

EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
October 21, 2025

Minutes of the Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at Station 1 - Fire Headquarters - 255 Main Street, Eastchester, NY 10709.

Board Members Present:

Chairman Paul M. Ranellone
Commissioner Paul J. Carlo
Commissioner Anthony J. Lore, Sr.
Commissioner Luke Yankowski

Board Members Absent:

Commissioner Tony Cerasi

In Attendance:

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

A following notice was provided on the public agenda:

Public Comment Notice: In accordance with the District’s Public Comment Policy, (adopted September 29, 2025), public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Requests for additional time require prior Board approval.

1. Call to Order

1.1 - Meeting Called to Order

October 21, 2025 - Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting

Chairman Ranellone called the October 21, 2025 Budget Hearing Regular Meeting meeting to order at 6:45 PM at Station 1 - Fire Headquarters - 255 Main Street, Eastchester, NY.

2. Salute to the Flag

3. Executive Session - Chairman Ranellone made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The board unanimously approved. The Board entered into executive session at 6:46 PM.

4. Return to Budget Hearing: The Board returned from executive session at 7:15 PM. Chairman Ranellone made a motion to enter back into the Budget Hearing. The Board unanimously approved.

4.1. Budget Discussion by Treasurer

Treasurer Hedstrom reviewed the budget process and discussions from the September meeting, where the Board adopted the proposed 2026 budget reflecting a 4.68% tax increase.

Hedstrom highlighted operating cost factors impacting the budget, including salary and benefit adjustments resulting from the recently negotiated union contract. Additional cost factors included increased retirement expenses and higher-than-budgeted operating costs experienced in 2025, which were accounted for in the 2026 projections.

The budget presented at this hearing is identical to the proposed budget adopted at the September 18, 2025 meeting. Hedstrom noted that updated healthcare cost information is typically received in December; therefore, those figures remain unchanged in the current draft as a conservative measure. Although the District had anticipated higher healthcare costs for 2025, those increases ultimately did not occur.

Hedstrom also reported that the proposed 4.68% tax increase exceeds the 2.7% tax cap, which represents the allowable limit for remaining within the cap.

Hedstrom asked if the Board had any questions.

4.2. Board Discussion

No comments or questions were raised by the Board.

4.3. Public Discussion

Chairman Ranellone invited public comments.

Resident Ray Rooney (8 Channing Place, Eastchester) addressed the Board. Mr. Rooney noted that he had visited Fire Headquarters earlier to request additional speaking time and asked whether an extension would be permitted.

Chairman Ranellone responded that the public comment policy allows three minutes and that the Board would allow an additional three minutes for the Budget Hearing public comment.

Mr. Rooney stated that he had several accounting-related questions and wished to address them to Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom. Referring to page 2 of the handout, Mr.

Rooney asked about the financial summary as of September 30, 2025, which showed approximately \$1.5 million. He inquired whether that figure represented funds from January through September and if it was a projected \$1.9 million by year-end.

Treasurer Hedstrom clarified that the \$1.5 million figure reflected the period ending in September only and that any surplus was due to timing within the fiscal cycle.

Mr. Rooney next asked about retroactive payments included in the 2025 budget and whether there were sufficient funds to cover those payments and the remaining three months of the year. Treasurer Hedstrom responded that the potential increase did exceed initial estimates, though the exact dollar amount would not be known until the end of the calendar year.

Referring to the third box of the Treasurer's Report, Mr. Rooney asked if the top line should be labeled "2026" and asked for clarification on the wording.

Mr. Rooney then referred to the next box and asked whether it should read "Engine Commitment" instead of "Ladder Truck Commitment." Treasurer Hedstrom confirmed that the correction would be made in the final budget.

Mr. Rooney also questioned the carryover amounts between the 2025 and 2026 budgets related to completion of the fire engine purchase, noting that \$500,000 was carried over and suggesting that the District might still be short approximately \$64,000. He asked why funds from a 2024 carryover, which was approximately \$560,000, were not moved forward.

Treasurer Hedstrom explained that the District did not expect to owe the additional amount due to a change in engine specifications, as previously described by Chief Tween. Because of that adjustment, the District did not reserve the additional funds. Had there been an expectation that the amount would be owed, those funds would have been carried over into the 2025–2026 budget.

Mr. Rooney continued to raise questions regarding the proposed budget. He noted that the budget report shows approximately \$12 million as of June 1, 2025, when new tax receipts begin, and asked what amount was carried over from the 2024 budget into 2025. He asked whether a surplus exists, stating that the budget lines do not appear to reflect any carryover.

Treasurer Hedstrom clarified that the document being reviewed is a Profit & Loss statement, and that carryover and cash balances appear on the financial statements, not in the P&L. Rooney expressed concern that the public does not see these financial statements as part of the budget report.

Mr. Rooney expressed frustration when his time to speak ended at 6 minutes, and asked whether another public member could share their time with him. The Board advised that was not allowed.

Chairman Ranellone asked whether anyone else from the public wished to speak. Commr. Lore asked whether policy allows the transfer of speaking time. Commr. Yankowski stated that the Board had previously discussed this and would not allow the yielding of time.

Mr. Rooney expressed frustration that the Board limits public comments, and advised that an employee should not direct how the Board operates.

Anthony Fiore (3 Midland Place, Tuckahoe) asked whether the budget includes any contingency funding in the event the planned building capital project does not get funded. The Board advised that no additional funds are included in the proposed budget for that scenario.

Chairman Ranellone stated that any project undertaken would require bonding. Fiore asked what the process would be if bonding failed.

Hedstrom explained that the budget represents the best estimate of 2026 expenses and does not include specific capital improvement items. Hedstrom noted that there is a \$400,000 reserve included in the budget, but the proposed 2026 budget does not designate funds for capital improvements.

James Rooney (Peekskill, NY) asked what portion of the budget is personnel-related. Commr. Carlo asked for clarification of the question. Chief Tween estimated that personnel costs are in the high 80-percent range. Hedstrom referred to the budget highlights, noting that the recently ratified MOA covering 2025–2027 sets salaries and benefits, and that compensation and benefits represent approximately 90% of the total budget.

No further public comments were offered.

- 4.4. **Close Budget Hearing:** A motion to close the 2025 Budget Hearing was made by Chairman Ranellone at 7:30 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. **Open Regular Meeting**

Chairman Ranellone made a motion to enter into the Regular Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners at 7:30PM.

6. Adoption of Minutes:

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution: Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners approves to adopt the following meeting minutes:

- June 12, 2025 - Regular Meeting
- June 25, 2025 - Special Meeting
- June 30, 2025 - Special Meeting
- July 10, 2025 - Regular Meeting
- July 17, 2025 - Special Meeting
- August 14, 2025 - Regular Meeting
- September 4, 2025 - Special Meeting
- September 18, 2025 - Regular Meeting
- September 29, 2025 - Special Meeting

Motion by Chairman Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Carlo

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo, Chairman. Ranellone

Final: Motion Carried

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the proposed Budget Hearing Resolutions.

OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2026 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 21, 2025,

and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 21, 2025 at said budget hearing, and WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the Eastchester Fire District for fiscal year 2026 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 2026 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.7% 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 2026 budget only in order to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.7% increase in said tax levy and result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$25,071,650 and MOTION on the above Resolution was offered by Chairman Ranellone seconded by Commr. Carlo, adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

APPROVE FINAL BUDGET FOR 2026

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2026 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 21, 2025,

and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 21, 2025 at said budget hearing,

and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that that financial needs of the Eastchester Fire District for fiscal year 2026 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 2026 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.7% 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 2026 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves the Final Budget for the Eastchester Fire District for 2026 attached hereto and made a part hereof in the amount of **\$25,077,650** with a tax levy of **\$24,990,650**.

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

Motion by Chairman Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Carlo

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo, Chairman. Ranellone

Final: Motion Carried

6. **Treasurer Report** - Hedstrom provided the following report:

October 21, 2025

To: Board of Fire Commissioners, Eastchester Fire District
From: Jamie Hedstrom, Treasurer
Subject: Actual vs. Budget Comparison, September 2025

The financials as of September 30, 2025 currently present a net budget surplus of approximately \$1.9M.

Retro payments have been paid based on the terms of the MOA entered into between the Board and Local 916 on September 2, 2025.

Funds allocated to 2025

Below is the current list of budget encumbrances for 2025.

Budget Encumbrances- Purchases initiated that won't be complete until 2025

Emergency Equipment	\$26,204.90
Coats, Boots, Helmets	\$22,836.00
Total	\$49,040.90

Budget Encumbrances- Engine to be delivered in Q3 2026

Ladder Truck Commitment	\$1,064,000.00
2024 Encumbrance- Fire Equip and Cap Outlay	(\$500,000.00)
2025 Encumbrance- Fire Equip and Cap Outlay	(\$500,000.00)
Additional Funding Required	\$64,000.00

Other:

Treasury Direct Investments

We currently have \$12M invested in Treasury Direct Investments, in \$2-3M increments. Interest rates remain around 4%. We will continue to decrease our investments to cover operating expenses through our next tax collection in May 2026

2026 Proposed Budget

At our September 18, 2025 meeting, the Board adopted a proposed budget with a 4.68% tax increase, for a total tax levy of \$24,990,650.00. This levy exceeds the tax cap and includes salary and benefits for 83 firefighters and officers.

Budget Factors

- The Board and the Union recently ratified a MOA that will be the basis of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027. Items pertinent to the budget include, but are not limited to:
 - 4% per year salary increases
 - Increases to the differentials between top FF pay, Lieutenant Pay and Captain Pay
 - Increases to EMT pay
 - Additional paid holidays
- GL accounts that required increases in the 2026 budget based on 2025 spending and trends include:
 - 3210.3 Vehicle Maintenance
 - 3115.4 Emergency Equipment
 - 1140.5 Payroll Processing Expense
 - 3060.2 Fuel & Electric
 - 9045.8 Life Insurance- Local 916
 - 3010.2 Coats, Boots, Helmets
- The budget includes replacing the following vehicles per Assistant Chief Yozzo's Apparatus Plan:
 - 2104: Replace with Chevy Tahoe or Ford Explorer
 - 2105: Replace with Chevy Tahoe or Ford Explorer
 - 2106: Replace with Ford Transit Vehicle

The anticipated cost for these replacements is approximately \$250K. No other apparatus replacements or additions are contemplated.
- The budget does not include any funds for future capital improvements. The Board is contemplating bonding a 2026 renovation to Station 3.
- NYSLRS rates are increasing in 2026 by approximately 10% for each Tier. Based on these increased rates, our NYSLRS contribution due in 2026 is expected to be approximately \$350K higher than our 2025 contribution.
- NYSHIP premium rates for 2026 will not be released until after the October Budget Hearing. It is unknown at this time what the percentage increase will be. Last year the rates remained largely unchanged from 2024, which was an anomaly, however we budgeted a 12% increase. For purposes of the 2026 budget, we are assuming the 12% increase from last year will cover any increases for 2026.
- The budget includes 83 paid officers and firefighters, which is the same as the 2025 budget.

Budget Timeline

A final budget must be adopted on or before November 4th.

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2025 - FY25 P&L
 January - September 2025

	Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Use of Capital Reserve				
Appropriated Fund Balance				
Budget Encumbrances	49,040.90	49,040.90	0.00	100.00%
1001 Real Property Taxes	23,872,423.00	23,872,423.00	0.00	100.00%
2401 Interest Earnings	296,455.36		296,455.36	
2701 Refund of PY Expenditure	14,328.76		14,328.76	
2705 Miscellaneous Income	10,325.00		10,325.00	
2770 Workers Comp - Reimbursement	19,788.72	15,750.00	4,038.72	125.64%
Total Income	\$ 24,248,032.98	\$ 23,937,213.90	\$ 310,819.08	101.30%
Gross Profit	\$ 24,248,032.98	\$ 23,937,213.90	\$ 310,819.08	101.30%
Expenses				
1110.5 Outside Services	5,635.00	9,000.00	(3,365.00)	62.61%
1120.5 Fire Prevention	6,507.31	9,000.00	(2,492.69)	72.30%
1140.5 Payroll Processing Expense	11,944.07	8,250.03	3,694.04	144.78%
1150.5 Insurance	188,850.62	168,750.00	20,100.62	111.91%
1170.5 Other Miscellaneous Expenses	293.95	9,000.00	(8,706.05)	3.27%
1180.5 Education & Travel	2,828.09	3,750.03	(921.94)	75.42%
1200.5 Recruitment		2,510.10	(2,510.10)	0.00%
3010.2 Coats, Boots, Helmets	104,802.60	79,086.00	25,716.60	132.52%
3020.2 Tank Refills, Testing & Rep	14,331.85	15,000.03	(668.18)	95.55%
3030.2 Hoses & Nozzles		15,000.03	(15,000.03)	0.00%
3040.2 Tires	4,645.82	11,999.97	(7,354.15)	38.72%
3050.2 Gasoline, Oil, Grease, Etc.	31,132.79	37,500.03	(6,367.24)	83.02%
3060.2 Fuel & Electric	77,775.52	74,999.97	2,775.55	103.70%
3070.2 Telephone	10,512.35	41,249.97	(30,737.62)	25.48%
3090.2 Certiorari	15,260.33	150,000.03	(134,739.70)	10.17%
3105.4 Uniforms	62,588.40	63,400.00	(811.60)	98.72%
3110.4 Shop Equipment & Tools	1,009.84	3,750.03	(2,740.19)	26.93%
3115.4 Emergency Equipment	127,324.54	138,704.90	(11,380.36)	91.80%
3120.4 EMS Supplies and Services	18,068.36	15,000.03	3,068.33	120.46%
3125.4 Computers, Software & Internet	54,125.79	49,650.03	4,475.76	109.01%
3130.4 Office Supplies	5,025.38	6,000.03	(974.65)	83.76%
3135.4 Postage	681.91	1,125.00	(443.09)	60.61%
3140.4 Subscriptions	140.00	900.00	(760.00)	15.56%
3145.4 Association Dues	1,581.25	1,625.00	(43.75)	97.31%
3150.4 Elections & Referendums	335.00	0.00	335.00	
3155.4 Sewer Tax	15,153.18	15,153.18	0.00	100.00%
3160.4 Fire Training	42,279.20	44,000.00	(1,720.80)	96.09%

3210.3 Vehicle Maintenance	96,816.83	74,999.97	21,816.86	129.09%
3220.3 Radio Equipment & Maintenance	37,501.68	45,000.00	(7,498.32)	83.34%
3230.3 Ladder & Pump Testing		2,999.97	(2,999.97)	0.00%
3240.3 Bldg/Prop Repairs & Maintenance	111,763.07	150,000.03	(38,236.96)	74.51%
3410.11 Fire Chief salary	161,477.60	172,500.03	(11,022.43)	93.61%
3410.12 Assistant Fire Chief salary	145,124.80	147,750.03	(2,625.23)	98.22%
3410.13 Fire Captains salary	636,182.40	675,000.00	(38,817.60)	94.25%
3410.14 Fire Lieutenants salary	943,717.14	997,499.97	(53,782.83)	94.61%
3410.15 Uniformed Firefighters salary	4,466,186.90	4,950,000.00	(483,813.10)	90.23%
3410.16 Maintenance Workers salary	56,381.20	57,750.03	(1,368.83)	97.63%
3410.17 Mechanics salary	31,728.75	37,500.03	(5,771.28)	84.61%
3410.18 Treasurer/Secy/PT Asst salary	124,270.74	132,149.97	(7,879.23)	94.04%
3410.2 Fire Equipment and Capital Outlay	60,314.52	65,000.00	(4,685.48)	92.79%
3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	18,502.37	17,500.00	1,002.37	105.73%
3410.44 Year-End fees		0.00	0.00	
Total 3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	\$ 18,502.37	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 1,002.37	105.73%
3410.46 Consultants fees	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	100.00%
3410.465 Consultant Fees- Engineers		0.00	0.00	
3410.47 Professional Consultants fees	15,770.74	67,500.00	(51,729.26)	23.36%
Total 3410.46 Consultants fees	\$ 20,270.74	\$ 72,000.00	\$ (51,729.26)	28.15%
3410.49 Payroll Clearing account	(23,926.65)	0.00	(23,926.65)	
3410.81 Disabled Firemen salary -207A's	118,568.65	150,750.00	(32,181.35)	78.65%
3411.1 Holiday Pay	253,431.48	299,930.56	(46,499.08)	84.50%
3412.1 Retroactive Pay	69.44	69.44	0.00	
3413.1 Overtime - Firefighters	638,748.09	937,500.03	(298,751.94)	68.13%
3413.12 Overtime- Training	101,606.06	110,000.00	(8,393.94)	92.37%
3413.13 Overtime- Sick Incentive	32,185.51	56,250.00	(24,064.49)	57.22%
3413.14 Overtime- Chiefs	16,989.62	18,749.97	(1,760.35)	90.61%
3413.2 Overtime - Fire Prevention	34,210.04	29,999.97	4,210.07	114.03%
3414.1 EMT Training	17,400.00	15,000.00	2,400.00	116.00%
3416.1 Terminal Leave	181,981.09	190,000.00	(8,018.91)	95.78%
9010.8 NYS Retirement		0.00	0.00	
9020.8 Social Security	601,075.33	645,000.03	(43,924.70)	93.19%
9030.8 Payroll Tax - MTA	26,715.62	29,117.25	(2,401.63)	91.75%
9040.8 Workers Compensation	213,356.00	255,000.00	(41,644.00)	83.67%
9045.8 Life Insurance - Local 916	52,065.18	46,000.00	6,065.18	113.19%
9050.8 Physician / Medical costs	32,992.00	45,000.00	(12,008.00)	73.32%
9060.81 Hospital	2,751,817.36	3,303,333.36	(551,516.00)	83.30%
9060.82 Dental	140,000.00	140,000.00	0.00	100.00%
9060.83 Optical Plan - Local 916	48,600.00	53,000.00	(4,400.00)	91.70%
Total Expenses	\$ 12,950,956.71	\$ 14,877,935.62	\$ (1,926,978.91)	87.05%
Net Operating Income	\$ 11,297,076.27	\$ 9,059,278.28	\$ 2,237,797.99	124.70%
Net Income	\$ 11,297,076.27	\$ 9,059,278.28	\$ 2,237,797.99	124.70%

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2025 Budget - FY25 P&L
 January - December 2025

	Total							
	Actual	Appropriated for 2026	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2025 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
Income								
Use of Capital Reserve	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Appropriated Fund Balance	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Budget Encumbrances	49,040.90		49,040.90	49,040.90	0.00	49,040.90	0.00	100.00%
1001 Real Property Taxes	23,872,423.00		23,872,423.00	23,872,423.00	23,872,423.00	23,872,423.00	0.00	100.00%
2401 Interest Earnings	296,455.36		296,455.36			0.00	296,455.36	
2701 Refund of PY Expenditure	14,328.76		14,328.76			0.00	14,328.76	
2705 Miscellaneous Income	14,025.00		14,025.00			0.00	14,025.00	
2770 Workers Comp - Reimb	21,388.72		21,388.72	21,000.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	388.72	101.85%
Total Income	\$ 24,267,661.74	\$ -	\$ 24,267,661.74	\$ 23,942,463.90	\$ 23,893,423.00	\$ 23,942,463.90	\$ 325,197.84	101.36%
Gross Profit	\$ 24,267,661.74	\$ -	\$ 24,267,661.74	\$ 23,942,463.90	\$ 23,893,423.00		\$ 325,197.84	101.36%
Expenses								
1110.4 Archiving Services & Exp	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1110.5 Outside Services	5,635.00		5,635.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	(6,365.00)	46.96%
1120.5 Fire Prevention	8,059.81		8,059.81	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	(940.19)	89.55%
1140.5 Payroll Processing Exp	14,210.52		14,210.52	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	3,210.52	129.19%
1150.5 Insurance	188,850.62		188,850.62	225,000.00	225,000.00	0.00	(36,149.38)	83.93%
1170.5 Other Miscellaneous Expenses	397.95		397.95	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	(11,602.05)	3.32%
1180.5 Education & Travel	2,828.09		2,828.09	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(2,171.91)	56.56%
1200.5 Recruitment			0.00	3,346.82	5,000.00	(1,653.18)	(3,346.82)	0.00%
3010.2 Coats, Boots, Helmets	104,802.60		104,802.60	97,836.00	75,000.00	22,836.00	6,986.60	107.12%
3020.2 Tank Refills, Testing & Rep	16,648.10		16,648.10	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(3,351.90)	83.24%
3030.2 Hoses & Nozzles			0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(20,000.00)	0.00%
3040.2 Tires	4,645.82		4,645.82	16,000.00	16,000.00	0.00	(11,354.18)	29.04%
3050.2 Gasoline, Oil, Grease, Etc.	31,132.79		31,132.79	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	(18,867.21)	62.27%
3060.2 Fuel & Electric	84,332.05		84,332.05	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	(15,667.95)	84.33%
3070.2 Telephone	10,512.35		10,512.35	55,000.00	55,000.00	0.00	(44,487.65)	19.11%
3090.2 Certiorari	14,415.41		14,415.41	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	(185,584.59)	7.21%
3105.4 Uniforms	63,998.40		63,998.40	76,000.00	76,000.00	0.00	(12,001.60)	84.21%

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2025 Budget - FY25 P&L
 January - December 2025

	Total							
	Actual	Appropriated for 2026	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2025 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
3110.4 Shop Equipment & Tools	1,009.84		1,009.84	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(3,990.16)	20.20%
3115.4 Emergency Equipment	127,324.54		127,324.54	176,204.90	150,000.00	26,204.90	(48,880.36)	72.26%
3120.4 EMS Supplies and Services	18,635.78		18,635.78	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(1,364.22)	93.18%
3125.4 Computers, Software & Internet	63,692.46		63,692.46	66,200.00	66,200.00	0.00	(2,507.54)	96.21%
3130.4 Office Supplies	5,268.38		5,268.38	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	(2,731.62)	65.85%
3135.4 Postage	681.91		681.91	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	(818.09)	45.46%
3140.4 Subscriptions	140.00		140.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	(1,060.00)	11.67%
3145.4 Association Dues	2,181.25		2,181.25	2,000.00	1,500.00	500.00	181.25	109.06%
3150.4 Elections & Referendums	335.00		335.00	10,500.00	10,500.00	0.00	(10,165.00)	3.19%
3155.4 Sewer Tax	15,153.18		15,153.18	15,153.18	14,000.00	1,153.18	0.00	100.00%
3160.4 Fire Training	42,279.20		42,279.20	44,000.00	44,000.00	0.00	(1,720.80)	96.09%
3210.3 Vehicle Maintenance	101,204.85		101,204.85	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	1,204.85	101.20%
3220.3 Radio Equipment & Maintenance	37,501.68		37,501.68	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	(22,498.32)	62.50%
3230.3 Ladder & Pump Testing			0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	(4,000.00)	0.00%
3240.3 Bldg/Prop Repairs & Maintenance	116,161.75		116,161.75	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	(83,838.25)	58.08%
3410.11 Fire Chief salary	192,406.57		192,406.57	230,000.00	230,000.00	0.00	(37,593.43)	83.66%
3410.12 Assistant Fire Chief Salary	170,210.55		170,210.55	197,000.00	197,000.00	0.00	(26,789.45)	86.40%
3410.13 Fire Captains salary	801,036.04		801,036.04	900,000.00	900,000.00	0.00	(98,963.96)	89.00%
3410.14 Fire Lieutenants salary	1,133,183.12		1,133,183.12	1,330,000.00	1,330,000.00	0.00	(196,816.88)	85.20%
3410.15 Uniformed Firefighters salary	5,215,183.45		5,215,183.45	6,600,000.00	6,600,000.00	0.00	(1,384,816.55)	79.02%
3410.16 Maintenance Workers salary	62,325.20		62,325.20	77,000.00	77,000.00	0.00	(14,674.80)	80.94%
3410.17 Mechanics salary	34,972.50		34,972.50	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	(15,027.50)	69.95%
3410.18 Treasurer/Secy/PT Asst salary	137,891.54		137,891.54	176,200.00	176,200.00	0.00	(38,308.46)	78.26%
3410.2 Fire Equipment and Capital Outlay	60,314.52	500,000.00	560,314.52	630,000.00	630,000.00	0.00	(69,685.48)	9.57%
3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	18,502.37		18,502.37	17,500.00	17,500.00	0.00	1,002.37	105.73%
3410.46 Consultants fees	4,500.00		4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	0.00	100.00%
3410.465 Consultant Fees- Engineers			0.00	95,500.00	100,000.00	(4,500.00)	(95,500.00)	0.00%

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2025 Budget - FY25 P&L
 January - December 2025

	Actual	Appropriated for 2026	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Total Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2025 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
3410.47 Professional Consultants fees	18,178.74		18,178.74	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	(71,821.26)	20.20%
3410.48 Labor Consultants			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total 3410.46 Consultants fees	\$ 22,678.74	\$ -	\$ 22,678.74	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 190,000.00	\$ -	(167,321.26)	11.94%
3410.49 Payroll Clearing account	(113,306.72)		(113,306.72)			0.00	(113,306.72)	
3410.81 Disabled Firemen salary -207A's	139,662.97		139,662.97	201,000.00	201,000.00	0.00	(61,337.03)	69.48%
3411.1 Holiday Pay	253,431.48		253,431.48	604,930.56	605,000.00	(69.44)	(351,499.08)	41.89%
3412.1 Retroactive Salary	69.44		69.44	69.44		69.44	0.00	
3413.1 Overtime - Firefighters	721,974.79		721,974.79	1,250,000.00	1,250,000.00	0.00	(528,025.21)	57.76%
3413.12 Overtime- Training	101,606.06		101,606.06	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	(48,393.94)	67.74%
3413.13 Overtime- Sick Incentive	34,095.43		34,095.43	75,000.00	100,000.00	(25,000.00)	(40,904.57)	45.46%
3413.14 Overtime- Chiefs	18,469.22		18,469.22	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	(6,530.78)	73.88%
3413.2 Overtime - Fire Prevention	40,170.19		40,170.19	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	170.19	100.43%
3414.1 EMT Training	17,400.00		17,400.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(2,600.00)	87.00%
3416.1 Terminal Leave	181,981.09		181,981.09	400,000.00	400,000.00	0.00	(218,018.91)	45.50%
9010.8 NYS Retirement			0.00	3,600,000.00	3,600,000.00	0.00	(3,600,000.00)	0.00%
9020.8 Social Security	695,174.83		695,174.83	860,000.00	860,000.00	0.00	(164,825.17)	80.83%
9030.8 Payroll Tax - MTA	31,018.08		31,018.08	38,823.00	38,823.00	0.00	(7,804.92)	79.90%
9040.8 Workers Compensation	213,356.00		213,356.00	255,000.00	255,000.00	0.00	(41,644.00)	83.67%
9045.8 Life Insurance - Local 916	52,065.18		52,065.18	46,000.00	46,000.00	0.00	6,065.18	113.19%
9050.8 Physician / Medical costs	35,242.00		35,242.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	(24,758.00)	58.74%
9060.81 Hospital	3,023,572.37		3,023,572.37	4,100,000.00	4,100,000.00	0.00	(1,076,427.63)	73.75%
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	48,600.00		48,600.00	53,000.00	53,000.00	0.00	(4,400.00)	91.70%
Total Expenses	\$ 14,565,326.34	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 15,046,857.12	\$ 23,942,463.90	\$ 23,893,423.00	\$ 24,040.90		60.83%
Net Operating Income	\$ 9,702,335.40	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 9,220,804.62	\$ -			\$ 9,220,804.62	
Net Income			\$ 9,220,804.62	\$ -				

NOTES:

Treasurer Hedstrom stated that she had no further items to review at this time. She noted that budget transfer proposals will be presented at the next meeting. She also reported that no updated information has been received from NYSHIP. Additionally, she advised that a motion will be introduced later in the meeting regarding a Civil Service survey and requested Board authorization to respond on the District's behalf.

7. **Chief Report** - Chief Tween submitted the following report:

Alarm Activity: 348

Fire: 3

EMS/Rescue: 187

Mutual Aid Given: 3 (Yonkers FD-2, Hastings FD-1 Hazmat Squad)

Mutual Aid Received: 1 (County Hazmat)

- 1) Three probationary firefighters are currently in the Career Fire Academy which began on Tuesday September 9th . The probationary firefighters will go through 21 weeks of rigorous fire training. They are scheduled to graduate the Career Fire Academy in mid-January 2026.
- 2) Hank Henninger's mechanic report for September was emailed to the Board on 10/20/2025.
- 3) Tim Dalton's maintenance report for September was emailed to the Board on 10/20/2025.
- 4) Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement activities continue with numerous plan reviews and inspections. The Fire Prevention reports for September were emailed to the Board on 10/8/2025. October is Fire Prevention month and the Fire Prevention staff and the on-duty members have been busy visiting the local elementary schools doing fire safety demonstrations.
- 5) Currently there are two members are out on long term absence.
- 6) The 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit arrived in Eastchester on Sunday October 5th . I want to thank the members of L-916, both on-duty and off-duty, for once again assisting with the setup and breakdown of the exhibit. The local schools and the public were able to see a moving tribute to the emergency responders and members of the public lost on 9/11 and the 2003 bombing at the WTC site. Thank you also to the Eastchester Rotary Club and the Foley Family Foundation for sponsoring the exhibit.
- 7) The District has an opportunity to utilize the vacant house next door to Fire HQ for training evolutions. Would the Board allow an additional OT training day this year to allow the Groups to take advantage of the unique opportunity. The Treasurer has confirmed there is money in the budget to fund this training which would be no more that \$60,000.00 if every member took advantage of the training. The lack of realistic training facilities within the District makes this opportunity a way for the members to prepare for real world scenarios on the fireground. Please discuss approving the additional funding of the training day to utilize the vacant house.
- 8) Calgi Construction President Domenick Calgi provided the hourly rates and description for the services that his firm can provide for the Bronxville firehouse project. Please discuss how the Board plans to move forward.
- 9) I would like to offer my congratulations to Firefighter Jerry Maiello on his retirement effective September 26, 2025. Jerry began his career with the Eastchester Fire District as a volunteer firefighter with the Waverly Engine Company on July 24, 2001 and was issued badge #1847. He was appointed as a career firefighter on September 19, 2001 and issued badge #167. Jerry served the residents of the

Eastchester Fire District for over 24 years of combined service. I wish him a long and healthy retirement.

10) The September Board meeting ended with a moment of silence to remember volunteer firefighter Robert J. Sullivan who passed away on 9/11/2025. Bob joined the Rescue H&L Company #1 on 10/9/1986 and was issued badge #1732. He was a member of the District for over 38 years.

Respectfully submitted October 21, 2025 by Fire Chief Brian Tween

Additional Notes:

Chief inquired about the Station 3 firehouse project with the Board. Commr. Ranellone reviewed the preferences for station 3, and that there is need to bond for job to be done.

MONTHLY DISTRICT SECRETARY REPORT

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

- Fire District Election materials are available on the Eastchester Fire District website (EastchesterNYFD.gov)
- Candidates for district office shall file written petitions subscribed by at least 25 qualified voters with the Secretary of the Fire District at 255 Main St, Eastchester, New York, no later than November 19, 2025 by 4:00 pm. Petition forms shall be made available by the Secretary upon request or can be found on the Eastchester Fire District website (EastchesterNYFD.gov) .
- Thank you to the Election Inspectors who have already expressed interest in working at our election on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. If you are interested in working at the Fire District Election, you must be a resident of Tuckahoe, Bronxville or Eastchester and a certified election inspector.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Social Media & Website

- Ongoing updates to the website and community notices.
- Planned collaboration with Chief Tween on an annual report for 2025 for the Eastchester Fire District.

FOIL OFFICER

- **September Activity:** Received 5 FOIL requests

RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER

- 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 2025 resolutions spreadsheet.
- Performed regular office tasks including scheduling, billing, customer service, and staff support.

Business Office Recommendations

8.1 - Payment of Bills

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 1-10/21/25 - \$367,886.23

Credit Card – 10/21/25 - \$4,189.00

Total: \$372,075.23

Motion by Chairman Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Carlo

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo, Chairman. Ranellone

Final: Motion Carried

12.1 - Civil Service Survey

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Jamie Hedstrom, Treasurer, to respond to the survey received by Westchester County Civil Service and request the Fire Chief Test for 2026. The field of promotion for the Fire Chief Test will be Assistant Chief.

Motion by Chairman Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Carlo

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo, Chairman. Ranellone

Final: Motion Carried

12.2 - Civilian Employees - Salary and Vacation

Commr. Carlo advised that the Board wished to discuss it further at a future meeting.

12.3 - Bronxville Firehouse Project

The Board discussed the Station 3 construction project. Chairman Ranellone emphasized the need to prioritize longstanding safety issues that could affect the station's insurability. Chief Tween confirmed the concerns, noting that the engineer will not certify the building as safe. He and the Commissioners acknowledged that the issue has existed for 15 years and should have been addressed earlier at a lower cost. Chief Tween explained that part of the delay was due to the focus on the Chester Heights project, which took seven years to complete. Although the intent was to move directly to Station 3 afterward, the Chester Heights repairs had since slowed the transition.

Discussion then shifted to bonding and repair options. Commr. Carlo noted that if the bond fails, the Board will still need to address the floor as a standalone project. Chief Tween maintained that the work should be bonded regardless due to the overall cost, while Commr. Yankowski supported constructing an entirely new building. Commr. Lore expressed concern about potential public reaction and urged outreach, such as advertising and signage, to increase public attendance before major decisions are made. Chairman Ranellone acknowledged these concerns. Secretary Marissa Isang noted that the District already posts meeting information on social media, the website, and bulletin boards, and asked if the Board had additional suggestions. Assistant Chief Yozzo encouraged the Board to begin moving toward a decision.

Commissioners agreed they must take action, whether repairing or rebuilding. Commr. Carlo suggested having Calgi prepare cost estimates and a proposal, possibly on a consulting basis. Chairman Ranellone asked that Calgi advise on the best path forward, and Chief Tween referenced Calgi's experience with public facility evaluations. The Board agreed to bring Calgi in for guidance at the next meeting. Commr. Yankowski stated that while he understood Commr. Lore's concerns of increasing public attendance in meetings, he reminded the Board that the public had already voted the Commissioners in to represent them. Discussion continued around the proposal from Calgi and their service rates.

Chairman Ranellone made a motion to invite Calgi representatives to attend the next meeting to discuss their proposal.

Motion by Commr. Lore, seconded by Commr. Yankowski

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo, Chairman. Ranellone

Final: Motion Carried

Chief Tween asked the Board if that motion was to move forward with their proposal or to just attend their next public meeting. The Board agreed that the motion was for them to speak at the next meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

Chairman Ranellone advised that the next Regular Meeting would be on November 13, 2025 - Town Hall - Regular Meeting - Court Room

Chief Tween asked the Board if they wanted to discuss the training day he brought up in his report. Chairman Ranellone made a motion for members to come in for training at the vacant house next door for a cost not to exceed \$60,000.

Motion by Commr. Lore, seconded by Commr. Carlo

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo, Chairman. Ranellone

Final: Motion Carried

Local 916 Comments

Union President Joseph Costanzo began by thanking the District for its work on the budget. He also thanked the Chiefs for making the house next door available as a training opportunity, and expressed appreciation to the Board overall.

Costanzo reported that Local 916 participated in numerous public events throughout the month, including the 9/11 truck setup and breakdown, and he thanked the Rotary Club and the Foley Foundation for their support. Members also took part in the Columbus Day parade, the carnival, the Police and Firefighters football game. Though the Firefighters did not win, they appreciated the public's support. Costanzo also noted the members participated in four separate "Trunk or Treat" events.

Public Comments

Tom Visci asked whether the consulting firm would attend the next meeting and expressed concern about moving toward replacing the firehouse without knowing what would be built. Chairman Ranellone said the Board's direction depends on what can be constructed, noting that a new building may need to be two stories to fit the site.

Visci asked about the construction process. Ranellone explained that Calgi will outline the available options. Visci also questioned whether a two-story design might affect access. Assistant Chief Yozzo stated that Calgi has already toured the site, reviewed the footprint, and discussed operational needs, including space for four rigs, restrooms, dormitories, gear storage, proper ventilation, and training features. Visci thanked everyone for the clarification.

Ray Rooney first thanked Chief Tween for his earlier explanation. He noted that although an engineer has already reviewed the building, the Board appears to be leaning in a direction without

having a full cost analysis. Chief Tween indicated an estimate could be provided, but Rooney disagreed and stated that Calgi's role is to determine which option is most economical.

Rooney then raised concern about using the privately owned building next door for training, citing potential liability. He questioned whether the building owner was aware and whether firefighters were covered under workers' compensation and the District's insurance. He was informed that this type of training arrangement has been done many times safely by the Chiefs.

Rooney asked for an update on a form from New York State. He was advised that the required enabling legislation has not yet been passed by the Town. Regarding the firehouse gong, Rooney said he contacted the Historical Society and received positive feedback from several members interested in taking the gong after volunteers restore it. Assistant Chief Yozzo suggested the possibility of relocating it to the monument on White Plains Road, and discussion continued on that topic.

Rooney also asked Chief Tween about ownership questions, seeking clarification on whether certain buildings were owned by the District or Eastchester. He noted that one structure had historically served as Town Hall and later as a firehouse dating to 1927. Discussion continued on the history of the fire station buildings.

Lastly, Rooney expressed concerns about the public comment process. Rooney shared his concerns that he believed there were mistakes on the Treasurers report, and felt more time was needed to go over it. He felt residents should be permitted to ask questions fully and suggested adding a second public comment period, one before the agenda and resolutions, and one afterward, similar to the Village of Tuckahoe's practice. He asked the Board to consider implementing this format at a future meeting.

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James Rooney, a resident of Peekskill, asked how the Town is reimbursed when providing mutual aid. Chief Tween explained that mutual aid is reciprocal: departments assist one another, and no bills are issued for manpower. If equipment is damaged while providing aid, the receiving department is responsible for replacing it. Jimmy then asked whether backfill is provided; Chief Tween responded that it is always feasible. Jimmy also asked whether backfill is paid at overtime or straight time, and Chief Tween provided clarification.

Commissioner Comments -

Commr. Lore stated that it is important for the public to understand that the volunteers are *not* being disbanded. He noted that such an action would create issues and emphasized that this is not occurring as New York State would be the one to disband them.

Chairman Ranellone reported that on September 30 he participated in the 9/11 presentation with Foley and thanked the Chief and Assistant Chief for their support. He also thanked the Chief for

assisting with ICS and for setting up the 9/11 trailer for public viewing the following day. He thanked Commr. Lore for helping transport the junior class from Tuckahoe High School for their visit. He further thanked the members who assisted with the closing ceremony and dismantling the trailer.

Chairman Ranellone added that he marched in the Columbus Day Parade and expressed appreciation to all who participated. He reflected on the 9/11 presentation at Tuckahoe High School, now the fourth time presenting there, where firefighters demonstrated turnout gear and air packs, giving students a clearer understanding of the equipment used in their work. He noted the positive feedback received from the students.

Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, Chairman Ranellone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

**EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 21, 2025**

Minutes prepared by:
Marissa “Isang” Smith
Secretary to the Board of Fire Commissioners

DRAFT