



Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department

2020 Annual Report

Call Volume for 2020: 193 calls for service

12 Structure Fires

9 Vehicle Fires

40 Grass Fires

45 Vehicle Accidents

87 EMS, Fire Alarms, Searches, etc.

Self- Contained Breathing Apparatus

In 2020 the Department purchased 18 sets of new generation SCBA's. These replaced the outdated 2216psi SCBA'S with 4500psi SCBA'S. The new SCBA's operate at 4500psi which allows firefighters to be inside the fire building operating hose lines or searching for victims for almost twice as long as the old units. As an added safety measure, they also ensure that the firefighter has more time to escape a life-threatening situation. Additionally, most of our mutual aid partners operate with the 4500psi air bottles. This allows the ability to interchange bottles when working together on fire scenes. We were able to purchase the new air packs by securing a USDA loan through the fire department.

Current Vehicle Replacement Schedule

Vehicle ID	Description	Replacement Cost	Replacement Year
Command 1	2008 Chevy Suburban	\$64,200	2028
Command 2	2010 Chevy Suburban	\$65,500	2030
Engine 2	2006 Spartan Gladiator	\$488,900	2031
Engine 3	2010 International Rosenbauer	\$332,800	2035
Engine 4	2000 International Pierce	#397,400	2025
Rescue 1	1995 International Rescue	0	2020
Utility 2	2005 Polaris Ranger	\$12,500	As needed
Utility 1	2012 Ford F250	\$46,000	As needed
Brush 2	2016 Ford F550	\$106,500	2041
Brush 4	2015 Ford F550	\$106,500	2040
Brush 1	2003 Dodge 3500	\$106,500	2028
Brush 5	2002 Dodge 3500	\$106,500	2027
Brush 6	2007 Dodge 3500	\$106,500	2032
Tender 5	2004 International 2500 gal	\$275,100	2029
Tender 6	2003 International 2500 gal	\$275,100	2028

Breathing Air Compressor

We are presently using an old breathing air compressor to fill our new breathing air bottles. The compressor was originally used to fill the 2216psi bottles and did a great job in doing so. The new 4500psi bottles can be filled with the old compressor but it is slow and is hard on the old compressor. The next purchase we will be pursuing in 2021 will be a new breathing air compressor. This will cost somewhere between \$27,000 and \$50,000.

Bunker Gear (structural gear)

We hope to replace at least 5-sets of gear this year. We are currently waiting on price quotes. Hopefully, we can get with Rapid City and purchase the new sets on the quote and prices they are getting to save money. The individual price for a set of bunker gear ranges from \$2,300 to \$2,700.

Wildland PPE

This is an ongoing expense, and this equipment is replaced only as needed. Our stock is starting to dwindle so we will be considering a purchase soon. The cost per person for this equipment averages \$825.00.

Radios

The State of South Dakota is still in the process of changing their radio infrastructure to the new P25 system. The original date to change everything over to the P25 system was 2023. The State has now decided to go live in 2022. We now have to have all our new radios purchased a year earlier than expected. We are working with the other Meade County Fire Departments to try and secure an AFG grant to help offset the cost of purchasing these radios. Over the last few years, we have been purchasing radios to help us get by if the grant fall through (again).

Apparatus

The Volunteer Fire Department has been specking and pricing a new Rescue/Pumper to replace the Rescue truck and Engine 4. According to NFPA, apparatus should be replaced after 25 years of service. The Rescue truck is 26-years old, and Engine 4 is 21-years old, so they are pushing their life expectancy. We would like to replace both apparatus with one new engine that would do both jobs. This in turn would make it easier to staff one engine instead of two when responding to accidents or fire calls. We have applied for an AFG grant to try and purchase the new Rescue/Pumper. The cost of the new engine is approximately \$600,000 and the price increases every year by around 3 percent.

Yearly Income:

City of Sturgis Adopted General Fund Budget	\$144,491
Meade County Insurance Tax Rebate: 2020	\$ 43,415
Lawrence County Insurance Tax Rebate/Fire protection: 2020	\$ 3,323
2020 Rally income (incl. Mayor's Ride):	\$11,377
2020 Donations Drive:	\$2,225

2020 annual income was down about \$32,000 compared to 3 years ago. Donations have gone down significantly over the past 3 years with no recovery anticipated in the near future.

Summary:

Due to the age of our equipment the Department will soon need to replace a portion of our fleet in order to help keep our ISO rating. Safety of our firefighters as well as the community is also a concern when addressing equipment age and availability.

2020 was a very busy year for the fire department. There was a concern that we would not have enough firefighters show up for the calls during the pandemic. Some agencies, like State Fire, sent their crews home and did not staff all of their wildland engines because of the pandemic. The volunteers that serve this city never missed a beat. If they were not sick, they were at every fire or service call that they could make despite the increase in calls. We currently have 39 active firefighters on the roster, all of which are South Dakota FF1 & FF2 structurally certified and wildland certified. If you see a Volunteer, please stop, and say 'hi' and thank them for all of the time and training they put in every year to keep our City safe.

Besides all the challenges we faced in 2020, we were also able to bring joy to the children by taking part in the birthday parades during periods of quarantine when normal birthday parties were out of the question. The Volunteers made multiple appearances at such things like the burning of the trees, parades, and many other events throughout the year.

2020 also brought a huge improvement to our station when the City upgraded all the lights in our apparatus bay. We are all hoping for a better year in 2021.