Granby Fire Department Granby, Massachusetts 2020 Annual Fire Report

Prepared by:
Interim Fire Chief
Robert Czerwinski

Our MISSION, Our VISION, Our CORE VALUES

Our Mission Statement

The Granby Fire Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of our community. We protect lives and property through Public Education, Fire Suppression, and Emergency Medical and Rescue Services.

Our Vision Statement

We will strive to be role models in the community and leaders in our profession. We will be accountable to those we serve, each other and any Fire Service Organizations we interact with. We are committed to providing the best public service through innovative training, education, and equipment. We will take the Granby Fire Department into the future through productive teamwork, open and honest communication, and participative decision-making throughout the organization. We are committed to our values, mission, and dedicated to our fire service profession. Our organization is driven to provide a cost-effective and efficient Fire Department while honoring our values, accomplishing our mission, and achieving our goals.

Our Core Values

Prepared for Duty – This means that our members will do everything possible to ensure that our organization is at an optimum state of readiness when called upon to respond at a moment's notice. Our team members will be properly trained, equipped, supported, and focused on safe immediate response and services.

Serving with Integrity – This relates to how we do our business. We acknowledge that truth and trust are the foundations of relationship building and delivery. All of our members will work hard every day to maintain the highest professional standards and to earn the public trust through their actions.

Responding with Compassion – Our organization is a people-oriented service organization focused on helping those in need. All of our members will provide the highest level of fire prevention/suppression, emergency medical response services and other emergency related services with the utmost compassion and caring to anyone in need.

Committed to Professional Excellence – The Granby Fire Department will provide its members with the means, skills, and education to provide outstanding professional services. This organization will achieve this excellence through a commitment to quality, respect for each individual, and a workplace that is free of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.

GRANBY FIRE DEPARTMENT

259B State Street Granby. MA 01033 413 467-9696



Message from the Interim Fire Chief

On behalf of all, of the members of the Granby Fire Department, it is my distinct privilege to submit the 2020 Annual Report which illustrates our continued commitment to the citizens of Granby. The reporting period is the Calendar Year (CY) 2020: January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

You will find our annual report to be informative and a comprehensive outline of the services that we provide, the facilities and resources provided to us that assist in successful completion of our mission, and our most important resource, our personnel. It is our personnel that are directly responsible for your department continuing to remain a superior Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS).

Our organization is focused on providing the safest work environment possible for your Fire/EMS responders. We diligently strive to be the most effective and efficient public safety organization while giving consideration to the ever changing environment and the necessary evolution of our service. As Granby and the region continue its growth, we embrace our responsibility of providing the highest level of care and service to meet the challenges and demands of our community.

In our ongoing efforts to provide the highest level of service, we recognize several challenges ahead. Increased demands for our services are directly related to community growth. Currently, there are several on-going and planned new initiatives that are designed to address how we will address these challenges. These include a comprehensive review of our response and staffing models, ongoing preparation to respond to and successfully manage all incidents, ensuring that our membership is healthy, physically fit, and emotionally prepared to perform in a dangerous and stressful environment.

This year in particular; was difficult due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This worldwide event necessitated changes in this organization's meetings and training calendars. A large reduction in training activities has created some concerns about the competencies of our responders. Frequent, consistent training is necessary to ensure a skilled and knowledgeable firefighting force, that can respond effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of our community. Because of social distancing and building capacity requirements, it has been difficult to perform the much-needed hands-on skills that our personnel require to maintain their competencies.

Even with the training challenges that we faced, three members of our on-call force successfully completed the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program in December. Members: Marissa Bailly, Chad Coderre and Alissa Soto worked diligently taking classes on-line and though socially distant hands-on training to complete this extensive

program. We are proud of their accomplishments and are extremely grateful to have them serving in our organization and community.

Our emergency medical response protocols have also been altered to meet the pandemic's demands of wearing additional personal protective equipment for both patient contact and the subsequent decontamination of all patient care equipment and ambulance. Although our personnel may have been exposed to numerous COVID positive patients during this period, we have thankfully been blessed to not have a large-scale outbreak among our own personnel. As this report is being written, many of our members have received either their first or second dose of a vaccine in an ongoing effort to reduce our chances of contracting this disease.

Of note, regarding this global outbreak, was this community's response on a local level. We would like to thank our local partners, the Town of Granby's Police Department, Board of Health, School Department, and Town Administration as well as numerous regional organizations and health partners for their combined efforts in planning and responding to this pandemic. Without the constant collaborative efforts of all-of these agencies, the local outcomes could have been much worse. We thank everyone for their contributions in assuring the safety of our responders through this difficult time and as we plan-ahead to meet our future needs.

The Granby Fire Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of our community. We protect lives and property through Public Education, Fire Suppression responses, and Emergency Medical and Rescue Services. Each member of the department is a professional who is: Prepared for Duty, Serves with Integrity, Responds with Compassion, and is dedicated to Professional Excellence. We are very grateful for the continued support from our community, the town's administration, other town departments, and elected officials. Without your support, meeting our missions would not be possible.

Respectfully,

Interim Fire Chief Robert M. Czerwinski



Granby Fire Department 2020 Annual Overview

The Granby Fire Department is a combination department, operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, each week of the year. Serving the public safety needs of Granby and neighboring communities, the Department employs 6 career Firefighters including the Fire Chief and 25 on-call Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians.

The Department maintains a fleet of 2 fire engines, (1 pumper/tanker and 1 pumper), 1 quick-attack squad, 1 tanker truck, 1 brush truck, 1 Advanced Life Support ambulance, 1 rescue truck and 1 All Terrain fire & rescue unit, and 2 command vehicles.

In early 2020, a new Pierce Pumper – Tanker, Engine 1, was delivered to the Granby Fire Department. This vehicle has a 1500 gallon-per-minute pump, a 2500-gallon water tank and a 30-gallon Class A foam tank. The Class A foam can be added to water and charged with compressed air to increase its penetration and surface covering capabilities. This is helpful on stubborn, deep seated fires. Engine 1's equipment list includes: self-contained breathing apparatus, (SCBA), all types of hand tools, and an assortment of ladders.

This vehicle is designed to be a first arriving apparatus on a fire scene and with its large water capacity, allows for an extended attack while tanker operations are initiated or until mutual aid can arrive on the scene. This apparatus can also rapidly support Squad 1, (purchased in 2019), by providing water supply to the Squad on some of the less accessible roads, streets, and driveways in town.

The career division is comprised of highly trained and competent firefighters who are all licensed by the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services to provide emergency medical services on an Advanced Life Support (ALS) transporting ambulance. Staff positions consist of the Fire Chief working a Monday through Friday work shift and two Lieutenant/Paramedics who work rotating shifts. Three Firefighter/Paramedics also working on rotating shifts complete the career roster.

Leadership of each on-duty day shift is provided by a shift lieutenant. The remaining crew members are highly proficient firefighters and apparatus operators. All of the career personnel are licensed at the Paramedic Level, while the remaining members are either Basic Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) or Intermediate Level EMT's. All career members are trained and qualified as Interior Structural Firefighters and operate at the Operations Level in Hazardous Materials Response.

One of our career lieutenants serves as our EMS Officer, who provides the EMS personnel with guidance on training, EMS protocol compliance and Quality Assurance & Quality Improvement. This position is also responsible for assuring all information is correct and complete for the Town's contracted EMS Billing Agent. Both career lieutenants are trained to Fire Prevention Officer I by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, allowing them to perform more complex inspection procedures within the town.

In addition to leading the fire department at emergency scenes, the responsibilities of the Fire Chief center on office workflow. Duties include preparing department payroll documentation and invoices, recordkeeping, filing and serving as the department receptionist. The Fire Chief also serves in various community roles, including the Forest Warden, the school safety committee, and the Hampshire County Regional Emergency Planning Committee.

Some of the overnight ambulance shifts are filled on occasion with per-diem staff members. These part-time paid positions help reduce the need for additional full-time staffing. Most of these per-diem personnel have other full-time employment but still find the time to provide service to our community.

The call force of the Granby Fire Department is a long-standing, rich in tradition organization that serves the Town with pride and dedication. As on-call members, they are required to attend monthly training and to respond on all fire related incidents that are 1st Alarm assignments or greater as determined by the Incident Commander.

This past year saw the retirement of a long time call member, Deputy Chief Bruce Carpenter. A member of the Granby Fire Department for 47 years, Deputy Carpenter served as second in command of the department. During times of the Fire Chief's absence, the Deputy Chief served as the organization's leader and has provided guidance to the members of the call force. We wish Deputy Chief Carpenter the best of health and happiness in his retirement years.

The retirement of the Deputy Chief has left a number of leadership positions vacant in the organization. This would be an opportune time to evaluate all officer positions and determine if a command structure reorganization is warranted in both career and call ranks. An internal evaluation and assessment process should be implemented in order, to appoint new leaders in an effort, to maintain a competent staff of officers to help the Fire Chief plan and develop the future of the organization. A formalized professional development program should be instituted by the administration to ensure the quality and professionalism of future leaders as well as provide the ability to mentor younger members.

The Granby Fire Department has diligently labored over the years to balance the need to grow the organization to meet the increasing demands for service against the fiscal constraints faced by the community. The requirements for managed growth are based upon, several factors; overall increased call volume, specifically the increased EMS call volume, as well as, fire prevention program increases in training and code enforcement requirements, and to the technological improvements of society.

Planning for growth is ongoing: Staffing concerns due to the ongoing challenges of on-call staff recruitment and retention are starting to influence the number of available responders to assist during daytime hours, (6 am to 6 pm). This is not a local problem, but a concern faced by many communities across America. The advent of the current pandemic and more citizens taking advantage of the great near-by outdoor recreational opportunities has made us recognize the need to advance our capabilities in specialized rescue situations is another critical need under consideration.

We believe that the Town of Granby is a safe, healthy, and economically viable community thanks to the men and women of the Granby Fire Department. We promise to be good stewards of the property and equipment provided by the taxpayers and we will continue to provide the quality services you have come to expect over the years.

Granby Fire Department Programs

The Fire Department has identified three Primary Programs that highlight the services that we deliver to the public that we serve:

- Operations Fire Suppression:
 - o Structural & Wildland Firefighting, Incident Command, Training, Communications, Incident Reporting and Data Collection
- Operations Emergency Medical Services:
 - o Emergency Medical Operations, Incident Command, Training, Communications, Incident Reporting and Data Collection
- Fire Prevention Loss Reduction and Public Safety Education:
 - o Planning for Community Fire & Emergency Services, Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement, Public Safety Education (S.A.F.E. and Senior S.A.F.E.)

Additionally, we have identified three Secondary Composite Programs that are critical to supporting our responders and the services that we provide:

- Apparatus & Equipment:
 - Fire Apparatus, Ambulances & Specialty Vehicles to include maintenance and purchasing, Fire & EMS Protective Clothing & Equipment and Fire & EMS Equipment
- Safety & Human Resources:
 - O Personnel Administration, Safety & Occupational Health and Training & Education Management
- Office Management and Workflow:
 - o Financial Management, Legal Considerations, Insurance Grading of Fire Departments and Leadership & Succession Planning

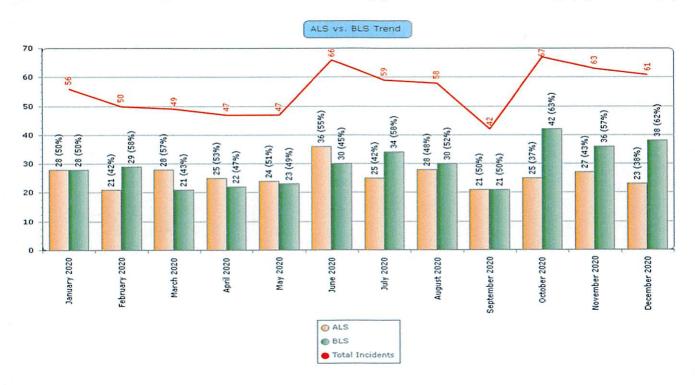
Annual Incidents Reporting

The Granby Fire Department participates in the annual National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal which becomes part of the United States Fire Administrations Fire Data Analysis. The NFIRS has two objectives: to help State and local governments develop fire reporting and analysis capability for their own use, and to obtain data that can be used to more accurately assess and subsequently combat the fire problem at a national level.

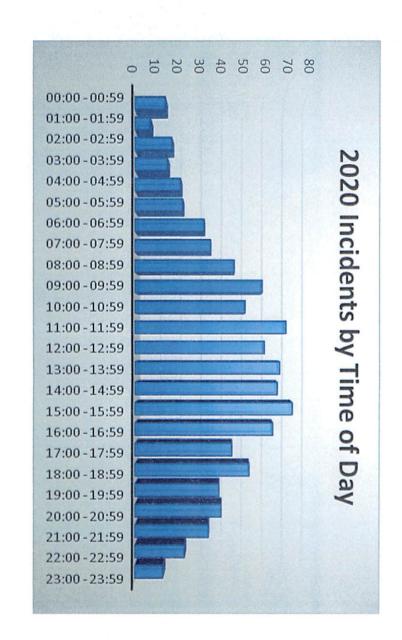
Call Volume Statistics: 2017 to 2020

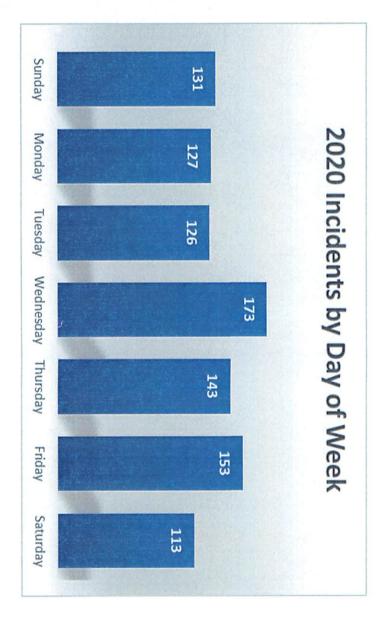
Calls for Service		2020	2019	2018	2017
Fire		301	273	259	286
EMS Total		665	696	779	698
	ALS	311	313	350	
* *	BLS	354	383	429	
TOTAL INCIDEN	ITS	966	969	1038	984

2020 EMS Incidents: Advanced Life Support vs. Basic Life Support Trend



2020 Call Volume by Time of Day, Day of Week, (All calls Fire & EMS)





Apparatus Condition Report

Vehicle	Condition	Photograph
Engine 1* - 2020 Pierce Enforcer PUC 1500 gpm pump/2500-gallon water tank/30-gallon Class A Compressed Air Foam System	Excellent (New) Mileage: 2,177 Engine Hours: 137	
Engine 2* - 2007 Spartan/Smeal 1500 gpm pump/1000-gallon water tank	Very Good Mileage: 26,061 Engine Hours: 2615	OR AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO
Squad 1* - 2019 Ford F- 550/Pierce 1500 gpm pump/250-gallon water tank/20-gallon Class A Compressed Air Foam System	Excellent (New) Mileage: 2,715 Engine Hours: 197	
Tanker 1* - 2011 International/E-One Water Master Vacuum Tanker 125 gpm pump/3500-gallon water tank, w/ 460cfm Vacuum Pump	Excellent Mileage: 9,147 Engine Hours: 1640	
Brush 1* - 2004 GMC 4x4 250 gpm pump/250 water gallon tank	Good; but there are safety concerns regarding it being overloaded with weight of water & equipment. A replacement should be considered in, the near future. This vehicle could then be repurposed to replace Rescue 3.	
	Mileage: 8,385 Engine Hours: 1683	

Ambulance 1* - 2016 Ford F-550/Life-Line 4x4	Good; but starting to develop expensive repairs. (\$2900 in Dec. 2020) Consideration should be given to replace it while it still holds a decent trade-in value <u>OR</u> hold on to as back-up ambulance. Mileage: 70,307	GRANBY BELLEVILLE OF THE STATE
Rescue 3 – 1994 Chevrolet 2500 4x4 Utility Truck (Military Surplus)	Fair; This is a surplus military vehicle. It is OK for pulling the Rescue 4 ATV trailer but wouldn't depend on it to do much more. Consideration should be given to replace Brush 1 and repurpose that vehicle to replace this truck.	
Rescue 4 (ATV) – Polaris Ranger 4 seat	Mileage: 110,719 Very Good Mileage: 528 Engine Hours: 704	
Car 2 – 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe, Former Fire Chief's vehicle, now used daily by Shift Officer, First Responder vehicle, trips to Mass Fire Academy, local operations/errands	Fair; This vehicle has served well for 16 years but should be retired. A request was made in FY2022 capital budget to replace it with a crew-cab pick-up truck. Mileage: 125,262	
Car 1 - 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe, Fire Chief's vehicle	Good; High mileage but still runs well. Replacement suggested in next year or two. Consider holding on to it for local operations. Mileage: 93,567	

^{*}Noted photographs courtesy of MassFireTrucks.com.

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Granby Fire Department Strategic Initiatives

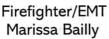
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- Analyze and modify the EMS Delivery and Deployment model to meet current and future service delivery requirements.
- Analyze and modify the Fire Officer Staffing model, Line and Staff Officers, to meet current and future service delivery needs.
- Develop a comprehensive approach to Fire Prevention and Public Fire Safety Education related to fire department response and service delivery.
- Enhance the training system and programs to meet information, knowledge, skills, and overall behavior and performance requirements of the members.
- Create and implement a process that provides for growth of line and support staff that meets the needs of the organization.
- Create and implement, a personnel and officer development program that addresses recruitment, leadership, comprehensive wellness, and welfare, mentoring, and defines the value system of the Granby Fire Department.
- Develop and implement Rules and Regulations to establish behavioral guidelines and set the expected conduct of the members of the organization.
- Improve internal communications between labor, management, and the call members.
- Develop a data management collection and information system that supports service delivery, training, and administration throughout the organization.
- In cooperation with regional and state-wide public safety partners, develop a plan that
 provides for interoperability between public safety agencies including communications,
 command, equipment, procedures, relationships, and the response to natural and humancaused disasters.
- Recent awareness of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in the firefighter's turn-out gear has become a true concern for the health of our firefighters. PFAS are often referred to as "forever chemicals," since they are extremely difficult to break down. These are contaminants that can cause health concerns such as thyroid disease, kidney, and testicular cancers as well as higher levels of cholesterol. According to the EPA, PFAS can be found in stain- and water-repellent fabrics, nonstick products, polishes, waxes, paints, cleaning products and fire-fighting foams. Prompt replacement of all current turn-out gear should be made as soon as an alternative form of Personal Protective Equipment becomes available.

2020 Achievements and Milestones...

Congratulations to the three members who successfully completed the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program. We are proud that they persevered through the COVID situation with its altered schedules, hybrid learning, practical sessions, all while continuing to work, and hopefully still maintain some form of social life. The road they travelled was not an easy one. The program is not an easy pass, especially with the constant threat of their program being sidelined by the ongoing pandemic. Yet, they stuck with it! They certainly exhibit the kind of ambition, motivation, and dedication we seek as our partners in the fire service.







Firefighter Chad Coderre



Firefighter/EMT Alissa Soto

Congratulations to Deputy Chief Bruce Carpenter on his retirement after 47 years of service. 1973 – 2020

