

HINESBURG
FIRE
DEPARTMENT



STRATEGIC PLAN

2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Vision
2. Surveys & Results
 - a. Strengths
 - b. Weaknesses
 - c. Threats
3. Mission Statement
4. Department Objectives and Strategies
5. Summary
6. Apparatus Replacement Timeline
7. Appendix

VISION

The Hinesburg Fire Department was officially organized in 1943 by a small group of volunteers. The first truck was an old Chevrolet with a 55-gallon drum and a container of baking soda. When the baking soda was inverted into the tank, it created pressure for the single small hose. The Department and equipment have come a long way.

Because of good forethought and action by the Firemen's Association and tremendous support by the Town of Hinesburg, the Department has grown to meet our expanding needs by adding equipment and services as required.

We wish to continue this trend. After careful thought and consideration, in order to maintain our first rate department, we have adopted this strategic plan as a road map.

We see our town continuing its growth due to our location in southern Chittenden County. Because of Hinesburg's desirable quality of life, people will continue to migrate here.

Our plan and goal is to assure the citizens of Hinesburg that fire, rescue, and medical services provided by the Hinesburg Fire Department will continue to be of the highest quality in order to meet our community's expectations of the greatest level of protection and care at a reasonable expense.

SURVEYS AND RESULTS

In order to ascertain our strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities to build our strategic plan, we have done an intensive study of our equipment, facilities, level of training, personnel and our community. We also used data from Vermont Housing reports, the U.S. Census Bureau, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and the town Development Review Board, years of firefighting experience, and local knowledge.

STRENGTHS:

1. Equipped to meet most of today's needs.
2. Well trained membership.
3. Teamwork with other town departments.
4. Strong public support.
5. Strong mutual aid system with surrounding towns.
6. Most police officers are EMS trained.
7. Efficient delivery of EMS is provided by a skilled first response organization.

WEAKNESSES:

1. Limited base of daytime coverage (7:00AM - 6:00PM).
2. Increasing number of structures that are beyond the reach of current equipment.
3. Fire station capacity is exceeded.
4. Available seating in classroom and meeting area is insufficient for current needs.
5. Lack of space for possible housing of staff.
6. Retention of well trained personnel has become an issue.

THREATS:

1. Limited or no response to daytime calls.
2. Inability to provide life saving actions due to lack of proper equipment for multi-story buildings.
3. Inadequate room for equipment storage requiring members to respond to multiple locations to obtain needed equipment at time of call.
4. Increased demand from regulatory agencies regarding the minimum training levels required.
5. New methods of construction (laminated trusses/staircases and new building materials) has compromised our ability to effectively fight fires.
6. Inability to deal with the ever increasing number of structures.

Hinesburg Fire Department

MISSION STATEMENT

Our plan and goal is to assure the citizens of Hinesburg that fire, rescue, and medical services provided by the Hinesburg Fire Department will continue to be of the highest quality in order to meet our community's expectations of the greatest level of protection and care at a reasonable expense.

DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE OUR FACILITY TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE EQUIPMENT, APPARATUS, TRAINING AND V.O.S.H.A REGULATIONS.

STRATEGY: One of the greatest assets of the Hinesburg Fire Department is its central location. Being located in the center of town with immediate access to Route 116 allows a quick and effective response to all areas of our town. This enhances our insurance rating for the entire community.

However, while the location of the fire station can be seen as an asset, the facility has exceeded its capacity. We currently need additional space to store medical and firefighting supplies and equipment. Also needed is a larger area for training, classroom space, and additional bays to consolidate all equipment in one location.

In the future, we will need additional space for men's and women's showers and sleeping quarters. As our service demands increase and special circumstances warrant (such as natural and man-made disasters), overnight staffing of the station may be necessary.

Instead of replacing our facility, it is our intention to add on to the current station. This would allow us to be as cost-effective as possible while meeting the needs described above. We have been working with a local architect to design a floor plan that meets our needs. These plans include the addition of two bays on the south side of the station, expanded storage space, and an expanded meeting room, with direct public access.

OBJECTIVE: IDENTIFY AND SECURE FUNDING FOR STATION EXPANSION

STRATEGY: Part of the funding for the new building would be from impact fees collected by the town from new development. The Department would assist in researching funding options including, but not limited to, grants, donations and a bond.

OBJECTIVE: ENSURE WE HAVE ADEQUATE PUMP CAPACITY AND PROPER LADDERING CAPABILITIES TO REACH CURRENT AND FUTURE BUILDING HEIGHTS SAFETY.

STRATEGY: We currently have buildings in town¹ that present significant challenges if not impossibilities to life safety and fire suppression. The housing projects now being proposed include higher density and taller structures. The town building code now allows for building height of 45 feet. This is beyond the reach of our ground ladders and poses a significant risk to life safety.

Our capabilities for fire suppression would also prove ineffective should fire exist in the upper reaches of a building. Due to the height of buildings constructed in the past five years, and buildings now being brought before the Town, the Department has an immediate need for an

¹ The following structures have been identified as high risk due to their height and/or limited access to roofs and upper floors: CVU High School, the former Saputo Foods site, Lantman's Market, NRG, Lyman Meadows development, Hinesburg Community School (the old white building), Village Heights development, Green Street development, Hinesburg Center and Thistle Hill development

aerial device. This apparatus is not only required for evacuation of these buildings, but also for fire suppression and exposure protection when ground attack is not possible due to obstructions such as fences, buildings, or land terrain. The aerial device is also required when building depth is such that an outside attack is not possible and an aerial attack is required.

In order to meet the challenges currently presented by large structures, we require an aerial apparatus. As soon as the station expansion is approved, we would begin to prepare a list of needs for the apparatus. After bond approval we would order the apparatus and expect delivery in about 12 to 15 months.

Our plan is to specify this apparatus as a pumper with a hydraulic ladder. A pumper with a hydraulic ladder is more suitable for our community than an aerial device with a bucket. -This apparatus will increase our pump capacity which helps our ISO rating, requires less space in the station, and is easier to maneuver.

Our plan is to purchase a used pumper with a hydraulic ladder. The purchase would be supplemented by impact fees collected by the town for new development. The Department would review and determine the best purchase option – bond, lease or other.

OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE OUR MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE DEVELOPING OUR HIGH LEVEL OF TRAINING

STRATEGY: The current training strategy of the Hinesburg Fire Department consists of in-house trainings conducted by senior members of the Department and occasional contracted trainings with independent professionals. The Department is increasing public awareness to recruit more members. To increase diversity of training, the Department is arranging for more outside instructors for specialized training.

OBJECTIVE: CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EMS SERVICE AT A LEVEL THAT INCIDENT FREQUENCY AND THE TOWN DICTATES; ALSO, ACQUIRE AN ALS (ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT) AMBULANCE WHEN THE NEED ARISES

STRATEGY: EMS Training has been organized at the State level and we expect that to continue. Our objective is to achieve or exceed the EMS certification goals put forward by the training committee and requirements set by the regulatory standards of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. Effective January 1, 2014, the State of Vermont implemented new EMS Protocols which expanded the scope of practice for all levels of emergency responders. The Department plans to continue to conduct in-house EMS training on a regular basis. We have expanded our training to meet the mandatory training hours to maintain our certifications.

As our call volume increases, we are having more simultaneous calls resulting in additional ambulances from other towns being called for transport. The Department is monitoring the call volume and realizes there will be a need, based on this volume and longer response time from outside ambulances, to purchase an Advanced Life Support Ambulance.

OBJECTIVE: DEVELOP MEMBERSHIP TO MAINTAIN 24-HOUR COVERAGE

STRATEGY: The Department believes that if we are unable to offer greater incentives to our members we will need to begin planning for paid personnel during daytime, weekday hours. Possible incentives may include, but are not limited to, property tax relief and stipends. We will

enlist community and select board members to help us review the possibilities. We will continue a strong recruiting effort for members and hope that the Hinesburg Community Police Department will continue their commitment to EMS involvement consistent with their call volume.

We also believe that providing overnight accommodations will result in greater manpower coverage at the station and enable out-of-town participation.

It is our plan that by enhancing membership incentives we will be able to maintain adequate coverage without the addition of paid staff.

OBJECTIVE: MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION THROUGH CAPITAL FUNDING

STRATEGY: In 2012, the Town implemented Capital funding for replacement of equipment of the Fire Department. The Department will continue to budget for equipment replacement using the capital funding budget method.

SUMMARY

The Hinesburg Fire Department's Strategic Plan is the result of many meetings and long hours of research. It has been compiled and written by fire and rescue personnel with many years of experience in this field. We have used U. S. Census data, Vermont housing data, and historical data from our last 15 years of calls, as well as input from the police department, highway department, community members, and comments from our entire membership of firefighting and medical professionals.

With this data, we have constructed our plan, identifying our strengths, weaknesses and threats. We have looked at our vision for the future, and put forth objectives as well as strategies on how to achieve them while being fiscally responsible. We know if our plan is followed, our department will continue to provide our citizens with the finest protection which they expect and deserve.

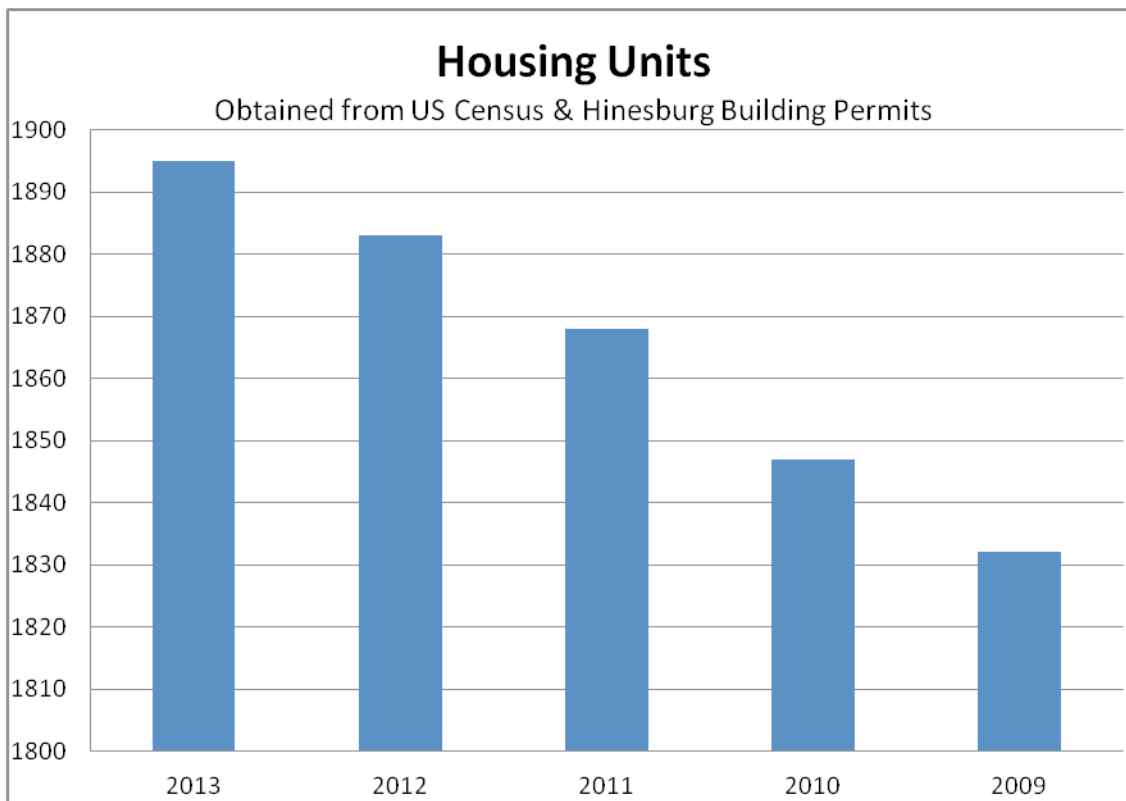
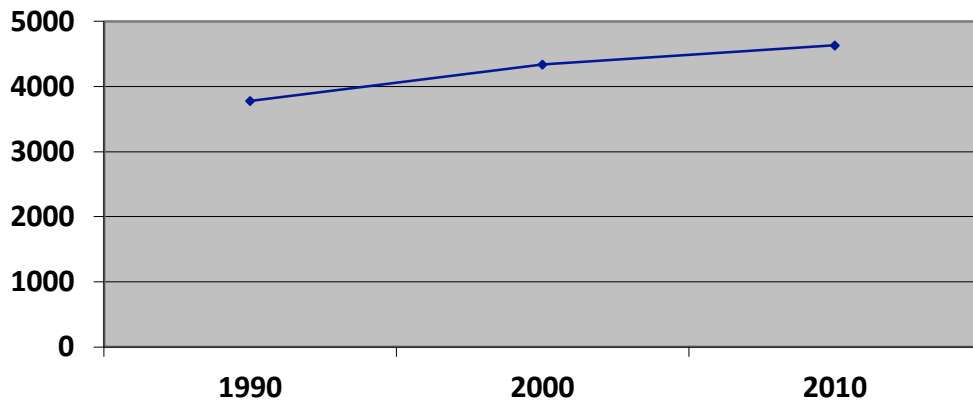
APPARATUS REPLACEMENT TIMELINE

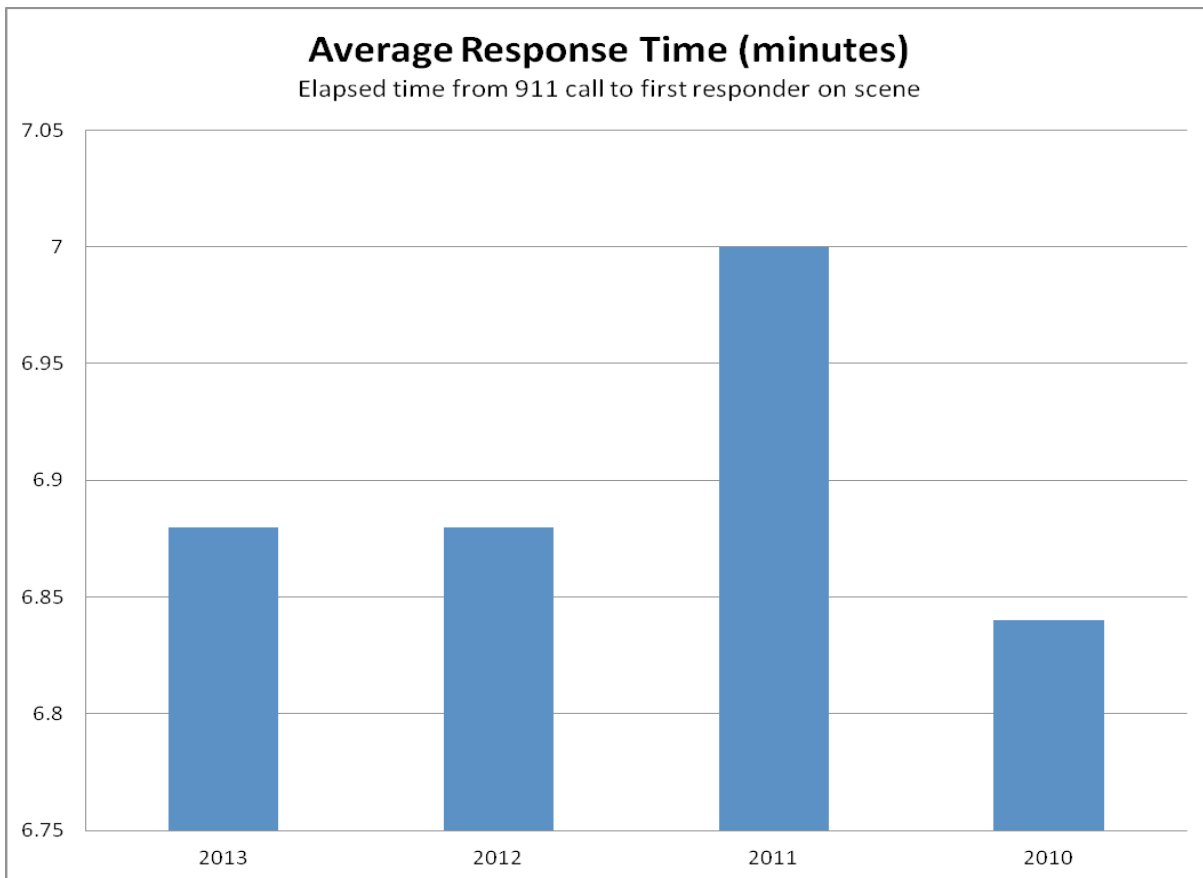
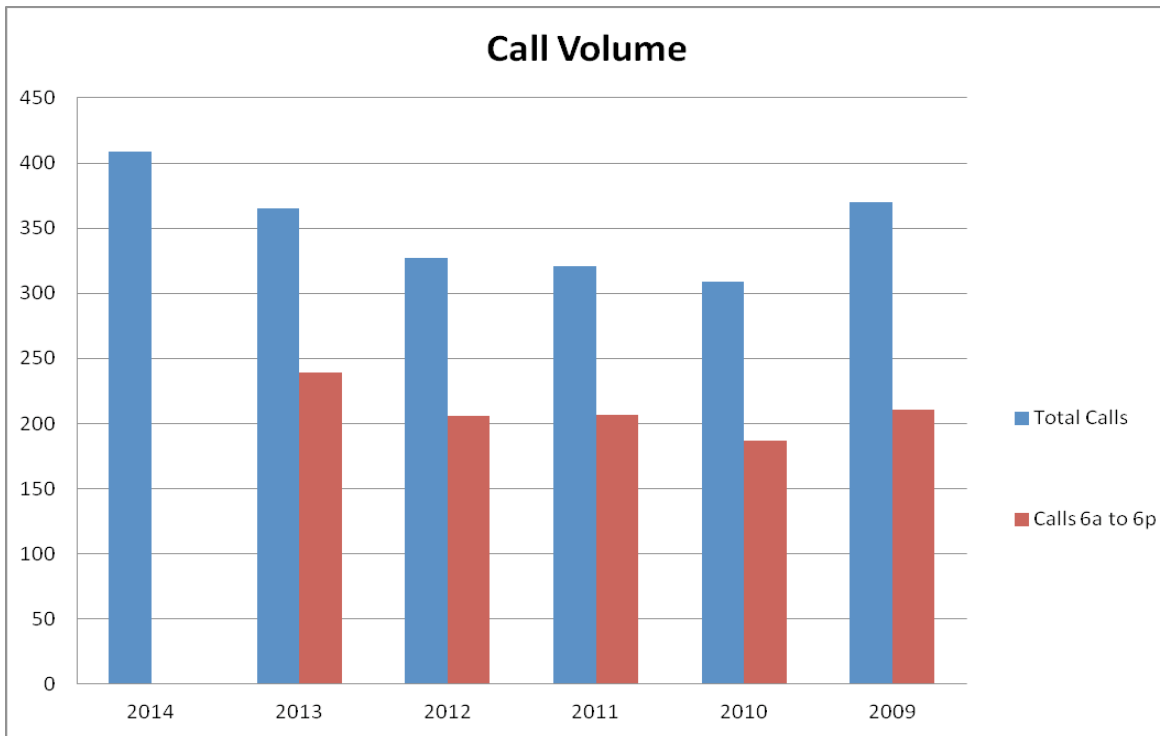
- 2016 Acquisition of a pumper with a hydraulic ladder.
- 2018 Addition of a class 1 ALS ambulance
- Approximately 2020: Replacement of Engine 2, a 2001 pumper
- Approximately 2022: Replacement of Engine 3, a 2003 mini-pumper
- Approximately 2030: Replacement of Tanker 1, a 2006 water tender

- APPENDIX

Included in the following pages are plots of some relevant statistics.

Population - Hinesburg (source: US Census)





Call Breakdown by Type

