rust issues. Hopes to get 12 years out of them. Might look at the vehicles the police are now using, if he can get them at a better price, that might be the better choice. They are now included in the Capital Reserve Fund. \$50,000/year is put into the fund by warrant. Will work with the W&M and BOS to make best decision for the replacement.

Is this the vehicle he would buy if the garage space wasn't an issue? No. So if the move into the FD building could happen next year, then would buy a different-style truck.

AEDs in various buildings are not part of the EMS. They do manage the ones that are on the fire trucks and police cars.

Russ – thinks the CR may need to be adjusted – thinks it is specifically earmarked for the ambulances. That language was included in the warrant that was withdrawn – will need to be done when it goes on the ballot.

Do they part out the trucks? No, trade-in. But they're so old now that the trade-in value is minimal. Might do better to sell them on Craig's list as utility vehicles, revenue goes into the general fund.

Mike – there is an ongoing discussion about cross-training some EMTs and Firefighters to help with the daytime coverage problem. Longer-term planning will look at the facilities, etc. Starting soon, kick-started by the need to hire a new chief.

Can't move the ambulance crew to the firehouse because it doesn't have the bunkrooms, shower, locked storage, etc. Required by licensure.

Other Business – John Post recommendation for “marketing” the proposals – getting a regular column/story in the paper to explain proposals, etc, give background, educate people in “small doses.” Mike – hearing more and more from people who want to be involved, maybe it's more about bringing people in than pushing information out. General discussion. Addie – would be helpful for CIP committee members to go “on the road” around election time. Mike – would be great if a couple of students were to do videos, etc.

Minutes of 4-9 distributed for review, also two additional submissions from the Schools.

Next meeting May 14 will be DPW/Heritage.

Danielle/Mike moved to adjourn 8:57 pm