

PROPOSED FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

On the November 5th ballot, residents of Chelmsford will decide whether to fund construction projects that will provide necessary upgrades to two of the town's outdated fire stations.

For nearly three years, the Fire Station Study Committee has worked to assess and propose viable solutions to the fire department's current needs and challenges. Both Station 5 (295 Acton Rd, built in 1966) and Station 3 (260 Old Westford Rd, built in 1970) have exceeded their useful lifespan. The condition of these stations not only hinders the operation of a modern fire department but also poses significant safety risks for the crews working there.



When these stations were originally built, Chelmsford had a population of around 15,000, with the Fire Department responding to approximately 850 calls annually. Today, Chelmsford's population exceeds 36,000, and in 2023, the department responded to 6,364 calls.

The current size and setup of the stations are inadequate. Dormitories and uniform storage are situated inside the apparatus bays, exposing firefighters to diesel exhaust particulates and creating fire safety and egress hazards. Anticipated changes to OSHA regulations will likely render these living conditions unacceptable.

Maintaining Station 5 and Station 3 at their current locations is essential for ensuring acceptable response times. The committee has proposed a complete rebuild of Station 5 on its existing site and a full renovation and expansion of Station 3. These upgrades would provide the necessary facilities to support a modern fire department.

The new stations would feature living quarters and restrooms designed to accommodate all genders, as well as current and future staffing needs. Additionally, they would include adequate separation of living and contaminated areas, proper gear storage and decontamination facilities, and appropriate exercise areas to help firefighters maintain their health and fitness.

The proposed projects are estimated to cost up to \$25 million, which would be funded through excluded debt service. This would require approval through a town-wide ballot vote, resulting in a temporary increase in property taxes. The average household, with an assessed value of \$629,000, could expect an initial increase of approximately \$157 per year, or about \$3 per week. This amount would decrease as the debt principal is paid down over time.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION EVENTS

- **September** - Educational Videos regarding the current state of the Town's fire stations and vehicle extrication.
- **Thursday, September 12th** - Chelmsford Telemedia Recorded Discussion Regarding the Proposed Fire Station Reconstruction Projects.
- **Wednesday, September 18th, 5:30-6:00pm** - Strategic Plan Community Engagement Forum Open House at the Chelmsford Elks Lodge located at 300 Littleton Road.
- **Saturday, September 21st, 12:00-4:00pm** - Historical Society Farm Fair at the Barrett-Byam Homestead located at 40 Byam Road.
- **Saturday, September 28th, 1:00am-4:00pm** - Chelmsford Health Department's Annual Fall Festival, on the Town Common.
- **Saturday, October 5th, 10:00am-2:00pm** - Station 3 (260 Old Westford Road) & Station 5 (295 Action Road) Tours.
- **Thursday, October 10th, 7:00pm** - Public and Town Meeting Information Session at Station 3 located at 260 Old Westford Road:
- **Wednesday, October 16th, 7:00pm** - Town Manager Fall Town Meeting Preview for Town Meeting Representatives, North Town Hall located at 31 Princeton Street.
- **Sunday, October 20th, 11:00am-2:00pm** - Chelmsford Fire Department (CFD) Fire SAFE Open House at Station 1 located at 50 Billerica Road.
- **Tuesday, October 29th, 7:00pm** - Public Open Q&A at Station 3 located at 260 Old Westford Road.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT



www.chelmsfordma.gov/1057/Fire-Station-Study-Committee