

EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 16, 2024

Minutes of a Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at Station 1 - Fire Headquarters, 255 Main Street,, Eastchester, New York.

Board Members Present:

Chairman Paul Carlo
Commissioner Paul M. Ranellone
Commissioner Anthony J. Lore, Sr.
Commissioner Tony Cerasi

Board Members Absent:

Commissioner Brian E. Keating

In Attendance:

Chief Brian Tween
Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom
Secretary Marissa “Isang” Smith

● **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order

The budget hearing was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Carlo

● **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

● **BUDGET HEARING**

Commissioner Carlo opened the discussion by explaining the format of the Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting. He noted that, after the recent adoption of the proposed budget, he had asked Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom to revise it. He then invited Hedstrom to provide an overview of both the adopted proposed budget and the revised version now under consideration.

Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom - Budget Hearing Discussion

Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom explained that the proposed budget adopted at the September 12th meeting included a 14.41% tax increase, which exceeds the state’s tax cap. This budget accounted for the addition of four new fire

positions, which are not currently part of the staffing plan, along with increases in pension and healthcare costs. It also incorporated a \$500,000 expense for the purchase of a Pierce pumper, additional overtime, and the cost of adding a training day. The proposal further included the purchase of both a transport van and a new fire prevention vehicle.

Hedstrom emphasized that the final budget must be adopted by November 4th but does not need to match the previously adopted proposal. The board has the option to approve the current proposal or modify it. In preparation for this possibility, Commissioner Carlo had asked the treasurer to prepare a revised budget that removes the four additional firefighter positions and trims any non-essential items. Hedstrom noted that expenses related to pensions, healthcare, and insurance remain unchanged, as these costs are beyond the board's control.

The most significant adjustment in the revised budget is the removal of the four new positions, which reduces salaries by \$500,000 and lowers estimated overtime costs by \$200,000. Hedstrom clarified that the overtime savings are only an estimate, as staffing changes can have an unpredictable impact on overtime. Other cuts include the removal of the planned training day, along with the transport van and fire prevention vehicle.

With these changes, the revised budget now reflects an 8.56% tax increase. Although this figure still exceeds the tax cap, it represents a 6% reduction from the 14.41% increase proposed in September.

Board Discussion

Chairman Carlo expressed concern over passing a 14% budget increase, citing the need for fiscal restraint during challenging times. He emphasized the importance of remaining lean and requested Jamie to prepare a revised budget. Carlo noted, "Now is not the time" for a budget of this scale.

Commissioner Ranellone supported the 14.5% increase, highlighting the need for additional firefighters. He referenced discussions dating back to 1990 from the Health and Safety Committee and a manpower study recommending lieutenants and adequate staffing per group. He cited a fire on July 2, 2000, at Garth Road, underscoring the risks associated with low manpower. He believes a third firefighter on Engine 31 would significantly improve response capability for fires and accidents.

Commissioner Cerasi acknowledged the need for safety but expressed skepticism about the impact of adding four firefighters, especially when mutual aid can be relied upon for incidents like Garth Road. He questioned

whether Engine 27 needs additional staffing and mentioned that removing certain apparatus has been effective. Although Cerasi was not opposed to hiring more firefighters, he voiced concerns about the 14% budget increase and suggested exploring alternative solutions.

Commissioner Lore agreed the 14% increase is substantial but stressed the importance of ensuring firefighter safety. He expressed support for the staffing increase, stating that firefighters are needed as soon as tomorrow, and voiced concern over the risks of insufficient staffing. Lore emphasized the need to prevent injuries, saying he doesn't want to see anyone go home hurt.

Ranellone reflected on past boards' reluctance to raise taxes, which has led to current financial pressures. He mentioned that while he is not comfortable with a 14% increase, he supports any measures necessary to maintain safety. He compared his tax bill—\$3,700 for the fire district, which constitutes about one-third of his property taxes—with school taxes exceeding \$10,000. He explained that people are moving to the area because it offers safety and reliable emergency services, public works, and amenities, making it an attractive and valuable choice for families.

Carlo cautioned that increasing the budget would have long-term impacts, noting, "over five or six years, this will tap out what residents can pay." He warned that future budget increases would go beyond just hiring additional firefighters and stressed the need for frugality. Carlo concluded that the department has successfully operated with two firefighters on Engine 31, and that the current increase in costs is too steep.

Cerasi reiterated his concerns, stating he is not opposed to adding personnel but feels the budget increase is too high.

Public Discussion

Joseph Costanzo highlighted the divide among board members regarding the necessity of the proposed increase. He echoed Commissioners Ranellone and Lore, recalling the last manpower study in 1995, which recommended staffing levels of 17. "We are currently at 15," Costanzo stated, noting that the population has grown significantly since 1995. He referenced a 101% increase in calls over the years and emphasized that the fire department's aggressive approach has minimized fire losses but increased risks. Costanzo urged the board to conduct a new manpower study, asserting that the 1995 recommendations are now outdated. "This board has the opportunity to resolve the issue," he concluded, emphasizing that the board is currently gambling with the lives of its members.

Tony Fiore from the Village of Tuckahoe acknowledged that the 14% increase is steep but found the proposal for four additional firefighters reasonable. He suggested a phased approach: Consider hiring two this year and two next year, using overtime to fill gaps in the meantime. Fiore encouraged the board to explore creative solutions, noting, there's always a way to make it work.

Commissioner Ranellone emphasized that the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard mandates a minimum of 17 firefighters to safely manage a fire in a 2,000-square-foot home.

Bill Fredericks, a resident of 1 Fordal Road, Bronxville, expressed concerns about the budget increase. He acknowledged inflation at 2.4% but noted that firefighter salaries are not "free." Fredericks pointed out that the budget includes drawing \$1.4 million from reserve funds this year to fund the current budget, reducing the fund balance from \$10.8 million to an estimated \$9.3 million by year's end. He questioned why overtime expenses are rising despite plans to increase staffing, suggesting that this discrepancy should be addressed.

Fredericks also echoed Chairman Carlo's concerns about the budget's long-term sustainability. "From a taxpayer's perspective, there needs to be a clear projection of future costs," he said, referencing the impact of contract negotiations when firefighters reach six years of service and see salary increases. Fredericks added that the budget should allocate funds for legal and labor consultants to ensure the board makes well-informed financial decisions.

He concluded by recognizing the trade-off between fiscal responsibility and public safety, citing Bronxville's decision to operate with fewer police officers than initially budgeted. "At a certain point, 14% becomes a significant burden," Fredericks warned, encouraging the board to carefully balance spending with community expectations. He thanked the members and the Chief for their service.

Chairman Carlo proceeded to close the budget hearing at 6:43 PM and motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel items.

Open Regular Meeting

Chairman Carlo proceeded to open the regular meeting after exiting the Executive Session at 7:08 PM.

BUDGET HEARING RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 and an estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing with notice to the public on October 16, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 16, 2024 at said budget hearing, and WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the Eastchester Fire District for fiscal year 2025 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2025 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.6% increase in said tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows: A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastchester Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves a determination to override the real property tax cap for the 2025 budget only in order to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.6% increase in said tax levy and result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$23,893,423 and MOTION on the above Resolution was offered by Commissioner Ranellone seconded by Commissioner Cerasi, adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Cerasi: Aye

Commissioner Lore: Aye

Commissioner Ranellone: Aye

Commissioner Carlo: No

Motion Carried

2. RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS APPROVE FINAL BUDGET FOR 2025

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 and an estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing with notice to the public on October 16, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 16, 2024 at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that that financial needs of the Eastchester Fire District for fiscal year 2025 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2024 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.6% increase with allowable carryover in said tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows: A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

WHEREAS, previously this Board of Fire Commissioners passed a resolution to override the real property tax cap for the 2025 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves the Final Budget for the Eastchester Fire District for 2025 attached hereto and made a part hereof in the amount of \$23,893,423 with a tax levy of \$23,872,423.

MOTION on the above Resolution was offered by Commissioner Ranellone and seconded by Commissioner Cerasi, adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Cerasi: Aye

Commissioner Lore: Aye

Commissioner Ranellone: Aye

Commissioner Carlo: No

Motion Carried

4 . Treasurer Report

Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom submitted the following report to the Board:

October 16, 2024

To: Board of Fire Commissioners, Eastchester Fire District
From: Jamie Hedstrom, Treasurer
Subject: Actual vs. Budget Comparison, September 2024

The financials as of September 30, 2024 present a net budget surplus of approximately \$6K.

The budget transfers that were recommended at the September meeting have been made. However, additional budget transfers will be necessary at or before year end, including for GL 3413.1 Overtime-Firefighters, which has been exceeded through Pay #20, GL 3416.1 Terminal Leave, GL 3060.2 Fuel and Electric, and others.

Funds allocated to 2024

Below is the current list of budget encumbrances for 2024:

Budget Encumbrances- Purchases initiated that won't be complete until 2024

Coats, Boots, Helmets- fully expended as of June 2024	\$69,000.00
Radio Equipment- partially expended May 2024	\$75,294.65
Hoses and Nozzles – fully expended Feb 2024	\$22,210.00
Fire Equip and Capital Outlay- Cruisers Division – fully expended as of August 2024	\$120,000.00
Fire Equip and Capital Outlay- Ladder Truck- expended March 2024	\$400,000.00
Total Budget Encumbrances	\$686,504.65

The ladder truck has been delivered and paid for as of March 31st. The additional funding required of \$515,163.38 was appropriated from the unreserved surplus available.

Construction Projects:

Current Balance in Capital Reserve: \$373,944.45

Location	Vendor	Description	Cost	Remainder	Funding
Station 4	Vinco	Apparatus Floor	\$ 852,474.76	\$ 5,800.00	Split- remainder General Fund
Station 3	Highland Associates	Apparatus Floor- Architectural Only TO BE REVISED	TBD (was \$34,500)	TBD (was \$34,500)	General Fund

Other:

Treasury Direct Investments

We currently have \$11M invested in Treasury Direct Investments, in \$2-3M increments. Interest rates have decreased and are currently around 4.78%. We will continue to decrease our investments to cover operating expenses through our next tax collection in May 2025.

2025 Proposed Budget

At our September 12, 2024 meeting, the Board adopted a proposed budget with a 14.41% tax increase, for a total tax levy of \$23,872,423.00. This levy exceeds the tax cap and includes four additional firefighter positions, bringing the total number of firefighter and officers to 83.

Budget Factors

- At this time, we do not have a negotiated contract for 2025 and beyond. This will impact the budgeted amounts for various salary and benefit lines.
- The Board has indicated that it is considering increasing membership by 4 positions in 2025.
- GL accounts that will require increases in the 2025 budget based on 2024 spending and trends include:
 - 3413.1 Overtime- Firefighters
 - 9060.1 Hospital
 - 1150.5 Insurance
 - 3060.2 Fuel & Electric
 - 3240.3 Bldg/Prop Repairs & Maintenance
 - 3416.1 Terminal Leave
- The budget includes \$500,000 for the Pierce Enforcer Pumper that the Board has previously committed to purchase and anticipates receipt of in late 2025/early 2026. The budget does not include any additional funds for future apparatus purchases.
- The budget does not include any funds for future capital improvements. The Board is contemplating bonding a 2025 renovation to Station 3.
- NYSLRS rates are increasing in 2025 by approximately 5.5% for Tier 2 and Tier 5 members, and over 17% for Tier 6 members. Based on these increased rates, our NYSLRS contribution due in 2025 is expected to be \$350K higher than our 2024 contribution.
- NYSHIP premium rates for 2025 will not be released until after the October Budget Hearing. It is unknown at this time what the percentage increase will be, but it is assumed to be at least 12%. Rate increases from 2023 to 2024 were approximately 10% for non-Medicare plans and over 20% for Medicare primary plans.
- The Chiefs have requested the purchase of a transport van and a new vehicle for Fire Prevention, estimated at \$110,000, and the addition of a third training day to the Overtime-Training budget.

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 - FY24 P&L
January- September 2024

	Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Use of Capital Reserve	188,847.00	188,847.00		
Appropriated Fund Balance	495,163.38	495,163.38		
Budget Encumbrances	1,546,849.08	1,546,849.08	0.00	100.00%
1001 Real Property Taxes	20,866,263.00	20,866,263.00	0.00	100.00%
2401 Interest Earnings	328,042.86		328,042.86	
2705 Miscellaneous Income	7,254.00		7,254.00	
2770 Workers Comp - Reimbursement	23,700.18	14,000.00	9,700.18	169.29%
Total Income	\$ 23,456,119.50	\$ 23,111,122.46	\$ 344,997.04	101.49%
Gross Profit	\$ 23,456,119.50	\$ 23,111,122.46	\$ 344,997.04	101.49%
Expenses				
1110.5 Outside Services	8,489.49	9,000.00	(510.51)	94.33%
1120.5 Fire Prevention	1,775.00	1,000.00	775.00	177.50%
1140.5 Payroll Processing Expense	9,383.93	8,250.03	1,133.90	113.74%
1150.5 Insurance	164,261.82	165,000.00	(738.18)	99.55%
1170.5 Other Miscellaneous Expenses	770.75	9,000.00	(8,229.25)	8.56%
1180.5 Education & Travel	2,294.84	3,750.03	(1,455.19)	61.20%
1200.5 Recruitment	0.00	3,750.03	(3,750.03)	0.00%
3010.2 Coats, Boots, Helmets	91,560.44	125,250.00	(33,689.56)	73.10% BE
3020.2 Tank Refills, Testing & Rep	4,987.32	15,000.03	(10,012.71)	33.25%
3030.2 Hoses & Nozzles	59,570.72	57,210.03	2,360.69	104.13% BE
3040.2 Tires	13,588.13	11,999.97	1,588.16	113.23%
3050.2 Gasoline, Oil, Grease, Etc.	31,667.47	37,500.03	(5,832.56)	84.45%
3060.2 Fuel & Electric	94,408.45	60,000.03	34,408.42	157.35%
3070.2 Telephone	9,677.59	41,249.97	(31,572.38)	23.46%
3090.2 Certiorari	24,445.98	54,749.97	(30,303.99)	44.65%
3105.4 Uniforms	45,206.41	60,000.00	(14,793.59)	75.34%
3110.4 Shop Equipment & Tools	2,382.78	3,750.03	(1,367.25)	63.54%
3115.4 Emergency Equipment	88,093.96	112,500.00	(24,406.04)	78.31%
3120.4 EMS Supplies and Services	10,927.80	15,000.03	(4,072.23)	72.85%
3125.4 Computers, Software & Internet	48,815.36	49,650.03	(834.67)	98.32%
3130.4 Office Supplies	5,236.51	6,000.03	(763.52)	87.27%
3135.4 Postage	533.64	1,125.00	(591.36)	47.43%
3140.4 Subscriptions	245.00	900.00	(655.00)	27.22%
3145.4 Association Dues	1,330.00	1,125.00	205.00	118.22%
3150.4 Elections & Referendums	1,943.78	0.00	1,943.78	
3155.4 Sewer Tax	12,994.04	14,000.00	(1,005.96)	92.81%
3160.4 Fire Training	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00	100.00%
3210.3 Vehicle Maintenance	57,412.66	67,499.97	(10,087.31)	85.06%
3220.3 Radio Equipment & Maintenance	62,942.98	75,000.00	(12,057.02)	83.92% BE
3230.3 Ladder & Pump Testing		2,999.97	(2,999.97)	0.00%
3240.3 Bldg/Prop Repairs & Maintenance	154,558.22	122,499.97	32,058.25	126.17%

3410.11 Fire Chief salary	159,360.00	162,000.00	(2,640.00)	98.37%
3410.12 Assistant Fire Chief salary	140,976.00	131,249.97	9,726.03	107.41%
3410.13 Fire Captains salary	622,224.00	652,500.00	(30,276.00)	95.36%
3410.14 Fire Lieutenants salary	943,352.40	974,999.97	(31,647.57)	96.75%
3410.15 Uniformed Firefighters salary	4,263,933.72	4,349,999.97	(86,066.25)	98.02%
3410.16 Maintenance Workers salary	54,818.80	56,118.78	(1,299.98)	97.68%
3410.17 Mechanics salary	32,606.25	37,500.03	(4,893.78)	86.95%
3410.18 Treasurer/Secy/PT Asst salary	125,713.80	132,149.97	(6,436.17)	95.13%
3410.2 Fire Equipment and Capital Outlay	2,201,147.72	2,201,147.72	0.00	100.00% CAP/BE
3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	13,500.00	17,500.00	(4,000.00)	77.14%
3410.44 Year-End fees		0.00	0.00	
Total 3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ (4,000.00)	77.14%
3410.46 Consultants fees	1,500.00		1,500.00	
3410.465 Consultant Fees- Engineers	28,380.85	39,637.53	(11,256.68)	71.60%
3410.47 Professional Consultants fees	5,857.00	29,999.97	(24,142.97)	19.52%
Total 3410.46 Consultants fees	\$ 35,737.85	\$ 69,637.50	\$ (33,899.65)	51.32%
3410.49 Payroll Clearing account	9,345.62		9,345.62	
3410.81 Disabled Firemen salary -207A's	118,599.80	128,250.00	(9,650.20)	92.48%
3411.1 Holiday Pay	249,698.64	280,000.00	(30,301.36)	89.18%
3413.1 Overtime - Firefighters	805,035.45	622,687.50	182,347.95	129.28%
3413.12 Overtime- Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3413.13 Overtime- Sick Incentive	28,421.38	74,999.97	(46,578.59)	37.90%
3413.2 Overtime - Fire Prevention	30,639.82	29,999.97	639.85	102.13%
3414.1 EMT Training	13,343.00	15,000.03	(1,657.03)	88.95%
3416.1 Terminal Leave	367,449.66	307,000.00	60,449.66	119.69%
9010.8 NYS Retirement		0.00	0.00	
9020.8 Social Security	597,815.41	584,250.03	13,565.38	102.32%
9030.8 Payroll Tax - MTA	26,676.67	29,117.25	(2,440.58)	91.62%
9040.8 Workers Compensation	225,425.00	235,000.00	(9,575.00)	95.93%
9045.8 Life Insurance - Local 916	42,661.13	43,000.00	(338.87)	99.21%
9050.8 Physician / Medical costs	20,538.50	45,000.00	(24,461.50)	45.64%
9060.81 Hospital	2,797,284.62	2,630,850.03	166,434.59	106.33%
9060.82 Dental	140,000.00	140,000.00	0.00	100.00%
9060.83 Optical Plan - Local 916	48,000.00	45,000.00	3,000.00	106.67%
Total Expenses	\$ 15,159,810.31	\$ 15,165,718.84	\$ (5,908.53)	99.96%
Net Operating Income	\$ 8,296,309.19	\$ 7,945,403.62	\$ 350,905.57	104.42%
Net Income	\$ 8,296,309.19	\$ 7,945,403.62	\$ 350,905.57	104.42%

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 Budget - FY24 P&L
 January - December 2024

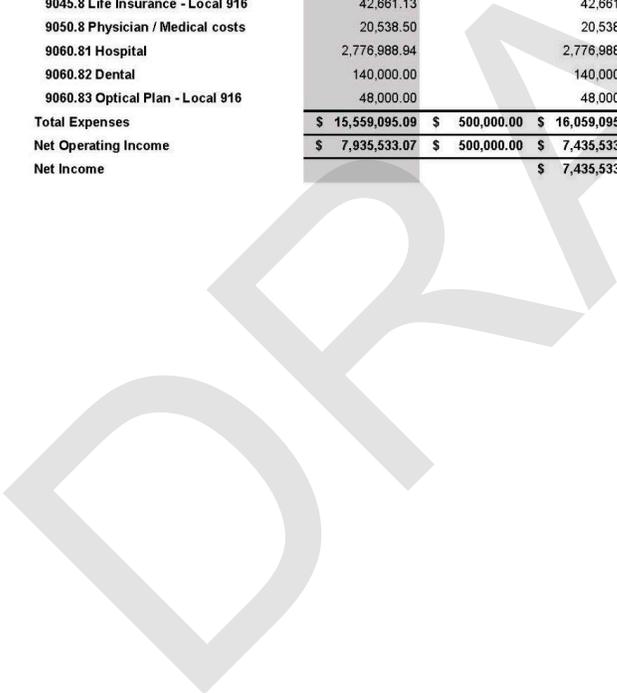
	Actual	Appropriated for 2025	Actual + Appropriated	Budget-with Modifications	Total		over Budget	% of Budget
					Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2024 & Mods		
Income								
Use of Capital Reserve	188,847.00		188,847.00	188,847.00	0.00	188,847.00	0.00	100.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	495,163.38		495,163.38	495,163.38	0.00	495,163.38	0.00	100.00%
Budget Encumbrances	1,578,046.62		1,578,046.62	1,623,341.27	0.00	1,623,341.27	(45,294.65)	97.21%
1001 Real Property Taxes	20,866,263.00		20,866,263.00	20,866,263.00	20,866,263.00	0.00	0.00	100.00%
2401 Interest Earnings	335,353.98		335,353.98			0.00	335,353.98	
2680 Insurance Recoveries			0.00			0.00	0.00	
2701 Refund of PY Expenditure			0.00			0.00	0.00	
2705 Miscellaneous Income	7,254.00		7,254.00			0.00	7,254.00	
2770 Workers Comp - Reimb	23,700.18		23,700.18	21,000.00	21,000.00	0.00	2,700.18	112.86%
Total Income	\$ 23,494,628.16	\$ -	\$ 23,494,628.16	\$ 23,194,614.65	\$ 20,887,263.00	\$ 2,307,351.65	\$ 300,013.51	101.29%
Gross Profit	\$ 23,494,628.16	\$ -	\$ 23,494,628.16	\$ 23,194,614.65	\$ 20,887,263.00		\$ 300,013.51	101.29%
Expenses								
1110.4 Archiving Services & Exp	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1110.5 Outside Services	8,489.49		8,489.49	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	(3,510.51)	70.75%
1120.5 Fire Prevention	1,775.00		1,775.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	(7,225.00)	19.72%
1140.5 Payroll Processing Exp	9,383.93		9,383.93	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	(1,616.07)	85.31%
1150.5 Insurance	164,261.82		164,261.82	165,000.00	145,000.00	20,000.00	(738.18)	99.55%
1170.5 Other Miscellaneous Expenses	770.75		770.75	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	(11,229.25)	6.42%
1180.5 Education & Travel	2,294.84		2,294.84	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(2,705.16)	45.90%
1200.5 Recruitment	0.00		0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(5,000.00)	0.00%
3010.2 Coats, Boots, Helmets	91,560.44		91,560.44	144,000.00	75,000.00	69,000.00	(52,439.56)	63.58%
3020.2 Tank Refills, Testing & Rep	4,987.32		4,987.32	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(15,012.68)	24.94%
3030.2 Hoses & Nozzles	59,570.72		59,570.72	62,210.00	20,000.00	42,210.00	(2,639.28)	95.76%
3040.2 Tires	13,588.13		13,588.13	16,000.00	16,000.00	0.00	(2,411.87)	84.93%
3050.2 Gasoline, Oil, Grease, Etc.	31,667.47		31,667.47	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	(18,332.53)	63.33%
3060.2 Fuel & Electric	94,408.45		94,408.45	80,000.00	80,000.00	0.00	14,408.45	118.01%
3070.2 Telephone	9,677.59		9,677.59	55,000.00	55,000.00	0.00	(45,322.41)	17.60%
3090.2 Certiorari	24,972.98		24,972.98	73,000.00	200,000.00	(127,000.00)	(48,027.02)	34.21%

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 Budget - FY24 P&L
 January - December 2024

	Total					Budget Encumbrances from 2024 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
	Actual	Appropriated for 2025	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Original Budget			
3105.4 Uniforms	45,206.41		45,206.41	75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00	(29,793.59)	60.28%
3110.4 Shop Equipment & Tools	2,382.78		2,382.78	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(2,617.22)	47.66%
3115.4 Emergency Equipment	88,093.96		88,093.96	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	(61,906.04)	58.73%
3120.4 EMS Supplies and Services	10,927.80		10,927.80	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(9,072.20)	54.64%
3125.4 Computers, Software & Internet	48,815.36		48,815.36	66,200.00	66,200.00	0.00	(17,384.64)	73.74%
3130.4 Office Supplies	5,236.51		5,236.51	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	(2,763.49)	65.46%
3135.4 Postage	533.64		533.64	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	(966.36)	35.58%
3140.4 Subscriptions	245.00		245.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	(955.00)	20.42%
3145.4 Association Dues	1,330.00		1,330.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	(170.00)	88.67%
3150.4 Elections & Referendums	1,943.78		1,943.78	10,500.00	10,500.00	0.00	(8,556.22)	18.51%
3155.4 Sewer Tax	12,994.04		12,994.04	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00	(1,005.96)	92.81%
3160.4 Fire Training	36,000.00		36,000.00	36,000.00	26,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	100.00%
3210.3 Vehicle Maintenance	57,412.66		57,412.66	85,000.00	70,000.00	15,000.00	(27,587.34)	67.54%
3220.3 Radio Equipment & Maintenance	62,942.98		62,942.98	135,294.65	60,000.00	75,294.65	(72,351.67)	46.52%
3230.3 Ladder & Pump Testing	0.00		0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	(4,000.00)	0.00%
3240.3 Bldg/Prop Repairs & Maintenance	154,558.22		154,558.22	155,000.00	130,000.00	25,000.00	(441.78)	99.71%
3410.11 Fire Chief salary	167,328.00		167,328.00	216,000.00	216,000.00	0.00	(48,672.00)	77.47%
3410.12 Assistant Fire Chief Salary	148,024.80		148,024.80	175,000.00	175,000.00	0.00	(26,975.20)	84.59%
3410.13 Fire Captains salary	649,973.60		649,973.60	870,000.00	870,000.00	0.00	(220,026.40)	74.71%
3410.14 Fire Lieutenants salary	992,823.60		992,823.60	1,300,000.00	1,300,000.00	0.00	(307,176.40)	76.37%
3410.15 Uniformed Firefighters salary	4,492,120.92		4,492,120.92	5,800,000.00	5,800,000.00	0.00	(1,307,879.08)	77.45%
3410.16 Maintenance Workers salary	57,704.00		57,704.00	74,825.00	74,825.00	0.00	(17,121.00)	77.12%
3410.17 Mechanics salary	34,818.75		34,818.75	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	(15,181.25)	69.64%
3410.18 Treasurer/Secy/PT Asst salary	132,317.00		132,317.00	176,200.00	176,200.00	0.00	(43,883.00)	75.09%
3410.2 Fire Equipment and Capital Outlay	2,201,147.72	500,000.00	2,701,147.72	2,702,997.00	520,000.00	2,182,997.00	(1,849.28)	81.43%
3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	13,500.00		13,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	0.00	(4,000.00)	77.14%
3410.46 Consultants fees	1,500.00		1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 Budget - FY24 P&L
 January - December 2024

	Total							
	Actual	Appropriated for 2025	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2024 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
3410.465 Consultant Fees- Engineers	28,380.85		28,380.85	52,850.00	65,000.00	(12,150.00)	(24,469.15)	53.70%
3410.47 Professional Consultants fees	5,857.00		5,857.00	40,000.00	90,000.00	(50,000.00)	(34,143.00)	14.64%
3410.48 Labor Consultants	0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total 3410.46 Consultants fees	\$ 35,737.85	\$ -	\$ 35,737.85	\$ 92,850.00	\$ 155,000.00	\$ (62,150.00)	\$ (57,112.15)	38.49%
3410.49 Payroll Clearing account	17,402.95		17,402.95			0.00	17,402.95	
3410.81 Disabled Firemen salary -207A's	124,818.26		124,818.26	171,000.00	201,000.00	(30,000.00)	(46,181.74)	72.99%
3411.1 Holiday Pay	249,698.64		249,698.64	560,000.00	560,000.00	0.00	(310,301.36)	44.59%
3412.1 Retroactive Salary	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
3413.1 Overtime - Firefighters	843,281.91		843,281.91	830,250.00	830,250.00	0.00	13,031.91	101.57%
3413.12 Overtime- Training	0.00		0.00	96,965.00	96,965.00	0.00	(96,965.00)	0.00%
3413.13 Overtime- Sick Incentive	31,930.42		31,930.42	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	(68,069.58)	31.93%
3413.2 Overtime - Fire Prevention	32,233.49		32,233.49	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	(7,766.51)	80.58%
3414.1 EMT Training	13,343.00		13,343.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(6,657.00)	66.72%
3416.1 Terminal Leave	367,449.66		367,449.66	307,000.00	200,000.00	107,000.00	60,449.66	119.69%
9010.8 NYS Retirement	0.00		0.00	3,250,000.00	3,250,000.00	0.00	(3,250,000.00)	0.00%
9020.8 Social Security	625,855.71		625,855.71	779,000.00	779,000.00	0.00	(153,144.29)	80.34%
9030.8 Payroll Tax - MTA	27,939.17		27,939.17	38,823.00	38,823.00	0.00	(10,883.83)	71.97%
9040.8 Workers Compensation	225,425.00		225,425.00	235,000.00	255,000.00	(20,000.00)	(9,575.00)	95.93%
9045.8 Life Insurance - Local 916	42,661.13		42,661.13	46,000.00	46,000.00	0.00	(3,338.87)	92.74%
9050.8 Physician / Medical costs	20,538.50		20,538.50	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	(39,461.50)	34.23%
9060.81 Hospital	2,776,988.94		2,776,988.94	3,507,800.00	3,507,800.00	0.00	(730,811.06)	79.17%
9060.82 Dental	140,000.00		140,000.00	140,000.00	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	100.00%
9060.83 Optical Plan - Local 916	48,000.00		48,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	(2,000.00)	96.00%
Total Expenses	\$ 15,559,095.09	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 16,059,095.09	\$ 23,194,614.65	\$ 20,887,263.00	\$ 2,307,351.65		67.08%
Net Operating Income	\$ 7,935,533.07	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 7,435,533.07	\$ -			\$ 7,435,533.07	
Net Income			\$ 7,435,533.07	\$ -				



NOTES: Treasurer Hedstrom reported a decrease in Treasury Direct rates. She noted that investments would be scaled back to cover operating expenses and retirement needs. Additionally, she explained the presence of an interest earnings line without a budgeted amount, clarifying that this omission follows the accountants' recommendation since it's not feasible to accurately project interest earnings for the district. This line was included to respond to a public question on the topic.

Treasurer Hedstrom also indicated that the County is assessing departmental interest in holding exams, typically administered in March. Participation is encouraged due to the pending expiration of the current eligibility lists. A motion was presented.

RESOLUTION 10.4

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Jamie Hedstrom, Treasurer, to request the Fire Captain and Fire Lieutenant Tests for 2025 from Westchester County Civil Service.

Commissioner Cerasi: Aye

Commissioner Lore: Aye

Commissioner Ranellone: Aye

Commissioner Carlo: Aye

Motion Carried

• Chief Report

Chief Tween submitted the following report:

Alarm Activity: 328

Fire: 5

EMS/Rescue: 151

Mutual Aid Given: 2 (NRFD, Scarsdale FD)

1) On Tuesday October 8th , myself and members of the Department attended the NY State Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Albany to support the Pinto family. Captain Philip Pinto's name was added to the NY State Fallen Firefighters memorial in Empire State Plaza as a 9/11 LODD. This Sunday, October 20th at 10 am, his name is being added to the Westchester County Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the Westchester County Fire Training Center as a 9/11 LODD.

2) The five probationary firefighters in the Career Fire Academy have completed the FF-1 and FF-2 NYS courses and are on track to graduate from the Fire Academy in mid-January 2025.

3) Vehicle and equipment maintenance is being done in house as much as possible by part-time mechanic Hank Henninger. Hank Henninger's mechanic report for September was emailed to the Board on 10/5/2024. E-31 needs repairs to the turbocharger system in the amount of \$3,253.28. I request the Board's authorization to place the repair on the Department issued

credit card. Any amount over \$2,000.00 requires the Boards prior approval.

4) Tim Dalton's weekly maintenance reports for September were emailed to the Board on 10/5/24.

5) Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement activities continue with numerous plan reviews and inspections. October is Fire Prevention month and Captain Thomas Pintavalle and the members are conducting fire safety demonstrations for over 1,500 students at the local schools. The Fire Prevention reports for September were emailed to the Board on 10/4/24.

6) Currently there is one member are out on long term absence and one member is assigned to light duty and is working with Isang on digitizing the Fire Prevention records.

7) The retirement of Captain Victor Tomasini on September 28 th created a vacancy for a Captain. I ask the Board to request the Treasurer and Secretary to request the promotional lists from WC Civil Service and to canvas candidates on the lists for promotions to Captain and Lieutenant.

8) I ask the Board to close tonight's meeting with a moment of silence in memory of former Eastchester Town Supervisor and Volunteer Firefighter Anthony J. Colavita, who passed on October 13, 2024. Mr. Colavita joined the North End Hose Company #4 on September 19, 1959 and was issued badge #1390. He was a member of the Company for over 65 years.

Respectfully submitted October 16, 2024

by Fire Chief Brian Tween

- **Secretary Report**

Secretary Marissa "Isang" Smith submitted the following report:

Monthly District Secretary Report - October 2024

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

- Fire District Election materials are available on the Eastchester Fire District website (EastchesterNYFD.gov)
- At this time we have two candidates officially on the ballot.
- Thank you to the Election Inspectors who have expressed interest in working at our election.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Social Media

- September Activity: 7 posts
- Community Forms: Continued work for After the Fire pamphlet project for website and for handouts. Spanish version for Resident Safety and Lithium Ion Battery Safety being prepared.

Website and Notices

- Ongoing updates to the website and review of social media records retention options.
- Collaborating with Chief Tween on an updated annual report for 2024 for the Eastchester Fire District.

FOIL OFFICER

- September Activity: Received 3 FOIL requests

RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER

- Records Relocation: Continued preparation for the relocation of the records room.
- Ongoing Projects: Continued work on organizing loose records and scanning projects

OFFICE - GENERAL

- Prepared the OML document for the October meeting.
- Updated and posted minutes on the website.
- Updated the 2024 resolutions spreadsheet.
- Performed regular office tasks including scheduling, billing, customer service, and staff support.

Business Office Recommendations

Subject 9.1 - Payment of Bills

Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners approves to pay the bills and vouchers as presented. The Board has been supplied with one set of bills and one credit card bill. Chief Tween has reviewed all prior to the meeting, except certiorari claims and those specifically marked as reviewed by the Treasurer. The Treasurer has requested the Board approve the following:
Warrant 1-10/15/24 - \$720,369.91
Credit Card – 10/18/24 - \$3,666.66
Total: \$724,036.57

Motion by Chairman. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore
Aye: Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Ranellone, Chairman. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

Subject 10.6 - Engine 31 Turbocharger System

Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Chief Tween to place repair costs for Engine - 31 in the amount of \$3,235.28 on the Department issued credit card.

Motion by Chairman. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore
Aye: Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Ranellone, Chairman. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

Subject

10.1 - Chester Heights Bell

DISCUSSION

Chairman Carlo addressed an email from a resident concerning the Chester Heights Bell. Although unfamiliar with the specifics, Chairman Carlo acknowledged that the bell appears to be in disrepair. The resident had offered to remove the bell from district property and relocate it to their residence. While the board discussed this proposal, Chairman Carlo expressed a preference for keeping the bell in its current location, raising concerns about its safety.

Chief Tween provided additional details, noting that tape currently blocks off access to the bell and that engineers will need to evaluate it to determine whether a new frame can be constructed. Chairman Carlo inquired about the possibility of lowering the bell, to which Chief Tween confirmed that it could be lowered and suggested using cones to further block access if necessary. When Chairman Carlo asked about removing the current frame, Chief Tween recommended instead that it be rebuilt.

Commissioner Lore asked whether the bell could be cordoned off and suggested that on-duty personnel could ensure people stay at a safe distance. Commissioner Cerasi inquired if reinforcing the bell’s structure was feasible. The board unanimously agreed that the bell should remain within the fire department.

Chief Tween mentioned uncertainty regarding the bell’s ownership, as a historical photo shows it in the background of a company image possibly taken before the fire district's establishment. The board instructed Fire District Secretary Isang to formally respond to the resident's proposal.

Subject

10.2 - Coughlin and Gerhart

Recommended Action

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes the Chairman to sign and execute an updated retainer agreement with our current legal counsel, Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP, which memorializes the current rates charged and services provided by Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP for 2025.

Motion by Chairman. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore
Aye: Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Ranellone, Chairman. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

Subject

10.3 - Amendment to the Chief and Assistant Chief Contracts

Recommended Action

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners approves the following amendments to the Chief and Assistant Chief Contracts:

Under Salary and Compensation: Eliminate Article 2, “FLSA Status” and add:

No Comments Provided

Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Ranellone reported on recent activities, including attending a Local 916 BBQ, participating in a special meeting at headquarters on September 19th, and speaking about the Eastchester Fire Department at Tuckahoe High School. During his visit, he demonstrated the equipment firefighters use, donning turnout gear and an air pack to show the combined 80 pounds of gear and tools each firefighter carries. He shared he toured the 9/11 mobile museum on September 23rd and 24th. He also attended Captain Tomasini's retirement party on September 25th. On September 27th, he attended the wake of retired FDNY Captain Bill Spinelli. On September 29th, he also ran in the Eastchester 5K race. Additionally, Ranellone visited the fire academy in Valhalla to observe firefighter training and attended a 9/11 historical talk on October 9th. He noted ongoing contract negotiations.

Ranellone also mentioned former supervisor Anthony J. Colavita, whom he had known for over 60 years. Ranellone shared that Colavita was instrumental in establishing Memorial Park on White Plains Road, and he had assisted during a Columbus Day weekend visit from President Nixon in 1972. Ranellone shared his condolences to the family of Anthony J. Colavita.

Commissioner Cerasi emphasized that, while no taxpayer wishes for an increase, the board is committed to addressing the safety of the firefighters.

Commissioner Lore echoed Cerasi's sentiments, adding that safety is a priority and reminding the public not to block fire hydrants. Lore also highlighted Supervisor Colavita's connection to the community, mentioning that he graduated high school in 1952 and helped initiate the Accordion Club.

Chief Tween remarked on the retirement of Captain Tomasini, congratulating him for 32 years of dedicated service. He also noted that last week was Fire Prevention Week and stressed the importance of smoke alarms, urging residents to test their alarms as they are crucial in preventing serious injuries and fatalities.

Adjournment

There being no further commissioner comments, Chairman Carlo adjourned the meeting at 7:46pm. A moment of silence was followed for former supervisor Anthony J. Colavita.

***EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 16, 2024***

*Minutes prepared by:
Marissa "Isang" Smith
Secretary to the Board of Fire Commissioners*