



WVAC

BoS Presentation

6.20.23



Why We're Here Tonight

- The Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corp (WVAC) has been servicing the town since 1976
- While we reside on the Town Hall Campus, our HQ remains an antique single-family house. The “garage” for our vehicles is a temporary structure that was built over 40 years ago (designed for two emergency vehicles...we now have 4)
- The current WVAC facility is no longer suitable for the safe and efficient operation of the organization. We have long outlived the facility’s functionality.
- Needs of the volunteer membership, and the town, are not being met with the current headquarters facility
- We ask that the town considers an updated facility (combined HQ and garage) for WVAC as part of a Town Hall Campus Master Plan

Background

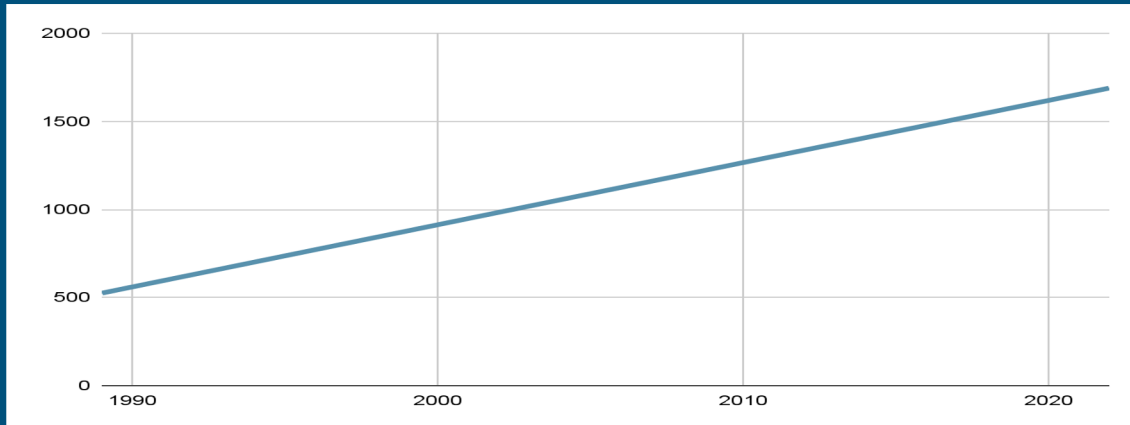
- WVAC was founded in August 1976, created by First Selectwoman Rosemarie Verrilli
- First council was comprised of the Fire Chief, the Volunteer Fire Chief, the Police Chief, any interested prospective EMT's, and its chairman, Jack Cahill.
- First call was July 1, 1977 at the town fireworks to attend to a broken leg
- That one call has since turned into 1400 calls a year and the relatively meager base of volunteers has turned into upwards of 60 members.
- WVAC remains, like its historical roots, intertwined in the Wilton community and still to this day is on call 24/7, 365 days a year.
- The existing garage facility was built as a temporary structure 42 year ago

WVAC Today

- WVAC currently has a membership of 55 volunteers with a median membership of 5-10 years, several much longer.
- WVAC operates 24/7 – 365 days per year.
 - The Monday – Friday shifts from 6AM to 6PM are covered by paid EMTs from Norwalk Hospital
 - WVAC Volunteers support every weekday night from 6:00PM – 6AM, and the full 24 hours on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays
 - This equates to 11,256 hours per year based on a 2-person crew
 - WVAC also shares a paramedic with Weston, who is housed in our headquarters
 - The parametric join WVAC for all ALS (Advanced Life Support) calls
 - WVAC solely covers all BLS (Basic Life Support) calls

WVAC Today

- Call Volume in 2022 was at an all-time high of 1,689 which has more than tripled since 1989 when WVAC responded to 525 calls
 - We are expecting greater numbers with ASML, new apartments and medical facilities in town
 - Within several years, we expect the need to have 2 crews on duty during each shift



+221%
Call Volume

WVAC Today (cont.)

- WVAC Volunteers also support the town of Wilton through various community events:
 - In FY 22, WVAC logged over 250 Community Volunteer hours
 - Those numbers are expected to increase as we get back to supporting events which were put on hold by covid, including: high school sporting events, Chamber of Commerce events, Miller Driscoll Carnival, Ambler Farm, the Grange events, and the Memorial Day parade
- WVAC is also focused on community education outreach with offerings of AED/Hand-Only CPR and Stop the Bleed Training to student groups, CERT, Church groups and Wilton Public School teachers

WVAC Today (cont.)

Training

- All patient care providers at WVAC are trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
- The EMT course consists of at least 180 hours of clinical training with additional practical training and Emergency Department rotations
- WVAC has training meetings every month to ensure the patient care of its crew members remains top-notch and to recertify - which occurs every 2 years
- In addition to these meetings, WVAC runs its own internal EMT class for those wishing to advance their certification

Current Situation - HQ

- The Headquarters (owned by the town) was an old residence that was converted but mostly retains its original floorplan of a single-family home
- There is inadequate meeting and sleeping areas for all of the volunteers
- In the event that there is a large weather incident there is no room for out-of-town services to join in and stay at the complex
- The building is dangerously out of code
 - lights flicker, kitchen and bathrooms are antiquated, plumbing issues

Current Situation - HQ (cont.)

- There are many times during the calendar year where there are training programs held at the facility and there is no room for more than a few people to meet in a small common room in the existing building
- Providing hands-on training, which is crucial to the WVAC volunteers, is especially challenging (almost next to impossible) with the limited space
- There are limited sleeping quarters for the staff and the rooms that are used are shared with supply and equipment storage
- The business offices in the back of the structure are small and limited to only 2 workstations - the current need is for double that amount
- Need more storage for our supplies
 - Today most supplies are housed offsite at Comstock in CERT's storage as well as other spaces that are available

Current Situation - Garage

- The site has a small Quonset hut (garage) constructed in the 1980s
- It was intended to be a temporary structure but 42 years later it is still in use
- The structure is too small and does not allow for adequate room for equipment storage and vehicles to be serviced and stored
 - Currently 3 of the 4 vehicles are stored in this structure
 - The backup ambulance is kept at the firehouse
- It's important to have all 4 vehicles housed in the same building
 - Allows for more timely response
 - Alleviates safety concerns due to weather and other campus traffic

Current Situation - Garage (cont.)

- Not being able to store vehicles close to the building may be one of the more difficult problems, as is the general maneuvering of the vehicle in and out of the garage before and after calls are made during the day
- There is no covered walkway to the garage where the vehicles reside.
 - The stairs leading to the hut are out in the elements and the stairs down are not regular sized stairs which can often be slippery and/or icy.
- There is no water access in the garage eliminating our ability to clean our vehicles or wash equipment
 - We are forced to go to the firehouse to clean our trucks and equipment

Options Explored

- Leverage current facilities - expansion is not a viable option and would be costly while not addressing WVAC's needs.
- Buying property with existing house and build a new garage
- Offer from builder to lease us a building with other tenants on Cricket Rd
 - lease was for \$100K per year for 5 years, which was cost prohibitive

***WVAC sees tremendous value on being in close vicinity to PD and FD,
with the ability to leverage the emergency traffic light***

Proposed Solution

- There is a need to update the current WVAC facilities and future proof the needs of our growing town
- We would like to remain on the Town Hall Campus
- We understand the town is considering a “Master Plan” for the campus
- WVAC asks that our need are considered when developing the Master Plan for the Town Hall Campus

Thank You!
