

CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

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June 27, 2006

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Common Council
City of Danbury
155 Deer Hill Ave.
Danbury, Ct. 06810

Re: Statement of Condition and Property, Danbury Fire Department
City Code of Ordinances 8-13

Dear Mayor Boughton and Members of the Common Council,

In accordance with Section 8-13 of the City Charter the following report is offered as to the listing of property and a general statement of condition and affairs of the Department.

The Danbury Fire Department continues to operate as a combination department with six career companies and 12 volunteer stations. The City owns and maintains six of the volunteer stations, with the remainder owned by the volunteer companies. The current table of organization shows 110 members of the career department. Current membership rosters of the 12 volunteer companies approach 150 individuals inclusive of social and support members. The fire department continues to hold the certificate of operation for the ambulance service and first responder program. The ambulance and paramedic services are currently contracted to Danbury Health Systems, while the department continues to operate the first responder EMS response. The department is the Primary Service Answering Point (PSAP) for all 911 calls in the City.

Facilities and Property

The following City owned fire stations and facilities are currently in operation.

The Joseph J. Bertalovitz Fire Headquarters - 19 New St.

Melody/Halas Station 23 - Osborne Street

Commerce Park Station 24 - Eagle Road

Fire Training Center – Plumtrees Road

Padanaram Hose # 3 – North Street.

Independent Hose # 4 – Hoyt Street.

Wooster Hose # 5 – Coal Pit Hill Road

Citizens Hose # 6 – Jefferson Avenue

Water Witch # 7 - Locust Avenue

Phoenix Hose # 8 - Well Avenue

The Department also has a renewed rental agreement for Station 25 located on South King Street. This rental is paid to the King Street Volunteer Company #14 on an annual basis.

The Division of Prevention/ Education/Inspection operates out of office space at City Hall. The Fire Marshal's office continues to operate under the jurisdiction of the Fire Department.

Status and Condition

All City owned fire stations are operable at this time. We continue to work with the Public Buildings department on matters of repair and maintenance.

The **Fire Training Facility** construction has recently been completed. The facility is open for drills and exercises at the present time. Special heat resistant tiles will be installed in early July to burn pit areas to allow for live fire and heat training. City engineers are currently working on additional improvements for the grounds. Improved parking and safety improvements to Plumtrees Road will enhance the area. We continue to seek additional funding on the State and Federal level for scheduled additions of a classroom and training mock-ups.

Fire Headquarters continues to suffer severe space constraints as previously detailed. The addition of equipment via Homeland Security grants has stressed our bay capacity. Many living area improvements have been completed in this structure which is over 30-years old. Modification to overhead door units and diesel exhaust systems are scheduled this year.

Station 23 Osborne Street is currently operating without major structural issues. All systems are operable. Continuing problems with gutter damage by snow build up on the metal roof is being evaluated by the Public Buildings Department.

Station 24 Commerce Park is currently operating. All renovations are complete at this time. The City Engineering department continues to evaluate sinking areas of the landscaped property and issues of concrete block separation. The driveway and parking areas are scheduled for replacement this year.

King Street Station 25 is now operating out of their new facility as of June 24, 2006. The new facility meets the needs of the King Street district with the full time crew of Engine 25. The facility is complete with a back –up emergency generator, diesel exhaust system and a new septic system. The City will continue to rent the space from King St. Volunteer Company # 14.

Station 26, West Side – Proposed is currently funded. The closing date for bids on this project is 7/18/06. Construction is anticipated to begin this summer on a City owned site off of Kenosia Avenue extension, which has been selected as the most strategic location for this facility.

911 Emergency Dispatch Center continues to operate out of the first floor of fire headquarters. Continued advancements in technology within the communications arena have rendered this facility obsolete, and relocation needs are even more immediate than have been identified in the past. Relocation is currently funded, and architects and engineers have evaluated and chosen a site in the Emergency Operations Center in City Hall. This site will act as a stopgap solution for the current situation, until a permanent location within the new Police Headquarters facility is fully operable. The remaining equipment will then provide a redundant emergency communications system for major incidents.

Volunteer Stations # 3 Padanaram, #5 Wooster, #6 Citizens and # 8 Phoenix are currently operating without major structural difficulties. Functionally and cosmetically they remain antiquated and marginally meet the operating needs of the companies. A roof evaluation has been completed by the Public Buildings department. Repairs have begun to the roofs in dire need.

Volunteer Stations # 4 Independent and #7 Water Witch are currently operating without major structural difficulties.

Fleet Inventory and Condition

Apparatus and fleet vehicles owned by the department are detailed below. **Our current fleet is fully operational at this time.** The department continues to standardize

the fleet for better efficiency in training and maintenance. This year we received a tow/emergency response vehicle from Homeland Security. This vehicle has been designed to work in tandem with the Decontamination trailer and be used to supplement our emergency response to various incidents. We currently have a replacement pumper on order for Station 23. Delivery date is scheduled for November this year. We have also added through Homeland Security and Capital programs a cadre of 4 wheel drive vehicles. These vehicles are being placed in service as replacement command vehicles and will play a roll in our emergency plan by towing emergency trailers in times of disaster. Additional planning is ongoing for an additional pumper for Station 26 and a multi-purpose response and rescue vehicle.

Marker#	Year	Make	Model	VIN #	Mileage	Hours	Condition
52DA	85	Chevrolet	Step-van	1GBJP32M4F3315333	29898		Haz-mat-Fair
351DA	93	Chevrolet	Lumina	2G1WL54T3P9232877	79000		FPB-Fair
54DA	95	Chevrolet	Tahoe	1GNEK13K7SJ413654	101523		Backup C30-Poor
34DA	97	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FALP71WVOVX178445	40107		Good
43DA	97	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FALP71W2VX178446	48526		Good
251DA	99	Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JC1242X7162093	58498		Fair
216DA	99	Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JC1243X7162197	18451		Good
66DA	99	Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JC124XX7161340	46115		Fair
44DA	01	Chevrolet	Tahoe	1GNEK13T11J217863	58124		Fair
NA	87	Mack	CF686FC	1M2A142C6HM-1668	114798	9396	Poor
NA	88	Mack	CF688FC	1M2A152C4KM-1312	118769	10782	Poor
NA	94	Pierce	Arrow	4P1CA02D2SA000127	92884	10798	E24-Fair
NA	96	Pierce	Sabre	4P1CT02U7TA000426	87242	9203	E25-Fair
NA	00	Pierce	Sabre	4P1CT02U6YA000232	66851	7322	E23-Good
NA	00	Pierce	Sabre	4P1CT02U5YA000237	65325	7658	E22-Good
NA	00	Pierce	Dash	4P1CT02S8YA000750	29241	4000	T2-Good
NA	03	Pierce	Sabre	4P1CT02UX3A002798	44585	4733	E21-Good
NA	04	Pierce	Dash Platform	4P10D01H74A004530	11394	1543	T1-Excellent
29DA	03	Ford	Pick-Up	1FTNX21L13EB32200	7438		Excellent
59DA	03	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP52U73G154371	25542		FPB-Good
142DA	03	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP52U53G154370	27050		FPB-Good
26DA	03	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP52U93G154369	40911		EMS-Good
51DA	03	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP52U73G154368	51500		Training-Good
2247	03	Advanced Containment	Decon-Trailer	1A9VFLT2031247556	NA		Good

		Systems Inc					
317DA		Sullair	Compressor	004-142661	NA	12	Good
297DA		Ingersol-Rand	Light Tower	342308JA0789	NA	60	Good
313DA	01	5-Starr	Boat Trailer	5A4XJRJ1X12001639	NA		Good
	01	14' Quicksilver	Inflatable Boat/25HP	KR-USA99650F001	NA		Good
56DA	89	Pennsylvania	Utility Trl.	1P9C614D2KL016559	NA		Good
B.S.I. 22DA	93	Ford	F-350	1FDKE30M7PHA42798	143795		Fair
B.S.I. 880	05	Ford	F-350	1FDWE35P85HA60616	19541		Excellent
B.S.I. 883	05	Ford	F-350	1FDWE35P35HA60619	18707		Excellent
B.S.I. 135DA	98	Chevrolet	CK10706 Tahoe	1GNEK13R9WJ356036	74337		Good
B.S.I. 68DA	01	Ford	Crown Vic	2FAFP71W11X187226	45916		Good
B.S.I. 1274	00	Ford	F-350	1FDWE35F7YHA72672	84031		Good
B.S.I. 2309	01	Ford	F-350	1FDWE35F21HB34162	65908		Good
2265	06	Freightliner	M2	1FVACXDAX6HV52384	1675		Excellent
60DA	06	Ford	Explorer	1FMEU73E46UA52724	3600		Excellent
69DA	06	Ford	Explorer	1FMEU73E66UA52725	2618		Excellent
145DA	06	Ford	Expedition	1FMPU16546LA50690	84		Excellent
250DA	06	Ford	Expedition	1FMPU16576LA83327	305		Excellent
258DA	06	Ford	Expedition	1FMPU16596LA83328	78		Excellent

Equipment

The department continues to purchase and replace equipment to meet the needs of an evolving fire service. The department continues to receive substantial funding and equipment from State and Federal sources, however the horizon seems to indicate reductions in security and preparation funding. The funding has made a dramatic impact in the quality of equipment the department is using. The Department of Homeland Security continues to provide funding to assist our City in preparing for natural disasters and terrorist activity. The Mayor and Common Council have provided support to enhance these initiatives, as illustrated by some results listed below. A recent example is the improvement completed for radio communications. The department has shifted to fixed site repeaters via a grant from FEMA and a 30% match from the City. For over a decade, this communications endeavor had been identified as a critical improvement and has now been completed.

Current purchases and initiatives include the following:

1. The continued replacement of protective clothing for firefighters to a new higher-grade material and construction.
2. The continued purchase of vehicle extrication equipment to meet the new materials and construction we encounter at accident scenes.
3. The continuing addition of technical rescue equipment and training for new hazards being encountered.
4. The addition of approximately one million dollars in equipment and training funds from the Department of Homeland Security to assist in response to natural disasters and potential acts of terrorism.
5. The continued scheduling of advanced rescue, WMD and National Incident Management classes in an in-house format to maintain our high level of preparedness.
6. The continued installation and enhancement of Lap Top computers to enhance firefighter response capabilities and information.
7. The continued purchase and training of rope rescue equipment for low and high angle rescue situations.
8. The continued purchase and training of hazardous materials response equipment. The upgrade of the Department response to an actual technician team continues to evolve on a Regional level.
9. The delivery and implementation of a decontamination trailer and emergency response/tow vehicle to enhance our current capabilities.
10. The continued development of relationships with vendors and technical experts to maximize the benefit of available funding to our City.
11. The replacement of all front line metering and monitoring equipment.

General Statement of Affairs

The conventional operations of our department are sound. Modern equipment, current and proposed facilities will continue to assist our firefighters in delivering quality emergency services. Funding for apparatus and facility improvements on the local level has been and continues to be greatly appreciated. The support of the

City Administration and Common Council has made a visible and functional difference in the Fire Department over the past five years.

The department continues to prepare and train for the prospect of future incidents related to the potential use of weapons of mass destruction. Despite the challenge to our Department's response capabilities we will continue to explore all options on a local regional and State wide level. The continued challenge will be in the arenas of preparedness, staffing and finance. We will continue to take advantage of training opportunities provided and funded by the Department of Homeland Security. Grant opportunities will continue to be explored and pursued diligently. The development of certain Regional response initiatives is being earnestly encouraged by State and Federal agencies. We expect to participate on a State and Regional level for the benefit of our community.

The status of our volunteer contingent remains a focus of concern, as this component is critical to the success of delivering quality service. Membership over the past year has been static. Initiatives of consolidation and Civil Service incentives are currently being explored and implemented. A previous benefit for volunteer firefighters has recently been restored, with volunteers receiving points based on training and commitment to the fire service added to the entry level testing scores. The initial eligibility list failed to yield the numbers of local volunteers we expected. We must continue to work hard in these areas. Historically, in times of crisis our volunteers have stepped forward to assist in great numbers. These past events have been shining moments for the department and this City.

There remains a concern on adequate staffing in working emergency incidents. Combined with the development of our volunteer contingent, the City must begin to understand in greater detail the need for additional staffing on a regular basis. The current administration has noted this concern and the opening of the Westside station will address a major shortcoming in our response. OSHA safety standards and National agency recommendations will inevitably increase minimum staffing levels. We have seen with increasing frequency the difficulties encountered with our current minimum staffing levels. As a City that has grown to the seventh largest in the State, the challenges of expansion need to be continually addressed. Areas of development both commercial and residential have stretched current resources, and continued analysis of future growth trends and the services required to support these trends is prudent.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment as per section 8-13 of our City Code of Ordinances. Your comments as to the format or considerations with regards to this report and our Department as always are greatly appreciated. If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,



Peter J. Siecienski

Fire Chief