



Lantz Volunteer Fire Department

6 Church St. Lantz, N.S. B2S 1P3

NEW FIRE STATION BRIEFING NOTE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide information to the Municipality of East Hants to help inform future decisions and land use in the Community of Lantz regarding the location and operations of the Lantz Volunteer Fire Department.

BACKGROUND

The Lantz Volunteer Fire Department ("Fire Department") was formally established in 1971 and like the community of Lantz has grown and changed to continue to provide effective response to all types of emergencies throughout East Hants. The Fire Department is a 100% volunteer station that relies on community minded residents to spend hundreds of hours training and responding to community emergencies including fires, motor vehicle collisions (MVC), medical incidents, and rescue operations. The Fire Department currently responds to approximately 250+ emergency calls annually within Lantz and as Mutual Aid within East Hants, Colchester, and Halifax Regional Municipality. Lantz Fire currently has 29 members, 25 senior members and 4 junior members. The Fire Department provides Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) response to most areas within East Hants which provides rescue operations for downed/trapped firefighters.

General members are expected and required to provide 15-20 hours of training and response commitment per month. Officer/Leadership responsibilities and time commitments increase from there up to approximately 15-20 hours per week. All Officers meet or exceed current Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia officer qualifications. 90% of senior members are trained to Level 1 with Fire Control to provide interior fire suppression activities. 12 members are certified as Level 2 Swift Water Rescue Technicians, and most members are Ice Rescue – Technician level certified. In addition, 10 members are Vehicle Extrication Technician level trained with most members at the Operational level. Approximately half of the Fire Departments members have their Medical First Responder certification.

DISCUSSION

Fleet

- The Fire Department currently operates with three response vehicles;

Fire Apparatus	Year purchased	Operations
Rescue 431	2017	Medical calls, water rescue, RIT responses
Engine 411	2013	Primary structure fires, MVC, Industrial
Tanker 421	2009	Water shuttle, RIT responses, back up Engine

Building

- Structurally, Lantz Station 400 is in good shape, but it has reached a point where the Fire Department has outgrown the space in terms of operational and member requirements.
- The building heating system is obsolete but still functions. The process of converting over to Heat Pumps with assistance from NSP rebate programs has been started. The existing heating system will continue as a back up and to augment the heat pumps to increase its longevity.
- There is presently no exhaust system for truck exhaust.
- The station has 1 bathroom and no shower capabilities. Decontamination has increased in necessity due to various studies on cancer prevalence in Firefighters due to off-gassing from equipment/PPE.
- Members gear lockers are currently located on the apparatus floor in very close proximity to vehicles. This poses potential safety concerns and with current membership levels we are close to exceeding the locker space for additional members.
- The building size and configuration currently limits the addition of any other trucks and due to the lot layout, a large extension is not possible with this building. Parking lot size for members during training and particularly during emergency response has also become an issue in recent years, with overflow parking occurring on Church Street.

New community developments

- The community is very quickly changing with the exciting new developments occurring. These developments have the potential to add over 10,000 new residents to Lantz at final

completion, five times the current population. There are over 20 multi-level apartment buildings planned as well as a commercial area and various other mixed use residential areas.

- The new Exit 8A Highway 102 interchange provides the Fire Department with direct highway access which has already increased emergency calls for MVC responses. These new developments will increase traffic levels significantly especially along Highway 2 and will increase overall emergency call volume for the department.
- The addition of new large scale multi-unit occupancies and density will require the addition of an Aerial apparatus for effective rescue and fire suppression responses. Additionally, changes to vehicle configurations to address operational needs will be required.
- The Fire Department has completed an analysis of call volumes and membership response, and it is estimated that an additional 10-15 members, at a minimum, will be required to ensure continued adequate emergency response levels for the community.

Planning for the future

- The Fire Department is constantly planning and trying to anticipate requirements both short term and long term with a focus on operational capabilities, sustainability and fiscal responsibility. This is also true from a recruitment and retention standpoint as well as succession planning.
- With the rapid development changes in the community the Department has spent the last 12-15 months evaluating requirements as well as creating business plan reviews for the addition of a new apparatus to address the expected requirements for residents in terms of fire protection.
- The Fire Department has completed an RFP procurement process and will be expecting delivery in 2024 of a new 100' Aerial Quint Fire Apparatus. This truck is set to replace our 2009 Tanker due to the fact that 95% of our direct response area has hydrant access and a tanker is not required. It will add considerable operational capabilities, improved safety as well as increased manpower ability.
- The purchase of this new apparatus will require a small addition to our existing building to provide suitable access space in between trucks. We are expecting to release an RFP in late June for this work and this addition should help us bridge the gap until a new station is feasible.
- The Fire Department has already planned as well for some modifications to the other existing fleet vehicles to better address operational requirements of the community going forward as well as member safety. This includes:
 - **Rescue 431 (2017)** – Will respond to medical calls and provide manpower transport as well as storage for contaminated PPE and fire hoses.
 - **Rescue/Engine 411 (2013)** – First out truck for MVC, increased extrication gear as well as specialized water rescue equipment. It will maintain full structural fire response capabilities and be second out for fires.

- **Quint 441 (2024-Expected)** – First out truck for Fires, RIT response. 100' Aerial will provide rescue and suppression capabilities for multi-story/commercial/industrial responses and provides an improved safety platform for various activities (roof ventilation, chimney fires, and emergency egress)

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

New fire station site location

- As a Volunteer Fire Service, the location of the station can be complex as consideration needs to not only drive time response to emergency scenes within the community and the larger East Hants region, but also member access and drive time to the station to collect gear and apparatus, as well.
- Volunteer Members must respond in their personal vehicles while adhering to all traffic rules and speed limits. Increased time to get to the station to respond, increases the time it takes to render emergency assistance.
- Having to cross through traffic lights or passing through large sections of the community in order to get to the station further delays response.
- The largest number of our calls within Lantz is anticipated to continue to be Medical responses and MVC (motor vehicle collisions). Medicals will predominantly be located within the residential areas, while MVC's will predominantly be located along Highway 2 or Highway 102 and Exit 8 A.
- PID 45148111, the former location of the Lantz School, has been identified as ideal for the location of a new fire station for the community by the Fire Department.
- PID 45148111 is centrally located within the community and gives immediate access to the major traffic arteries in the area.
- This site allows very quick response to the new commercial area and Highway 102 via the Lantz Connector Road and improved response towards Nine Mile River and Milford/Shubenacadie for Mutual Aid.
- This site provides direct access into Elmsdale and Enfield via Highway 2 as well as Milford. Additionally, it would have direct access to Highway 277 for that area of Lantz as well as mutual aid to HRM, once the Hyde Bridge is reopened.

Requirements for a new fire station

- A new fire station should address the expected or possible requirements for the community for the next 40-50 years. As such, it will need to contain some flex spaces that can adapt to possible requirements as the community continues to grow and the fire service requirements increase.
- The Fire Department will require a minimum of 3 extended/double drive through bays or 4 extended drive through bays. The land lot should be of adequate size that fire department

vehicles do not have to back up and impede oncoming traffic as this creates increased safety risks and interruption to traffic flow.

- The truck bays should have a minimum 14' door height to allow for any future apparatus requirements and they should have an integrated truck exhaust system. Ideally, one bay area should be designed in such a way that vehicles can be washed inside without affecting other equipment.
- There should be adequate firefighter parking with a minimum of 30 available spaces with possible overflow area somewhere on the lot. Additionally, a small training area would be ideal for ground/vehicle extrication training.
- There should be a separate entrance for firefighters for emergency response which leads directly into the gear locker room. This area would house all members PPE turn out gear and should include additional heating and ventilation to assist in drying of gear and allowing it to off gas to provide for safe decontamination.
- The building should have full washroom/shower facilities to accommodate the occupancy as well as a kitchen area/duty room. It should have a room capable for in person meetings/trainings and this could be a mixed-use type space for community use. There should also be a minimum of two offices for department officers with a third and fourth space which would be flex space for future requirements (small workout room/crew sleeping quarters).
- Adequate storage space along with area for laundry equipment for the cleaning of PPE as well as a small tool/maintenance room is required.
- A radio/operations room next to the apparatus floor is required.

RECOMMENDATION

The identified proposed station location on PID 45148111 the former Lantz School site is ideal for the community and the expected growth of the area. This space is centrally located within the community and gives immediate access to the major traffic arteries in the area. It would allow very quick response to the new commercial area and Highway 102 via the Lantz Connector and improved response towards Nine Mile River or Milford/Shubenacadie for Mutual Aid. In addition, it would provide direct access into Elmsdale and Enfield via Highway 2 as well as Milford going in the opposite direction, and direct access to Highway 277 for that area in Lantz as well as mutual aid to HRM once the Hyde Bridge is reopened.

For responding members we are able to draw off the large residential areas on the adjacent side of Highway 2 where members would have quick access to the station via Logan Dr, Poplar Dr., Frederick Allen Dr. along with drawing from members located off the 277. Additionally, the new Clayton development and the new development along Ryan Ave. and Turner James will also draw members in close proximity without having to travel long distances along Highway 2.

Having a station closer to the highway or further down Highway 2 towards Milford would inevitably create more backtracking for members which would increase response times.

In looking at current land in the community and the proposed new developments it is our opinion that there is currently no other location better operationally suited for the required new fire station then this proposed site.