

# Fire/EMS/EMA Department - FY 25

## Assumed Outcomes:

- To provide effective and efficient delivery of Fire/EMS to the community
- To respond to all requests for help and hazards to protect the public
- To assist other town agencies
- To provide assistance as needed to mutual aid agencies
- To provide public education in home safety and fire prevention in the home
- To provide youth fire education in the schools and daycares when requested
- To ensure all Lodging, Victualers, and Special Amusement licensed establishments comply with the life safety code
- To provide Fire/EMS training for both our career and call professionals
- To provide CPR/AED training to the public when requested
- Work with MEMA and FEMA in emergency preparedness and response

## Mandates:

- Annual Maine Department of Labor mandated trainings
- Mandated EMS training (4 hours a month)
- Annual fire department hands on training (4+ hours a month)
- Annual fire department driver training
- NFPA 1720 Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments.
- Annual continuing education requirements of National Registry Emergency Medical Technicians
- Annual continuing education requirements of the Maine Office EMS
- Annual continuing education requirements to maintain Fire Inspector qualifications
- Annual continuing education requirements to maintain Code Enforcement Officer qualifications
- Adhere to requirements of the Knox County Mutual Aid Association
- Aid in the administration of the Knox County Mutual Aid Association
- Work with Knox County Fire Training Academy to educate personnel

## Current Methods:

- 12 hour daytime Fire/EMS coverage 6am to 6pm 12/7/365
- 12 hour on call nighttime Fire/EMS coverage 6pm to 6am 12/7/365
- Command staff on call 24/7/365

## Current Resources

### ***Personnel: Career***

- 1 Chief/Emergency Management Director/Public Health Officer

- 1 Asst. Fire Chief/EMT
- 1 Captain Fire/EMT-P
- 1 Firefighter/EMT

**Personnel: Part time**

- 1 Asst. Fire Chief/EMT
- 1 Asst. Fire Chief
- 2 Fire Police
- 1 Safety officer/EMT
- 1 Firefighter/EMT-A
- 2 Firefighter/EMTs
- 4 EMTs
- 7 Firefighters
- 2 Junior Firefighters

## Areas of Discussion:

The Fire Service has changed significantly over the last couple of decades. Many communities were able to rely on volunteer or part-time/on-call personnel. This staffing model was cost effective. However, with fewer personnel, service delivery and the ability to meet national standards is adversely impacted. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimated that there has been a 25% reduction in the number of Firefighters around the country over the last 20 years. Camden has been affected in the same way. We have fewer qualified Firefighters than we had 10 years ago.

Fire & EMS agencies are evolving. There is more reliance on full-time, career personnel with better education, who are cross trained to provide Fire & EMS. This comes with a higher cost which lends towards having a conversation with how to provide this service among communities.

Numerous media reports about the existing challenges in the delivery of fire and EMS can be cited. We can probably all agree an issue exists which needs to be addressed. It's often the right timing and a solution which is harder to come by.

Camden Fire expanded its service offering to include EMS non-transporting first responders in March 2023 as recommended by consultants. This will nearly triple the annual call volume in the first year.

## Areas of Concern:

- The lack of part time personnel available 24/7/365
- Career burn-out of full-time staff who are relied on for response 24/7/365
- The addition of more cross trained full time staff to adequately respond
- Adequate facilities to provide 24 hour coverage in the existing configuration of the public safety building
- Adding the capacity to provide EMS transport services

- Financial impact on the taxpayer