

# Construction of New Fire Hall



**EEL BROOK  
& DISTRICTS  
FIRE DEPT.**

# Project History

- Original plans included many rooms that would have provided benefits to the community we serve.
  - Comfort centre
  - Meeting room
  - Laundry facility
  - Public shower
  - Fitness centre
- Funding could not be secured to construct the new station as originally designed.
- Several revisions and alterations were made to the design of the floor plan in order to attempt to reduce cost.
- Increasing costs during the time of Covid made this process extremely difficult.
- Several attempts were made at all levels of government over the last few years to attempt to secure government grants and assistance, none were found to be available that matched our project criteria.
- With hard work put forth by all parties involved we were able to create a floor plan that fell within our abilities to finance the project.

# Moving Forward

- We are currently making final arrangements to secure a mortgage to fund the construction project.
- Once a mortgage is secured we will have enough funding to complete construction of the new building.
- This will allow us to house our existing equipment including our new pumper/recue which should be arriving very soon, and give our members a safe place to work from, without fear or worry of structural instability.
- What our current funding does not account for is equipment to be used in daily operations and member safety.
- We will also be taking it upon ourselves to furnish the new station with the remaining items required, office furniture, filing cabinets, tables , chairs,etc.

# Safety Improvements

- There are several pieces of equipment that would be required to function within the guidelines of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), whose rules and guidance direct the operations of the fire service, as well as some that are required for daily operations.
- On top of allowing us to function at a higher level of service, and providing additional safety for our members, much of this equipment could be beneficial to the entire fire service in the municipality as a whole.
- Cancer is now considered to be the number one killer of firefighters, having taken over this grim statistic from cardiac arrest. The province of Nova Scotia has recently included an additional 13 types of cancer to presumptive coverage for workplace injury insurance, bringing the total to 19 types of cancer.
- Proper equipment to wash our ppe is necessary to help reduce exposure to carcinogens and maintain a safe work environment for our members. An extractor washer is the proper method to achieve this, a regular residential or commercial washing machine is not sufficient to perform this function. Currently there are no extractor washers within the municipality and this piece of equipment could service the fire service as a whole within the municipality.
- Proper bunker gear storage is the other crucial piece of equipment needed and allows for the off gassing of ppe after a fire call. The gasses that come off of our gear after a fire call contain high levels of carcinogens and without adequate ventilation and space to off gas these carcinogens do not dissipate properly.
- Other precautions we are taking to help with this issue are changes to our procedures and policies, such as additional cleaning on the apparatus bay floor and procedures to decontaminate on scene before leaving an emergency scene.

# Equipment Needs

- Many departments are now switching their breathing air equipment to larger pressure ratings allowing members to be more productive on an emergency scene. We are in the process of looking at doing the same thing now. 4500 PSI bottles currently carry a cost of \$2,214.77 each.
- With this in mind we have included a larger cascade system on our new apparatus which will be arriving soon. This larger system will provide us with the ability to fill these bottles at emergency scenes which has not been possible up to this point.
- The larger cascade system however requires a larger compressor to fill it and currently there are none locally that operate to the required pressures to make full use of this system. The addition of this compressor would be a large benefit to all the departments in the area.
- Additionally we have not yet acquired enough funding for a standby generator. This generator would allow us to function to the level of service required to respond to emergencies even during prolonged power outages as well as maintaining the ability to use other new equipment to keep our members safe and healthy after the completion of a call to service.
- The final urgently needed piece of equipment we still require funding for is a structure for us to mount our radio antennas and paging equipment on. This equipment is used to dispatch our members when there is a call for service during emergencies where residents of the district require assistance. Our intention is to install a 60 foot utility pole to mount this equipment on. By using a utility pole instead of our existing tower we ensure down time for the switch over is kept to a minimum, less maintenance would be required and there is less liability involved as it would not be something the public could climb easily as could be the case with a traditional tower.

# Equipment Costs

Item	Cost
Extractor washer	\$ 15,525.00
Bunker gear stalls (35 compartments)	\$ 20,884.29
Cascade system & compressor – 6000 PSI	\$ 55,044.75
Standby generator – 48 Kilowatt	\$ 25,418.75
Radio Antenna pole - 60'	\$ 11,787.50
<b>HST</b>	<b>\$ 19,299.04</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 147,919.33</b>

# Additional Equipment Considerations

- Several other pieces of equipment would be of incredible value to aid our department function at peak capacity.
  - Bunker gear dryer – Although PPE can air dry this process takes 48-72 hours, due to the large costs associated with purchasing bunker gear we are unable to provide a second set of gear to members to use while waiting for PPE to dry. A gear dryer will cut this time down to 12-16 hours.
  - Hose washer – Although hoses can be washed with a brush and hose this is not as effective as using a hose washer to remove unburnt combustibles and carcinogens from the hoses used to combat fires.
  - Stationary pressure washer – This equipment would help us to maintain our equipment, a building connected pressure washer allows us to use heated water, which makes things more efficient and easier to maintain apparatus and equipment especially after large calls to service. The ability to save time and keep equipment in clean and working order aids to increase pride and morale among the members of the department.
  - Solvents / Flammable locker – The use of many types of liquids are required for everything from truck maintenance to fuel for equipment and cleaning of apparatus, equipment and the station. Many of these liquids have harmful or flammable properties and require a safe storage space which is properly secured and vented away from the spaces our members will be working in.
  - Hose dryer – Hoses may be laid out on the apparatus bay floor to dry, this takes up a lot of space and requires much more time and work, as well as additional trips to the station, from our volunteer base who already give a substantial amount of their time to serve their communities.
  - Hose/storage racks – Space to store spare hoses and additional equipment is vital in maintaining a clean and efficient work space to ensure operations perform at peak efficiency to best protect the communities we serve.

# Additional Equipment Costs

Item	Cost
Bunker Gear Dryer	\$ 11,950.00
Hose Washer	\$ 1,540.10
Stationary Pressure Washer	\$ 11,375.60
Solvents/Flammables Cabinet	\$ 1,035.00
Hose Drying Racksg (2)	\$ 6,096.50
Hose / Storage Racks (3)	\$ 7,531.50
HST	\$ 5,929.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 45,458.01</b>



# Request For Funding

- The equipment listed in this presentation would all be permanently connected to the building and therefore would be considered a part of the construction project.
- On top of the equipment listed in this presentation we would still be required to source other materials, equipment, furnishing and signage (interior/site signage), amongst a much larger list.
- As noted earlier many of these items would not only benefit Eel Brook & Districts Fire Department but the entire fire service throughout the municipality as a whole.
- On behalf of the members of the Eel Brook & Districts Fire Department we would like to request funding from the Canada's Community Building Fund (previously known as gas tax) in the amount of \$193,377.34 to purchase equipment as listed in this presentation.

# Thank you

