Happy Summer 2020,

I guess you could say we have earned it. This spring has been quite a ride and hopefully we will have a nice summer as a reward for what we have been through. The winter seemed fairly mild and then we got a late blast of snow, The Corona Virus arrived, and then we through in another late snow storm and a rain/windy storm that knocked out power for as long as four days in many parts of town. It sure has been strange since March 13th when Covid-19 took hold, and locked down all public buildings which included our Town Office and Fire Station. We have drafted many policies to keep our members and our community safe. Many times these policies were updated daily and weekly. We think we are in a good place right now. More PPE equipment is on order, and trickling in.

June 1st gave us some hope and we were able to open up the Fire Station, but with restrictions. New policies have been written as we ease some restrictions, but this does cause inconveniences as we navigate through this period.

This past year has been very busy and we have grown tremendously. Our full time firefighter/EMT position is working out real well. We have been busy on calls, public education at the school, and being here to help our citizens when they walk in, or call, with requests. We have made some renovations to the fire station, replaced the furnace, added a utility room, and “live-in” quarters for our first live-in student from EMCC. The live-in program at EMCC has been a great program for these students and we are beyond excited to be part of this program. Hopefully this program continues to grow and we can be involved for many years to come.

2020 has brought us the delivery of our new Tanker #373. This will be a great addition to the department and will carry 2500 gallons of water which is 1000 more than the truck it replaced. We look forward to this truck serving our community for decades to come. This past year we were also able to secure a grant from the STK Foundation for a new Turnout Gear Washer and Dryer. This commercial grade equipment will decrease the amount of time to clean and dry our gear after being contaminated while on calls. In the past it could take as much as 3 days for our gear to dry after it was washed. Now, along with the purchase of a second set of gear for all our members, our crew will be in service and able to respond almost immediately after returning from a call.

Call volume continues to grow steadily, and with this growth the variety of what we are doing continues to expand as well. With a 15 percent increase in calls this fiscal year, it is the first time that we have ever logged over 400 requests for service. Thank you for your support, and the support of our budget, to be able to equip the men and women of the department with the tools and vehicles to get this job done.

The call volume for the past few calendar years is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Calls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>328 calls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>301 calls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>333 calls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>378 calls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We responded to 402 requests for service this past fiscal year, which is down a bit from the same period a year ago. Of these calls we responded 63 times to our mutual aid communities.

(OUR) Structure Fires 1  M/A Structure Fires 18  Chimney Fires 1
We do require burn permits for ALL open burning in town. PLEASE keep our restrictions in mind. Permits are available Monday through Friday at the Town Office, and 7 days a week at the Fire Station. Please call either for a request for us to inspect your campfire site for a Seasonal Campfire Permit. Just remember, if you're going to utilize a Seasonal Campfire Permit, it still falls under the Fire Danger guidelines. If it's a red flag "class 5 day" ALL open burning is prohibited. You can check the State of Maine website, the Department's Facebook page, or the sign in front of the Dedham Fire Station for the current fire danger information.

We continue our training on Wednesday nights at 6:30. New members are ALWAYS welcome. With everyone being shorthanded and our mutual aid calls increasing, this training is extremely important.

Thank you again for your continued support as we try to provide the needed resources to our ever growing community. Without the support that you provide for our yearly budget we would not be able to staff the station 7 days a week and provide you with the protection and services you deserve.

Lastly, thank you to each and every member of the Dedham/Lucerne Fire Department for their hard work, dedication, commitment, and professionalism as we continue to respond and adapt to the ever increasing needs of our community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Shane
Fire Chief