



Fire Station News

From your friends at Copake Fire



Copake Fire is excited to share highlights of upcoming events and activities representing milestones and accomplishments for our community.

Copake Fire Company No. 1 prepares to celebrate a 100-year Anniversary

Copake Fire Company No. 1 was formed in 1925 as the first Fire Company to serve the thirty-three square miles encompassing the Copake Fire District. Today forty-three volunteers continue to proudly serve our community as firefighters, fire police officers and support team members. * ***Stay tuned for details as we plan our 100 year anniversary celebration in 2025*** *

Copake Engine 1431 prepares for retirement

Fire departments operate a fleet of specialty apparatus to serve the many unique emergency response needs of the community.

Copake Engine 1431 is part of the Copake Fire District fleet of emergency vehicles purchased new in 1989 and has served our community well for thirty-four years. Our annual maintenance program has brought us good service from this apparatus, but as with all things age eventually results in deterioration of the vehicle's body, driveline, fire pump and an overall diminishing of capabilities.

The Copake Fire District follows an ongoing fire apparatus replacement plan, and as such specifications for a new Engine 1442 have been prepared to replace Engine 1431. The new fire engine is being constructed of materials to also provide a thirty-year working lifespan. The new Engine 1442 will have additional capabilities beyond those of engine 1431 to include increasing the on-board firefighter crew from two to six firefighters; offering new technology with the ability to deploy a biodegradable wetting agent used in conjunction with its on-board water supply to result in quicker and lasting fire containment; and larger compartmentation to support a dual role of carrying both firefighting and automobile extrication equipment such as the "jaws of life" rescue tool system.

Today's modern fire apparatus are very technical heavy duty commercial vehicles built to meet and deliver the specific requirements of the fire and rescue service. Current average costs to purchase fire apparatus range from \$600,000 to \$1.5 million dollars depending upon the vehicles intended function. The cost to purchase fire apparatus is currently increasing annually at a rate of 9% - 12% and is projected to further escalate due to supply and demand of materials used to construct fire apparatus. Once a new fire apparatus is ordered, its projected delivery date from the manufacturer is currently 2 years, hence time delays in finalizing a purchase contract can present significant financial impacts. Copake Engine 1442 is currently quoted to have a purchase cost of \$880,146 which will be paid for using a combination of the fire district's fire apparatus replacement funds and the approval for the acquisition of municipal bonds. As a result, the new fire engine will be paid in full at its half-life of fifteen years.

The Copake Fire District apparatus replacement program is specifically designed to phase in new apparatus payments as payments for prior purchased apparatus end. Following this practice helps to maintain a stable fire district budget respective to the annual budget line for apparatus payments. This is anticipated to be the case with

the purchase of our new Engine 1442. Budget year 2026 will see a slight overlap of the final payoff of exiting apparatus payments while also beginning the new fire engine payment. To assure a minimal impact to the annual fire district budget and its corresponding tax levy, a fiscal phase-in process will occur over a period of four budget years commencing in 2024. This process will provide budget adjustments addressing the payoff of current fire apparatus and transitioning to the new payment for Engine 1442. As a result, a very minimal increase of 14 cents / \$1000 of assessed property value will phase in over this four-year period with the apparatus payment budget line then stabilizing or reducing in budget year 2027. Due to the rapidly increasing cost of purchasing fire apparatus and the extensive lead time to receive a new fire apparatus, this temporary increase in the vehicle payment budget line offers a fiscal plan that minimizes impact to taxpayers. Delaying the purchase for two years would result in a long term budget impact due to the projected 18 – 24% increase in the cost of the fire apparatus.

An additional significant fiscal benefit through purchasing the new Engine 1442 is achieved at its mid-point of service life of fifteen years as it coincides with the thirty years of anticipated service life of current Copake Heavy Rescue 1444. The cost for the replacement of a Heavy Rescue such as Copake 1444 is projected to exceed \$1.5 million. The planned design of new Engine 1442 as a dual purpose fire and rescue apparatus will allow for downsizing of the Copake Fire fleet by not having to purchase a replacement Heavy Rescue.

Copake Fire members attain an all-time high in volunteered hours in 2022

Copake Fire answered **97 calls** for emergency fire/rescue service in 2022 responding to fires, water rescues, CPR/AED cardiac arrest & EMS assistance, wildland search & rescue, storm emergencies, and requests for public assistance. Additionally our volunteers accomplished an extraordinary **2337 personnel hours** of training through attending the fire districts training / drill program. Answering emergency calls, attending training drills, and conducting public service events to include providing fire prevention education resulted in Copake Fire members volunteering **5878 personnel hours** of service to our community in 2022.

Copake Fire is always looking for new members for our “Join the Team” program. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and are willing to learn new skills and respond to an emergency helping people in their time of need, please consider giving Copake Fire a try becoming part of our team as a firefighter, fire police officer or support team member.