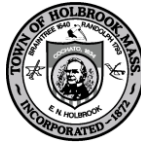


Holbrook Fire Department

300 South Franklin Street
Holbrook, MA 02343



Business line: 781-767-2234

Fax line: 781-767-1738

Article for the SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: November 18, 2020

Please include the following articles on the upcoming Special Town Meeting Warrant:

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) – Town's Share

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or otherwise provide the sum of Six Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Dollars and five cents (\$6,160.05), said sum to be used toward the Applicant's Share of the Town of Holbrook's 2019 Federal Fiscal Year Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award for the procurement of Hydraulic Rescue Equipment and Firefighter Safety and Survival Training, or take any other action thereon.

Submitted by the Fire Chief

Unpaid Bill from a Prior Fiscal Year – Medical Expenses

To see if the Town will allow payment of unpaid bills from Corvel Corporation, Brockton Hospital, and Signature Medical Group for services received during Fiscal Year 2020, in the amount Thirty-Nine Dollars and Sixty-Eight Cents (\$39.68), by transferring the sum of Thirty-Nine Dollars and Sixty-Eight Cents (\$39.68) from the amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 under Fire – Medical Payments/Physicals, Line Item 01-220-5200-5304, or take action thereon.

Submitted by the Fire Chief

Supporting information:

Assistance to Firefighters Grant and EMT Expenses:

I am happy to report that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved, and the Holbrook Board of Selectmen has accepted, the Holbrook Fire Department's 2019 [Federal] Fiscal Year Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) request to purchase new Hydraulic Rescue Equipment and provide Firefighter Safety and Survival Training to the Department's Firefighters.

This grant request was submitted with the intent of replacing one of the department's aging sets of Hydraulic Rescue Tools (a.k.a. – the Jaws of Life) with modern equipment capable of cutting and bending the high-tensile strength metal alloys that are found in modern vehicles, as well as providing Fireground Safety and Survival Training to the department's Firefighters.

The required applicant contribution ("cost-share") is only 5 percent of the approved project budget (~\$6,150.05). The Department is requesting a supplemental appropriation to offset this part of the project costs that were unfunded by the grant but necessary for operational purposes.

Unpaid Bill from a prior Fiscal Year:

The Holbrook Fire Department recently received a small number of bills – all of relatively small dollar values for fees associated with the processing of medical claims for Firefighters that were injured in the line of duty. As Police Officers and Firefighters are not covered by Workmen's Compensation, the Town has customarily contracted with an outside vendor to oversee management of medical care and billing related to Public Safety Officer on-the-job injuries. Our longtime vendor ceased handling this type of claims management at the end of the 2019 Fiscal Year necessitating a change of vendors in FY 20. It is the understanding of the Fire Department Administrative Staff that these invoices were delayed in being processed by the vendor due to the learning curve (e.g. – interaction/understanding of which statutes the Town of Holbrook has accepted as related to Public Safety Officer benefits) and review/consolidation of claims that were actively in progress during the transition.

I intend to be in attendance at both the Board of Selectmen's regular meetings and the Finance Committee's meetings in the coming weeks so as to answer any questions that the members may have and I extend my sincere appreciation for your consideration of these requests.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Luke McFadden

Chief Luke McFadden
Holbrook Fire Department