

East Haddam Fire Department Apparatus Replacement Town Meeting 9/3/25 and Referendum 9/16/25

Background

The East Haddam Fire Department provides fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical response services to the community. To maintain operational reliability, the Department follows NFPA's recommended 15–20-year apparatus replacement cycle, which has been consistently included in the Town's capital planning process.

Several frontline apparatus have now exceeded their service life. Increasing repair frequency, expensive maintenance, and prolonged downtime have strained resources and impacted on the Department's ability to provide timely and effective emergency response.

Current Status of Apparatus

- **Engine 2-15 (1997 Four Guys Pumper, 750 gallons):** Exceeds NFPA service life, experiencing frequent pump and transmission issues, costly to maintain.
- **Engine 4-15 (2003 Ferrara Pumper, 1,000 gallons):** Approaching the end of service life with ongoing pump repairs and body deterioration.
- **Engine 6-15 (2005 Ford/Gowans Knight Mini Pumper, 200 gallons):** Limited water capacity, significant body rot, and repeated mechanical failures.
- **Rescue 1-15 (2013 Ford/Spartan ERV):** Out of service due to major electrical issues, deemed unsuitable for frontline emergency use.

These apparatus are expensive to repair and have outlived their intended service purpose. Their continued use poses operational risks and reduces the efficiency of emergency response.

Proposed Project

The bond resolution for the project authorizes funding for the replacement of four aging vehicles with two multipurpose apparatus which are designed to perform multiple roles, including:

- Carrying 1,000 gallons of water for firefighting operations
- Supporting motor vehicle accident rescues
- Providing EMS emergency response capability
- Reducing overall fleet size while maintaining operational readiness

Cost Estimates

The Department has gathered preliminary cost estimates from multiple manufacturers:

- Four Guys Fire Apparatus – **\$1,099,535 per unit**
- Sutphen Fire Apparatus – **\$1.3M to \$1.7M per unit**
- Pierce Fire Apparatus – **\$1.6M per unit**

Final costs will be determined following procurement, specifications review, and contract negotiations.