

Simsbury Fire District

Report of the President 5/12/25

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Fire Commissioners I am pleased to present this report for the year of 2024

- Last year we once again operated within budget with no borrowing of funds while still meeting our demands for fire and emergency protection. The budget we are asking for your approval on tonight will allow us to continue that tradition we have proudly maintained for the last 80 years.
- However, this budget before you tonight is still challenging in a few ways. The cost of new fire apparatus continues to be our biggest challenge not to mention the length of time it takes to deliver once ordered. But the way in which this District has been so fortunate to operate in has helped temper some of the things that hinder other towns and departments. We have always followed a 20 to 25 year plan on not only apparatus replacements but facilities improvements as well and we work extremely hard to map out replacement purchases and facility upgrades years in advance. Following this plan we allocate funds each year for future purchases allowing us to continue our no borrowing or bonding methods. One of the fiscal advantages that produces in the case of apparatus is we can apply funds when we order a new fire truck simply because we have saved for that purchase over a number of years and therefore have the cash in hand which results in additional discount off the bidded price of that truck. When that new apparatus is delivered we have paid for it and we are not faced with many years of bond debt and interest costs.
- I'd like to give credit for this long standing history of good fiscal management to everyone involved in the process starting with our District Administrator Kim Ouimette, working alongside Chief Todd Myers, Facility Director Matt Pearce and Commissioner Chair Geoff Giddings. The rest of the Chief officers have done their part too providing input in all of their respective budget areas along with our Fire Marshal's office and the rest of our commissioners and executive committee. Some of these individuals have stepped up into their positions recently and I can't praise their performance enough, they have done an outstanding job and we can't be more proud of the teamwork to get this done.

Respectfully submitted

Gary N. Wilcox, President
Simsbury Fire District