

Simsbury Fire District

Report of the President

May 13, 2024

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Fire Commissioners I am pleased to present this report for the year of 2023.

As the Fire District has for almost its entirety of 80 years, we are completing another year of operating within budget with no borrowing of any funds while meeting our demands for present and future fire and emergency protection for the Town of Simsbury. This does not come without challenges as costs have increased across the board especially with the cost of equipment and apparatus. Along with these higher costs are extended wait times, it is now common that replacement pumpers and ladders have lead times in excess of 2 years from bid opening to delivery, making our planning process even more difficult. Fortunately our own in house maintenance program strives to not only keep the equipment in top condition but helps us to get the extended life and even then some. We continue to work our master apparatus replacement plan to ensure that the fleet remains in the ready state that it is,

This budget to be presented to you tonight is a combination of good fiscal management and long range planning. Fortunately we are seeing higher interest returns, a slight increase in our grand list along with the transfer of some of our reserves to allow us to meet our budget needs while only requesting a modest increase in our mill rate.

I'd like to thank everyone who makes this organization the success it is, all of our District employees, our District Executive Committee and our Commissioners. I'd also like to thank each and every member of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company who put in an unbelievable amount of hours training and committing themselves to this community to keep it safe. 855 times in 2023 the call for assistance went out and each and every time the men and women of the SVFC answered that call on a volunteer basis.

As we look ahead the challenges will be there be it old or new. As Chief Baldis stated in his report after 20 years as Chief of the department he will be stepping down and so our challenge as a District is for our commissioners to do their duty and present our Executive Committee with a selection for someone to continue to lead the Fire Company as Jim has in a manner that has been professional as well as progressive. Under Jim's leadership the SVFC has continued to do more than just protect their citizens they have done it with a sense of pride and with the complete support of the public here in Simsbury. I am more than confident there is a great choice among the officer ranks to step into the huge shoes Jim is stepping out of. I'd like to ask you to give Jim a huge round of applause in appreciation for all of his years with the Fire Company with the last 20 as Chief of Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary N Wilcox, President