Falmouth Fire-EMS

FALMOUTH FIRE-EMS

Falmouth Fire-EMS is a combination Fire-EMS department made up of full-time, part-time (per diem), and on-call firefighters and EMS providers. The Department provides emergency services from three stations: Central Fire Station (Headquarters) at 8 Bucknam Road, Station 1 at 287 Foreside Road, and Station 4 at 5 Winn Road. Central



Station is the only station that is staffed 24/7. Falmouth Fire-EMS responds to over 2,000 emergencies each year. The Department is the main ambulance service for the town, responding to over 1,400 medical calls each year, around 70% of all calls. All full-time staff are cross trained as firefighters/EMTs.

In addition to emergency response, the Department offers business and community education including CPR and first aid courses and car seat, Knox Box, and smoke alarm inspections, and fire extinguisher training. EMS crews also provide stand-by coverage at numerous special and athletic events each year. The Fire Chief serves as Director of the Falmouth Emergency Management Agency.

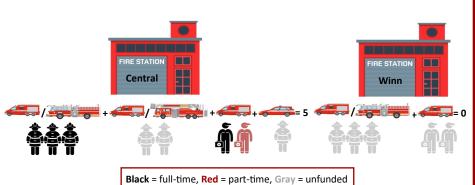
PAST—VOLUNTEERS, PER-DIEM, & CALL

For nearly 100 years, Falmouth Fire-EMS was staffed primarily by unpaid volunteers. Since the 1980s, the number of volunteer firefighters has declined steadily for a variety of reasons while call volume has increased. The Department combatted this drop in volunteerism through hiring paid staff, paying part-time rates to on-call firefighters and EMS providers and allowing members to live outside of Falmouth, hiring part-time EMS providers, and creating a live-in college program. However, these efforts have not solved the problem and, in 2019, the Falmouth Town Council approved a staffing study to explore current and future staffing needs. The study recommended

Year	Call Members
1970	120+
2019	50
2022	35

an optimal staffing plan of 13 people working 24/7. In 2020, the Town Council approved a Phase 1 staffing plan to add 14 full-time firefighter/EMS staff at Central Station and 2 per diem firefighter/EMS staff at Station 4 to bring the minimum staffing on duty to 5 people 24/7.

2020 PHASE 1 STAFFING PLAN (UPDATED)

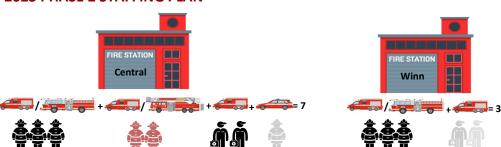


Across the state and nation, fire departments are facing a continued decline in active call members. Falmouth has also seen a loss as members:

- Move out of town
- Obtain full-time Fire-EMS positions elsewhere
- Enroll in Medical School
- Enter into Military Service
- Retire

In addition, fewer full-time firefighter/EMS staff from other municipalities are available to work in Falmouth as per diems because they are being forced to work overtime in their communities due to region wide staffing shortages.

2023 PHASE 2 STAFFING PLAN



funding to implement a Phase 2 plan adding 12 full-time firefighter/EMS staff to achieve 10 people on duty, staffing two stations at all times. This plan will continue to use per diems.

The next budget (FY23), will include

Black = full-time, **Red** = part-time, **Gray** = unfunded

