

ANNUAL REPORT

WATERFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT



FY 2025



WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. EST. 1920

OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

MISSION

The mission of the Waterford Fire Department embraces a willing spirit and steadfast commitment to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Waterford and beyond, through delivery of rapid, service-minded, fire, emergency medical, and rescue response.



The Department and its force will endeavor to positively impact lives and outcomes amid any and all situations for which they may be called upon.



WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. EST. 1920

OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report of your Waterford Fire Department. I'd like to thank you for the privilege to lead the department and its force. It is an honor to be granted the responsibility of guiding this organization forward in service to you our residents. Since arriving here I have been met with nothing but open arms, willingness, and acceptance. I'm eager to continue working to chart the future for a great organization that is rapidly expanding and evolving each day, while maintaining the pride and heritage of over a century of committed public service.



Christopher Haley
Director of Fire
Service

Executive Summary: FY 25

As I only officially began my journey with Waterford at the tail-end of FY25 in May; I'd be remiss to not acknowledge prior Interim Directors Stephen Dubicki and Michael Howley for their service throughout FY25. I look forward to the many opportunities we have ahead as we lay the groundwork for the Waterford Fire Department and its exciting future. We are an organization on the move that is growing and evolving to provide stronger and more consistent Fire, EMS, and Rescue service to you everyday. While much is in a state of change, our team's commitment remains the same, to provide professional and compassionate service in your time of need.



WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. EST. 1920
OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

FIRST SELECTMAN'S MESSAGE



Robert Brule
First Selectman

This past year marked an important step forward in strengthening Waterford's fire services and our town's long-term public safety strategy. Like many communities across Connecticut, we continue to face the challenge of declining volunteerism in the fire service. In response, Waterford has made a deliberate and sustained commitment to increasing the number of full-time Firefighter/EMTs to ensure reliable coverage, faster response times, and the highest level of protection for our residents, businesses, and visitors.

The transition toward a combined force of dedicated career staff and remaining volunteers reflects our town's recognition of the evolving demands placed on today's fire service. I am proud of the professionalism, compassion, and skill our Firefighter/EMTs demonstrate every day, often under difficult and dangerous conditions.

Their work represents the very best of public service.

This year, the Town took a historic step with the approval of funding for the construction of Waterford's first town-owned fire station—a project made possible through the overwhelming support of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Representative Town Meeting. Their shared vision and collaboration will provide our department with a modern facility that enhances training, readiness, and efficiency for generations to come.



On behalf of the entire community, I extend my sincere gratitude to our Fire Department leadership, our dedicated Firefighter/EMTs, and all those who continue to make Waterford a safer and stronger place to live.

Robert M. Brule
First Selectman, Town of Waterford



WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. EST. 1920

OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

NEW HIRES IN FY 25



FF/EMT Alec Dube

Badge: 33
Assignment: Group 3



FF/EMT Brandon Jencks

Badge: 34
Assignment: Group 3



FF/EMT Alex Blais

Badge: 35
Assignment: Group 1



FF/EMT Matthew King

Badge: 36
Assignment: Group 2



Since the first full-time member in 1966 Waterford Firefighter's have retained their badge number throughout their career and into retirement. Today Waterford Badges remain independently hand formed, stamped, and brazed by artisan crafters, each as unique as those sworn to proudly wear it.



WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. EST. 1920

OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

FIRE MARSHAL'S BUREAU

The Fire Marshal's Office; comprised of one (1) Fire Marshal and (1) Fire Inspector; is tasked with inspection of commercial properties for compliance with State Fire Code. Waterford is home to over 3,100 inspection properties. These include the numerous Residential, Assembly, Storage, Educational, Business, and Mercantile occupancies that call Waterford Home. The State of Connecticut inspection cycle; sets intervals for inspecting our various properties.

FY25 brought with it a more robust inspection program; on a cloud based system called ESO. This has allowed us to better track inspections performed and due and also improved our ability report this data to you. The plan review side of the office is performing well as maintaining the influx of development in town and maintaining the 30 day requirement set forth by the State of Connecticut.

In addition the Waterford Fire Marshal office investigates Origin and Cause of fires within the Town of Waterford. We have had approximately 20 building fires in the past year & 6 passenger vehicle fires in that time as well.



Steve Dubicki
Fire Marshal



Spencer Bauch
Fire Inspector

Fire Marshal Summary

Inspections Performed:	1,242
Violations Found:	1,176
New Plans Reviewed:	54
Permits Issued:	24



SERVICE DEMAND Fire & E.M.S.



Waterford Firefighters responded to 3,096 Incidents in FY25. This represents another 6.4% increase over the prior year. The continuing upward trend reflects a busy, growing, and aging community that relies on the emergency service network. Simultaneous calls continue to place a significant demand on department resources.



First Response Emergency Medical Care remains the backbone of Waterford's response, comprising 62.5% of all calls for service. All on-duty firefighters are certified emergency medical technicians and respond to provide lifesaving interventions on critical medical emergencies.

Total Calls for Service	3096
Fires: All Types	69
Fires: In Building	20
Fires: Working	6
Emergency Medical R-1	1,935
Simultaneous Calls	574





WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. EST. 1920

OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

SERVICE DEMAND Rescue Service



Waterford's first documented motor vehicle crash was in 1904; ever since a significant demand for Rescue Service has been placed on Waterford's Fire Department. These special services stretch beyond the many miles of highway that cross the town, and encompass hundreds of special hazards including communication and water towers, utility vaults, industrial and agricultural equipment, inland waterways, and coastal access points.



Vehicle Accident: Serious Inj. or Extrication	119
Vehicle Accident: Pedestrian Struck	3
Extrication of Victim Trapped: Machinery	2
Extrication of Victim Trapped: Other	5
Rescue: Ice/Water/Open Area	4
Rescue: Elevator Victim Removal	3
Confined Space Rescue	1
Marine Rescue / Boat	4



WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. EST. 1920

OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Public Education branch of the department had another active & engaging year of interacting with the community. Our programs help raise awareness amongst all demographics on public and life safety initiatives. From school age children during our Camp Dash presentations to Fire of Life Programs for our seniors; engaging residents with Public Safety knowledge enhances quality of life, and makes for a safer, and more vibrant Waterford.

FY25 Highlights included: Clark Lane Middle Safe Cooking for Culinary Students, 3rd Grade Fire Escape obstacle course, High School Career & Health Fair, Senior Citizen CPR, AHEPA Fall Prevention, & More! *Throughout the year; wherever Waterford goes to learn, play, or gather; you'll usually find our team packed with knowledge, take-home educational materials, and always a smile.*



Kathy Peterson
Public Life Safety
Educator



Community Summary

Civic Events & Charity:	9
Seminars & Presentations:	21
Community Training Courses:	8
Total Citizen Engagements:	4150





WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. Est. 1920

OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

FIRE STATION INFORMATION



Station #1- "Jordan"

89 Rope Ferry Rd

Year Built: 1936

Assigned: E11,T15

Executive Summary:

The Waterford Fire Department; operates 5 fire stations and one Administrative Office Building. These buildings total to approximately 64,000 square feet. Maintenance and upkeep of privately owned buildings is provided by the town via the Fire Department Administration as part of operating agreements.

The long awaited replacement of Station 4, was approved in FY26 and will be in progress through FY26 and FFY27. As the foundation of the Waterford Fire Department continues to be charted, efficiencies and improvements to station upkeep will be ongoing. Initiatives include improve work order management, unified vendors, and enhanced short and long term planning.

Station #2- "Quaker Hill"

17 Old Colchester Rd

Year Built: 1927

Assigned: E21,T25, B23





WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. EST. 1920

OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

FIRE STATION INFORMATION



Station #3- "Goshen"

63 Goshen Rd

Year Built: 1946

Assigned: E31, E32

Station #4- "Oswegatchie"

441 Boston Post Road

Year Built: 1931

Assigned: E41, E42, B43

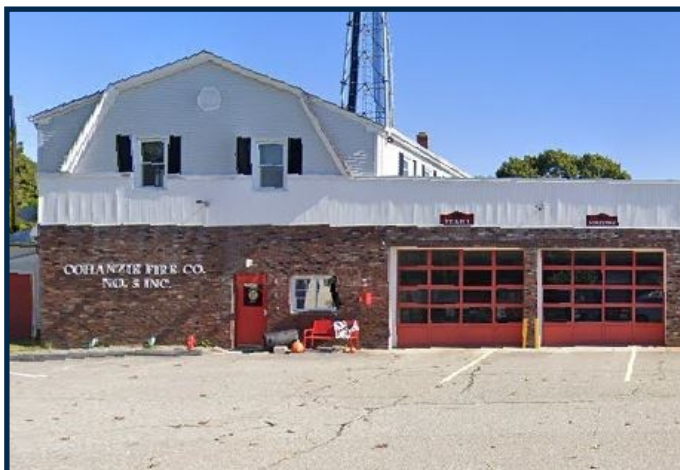


Station #5- "Cohanzie"

53 Dayton Rd

Year Built: 1942

Assigned: E51, T55, R57, B53





WATERFORD FIRE DEPT. EST. 1920
OF SERVICE THROUGH SACRIFICE- PROMPTUS SPIRITU

LOOKING AHEAD Plans & Goals

FY26

- CNR to Replace Confined Space Breathing Equip
- Begin Construction of New Station 4
- CIP to Replace Air Conditioning Station 5
- Begin Full-Time Operation of Station 4

FY27

- Enhanced Medical Screening for Members
- Enhanced Building Maintenance Plans
- Completion of Radio System Upgrade
- Begin Operation of New Station 4

