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## WESTFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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During the fiscal year 2007, the Westford Volunteer Fire Department responded to 25 emergency calls, and volunteered over 900 hours in direct service to the community.

- **232** hours were spent responding to emergency calls as follows:

4	Structure fires
1	Structure fire rekindle
1	Chimney fire
3	Grass or brush fires
6	Motor vehicle accidents
3	Carbon monoxide or fuel leak investigations
1	First aid/general assistance
2	Calls for fallen trees on wires
1	Smoke detector malfunction
2	Stand-by calls for mutual aid departments
1	canceled call

- Over **500** hours were spent in training of fire personnel and maintaining the town's fire apparatus, equipment, and dry hydrants.

- Over **200** hours were spent attending department business meetings, meetings with other fire departments, and meetings in the community, including providing fire safety education to students at the Westford School.

We would like to thank the people of Westford for your support in enabling us to purchase a new air-utility-rescue truck (replacing the modified 1989 GMC currently in service), which is due to be delivered this spring. In conjunction with purchasing this vehicle, our members have been engaging in extensive vehicle extrication training. Our goal is for all members to be proficient in vehicle extrication methods and practices by July 1, 2008. We have been training with a set of newly purchased portable extrication tools. These tools will ultimately be put into service on our new truck. Motor vehicle accidents account for a significant number of our calls. This equipment and training will allow our department to address these emergencies in a timely and effective manner.

During 2007, we continued to expand Westford's system of dry hydrants, which provide water sources in the event of a fire. This year, the town center hydrant was refurbished, and an additional hydrant was installed at the site. This is our primary site for town center water supply. We also use this site extensively for pump and water supply training. Grant funding for these hydrants was provided by the Vermont George

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Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council. The Town of Westford now has a total of 10 dry hydrants.

Also in 2007, we installed a donated back-up generator, which will supply power to the fire department and the town garage in the event of a power outage.

In 2007, the Fire Department celebrated its 25th anniversary. We were pleased that so many Westford residents and former department members were able to attend our September celebration on the Westford Common.

During Fire Prevention Week in October, members of the Department brought fire safety presentations to all classes of the Westford School, from preschool to grade 8. Through this yearly program, students have become increasingly proficient in discussing their family home escape plans, and ways to stay safe during an emergency.

We would like to thank our Auxiliary members for organizing and participating in activities to raise funds for the Department. Their efforts increase by countless hours the contribution of time invested to keep our town's emergency services vital and up to date.

We would like to extend our thanks to the fire departments and rescue crews of the surrounding communities. Fire departments from Fairfax, Essex, Underhill-Jericho, and Milton assist us with emergency responses when needed, and ask only that we do the same in return. Thanks to the Fairfax, Essex, and Milton Rescue Squads, and to Essex and Cambridge Heavy Rescue units.

Our roster currently stands at 19 members, 14 of whom are interior certified fire fighters. We welcomed a record 9 new members this year. We would like to thank Bill Bonk, Cathy Gwozdz, Jon Kolinich, Shane Phillips, Andrew Macdonald, and Joe Klemm for their years of service to the Department. The Fire Department meets weekly on Monday evenings at 7 pm. Please stop by the station any meeting night to learn more about becoming a member. Our new website is up and running: <http://www.westfordvolfd.org>

The Department roster includes the following members at the close of 2007:

Randy Botala	Chief
Bill Fay	Assistant Chief
John Quinn	Captain, Treasurer
Steve Willard	Captain

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Art Gwozdz	Firefighter
Seth Jensen	Firefighter
Nick Klemm	Firefighter
Craig Helfrich	Firefighter
Grant Thomas	Firefighter
Steve Kolinich	Firefighter
Gordon Gebauer	Firefighter
Blain Sadler	Firefighter
Mike Bishop	Firefighter
Jesse Fleming	Firefighter
Ryan Zeno	Firefighter
Steven Toth	Firefighter
Derrick Kendrew	Firefighter
Chris Tardie	Junior Firefighter
Susan Schmidt	Secretary

I would like to thank our Department members and their families for their very generous contribution of time and energy. They provide professional emergency services to our town without pay. This results in a cost for emergency protection far below that of surrounding communities, all of which pay their fire department members for services provided.

Thank you to the residents of Westford for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Botala, Chief

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**WESTFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
DISBURSEMENTS - RECEIPTS FY 2007**

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**RECEIPTS :**

Reimbursements	2,015.99	
Grants	0.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$2,015.99</b>

Checking Account Balance on Hand 7/01/06		2,867.44
Operating Budget from Town General Fund		42,500.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$47,383.43</b>

**EXPENSES :**

Administrative Equipment & Supplies	1,812.97	
Communications		
Telephone Service	485.58	
New Pager/Radio Purchase	2,067.50	
Radio Maintenance & Repair	400.95	
Awards/Donations	386.65	
Dues & Subscriptions	162.50	
Fire Prevention/Public Education Supplies	1,772.27	
Fund Raising	110.18	
Building Expense	8,308.38	
Gas & Oil	237.32	
Insurance	12,000.00	
Dry Hydrant Materials	-	
Fire Fighting Supplies	387.50	
Personal Safety Equipment	1,298.89	
Small Equipment Maintenance	660.58	
Small Equipment Purchase	3,266.20	
Station Supplies	584.33	
Training	2,959.19	
Truck Maintenance/Repair	8,376.40	
Computer Hardware/Software/Maintenance	748.38	
Cascade Air System/Maintenance	626.95	
SCBA Equipment/Maintenance	<u>517.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$47,169.72</b>

Checking Account Balance on Hand 6/30/07		213.71
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<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$47,383.43</b>
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Respectfully submitted,  
John Quinn, Treasurer

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