

## The need for Wenham Engine 4 Replacement

The cost to replace Engine 4 at this current time would be \$475,000 to put a hold on this purchase would only raise the cost in the future due to manufacturing increases. In August of 2019 all Fire Department vehicles were inspected by the State. During the inspection the Inspector found the right side frame of engine 4 with extreme rust, corrosion and frame separation. There is also body separation due to the weakened frame. The inspector informed me that he will not be inspecting engine 4 next August if it is not fixed and would be put out of service due to safety concerns. The **estimated** cost of repairing the frame was \$175,000 providing no other problems are found while replacing the frame. If other problems are found that would escalate the cost to repair rather quickly. Engine 4 was built in 1999 and will be 21 years old and has very few years left and I feel it would be money better spent putting towards new than old.

Why the need for two pumper trucks and not just one?

If the Town were to go with only one pump, the ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating that is used by all insurance companies to determine premiums for commercial and residential fire insurance will go up. This cost increase would be determined by the ISO and would affect the residential fire insurance premiums.

The Departments standard response to any fire alarm incident is two pumps and a ladder. To stay compliant with NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) this is the standard. Again if this standard is not met it will affect the ISO rating for fire insurance premiums.

When the Wenham Fire Department responds to a fire incident at a home the first engine will arrive and go just beyond the house and pull multiple hand lines and start attacking the fire with the water in the tank of the engine. The engine pulls just past the house to leave room for the ladder truck to set up venting operations and possible rescues from upper floors. The second engine will arrive and take the nearest hydrant and lay a 5 inch in diameter line to the first engine and supply water to the scene. With crews in the building and working off of the initial tank water it is extremely important for safety reasons to have this second engine supply water and also pull a secondary hand lines to protect the first crews in case there is failure with the first pump. This meets NFPA standard for firefighter safety.

The second engine not only provides a water source but is also carrying much needed equipment to the scene such as SCBA's (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus), ground ladders, lighting, hand tools and a thermal imager.

Engine 4 is a vital piece to our fleet. The engine responds to a working fire, motor vehicle accidents, brush fires, Gordon College, highway incidents, Beverly Airport and mutual aid. Engine 4 will also respond to any secondary incidents if we have back to back incidents.

Engine 4 responded to 104 calls in the last year, 23 of those calls were for mutual aid. Mutual aid whether we are covering a station or going direct to the fire or being the R.I.T. team (rapid intervention team) it is extremely important to have. Even though we don't receive mutual aid as much as we give, it is important we get it when needed. If the Department had to come off of mutual aid it will change the way we fight fires. Most all fires would be fought from the exterior with no interior attack.

The engine that the Department would like to purchase would be identical to engine 3. Having the same engines this would make training on the operation of these vehicles easier, instead of training on two different pump panels it would all be the same.

I believe if the town doesn't support a second truck it will not only affect the safety of the members of this Department but the citizens of Wenham.

Stephen B. Kavanagh

Fire Chief