



City of Lambertville Board of Fire Commissioners District #1
230 North Main Street
Lambertville, N.J. 08530



Nate Waldron, Chair
Mary Barna, Vice Chair
Julie von Uffel, Treasurer
Nancy Bakewell, Secretary
Eldred Bullard, Commissioner

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August 3, 2026
Emergency Commission Meeting

The emergency commission meeting was brought to order at 4:00pm. Chief of the Dept, and all Commissioners were in attendance.

Chief Barlow updated the commissioners on the current condition and needed repairs for Recuse 17.

The necessary repairs are critical for the unit's operation and readiness to effectively save lives and protect property. The mechanic diagnosed the unit with the following findings:

- 1.) Replace the tank to the pump supply line, which is steadily leaking. This is a moderate issue that costs between \$1500 and \$1900. The leak will continue until the line rusts through, at which point it will need to be replaced.
- 2.) Replace the two air conditioning lines and recharge the system, which will cost between \$2,000 and \$2,500. This is a minor issue that can be managed without causing significant inconvenience.
- 3.) Crankcase Front and Rear Main Seals Leaking. The crankcase, the core component of a diesel engine, is susceptible to leaks in its front and rear main seals. These seals play a crucial role in maintaining engine lubrication and balancing the crankshaft. However, repairing such a leak is a complex and costly endeavor. A complete engine removal and "lower rebuild" are necessary to address the issue. This major repair can result in the unit being out of service for approximately four to five weeks, with a lower cost estimate of \$25,000.
- 4.) The oil pan leaks in multiple locations. It's uncertain whether the leaks are caused by "microcracks" in the pan, the pan's inability to seal itself, or engine block issues resulting in the oil leakage. This is another significant repair. The cost estimate ranges from \$2500 for the seal and labor, to \$4000+ for a new pan and seal, and potentially \$10,000+ if there's block damage that requires resurfacing.
- 5.) The fire pump transmission requires a comprehensive overhaul of its critical components and must undergo recertification upon completion. This is the most significant repair that could potentially lead to unforeseen pump issues once the two units are separated. This alone could result in an expense of \$15,000 for the transmission and an additional \$8,000 to \$12,000 for a pump rebuild, in addition to the transmission cost.

We have four options to consider:

Option 1: We could endure the storm and refrain from performing any repairs until a complete failure occurs. However, there is no specific timeline for this approach, as it involves a complex machine that could malfunction at any time without prior notice.

Option 2: We could wait until the rescue fails during its operational period and utilize insurance coverage to reimburse for the necessary repairs.

Option 3: Unit Repair We estimate the cost of repairing the unit to approximately \$72,400, which is on the conservative side. However, in reality, engine and pump rebuilds often uncover underlying issues that require attention, resulting in higher costs once exposed. We will be locked into a higher cost to complete the estimate as the vehicle is in pieces. Due to the unit's current age and its anticipated age when we sell off the remaining assets in 5-6 years, we will not be able to recover this expense.

Option 4: Immediate Sale and Replacement We propose listing the unit for immediate sale "as is, where is" and procuring a replacement with the proceeds until the new units are delivered. Historically, our used purchase R17 has endured over eight years without any issues. I am confident that we can acquire another vehicle to meet our requirements with minimal repair costs in the foreseeable future. The proceeds received from the sale will fund its replacement.

Discussion was held and all commissioners agreed that option 4 is the best option and set 8/13, from 3:00pm-3:30pm for a public hearing to sell rescue 17. 8/24 from 3:00pm-3:30pm for a public hearing to purchase apparatus to replace Rescue 17 and possibly an additional purchase to replace Utility 17.

Commissioner Waldron made a motion that authorizes Chief Barlow to actively sell and contact buys for Rescue 17 and search for replacement apparatus for Rescue 17 and Utility 17, motion was seconded by Commissioner Bullard, all favored and motions passed.

Commissioner Waldron motioned to close the emergency meeting at 4:20pm second by Commissioner von Uffel all favored motion passed, meeting adjourned.