

Wilmot Fire Department  
2015  
Budget Items and Warrant Articles

- 1) \$67,000 appropriation for 2015 Operating Budget.
  - i) Same request was approved for 2014
  - ii) Actual Operating Budget was \$91,000 for 2014
  - iii) \$30,000 of Operating Budget pays outstanding debt
  - iv) Fundraising efforts made up the difference of \$24,000 in 2014 or 26% of Budget
- 2) \$50,000.00 Fire Truck Capital Reserve
  - i) Same request was approved for 2014
  - ii) Replace apparatus now and in the future in a realistic time-frame (National Fire Protection Association recommended 25 years)
  - iii) Save residents money in long run
  - iv) Reduce maintenance costs
  - v) Provide safe, modern equipment for our volunteers
  - vi) Continue funding in the future according to our long-term apparatus replacement plan (attached)
  - vii) Review plan every 5 years
- 3) Request \$260,000.00 be raised from Capital Reserve to replace Engine 1
  - i) Replace 1978 Engine and 1982 Tanker with one apparatus
  - ii) Current Engine 1 has failed pump test and has limited pumping capabilities
  - iii) Tanker 1 leaks and has had brake issues in recent years. No seatbelts.
  - iv) Limited tool, equipment space and only holds 2 crew members
  - v) Imperative to have two engines to initiate fire attack
  - vi) Fire Department will assume short term note of \$140,000.00, which will be paid off using future Capital Reserve appropriations, to make up the difference of the total cost of \$400,000.00 and equip new truck.
- 4) New Engine
  - i) 1500 gallons of water
  - ii) Crew of 6 to 8 firefighters
  - iii) Extensive tool and equipment space plus room for growth
  - iv) 2000 gallons per minute pump
  - v) Attack operations
  - vi) Replace two obsolete apparatus with one modern truck
  - vii) Leaves an operational engine in town during Mutual Aid responses
  - viii) Fleet of three firefighting apparatus with a total of 4,250 gallons of water.
  - ix) Improves local Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating based on water supply (200 gallons per minute for 20 minutes). Part of long-term plan to improve the ISO rating in Wilmot. This will make the town safer and reduce insurance premium costs in the long run for homeowners and businesses.
- 5) Tax burden on a \$200,000 assessed property is \$130 or 65 cents per \$1000. This includes Capital Reserve. The national average is close to \$300.
- 6) By maintaining existing funding, the purchase of a new engine results in NO additional tax burden.

- 7) Goal is to pay off a short-term note of \$140,000.00 within 3 years. We would also like to re-finance our existing loan balance of approximately \$87,000 by rolling it into the new financing, which would save \$4,500 in interest.
- 8) Can we buy a used fire truck? Yes, a market exists for used fire trucks. However, most fire trucks are custom built to each department's needs and operational guidelines. What works for one department might not work for another. To buy a truck and really see significant savings, you would be looking at a truck that is already 10 to 15 years old. You would still only keep it until it is 25 years old, so you are only getting half the life out of it and therefore, have half the time to save up money for another one. You are also purchasing a truck that is reaching an age where maintenance costs are going to begin to increase. In the end, savings are minimal, if any, and you're most likely not going to get a truck that has all of the features and capabilities that you need or want.
- 9) What about Mutual Aid? The Mutual Aid system is designed as a back-up system. The fire department must have the ability to establish an initial attack on a fire. That initial attack includes one engine as the attack apparatus and another engine as the water supply apparatus. A tanker shuttle provides water to the supply engine and the supply engine feeds the attack engine. The longer we have to wait for the supply engine to arrive on scene and establish a water supply negatively impacts our ability to knock down the fire. This limitation also puts firefighters and residents and their property in danger. Mutual Aid provides for secondary assignments for crews and apparatus. Wilmot cannot rely on another town to establish the initial fire attack. Also, if an alarm is initially transmitted as a smoke alarm activation, chimney fire, odor of smoke, etc., mutual aid is not automatically dispatched.

### New Engine Summary

Currently two of the four pieces of fire-fighting equipment owned by the Wilmot Volunteer Fire Co., Inc. are outdated and unsafe. Engine 1, the pumper, is 38 years old and has failed pump tests. Tanker 1 leaks. It also has significant safety issues -- no seatbelts and problems with the brakes. Continuing to use these two pieces of apparatus puts the department's volunteer firefighters -- your friends and neighbors -- at risk. The department's inadequate ability to attack a fire also puts private property at a higher risk. Modern day structure fires are essentially hazardous materials fires. Almost everything inside your home is petroleum based or plastic. These items burn 2 to 3 times hotter than traditional natural fiber furnishings that were common 30 years ago. They also produce 500 times the amount of toxic smoke. To effectively fight these fires, it is necessary to apply water in greater amounts and faster rates. In a rural town like Wilmot with limited emergency water resources, it is necessary to transport as much water to the fire as possible. Adding the new engine to our fleet provides a significant improvement in our ability to knock-down fire quickly and efficiently while giving us the best chance to preserve life and property. Having two engines is a need, not a want. Currently, we are operating short-handed. The new engine will play an invaluable part in the fire attack. Delaying this purchase by only three years could add as much as \$40,000 to the price. We kindly ask for your support on this issue. You may direct any questions to Chief Tom Scully at [chief@wilmotfire.org](mailto:chief@wilmotfire.org). Thank you.