



YARMOUTH FIRE-RESCUE STATEMENT OF NEED

Since the Yarmouth Fire Station was built in 1976, the number of calls the department responds to has risen substantially. The station cannot accommodate its firetrucks, apparatus, staff, volunteers, or training needs. To serve Yarmouth's growing population, recruit and retain new staff and volunteers to serve our Town's escalating needs, the department needs a larger, updated facility. It also needs an Emergency Operations Center to coordinate response to natural disasters, local, state, & national emergencies, with Police and other agencies.

ABOUT FIRE-RESCUE

- **Services.** Yarmouth Fire-Rescue provides all-hazards emergency response to Yarmouth and surrounding communities. That includes: fire suppression, advanced life support emergency medical transport, hazardous materials response, and technical rescues.
- **Staff.** The Department is staffed by a full-time Fire-Rescue Chief and Deputy Chief, plus an Administrative Assistant who is also a certified Firefighter and EMT. A paramedic staffs the station 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Four students from Southern Maine Community College (SMCC)'s Public Safety Student Live-In Program live at the station and assist on calls. They are assisted by 20 Per Diem firefighters, and 40 volunteer firefighters/EMT's who respond to calls from their homes.
- **Facility.** The Fire Station on North Road was built in 1976 to consolidate services that were located on Centre Street, Cousins Island, and Wyman Station. In 2002, a trailer previously used as a portable classroom, then as a maintenance shop was moved to the Fire Station parking lot to temporarily serve as administrative offices. (Staff previously worked on Centre Street). In 2006, the trailer was outfitted with living quarters to accommodate the SMCC students and on-call paramedic.
- **Call Volume.** Yarmouth Fire Rescue responded to 1694 calls in 2017 (vs. 250 calls when the station opened.) Last year, 63% of calls (1069) were medical, and those calls are expected to rise with the growth of the community and aging demographics.
- **Safety Rating.** The Department recently earned an upgraded "[Public Protection Classification](#)"—an evaluation of municipal fire-protection efforts that insurers use to establish premiums. This upgrade, to a level 4, lowers insurance costs for Yarmouth businesses and residents.

NEEDS

- **Parking Space.** When the Fire Station was built, the department had 5 vehicles, the longest of which was a 17' feet. Today, Yarmouth Fire-Rescue has 7 vehicles, which are up to 45' feet. Ambulances were 17 feet in 1976— now they are up to 26' feet long. As a result, the station garage is cramped, which creates exhaust issues and hazards for firefighters returning from calls. This will get worse in the next 5 to 10 years, as it is anticipated that a third ambulance will eventually be needed to meet the growing volume of medical calls.
- **Office Space.** The Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and Administrative Assistant work from a 1,300-square foot trailer. The Department anticipates adding an employee to help handle the increasing number of inspections for new residential and commercial construction. The trailer also houses the 4 SMCC students, plus sleeping accommodations for the on-call paramedic. The 35-year-old trailer is now 15 years past the life expectancy established by the manufacturer. It has ongoing maintenance issues, including mold, a leaking roof, and insulation deficiencies.
- **Training and Meeting Space.** Training standards established by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have changed since the Fire Station was built. Firefighters must complete at least 200 hours of training before they can respond to a call, plus weekly training sessions. The current training space can accommodate 20 people, but the weekly trainings typically draw 30 people. That training space is also used for regional trainings, blood drives, CPR training, and other community events. More community events could be held with a larger space.
- **Overnight Accommodations.** Since 2006, the department has housed the 4 SMCC students in the trailer that also houses administrative offices. There is also a fifth sleeping space for the on-call paramedic. The sleeping quarters are cramped and in disrepair. The cooking capacity is limited, with a stove, microwave, small refrigerator, and small table for dining. In the years ahead, Yarmouth Fire-Rescue hopes to increase the number of SMCC student it hosts— the students provide valuable service to the department. It would also like to provide additional sleeping quarters so staff and volunteers to respond from the station, firefighters could have space to recover after calls, and to house personnel from other agencies in emergencies.
- **Storage Space.** Some 63% of the calls to Yarmouth Fire-Rescue responds are medical in nature, and ambulances are now designed to provide more advanced medical care than they have in the past. The department needs more storage space for medical supplies and other emergency response equipment.