

Rye Fire Rescue

Proposed New Pumper-Ladder at a Glance



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Current Pumper-Ladder Issues

- The truck is 30 years old. The two truck manufacturers are no longer in business meaning many repair parts are unavailable or need to be custom made.
- The aerial ladder on the Pumper-Ladder is currently out of service due to the failure of a main lift piston. Costs to repair the piston could be 2 to 4 times the vehicles total market value of \$5,000.
- Operationally, the Pumper-Ladder is best suited to arrive first at structure fires allowing for ladder capability adjacent to the building. Presently this is not the case due to the age and condition of the 1988 truck.
- The truck lacks ABS brakes and has an unresolved braking issue. The current Pumper-Ladder may have to be taken out of service permanently for safety reasons.
- Currently Rye Fire Rescue does not have the ability to rescue anyone above a second story window with the first arriving crew of 2 firefighters, not a good scenario.
- After a third-party review of our fire apparatus the Pumper-Ladder was rated a 3/10 for condition, and only a 1/10 for serviceability. It was recommended that we not spend any additional money on this vehicle, and replace it as soon as possible
- Additionally the technician stated “given the large body of information and dangers published about older fire apparatus like (Pumper-)Ladder 1, there is little ability to operate this truck in good conscience”

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New Pumper-Ladder Benefits

- A Pumper-Ladder is a fire truck that can both pump water at a fire and act as a ladder truck. This ensures that there is quickly water, pumping capacity and ladder capability near the fire.
- The new Pumper-Ladder will arrive first at structure fires making rescues above the second story windows possible.
- The new Pumper-Ladder will be of high quality modern design and the best value possible for Rye. The new truck should last 25 years.
- The planned mini-pumper model will extend the life of this investment and save significantly on future maintenance costs.
- With Rye having some of the largest homes on the seacoast, the new Pumper-Ladder with its 100' aerial ladder is better suited to REACH buildings in Rye as it is often difficult to get fire apparatus close to many of the homes in town.
- Although Portsmouth does staff one very busy ladder truck, they will NOT support sending us their ladder on every fire call. It is critical for Rye to maintain this basic capability.
- The new Pumper-Ladder will ensure Rye residents immediately receive the lifesaving equipment they need during a fire emergency.