



Robert J. O'Brien Jr.
Chief of Department

TOWN OF HANSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Charles Barends
Deputy Chief

“Potential Impacts of \$150,000 cut to Fire Department budget”

Reduction of \$40,000 to Call Firefighter line:

This means that no call Firefighters will receive monthly fire and EMS training. They also will not be able to be utilized for anything other than structure fires. Currently, the call firefighters are utilized almost daily to cover the station while multiple calls are going on.

Reduction of \$110,000 from firefighter Overtime line:

This translates to NO training hours for firefighters, which includes required EMS training, specialized rescue training and safety / survival fire training. This will likely cause attorney fees to be utilized by the town to negotiate these training cuts with the Firefighters Union.

This will include no recall for multiple calls going on unless it is a structure fire or priority 1 medical call. The station will be empty if multiple calls are going on in town. This means longer response times and mutual aid towns coming to Hanson, with potentially no Hanson Fire personnel on scene. With the second ambulance potentially going out of service, the town will lose revenue it receives from the second ambulance transports.

The Hanson Fire Department has 1 Lieutenant and 3 Firefighter/Paramedics on each of the 4 shifts. Approximately 48% of the time we receive calls for service at the same time. This can be multiple Emergency Medical calls, fires, motor vehicle accidents, and alarms. When this happens the Fire Department “recalls” personnel from home. While this system is not optimal, it does help with getting Firefighters and Emergency Medical Personnel to the scene and to cover the station, if other calls for service come in. If we reduce “recall” then when two medical calls are going on, and both ambulances leave town, there will be no off duty firefighter/paramedics coming in, which leaves the fire station empty.

Some examples of multiple calls in 2024:

- 2 fires both of which had 1 Call FF arrive in an engine alone.
- Person injured in the woods 4th call
- MVC that required jaws 3rd call (cardiac arrest at the same time and a medical)



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- Brush Fires 2 at the same time and a medical call
- Cardiac arrest 3rd call this has happened twice in 30 days.
- Structure fire while on a medical call then 2 medicals while at fire.
- In December 2024 there were 6 cardiac arrests. 2 were back to back calls.
- Med flight call with simultaneous Carbon Monoxide call with high readings in the home.

As your Fire Chief, I would advise against any reductions to the Hanson Fire Department budget. It has become increasingly apparent due to our run volume, that the Town has outgrown the current staffing levels of the Fire Department which has been in place since 2002.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert J. O'Brien Jr.