Wilton Fire Department
2021 Warrant Article Requests

2021 Wilton Fire Warrant Article Requests

All Articles are recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee

- The Wilton Fire Department is proposing the following 5 Warrant Articles for the 2021 Budget year:
  1. Replace Engine 1, ($650,000); funded through a lease to purchase program, $75K/year for 10 years.
  2. Retire Engine 3 and replace the existing Forestry Truck with a new unit, ($100,000); funding to come from existing Fire Department Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve fund.
  3. Purchase a new Chief Command vehicle, ($55,000); funding to come from existing Fire Department Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve fund.
  4. Fund $50,000 to repair out of service dry hydrants, continuation of the 2020 program.
  5. Establish an Air Pack Replacement Capital Reserve Fund; $15,000.

2021 Wilton Fire Warrant Article Requests: Vehicles

- Overview:
  - The Town of Wilton has historically funded fire apparatus purchases through a Capital Improvement Plan.
  - Annual funding has not been sufficient to keep up with the rising costs of replacing our Fire Apparatus, resulting in an aged vehicle fleet. Currently the average age of our fire apparatus is 27 years old.
  - The age of the fleet has been problematic in the sense that unplanned repairs result in long out of service times due to lack of parts availability on the older vehicles. Additionally, repair costs well exceeded budget in 2020.
  - Fire apparatus manufacturers are stating that the cost of apparatus increases ~3-6% annually.
  - The NFPA generally recommends that Engines are moved to "reserve" status at 15 years of service, Ladders at 20 years of service (NFPA 1911; Annex D).
  - Primex insures our apparatus at full replacement value up to 20 years of age, then "fair market value" beyond 20 years.
  - Most Municipalities have shifted to funding fire apparatus through flexible lease to purchase programs.
  - The 2021 Fire Department Vehicle Warrant Article requests are the first step to reducing the overall average age of our apparatus as well as the number of apparatus in the fleet, resulting in an overall reduction in capital outlay over time.

2020 WFD Vehicle Repairs

By Category:

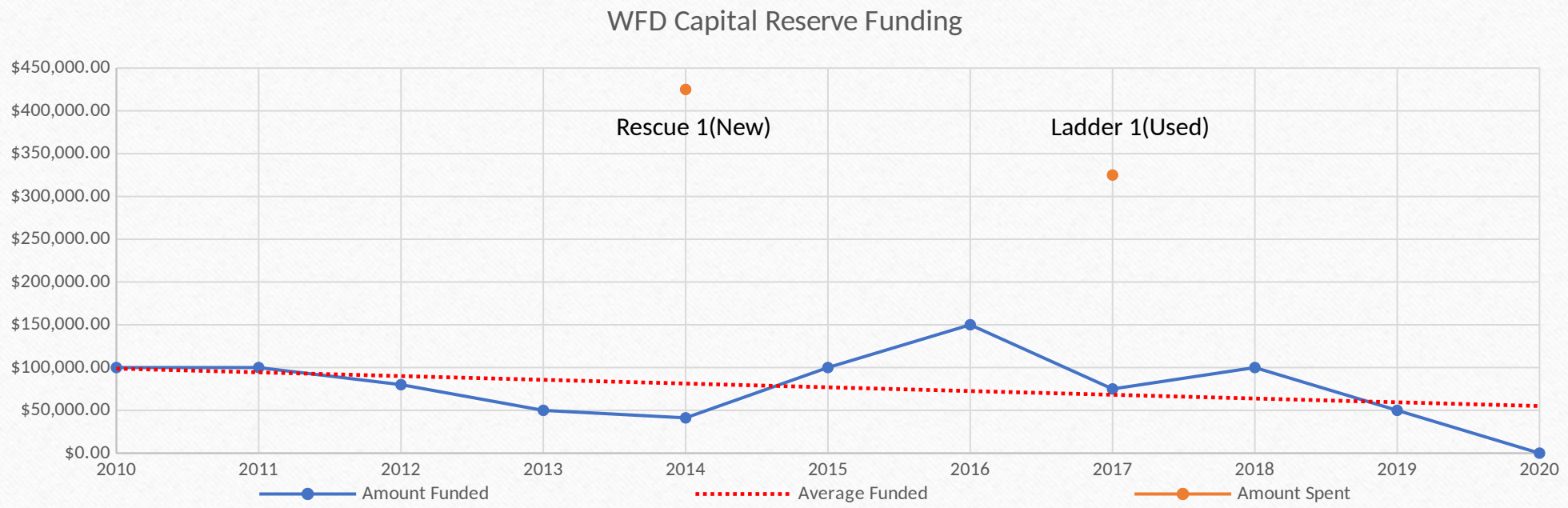
Vehicle	Routine Maintenance	Pump Service	Pump Test	State Inspection	Aerial Inspection	Total Unplanned - 2020	2020 Total
Engine 1	$821.44	$330.00	$275.00	$70.00	$0.00	$10,103.00	$11,599.44
Engine 2	$1,607.22	$555.00	$275.00	$70.00	$0.00	$1,240.00	$3,747.22
Engine 3	$43.20		$0.00	$70.00	$0.00	$928.00	$1,041.20
Ladder 1	$1,802.48	$0.00	$0.00	$95.00	$550.00	$20,733.27	$23,180.75
Tanker 1	$973.23	$305.00	$275.00	$70.00	$0.00		$1,623.23
Rescue 1	$1,048.41	$0.00	$0.00	$70.00	$0.00		$1,118.41
Forestry 1	$659.19	$0.00	$0.00	$70.00	$0.00		$729.19
Forestry 2	$260.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00		$260.00
Totals	$7,215.17	$1,190.00	$825.00	$515.00	$550.00	$33,004.27	$43,299.44
						2020 Budget	$15,500.00
						2020 Budget Shortfall	-$27,799.44

2020 WFD Unplanned Vehicle Repair Details

2020 Unplanned Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs - Details		
Vehicle	Cause	Amount
Engine 1	Radiator Hoses	$1,330.00
Engine 1	Radiator Repair	$7,377.00
Engine 1	Exhaust Repair	$1,396.00
Engine 2	Pump Primer	$516.00
Engine 2	Batteries	$724.00
Engine 3	Axle Wheel Seal	$928.00
Ladder 1	Transmission	$18,057.00
Ladder 1	Low Oil Pressure	$1,636.72
Ladder 1	Fluid Film Frame	$1,039.55
Total Unplanned Maintenance - 2020		$33,004.27
Total Routine Maintenance - 2020		$10,295.17
Total Vehicle Repairs - 2020		$43,299.44
2020 Vehicle Repair Budget		$15,500.00
2021 Vehicle Repair Budget Deficit		-$27,799.44

WFD Vehicle Capital Reserve Funding

(Prior 10 years)



WFD Vehicle Capital Reserve Funding

(Per Year Detail)

Wilton Fire Vehicle-Equipment Capital Reserve - Historical Data			
Town Meeting Year	Amount Funded	Amount Spent	Notes
2010	$100,000.00	$0.00	
2011	$100,000.00	$0.00	
2012	$80,000.00	$0.00	
2013	$50,000.00	$0.00	
2014	$41,200.00	$425,000.00	Purchase New Rescue 1 - $383K From Capital Reserve Fund
2015	$100,000.00	$0.00	
2016	$150,000.00	$0.00	
2017	$75,000.00	$325,000.00	Purchase Used Ladder 1 - $250K From Capital Reserve Fund
2018	$100,000.00	$0.00	
2019	$50,000.00	$0.00	
2020	$0.00	$0.00	
10 Year Average	$76,927.27		

Wilton Fire Apparatus Replacement Plan

Current Average Age = 27 years (Forestry 2 excluded)

Apparatus	Year of Manufacture	Current Age 2021	Age at Forestry 1 Replacement (2021)	Age at Engine 1 Replacement (2022)	Age at Engine 2 Replacement (2032)
Engine 1	1987	34	34	35	10
Engine 2	2007	14	14	15	25
Engine 3	1963	58	REMOVE-2021	REMOVED-2021	REMOVED-2021
Forestry 1	1984	37	37	1	11
Ladder 1	2008	13	13	14	24
Rescue 1	2014	7	7	8	18
Tanker 1	1993	28	28	29	39
Number of Apparatus		7	6	6	6
Fleet Average Age(Years)		27	22	17	21
	>20 Years of Service	Insurance provides current market value			
	<20 Years of Service	Insurance covers full replacement costs			

WILTON
ENGINE
1
FIRE
DEPARTMENT
Wilton Fire Engine 1

2021 Wilton Warrant Article #8: Replace Engine 1

- Replace the Engine 1, currently 34 years old, with a new Engine.
- Repair parts are becoming difficult to procure, resulting in long out of service durations during repairs. Engine 1 was out of service more than 3 weeks total in 2020.
- Vehicle is relied on as the second due engine at all fires and is utilized as a cover truck for mutual aid.
- Vehicle would carry more water on wheels than existing engine (+800 gallons) and would also replace aged equipment.
- Funding (~$650,000) to come from a lease-purchase program, ~$75,000 per year for a 10 year term. Town of Wilton owns the vehicle at the end of the lease.
- Existing Engine 1 will be sent out to bid to retire when new Engine arrives, unless there are financial advantages to trading in at time of new lease-purchase.

Wilton Fire Engine 3

Wilton Fire Forestry 1

Wilton Fire Warrant Article #11: Retire Engine 3, Replace Forestry 1

- Retire Engine 3 (1963 FWD Pumper) and Replace Forestry 1 (1984 Chevrolet-Army Surplus) with a new Forestry truck.
- Vehicle would have the following capabilities:
  - Safely carry 4 firefighters in full gear.
  - Carry 300 gallons of water, pumps and equipment for forestry and off road emergencies/rescues.
  - Capable of towing existing trailer with UTV (Forestry 2) utilized for brush fires, off road search and rescues.
- Funding ($100,000) to come from existing Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund
- Trade-in existing Forestry 1 to re-purpose some equipment, Engine 3 out to bid at retirement, approximate delivery date November 2021.

Wilton Warrant Article #12:
Purchase Chief Command Vehicle

Wilton Fire Warrant Article #12: Purchase Chief Command Vehicle

- Purchase a Chevrolet Tahoe or similar vehicle for the Fire Chief position.
- Currently the Fire Chief utilizes his personal vehicle for all Fire Department business, Town pays fuel expenses.
- New vehicle would have the following capabilities:
  - Carry firefighting gear and fire suppression equipment for rapid response to incidents.
  - Carry medical equipment for medical emergencies.
  - Carry computer equipment for emergency response and reference.
  - Towing capabilities for trailer.
- Funding ($55,000) to come from existing Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.

Wilton Warrant Article #15:
Dry Hydrant Repairs

- Continue initiative funded in 2020 (Article #24)to repair out of service dry hydrants.
  - Through the competitive bid process and utilizing several contractors we were able to repair 7 out of service locations in 2020 with the $50K funded through Town Meeting.
  - Three locations from the original list still need funding for repair.
  - 2020 testing of all locations identified 5 “new” failures in need of repair.
- Funding ($50,000) to come from taxation.
- We will again use the competitive bid process and lessons learned in the 2020 project to repair as many locations in 2021 as funding is approved.

Wilton Warrant Article #16:
Air Pack Capital Reserve Account

- Establish a Capital Reserve Account to fund the eventual replacement of the Fire Department Breathing Apparatus (Air Packs).
- 24 Air Packs and 2 Rescue packs were replaced in 2020 at just over a cost of $202K.
- The new units will be in need of replacement in 15 years, another large purchase which we would like to levelize the tax impact over the 15 years, not attempt to fund in years 14-15 as has been done in the past.
- Funding: ($15,000 per year) to come from taxation.

Questions?

Contact Chief Don Nourse @ 654-6758 or 732-2015