

Micaela Montagne

From: Rick Reichkitzer
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 7:31 AM
To: Michael Kuchta; Micaela Montagne; Evan Erickson
Subject: Fire chiefs report September 2021

Well Sept was gentle in the way of calls as we had none.

We have been diligently going through our budget process. This year we spent a bit of time and discussion on the items written up in our equipment and improvements.

Highest on our critical list for the very near future is getting around ten firefighters into compliant turnout gear. We have members still wearing hand me downs from generous donations from other departments after we lost our fire hall. We have been hoping and waiting on a grant Red wrote to get up to funding to achieve compliancy. This grant didn't pan out so we will be on our own. All turnout gear has a 10 year shelf life and after the fire we immediately replaced 10 sets with plans to replace 3 a year to alieveate one huge purchase \$\$\$ every ten years. Last year we received no funds in our turnout gear budget. We need to get on track to being able to purchase 3 per year again. We will look into using some funds from our 66.06 funds to get fighters into nfpa compliant turnout gear. This is an urgent issue and we are doing what we can to make it happen.

We are very close to submitting our choices of our #1 pumper replacement. One of the vendors is sticking out in the crowd by achieving the specs we need on an engine to effectively fight fires on madaline Island. We have a time-line that puts us ordering this replacement as soon as possible as each apparatus is 8 to 14 months to assemble. We have plenty of funds for this purchase remaining in the insurance apparatus replacement settlement and the hard part has been getting the blueprints and vendors lined up and functioning.....we have an apparatus committee that has been meeting 3 to 4 times a month to get this done. The time and energy put into replacing everything has been nothing short of amazing and I know I sound like a broken record but hats off to the men and women volunteers that are still diligently attending meeting after meeting to keep our service strong.

Assistant chief Alan Hardie has taken up the challenge of assisting Troy Lutz in getting the search/rescue drone program further off the ground (yup...punny) it will be a feather in madaline islands hat to introduce this type of search/RESCUE technology to northern Wisconsin and the Apostle Islands.

Big water apparatus has a few more small items to complete and the fleet is in a far better condition to perform thier duties effectively. The engine/pumper trucks passed thier annual pump testing.

As always.....be safe

Chief Reichkitzer

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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