



Town of Hooksett

WARRANT ARTICLE REQUEST FORM

Revised 1/31/2024

Date of Request: 7/14/23

Date of Town Meeting: March 2024

Name of Department Submitting Request: Fire-Rescue

1. Please provide the wording of the proposed article.

Capital Reserve Funding - Fire

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$177,500.00** to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:

Air Packs & Bottles	\$ 27,500.00
Fire Rescue Tools & Equipment	<u>150,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 177,500.00

The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (4 Yes – 2 No); Not recommended by Budget Committee (4 Yes – 6 No).

2. Voters' Guide Explanation: Air Packs & Bottles Replacement Reserve: Total project cost is estimated to be \$480,000.00. There is \$119,378.68 as of December 31, 2023, in the account. The estimated year of purchase is 2035. The reserve was established in 2001 to replace all the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) when they reach 15 years of service. The existing air packs were purchased in 2020. SCBA are critical equipment for firefighters. A single purchase date allows for only one model choice which enhances familiarity by all members, equipment exchange department wide anywhere, anytime, station or scene, reduced parts inventory, linear inspection and service needs, all which improve our safety.

Fire Rescue Tools & Equipment Reserve: This reserve was established in 2018 and designed to replace tools, such as Jaws of Life, jacking and lifting struts, air bags, high angle and low angle rope rescues and ice rescue equipment along with other equipment such as hose and nozzles. There is \$31,494.44 in the account as of December 31, 2023. During the 2022-23 budget process it was recommended to move the hose and nozzles out of the operating budget into this reserve account. The account will be used to purchase new equipment. \$50,000.00 ensures adequate funding for a 10-year replacement program.

At the request of the Capital Improvement Plan Committee, we are asking for an additional \$100,000.00 to be added to this reserve account for the replacement of portable radios in the future. The Fire Department's portable radios were purchased in 2016 and have a 10-year life span. The estimated costs to replace is approximately \$650,000.00. Some of the radios can be upgraded using Impact Fees. Most of the radios will need to be replaced using the funds in the account. The account will be used to purchase new radios. \$100,000.00 ensures adequate funding for a 10-year replacement program.

Every member including call members has a radio issued, each officer has a second one issued, Chief Officers have additional radios in command cars for mutual aid towns

that don't have Hooksett frequencies, the three forestry vehicles all have a dedicated portable with headsets on them and a couple spare radios to issue when we have radio sent out for repair.

3. If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? Air Packs & Bottles (SCBA) – SCBA are considered critical equipment for firefighters. A single purchase date for replacement allows for only one model choice which enhances familiarity by all members, equipment exchange department-wide anywhere, anytime, station or scene, allows for reduced parts inventory, linear inspections and service needs, all which improve employee safety.

Fire Rescue Tools & Equipment - As these items become unreliable the rescue operations and efficiency of the Fire-Rescue Department may become compromised. This can impact the safety of our members and those we serve in the community.

4. Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?

March 2023 Ballot: Passed 568 to 285 or 67% approval.

March 2022 Ballot: Passed 926 to 262 or 78% approval.

March 2021 Ballot: Passed 528 to 197 or 73% approval.

March 2020 Ballot: Passed 1,385 to 514 or 73% approval.

March 2019 Ballot: Passed 731 to 263 or 74% approval.

March 2018 Ballot: Passed Article 10 581 to 227 or 72% approval and Article 16 for Fire Equipment passed 595 to 219 or 73% approval.

March 2017 Ballot: Passed 342 to 172 or 66% approval.

May 2016 Ballot: Passed 249 to 103 or 70% approval.