Fire Service in Rosendale

Current Conditions and Future Options

November, 2024

Prepared for
Town of Rosendale and New York State

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Since 1915

Summary

Background

The Town of Rosendale sought a study of the operations and governance of the fire districts serving the Town, including the Bloomington, Cottekill, High Falls, Rosendale and Tilson Fire Departments. The goal of the study is to review and evaluate delivery of fire protection services within the Town and recommend efficiencies, up to and including potential consolidation of the districts, either into fewer districts or a single unified district.
This will includes a baseline review and efficiency study that encompasses relevant statistics, property owned by each district, fire calls, annual budget, purchases, and mutual aid calls throughout the districts. The options section considers recommendations for collaboration, efficiencies and cost savings, including potential consolidation scenarios, cost estimates, project priorities, financing options, and property tax impact projections. Preferred options and the criteria influencing them are identified for the community and municipalities to consider.

Fire Service Overview

The Town of Rosendale is served by five fire districts[1] and their volunteer fire departments operating out of six fire stations spread throughout the Town. Three of the districts also cover areas of neighboring communities. Based on property valuation, Bloomington's district is approximately 20 percent in the Town of Ulster, Cottekill is about 60 percent in Marbletown and High Falls is about 80 percent in Marbletown. The remainder of the service areas are in Rosendale.

There are about 150 dedicated volunteers that serve as firefighters for the town. The fire departments are all fully volunteer and are dispatched to fire and rescue emergencies in the Town. They are also dispatched to certain serious medical emergencies or if the ambulance is going to have a delayed response. The fire departments each participated in a regional mutual aid plan and also have established certain scripts for the dispatchers to follow to ensure that appropriate help is provided. When a call for service is received by the fire department, the firefighters are typically not at the station. They respond to the stations from their home or business and then respond to the call. The table below shows some of the key characteristics of the fire departments. More detailed profiles are available later in the report.

Category	Bloomington	Cottekill	High Falls	Rosendale	Tillson	Total
Total Firefighters	63	16	21	25	29	154
Interior Firefighters	15	7	9	11	19	61
Engines [a]	3	2	3	2	2	12

[1] A fire district is a separate municipality with a focus on providing adequate fire protection in its service area. A fire department is legally separate from the district and is the part of the organization focused on responding to the emergencies.

Category	Bloomington	Cottekill	High Falls	Rosendale	Tillson	Total
Other Apparatus	4	0	1	2	2	9
Calls Per Month	19	9.8	11.2	16.2	13.1	69.3
ISO PPC Rating	8B	8B	4/4X	N/A	9	
Budget (2024)	$459,532	$159,343	$355,026	$275,000	$296,663	$1,545,564.
Per thousand Tax Rate (2024) - [b]	$2.42	$1.68	$1.44	$2.10	$1.44	$1.95

[a] – Several of the tankers can also serve as engines based on pump capacity and are counted in the engine role for this table.

[b]- Tax rates are based on a property in Rosendale.

The busiest department is Bloomington followed by Rosendale. The call volume is for all calls, including those outside of Rosendale. Bloomington, Rosendale and Tillson all have two-thirds or more of their call in the Town of Rosendale.

Department	2021	2022	2023	2024*	*Total*	*EMS Share*	*Rosendale Share*
Bloomington	216	281	204	60	*761*	*37%*	*71%*
Cottekill	104	130	120	39	*393*	*35%*	*39%*
High Falls	133	144	135	37	*449*	*5%*	*21%*
Rosendale	198	203	189	59	*649*	*51%*	*98%*
Tillson	158	166	157	41	*522*	*57%*	*92%*
	809	*924*	*805*	*236*	*2,774*		
**Through April 30*							

Using call data from the Ulster County 911 Center, CGR has created an interactive map that includes the 2023 calls for service, the station locations for the five departments and estimated drive times from those stations. The full interactive map is available at https://bit.ly/RosendaleFireService .

Key Findings

The fire service of New York State is under greater scrutiny when it comes to funding and justification of services rendered. Most volunteer fire departments across the State of New York continue to find it more and more difficult to recruit and retain members. With fire departments facing these challenges they find it increasingly difficult to manage and justify their budgets to local elected officials and the community they serve. The New York State tax

cap has also handcuffed many fire departments when it comes to making improvements to the department's infrastructure, apparatus and personnel.

This analysis is focused on organization and general operations of the departments. It was not an in-depth technical review of equipment, tactics or fireground operations. The intent is to help the departments and community identify the successes and areas of concern in the fire service to serve as the basis of a conversation for how best to prepare for the future.

- The five fire departments that serve Rosendale each have their own distinct culture and traditions that stem back many years.
- It is a common occurrence for firefighters, including chief officers, to live outside the district they serve.
- There have been instances of departments being unable to staff an appropriate response to a call and a need for their neighboring agencies to respond on mutual aid.
- High Falls and Cottekill indicate that they have a close working relationship with a joint response on all significant calls and regular training together.
- Tillson and Rosendale have an automatic aid arrangement for all calls during daytime hours.
- There is an overabundance of apparatus for the area served.
- For major incidents such as house fires, multiple departments are needed to respond for skilled manpower and pump capacity. Tankers are needed for sufficient water supply except in the hydranted areas of High Falls and Rosendale.
- EMS response is handled differently by the departments. Rosendale, Bloomington and Cottekill respond to a larger share of EMS calls in their district than High Falls and Tillson. This also reflects the different EMS services between Marbletown and Rosendale.
- Aerial trucks, when needed, are requested on mutual aid.
- The departments all report that for at least the last five years, their membership numbers have been holding steady. There is some turnover with older members stepping back and newer members joining.
- A frequently cited concern is the future of operational leadership and commissioner level leadership.
- All of the departments, except for Tillson, have an appropriately funded length of service awards program. However, each of the programs has different levels of benefits.
- The Town has adopted a property tax exemption for active volunteers.
- About seven fire apparatus (Engines/Tankers/Rescues) in the Town are greater than 20 years old and may need to be replaced in the next five years at the cost of over a million dollars each.
- Several of the fire stations are strong candidates for renovations.
- When considering outside of existing borders, there is the possibility to reduce the number of fire stations in the community.
- Daytime coverage for alarms is a serious concern and there might be a necessity to add paid staff if several key responders are not available in the future.

- Changes to the fire service in Rosendale would likely impact neighboring communities.
- The fire service believes that many residents, especially newer ones, do not understand that the fire departments are volunteers and do not staff the stations until a call occurs.
- There is no dedicated training grounds maintained by any of the fire departments.
- In general, the availability of firefighting training from the county is appropriate, but not always convenient.
- Each of the five districts must spend time, energy and money to maintain business records, conduct financial transactions, govern themselves, and numerous other activities to meet their statutory and operational responsibilities. These tasks are redundant and bring little unique value to the community. There appears to be no compelling need to have five separate legal structures to govern the fire service for Rosendale and the neighboring areas they serve.

Options for Future

The fire service in Rosendale is meeting the needs of the community for fire protection and basic life support first response. The dedicated volunteers that provide the service should be recognized for their efforts and the community should continue to support them going forward. However, there are a number of options that the fire service should consider for the future to ensure that there is a high level of service. Each of these options is explored in greater detail in the body of the report. Immediate Actions should be acted upon as soon as possible. Near Term Considerations should be pursued in the next year or two. The Long Term Considerations involve substantial discussion that could begin soon, but enacting them may take several years.

- Immediate Actions
  - Establish Regular Public Safety Meetings
  - Formalize Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements
  - Develop Agreements for Preventative Maintenance Tasks
  - Consider a Common Training and Education Regimen
- Near Term Considerations
  - High Falls and Cottekill Consolidation
  - Rosendale and Tillson Consolidation
  - Paid Administrative Staff
  - Deactivate Binnewater Station
  - Reduce Firefighting Apparatus Fleet for Rosendale Town Districts
  - Synchronize Policies and Procedures Among Departments
- Long Term Considerations
  - Full Town of Rosendale Fire District Consolidation
  - Career Firefighting Staff

Choosing Among the Opportunities

The Town of Rosendale and the five fire districts could choose to stay the course of operating separate organizations that are providing adequate services to the community. However, with the pressures facing the fire service as a whole and the challenges identified during the project, it is imperative that the fire service make some immediate changes to improve their operations and consider some of the longer term options outlined above. Any of the more significant changes will require extensive cooperation between the involved fire districts. The Town can serve a supporting role in any of the change processes, but lacks the ability to make unilateral changes.

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Background

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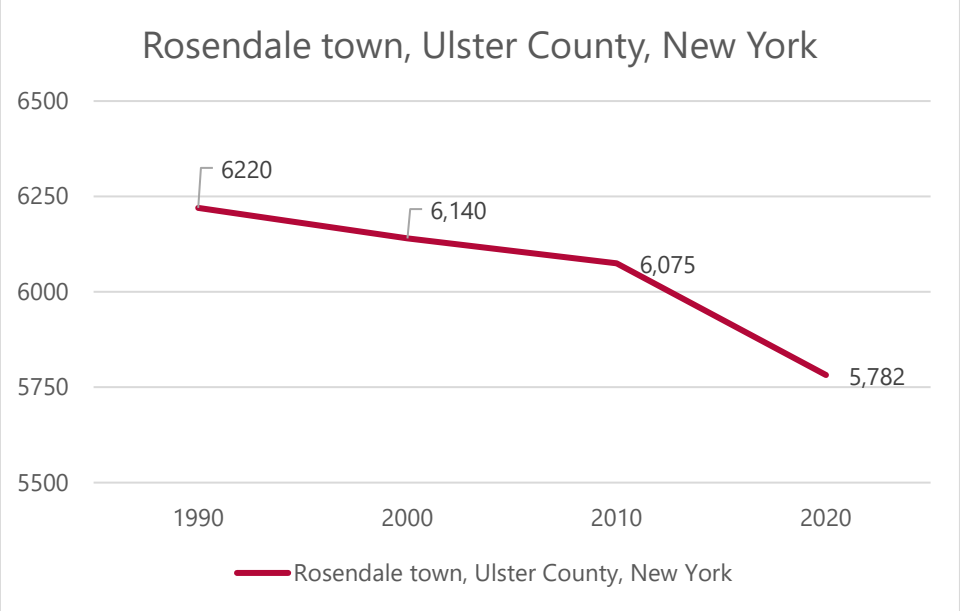
This will includes a baseline review and efficiency study that encompasses relevant statistics, property owned by each district, fire calls, annual budget, purchases, and mutual aid calls throughout the districts. The options section considers recommendations for collaboration, efficiencies and cost savings, including potential consolidation scenarios, cost estimates, project priorities, financing options, and property tax impact projections. Preferred options and the criteria influencing them are identified for the community and municipalities to consider.

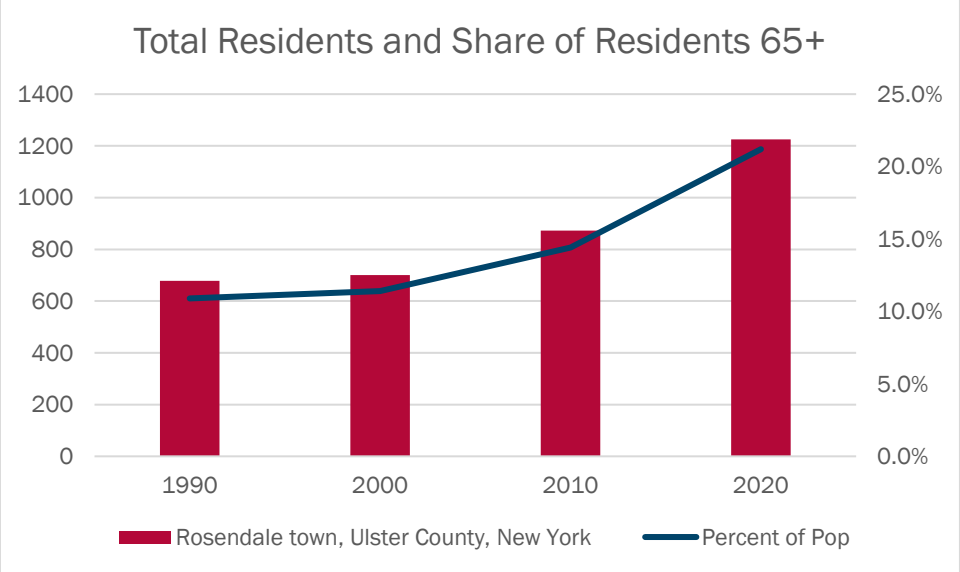
Demographics

The Town of Rosendale is located in central Ulster County. According to the 2020 Decennial Census it has a population of 5,782, its lowest since 1970 and a 4.8% decrease from 2010 the sharpest decline in population over a 10-year span since 1920. The population is spread over 20 square miles leading to a population density of 290 per square mile.



Since its founding, the Town of Rosendale has maintained its predominantly white population and proportions of other racial and ethnic groups remained relatively small. According to the Census, in 1990 the town had a median age of 34 years, this has increased notably by almost 5 years per decade to 48 years by 2020. As the population of Rosendale continues to decline and its median age continues to rise, the share of residents who are 65+ has nearly doubled

since 1990 and is exponentially increasing. With a growing elderly population, the number of emergency medical calls received are very likely to increase.



2020 Census	Rosendale town, Ulster County, New York	Share of Town Population
Total population (2020)	5,782	
Hispanic or Latino	361	6.2%
Not Hispanic or Latino:	5,421	93.7%
Population of one race:	5,146	89%
White alone	4,913	85%
Black or African American alone	111	2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0	0%
Asian alone	72	1.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	4	0.07%
Some Other Race alone	46	0.8%
% White	89%	
Housing Units	2,931	
Occupied	2,570	87.7%
Vacant	361	12.3%

Additionally, the number of Housing Units has increased 3% from 2,849 since 2000, while the census population has declined 6% in the same time. This is indicative of some of the housing units becoming second homes which may be contributing to fewer people being available to serve in the fire departments.

Volunteer Fire Service Context

Across the nation, fire services are facing new challenges as they see an increase in calls for service based on an aging community and diversification in the types of emergencies the fire service is required to respond to. This increase is making it more difficult for fire departments to meet these demands. Simultaneously, local volunteer fire services are facing struggles common throughout the state – increasing training requirements and rising expenses across all areas are matched by a dwindling volunteer pool: younger volunteers – the "next generation" – are especially challenging to find.

In New York and in Ulster County, there has been a decline in the number of volunteer fire fighters in recent years. Since 2000, there has been a decline of 20% in the number of volunteer firefighters in the state. The impact on individual fire departments varies, but the stresses on each organization to maintain adequate membership are significant. Additionally, the costs of fire fighting materials - from apparatus to protective equipment have risen at a rate greater than inflation since 2021 placing financial pressures on the districts.

Fire Service Overview

The Town of Rosendale is served by five fire districts[2] and their volunteer fire departments operating out of six fire stations spread throughout the Town. Three of the districts also cover areas of neighboring communities. Based on property valuation, Bloomington's district is approximately 20 percent in the Town of Ulster, Cottekill is about 60 percent in Marbletown and High Falls is about 80 percent in Marbletown. The remainder of the service areas are in Rosendale.

There are about 150 dedicated volunteers that serve as firefighters for the town. This represents a rate of about 21 firefighters per thousand residents[3]. This is higher than the ratio of volunteer firefighters per thousand found by the National Fire Protection Association in their study[4] of the Northeast region, where a similar sized town might only have 3.4 volunteers per thousand. This high ratio of volunteer firefighters to the population is a testament to the dedication of the volunteers in the community.

The fire departments are all dispatched on a common radio frequency by the Ulster County Division of Emergency Communications. This department is the single public safety answering point for all emergency calls in the County and the dispatcher for the fire, EMS and police calls in Rosendale. The dispatchers and telecommunicators have significant training in how to

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[3] Based on 1,500 residents in Marbletown and Ulster also being in the service area.
[4] https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/research/nfpa-research/fire-statistical-reports/us-fire-department-profile

answer 911 calls and gather appropriate information. They then alert the fire departments using a radio and also phone message that there is a call.

The fire departments are all fully volunteer and are dispatched to fire and rescue emergencies in the Town. They are also dispatched to certain serious medical emergencies or if the ambulance is going to have a delayed response. The fire departments each participated in a regional mutual aid plan and also have established certain scripts for the dispatchers to follow to ensure that appropriate help is provided. When a call for service is received by the fire department, the firefighters are typically not at the station. They respond to the stations from their home or business and then respond to the call. The table below shows some of the key characteristics of the fire departments. More detailed profiles are available later in the report.

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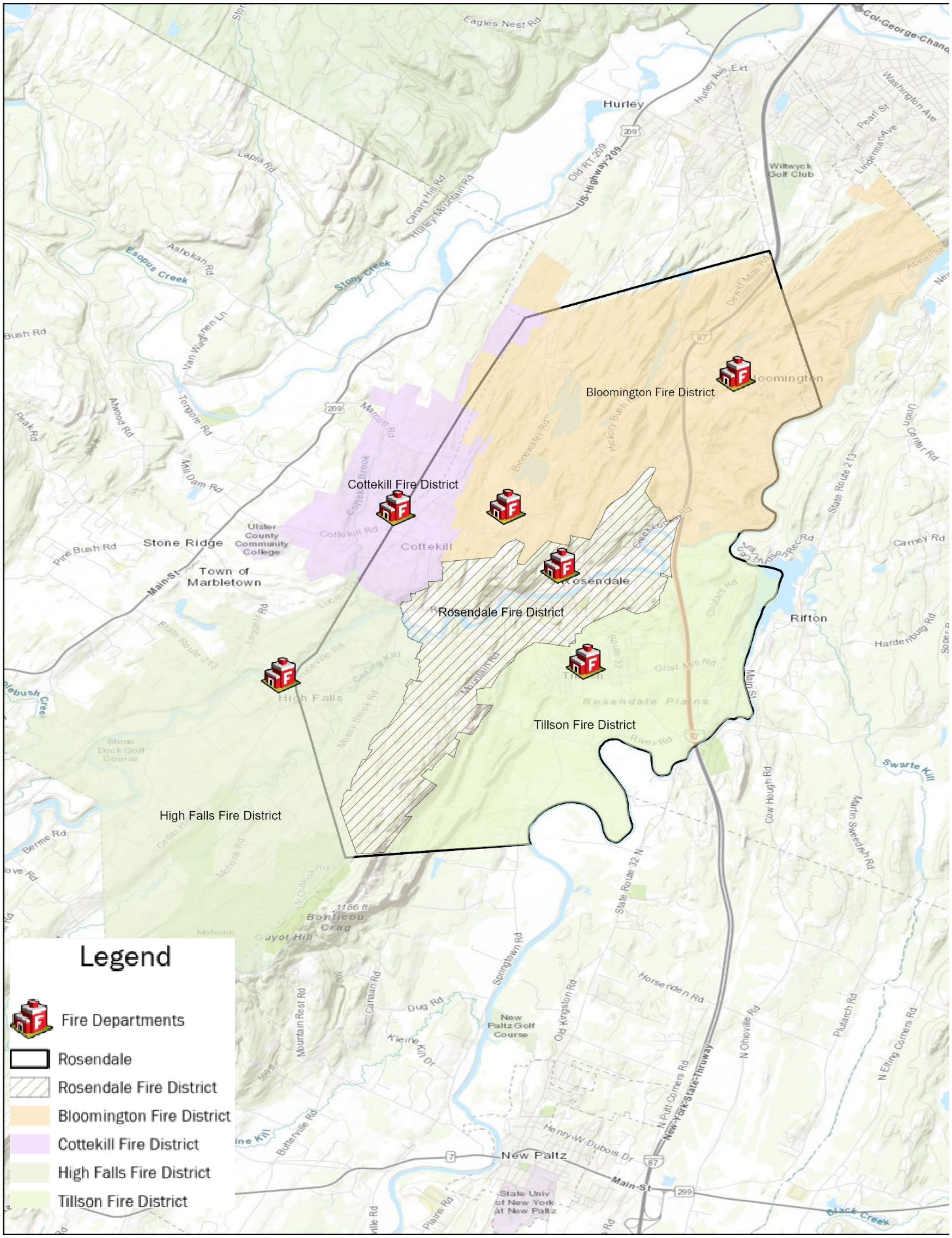
Bloomington Fire District
Cottekill Fire District
Rosendale Fire District
Tillson Fire District
High Falls Fire District
Hurley
Stone Ridge
Town of Marbletown
Rosendale
Cottekill
High Falls
Rifton
New Paltz
Legend
Fire Departments
Rosendale
Rosendale Fire District
Bloomington Fire District
Cottekill Fire District
High Falls Fire District
Tillson Fire District

Key Findings

The fire service of New York State is under greater scrutiny when it comes to funding and justification of services rendered. Most volunteer fire departments across the State of New York continue to find it more and more difficult to recruit and retain members. With fire departments facing these challenges they find it increasingly difficult to manage and justify their budgets to local elected officials and the community they serve. The New York State tax cap has also handcuffed many fire departments when it comes to making improvements to the department's infrastructure, apparatus and personnel.

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- A frequently cited concern is the future of operational leadership and commissioner level leadership.
- All of the departments, except for Tillson, have an appropriately funded length of service awards program. However, each of the programs has different levels of benefits.
- The Town has adopted a property tax exemption for active volunteers.

- About seven fire apparatus (Engines/Tankers/Rescues) in the Town are greater than 20 years old and may need to be replaced in the next five years at the cost of over a million dollars each.
- Several of the fire stations are strong candidates for renovations.
- When considering outside of existing borders, there is the possibility to reduce the number of fire stations in the community.
- Daytime coverage for alarms is a serious concern and there might be a necessity to add paid staff if several key responders are not available in the future.
- Changes to the fire service in Rosendale would likely impact neighboring communities.
- The fire service believes that many residents, especially newer ones, do not understand that the fire departments are volunteers and do not staff the stations until a call occurs.
- There is no dedicated training grounds maintained by any of the fire departments.
- In general, the availability of firefighting training from the county is appropriate, but not always convenient.
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Immediate Actions

Establish Regular Public Safety Meetings

The five fire departments, the police chief and representatives of the ambulance service should meet with the Town Supervisor on a quarterly basis to discuss concerns facing the agencies. The agenda of the meetings should include upcoming training, a review of key incidents, concerns relating to emergency management, and the fostering of strong relationships between the organizations.

Formalize Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements

While each department has mutual aid and some automatic aid agreements, they are not standardized in the Town and are subject to the unilateral revisions. For each call type and area of the town, the departments should have agreements that will ensure the timely response of appropriate apparatus and personnel. The use of automatic aid can also provide the basis for additional credits on the insurance service organization evaluations. An example of automatic aid is currently used by Rosendale and Tillson for serious calls such as reports of a building fire during daytime hours at the time of dispatch. Mutual aid occurs when a chief or other officer requests a specific response from a neighboring department while an event is occurring or when the dispatcher sends a resource from a neighboring department when the primary department does not respond. Use of automatic can improve response times and insurance ratings, while mutual aid agreements do not.

Develop Agreements for Preventative Maintenance Tasks

There is already some collaboration on the key operational tasks such as ladder, hose and pump testing, but this is handled by informal agreement. Other key components such as SCBA servicing and vehicle maintenance could be shared. If all five (or including additional neighbors) had a single service agreement and point of contact the cost would be lower and the record keeping could be improved.

Consider a Common Training and Education Regimen

Cottekill and High Falls share a common education curriculum, but the other departments each handle their own training. While there are some individual risks in a community that may merit unique training topics, the five departments face common risks and have to meet the

same mandates for training from state and national authorities. Creating and implementing a training regimen takes substantial time and coordination that should be shared across all the departments with a single small group coordinating the efforts. Training could still be offered on more that one night and at a variety of locations. As part of this effort, the five departments should have exercises addressing complex scenarios on an annual basis to foster interdepartmental cooperation. This effort should be coordinated by a designated, certified fire instructor that ensures that the training programs are uniformly delivered. As part of this effort, the departments should consider cross training firefighters on each other's apparatus and commonly used equipment. (However, firefighters should only use their specific SCBA's and turnout gear to help ensure appropriate protection.)

Near Term Considerations

High Falls and Cottekill Consolidation

High Falls and Cottekill have been considering consolidation for several years and their commissions have had serious discussions. The friction points reportedly relate to the concerns related to maintaining both stations and the different levels of benefit offered by the length of service awards programs.

The process of bringing the two districts together is handled under General Municipal Law 17A and could be approved by the two commissions. There is the need for public hearings and the development of a plan for reorganization, but a referendum is only necessary if residents petition. A detailed outline the departments should consider following is included in Appendix B.

The potential benefits of a merger include:

- Reducing the operational and administrative burdens on the volunteer leadership.
- Growing the membership through combining.
- Providing the opportunity to reduce fleet size either immediately or at the time of next apparatus replacement.
- Opportunity to reduce some costs for the district such as accounting, auditing, record management systems and professional services.
- Using 2024 as a model, there is a likely reduction of property tax rate for Cottekill residents of about 10% from $1.67 to $1.50 per thousand in Rosendale.
- Access to state grant funds to assist with reorganization efforts such as rebranding, attorneys' fees, and potential station renovations.
- Opportunity to retain both companies under a single district to support the individual communities.
- A larger tax base would be more able to address future capital concerns.

There are potential downsides to a merger including:

- Significant work for the leadership and members to ensure a smooth transition.

- Based on the 2024 budgets, the residents of High Falls would see a slight increase (4%) in their property tax rate from $1.44 to $1.50 per thousand in Rosendale.
- The transition to a combined fire district could lead some volunteers to become less active or leave altogether.
- The transition to single LOSAP could have a negative financial impact on some volunteers, but no one who is vested will lose their benefit if an appropriate LOSAP transition plan is developed. The two commissions should request their respective LOSAP providers to develop scenarios for the future of LOSAP in the district. They should consider the potential cost to transition as an investment in the current and future volunteers that is less expensive than any career staffing model.

Tillson and Rosendale Consolidation

Tillson and Rosendal have a close operational relationship and share a significant border. While they work together well operationally, no one reported a serious discussion of a potential merger. The two departments both report having a close relationships inside the departments and several members of each live in the opposite fire district. In addition to the constant need to recruit and train staff faced by all volunteer departments, Tillson and Rosendale are both facing the need to purchase a new frontline engine in the next several years at the cost of $500,000 to $750,000 or more when fully outfitted.

The process of bringing the two districts together is handled under General Municipal Law 17A and could be approved by the two commissions. There is the need for public hearings and the development of a plan for reorganization, but a referendum is only necessary if residents petition.

The potential benefits of a merger include:

- Reducing the operational and administrative burdens on the volunteer leadership.
- Growing the membership through combining the two agencies.
- Providing the opportunity to reduce fleet size either immediately or at the time of next apparatus replacement.
- Opportunity to reduce some costs for the district such as accounting, auditing, record management systems and professional services.
- Potential to expand the LOSAP program for current and future members of Tillson.
- Using 2024 as a model, there is a likely reduction of property tax rate for Rosendale residents of about 20% from $2.10 to $1.70 per thousand.
- Access to state grant funds to assist with reorganization efforts such as rebranding, attorneys' fees, and potential station renovations.
- Opportunity to retain both companies under a single district to support the individual communities.
- A larger tax base would be more able to address future capital concerns.

There are potential downsides to a merger including:

- Significant work for the leadership and members to ensure a smooth transition.
- Based on the 2024 budgets, the residents of Tillson would see an increase (18%) in their property tax rate from $1.44 to $1.70 per thousand.
- The transition to a combined fire district could lead some volunteers to become less active or leave altogether.
- The expansion of the LOSAP could reduce the savings for Rosendale properties and increase the impact for Tillson by a few cents per thousand. The Fire Commissions should request that the Rosendale LOSAP provider develop several potential cost models for integrating Tillson Volunteers into the LOSAP program including enrollment for them going forward and the potential for the district to give credit for previous years of service. The latter could be funded through the potential sale of apparatus that would not be needed after a merger.

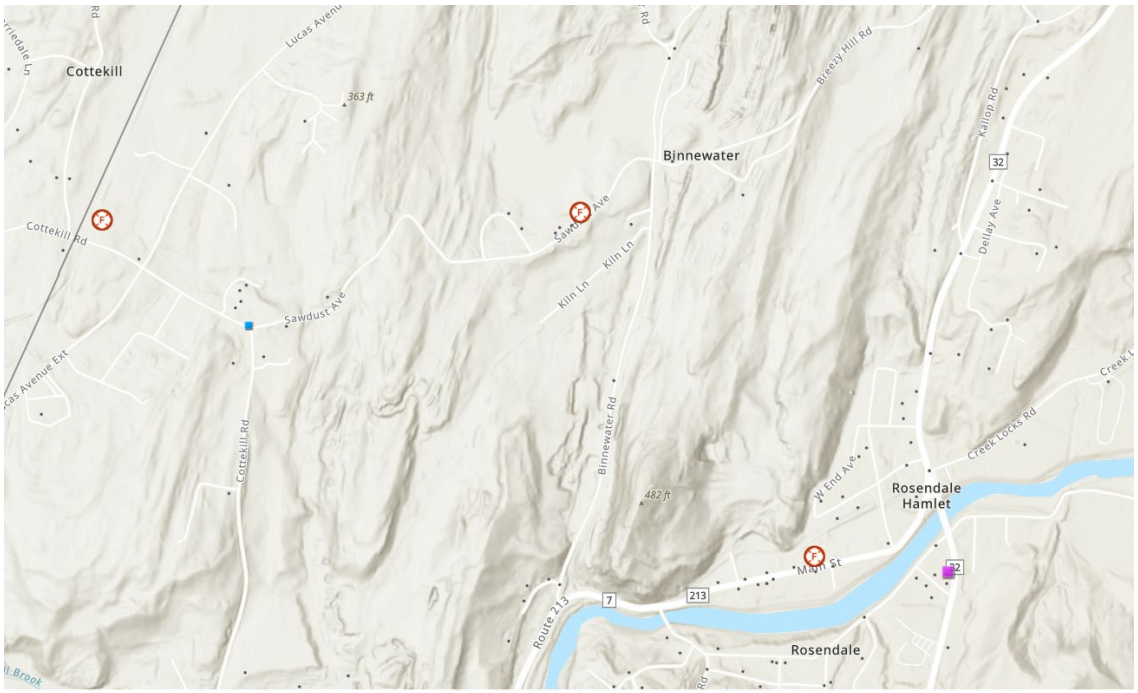
Paid Administrative Staff

There is an increasing burden of administrative tasks for the volunteers involved in the fire service. Each district and department are municipalities with significant recordkeeping and reporting requirements. The volunteers across the districts are doing a valiant job to remain current on the necessary tasks and there was no mention of people stopping involvement because of the administrative tasks. However, an administrative staff person employed by one of the three districts that assisted the fire departments and districts in completing the required tasks would lighten the burden on the volunteers. If shared among the three districts that serve the majority of Rosendale, this person could provide 12 hours of time to each district weekly. Administrative tasks would include recordkeeping, scheduling maintenance of vehicles and equipment, coordinating appointments for physicals, and serving as a single point of contact for volunteer inquiries. They could also help with preplanning responses to high-risk properties and developing training curriculum. The intent of this position is to help the existing volunteer leadership become more effective and free up their time for operational concerns and responses. A ballpark estimate for the cost of this position is a salary of $60,000 and benefits of 40% for a net cost $84,000 annually. If this person was a volunteer firefighter, they could be allowed to respond to calls during their administrative work hours if authorized by the commissions. The costs could be shared through an intermunicipal agreement.

Deactivate Binnewater Station

The Bloomington Fire District should consider eliminating the Binnewater Station. This station has relatively few responses and is close to both the Rosendale Fire Station (1.7 miles) and the Cottekill Fire Station (1.2 miles), although 3.1 miles from the main Bloomington Fire Station. The map below shows the location of calls in 2023 across all districts and there are very few (about 10) where the Binnewater would be the closest station. While the station has minimal costs to remain in service, the BFD should strongly consider deactivating the station if the building needs capital investment in the future. Similarly, BFD should consider automatic aid from both Rosendale and Cottekill for serious events in that area of their district. The develop of the Williams Lake Hotel property, about 0.75 miles north by road, may increase the

calls in the area but the area could still be appropriately covered by other nearby stations. Alternatively, renovations to the station could conceivably be partially supported by the developer as part of an impact fee.



Reduce Firefighting Apparatus Fleet for Rosendale Town Districts (Bloomington, Tillson and Rosendale)

The town of Rosendale has seven apparatus that meet the definition of a frontline engine stationed in the town (Bloomington, Tillson and Rosendale) plus five more that serve portions of it for a total of twelve. It should be noted that several of these are designated as tankers but carry the equipment necessary to act as an engine. With the growing costs and complexity of modern fire apparatus, it is no longer financially responsible to maintain a fleet this large.

An analysis of Rosendale's built upon areas, road network and anticipated fire load in the area, there is a need for three frontline engines with a total pump capacity exceeding 3,500 gpm to be dispatched to each reported structure fire and a minimum of 4,000 gallons of water carried on board the apparatus. There should be an additional engine available as a reserve apparatus. A potential fleet of apparatus would include the four engines and two tankers listed below distributed among three stations. The pump capacity is 8,750 gpm and the on-board water is 10,750 gallons for the six apparatus listed below.

Department	Type	Designation	Age	Mfr.	Pump GPM	Water
BFD	Engine	E-18-10	2009	Pierce	1250	1500
BFD	Engine	E-18-20	2009	Pierce	1250	1500
RFD	Engine/Rescue	50-12	2017	KME	1500	750
RFD	Tanker	50-50	2005	KME	1750	3000

Department	Type	Designation	Age	Mfr.	Pump GPM	Water
TFD	Engine	60-10	2006	KME	1500	1000
TFD	Tanker	60-12	2022	Kenworth T800, E-One	1500	3000

Additional apparatus would also be needed to serve the area to meet the needs of a service company as designated by the Insurance Service Organization rating organization and to respond to other emergencies. The ISO will require a "service company" to respond to all structure fires which would be met by a vehicle such as BFD's Heavy Rescue. There are not enough tall buildings to merit a ladder company in the district although one should be requested on a preplanned automatic aid for large structures.

Department	Type	Designation	Year	Mfr.
BFD	Heavy Rescue	R-18-42	2003	Pierce
BFD	Mini Pumper	R-18-43	2002	Pierce
TFD	Utility	M-60	2015	Ford F-550 Diesel/ Spartan
RFD	Utility	50-14	2024	Chevy

Specialized units such as boats and off-road vehicles should also be retained. There could also be reduction in the number of chiefs vehicles. This reduction in fleet size would allow for three engines and a light rescue vehicle to be removed from operation while retaining appropriate fire suppression capability. This fleet reduction is suggested alongside either the combining of Rosendale and Tillson or those two districts plus Bloomington. The reduction in fleet should also occur with the institution of formal automatic aid agreements to ensure adequate apparatus, pump capacity and water supply on fire scenes. There would be revenue to the districts from the sale of surplus apparatus that could be used to establish an apparatus reserve fund. Maintaining and planning for replacement of a smaller fleet will financial benefits for the districts.

Additionally, the fire service will need to ensure adequate water supply. The six suppression apparatus outlined above carry a combined 10,750 gallons of water. This is adequate to meet the needs of a first alarm assignment for a structure fire although additional water supplies will be needed from tanker shuttles or a long hose lay from a hydrant or other water source. At least one additional tanker should be considered from a neighboring district for reports of fires in the area without fire hydrants. The fire service area would likely qualify as an 8B rating from ISO where it relies on tankers and have a better score in the area with hydrants[5] in the Rosendale Fire District. (High Falls had a score of 4 on their recent evaluation in the area served by hydrants.)

[5] The Rosendale Water District serves about 550 properties in the area that was formerly a village inside the Rosendale Fire District. This includes the most densely populated portions of the district.

See Appendix C for considerations on the size of the vehicle fleet and replacement schedule.

Synchronize Policies and Procedures Among Departments

Each of the departments maintains their own policies and procedures. Keeping them up to date is a time intensive process that has been neglected by some of the departments. Furthermore, the five departments work together on serious incidents and should consider working together more closely in the future. A single policy and procedure document among the departments would serve to synchronize the operations across the departments and would help to improve fire ground operations. An additional benefit would come from the representatives of the departments working together and gaining familiarity that may serve as the building blocks for an eventually merged department.

Long Term Considerations

These considerations are categorized long term because of the amount of planning and financial resources needed to accomplish them which makes them unlikely to occur right now. However, the community should consider them as potential options for the fire service in the next five to ten years if the trend of decreasing volunteerism in firefighting has a more significant impact on the fire service.

Full Town of Rosendale District Consolidation

The Bloomington, Rosendale and Tillson Fire Departments respond to the majority of calls (87%) in the Town and provide coverage to the majority of the parcels and population. A merger of Tillson and Rosendale was suggested above. Including Bloomington in the merger brings some additional complication because the range of their tax rates and the size of the new district. If a consolidation had occurred in 2024, the changes to the tax rates would have been 35% higher for Tillson, 7% lower for Rosendale and 19% lower for Bloomington. While that impact is substantial on a percentage basis, for a median home the change is about $11 a month in increase cost for Tillson and a savings of $10 per month in Bloomington.

	Tax Rate Per 1000	% Change	Median Tax Bill $260,000 home	Annual Change
Consolidated	$ 1.96		$510	
Bloomington	$ 2.42	-19%	$630	$- 120
Rosendale	$ 2.10	-7%	$546	$- 36
Tillson	$ 1.44	36%	$374	$+ 135

However, the benefits of the larger district once a consolidation was accomplished would likely lead to a more sustainable department long term with a reduction in the size of the fleet, a more efficient administrative process, and other potential benefits outlined below.

The potential benefits of a merger include:

- Reducing the operational and administrative burdens on the volunteer leadership.
- Growing the membership through combining the three companies.
- Providing the opportunity to reduce fleet size either immediately or at the time of next apparatus replacement. If the fleet was reduced immediately, there would be the potential for revenue from selling a used apparatus.
- Opportunity to reduce some costs for the district such as accounting, auditing, and professional services.
- Potential to expand the LOSAP program for current and future members of Tillson.
- Access to state grant funds to assist with reorganization efforts such as rebranding, attorneys' fees, and potential station renovations.
- Opportunity to retain all three companies under a single district to support the individual communities.
- A larger tax base would be more able to address future capital concerns.
- Model of company owning and operating fire station, as in Bloomington, has lower costs because of less stringent purchasing rules.

There are potential downsides to a merger including:

- Significant work for the leadership and members to ensure a smooth transition.
- The transition to a combined fire district could lead some volunteers to become less active or leave altogether.
- The expansion of the LOSAP could reduce the savings for Rosendale and Bloomington properties and increase the impact for Tillson by a few cents per thousand.

Career Firefighting Staff

The departments, with reasonable use of mutual aid, are usually able to meet the needs of the town with its volunteer response. However, it is appropriate to consider a future where career staff are necessary to support the volunteers. Adding career firefighters should be considered if the departments are no longer able to adequately respond to calls for service. This could be defined as failing to get four qualified firefighters to any alarm in a timely manner or not being able to get 15 qualified firefighters to structure fire in under 15 minutes. The first is a bare-minimum response to ensure public and firefighter safety if a fire is found at a call. The latter has been shown through research to be the necessary manpower needed to control a fire in a timely manner.

Adding career staffing will shift one or more of the departments from a fully volunteer department to a combination department. This shift has the potential to lead to substantial cultural changes in the department. When this change is implemented, it will be essential for Town and department leaders to work with both the new career firefighters and the existing volunteers to establish expectations leading to a culture of mutual respect. This change can often lead to a decline in the amount of volunteer effort, which will substantially decrease the volunteer ranks if the change is not well led. The addition of career staff would be most appropriate after a full town consultation described above.

Daytime Option

Daytimes are often a challenging time for mustering enough volunteers in Rosendale. Limited numbers of interior firefighters are likely to be able to respond on weekdays between 6 am and 6 pm. A model to consider is to put four firefighters on duty, split between two stations -- likely Bloomington and Rosendale – they could ensure that that a minimum staff would be available to respond during the busiest hours of the day. With an estimated pay of $70,000 per year and benefits equal to three quarters of the salary, the cost of a single firefighter would be $122,500. A staff of six would cost an estimated $735,000. For the combined three departments in the Town, this would be an about 75% increase in the cost of operating the department from $1.03 million to $1.78 million.

Daytime Staffing Model	
Estimated Firefighter Salary	$ 70,000
Benefits	$ 52,500
Estimated per-firefighter cost	$ 122,500
Cost for staff of six	**$ 735,000**

Twenty-Four-Hour Option

A twenty-four-hour staffing option for the fire districts in the Town of Rosendale would be substantially more expensive. For each position staffed, the fire district(s) would need to hire 4.5 full-time employees. Therefore, to staff four firefighters on duty at one time, the fire districts in the Town would need to consider hiring 18 employees. In addition to the base salary, there would likely be the need for a career officer on each shift to provide the necessary supervision. Using the same assumptions for salary, a full-time department with four firefighters on a shift would have payroll and benefit costs of $2.2 million. The cost of this staffing option is twice the cost of the existing three fire districts with the resulting tax rate being about $6.50 per thousand.

Twenty-Four Hour Staffing Model	
Estimated Firefighter Salary	$ 70,000
Benefits	$ 52,500
Estimated per-firefighter cost	$ 122,500
Cost for staff of eighteen full-time employees	$ 2,205,000

Choosing Among the Opportunities

The Town of Rosendale and the five fire districts could choose to stay the course of operating separate organizations that are providing adequate services to the community. However, with the pressures facing the fire service as a whole and the challenges identified during the project, it is imperative that the fire service make some immediate changes to improve their operations and consider some of the longer term options outlined above. Any of the more significant changes will require extensive cooperation between the involved fire districts. The Town can serve a supporting role in any of the change processes, but lacks the ability to make unilateral changes. The fire districts should reach out to the Insurance Services Organization to discuss with them the potential impacts of any mergers on the ratings in the community. Also, the LOSAP providers for the fire districts can provide models to them for consideration of combining existing plans or creating a new plan to serve the districts after a merger.

The Town and Districts would be eligible for grant funding from New York State to facilitate the merger including costs for attorneys, accountants and capital expenses. The funding is available based on competitive applications.

Fire Service Profile

The data below was provided by the fire districts in response to a questionnaire in May and June 2024. The information was accurate as of that time, but may have shifted slightly as the project progressed. The intent is to provide an overview of the districts as a basis for understanding the fire protection in the Town and how it might change in the future.

Bloomington Fire District

The Bloomington Fire District (BFD) is located primarily in the northeast portion of the Town of Rosendale. However, they also provide coverage to a portion of the Town of Ulster. While Bloomington has been a fire department since 1941, it did not become a fire district until 2016. BFD expanded in 1981 when the Binnewater Fire Company joined the Bloomington Fire Department, adding the second station.

BFD is the largest fire department serving the town by several measures including number of members, amount of equipment, and calls for service. It is also the only department with two fire stations. The department may see additional development in its district with the redevelopment of the resort on Williams Lake. The department is responsible for responding to a section of the New York State Thruway that it can access through a secured gate.

The department most often responds on mutual aid to Rosendale and Tillson in the Town and Ulster Hose in the Town of Ulster.

BFD believes the number of firefighters on the books is adequate to meet the demands of the department, but the increase in mutual aid requests and the overall call volume are creating a stress on the membership. The department can typically secure enough volunteers to staff two engines during the day, but there can be gaps in that coverage.

Staff	Number
Total Volunteer Personnel	63
Interior Qualified Firefighters	15
BLS- AED / O2 / First Aid	
NYS Certified EMTs (or higher)	6
Apparatus Drivers (Engine and/or Ladder/Quint)	17
Lieutenants	6
Captains	2
Battalion/Deputy/Assistant Chiefs	3
Chief	1

Station

The Bloomington Fire District Stations are located at 14 Taylor Street and 48 Sawdust Avenue. The Taylor Street location was built in 1977 and has about 6,400 square feet. This station has 6 apparatus bays large enough for its five typical apparatus to park. The station has 3 office

spaces, but zero sleeping spaces. It has a propane generator, gear wash a breathing air cascade system, exhaust capture and a security system.

The Sawdust Avenue station is smaller at approximately 1,600 square feet. It has 2 bays for its two typical apparatus. This station has no office spaces or sleeping spaces. It has a gasoline generator exhaust capture and a security system.

The Bloomington Fire Company, not the Fire District, own the two fire stations. The Fire District pays rent to the Company for the use of the spaces.

Training

Physical exams and fitness tests are required annually for firefighters. Physical exams are conducted by Emergency One while fit testing is handled in house.

Volunteer interior firefighters are required to have New York State Firefighter 1 (Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations/Interior Firefighting Operations) training or equivalent, fit testing and a physical and confidence course.

Officers are required to have everything a volunteer interior firefighter has as well as efficiency and experience.

Apparatus operators must have pump operator training, Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training and be approved by a Chief Officer.

The company schedules training sessions during the monthly officers meeting. Firefighters are exposed to live fire training situations 1-2 times per year.

Apparatus

Type	Designation	Year	Mfr.	Features
Engine	E-18-10	2009	Pierce	1250 GPM pump, 1500 gal tank, 1500 ft. 5" supply hose, 450 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 200 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, 400 ft. Forestry suppression hose, thermal imaging cameras, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 1 10' attic ladder, AED, 5 SCBAs, 4 air spare tanks, generator and exhaust fan
Engine	E-18-20	2009	Pierce	1250 GPM pump, 1500 gal tank, 1500 ft. 5" supply hose, 450 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 200 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, thermal imaging cameras, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 1 10' attic ladder, AED, 5 SCBAs, 4 air spare tanks, generator and exhaust fan
Pumper/Tanker	E-18-30	1998	Pierce	1250 GPM pump, 2500 gal tank, 1500 ft. 5" supply hose, 1050 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 250 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, thermal imaging cameras, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, AED, 5 SCBAs, 6 air

Type	Designation	Year	Mfr.	Features
				spare tanks, generator, portable dunk tank, and exhaust fan
Rescue	R-18-41	2008	Ford	AED
Heavy Rescue	R-18-42	2003	Pierce	Hydraulic extraction tools, E-draulic extraction tools, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, AED, 5 SCBAs, 2 air spare tanks, gas meter, generator, cascade system, 2 light towers, rescue 42 stabilization jacks, ice rescue suits and equipment
Mini Pumper	R-18-43	2002	Pierce	750 GPM pump, 350 gal tank, 300 ft. 3" supply hose, 250 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 250 ft. 2 1/2 hose reel hose, 500 ft. forestry hose, E-draulic extraction tools, gas meter, 1 16' ladder, generator, AED
Boat	M-18-44	2014	Rescue One Connector Boat	40 HP Mercury Jet Engine, Dive Platform
Chief's Car	CAR-18	2020	Chevrolet Tahoe	Thermal imaging cameras, AED, 1 SCBA, Mobile command center
Chief's Car	CAR-18-1	2015	Chevrolet Tahoe	Thermal imaging cameras, AED, 1 SCBA, Mobile command center
Chief's Car	CAR-18	2010	Chevrolet Tahoe	Thermal imaging cameras, AED, 1 SCBA

Other Equipment

Interior firefighters are issued two sets of turnout gear and others are issued one set. 18% of in service turnout gear is greater than 10 years old. The department utilizes Quacker-brand turnout gear and Cairns helmets and Scott AP50-brand SCBAs. BFD has a gear wash for firefighters to use.

Equipment testing

Hoses and aerial/ground ladders are tested annually in October. SCBA equipment is subject to inspection 2-3 times a month and annual service/inspection.

Calls for Service Summary

Incidents by Time of Day	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Overnight 00:00-03:59	22	18	15	4	1.5
Early Morning 04:00-07:59	18	32	24	11	2.1
Morning 08:00-11:59	33	75	39	8	3.9
Afternoon 12:00-15:59	54	72	42	19	4.7
Evening 16:00-19:59	61	57	53	14	4.6
Night 20:00-23:59	28	27	31	4	2.3
Total for Year	*216*	*281*	*204*	*60*	19.0
* Through April 30, 2024					

Public Protection Classification Rating

The Bloomington Fire District has a rating of 8B from the Insurance Services Office. This rating was given based on a survey in 2022 and was primarily based on the fact that there is no hydrant or water supply in the fire district.

Budget Overview

The fire district is fully funded by its tax levy. However, the Blooming Fire Company does conduct some independent fundraisers for the benefit of its members. The department is looking at needing to replace three apparatus over the next ten years. They have a $400,000 reserve fund that will be available to defer some of the costs of the apparatus.

Bloomington Budget 2023 & 2024		
Income	**2023**	**2024**
Grants	-	-
Misc. Income	-	-
Interest Income	-	-
Sale of Assets	-	-
Tax Levy	448,250	459,532
Total Income	**$ 448,250**	**$ 459,532**
Expenses	**2023**	**2024**
Payroll Expenses	-	-
Benefits	89,900	89,900
Retirement	-	-
Insurance	61,350	61,350
Equipment / Apparatus	78,000	81,000
Facilities	90,000	88,700
Administrative	27,000	40,300
Training	2,000	2,000
FF / Fire Related	13,000	18,000
Supplies	2,000	2,000
Debt	-	-
Additions to Reserves	85,000	76,282
Total Expenses	**$ 448,250**	**$ 459,532**
Net Income	**$ 0**	**$ 0**

The Benefits line is the contribution toward the LOSAP supported by the fire district. The program benefits eligible members after they reach 60 years of age. The actuarial analysis reports that the program is funded at 125% of the required amounts.

Cottekill Fire District

The Cottekill Volunteer Fire Company's small, but committed group of volunteers is seen as a strength. The Fire District's financial position is relatively strong – it has no debt and typically makes equipment purchases out of a reserve fund. The firehouse is aging but has had recent upgrades and renovations and is generally seen as sufficient to meet the company's basic needs for the immediate future.

Members of the company and district described strong relationships with the High Falls and Stone Ridge districts. Cottekill has mutual aid agreements with both districts and regularly trains with them. Interviewees describe the relationship with High Falls as particularly strong including regular joint drills and joint dispatches to many calls.

Like many other districts, Cottekill's major challenges and concerns include recruiting and retaining volunteers, burnout among the handful of volunteers who most regularly respond to calls, and responding to calls on weekdays during regular work hours. Rising costs and mandates, coupled with the constraints of New York State's tax cap, have made the district's finances tighter in recent years. There are some concerns about the fire company's low-band radios, as transmission can be spotty in hilly terrain. .

Personnel

Cottekill Volunteer Fire Company reports that 16 volunteer firefighters are active in the department. Seven are interior-qualified. Roughly the same number (8) are qualified to drive the large apparatus. One staff member is certified as an EMT. There are two volunteer lieutenants, two volunteer captains, two assistant chiefs and a chief.

Staff	Number
Total Volunteer Personnel	16
Interior Qualified Firefighters	7
NYS Certified First Responders	0
NYS Certified EMTs (or higher)	1
Apparatus Drivers (Engine and/or Ladder/Quint)	8
Lieutenants	2
Captains	2
Battalion/Deputy/Assistant Chiefs	2
Chief	1

Training

Physical exams and fitness tests are required annually for all personnel.

Volunteer interior firefighters are required to have New York State Firefighter 1 (Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations/Interior Firefighting Operations) training, annual Job Performance Requirement (JPR) reviews, annual mayday and bailout training and quarterly SCBA training.

Lieutenants are required to have BEFO/IFO training, 2 years interior experience, meet all junior officer JPR requirements and be a certified driver of all apparatus.

Captains must have 2 year of lieutenant experience, meet all junior officer knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA) and JPR requirements, and have completed NYS Fire Office 1 or possess equivalent experience.

Assistant Chiefs must have 2 years of captain experience, meet all chief officer knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA) and JPR requirements, and have completed NYS Fire Office 1 or equivalent experience, plus IS-200 Basic Incident Command.

Chief must have 2 years of assistant chief experience, meet all chief officer knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA) and JPR requirements, and have completed NYS Fire Office 1 or equivalent experience, plus IS-200 Basic Incident Command.

Apparatus operators must have pump operator training and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training.

The company does three drills a month, and firefighters are exposed to live fire – both structural and vehicle – in training at least annually.

Apparatus

Type	Designation	Year	Mfr.	Features
Engine/Tanker	2311	2007	E-One	1250 GPM pump, 1250 gal tank, 400 ft & 1000 ft. 3" & 4", 500 ft. 1 3/4" & 2", 2 CO detectors, 10', 14' & 24' ladders, AED, 2 SCBAs, 2 spare air tanks, deck gun, strainers, generator
Engine	2312	2020	Rosenbauer	1500 GPM pump, 1000 gal tank, 400 ft & 1000 ft. 3" & 4"; 200', 700', 100', 600', 400' - 1", 1.5", 1.75", 2", 2.5"; 7.5 gal. Class A & B foam, thermal imaging, multi-gas and 2 CO meters, multiple ladders, 4 SCBAs, 4 air tanks, deck gun, vent saw, brush fire tools, generator, smoke ejector

The district is in the process of planning to replace the 2007 engine with a mini-pumper equipped with a full size pump and an UTV. The intent is to lower the cost of maintaining and replacing apparatus for the future.

Other Equipment

Most firefighters are issued two sets of turnout gear. 21% of the first set and 100% of the second set is greater than 10 years old. The department utilizes Lion-brand turnout gear and Cairns helmets and MSA-brand SCBAs.

Equipment testing

The pumps for both apparatus were tested in May 2024. Hoses and aerial/ground ladders are tested annually in October. SCBA equipment is subject to weekly and monthly checks and annual service/inspection.

Station

The Cottekill Fire District Station is located at 240 Cottekill Road. It was built in 1932 and has about 2,700 square feet. The station has an apparatus bay large enough for its two apparatus to park, but very limited space around them for truck checks or cleaning. There is limited overhead clearance as well. The station has a small office and conference room, a bathroom and storage for extra supplies. It has a 14Kw propane generator. A second block addition in the 1950's, created a double deep engine bay and furnace room. Renovations in the mid 1990's converted the double deep bay into the conference room and office. Renovations in the early 2000's reduced the kitchen size and provided more room behind the trucks for gear racks and spare equipment. Over the last few years, there have been significant improvements to the building, largely accomplished by the members of the department, including a renovation of the meeting room, a bathroom upgrade to include a shower to decontaminate, and an improved office space. There is also now a lounge space for members. The building also has a new roof, modernized electrical wiring and a new heating system.

Public Protection Classification

The Cottekill Fire District has a rating of 8B from the Insurance Services Office. This rating was given based on a survey in 2021. This rating is among the best that can be achieved by a department that operates in an area without fire hydrants.

Calls for Service Summary

Incidents by Time of Day	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Overnight 00:00-03:59	4	5	8	3	0.5
Early Morning 04:00-07:59	8	12	13	1	0.9
Morning 08:00-11:59	21	35	27	8	2.3
Afternoon 12:00-15:59	32	31	26	9	2.5
Evening 16:00-19:59	30	29	30	13	2.6
Night 20:00-23:59	9	18	16	5	1.2
Total for Year	*104*	*130*	*120*	*39*	9.8
* Through April 30, 2024					

Budget Overview

Cottekill Budget 2023 & 2024		
Income	**2023**	**2024**
Grants	2,500	1,000
Misc. Income	14,000	10,000
Interest Income	200	2,200
Sale of Assets	-	-
Tax Levy	143,277	146,143
Total Income	**$ 159,977**	**$ 159,343**
Expenses	**2023**	**2024**
Payroll Expenses	-	-
Benefits	17,000	18,000
Retirement	-	-
Insurance	22,000	27,800
Equipment / Apparatus	30,000	29,200
Facilities	22,300	24,900
Administrative	17,352	7,463
Training	1,000	1,200
FF / Fire Related	4,500	4,500
Supplies	825	1,280
Debt	-	-
Additions to Reserves	45,000	45,000
Total Expenses	**$ 159,977**	**$ 159,343**
Net Income	**$ 0**	**$ 0**

High Falls Fire District

While the overall number of volunteers is a concern for the High Falls Volunteer Fire Company, the company has had a handful of younger recruits in recent years – a positive development. High Falls is one of few districts in the area with a longstanding LOSAP intended to help retain volunteers over time. The district also pays for training and maintains a rigorous training schedule. Cooperation within the district and with other districts in the area also are seen as strengths. The district works most closely with Cottekill and Stone Ridge, and has mutual aid agreements with both districts. Pre-planning the department's responses to various types of calls also is a focus area.

As in the other districts, manpower during the workday is a concern. While the district is proud of adding a handful of new recruits, it is rare to find new volunteers. A handful of members work locally, however, and are sometimes available to respond during the weekday. Spotty radio reception is a concern in High Falls as well; the district has been setting aside funds to

purchase new radios in anticipation that Ulster County will upgrade the entire radio system to high-band radios.

The district protects a major asset that several interviewees see as an important reason to retain a firehouse in High Falls: the Mohonk Mountain House, a multi-story resort hotel with upward of 250 rooms. Unlike other districts in the town, High Falls adjoins the Rondout Creek, where the occasional water rescue is needed, one interviewee noted.

Stakeholders also were concerned about losing volunteers under a merger and want to learn how best to reconcile leadership positions and competing personalities among the districts. Some saw potential benefits to some consolidation, such as more efficient distribution of apparatus and manpower across the community. Short of a merger or mergers, interviewees also suggested revising pre-plans in coordination with other districts and coordination on purchasing (e.g., air packs) to ensure firefighters are certified to use other districts' equipment if needed.

Personnel

High Falls Volunteer Fire Company reports that 21 volunteer firefighters are active in the department, along with two fire police. Nine are interior-qualified. Fourteen are qualified to drive the large apparatus. One is certified as an EMT. There are four lieutenants, one captain two assistant chiefs and a volunteer chief.

Staff	Number
Total Volunteer Personnel	21
Interior Qualified Firefighters	9
BLS- AED / O2 / First Aid	15
NYS Certified EMTs (or higher)	1
Apparatus Drivers (Engine and/or Ladder/Quint)	15
Lieutenants	4
Captains	1
Battalion/Deputy/Assistant Chiefs	2
Chief	1

Training

Physical exams and fitness tests are required annually for all personnel.

Annual in-service annual Job Performance Requirement (JPR) and knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA) training is based on NFPA 1001.

Volunteer interior firefighters are required to have Firefighter 1 or legacy equivalent. Officers are required to have Fire Office 1 or legacy equivalent and encouraged to have Instructor 1 and Officer 2.

Apparatus operators are given in-house training based on NFPA 1002 JPRs and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training.

The company averages 900 hours of training across all department members, annually and firefighters are exposed to two-to-three live fire training events per year, with the exception of 2020, due to COVID.

Apparatus

Type	Designation	Year	Mfr.	Features
Engine/Rescue	30-10	2019	Rosenbauer	1250 GPM pump, 500 gal tank, 800 ft. 4" supply hose, 400 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 300 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, 400 ft. 1" suppression hose, 10 gal foam capacity, hydraulic extrication tools, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 1 10' ladder, 1 AED, 2 SCBAs, 3 spare tanks, other tools and equip
Engine	30-11	2011	KME	1250 GPM pump, 1000 gal tank, 2000 ft. 4" supply hose, 700 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 300 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, 10 gal foam capacity, thermal imaging cam, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 1 10' ladder, AED, 5 SCBAs, 5 spare tanks, deck gun, scene lighting, other tools and equipment
Engine/Tanker	30-12	2003	HME/Ferrara	1250 GPM pump, 1800 gal tank, 1500 ft. 4" supply hose, 500 ft. 3" supply hose. 450 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 250 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, hydraulic extrication tools, thermal imagining cam, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 1 10' ladder, 5 SCBAs, 4 spare tanks, gas powered generator, vent fan and other tools and equip
Rescue	30-14	2006	Ford/Ferrara	Trash pump 325 gpm, gas meter, AED, 2 SCBAs, 2 spare tanks, mobile cascade system, water rescue and rope rescue equipment

Other Equipment

Interior firefighters receive two sets of PPE; exterior firefighters receive one set. All receive one set of brush gear and rain gear. None of the gear is greater than 10 years old. The department utilizes Lion-brand turnout gear and Cairns helmets and Survivair-brand SCBAs.

Equipment testing

All pumps had been tested between 2021-2023. Annual hose and ladder testing is performed by an outside vendor. Annual SCBA maintenance and testing by an outside vendor is coupled with bi-weekly in-house inspection and maintenance.

Station

High Falls Volunteer Fire Company operates out of a single fire station at 7-11 Fire House Road. The 6,000 square foot station was built in phases over the years, with original bays dating to 1932, the hall and kitchen to 1950 and new bays to 1991. It contains four bays and one office, but no space for firefighters to sleep. There is a gear wash, a breathing air cascade system and an exhaust capture. It has a security system and a propane generator.

The hall and kitchen have needed substantial cleaning and renovation over the last year to mitigate a problem with black mold, but the areas have been returned to use.

Calls for Service Summary

Incidents by Time of Day	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Overnight 00:00-03:59	7	2	13	2	0.6
Early Morning 04:00-07:59	8	14	12	3	0.9
Morning 08:00-11:59	23	35	28	14	2.5
Afternoon 12:00-15:59	41	39	31	7	3.0
Evening 16:00-19:59	39	33	37	6	2.9
Night 20:00-23:59	15	21	14	5	1.4
Total for Year	*133*	*144*	*135*	*37*	11.2
* Through April 30, 2024					

Public Protection Classification Rating

The ISO PPC rating for the High Falls Fire District is a 4/4X. This rating places the HFFD in the top half of fire departments in New York State. As a volunteer department in a rural area, there are relatively few areas for the department to improve its rating. The two areas where there are the greatest potential for upside are Company Personnel and Training. For Company Personnel, there would need to be a substantial increase in the number of firefighters that arrive to calls to increase the points given. Similarly, the desired training regime in the standards is very challenging for a volunteer department to meet. The department would need to earn 2.4 additional points before its next rating. It may be possible to earn those points in the areas highlighted above and also working with the Emergency Communications Center to improve some of their practices,

	High Falls	Maximum
Emergency Communications		
414. Credit for Emergency Reporting	3.0	3
422. Credit for Telecommunicators	2.85	4
432. Credit for Dispatch Circuits	2.40	3
440. Credit for Emergency Communications	8.25	10
Fire Department		
513. Credit for Engine Companies	4.9	6

	High Falls	Maximum
523. Credit for Reserve Pumpers	0	0.5
532. Credit for Pump Capacity	3	3
549. Credit for Ladder Service	2.87	4
553. Credit for Reserve Ladder and Service Trucks	0	0.5
561. Credit for Deployment Analysis	7.77	10
571. Credit for Company Personnel	4.46	15
581. Credit for Training	3.05	9
730. Credit for Operational Considerations	2	2
590. Credit for Fire Department	28.05	50
Water Supply		
616. Credit for Supply System	27.00	30
621. Credit for Hydrants	2.51	3
631. Credit for Inspection and Flow Testing	2.17	7
640. Credit for Water Supply	31.68	40
Divergence	-4.62	
1050. Community Risk Reduction	4.33	5.5
	67.69	105.5
Rating	04/4X	Maximum

Budget Overview

High Falls Budget – 2023 & 2024		
Income	2023	2024
Grants	0	
Misc. Income	0	
Interest Income	25	500
Sale of Assets	0	
Tax Levy	355,040	364,926
Total Income	$ 355,065	$ 365,426
Expenses	2023	2024
Payroll Expenses	11,695	12,865
Benefits	110,495	106,854
Retirement	-	-
Insurance	22,400	39,840
Equipment / Apparatus	61,600	75,537
Facilities	42,250	39,100
Administrative	18,700	18,500
Training	2,000	2,000
FF / Fire Related	12,500	17,000
Supplies	2,100	2,500

High Falls Budget – 2023 & 2024		
Debt	12,829	12,830
Additions to Reserves	3,000	3,000
Other	25,000	25,000
Total Expenses	$ 324,569	$ 355,026
Net Income	$ 30,496	$ 10,400

Rosendale Fire District

The Rosendale Fire District was originally founded as the Village of Rosendale Fire Department in 1896 but became an independent district when the Village dissolved in 1978. The Fire District received the assets from the Village including the apparatus and fire station. There has been some ebb and flow in the number of members in recent years, but the department reports that it has been able to maintain a strong working culture among its members.

Personnel

Rosendale Fire Company reports that 25 volunteer firefighters are active in the department and two processing as of May 2024. Eleven are interior-qualified and 15 are qualified to drive the large apparatus. Three staff members are certified as an EMT with one currently studying to be certified and an additional member training to become a Paramedic. There are two volunteer lieutenants, two volunteer captains, one assistant chief and a volunteer chief.

The numbers in the table below may move slightly as there are applicants that are in process and people are taking classes to improve their credentials.

Staff	Number
Total Volunteer Personnel	25
Interior Qualified Firefighters	11
NYS Certified First Responders	0
NYS Certified EMTs (or higher)	3
Apparatus Drivers (Engine and/or Ladder/Quint)	15
Lieutenants	2
Captains	2
Battalion/Deputy/Assistant Chiefs	1
Chief	1

Training

Physical exams and fitness tests are required annually for all personnel.

Volunteer interior firefighters are required to have New York State Firefighter 1 (Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations/Interior Firefighting Operations) training, annual Job Performance Requirement (JPR) reviews, annual mayday and bailout training and quarterly SCBA training.

Lieutenants are required to have NYS Firefighter 1 and Pump Operator training. 2nd Lieutenants are required to be drivers of one apparatus while 1st Lieutenants are required to be drivers of two apparatus.

Captains must have 1 year of lieutenant experience, have completed NYS Firefighter 1, AVET and Pump Operator training.

Assistant Chiefs must have 1 years of captain experience before training. They must be the three fire apparatus and have completed Firefighter 1, AVET, Pump Operator, and Fire behavior/ arson awareness training.

A Chief has all the same training requirements as a Assistant Chief but must have served in the position for one year before advancing.

Apparatus operators must have pump operator training and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training as well as complete some in-house training.

The company does weekly department drill nights. They participate in mutual aid drills with neighboring departments. In the last three years, the company's firefighters were exposed to several live fire training situations including an annual mutual aid car fire drill held at Cottekill, an annual propane fire drill held at Ulster House, and live fire drills at the Ulster training center.

Apparatus

Type	Designation	Year	Mfr.	Features
Engine	50-10	2001	KME	1500 GPM pump, 1,000 gal tank, 1500 ft. 5" supply hose, 800 ft. 3" supply hose, 950 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 500 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, , 30 gal foam capacity, thermal imaging cameras, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 1 Attic ladder, 1 AED, 5 SCBAs, and 9 spare tanks
Engine/Rescue	50-12	2017	KME	1500 GPM pump, 750 gal tank, 1500 ft. 5" supply hose, 800 ft. 3" supply hose, 800 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 500 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, hydraulic extraction tools, thermal imaging cam, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 1 Attic ladder, AED, 5 SCBAs, 8 spare tanks
Tanker	50-50	2005	KME	1750 GPM pump, 3000 gal tank, 200 ft. 5" supply hose, 400 ft. 3" supply hose. 600 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 250 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose
Other	50-14	2024	Chevy	Utility Truck used for light rescue and EMS fly car

Type	Designation	Year	Mfr.	Features
Chiefs Car	Car 50	2020	Dodge	Dodge Durago with thermal imaging cameras, gas meter and 1 SCBA
Assistant Chief's Car	Car 50A	2016	Chevy	Chevy Tahoe with thermal imaging cameras, gas meter and 1 SCBA

Station

The Rosendale Fire District Station is located at 346 Main Street. It was built in 1955 and has about 3,400 square feet. There are two double bays in the station to park apparatus. The station has a breathing air cascade system and a diesel generator but does not have a gear wash, exhaust capture or security system. The station had an expansion in 1988 to accommodate larger apparatus. There is also an auxiliary building added for equipment storage in the mid 1990s.

Calls for Service Summary

Incidents by Time of Day	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Overnight 00:00-03:59	16	9	8	4	0.9
Early Morning 04:00-07:59	17	19	18	6	1.5
Morning 08:00-11:59	33	40	49	17	3.5
Afternoon 12:00-15:59	45	51	55	9	4.0
Evening 16:00-19:59	52	52	40	19	4.1
Night 20:00-23:59	35	32	19	4	2.3
Total for Year	*198*	*203*	*189*	*59*	16.2
* Through April 30, 2024					

Budget Overview

Rosendale Budget 2023 & 2024		
Income	**2023**	**2024**
Grants	-	-
Misc. Income	2804.01	
Interest Income	-	-
Sale of Assets	-	-
Tax Levy	270,400	275,500
Total Income	$ 273,204	$ 275,500
Expenses	**2023**	**2024**
Payroll Expenses	13,779	14,200
Benefits	7,713	9,000
Retirement	22,561	27,200
Insurance	26,438	28,625

Rosendale Budget 2023 & 2024		
Equipment / Apparatus	40,151	49,000
Facilities	32,185	37,725
Administrative	10,306	15,550
Training	949	3,000
FF / Fire Related	1,238	6,500
Supplies	3,866	3,000
Debt	-	-
Additions to Reserves	75,000	77,000
Other Fees	9,483	4,700
Total Expenses	$ 243,669	$ 275,500
Net Income	$ 29,535	$ (0)

Tillson Fire District

The Tillson Fire District was founded in 1934 to serve an area in southern portion of the Town of Rosendale. It operates out of a single station near the center of its district. The membership roles for the department have been holding level in recent years, although there have been relatively few new members to join. Most of the members work outside of the district during the day and are not available to respond. The area served is almost entirely residential except for a few commercial properties on the edges including along Route 32. There is early discussion about the need to build a new fire station as the current one has been in operation since the 1940s with minimal updates outside of an addition of truck bays. Automatic aid with Rosendale from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm

Personnel

Staff	Number
Total Volunteer Personnel	29
Interior Qualified Firefighters	15
BLS- AED / O2 / First Aid	10 CFRs
NYS Certified EMTs (or higher)	6 EMTS
Apparatus Drivers (Engine and/or Ladder/Quint)	12
Lieutenants	1
Captains	1
Battalion/Deputy/Assistant Chiefs	2
Chief	1

Training

Physical exams and fit tests are required annually for all personnel.

Before going to FF1 do in house training.

Volunteer interior firefighters are required to have New York State Firefighter 1 (Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations/Interior Firefighting Operations) training, annual Job Performance Requirement (JPR) reviews, annual mayday and bailout training and quarterly SCBA training.

Line Officers (Lieutenant and Captain) are required to have NYS Firefighter 1 and Pump Operator training. Need to be a member for three years

Assistant Chiefs must have 1 years of captain experience before training. They must be the three fire apparatus and have completed Firefighter 1, AVET, Pump Operator, and Fire behavior/ arson awareness training.

A Chief has all the same training requirements as a Assistant Chief but must have served in the position for one year before advancing.

Apparatus operators must have pump operator training and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training as well as complete some in-house training.

The company does monthly department drill nights. In the last three years, the company's firefighters were exposed to several live fire training situations including live fire drills at the Ulster training center.

Apparatus

Type	Designation	Year	Mfr.	Features
Engine	60-10	2006	KME	1500 GPM pump, 1,000 gal tank, 1500 ft. 4" supply hose, 950 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 150 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, 30 gal foam capacity, thermal imaging cameras, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 1 Attic ladder, 1 AED, medical 4 SCBAs, and 4 spare tanks
Engine	60-14	1993	Four Guys	1,250 GPM pump, 1,250 gal tank, 1050 ft. 4" supply hose, 200ft of 3" supply hose, 800 ft. 1 3/4 suppression hose, 150 ft. 2 1/2 suppression hose, deck gun, thermal imaging cameras, gas meter, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 1 Attic ladder, 1 AED, medical bag, 6 SCBAs, and 4 spare tanks
Tanker	60-12	2022	Kenworth T800, E-One	1500 gpm pump, 3000 gal tank, 1000 ft 5"supply hose, 550' of 1 3/4 suppression hose , 150' and 2x 200' of 2' suppression hose , 4 SCBAs, 4 spare tanks, 2 seats, thermal imaging camera, 1 24' ladder, 1 14' ladder, 3 hard suction hoses, suppression hose

Type	Designation	Year	Mfr.	Features
Utility	M-60	2015	Ford F-550 Diesel/ Spartan	Front Mount Winch, e-draulic rescue tools, chain saws, stokes, medical bag, AED, brush tools, backpacks, 200 gal tank, hose reel, small gpm tank, bullet proof vests 2 SCBA and 2 spare tanks, hand tools, tarps, pole lights, cribbing, ice rescue equipment
Chiefs	C-60	2022	Tahoe	Thermal imaging camera, 1 SCBA,1 spare tank, extinguisher, hand tools, command board, AED, medical bag
Asst. Chief	60-A	2014	Expedition	Thermal imaging camera, 1 SCBA,1 spare tank, extinguisher, hand tools, command board, AED, medical bag

Station

The Station is located at 5 Tillson Road and was constructed in 1950. There are four apparatus bays in the station. Two smaller bays are in the original portion of the building and two larger modern bays were added in 1993. The station also has a small office for the officers and commissioners to use and a small radio room. There is a large community room that is occasionally rented for social events to the public or used by the fire department for training. Below grade, there is also a room used by the fire company for some meetings, training and social events. The station does not have a generator or air handling for exhaust in the apparatus bays. There is a central heat and smoke detection system. There is a propane standby generator that can power the whole building.

Calls for Service Summary

Incidents by Time of Day	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Overnight 00:00-03:59	12	11	10	2	0.9
Early Morning 04:00-07:59	14	21	21	5	1.5
Morning 08:00-11:59	28	27	33	7	2.4
Afternoon 12:00-15:59	39	44	37	16	3.4
Evening 16:00-19:59	35	31	39	6	2.8
Night 20:00-23:59	30	32	17	5	2.1
Total for Year	*158*	*166*	*157*	*41*	13.1
* Through April 30, 2024					

Public Protection Classification

The Tillson Fire District has a rating of 9 from the Insurance Services Office. This rating was given based on a survey and was primarily based on the fact that there is no hydrant or water supply in the fire district.

Budget Overview

Tillson Budget 2023 & 2024		
Income	2023	2024
Grants	-	-
Misc. Income	1610	2,000
Interest Income	1067.13	200
Sale of Assets	-	-
Tax Levy	279,550	294,463
Total Income	$ 282,227	$ 296,663
Expenses	2023	2024
Payroll Expenses	11,099	11,584
Benefits	-	-
Retirement	-	-
Insurance	33,561	35,379
Equipment / Apparatus	44,508	71,400
Facilities	46,329	47,300
Administrative	6,248	12,300
Training	98	2,000
FF / Fire Related	1,204	6,000
Supplies	1,401	5,700
Debt	-	-
Additions to Reserves	95,000	105,000
Total Expenses	$ 239,448	$ 296,663
Net Income	$ 42,779	$ (0)

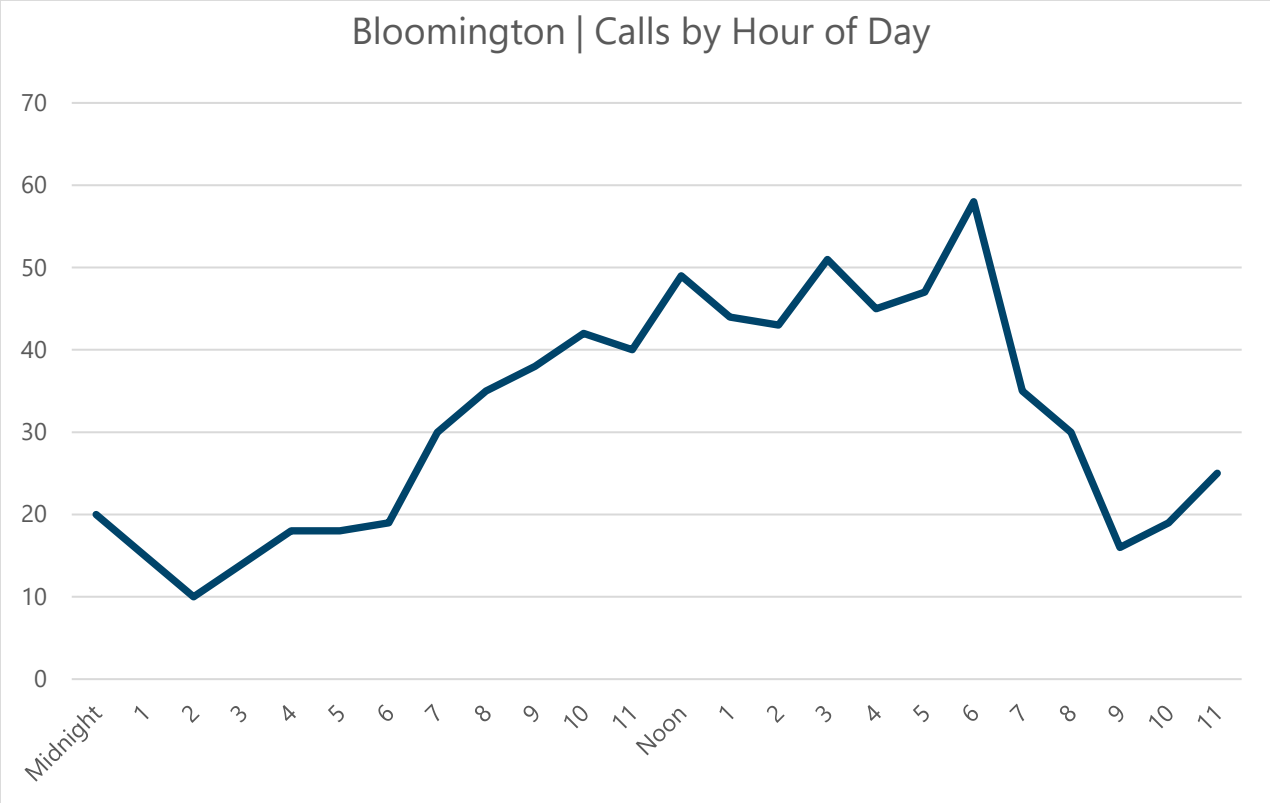
Appendix A Calls for Service Detail

The data on the following pages is from the Ulster County 911 center for calls dispatched to the five fire departments that primarily serve the Town of Rosendale from January 1, 2021 to April 30, 2024. These tables include events that might have had a response from multiple departments. For example, if a department was dispatched to house fire and required the assistance of two neighboring departments to extinguish the fire, all three would be shown as having responded to a house fire.

Bloomington

Bloomington - Incidents by Day of Week	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Sunday	26	38	38	12	2.9
Monday	29	36	25	9	2.5
Tuesday	30	34	21	9	2.4
Wednesday	37	32	33	5	2.7
Thursday	34	76	32	5	3.7
Friday	32	41	25	10	2.7
Saturday	28	24	30	10	2.3
	216	281	204	60	19.0

Bloomington - Calls by Month	2021	2022	2023	2024*
January	19	21	10	13
February	12	39	13	13
March	26	20	26	18
April	6	26	13	16
May	18	16	17	
June	27	27	12	
July	34	22	17	
August	15	21	30	
September	16	22	17	
October	17	18	14	
November	18	25	16	
December	8	24	19	
	216	*281*	*204*	*60*



Bloomington – Calls by Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Total
EMS Critical	53	83	59	17	212
Accident Personal Injury	33	41	33	11	118
Wire-Related/Outdoor Electrical	42	46	16	7	111
Fire Alarm	16	18	15	3	52
Structure Fire	9	9	13	5	36
Assist EMS	9	13	7	4	33
Public Service	7	12	8	2	29
EMS Unstable	9	8	7	2	26
Vehicle Fire	7	4	6	2	19
Brush Fire	4	5	5	2	16
HazMat	4	7	4		15
EMS Stable	1	1	12		14
Fire Investigation	5	6		1	12
Miscellaneous Fire	3	4	3	2	12
Assist Fire	1	5	4		10
Rescue	4	2	3		9
CO Alarm	2	3	2		7
Standby	2	2	3		7

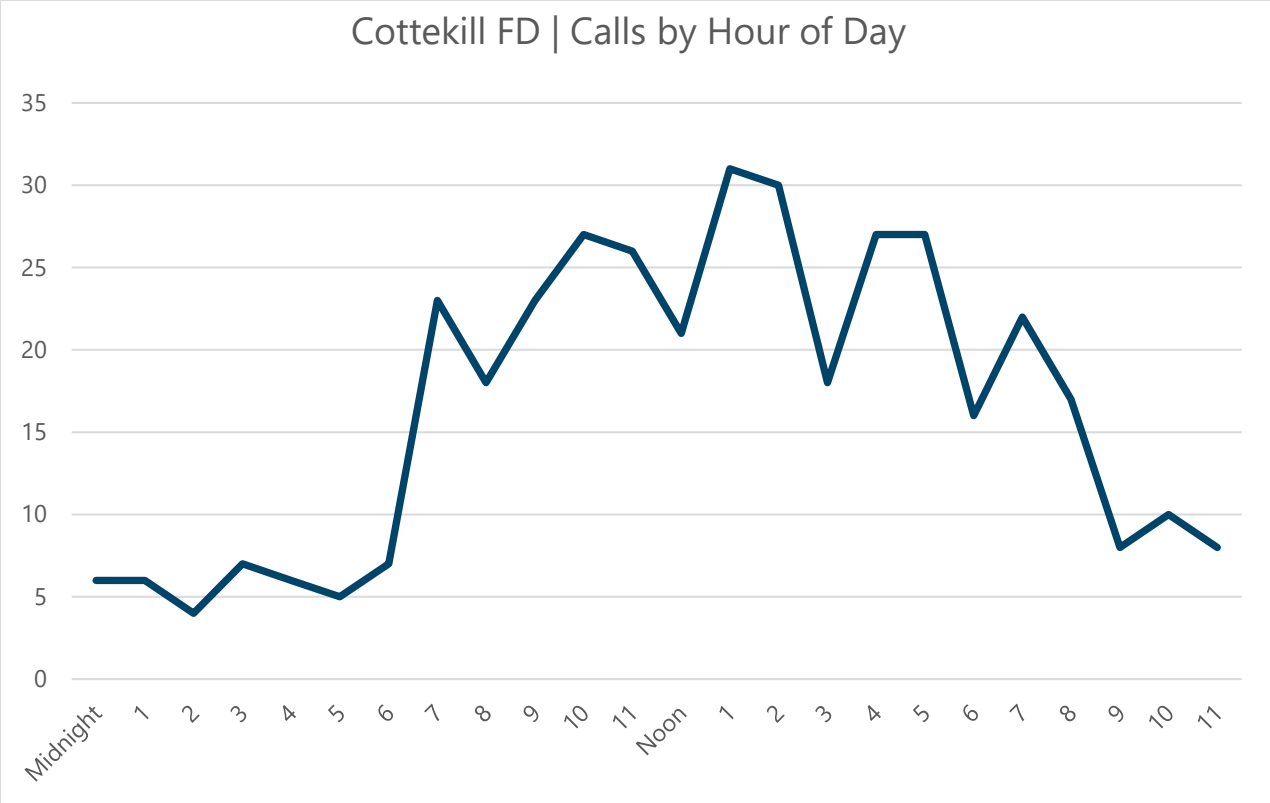
Bloomington – Calls by Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Total
Water Emergency		5		1	6
Unknown Type Fire	1	1	2		4
Error		1	2		3
911 No Voice Call	1	1			2
Mutual Aid	1	1			2
>New Call<	1				1
911 Test Call				1	1
Accident Property Damage	1				1
Fight		1			1
Medical Alarm		1			1
Road Hazard		1			1
	216	*281*	*204*	*60*	*761*

Bloomington - Venue	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Total
Rosendale	158	201	137	41	537
Ulster	50	71	57	17	195
Marbletown	3	3	3		9
Esopus		2	4	2	8
Rochester	3				3
Fallsburg		1			1
Hurley		1			1
Kingston City (KINC)			1		1
Lloyd	1				1
Marlborough			1		1
Olive			1		1
Plattekill	1				1
Shawangunk		1			1
Wawarsing		1			1
	216	*281*	*204*	*60*	*761*

Cottekill

Cottekill - Incidents by Day of Week	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Sunday	17	19	21	9	1.7
Monday	16	14	17	4	1.3
Tuesday	17	25	18	7	1.7
Wednesday	17	13	21	2	1.3
Thursday	18	25	19	6	1.7
Friday	10	16	15	3	1.1
Saturday	9	18	9	8	1.1
	104	130	120	39	9.8

Cottekill - Calls by Month	2021	2022	2023	2024*
January	6	13	9	11
February	11	10	7	8
March	7	5	10	9
April	8	11	9	11
May	10	9	10	
June	14	13	9	
July	9	13	11	
August	8	12	12	
September	5	10	16	
October	6	15	11	
November	10	11	10	
December	10	8	6	
	104	*130*	*120*	*39*



Cottekill – Calls by Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*
911 Test Call				2
Accident Personal Injury	16	10	10	1
Alarm Burglary		1		
Assist EMS	7	7	4	4
Assist Fire	2	4	3	
Brush Fire	4	1	1	1
CO Alarm	2	8	1	2
Controlled Burn	1	1		
Critical EMS	33	38	25	11
Error		1		
Fainting/Dizziness			1	
Fire Alarm	16	23	33	11
Fire Investigation	1	3	1	
HazMat	1	1	2	
Lock Out				1
Medical Alarm	1	1		
Miscellaneous Fire		1	1	
Mutual Aid	1	1		
Psychiatric Emergency		1		
Public Service		6	6	1
Rescue			6	1
Stable EMS		1	1	
Standby	1		2	

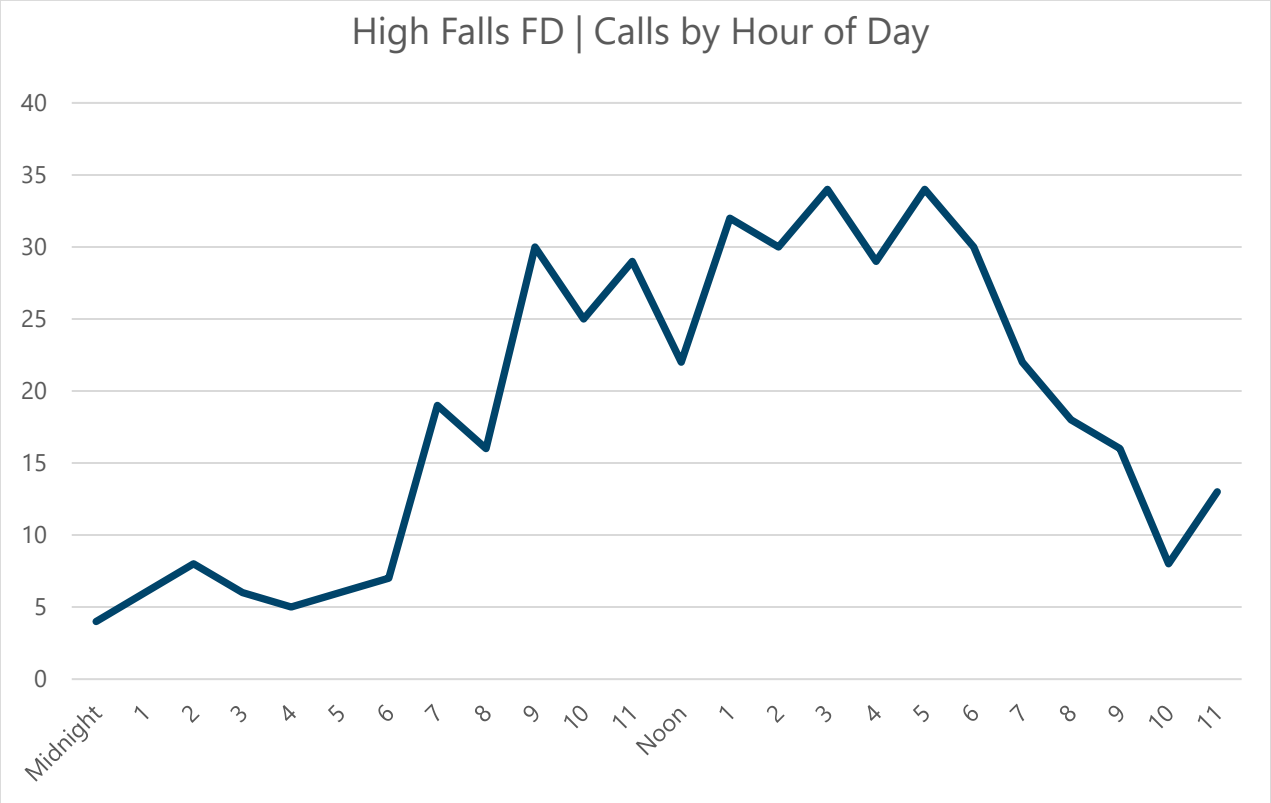
Cottekill – Calls by Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Structure Fire	10	15	16	2
Unknown Type Fire	1		3	1
Unstable EMS				1
Vehicle Fire	1			
Wire-Related/Outdoor Electrical	6	6	4	
	104	*130*	*120*	*39*

Cottekill – Calls by Venue	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Kingston City (KINC)				1
Marbletown	57	78	81	18
New Paltz (NEWT)			1	
Plattekill			1	
Rosendale	47	50	37	19
Shandaken		1		
Ulster		1		1
	104	*130*	*120*	*39*

High Falls

High Falls - Incidents by Day of Week	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Sunday	25	25	17	5	1.8
Monday	20	12	20	5	1.4
Tuesday	11	19	20	3	1.3
Wednesday	17	20	28	3	1.7
Thursday	29	26	26	7	2.2
Friday	18	17	16	5	1.4
Saturday	13	25	8	9	1.4
	133	144	135	37	11.2

High Falls - Calls by Month	2021	2022	2023	2024*
January	4	11	9	11
February	12	16	12	8
March	15	9	8	9
April	7	17	11	9
May	11	10	14	
June	13	12	10	
July	18	15	13	
August	11	14	13	
September	12	9	15	
October	12	11	13	
November	7	10	11	
December	11	10	6	
	133	*144*	*135*	*37*



High Falls – Calls by Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Accident Personal Injury	34	27	21	7
Alarm Burglary		1		
Assist EMS	1		5	1
Assist Fire	2	5	1	1
Brush Fire	4	4	3	1
CO Alarm	2	5	2	1
Controlled Burn	1		1	
Critical EMS	4	4	3	1
Fire Alarm	20	26	38	11
Fire Investigation	2	3	3	1
HazMat	1	2	2	
Miscellaneous Fire	1	4		
Psychiatric Emergency		1		
Public Service	11	13	1	3
Rescue	3	3	7	1
Stable EMS			2	1
Standby	1	1	3	
Structure Fire	14	19	17	2
Transport	1			

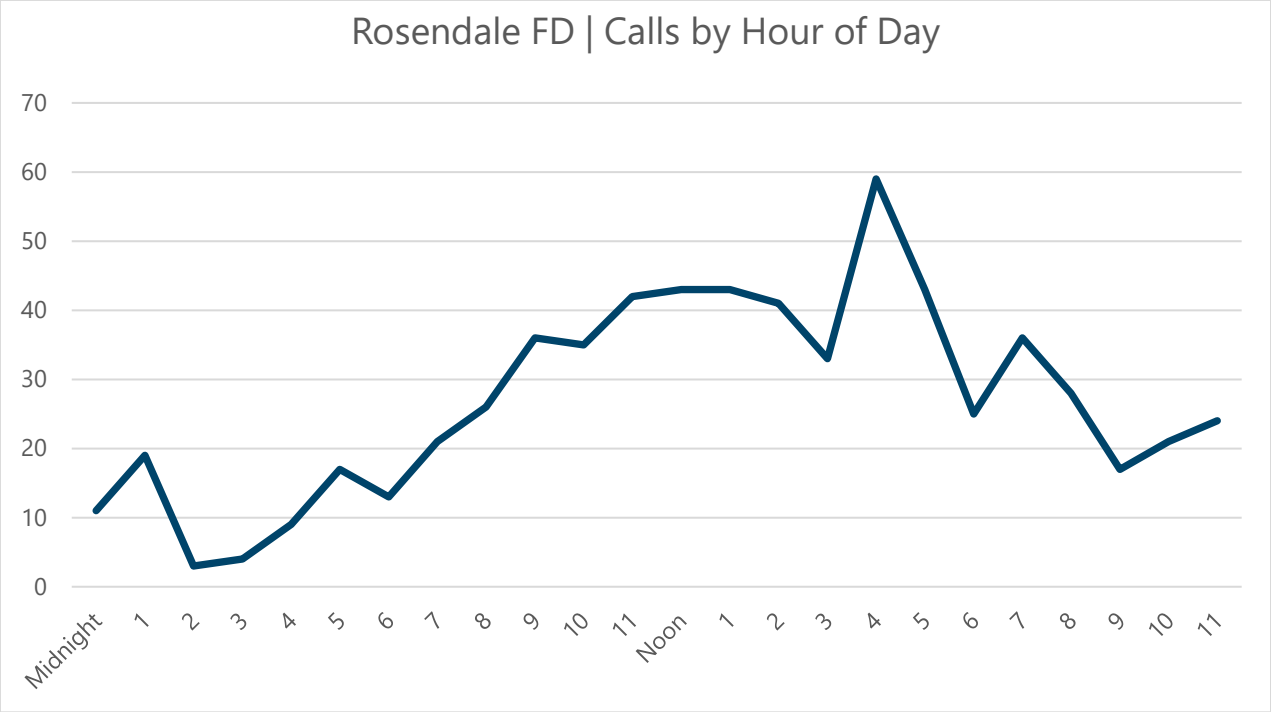
High Falls – Calls by Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Unknown Type Fire			3	1
Unstable EMS		1		
Vehicle Fire	2	1	1	
Wire-Related/Outdoor Electrical	29	24	22	5
	133	*144*	*135*	*37*

High Falls – Calls by Venue	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Hurley	1			
Lloyd		1	1	
Marbletown	99	95	108	28
New Paltz (NEWT)	2		1	
Rochester	2	5	3	
Rosendale	26	39	21	9
Shandaken			1	
Shawangunk		1		
Ulster	2			
Wawarsing	1	2		
	133	*143*	*135*	*37*

Rosendale

Rosendale - Incidents by Day of Week	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Sunday	28	25	28	8	2.2
Monday	22	33	30	4	2.2
Tuesday	30	31	19	11	2.3
Wednesday	38	31	29	8	2.7
Thursday	30	31	29	8	2.5
Friday	24	24	33	12	2.3
Saturday	26	28	21	8	2.1
	198	203	189	59	16.2

Rosendale - Calls by Month	2021	2022	2023	2024*
January	12	22	15	16
February	11	25	17	14
March	21	22	14	17
April	15	17	10	12
May	14	5	16	
June	18	14	21	
July	25	20	13	
August	18	20	25	
September	20	17	17	
October	21	7	13	
November	10	14	11	
December	13	20	17	
	198	*203*	*189*	*59*



Rosendale – Calls by Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*
>New Call<	2			
911 Abandoned Call			1	
Accident Personal Injury	10	18	17	2
Accident Property Damage	1			
Alarm Burglary	1			
Assist EMS	11	14	12	2
Assist Fire	4	4	2	1
Brush Fire	3	3		1
CO Alarm	4	2	6	
Critical	79	85	100	25
Difficulty Breathing		1		
Error		2	1	2
Fire Alarm	29	35	19	13
Fire Investigation	4	1		
HazMat	5	5	5	3
Miscellaneous Fire	5	3		1
Mutual Aid	1			
Public Service	8	2	2	
Rescue		1	2	
Stable	2	1		

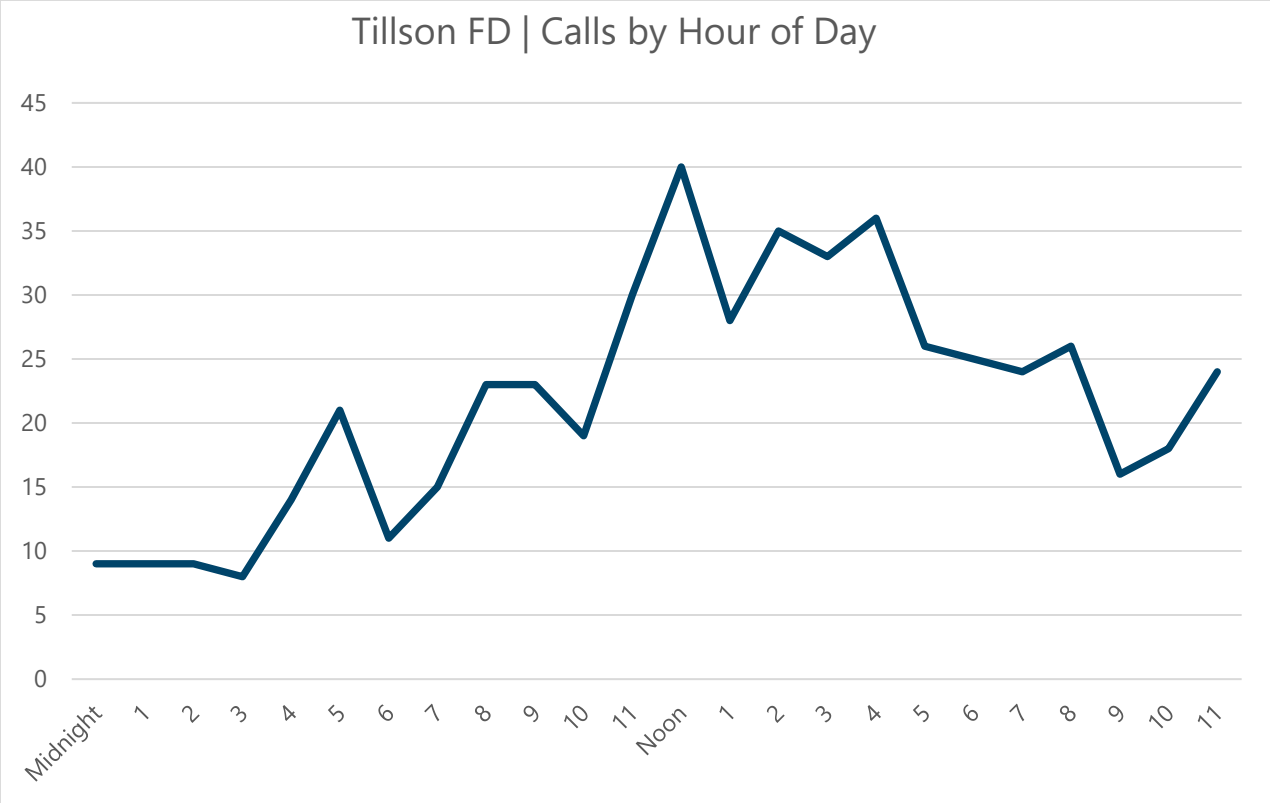
Rosendale – Calls by Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Standby	1		1	
Structure Fire	8	8	6	5
Unknown Type Fire		1	1	
Unstable	1			
Vehicle Fire		1	1	
Wire-Related/Outdoor Electrical	19	16	13	4
	198	*203*	*189*	*59*

Rosendale – Calls by Venue	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Marbletown	4	1	4	
New Paltz (NEWT)			1	
New Paltz Village (NEWV)		1		
Rochester		1		
Rosendale	191	200	184	59
Ulster	2			
Woodstock	1			
	198	203	189	59

Tillson

Tillson - Incidents by Day of Week	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Avg per Month
Sunday	15	23	17	8	1.6
Monday	14	29	22	2	1.7
Tuesday	29	17	27	7	2.0
Wednesday	29	19	21	7	1.9
Thursday	17	26	19	4	1.7
Friday	31	28	22	8	2.2
Saturday	23	24	29	5	2.0
	158	166	157	41	13.1

Tillson - Calls by Month	2021	2022	2023	2024*
January	12	8	11	10
February	10	25	18	12
March	14	11	8	12
April	10	18	12	7
May	14	12	17	
June	15	12	13	
July	13	18	9	
August	19	13	19	
September	15	11	10	
October	13	4	17	
November	11	14	12	
December	12	20	11	
Total	*158*	*166*	*157*	*41*



Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Total
EMS Critical	77	80	81	19	257
Structure Fire	14	10	11	5	40
Accident Personal Injury	7	17	11	1	36
Assist EMS	7	6	15	6	34
Wire-Related/Outdoor Electrical	13	13	6	2	34
Fire Alarm	7	7	13	5	32
Fire Investigation	9	4	2		15
Brush Fire	3	6	2		11
HazMat	1	3	5	1	10
Miscellaneous Fire	2	5	1	1	9
Assist Fire	4	4			8
Public Service	3	2	3		8
CO Alarm	2	1	1		4
Error		1	2	1	4
Vehicle Fire	3	1			4
Stable	1	1	1		3
Standby		2	1		3
Unknown Type Fire	1	1	1		3

Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Total
911 Test Call			1		1
Accident Property Damage	1				1
Alarm Burglary	1				1
Medical Alarm		1			1
Mutual Aid	1				1
Rescue		1			1
Water Emergency	1				1
Totals	158	166	157	41	522

Venue	2021	2022	2023	2024*	
Esopus	1	8	6	1	16
Gardiner		1			1
Kingston City (KINC)	1				1
Marbletown	2		2		4
New Paltz (NEWT)	4	1	4	1	10
New Paltz Village (NEWV)	1	1	1		3
Rosendale	146	152	142	39	479
Saugerties (SAUT)		1			1
Ulster	1	1	2		4
Wawarsing	2	1			3
	158	166	157	41	522

Appendix B – Consolidation Efforts

Regardless of future efforts to more formally combine the organizations, it is recommended that the involved agencies, at a minimum, evaluate as many of the identified functional strategies as are found to be applicable.

A two-phase process of integration is recommended.

- Phase one would be an enhanced intergovernmental agreement for fire chiefs and administrative services among all five agencies.
- Phase two would be a more formal cooperative service model through a fully integrated Fire District, a fire district administrative merger or consolidation into a new fire district.

Implementation Ideas and Next Step

- Conduct a visioning session with policymakers to determine whether the organizations want to move forward and, if so, in what manner.
- Invite external stakeholders into the process to advise the policymakers from a community perspective.
- Establish a Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) that will be given the overall responsibility with leadership and management of the planning and implementation process.
- Develop an implementation strategic plan to align expectations and develop actionable goals and objectives that will move the cooperative service project forward.
- Establish specific implementation planning work groups by function (e.g. Support Services and Logistics, Operations etc.). Once the working groups are established, they will set their meeting schedules and begin their various responsibilities and assignments.
- Establish a regularly scheduled briefing process from the chairs of each working group to the Joint Implementation Committee and from the JIC to the policymakers.
- Establish a communication strategy to keep internal members informed, or act as a clearinghouse for rumors. Establish a communication strategy to keep the communities and media informed when key milestones have been achieved or a change in direction has occurred. Communication should be positive, transparent, timely, and coordinated.

Considerations

While each of the participating agencies operates under its respective policy documents, all have the appropriate baseline policy and operational documents in place that are needed to operate a successful organization. In the five fire district agencies, shared policy and operational manuals should be place and be under review. Moving forward, it will be essential that the five districts continue to assure that these foundational documents continue to be adequately and effectively integrated, given the crossover that exists.

The five fire districts have also established the appropriate foundational elements. All organizations should have board policy manuals, administrative policy documents, and standard operating guidelines are in place. Should the participants elect to formally combine their operations in the future, the departments should work closely together to establish a common set of operational policies and procedures to increase the consistency of service delivery across the region.

Development of a joint strategic plan with all the participating agencies would strengthen each agency's foundational structure and create cohesiveness between the agencies. Goals and objectives would flow from a strategic plan, which could include partnership and/or integration between the agencies.

Critical issues and corresponding operational plans to address the issues facing the agencies are not formally developed for all the participating agencies. Incorporating these into a strategic planning process can focus the agencies toward addressing the critical issues in a coordinated and efficient manner. Ultimately, the agencies could establish a specific strategic plan for working toward combining the agencies into a single, cohesive fire district.

Developing a standardized methodology for the development, adoption, and updating of policies would benefit all the participating agencies and assist with consistent policies that contribute to enhanced field coordination and fire ground operations.

The critical issues the agencies have in common are staffing needs and funding. These two critical needs compel the agencies to work with each other for support to achieve what would be difficult as independently operating, isolated agencies. Regardless of the outcome of this study, the agencies must continue to work collaboratively and expand their collaboration for the services they provide to their constituents.

- Quality communications is an always sought after but seldom fully achieved goal for most organizations. Organizations with wise leadership are never satisfied with the level of communication their organization achieves, recognizing the importance of thorough communication up and down the organization internally and outward by the organization to its customers or constituents. To their credit, each agency has developed various communication processes internally and to some degree externally with their constituents. External communication processes with the communities served could be improved for all six agencies.
- It is also essential that organizations maintain appropriate records and documentation of their practices. Not all districts provide critical equipment testing in accordance with best practices and standards. In some cases, established industry standards and requirements are being exceeded. Future consideration should be given to the standardized and integrated mandated equipment testing for improved quality and economies of scale. The fire districts do not have a capital facilities or equipment inventory and replacement plan in place, or funding dedicated for replacement. A single fire district could develop and utilize a standardized capitol replacement standard, schedule and funding methodology to ensure consistency of replacement and reliability of apparatus and capital equipment.

Appendix C- Apparatus Considerations

Overall

Other than the emergency responders, response vehicles are the next most important resource of the emergency response system. If emergency personnel cannot arrive quickly due to unreliable transportation, or if the equipment does not function properly, then the delivery of emergency service is likely compromised. Fire apparatus are unique and specialized pieces of equipment, customized to operate efficiently for a defined mission. For this reason, they are very expensive and offer little flexibility in use and reassignment. As a result, communities always seek to achieve the longest life span possible for these vehicles.

A key consideration in evaluating the feasibility of combining agencies into one district is the cost that can be expected to be incurred for future replacement of major equipment. Apparatus service lives can be readily predicted based on factors including vehicle type, call volume, age, and maintenance considerations. Calculation of acceptable service lives for fire apparatus varies widely between fire departments due to differing uses, road conditions, maintenance practices, and other variables. In larger, busy, fire departments, a front-line service life of 10 to 15 years is commonly combined with a five-year reserve status. In smaller agencies, 15 to 25 years is more commonly found, a portion of which may be in reserve.

Unfortunately, no piece of mechanical equipment can be expected to last forever. As a vehicle ages, repairs tend to become more frequent, parts are more difficult to obtain, and downtime for repair increases. Given the emergency mission that is so critical to the community, downtime is one of the most frequently identified reasons for apparatus replacement.

Because of the expense of fire apparatus, most communities develop replacement plans. To enable such planning, communities often turn to the accepted practice of establishing a life cycle for the apparatus that results in an anticipated replacement date for each vehicle. The communities then set aside incremental funds during the life of the vehicle, so cash is available when needed. This decision is influenced by many factors:

Actual hours of use of any specific piece of equipment can vary significantly in comparison to other similar apparatus, even within the same fire department. Attempts to shuffle like-apparatus among busy and slower fire stations to distribute hours of use more evenly have proven difficult. Frequent changes in apparatus create familiarity and training challenges. In addition, certain response areas may have equipment and tool requirements that are not common to others.

Actual hours of use, even if evenly distributed, do not necessarily equate to intensity of use. For example, a pumper making mostly emergency medical responses will not age as rapidly as a pumper with a high volume of working fire incidents that require intense use of the pump or hydraulics. However, for every hour you idle an engine it is equivalent to driving 33 to 35 miles of wear and tear. Likewise, road mileage can also be a poor indicator of deterioration and wear.

Technology, which is increasingly a factor in fire equipment design, becomes outdated even if the apparatus wear is not as significant. In some departments, crews at different fire stations deal with widely different technology on pumpers simply because of the age of the equipment. These differences can be significant, affecting everything from safety and lighting systems to automated digital pump pressure controls and injection foam generation.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1901: Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus

This is a nationally recognized standard for the design, maintenance, and operation of fire suppression apparatus. The issue of replacement cycles for various types of apparatus has been discussed in the committee that develops the standard for many years. In developing its latest edition, the NFPA Fire Department Apparatus Committee called for a life cycle of 15 years for front-line service and 5 years in reserve status for engines, 20 years in front-line service and 5 years in reserve status for ladder trucks.

Many fire departments in the United States might prove otherwise. Small, volunteer fire departments with only a hundred or so calls per year often get up to 25 years from a pumper, though the technology is admittedly not up to date. Likewise, busy fire stations in some urban communities move their engines out of front-line status in as little as 8 years. In addition, rural off-road utilization of heavy fire apparatus can cause significant wear and tear on apparatus and significantly shorten the life expectancy of the apparatus well below nationally recommended standards. The reality is that it may be best to establish a life cycle for use in the development of replacement funding for various types of apparatus when possible.

Shortening the replacement cycle allows an apparatus to be replaced at optimal savings to the department. If an agency does not routinely replace equipment in a timely manner, the overall reduction in replacement spending can result in a quick increase of maintenance and repair expenditures. Regardless of its net effect on current apparatus costs, the deferral of replacement purchases unquestionably increases future replacement spending needs and may impact operational capabilities and safe and efficient use of the apparatus.

Engine Companies

ISO reviews the number of engine companies, their pump capacity, hose testing, pump testing and the equipment carried on pumpers. To be recognized, pumper apparatus must meet the general criteria of NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus which include a minimum 250 gpm pump, an emergency warning system, a 300-gallon water tank, and hose. The review of the number of needed pumpers considers the Basic Fire Flow; the response distance to built-upon areas; the method of operation; and the response outside the city. Multiple alarms, simultaneous incidents, and life safety are not considered to determine the number of needed engine companies.

The methods of operation are evaluated to determine the number of needed engine companies to be in service and available for response to structure fires. A minimum of at least two engine companies shall respond to all first alarms of structure fires. The Fire Flow requirements shall be available of meeting the demands in pumping capabilities to respond to

first alarms of reported structure fires. The Basic Fire Flow for the community is determined by the review of the Needed Fire Flows for selected building fires in the community. The maximum that the Basic Fire Flow can be is 3,500 gpm. Full credit can be achieved when ISO evaluates the pumping capacities of the apparatus in the Town.

Distribution studies determine coverage to the geographical areas in the town of Rosendale. This Item examines the number and adequacy of existing engine companies to cover built-upon areas of the town. The built-upon area of the town should have a fully equipped first-due engine company within 1½ miles of a fire station and a fully equipped ladder or rescue company within 2½ miles of a fire station.

For the Town of Rosendale, the number of needed engine companies based on the current number of fire stations (by ISO rating criteria) is 3 engine companies needing to be in service. This is based on the possibility that the Binewater fire station would be placed out of service if a single fire district were to be formed. The Highfalls and Cottenkill stations are not considered in the new reconfiguration of the fire district.

1. In addition to the engine companies there should be a minimum of one tanker truck at two of the 3 fire station locations. A minimum of 4000 gallons of water on board should be dispatched to the locations of any reported structure fires.
2. A total of 3 engine companies would be needed to satisfy the ISO rating requirements for this projection. Some of the existing apparatus would need to be relocated into key fire station's locations to maximize their benefits.
3. One engine company would be needed as a reserve piece to satisfy the rating requirements. For each area having up to 8 in service engine companies at least one engine company should be designated as a reserve piece. The reserve piece should be fully equipped to receive maximum credit. This could be accomplished by taking any extra equipment off the apparatus that may be sold for surplus.

Ladder Companies

No ladder companies are required due to responses inside the district The number of needed ladder trucks is dependent upon the number of buildings 3 stories or 35 feet or more in height, buildings with a Needed Fire Flow greater than 3,500 gpm, the response distance to built-upon areas, the method of operation and the response outside the city. The evaluation should be determined by looking at habitable areas at three stories or higher. Church steeples or silos were not included in the height evaluation. There is the potential that if a large hotel were completed in the district, this decision would need to be revisited. High Falls already utilizes a ladder on automatic aid to certain dispatches at the Mohonk Mountain House. Additionally, ladder companies can be useful on other types of fires such as 2 story buildings and chimney fires which can lead some communities to operate them even if not required.

The number of ladder companies, the height of the aerial ladder, aerial ladder testing and the equipment carried on the in-service ladder trucks is compared with the number of needed ladder trucks listed in the ISO equipment list. Ladder trucks must meet the general criteria of NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus to be recognized.

Rescue/Service Vehicles

Bloomington currently has one heavy rescue company in service. The vehicle carries lifesaving equipment that is utilized during various incidents in the town. The rescue company provides equipment utilized at motor vehicles accidents with entrapment, technical rescue types of incidents, scene support at structure fires and various equipment utilized in salvage and property conservation incidents. Rosendale and Tillson both have apparatus that carry rescue tools.

Based on the size of the area serviced a minimum of one Service company (Heavy Rescue) would be needed to meet response area criteria. This would consider Bloomington Rescue18-42 to be in service and respond to all reported structure fires. Consideration may also be given to relocating this vehicle to the Rosendale fire station to accommodate much of the fire district when it comes to response times, although the proximity to the Thruway must also be considered.

Hauled Water Supply

Water supply is a key component for the ISO rating process. Credit can be applied when they deliver at a rate of 250 gallons per minute or more by the fire department apparatus either carrying and or relaying water to the fire. The fire department must be able to achieve that application rate within 5 minutes of the initial arrival of the apparatus at the fire site and must continue for the fire flow duration. If the fire department can increase the rate of flow within 15 minutes of arrival at the fire site and can continue the higher flow for the fire flow duration credit can be applied at the higher rate for the ISO rating.

The formula assumes that the average speed of the fire apparatus will be 35 mph. Assume slower speeds in cases of adverse road conditions or apparatus laying hose lines. The fire department supply is the capacity of the supply for the fire duration, the capacity of the source pumping equipment on the apparatus, the capacity of the delivery equipment, mobile water supply apparatus and or hose lines, or the capacity of the final delivery pumping equipment, whichever is least, at the test location expressed.

The new Rosendale fire district would have more than 10,000 gallons of water, carried on board apparatus responding to the scene of first alarms of a reported structure fire. Reference should be made to NFPA Standard 1142, *Standard on Water Supplies for the Suburban and Rural Firefighting* for criteria to establish of a fire department supply.

To continue to meet the 8B ISO rating criteria, a minimum of 4000 gallons of water needs to be carried on board for first alarm assignments in the non-hydrated areas (Areas farther than 1000 feet from a recognized water supply point or fire hydrant). This is much of the rural area within the town. It is recommended that three tankers respond for alarms in the unhydranted area. Based upon this recommendation a minimum of 10,750 gallons of water (on board the apparatus) would be available for the first alarm assignments. This would give the fire department an adequate water supply to handle a first alarm of fire in a structure.

Suction Points and Hose Lays

Where rivers, canals, streams, ponds, wells, cistern, or other similar sources are available to supply for the fire department pumpers, evaluate the suction supply with respect to its ability to satisfy the needed fire flow and test locations. Consider accessibility and availability during freezing weather, floods, drought, or other adverse conditions. The total suction supply credit is sum of suction supplies at the test location for the fire duration or the capacity of the fire department pumping equipment, whichever is less, expressed in gallons per minute. NFPA Standard 1142, *Standard on Water Supplies for the Suburban and Rural Firefighting* should also be referenced for this section. Credit for this category should be determined by the fire department to see if a reduction in their ISO rating may apply. Rosendale has several potential sources of water in the district that should be considered for creation of suction points.