



# FORKS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT YEARLY STATISTICS AND 5 YEAR PLAN

Submitted by  
Chief Bill Carver

# LEADERSHIP PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Bill Carver
- Deputy Chief Matt Mowrey
- Asst. Chief Chuck Gallagher
- Captain Jevin Russo
- Captain Jason Billiard
- Lt. Nick Horton
- Lt. Pat Mellett
- Lt. Greg Cooke
- Lt. Andrew Trumbour

## MEMBERSHIP AND STAFFING

- There are 61 Active members of the fire department
- 12 of which are Junior members
- There were 5 members that completed basic fire training in 2016 at the Forks Township Training Facility.
- There are 5 more enrolled in the basic fire training class that started this Monday and will finish the first weekend in June.

# 2015 AND 2016 CALL STATISTICS COMPARISON

- 2015

- Calls for Service

- 364

- Overlapping Calls

- 40 10.99% of calls

- Mutual Aid Calls

- Aid given 6 times

- Aid received 6 times

- Average Response Time

- 9 minutes and 26 Seconds

- 2016

- Calls for Service

- 377

- Overlapping Calls

- 36 9.55% of Calls

- Mutual Aid Calls

- Aid given 10 times

- Aid received 7 times

- Average Response Time

- 11 minutes and 48 seconds

# APPARATUS RUN PER YEAR

- 2015

- 2513- 115 Calls
- 2511- 95 Calls
- 2542- 84 Calls
- 2541- 62 Calls
- 2521- 41 Calls
- 2543- 37 Calls
- 2545- 2 Calls
- 2544- Out of service

- 2016

- 2511- 115 Calls
- 2513- 99 Calls
- 2542- 81 Calls
- 2541- 59 Calls
- 2521- 47 Calls
- 2543- 30 Calls
- 2544- 5 Calls
- 2545- 2 Calls

# CAPITAL PROJECTS

## TRAINING FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

- Project work was undertaken in 2016 to redevelop the Glover Rd. training tower area.
- The fencing was removed and pushed back. Large gates were placed to facilitate fire apparatus better.
- The concrete working area around the tower was expanded to allow for better truck staging and a safer working area for firefighters in training.
- The Community Fire Company funded with project with the assistance of Steve Kramer and public works staff.

# CAPITAL PROJECTS

## TRAINING FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

- The final phase will be completed in the summer of 2017.
- The facility work that has been done will allow for the placement of fixed lighting to allow for night operations
- The public works staff will pave with black top the driveway entrances and exits to the training ground.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS SCBA REPLACEMENT

- NFPA 1981 refers to the standards that apply to a firefighter's self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- In January 2013 there was a list of 4 major changes that were made to SCBA.
- The fire department officers made it a priority to establish a plan to become NFPA 1981 2013 compliant.
- In 2014 the department began replacing SCBA on trucks.



## CAPITAL PROJECTS SCBA REPLACEMENT

- For 2014,2015 and 2016 the Fireman's Relief Association funded the replacement of all SCBA devices.
- The last of the replacement units were placed in service in July of 2016.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### 2544 MINI PUMPER AND BRUSH UNIT

- In late July 2016 the new 2544 was delivered from Firematic Company through Glick Fire.
- There were several operation issues upon initial delivery that delayed training and service of the truck.
- In the beginning of November the new truck was placed in service with Northampton County.
- The truck is currently in service and ready to respond.

# FLEET STATUS

- 2511- 2006 Pierce Enforcer Engine
  - Truck is starting to have paint issues below the windshield. It will have the paint corrected this year.
  - The truck is mechanically sound on the drive line and firematic systems.
  - There are some minor electrical issues with lights that have stopped working, they will be replaced this year.
- 2513- 2013 Pierce Arrow Engine
  - The truck has some minor paint issues above the front wheel wells. It will have the paint corrected this year.

# FLEET STATUS

- 2513 Continued
  - The firematic and drive line systems are problem free.
- 2521- 1996 Simon Duplex LTI Ladder Truck
  - The truck has a slow persistent oil leak that does not appear to affect the operation of the truck.
  - The ladder way has a crimp in the pulling cable and will have to be replaced in the next couple years.
  - There is occasional low power in the hydraulic lifting system of the truck.
  - The drive line is good shape, with the exception of the oil leak. The firematic systems are functioning normally.
  - Truck is due for replacement in 2020, some of these issues will be monitored and decisions will be made on repairs.

# FLEET STATUS

- 2541- 1999 Spartan Marion Wet Rescue
  - The drive line of the truck is sound and working properly, there is a rusted wheel that is being replaced.
  - The foam system of the truck is broken and only sporadically operational
  - The fire pump on the truck leaks when being pumped
  - The tank of the truck leaks while sitting on the bay floor.
  - The interior surface of the cabinets are starting to peel off.
  - There are a couple shelves in the truck that are stripped and no longer hold their location.
  - The truck has some minor paint issues around the truck, nothing needing attention at this time.
  - The truck is due for replacement in 2018, no action is being taken due to the replacement window

# FLEET STATUS

- 2542- 2012 Ford Reading

- The truck is mechanically sound with no noted issues.

## 2543- 2007 Ford F-350 Pick Up

- The truck is mechanically sound with no detected issues.
- There are some minor paint issues that do not need attention at this time.
- The bed liner is starting to fail and will need to be replaced in the next couple years.

## 2545- 2007 Carmate Trailer

- The trailer is mechanically sound and functioning normally.

## FLEET STATUS

- 2546- 2015 Ford Explorer
  - Vehicle is mechanically sound with no driveline issues.
  - Vehicle has no issues with it's emergency response systems.

## 5 YR PLAN

The 5 yr plan of the Forks Township Fire Department focuses on three main areas.

- Capital Equipment
- Recruitment and Retention
- Response Time Reduction



# CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

- Vehicle Replacement
  - There are two major vehicles that are to be replaced under the next 5 years.
  - The department officers have considered many options and have come up with a plan for replacement.
  - There are three options considered when looking at vehicle replacement
    - Refurbishment
    - Purchase replacement
    - Remain in-service

# REFURBISHMENT

- Refurbishing a fire apparatus involves many factors.
  - The level of refurbishment required is driven by vehicle condition.
    - The drive line
    - The firematic systems
    - The electrical systems
    - The body and compartment conditions

Most importantly, the department has to decide if refurbishment is feasible.

# REFURBISHMENT

- When refurbishing a truck the unit will be out of service for an extended period of time. The truck can be out of service for up to one year.
- Refurbishment will only extend the life of the truck for 5-10 years.

## VEHICLE PURCHASE

- The purchase of new fire apparatus is the most costly options for fleet management.
- Purchasing new vehicles allows the department to plan a truck that will meet the needs of community, now and in the future.
- Purchasing trucks allows for a front end decrease in vehicle repair costs.

## REMAIN IN-SERVICE

- This is the most cost effective option.
- This leads to a continually aging fleet, that drives up operation and repair costs.
- There is an overall decrease in reliability with the increasing age of the truck.

## FLEET CONSIDERATIONS 2017

- Rescue 2541 is due for replacement.
  - It is the departments proposal that this truck is replaced via purchase on schedule.
  - The truck has responded to 62 and 59 calls in the last two year respectively.
  - The rescue truck has no duplication in the fleet. There is no secondary rescue truck. Refurbishment would lead to an absence of service during the refurbishment period.

# FLEET CONSIDERATIONS 2017

- Current status of 2541
  - The drive line of the truck is sound and working properly, there is a rusted wheel that is being replaced.
  - The foam system of the truck is broken and only sporadically operational
  - The fire pump on the truck leaks when being pumped
  - The tank of the truck leaks while sitting on the bay floor.
  - The interior surface of the cabinets are starting to peel off.
  - There are a couple shelves in the truck that are stripped and no longer hold their location.
  - The truck has some minor paint issues around the truck, nothing needing attention at this time.
  - The truck is due for replacement in 2018, no action is being taken due to the replacement window
  - This truck will be replaced in the next 12-18 months.

# RESCUE 2541

- The rescue truck has the equipment to handle most non firematic calls. The truck carries the equipment to handle or start to mitigate the following situations.
  - Car accidents
  - Industrial accidents
  - Agricultural accidents
  - Rope rescue
  - Terrain rescue
  - Trench rescue
  - Confined space rescue
  - Hazardous Materials incidents
  - Water rescues
  - Special lighting needs



## RESCUE 2541 PLAN

- The rescue is the largest tool box that we have.
- The truck is responsible for protecting and operating over \$200,000 in tools and equipment.
- The truck will have a 1000 gpm pump with appropriate discharges, 500 gallon water tanks, direct injection foam system and a 20 gallon foam cell.
- This lends to the future refurbishment of 2511, it would give a third truck that has full engine capabilities. This would allow for us to operate 2 engines while engine 2511 is out for refurbishment.

## RESCUE 2541 PLAN

- The current 2541 has about 327 cu ft of lower level compartment space, to safely store all of the tools and equipment that we require we would need at least 415 cu ft of space.
- This can not be accomplished with a refurbishment.
- The goal would be to order end of Q1 or beginning of Q2 this year and deliver in Q2 next year.

## RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION CONSIDERATIONS 2017

- In the end of 2016 Gov. Wolf signed the volunteer tax credit act for volunteers.
- We would like to see some measure of the tax credit enacted by the Board of Supervisors during this calendar year.
- There are many considerations to this, the maximum allowable credit is 20% of property and income tax to active firefighters.
- The level of credit and the definition of active fire fighter is left up to each municipality according to the act.

## FLEET CONSIDERATIONS 2018

- We will add a vehicle in each of the next two years.
- These vehicle would be assigned to the Deputy Chief and the Assistant Chief.
- Both of these positions are that of scene responders, they go directly to the location of the incident. They generally do not go to the firehouse.
- Currently, they are parking their personally owner vehicles in roadways during incidents leaving them susceptible to damage.

## FLEET CONSIDERATIONS 2018 CONTINUED

- This also places a level of liability on the township. These vehicle do not have certified emergency warning packages in them. If we were struck it may be determined that we as a department have fault in that.
- The proposal is for a new or used 4 wd vehicle in 2018 for the Deputy Chief.

# RESPONSE TIME REDUCTION CONSIDERATIONS 2018

- With the current development level of Forks Township and the increase in traffic along township roads it is becoming increasingly harder to get staff to the fire station.
- There have been several lights added to the Sullivan Trail corridor over the past few years, and with the potential development of Sullivan Trail further the problem has the potential to get worse.
- The fire department is currently looking at the feasibility of creating a live in program at the fire house that would provide staffing on location at the firehouse.

# RESPONSE TIME REDUCTION CONSIDERATIONS 2018

- When the research is complete, we will know if that will help us enough or not.
- The alternate plan to assist in response time reduction would be to create a satellite station.
- The ideal location for a satellite station would somewhere near Uhler Rd and Sullivan Tr., this would provide quicker access to the northern portions of Forks and create easier pathways for staff to get to trucks.
- As we look at this and continually monitor the response times, the resolutions will be on sliding scale time wise.

## FLEET CONSIDERATIONS 2019

- Add a new or used 4 wd command vehicle for use by the Assistant Chief. For the same reasons as spoken about in 2018.



# LADDER 2521

## FLEET CONSIDERATIONS 2019

- The overall height of buildings has changed since 1996 when the current ladder was delivered.
- The township has allowed for 3 story residential buildings in the township.
- The set back from the street and on street parking are the largest hurdles to over come when placing a ladder truck.
- There are many consideration when placing a ladder truck
  - Obstacles in the way, like trees and wires
  - Parked cars add about 5 ft
  - The jack spread of the truck adds 6-8 ft
  - Angular distance from the desired target

## LADDER 2521

- The truck is mechanically sound.
- The truck is the only ladder operated by the fire department making it poor choice for refurbishment. Refurbishment would lead to a lack of service for the duration of the refurbishment.
- The truck is a poor choice to remain in-service.
- The truck is a 75 ft main ladder, which when ordered was short for the suburban area that we cover.
- A larger truck will also provide for more storage space for truck company tools and a larger selection of ground ladders.

## LADDER 2521

- There have been many occasions over the past several years where we have been unable to access areas of need with the current ladder truck.
- The recommended purchase would be of a new ladder truck that has a minimum main ladder length of 100 ft.

# RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION CONSIDERATIONS 2019

- I would like for the Board of Supervisors to consider implementing a length of service awards program (LOSAP) for volunteer fire fighters.
- There are many departments across the country that use these effectively to maintain their volunteer ranks.
- LOSAP programs do have a direct financial cost to the municipality.
- There are several consulting companies that assist with program investigation and development.
- The fire company would be willing to split the cost of investigation with the township.

## CAPITAL PROPERTY CONSIDERATION 2020

- The fire department would like to add a fire safety education trailer in 2020.
- The volume of youth that we reach every year is constantly increasing.
- Fire safety trailers are very effective in fire prevention education.
- We currently borrow trailers from multiple other municipalities for fire safety education. There are times when we are doing education that they are not available.
- We are looking to fund this project through a federal grant program.

## CAPITAL CONSIDERATION 2021

- The addition of a basement fire simulator at the training grounds.
- This would be the last major modification needed at the training grounds for our firefighters to train in real, common situations.
- Basement fires have a high complication rate on the fire ground and require unique techniques to successfully control.
- This would be a small add on building to the current tower.
- The estimated cost would be \$200,000.