

TILTON-NORTHFIELD FIRE & EMS

2017 Fire Chief's Report

2017 was a very busy year for Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS. Our emergency call volume increased by more than 8%. The TNFD responded to 1,844 incidents last year, 125 more than last year. Of the calls we responded to last year 1,291 were Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in nature. EMS calls comprised 70% of our call volume for 2017. Our department, like many other departments in this state has to respond to many calls for drug related overdoses. The District has seen both an increase in overdoses and overdose deaths this year.

The District Meeting last year approved the purchase of a new ambulance to replace the ambulance purchased back in 2006. The new ambulance was manufactured by Horton Ambulance in Grove City, Ohio. We purchased the ambulance from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles of North Attleboro, Massachusetts. The ambulance sits on a 2017 Ford F550 four wheel drive chassis and was placed in service last April.

The District also voted \$45,530 to address corrosion issues in the chassis and cab of Engine 1. Engine 1 was purchased in 2001 and was experiencing severe corrosion issues, especially in the frame rails. The corrosion work was completed and came in \$6,000 under budget. The work performed on Engine 1 should ensure the vehicle's usability until it is replaced. The vote to replace this vehicle will be at the 2020 District Meeting with the replacement coming in 2021.

The District applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant requesting \$315,308. The purpose of the grant was to replace the Department's mobile, portable, and fire station base radios which were not supported by the manufacturer any longer. Additionally parts for these radios were no longer being manufactured. The grant was approved for the equipment requested, but the award was reduced to \$200,570, a reduction of \$114,738. The reduced funding came in cuts to the portable radio and base station radio lines. Through a change in the model of the portable radios we will be able to complete the radio replacement with a \$78,059 appropriation from the Apparatus and Equipment Fund.

We have begun the construction of a new training facility at the Park Street Station. The majority of the funds for this project were obtained through grant funds and donations. All the labor by department members was also donated. We will use the facility to train on hose line advance and search and rescue operations. There will also be an SCBA maze that will help our firefighters improve their skills and confidence in confined and dark spaces.

Nick Baker and Zach Mellett both completed their yearlong probationary training in December. Nick and Zach are both certified Firefighter II and Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians. Nick Baker has started Paramedic school this January and should complete this training in the late spring of 2018. Once certified, Nick will become the Department's fourth full time Firefighter/Paramedic.

The Call Company increased its participation in both emergency responses and training this year. This Department could not provide the services needed within the District without the integrated skills and time the Call Company provides the Department and the Community.

I want to thank all the community and all of the community organizations who have helped the Department throughout the year. I also want to thank all the employees, both career and call who have provided an excellent service to our District. The services provided within our District could not happen without the dedicated and professional work of our employees.

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Finally, I want to let everyone know that if there is ever a question or comment about the Department, or if you would like a tour of our facilities, my door is always open. Please contact me so that we can discuss your concerns. It is our goal to provide a professional service with customer satisfaction and safety held in the highest regard.

Michael W. Sitar, Jr., MPA, CFO, EFO
Fire Chief
Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS