

**MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS
October 14, 2025 – 5:00 PM
Litchfield Fire Department
258 West St • Litchfield CT**

Members Present: John Campbell, Michael Castelli, Sean Fogarty, Jack Hodges, James Koser, Jon Torrant, Fire Marshal Dave Rogers.

Members Absent: None.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman J. Campbell opened the meeting at 5:06 pm.

2. Capital

S. Fogarty reported the Capital Improvements 5-year priorities list approved at the 09/18/25 FC & EMS meeting was the following for FY 26/27:

1. LVA Ambulance 9 (2018)	\$250,000
2. LFD Engine 2 Frame Repair	\$220,000
3. Townwide Radios – 1 st Round	\$150,000
4. FM Vehicle (2006)	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
	\$695,000

At their 10/06/25 meeting, LFD voted to use \$600,000 of company funds to replace Rescue 5, thus removing it from the FC & EMS's Capital Budget list. With the unexpected removal of Rescue 5, LFD requested the next vehicle due for replacement be moved up the list. On 10/09/25, this Commission agreed a review to determine the best use of town funds was necessary. After a lengthy discussion and with M. Castelli not in attendance, it was determined input from LVA regarding their current ambulance fleet - a 2018, 2019, 2023 (in a recent accident but unexpectedly repairable), 2025 (purchased to replace 2023) and a new arrival coming in July 2026 - was needed and today's meeting was scheduled.

Today's Capital Projects Discussion:

M. Castelli - 2019 Sprinter Ambulance 8 is already dropped. The 2023 is still in shop and a 2025 and 2026 are coming. Plan is to drop 2018 Ambulance 9 when 2026 arrives in July 2026. Fleet in July 2026 will include 2023, 2025 and 2026 ambulances. Plan is to sell both 2018 and 2019 ambulances with proceeds going to purchaser - either LVA or town. Long term plan is a rotation of a new ambulance arriving every 3 years.

Chairman Campbell - NFD parking lot at 4 year mark in FY 30/31 is just a holding point. J. Hodges will get info when needed. ELFD E24 (2004) off body repair and Bantam E35 (2001 Pumper) are scheduled for FY 27/28.

BFC Chief Litwin - BFC (the only department with two engines) Engines 35 and 36 are 8 years apart. Engine 35's off body repair is in FY 28/29 but if needed, could go longer. Future Engine 36 replacement could include sale of Tanker 33 and replacing both vehicles with an engine tanker. It was noted, an engine purchased today would not arrive until 2028-9 and is \$1.5+ million.

S. Fogarty - ELFD Engine 24 issues - supports are rusted, fuel tank is rusting out, needs - rear air tanks, new back springs, tank welds, fuel tank wire command zone is inoperable, electronic pressure governor does not work but has a work around, overall corrosion, eventually strobes will fail and need to be converted to LED and an AC refurb will all cost \$300,000 - \$400,000 and extend the vehicle's useful life an additional 10-15 years. A bare bones refurb band aid is \$200,000. If ELFD E24 is requested for FY 27/28, BFC Engine 35 at \$950,000 will fill FY 28/29.

J. Torrant motioned to approve FY 27/28 project requests for presentation to the 11/18/25 Capital Improvement Committee as:

1. Townwide Radios – 2 nd Round	\$100,000
2. Fire Ponds	\$ 10,000
2. LFD Rescue 5 Equipment (1997)	\$100,000
2. ELFD Engine 24 Off Body Repair	<u>\$400,000</u>
	\$610,000

J. Koser seconded, there was no additional discussion and approval vote was unanimous.

3. Adjournment

M. Castelli moved to adjourn at 5:38 pm, S. Fogarty seconded and vote was unanimous.

John Campbell, Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS

Date