Stoughton Fire Department

2024 Capital Budget Requests

Capital Plans – 2024 to 2028

Requestor(s)	Department	Project Description	Funding Source(s)	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Joshua Ripp	Fire	PPE Purchase/Replacement	Debt Issue	$65,910	$63,500	$63,500	$65,000	$65,000
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Computers/MDC Install/Swapout	Debt Issue	$17,000	$13,000	$13,000	$13,000	$13,000
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Thermal Imaging Cameras	Debt Issue	$30,000				
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Tactical Vests/Helmets-FD Rescue Teams	Debt Issue	$25,000	$25,000			
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Training Room Tables	Debt Issue	$25,000				
Joshua Ripp	Fire	RDC - Water Rescue Boat	Debt Issue	$6,000				
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Air Line Installation in FD	Debt Issue	$20,000				
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Water Filter System for washing trucks	Debt Issue	$50,000				
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Mezzanine in Fire Station	Debt Issue	$150,000				
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Station PA System Update	Debt Issue		$25,000			
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Fire Engine Replacement	Debt Issue		$950,000			
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Electric/Battery Rescue tools	Debt Issue			$55,000		
Joshua Ripp	Fire	2012 Ram 1500 Truck Replacement	Debt Issue			$80,000		
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Ladder Truck - New	Debt Issue				$1,900,000	
Joshua Ripp	Fire	Additional Facility (Training/Station)	Debt Issue					TBD
			TOTALS	$388,910	$1,076,500	$211,500	$1,978,000	$78,000

Capital Expenditure Request 2024

PPE for firefighter

Computer/MDC/Swapouts

Thermal Imaging Cameras

Tactical Vests/Helmets/FD Rescue Teams

Training Room Tables

RDC – Water Rescue Boat

Air Line Installation in FD

Water Filter System for Washing Trucks

Mezzanine in Fire Bays

Stoughton Fire Dept

Challenges / Risks

- Computers – necessary for all the information that needs to be accessible to FF's when responding.
- PPE – Changing response requirements, addition of more/different PPE than before.
- Station Updates – The age of the FD and technology is requiring us to look at updates, as technology fails/changes. Also dealing with limitations from previous configurations, trying to improve our response to calls.

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) $66,000

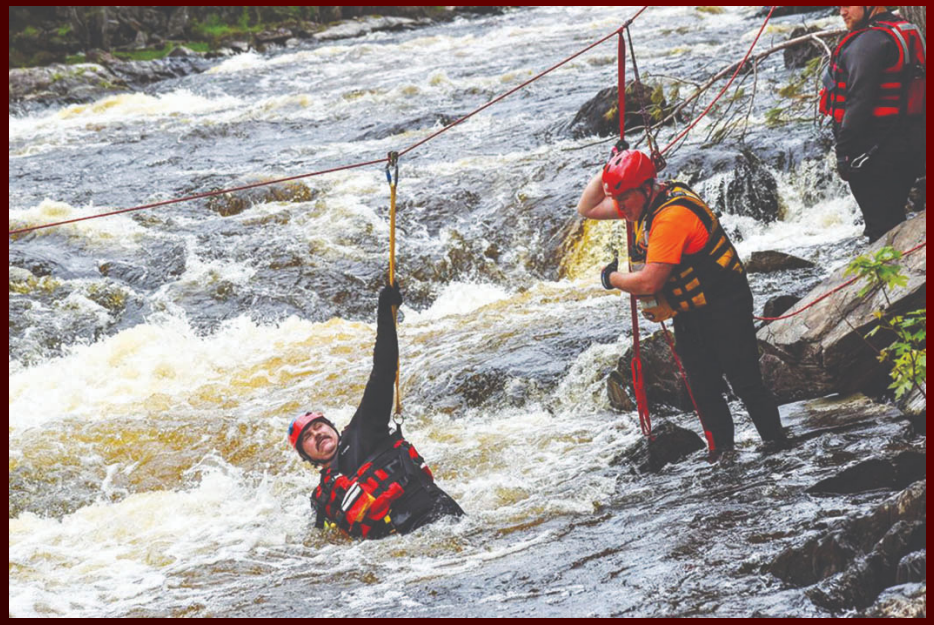
- Specific to the Job/duties, concentrating on Structural, Wildland and Technical Rescue PPE
- Swapping out 10 sets per year, as well as having gear for purchasing for new FF's (if in stock sizing doesn't fit right). Pricing keeps going up….
- Technical Rescue includes rope, water and confined space rescue. Last year's Swiftwater classes demonstrated the benefits for a dry suit for staff in cold water, but is twice the cost of wet suits.

Structural Gear

- Sized to each Firefighter
- Price is rising to approx. $3.5k + /set, due to PFA reduction/elimination from materials
- Protects against heat for Structural firefighting
- Also has barrier for Blood borne Pathogens and Moisture
- These features also hold in heat/moisture, causing FF stress
- Max Life of 10 years
- Generally takes minimum of 4 hours to wash and dry gear, putting that FF out of service

Technical Rescue Gear

- Swiftwater Vest, dry suit, helmet, etc. are required.
- Not the same as our Ice Rescue suits. Flotation is only provided by vest (Ice suits are entire suit). This allows better mobility in water.
- Max Life of 10 years (Per NFPA Standards)
- Sized for each person, especially swiftwater suits. Rope Rescue harnesses are more size variable per person.
- Gear is generally sized per person



Technical Rescue Gear cont'd

- Rope Rescue harness, not intended for water, but for rope and confined space rescue purposes.
- Sizes more flexible per person.
- Max Life of 10 years (Per NFPA Standards)
- Harnesses needed to put personnel through classes before department will be ready for response.
- Cell tower, tree rescue, roof rescue, confined space with utilities.
- Closest teams are Janesville and Madison. Willing to come, but truly looking at 30 minute response time either way.

Technical Rescue Gear cont'd

Computers/MDC update

- Mobile Data Computers are installed in all apparatus, to ensure access to Dane County CAD (computer aided dispatch) information.
- We are moving to the recommendation of Stoughton IT, which is changing out computers in vehicles to ensure max life of 3 years. Experience is proving this to be a good plan. We have some computers yet that are approaching 4 years, and are getting rough.
- CAD software keeps updating, requiring more and more resources from the computer(more memory, faster processors, etc.).
- CAD files are also getting larger.
- With the City move to Google (from Microsoft based) this gives us flexibility for FD staff to have more access to important information in the vehicles.
- Includes update of vehicle cellular data connection to ensure proper coverage and data transfer.

Thermal Imaging Cameras

- Thermal Imaging Cameras provide ability to view things we can't normally see in the smoke of fires. This includes victims, heat/fire (hidden by smoke), holes in floors as well as other situational awareness items we'd run across.

- The current cameras we have are 10 years old, and are beyond useful life. We have been able to find batteries (super expensive right now) but any technical issues/repairs are going to be very painful fix (if at all).

- The plan is to have a minimum of 3 cameras to replace the 3 we currently have.

Tactical Vests and Helmets (FD Rescue Teams)

- We (Stoughton Fire) are in the plans to provide ICS and patient movement support in the event of an Active Shooter incident. PD/Law handles contact with the shooter, and EMS handles patient care (once removed).
- The standard is for the teams (called Rescue Task Force) to enter warm zones that have been checked, with law enforcement protection, to get patients and remove them from the hot/warm zones.
- This is a county wide approach to this, so while we'd be primary in Stoughton, we'd very likely be requested mutual aid to other surrounding areas.

Tactical Vests and Helmets (FD Rescue Teams)

- This request is for us to be able to purchase the following:
- 12 – Bulletproof Vests with associated chest and back plates
- 12 – Tactical Helmets meant for use in tactical incidents.

This includes research being done in conjunction with Stoughton PD's expertise with this kind of PPE.

Training Room Tables

- The current training room tables were purchased when the station was moved into (2009). They have taken quite a bit of abuse over the years. The proposal is to swap out all 30 tables.
- The edges and swivel mechanisms are getting wore, leading to uneven tables, sloppy tops, as well as laminating coming off the table tops.
- The Training Room is used quite a bit by city agencies, and other entities, as the room is one of the larger rooms in the city.
- Due to usage, the tables do need to be foldable and roll for movement so they can be stored in the store room we have.

De ionized Water System - Revised

- It's a well known issue that Stoughton's tap water is pretty heavy in minerals. This builds up on trucks over time, when used to clean them.
- To ensure we don't have water spots, the trucks need to be dried by hand. This is extensive work wise.
- This would allow us to wash and rinse a truck, and not need to dry every square inch of truck. Allowing us to wash trucks more often, because we won't have to spend as much time drying.
- This helps us maintain trucks, getting salt rinsed off more often in the winter time.

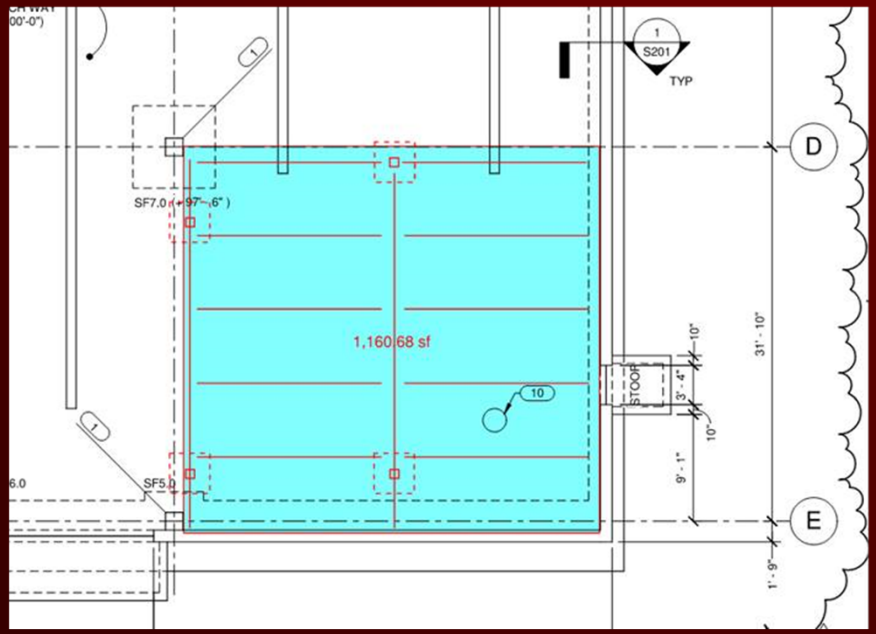
De ionized Water System - Revised

- While determining the installation of the system, we found that the pricing we had gotten for a system was incorrectly sized for the needs of SFD.

- The revised system design moved the cost up to $50,000. This runs the water through the current hose reels in the bay, as opposed to adding additional hose reels (what EMS currently uses).

Mezzanine added to the Fire Bays

- This is the proposed mezzanine we'd discussed a couple years ago. Current cost is est. to be about $150k.
- This would add a second floor in the area of the FD with unusable space, adding about 1200 square feet of storage, leaving floor area available open for other uses, as well as training props.
- This structure could also include some training props and appropriate tie offs for training on ladders, rope rescue, etc.



SFD – Vehicle Planning

- SFD's Rolling Stock includes:
  - 2012 Pierce Enforcer Engine (Scheduled Replacement 2032) – 1000 gallon tank, 1500 GPM pump.
  - 2017 Pierce Enforcer Engine/Tender (replacement scheduled 2037) – 2000 gallon tank, 1500 gpm pump
  - 2003 Pierce Dash Ladder Tower, Scheduled Replacement 2027 – 105' Aerial Bucket Truck
  - 2020 Pierce Enforcer rescue Squad – Scheduled Replacement 2040
  - 2002 Pierce Kenworth Pumper Tender – Scheduled replacement 2024-2026, 2000 gallon tank and 1500 gpm pump
  - 2009 Rosenbauer/Kenworth Tender – Scheduled replacement 2029, 3500 gallon tank.
  - 2014 F350 Brush Truck – Scheduled Replacement 2034
  - 2020 F350 Brush Truck – Scheduled Replacement 2040
  - 2020 Expedition Command car – Scheduled Replacement 2040
  - 2012 Dodge 1500 Truck, utility truck , Scheduled replacement in 2026 (dependent upon condition)
  - 2022 F150 Command Truck – In service February 2023, replacement not scheduled at this point

SFD Vehicle Planning

- Other “vehicles” in SFD Stock:
  - 2008 Rescue One Boat – Tentative Plan of 20 year life.
  - Equipment Trailer, 16’ – No replacement plans, carries hazmat materials, tents, other misc. materials for large incidents
  - 2005 Polaris Ranger 6x6 UTV – 2 seat UTV used for brush firefighting as well as transport of victims and FF’s from off road locations (snowmobile trails, fields, frozen lakes)
  - 2017 Polaris Ranger 4x4 UTV – 4 seat UTV used for brush firefighting as well as transport of victims and FF’s from off road locations (snowmobile trails, fields). Too heavy for frozen lakes.

2024-2028 – Defined Expenses

- Large items on the Docket that are pretty well defined, age wise:
  - **2024 to 2026 est – Replacement Fire Engine (Engine 2).** This is a replacement for our Fire Engine #2. It will be 22 years old at that point. However, we will likely be looking at an actual delivery of 2 to 3 years after ordering. Est cost will be $950,000 dollars (similar truck in SP was just bought and cost just over $825,000.
  - **2026 – Air Pack replacement.** Our air packs will turn 15 years old in 2027. At minimum we need to change out air tanks, but maintenance is slowly becoming an issue as the warranty on current air packs have expired (10 years). On note, we are applying for a grant to replace these, which are largely successful.
  - **2027 – Ladder Truck Replacement:** Our ladder truck will be turning 20 years old next year, and we've put some money into it to push off the replacement a bit. A new development though is new emission restrictions on diesel engines could cause issues with getting a unit with sufficient power in the engine. It may be worthwhile ordering early, to get ahead of the emissions issues (which can take multiple years for manufacturers to work out).

2024 - and Forward – To be Planned

- **Training Facilities:** This is a largely undefined concept. Needs wise, we are extremely deficient of areas for us to train (think practicing with ladders, search and rescue, extrication, etc.) without working in other areas. Our current station lot doesn't allow much for us, without blocking our own bays, and affecting parking for the Opera house. This would involve some kind of land acquisition, gravel/blacktop, etc.

- **Future Sleeping quarters:** We will be in need of sleeping facilities in the next 5 -10 years. This is to allow Duty Crews as well as a future interns to be have a place to sleep near the fire station. Our members live further and further out, limiting our ability to get respond in a timely manner.

- **Planning for future facilities:** Growth in Stoughton is showing that we will need to address public safety's needs for space (office, garage, living quarters), due to additional staff and needs. The extra traffic on main street has also added strain on the ability of SFD staff from the north and west to respond into the SFD station, and get trucks out in an appropriate amount of time.

Increased traffic and people being in downtown Stoughton, have also increased the difficulty of finding parking around the SFD. Its not unusual for parking to be tied up on evenings and weekends, and SFD staff struggle to find parking that doesn't impede our emergency vehicles to get out the door.

SFD 5-10 years out, Operational Considerations

STAFFING:

- Staffing is becoming a much bigger issue every year. The reality is that the average person coming onto the FD has less free time to give, and considers the FD as another "job" as opposed to a hobby. This means that they allot time to do FD stuff, and measure it against work life balances.

- Weekday daytimes are getting tight too. Currently, on our roster, we have the following weekday staff:
  - Fulltime – Chief Ripp, Deputy Chief Miller and Fire Tech Gander (interior FF capable)
  - Volunteer –
    - 2 – Chief officers, Neither will be part of attack crew, running things outside.
    - 3 – FF's and Captains that are routinely around town and available for calls
    - 4 – FF's ad Captains that are occasionally around town and available for calls
- We don't have a mechanism currently to backfill the Full Time positions with part time staff. I'll be working on this for the 2024 budget

SFD 5-10 years out, Operational Considerations

STAFFING:

- Once concept for staffing could be:
  - 2024 – Add part time staff to back fill for FT staff being off duty. This would need to be a number of people to ensure we have availability for backfilling. They wouldn't need to be officers, as long as we had other officers from the Dept available.

  - 2025/2026 – Add (2) additional FT staff, with the goal of filling a daytime "Duty Crew". This crew would handle the calls that need only a handful of people. This would leave the staff that are working to only take off when necessary (Structure fire, significant accident calls, brush fires, etc.). The crews would cover normal daytime hours, as necessary.

  - Future, when quarters are available – Interns would be added to the department, providing additional coverage.

SFD 5-10 years out, Operational Considerations

Training

- We have very limited facilities to do training exercises. Our FD lots are filled with traffic/parked vehicles and don't allow us to do much for practice.
- Training with live fire requires us to go to MATC generally. Other trainings for ladders, hose work, extrication, etc., requires us to go somewhere else, many times outside of Stoughton. This forces us to break up our crew, and we don't get to work together, unless we happen to get a house to practice with.

- I'd like to plan for a facility in our district that has a water supply, and allows us a segregated area from normal traffic, etc. to work at. Other departments have had good luck in setting up towers with old steel sea containers (pic on next slide).

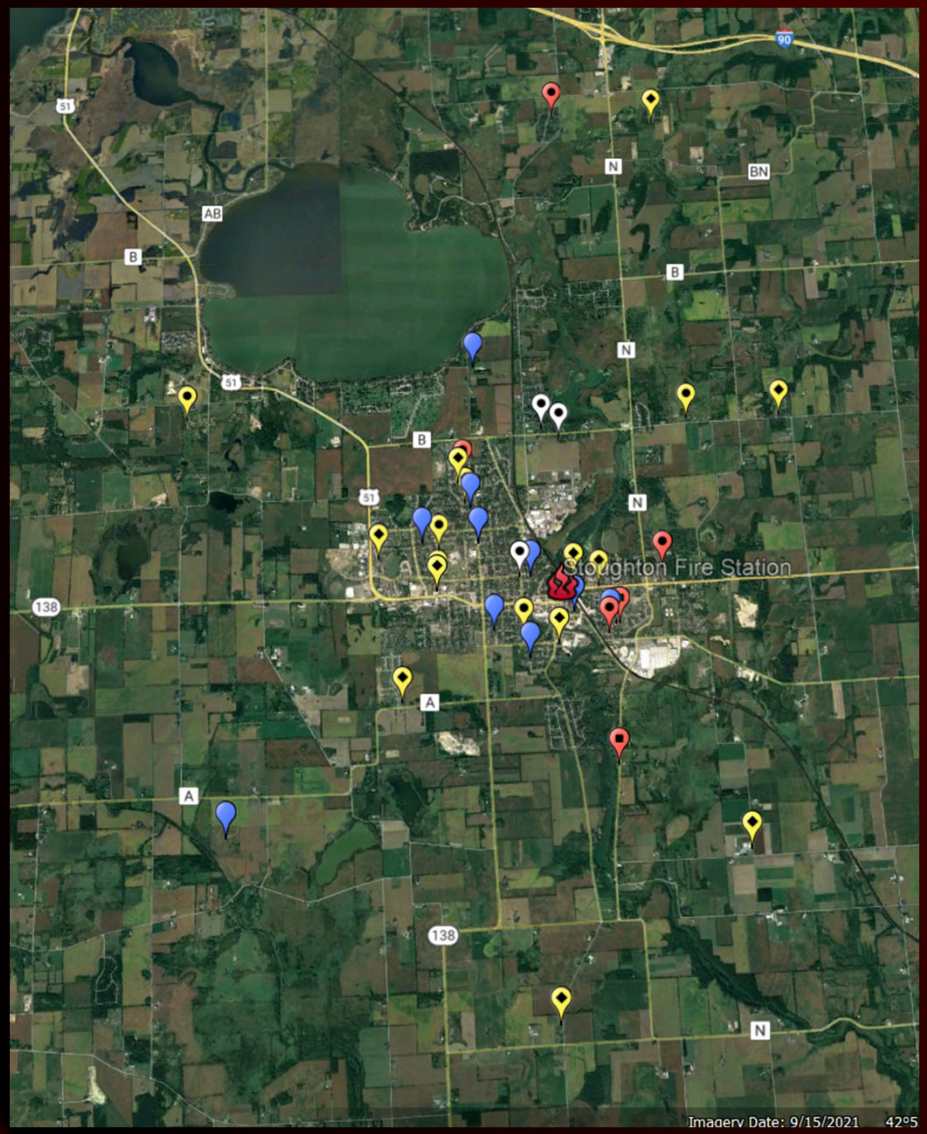
- Current station location doesn't allow for any expansion, except for going up (2nd story). That has significant challenges too.

SFD 5-10 years out, Operational Considerations

Response Location

- Our current station location limits us on the ability to improve response times. The map on the next page shows the homes of our current FD staff. They truly live all over our district. Getting a truck out the door, requires us to get personnel into the station to get gear, vehicles, etc. needed for calls.

- Staff responding in from the North and western directions get caught up in traffic on main street pretty consistently. There are very limited solutions:
  - Put a station closer to the staff – This was a solution locally used by Sun Prairie FD when they built the 2nd station. Personnel had gear at both stations, and would respond to the one they were closest to.
  - Put staff in station (eliminating the response time in) - This has been used by many departments across the station. It requires sleeping quarters, and more discussion of duty crew pay.



5-10 years out

- We need to be looking at the reality that our members living further out, and that living “in the city” will also mean living beyond a 5 min (to the station) response.
- We currently have no option to have anyone to stay at the current station overnight. We need to be looking at options moving ahead.
- This makes any improvement in response times nearly impossible, and puts the load on a small portion of the department.
- As we plan growth, any expansion or movement of one public safety agency in the city, all should be discussed (long term).