



City of Biddeford
Biddeford Fire Advisory Committee

September 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM
Central Fire Station

<https://biddeford.zoom.us/j/97355431094?pwd=ojA8Pew0dlavxHrGK0aDqjuynyRkz1.1>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 973 5543 1094
Passcode: 994431

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes
 - 4.a 20240613 minutes
5. Fire Alarm Reports
6. Chief's Informational
7. New Business
8. Old Business
9. Other Business
10. Adjourn



Biddeford Fire Department

Emergency Services

152 Alfred Street Biddeford, Maine 04005

Tel: 207 282-6632

Fax: 207-283-8243

Present: Charles Drapeau, Kenneth Pendleton, Stephanie Walsh, Chief Best and Office Manager Kathy Boyden.

Excused: Assistant Chief Dexter & Deputy Chief Thorpe

Absent: Rick Laverriere

1. Called to Order on June 13, 2024 at 10:00 am.
2. Roll Call
3. Fire Alarm – Placed on File
4. Minutes of April 4, 2023 meeting – Motion to accept minutes by Mr. Drapeau, seconded by Mr. Pendleton. Vote: Unanimous
5. Fire Alarm Reports for April – Dec. 2023, Jan – May 2024, placed on file.
6. Chief's Informational – The Chief went over his background with this first meeting with the Committee. He then went on to explain various things taking place in the department.

There are currently 7 vacancies in the department and there will be a Captain retiring in July. The promotional process has started and we hope to have everyone in place during July and August. We are continuing to look for new hires to fill our open positions.

The FY25 budget is in process and moving forward for approval. The increase for the Fire Department is 10.6% this year.

In the upcoming years, these are some of the things that we hope to be able to put in CIP:

- Apparatus replacement – we are looking at the age and mileage of our trucks. Our oldest pumper truck is a 2005 and is in the best condition of all the pumpers. We have one 2008 that has over 200K miles and another 2008 that has over 130K miles. The lifespan of a truck has always been 20 years, it is now closer to 10-15 years before it needs replacement. We will be looking to upgrade some trucks over the next few years.
- Defibrillators – which their lifespan is 7-10 years now.
- Tech Rescue Equipment
- Thermal Imaging Cameras, enough for the shift on duty.
- Having the HVAC system cleaned.

An order for an ambulance and pumper truck were put in the budget in FY24. It now takes 2-3 years for these vehicles to be received once they are ordered, a ladder truck will take approximately 4 years to receive once ordered.

In FY25 we are looking to get a pickup truck to replace Service 4.

Other things that we are focusing on:

- SOP's and SOG's, we are going through and updating these with the policy committee
- Joint procedures with Saco
- We are still working on an Eastern Fire Station
- Trainings, working with Saco for June & July at a donated house in Saco
- There will be a lot of in house and outside trainings.
- There are currently 6 firefighters in Paramedic school and they should be testing in July and August.
- We are moving forward with training instructors for BFD so we can teach our own.
- Brush 20 – we received a grant that we will be able to use toward a truck to run calls with, so Brush 20 will be used less.
- Deputy Thorpe's new vehicle has come in and is being worked on for shelving in the back.
- Service 4 will be replaced in FY25

Grants:

We have received a Maine EMS Grant in the amount of \$156K

Other Grants that we have put in for and are waiting to hear on:

\$44K from Firehouse Subs, this would be put towards a boat

\$146K AFG Grant for PPE

\$30K AFG Grant for Fire Prevention towards the purchase of a fire extinguisher prop

Admin: There are many NFPA updates coming up. The last updates were in the 1980's

Things that will be requested in upcoming years:

- Additional Chief, Fire Inspector, Part Time Admin Asst.

7. Old Business – None

8. New Business – The Chief has suggested that, moving forward, we set quarterly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of April, June, September and December.

We are in need of a Chair and Vice Chair for the Fire Advisory Committee. The Chief spoke of the responsibilities of the Committee. Mr. Pendleton put his name in for the Chair and will be speaking with the Mayor.

The Chief is still hoping that the Eastern Fire Station will be on the referendum in November.

9. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Drapeau and seconded by Mr. Pendleton at 11:04 am.

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kathy S. Boyden