

AUGUST 21, 2022 GRANVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 5051 VT Route 100 Granville, VT 05747

Contents

Preface	3
Fire Department History 3)
Services Provided 3)
Service Area 3)
Emergency Call Volume 4	
<i>Fiscal Year 2015-16</i> 4	ł
<i>Fiscal Year 2017-18</i> 4	
<i>Fiscal Year 2018-19</i> 4	
<i>Fiscal Year 2020-21</i> 4	
Apparatus	
Personnel 4	
Emergency Response 5)
Current Situation - Fire Station 5	;
Building History	;
Construction	5
Land)
Utilities)
Current Building Concerns	5
Operating Issues	5
Vehicles	
Administrative Issues	,
Health Concerns	,
	,
	,
Overall Project Outcome	
Alternative Means	;
Project Options)
Fiscal Impact 10)
Operating Budget - Current Fiscal Year 2022-23 10)
Loans and Grants 10)
Loan Payments 10)
Project Budget 11	-

Worst-case Fiscal Impact	12
Fiscal Impact to Hancock and Rochester Taxpayers	13
Conclusions	13
Existing Building Pictures	14

Preface

This document is a working document which will be updated as facts, figures, and progress is made on the project. This document is meant to be used as a tool to help explain the reasoning and expected impact to the community we serve.

Fire Department History

The Granville Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1951 as an unincorporated association of volunteers in Granville, Vermont who felt the Town of Granville needed its own emergency response agency. Prior to that time Granville relied on fire protection services entirely from Hancock, Rochester, and Randolph.

Granville VFD was created initially through the fundraising efforts of the founding members with the help of the Moss Glen Grange. A portable pump, hoses, and gloves were purchased by the Grange and given to the care of the Chief Engineer of the Granville Fire Department. In October of 1951 the first officers of the department were elected.

In March of 1952, the Town of Granville voted to give all fire response authority to the Granville VFD. In 2009, the department incorporated as a non-profit organization to meet IRS requirements for organizations receiving more than \$10,000 annually at the time.

Services Provided

Initially Granville VFD, like all fire departments in Vermont, provided fire protection to the community. As time went on fire departments began to absorb additional responsibilities including hazardous materials response, motor vehicle collision response, off-road rescue, lift assists, alarm activations, utility emergencies, natural disasters, service calls, and since 2010 emergency medical first response. Fire departments are now an all-hazards response unit.

Service Area

Granville VFD has a primary response area of 250 square miles including the towns of Granville, Hancock, and Rochester. We also have mutual aid agreements and will respond to other towns including Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Ripton, Stockbridge, and Bethel but is not limited to this area. If a town requests aid, like all fire departments we will respond. In our primary response area, we provide emergency medical first response and in the towns of Hancock and Rochester we work closely with Hancock and Rochester Fire Departments as the incident requires. White River Valley Ambulance is our transporting paramedic agency.

Emergency Call Volume

Fiscal Year 2015-16

Fires 8, Motor Vehicle Accidents 16, Medical/Trauma Emergencies 82, Other 6, Total Calls 112

Fiscal Year 2017-18

Fires 3, Motor Vehicle Accidents 17, Medical/Trauma Emergencies 102, Other 14, Total Calls 136

Fiscal Year 2018-19

Fires 4, Motor Vehicle Accidents 8, Medical/Trauma Emergencies 141, Other 8, Total Calls 161

Fiscal Year 2020-21

Fires 1, Motor Vehicle Accidents 13, Medical/Trauma Emergencies 129, Other 27, Total Calls 170

Apparatus

Granville VFD currently operates four vehicles. These include:

Rescue-2 - 2003 Ford F-550 with utility body carrying rescue tools, and emergency medical equipment

Engine-1 - 2003 Freightliner with 1,000 GPM (gallons per minute) pump, 1,800 gallons of water, and various firefighting equipment

Engine-4 - 1992 International 4800 4x4 with 1,250 GPM pump, 500 gallons of water, and various firefighting equipment

Tanker-4 - 1992 Pierce with 1,000 GPM pump, 3,000 gallons of water, and various firefighting equipment

Personnel

Personnel serving on the department are completely volunteer and respond to emergencies when they are not otherwise engaged outside the service area. All personnel attend regular trainings with the department held three days a month and have the option to attend county and state fire education programs which may or may not lead to a certification of some type. Active personnel numbers are listed below with a breakdown of major certifications obtained. This is not an all-inclusive list.

Current Roster: 19

First Responders: 13

Emergency Medical Responders: 1

Emergency Medical Technicians: 4

National Firefighter Level 1: 1

National Firefighter Level 2: 1

Before the end of 2022 we expect to add a paramedic level certification and a medical instructor to our ranks.

Emergency Response

In Granville specifically, medical emergencies require the response of an ambulance from Bethel, VT which takes anywhere from 35 to 45 minutes depending on weather and traffic. Granville VFD responds to the scene to stabilize the situation or patient and prepare them for transport to the hospital. This response from our team reduces the time for the patient to receive lifesaving interventions and ultimately for the patient to be transported to definitive care at a hospital. We are also available as added support to the ambulance crew for more complex emergencies.

In the case of all other emergencies, like all other departments, we work in conjunction with neighboring departments. We are the first line of defense responding to the incident and stabilizing the situation. As necessary we call additional resources to bring the incident to a successful conclusion.

Current Situation - Fire Station

Building History

The Granville Fire Station was constructed in 1975 to shelter Granville's fire apparatus (an engine and pick-up) which were parked at the Granville Bowl Mill and in a shed next to the Moss Glen Grange.

Construction

The building is of pole barn construction with 4" rolled insulation laid horizontally in the walls and 6" rolled insulation laid in the ceiling. The building consists of a single room approximately 32.5' wide and 60.5' long with two personnel entrances and two overhead doors. Building is seated on a 6-10" concrete floating slab. Exterior wall covering is corrugated metal. Wood paneling covers the interior walls and ceiling. In or about 2007, the corrugated metal roofing was replaced with standing seem roofing.

Land

Building is situated on a 1-acre parcel which has been perk tested in Spring 2022 determining a conventional wastewater system is adaquate within the confines of the property.

Utilities

The overhead Modine heaters were also replaced with more efficient propane Rinnai heaters in 2007. The building does not have a wastewater or potable water supply. Water to wash the vehicles is currently supplied through a dug well on the property. Power is supplied through a 200-amp underground service. Telephone and internet connection is an underground service also.

Current Building Concerns

The following issues need to be address with any renovation of the existing structure.

- Soffit boards rotted or holes created by animals
- Metal siding has been punctured in many places by ice, rocks, or snow removal
- Insulation has settled and lost insulating factor
- Interior and exterior lighting is failing
- Interior wall and ceiling paneling is in poor condition due to water damage

Operating Issues

The following operating concerns limit the functionality of the department and are created wholly or in part by the current building:

Vehicles

o Unable to walk through the building without pulling vehicles out of the building o Dangerous process to park vehicles in the building.

Administrative Issues

- o No separate office space from the apparatus bay
- o Paperwork grows mold due to moisture build up in the building
- o Dirt and dust cover the computer and desks that are in the apparatus bay
- o Training and organizational meetings cannot be held without pulling vehicles out of the building

Health Concerns

- Building collects moisture from wet vehicles and equipment and is not ventilated. Ceiling panels have grown mold from water damage
- No restroom on site. Currently personnel use a public bathroom at nearby business when the building is occupied for trainings, emergencies, and operational meetings
- No shower facilities on site for personnel to decontaminate after structure fires or medical calls.
 Personnel currently wear carcinogen and biohazard laden clothing home and potentially expose their family to the same danger
- o No washing facility to decontaminate clothing and structural firefighting gear

General Concerns

- o No space for equipment and tools to be stored while not in use.
- o Medical supplies are stored in the apparatus bay
- o Lighting is wholly inadequate for current use of the building
- Building does not have a back-up power supply for power outages. A portable generator must be used to power the building for extended outages. Emergency response during a power outage is also delayed by the time necessary to hook-up portable generator.

Overall Project Outcome

The department is seeking recommendations and estimates for the rehabilitation of our fire station. The project design should be in tune with the community keeping in mind the fiscal impact the project will have on the immediate 311 taxpayers in Granville.

In addition to the current building concerns listed prior, we would like space for:

- a separate training room which can double as a bunk room if the station needs to be staffed for extended incidents. Room should include a small countertop, wash sink, space for refrigerator and microwave.
- storage for equipment and tools used infrequently or around the station which will not interfere with the use of the apparatus bay. This can be accomplished with a mezzanine as necessary.
- Office space for two desks, file cabinets, copier, separate from apparatus bay.
- Bathroom with shower, and space for washer, dryer, and storage cabinets for towels, supplies, etc.
- Supply room separate from apparatus bay for medical supply storage.
- Standby generator installed.

With these concerns addressed, the operational efficiency of the department will increase significantly. In extreme cases the department will be able to operate more effectively with the ability to staff the department night and day if necessary.

Other opportunities will also open for the department. With a dedicated training area and the expected credentialling of training coordinators we would have the option of training emergency service personnel inhouse. This can reduce the training costs to the department and generate income from tuition charged to other agencies to train their personnel. CPR classes can also be offered to the public at this facility.

Overall organization, operations, and health of the department will be improved in general.

Alternative Means

We have also explored the possibility of using facilities of other departments to address our concerns such as showering at the Hancock Fire Station after a structure fire or using Rochester Fire Department's gear washer. We have found there are security, and insurance concerns as far as giving access to a building to outside agencies. Logistical issues are also introduced in having fresh clothing for our members at these other facilities, and distance from our own facility would require our personnel to drive out of the way in some cases to take a shower and then return vehicles and equipment to our station.

The added time and coordination to use other facilities out of town is unrealistic. These facilities are likely already going to be in use by fire department members of Hancock and Rochester after a multi-agency incident. At the volunteer level, personnel need to decontaminate, prepare the apparatus for the next emergency, and return home to their families or work as quickly as possible. Simply put, no reasonable alternative to having our own facility exists.

Project Options

With all facts considered, we are exploring two options as possible solutions to our current situation:

Option #1: Add a truck bay to the North side of the existing building to accommodate our needs and partition off space for office, training, storage, and bathroom.

Option #2: Construct of a new building on the property to accommodate our needs. New building would meet current energy standards for efficiency.

Fiscal Impact

Operating Budget - Current Fiscal Year 2022-23 As stated below, the annual impact of the fire department operating budget as provided through taxes is about 2.3% of taxes.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Impact to Taxpayer		
Expense Summary		
Fire & Rescue Service Budget	\$20 , 973	
Emergency Medical Service Budget	\$10 , 800	
Auxiliary Expenses	\$6 , 600	
Total Expenses	\$38,373	
Revenue Summary		
Town of Granville (Fire & EMS)	\$20 , 973	
Emergency Medical Service (Towns of Hancock and	\$8,952	
Rochester)		
Auxiliary (Fundraising) Activity	\$8,000	
Total Revenues	\$37,925	
Current Impact to Granville Taxpayer (Average)	\$67.44	
Percent of Tax Bill (2021-22)	2.3%	

Loans and Grants

It is anticipated we can acquire a USDA loan for the total sum of the project over a 30-year term. With a grant through USDA we can ultimately pay 0% interest on the loan amount. It may also be possible to cover the project with a 75% grant from USDA.

For the purposes of this analysis, we will assume a "worst-case scenario" of not being able to acquire the 75% grant and paying the total cost of the project using USDA loan funds.

Loan Payments

The Granville VFD is prepared to source 25% of the loan payments from the Emergency medical service budget which is funded through all three towns in our primary service area. The fire department can acquire the loan and make payments which will lead to a subsidy to the Granville taxpayer.

In a further effort to subsidize the project, fundraising efforts of the fire department can also be used to make loan payments. Present day fundraising efforts and good will contributions equate to about \$10,000 of our annual income. It is possible to stimulate additional fundraising efforts to allocate towards the building project specifically. Again, for the purpose of this analysis we will assume a "worst-case scenario" that we will not increase fundraising efforts and that revenue will remain the same as past years.

Project Budget

Estimates and designs for this project are still trickling in but we will again assume worst-case scenario budget numbers. We will say building construction cost will be \$500 thousand in addition to the utility costs (water, sewer, and back-up power).

Estimated Project Costs	
Item Description	Estimate
Perk Test	\$500.00
Septic Design	\$6,718.00
Septic Installation (Estimate Requested)	\$30,000.00
Drilled Well	\$17,500.00
Generator (Estimate Requested)	\$5,000.00
Building (Design & Estimates Requested)	\$500,000.00
Total Estimate	\$559,718.00

To date, the town of Granville has contributed \$10,000 to the project. Expenses to date are detailed below.

Expenses to Date		
Perk Test	\$500.00	
Total Expenses to Date	\$500.00	
Remaining Project Cost (Estimate)	\$559,218.00	

Funding Sources		
Municipal Capital Fund	\$9,500.00	
Other Grants	\$0.00	
USDA Grant (75% Possible)	\$0.00	
Fire Department Fundraising to Date	\$0.00	
Total Funding Located	\$9,500.00	

Worst-case Fiscal Impact

All facts and figures in mind, below is the expected impact to the taxpayer if all worst-case estimates were to come true.

Estimated Fiscal Impact to Granville Taxpayers f	or Loan Term
Current Appropriation to Granville (FY 2022-23)	\$20 , 973.00
USDA Loans to Support Project	\$549 , 718.00
Loan Term (Years)	30
Annual Building Payments	\$13,742.95
Building Fundraising Pledge	\$5,000.00
Taxable Parcells in Granville	311
Current Operating Impact (Average)	\$67.44
Project Impact (Average)	\$17.06
Total Annual Taxpayer Contribution (Average)	\$84.50

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Fire & EMS % of Tax Bill	2.29 %
Estimated % of Tax Bill With Project	3.03%
Estimated Increase	0.73%

Fiscal Impact to Hancock and Rochester Taxpayers

Below you will find the calculation for the worst-case scenario impact to Hancock and Rochester taxpayers.

Estimated Fiscal Impact to Hancock Taxpayers	
Building Loan Payments - From EMS Budget	\$3,435.74
Building Fundraising Pledge	\$1,000.00
Estimated Annual Contribution	\$497.12
Taxable Parcells	256
Annual Taxpayer Contribution (Average)	\$1.94

Estimated Fiscal Impact to Rochester Taxpayers	
Building Loan Payments - From EMS Budget	\$3,435.74
Building Fundraising Pledge	\$1,000.00
Estimated Annual Contribution	\$1,521.82
Taxable Parcells	912
Annual Taxpayer Contribution (Average)	\$1.67

Conclusions

This project is necessary and attainable with a reasonable expected impact on the small community of Granville. The overall benefits to the department will have direct impact on the ability of the department to respond to emergencies and prepare itself for the future.

As we have since 1951, the members of the Granville Volunteer Fire Department care about the safety of the citizens and visitors of Granville and are willing to put the effort forward to subsidize this project, if possible, to make it a reality. The immediate impact of this project will serve the health and wellbeing of the members who serve the community. In the long term, the benefits of this project will be felt for generations to come as the department grows to meet the needs of the area.

Existing Building Pictures



1 - Building front oriented facing toward VT Route 100 approximately 100' from state right of way.



2 - Northeast corner of building



3 - Vehicles oriented in building



4 - Wood paneling on ceiling showing water damage



5 - Vehicle oriented at an angle in the building. Photo taken from back wall showing available space in the building with trucks parked.