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## **Report to Stratford Town Supervisor And Members of the Town Board First Quarter 2024**

As you requested, please find attached reports summarizing the activities of the Stratford Volunteer Company for the period of Jan. 1, 2024, through April 10, 2024. We have responded to a total of 28 calls in the first quarter.

As a designated EMS responder agency, many of all our calls are EMS. We provide basic life support while awaiting an ambulance. We continue to have a good working relationship with SAVAC, the agency we have selected as our preferred responding ambulance service. You will be pleased that response times for an ambulance continue to be substantially less than our previous provider.

On average two-thirds of our calls are EMS calls, in the first quarter of 2024 we have answered 11 EMS calls, responded to two motor vehicle accidents, one reported chimney fire, 1 missing snowmobiler and seven calls for reported blocked roads and/or downed utility lines. In one 24-hour period in February we responded to six storm damage calls. We had crews clearing roads of debris, cutting up trees and marking down utility lines with safety cones from 11 p.m. at night until 11 a.m. the next day, racking up over 65 manhours.

In April we have already answered five calls, one EMS call and 4 storm related calls. Again, resulting in several teams responding to multiple locations where utility lines were compromised or downed trees and limbs constituted a hazard on town, county and state roads.

I would also like to take a minute to address some continuing criticism from some corners of the community that the members of the fire department don't do much for the community. The critics foster an image of the firehouse being a rec center for the volunteers. That is simply not the case. Granted, we don't do high visibility events like pancake breakfasts with the Easter Bunny or Santa Claus. Those are almost impossible because we don't have a commercial kitchen and we only have a slowly growing, but still small group of people. We are planning a community event for July 13.

We collectively give a lot of our personal time to the community, often at inconvenient hours of the night. In the time I have been a member, we have never missed a call. And, the firehouse is a meeting room and training center. The total manhours on task contributed by members during the first three months of this year answering calls alone was over 107 hours on task. Total hours spent by volunteers on calls in 2023 were over 500 hours. This doesn't include out-of-pocket costs for transportation to and from calls and training sessions.

A significant amount of time in addition to calls is spent training. Our members are required to attend an annual four-hour class on safety required by OSHA, a four-hour

class on Haz-Mat scenes and material safety annually, CPR and AED use training, a state required session on sexual harassment and harassment in general. FEMA requires we complete ICS 100 classes involving the incident command system required to be used nationwide. We also required to have annual physicals. Also, there is no compensation for travel to and from training sites.

In addition, there are also variety of classes required to work on, in and around emergency scenes:

- Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations -- 82 classroom and field hours
- Interior Firefighting Operations -- 110 hours classroom and field hours
- ICS 200 – Incident Safety Officer – 16 classroom and field hours
- Pump Operator – 18 classroom and field hours
- Basic Structural Collapse – 8 classroom and field hours
- Fire Police – 30 classroom and field hours
- Engine Company Operator – 9 classroom and field hours
- Emergency Vehicle Operator – 18 classroom and field hours
- Heavy Rescue I – 15 classroom and field hours
- Heavy Rescue II – 15 classroom and field hours

In addition to these the Certified First Responder (CFR) training involves 80 classroom hours, passing a hands-on skills test and passing a state exam. Continuing education training is with a minimum of 30 hours of approved Continuing Education classes every 3 years.

We also work closely with several other fire departments in the area, primarily, the Salisbury and Dolgeville volunteer fire departments, to provide safety education to students in the Dolgeville Central School system through the Southern Adirondack Fire Prevention Team. Volunteers from Stratford VFC present safety programs to all levels of students

It is safe to say that most members spend an average of at least 50 hours a year in training, not counting the study and practice time they do on their own. That is likely to increase as more of the younger members seek to improve their skill sets and as we are able to recruit more members to volunteer as CFRs.

The only training compensation is a small stipend from the state for completing the BFO and IFO classes. That is new this year and the pool of money is limited. There is also a small income tax credit available to members. This year for the first time a property tax credit is available but only to veteran members.

Finally, working with a grant consultant, we have applied through FEMA for a grant to purchase a new rural pumper and have applied for another grant to make substantial improvements to our building to address ever-increasing energy costs and other deficiencies.

Thank you for your continued support of the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company.

Larry Neely, secretary  
SVFC

Attached: statistical reports  
2024 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report to the Town

# Stratford Volunteer Fire Company Call Summary

2022	EMS calls	Fires	Other	Manhours	Total Calls
January	6	2	0	48.2	8
February	2	2	1	44.7	5
March	2	1	0	21.6	3
April	4	2	5	58.6	11
May	1	0	0	7.1	1
June	5	1	0	34	6
July	4	0	1	37.7	5
August	3	0	3	29.9	6
September	4	0	0	21.9	4
October	2	1	1	35.6	4
November	5	1	0	40.3	6
December	3	0	4	52.4	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>2023</b>					
January	4	0	1	33.3	5
February	4	1	0	32.1	5
March	7	0	0	47	7
April	7	1	0	56.3	8
May	5	1	1	34.9	7
June	3	1	3	71.7	7
July	5	0	2	41.8	7
August	9	2	0	52.95	11
September	3	0	2	24.95	5
October	5	1	1	87.9	7
November	0	0	2	6.4	2
December	2	0	2	33.4	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>522.7</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>2024</b>					
January	4	0	1	27.6	5
February	13	1	8	64.2	13
March	3	0	1	15.9	4
April	2	0	4	2.25	6
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