

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## WARRANT ARTICLE INFORMATION

The Alton Fire Department Ambulance is **completely** funded by the revenue it generates through billing for EMS services. The income covers **all** expenses including wages, fuel and vehicle maintenance, training for new EMT's, annual continuing education required for existing EMS responders, tires, inoculations, telephone, radio, Summer shift coverage, consumables, oxygen, repairs and the purchase of the ambulance itself. At the risk of sounding redundant, the **Ambulance does not cost the Alton taxpayer's anything** - but \$1.00 (One Dollar), which is put in the general operating budget for the Fire Department.

Also, on Article #22 to re-power the Towns' Fire Boat with new twin 150 hp, 4 stroke engines, attached with a "C" drive. This 'C' drive will allow the boat motors to operate efficiently. Our Boat is not just a Fire Boat; more often it is used as an Ambulance to help save lives in addition to providing protection to the Island homes. Re-powering this boat will correct safety issues and provide stabilization while operating the boat.

As you can see on the spread sheet attached, Alton stacks up very well with the operation of the Department vs other Towns in the area. We have the lowest cost per call at approximately \$480.00 ea.

The Fire Department still has some areas that we need to address. Our main concern is our work force. We have a wonderful group of emergency responders that give generously of their time; however, we are still in need of more. If you find you're a taxpayer or resident and have some extra time - get involved, join our department, especially these days where volunteerism is waning. We must, as a community, get involved. We do cherish our low tax rate, but if we don't get more taxpayers involved, at some point in the near future we will have to look at other measures to cover the needs of our residents. This will have a significant impact on our budget as well as our tax rate. This must be a community effort to get this task accomplished; like it or not, these are the FACTS.

If you would like more information, please stop in to the Central Fire Station or call 875-0222. Any questions you have will be answered!

Respectfully,  
Scott I. Williams, Fire Chief

**Budget Comparison Chart**

Town	Call Volume	Budget	EMS Budget	EMS sub-contract	Revenue from EMS	EMS Calls	Taxpayer cost	Cost per call
Alton	640	\$309,000.00	\$139,000.00	no	ems revolving fund	354	0	\$480.00
New Durham	341	\$182,000.00	included	no	general fund	204	in general budget	\$534.00
Barnstead	589	\$422,656.00	included	no	general fund	313	in general budget	\$718.00
Gilmanton	585	\$473,000.00	included	no	general fund	215	in general budget	\$808.00
Wolfeboro	1100	\$1,350,000.00	no	\$225,000.00	to sub-contract	?	in general budget	\$1,227.00
Gilford	1242	\$1,642,155.00	included	no	general fund	685	in general budget	\$1,322.00
Belmont	1086	\$960,000.00	included	no	general fund	629	in general budget	\$884.00
Meredith	321	\$280,480.00	no	\$257,000.00	to sub-contract	with another town	in general budget	\$874.00

**Ambulance account balance; December, 2009 \$242,943.06**

**2009 Grant Information:**

The Fire Department applied for a Federal Grant, to the Department of Homeland Security, in the amount of \$836,487.00 for expansion of the existing Central Station to meet the needs of the Town; **this grant was not awarded to us.**

We will be applying for this grant once again in 2010. If we are awarded this grant, we will need to fund approximately \$167,298.00 which represents 20% cost sharing by Town.

We are waiting on notification relative to the 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, in the amount of \$73,995.00, seeking funds for 36 sets of turnout gear plus a gear washer/extractor and dryer. If we are awarded this grant, we will need to fund \$3,699.00 which represents the Towns' portion.

We also applied for a grant, in the amount of \$4,000.00, for a CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) machine to assist people with pulmonary and heart diseases.

**We were awarded this grant and the CPAP machine is in service.**

<b>Fire Department Capital Reserve Accounts:</b>		
Equipment:	\$46,000.00	approx.
Buildings:	\$150,000.00	approx.

*We wish to thank you for your continued support*