

# UNDERHILL – JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC ANNUAL REPORT FY 2016 - 2017



A dramatic photograph of a firefighter in silhouette, wearing a helmet and carrying a tank, positioned in front of a massive, intense fire. The flames are bright orange and yellow, reaching high into the dark background. The firefighter is looking towards the fire, ready to act.

Our Mission:  
The Underhill-Jericho  
Fire Department is  
dedicated to the  
preservation of life and  
property through fire  
suppression, education  
and prevention





## UNDERHILL – JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

Non-Emergency Phone Number: 899-4025

Website [www.ujfd.org](http://www.ujfd.org)

### A Message from the Chief

The members of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department are pleased to offer you this annual report for the fiscal year 2016-2017. This report will address your fire department's activities and accomplishments for the year. It is our goal to provide the highest level of service possible to the citizens of Underhill and Jericho while honoring the established budget as supported by the town select boards. It is our desire to function and operate with complete transparency in all that we do.



The UJFD had a busy and productive year as an organization. The department experienced some highs and lows throughout the year. We continue to evolve as an organization to better understand the challenges of modern materials in homes and vehicles.

We were the recipients of several fire act grants this year. We were successfully awarded a grant for all new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), NFPA compliant filling station with new compressors and a truck mounted filling station. We were also awarded a grant for new gear extractors and dryer to help remove the carcinogens from our protective gear after a fire. I feel blessed to be able to serve the communities in this capacity and lead such a dedicated organization of men and women. I value the people I work with and their commitment to this organization and to the community on a regular basis. I am proud to be a member of this organization and of the communities I serve. I do not take this responsibility lightly and I place the safety of our firefighters and citizens in the highest regard.

I would like to thank the communities of both Underhill and Jericho for their support over the past years. Without the support of the communities to the fire departments mission and goals, we would not be able to provide the quality of service to the citizens that they expect from us.

On a final note, I want to thank both the members of the UJFD and their families for all their sacrifices during the year. Emergency calls don't care about anniversaries, birthdays or other special occasions and our members always show up prepared and ready to deal with the emergency at hand. Without the support of our families the members of the UJFD would not succeed. It takes a team effort and the UJFD has a great team of firefighters and their families. I would like to say a special thank you to my wife Jackie for all of her patience throughout the year. I would also like to thank the citizens of both Underhill and Jericho for their support over the last year.

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Mathew Champlin*

Chief Mathew Champlin



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### History of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department

The UJFD was formed in 1913 by a group of townspeople who were worried about protecting their homes and businesses. The first piece of firefighting equipment in the town was a chemical tank mounted on two wagon wheels and stored between the Elbridge Nealy furniture and jewelry store and a barber shop run by Frank Ladue on Park Street.



In 1927 the men motorized the equipment with the purchase of a 1927 Model-TT Ford that was outfitted with two forty gallon chemical tanks. In 1934 a 1927 Packard Coupe was purchased and the chemical tanks were installed in the Packard. In 1936 a fire station was built at the corner of Park Street and Route 15. The station housed the 1927 Packard. In 1936 the town of Jericho started providing contributions and the department began maintaining fire protection for Jericho and Underhill. As the towns grew, so did the fire department. A 1942 army surplus Chevrolet truck was purchased

and a 500 gpm pump the department owned was mounted on this truck. The first factory built fire truck, an International Model V196 was purchased in 1964. The Underhill-Jericho Fire Department currently operates nine pieces of apparatus. Each apparatus carries a set of equipment to allow the apparatus to perform its function, from firefighting and automobile extrication to water hauling and pumping.



The UJFD firefighting apparatus operate out of two fire stations. The Jericho substation is located on Brown's Trace in Jericho Center and was built in 1982 on land that was donated to the department by Don and Alice Rivers. This substation is used primarily as a quick response station to calls in Jericho Center.

The Underhill station is located at 420 Route 15 in Underhill and serves as the main station. The station was built in 1997 and was designed to serve as a fire station and an emergency operations center. This building consists of a 6400 sq. ft. apparatus bay area and a 4100 sq. ft. administrative section.





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### Mission and Values

#### **Mission Statement**

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department is dedicated to the preservation of life and property through fire suppression, education and prevention.

#### **Core Values**

- Professionalism Developed Through Training
- Maintain the Faith and Trust of the communities we serve through attitude, conduct and accomplishments.
- Responsible Decision Making
- Continuous Improvement and Attentiveness to the Changing Needs of the Communities we serve
- Open and Honest Communication
- Operate with Fiscal Responsibility to the Communities

#### **Core Services**

- Fire Suppression
- Rescue
- Public Education
- Risk Assessment and Reduction
- Community Service



Wildland Fire Training





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## **Department Structure**

### **Administration**

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department is a non-profit corporation specifically in the business of providing fire protection and rescue services to the Towns of Underhill and Jericho. The administrative staff consists of the Chief, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief, Treasurer, Clerk and the Moderator. The Administration of the department is responsible for providing the leadership to the department membership and managing its' resources in accordance with common and accepted standards and practices. The administrators are also responsible to ensure the integrity of the department's finances and that all department expenditures are kept within the budget set in place with the Select boards.

### **Operations**

The Chiefs, line officers and full time staff are responsible for the daily operations of the department. This group of people is responsible for the maintenance of all the equipment owned and operated by the Underhill Jericho Fire Department. This equipment is maintained at all times in a state of readiness should a call for service arise. When a call for service is received, the responsibility for the departments' response encompasses all the officers of the department. The membership of the department is expected to respond to all calls if they are available. Every effort is made to ensure an appropriate response for the nature of the call received. The department has a series of standard operating guidelines to assist in managing this task. The responsibility for training of the department falls primarily with the training Chief, the Captains, and the Lieutenants of the department. An annual training plan is developed and reviewed to ensure that all the necessary training objectives are met. The department is part of the state wide mutual aid compact and responds when requested by our surrounding communities when requested. These communities also respond to assist the UJFD when called upon.





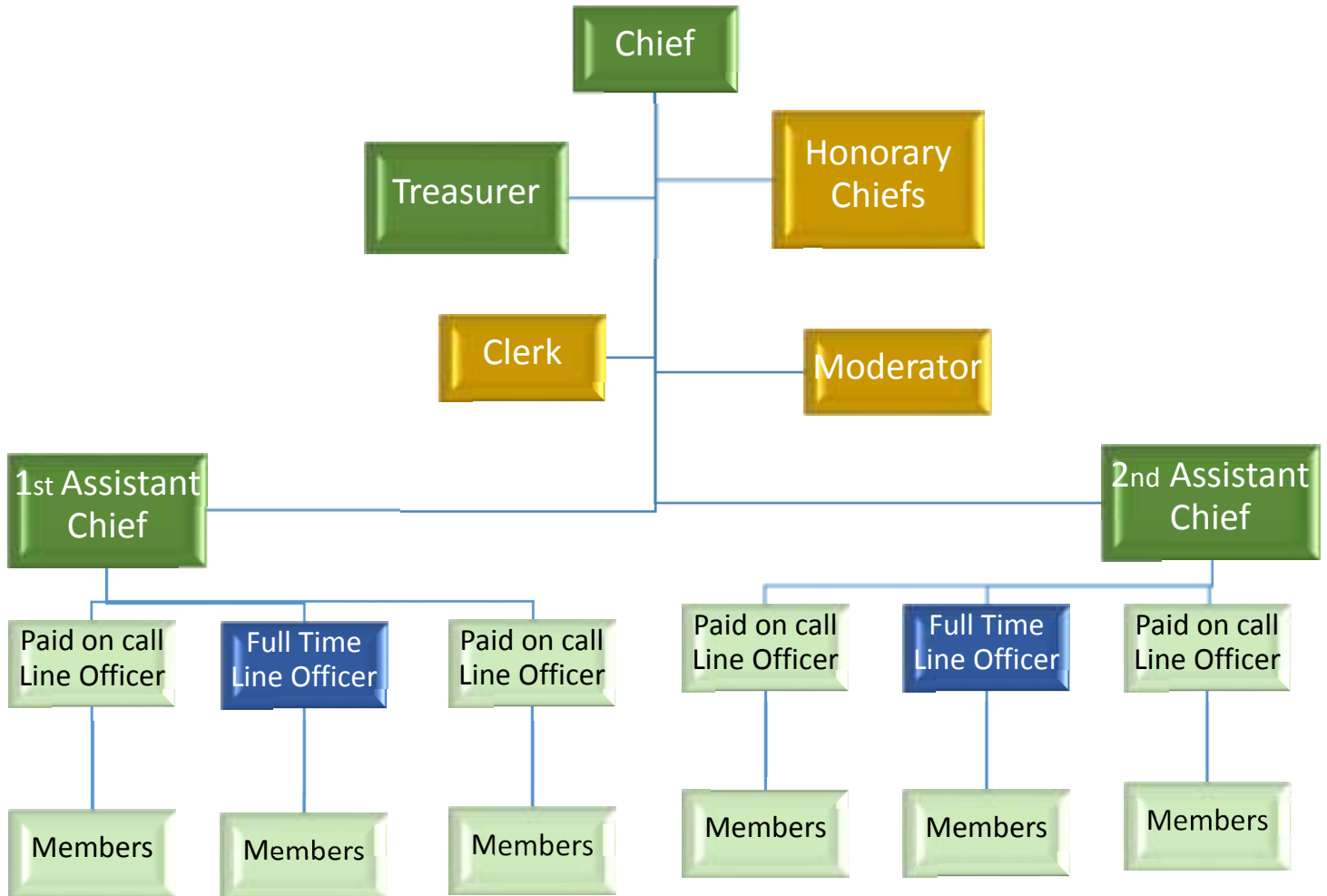


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**Department Organization Chart**





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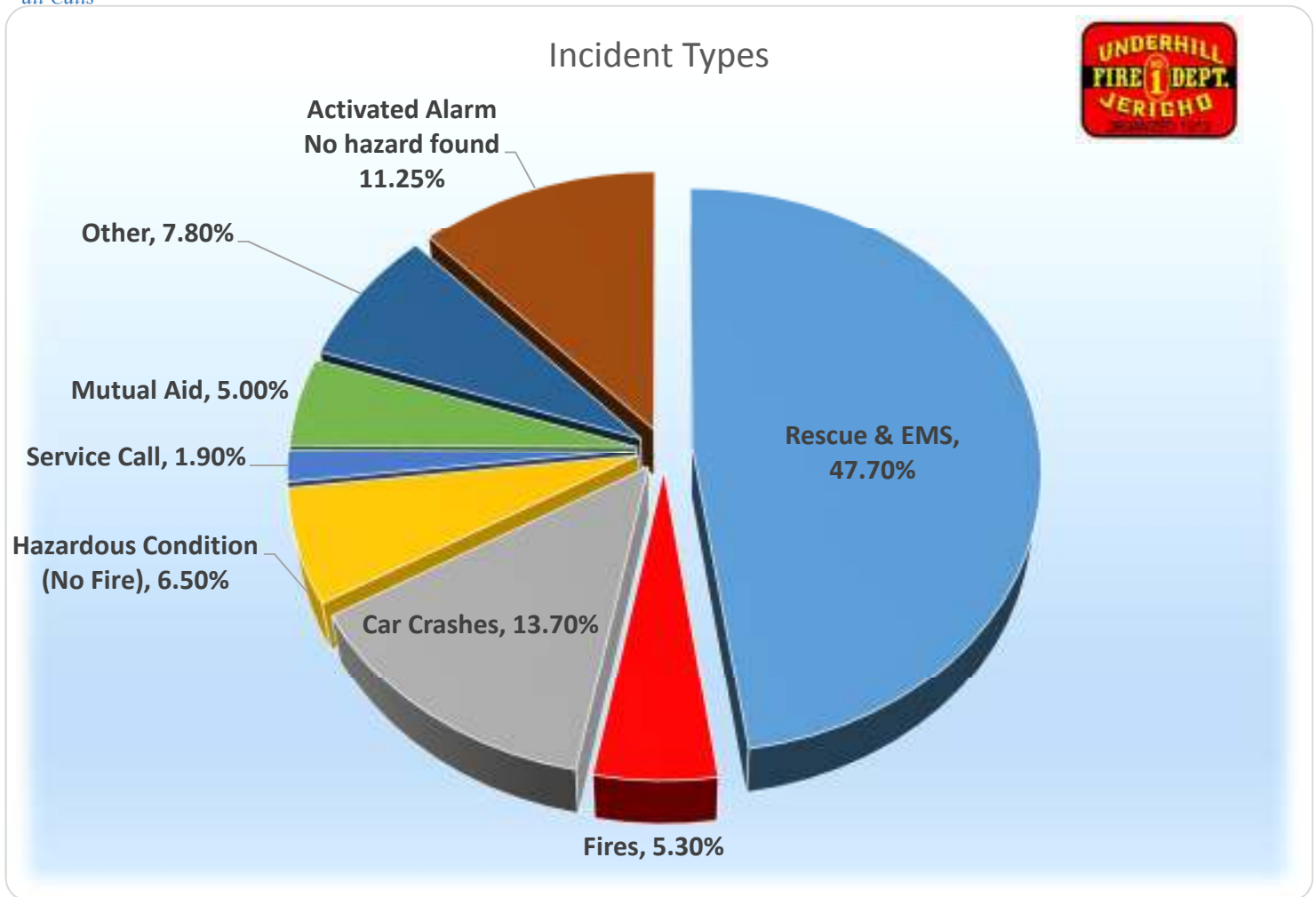
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### 2016 -2017 Reports

#### **Incident Breakdown**

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department utilizes a Fire / EMS reporting software to evaluate the department's performance in terms of emergency call data and member activity. All call information and membership attendance is recorded in this database. Using this information we have prepared several reports to give you a look at the fire departments work over the Fiscal year 2016-2017. The date range goes from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

*Figure 1 2016 – 2017 Percentage Incidents by Type for all Calls*



Total Number of Incidents: 321  
Type of Incident Most Frequent: Rescue & Emergency Medical

Examples of **Hazardous Conditions** are propane or natural gas leaks, power line down or carbon monoxide conditions.

Example of **Other** are when we are dispatched and cancelled en route



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Incidents by Hour for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

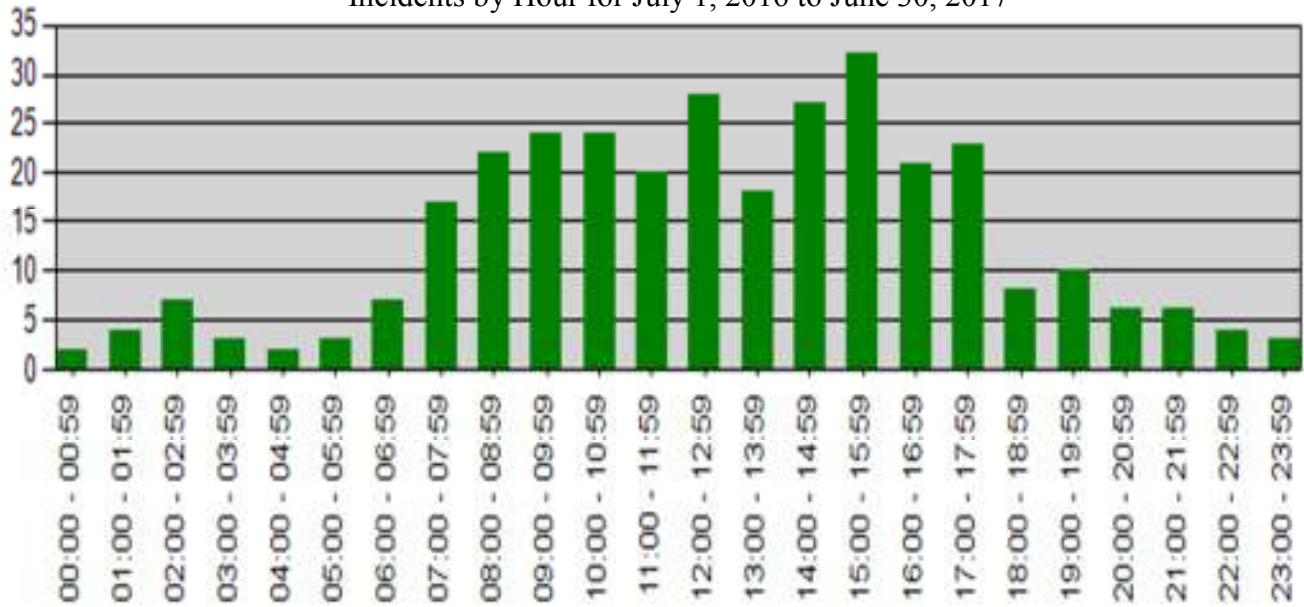


Figure 1 Incidents by Hour







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Website [www.ujfd.org](http://www.ujfd.org)**Underhill Jericho Fire Department Financial Report FY 2016 – 2017**

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>BUDGET 2016-2017</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2016-2017</b>
UNDERHILL	217,799	217,799
JERICHO	326,699	326,699
ESSEX RESCUE OVERTIME REIMBURSEMENT	0	0
FEMA & STATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR DISASTERS	0	0
OTHER	0	4,226
RENT ESSEX RESCUE	0	30
DONATIONS	0	1,209
INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT & GRANT INCOME	0	180,167
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$544,498</b>	<b>\$730,546</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
STIPENDS AND SALARIES	191,590	145,868
FICA & MEDICARE CAREER AND PAID ON CALL STAFF	11,410	10,543
LEGAL / ACCOUNTING / AUDIT	13,300	19,755
WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	16,000	19,346
INSURANCE	36,300	36,124
HEAT/PHONE/INTERNET/ELECTRICITY/WATER	18,200	16,032
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	34,000	38,052
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	6,500	3,468
FIRE EDUCATION/PREVENTION/TRAINING	3,000	3,238
STATION MAINTENANCE	14,000	10,761
FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT	22,400	21,607
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS	5,000	1,872
NEW EQUIPMENT & HOSE	11,000	7,097
EXTRICATION & HAZMAT EQUIPMENT	4,000	2,301
FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL SAFETY	6,000	3,777
MISCELLANEOUS	450	280
ANNUAL AWARDS AND APPRECIATION	3,500	3,193
OFFICE EXPENSE	6,000	6,248
INSURANCE & GRANT EXPENSES	0	204,352
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>		
BUILDING LOAN PAYMENT	41,369	41,404
BUILDING RESERVE	0	0
TRUCK LOAN PAYMENT	78,106	78,106
TRUCK REPLACEMENT RESERVE	13,721	13,721
AIR-PAK AND PORTABLE RADIO RESERVE	8,652	8,652
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$544,498</b>	<b>\$693,844</b>
<b>TRANSFERS TO RESERVE FUNDS</b>		
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS RESERVE	0	0
NEW EQUIPMENT RESERVE	0	0
PAID ON CALL PAYROLL RESERVE	0	0
CAREER SALARY RESERVE	0	36,702
TRAINING CENTER RESERVE	0	0
FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL SAFETY RESERVE	0	0
OPERATING RESERVE	0	0
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$36,702</b>
<b>TOTAL UNDERHILL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$217,799</b>	
<b>TOTAL JERICHO BUDGET</b>	<b>\$326,699</b>	

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Website [www.ujfd.org](http://www.ujfd.org)**Reserve Fund Report**

Account	Ending Balance As of 6/30/2016	Transactions	Ending Balance As of 6/30/2017
<b>CAPITAL RESERVES</b>			
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS RESERVE	\$8,730	\$0	\$8,730
TRUCK REPLACEMENT RESERVE	\$57,968	\$13,721	\$71,689
AIR-PAK AND PORTABLE RADIO RESERVE	\$36,580	\$8,652	\$45,232
<b>PAYROLL RESERVES</b>			
PAID ON CALL PAYROLL RESERVE	\$40,053	\$0	\$40,053
FULL TIME SALARY RESERVE	\$37,901	\$36,702	\$74,603
<b>MISCELLANEOUS RESERVES</b>			
NEW EQUIPMENT RESERVE	\$11,114	\$0	\$11,114
PRIVATE DONATIONS	\$8,416	\$3,465	\$11,881
MEMORIAL PARK	\$1,577	-\$350	\$1,227
TRAINING CENTER	\$3,975	\$0	\$3,975
FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL SAFETY (PHYSICALS)	\$2,794	\$0	\$2,794
CAR SEAT SAFETY	\$4,930	\$0	\$4,930

**Rivers Land Account**

	Actual 2015-2016	Actual 2016-2017
<b>INCOME:</b>		
STARTING CASH BALANCE	\$47,357	\$35,884
RIVERS HOUSE RENTAL	\$14,308	\$14,340
GRAVEL PIT	\$9,507	
MISCELLANEOUS	\$20	\$22
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$61,685</b>	<b>\$50,246</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
HOUSE REPAIRS	\$3,512	\$277
WELL	\$0	
PERMITS	\$0	
UTILITIES FUEL/ELECTRICITY		
PIT CLOSURE BOND	\$1,950	\$1,950
LEGAL		\$3,220
PROPERTY TAXES	\$9,445	
MISCELLANEOUS	\$10,894	-\$223
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$25,801</b>	<b>\$5,224</b>
<b>CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>\$35,884</b>	<b>\$45,022</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
SECURITY DEPOSIT	\$2,390	\$2,390
TAXES DUE		\$27,435
LEGAL EXPENSES DUE		\$14,880
OTHER DUE	\$74	\$297
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$33,420</b>	<b>\$20</b>





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### Firefighting Apparatus

#### Engine 1



Engine 1 serves mainly as a tanker and a water supply pumper. It can also operate as an attack engine if needed. This apparatus responds to fires of all types.

Engine 1 is a 2013 International E-One tanker pumper. It has a MaxxForce 13 Diesel engine at 475 horse power, with an Allison automatic transmission. It has a Hale 1250 GPM pump and a 2650 gallon water tank. To off load water quickly it has 3 – 10 inch dump valves, one on each side and one on the back of the truck. It also carries a 2500 gallon folding tank. For hose on this truck we have 2 – 1.75 inch cross lays that are each 200 feet long, 400 feet of 3 inch hose and 2560 feet of 5 inch large diameter supply hose. We also carry a 35 foot 3 fly extension ladder, a 14 foot roof ladder and 4 Scott NXG2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.





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### Engine 5



Responding from either the Jericho or Underhill station, this attack pumper is usually the first piece of apparatus to any incident that involves a fire or hazardous condition.

Engine 5 is a 2002 International E-One attack pumper. It has a 1250 gpm Hale pump with a 1000 gallon tank. There is a hydraulic ladder rack that holds a 28 foot 2 fly extension ladder, a 14 foot roof ladder and a folding attic ladder. This truck has 2 – 1.75 inch cross lays that are each 200 feet long. We have an addition 2 – 1.75 inch rear hose loads that are also each 200 feet long. We have 200 feet of 3 inch hose that is hooked to a portable monitor for putting large volumes of water on a fire. Lastly for hose this truck carries 1200 feet of 5 inch large diameter supply hose. This number is not by accident as fire hydrants in Underhill and Jericho are 1000 feet apart. This truck has a 5 person cab and carries 5 Scott NXG2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. We also have a 5000 watt Honda generator that is connected to scene lights and 2 – 200 foot cord reels. We carry a multi-gas meter to perform Carbon Monoxide checks and a thermal imaging camera to use during calls. Engine 5 and 11 are sister trucks that are built almost exactly alike. The gear on each truck is stowed similarly for ease of use.







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### Engine 11



Responding from either the Jericho or Underhill station, this attack pumper is usually the first piece of apparatus to any incident that involves a fire or hazardous condition.

Engine 11 is a 2007 International E-One attack pumper. It has a 1250 gpm Hale pump with a 1000 gallon tank. There is a hydraulic ladder rack that holds a 28 foot 2 fly extension ladder, a 14 foot roof ladder and a folding attic ladder. This truck has 2 – 1.75 inch cross lays that are each 200 feet long. We have additional 2 – 1.75 inch rear hose loads that are also each 200 feet long. We have 200 feet of 3 inch hose that is hooked to a portable monitor for putting large volumes of water on a fire. Lastly for hose this truck carries 1200 feet of 5 inch large diameter supply hose. This number is not by accident as fire hydrants in Underhill and Jericho are 1000 feet apart. This truck has a 5 person cab and carries 5 Scott NXG2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. We also have a 5000 watt Honda generator that is connected to scene lights and 2 – 200 foot cord reels. We carry a multi-gas meter to perform Carbon Monoxide checks and a thermal imaging camera to use during calls. Engine 5 and 11 are sister trucks that are built almost exactly alike.







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The gear on each truck is stowed similarly for ease of use.

### Rescue 1



Rescue 1 is the UJFD's rolling toolbox and responds from the Underhill station. This piece of apparatus is the first to respond to all car crashes and other types of rescues.

Rescue 1 is a 2002 International E-One with a Rescue body. The truck has a 5 person cab. There is a 12,000 pound winch in the extended bumper on the front of the truck. The truck carries the Hurst Extrication tools also known as the Jaws of Life. There are 2 sets of vehicle stabilization jacks, 2 sets of Maxiforce airbag lifting equipment, 4 cold water rescue suits, 4 personal floatation devices, rope bags, a Hurst power unit and a Hurst portable power unit, one 6000 watt light tower, 2 – 500 watt portable tripod lights, 1 – 1000 watt telescoping light, 4 electric cord reels, 6 sawzalls, and a Poseidon Breathing air booster pump for filling air cylinders. All of this electric equipment is powered by a 20,000 watt generator that is driven by the trucks engine. This truck carries our hazmat response gear and 5 Scott NXG2 4.5 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.



Please visit our website at [www.ujfd.org](http://www.ujfd.org) and if you ever have a question please contact Captain Harry Schoppmann at 899-4025 or [harry@ujfd.org](mailto:harry@ujfd.org).



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### Tanker 2



Tanker 2 responds from the Jericho station and provides an initial water supply until a more permanent water supply is established. This truck also has on-board foam capabilities.

Tanker 2 is a 1990 International American Eagle Tanker. It has a DT466 engine at 245 horsepower. It has an Allison automatic transmission and a Hale midship pump rated at 450 gallons per minute foam system. There is a 50 gallon foam tank and a 1700 gallon water tank. There is a 6 inch quick dump and a 5 inch fill/dump valve on the rear of the truck. This truck carries a 2000 gallon portable pond. There is a hose reel that holds 300 feet of 1.75 inch hose. We also have 200 feet of 2.5 inch hose. This truck is a 2 person cab and carries 2 Scott NXG2 4.5 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.







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### Engine 4



Responding from the Underhill station, Engine 4 allows us to provide a substantial flow of water from static sources using large diameter hose run from an emergency incident to a water source as far away as 2500 feet. As a 4 wheel drive engine, Engine 4 can be quickly converted to an attack pumper to gain access to narrow, steep or snow and ice covered driveways.

Engine 4 is a 1993 International E-One reel truck with a DT 466 engine with 250 horsepower. It has an Allison automatic transmission and a Hale front mount pump rated at 1250 gallons per minute. Engine 4 has a 500 gallon water tank. Being a reel truck it carries 2500 feet of 5 inch large diameter hose. Engine 4 is unique and in that it has a 400 gallon per minute hydraulic pump that can be quickly deployed to establish a water supply. Engine 4 also has hose reels that hold 360 feet of 1.75 inch hose and another hose reel that holds 450 feet of 3 inch hose. One unique piece of equipment on this truck is an extra-long hard suction hose to be able to extend our reach to streams, ponds or other natural water sources. This truck also carries 2 Scott NXG2 4.5 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and is a 2 person cab.







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### Squad 51



Squad 51 responds from the Underhill station as a first response vehicle. During the weekdays our full time staff uses it to respond directly to EMS calls. This allows for quick medical care and also offers a size-up of the scene to incoming units during other emergency situations. This vehicle is also utilized by the full time staff and officers to accomplish the snow plowing duties at both stations.

Squad 51 is a 2008 Ford F-350, 4 wheel drive heavy duty truck. It carries several radios to allow it to function as a command vehicle and carries a mobile repeater which extends the range of our radio system. The truck is equipped with medical equipment, extinguishers, traffic cones a chain saw, rescue equipment, a FIT device, several personal floatation devices, rope throw bags, hazardous materials equipment, gas meter and thermal imaging camera. These supplies give the first arriving officer at an incident most of the tools needed to accomplish a good assessment of the scene and also the ability to take care of small fires before an engine arrives keeping damage to a minimum.



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### Utility 3



Utility 3 responds out of the Underhill station and is used primarily to transport people and our wild land firefighting equipment including the gator to all wildland or brush fire calls. The truck also carries a compliment of traffic detour equipment should the need arise to close a road for an extended time, we can set up a detour to keep traffic flowing.

Utility 3 is a 1995 Chevrolet model K3500 four wheel drive truck. It has a 6.5 liter diesel engine and has an automatic transmission. This unit has a 6 man cab. We also have an 8,000 pound winch and a 5000W Yamaha generator. There are 2 – 500 watt flood lights on the body of the truck mounted to telescoping poles to allow lighting of scenes.





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### Gator



The John Deere gator is stored on a heavy duty trailer at the Underhill station and is transported to emergency scenes with Utility 3. The original Gator was obtained via a grant from the US Smokeless tobacco company and was a 6X4 unit. An upgrade to a 4X4 unit with tracks was accomplished when the department participated in a grant contest with the TUMS Corporation and received a \$10,000 grant. The new 4X4 gator was outfitted with a water skid unit and Rescue Boggin to provide the department with a highly functional unit. The primary mission of the gator is to access wildland or brush fires

in the rural areas of Underhill and Jericho. The skid unit can easily be removed and once connected to the Rescue Boggin the gator is a highly versatile piece of back country rescue equipment. We use the gator during Harvest Market to provide fire protection to all the vendors; it provides quick and easy access to the congested areas of the Harvest Market.

The gator is a 2013 John Deere Gator UTV diesel that is 4 wheel drive and outfitted with tracks to improve performance in soft ground and snow conditions. The skid unit is a 100 gallons per minute pump with a 70 gallon water tank. We have a 150 foot  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch preconnected booster line and 400 feet of 1 inch diameter forestry hose. We carry a TFT Foam pro pac with Class A foam. We have an electric winch that can be used with either the front or rear receivers.





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**Call Staff**



Chief  
Mathew Champlin (12 yrs)



1st Assist Chief  
Roy Spiller(10 yrs)



2nd Assist Chief  
Todd Fischer(17 yrs)



Honorary Chief / Treasurer  
Randy H. Clark (60 yrs)



Honorary Chief  
Dave Tillotson (45 yrs)



Honorary Chief  
Randy E. Clark (36 yrs)





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**Captain**

**Sean McCann (7 yrs)**



**Captain**

**Greg Leech(3 yrs)**



**Lieutenant**

**Travis Hale (8 yrs)**



**Lieutenant**

**Johannes Jobst (20 yrs)**





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Firefighter Brian Clark  
(35 yrs)



Life Member  
Kitty Clark (31 yrs)



Firefighter Shawn Danaher  
(20 yrs)



Firefighter Nathan Goldman  
(20 yrs)



Auxiliary Cathy Clark  
(15 yrs)



Firefighter Brad Fischer  
(12 yrs)



Auxiliary Shery Fischer  
(8 yrs)



Firefighter Todd Hallock  
(7 yrs)



Firefighter Erich Kasprik  
(7 yrs)



**UNDERHILL – JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**

Non-Emergency Phone Number: 899-4025

Website [www.ujfd.org](http://www.ujfd.org)



Auxiliary Patricia Stevens  
(7 yrs)



Specialist Julie Jacob-Ochs  
(7 yrs)



Firefighter Gerald Russin Jr.  
(2 yrs)



Firefighter Andrew Champlin  
(2 yrs)



Firefighter Daniel Champlin  
(6 yrs)



Firefighter Corey Clark  
(2 yrs)



Firefighter Bob Stone  
(2 yrs)



Firefighter Lee Duumas  
(49 yrs)



Firefighter Shawn Martell  
(19 yrs)





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Firefighter Drew Stevens  
(9 yrs)



Firefighter James Cornell  
(1 yr)



Firefighter Patrick Crowley  
(1 yrs)



Firefighter Will Drislane  
(1 yr)



Firefighter Loni Morse  
(28 yrs)



Firefighter Tim Clark  
(34 yrs)



Firefighter Connor Morway  
(3 yrs)



Firefighter Peter Nichols  
(1 yr)



Firefighter Chris Reinfort  
(1 yr)





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Firefighter Parker Ripley  
(14 yrs)



Firefighter Jakob Rougier  
(1 yr)



Firefighter Aaron Schwartz  
(1 yr)



Auxiliary Cis Dumas  
(14 yrs)



Dispatcher Pam Martell  
(1 yr)



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### Full Time Staff



Captain Harry  
Schoppmann (8 yrs)



Lieutenant Vacant

Harry has been our Full Time Duty Captain since 2008. Harry currently holds a Vermont Fire Fighter 1 certification. Harry also holds a State of Vermont and National Registry Advanced EMT license.



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### **2016 – 2017 Events and Success Stories**

The UJFD considers the FY 16 – 17 year a success. This year we executed our mission safely and under budget.

During the year we were able to complete the evaluation and purchase of 26 new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for our firefighters. The funding for this purchase was obtained via a Fire Act Grant. After receipt of the SCBA's we had a full training night with the manufacturer's representative to familiarize our firefighters with the features of the new SCBA. In the following weeks we held hands on training. Following the final hands on training all the new SCBAs were placed in service. We now have units that will keep our firefighters safe and we comply with the latest safety standards. Included in the grant were funds to allow the department to purchase an enclosed filling station that is now NFPA compliant. This unit allows the cylinders to be placed in a blast proof housing while filling them to prevent any injuries to our firefighters while filling the cylinders.

We also applied for and received a grant to purchase a new gear extractor and drier. The latest research shows that our protective gear holds the carcinogens from a fire and that washing that gear immediately after a fire is one of the best ways to protect our firefighters from the risks of cancer. After a thorough evaluation we have chosen the units that will serve our department well and have made the preparations for their arrival.

The department has started to act on the Fire Service Task Force recommendations to update our bylaws for a modern 501(c3) organization. The work is being accomplished by a committee of department members and is proceeding. An open item from the Task Force report are to work on a new contract with the towns. We hope to start that process in the coming year.

In regards to the Rivers Land, the UJFD is still committed to working with the Town of Jericho to meet the objectives of both the department and the town in regards to use of the land and preservation of the Gateway to Jericho. We have been working with the town as time allows to further the process. It has been slow going but progress is being made.

### **Budget Report**

For FY 16 – 17 the UJFD saw our call volume remain the same from the previous year. For FY 15 – 16 we had 320 calls while in FY 16 – 17 we had 321 calls. Unfortunately our second full time firefighter Sean McCann departed the organization for other endeavors. Sean is still a volunteer member of the department. We completed the year within our allocated budget. If anyone has questions regarding the UJFD budget, please contact us at 899-4025 or by email at [info@ujfd.org](mailto:info@ujfd.org) and we will gladly discuss any questions you may have.

### **Current Projects**

The UJFD is constantly working to improve our performance and to keep pace with the ever changing world we live in. Home construction is constantly changing both how it is done and what materials are used to build homes today. Light weight construction presents many challenges to fire departments in regards to the safety of firefighters in these homes. Construction materials and what we outfit our homes with have all increased the fire load in a home from just a mere decade ago. Today's fires burn hotter and faster while the construction materials hold up less against those flames. In the world of the automobile, materials are forever changing and the need arises for a change in techniques and tools in order to extricate people from the vehicles of today. It is not only the homes and cars that are changing, but our towns are in a time of change as well. The fire department must be prepared for the new commercial buildings that are coming into the towns

Please visit our website at [www.ujfd.org](http://www.ujfd.org) and if you ever have a question please contact Captain Harry Schoppmann at 899-4025 or [harry@ujfd.org](mailto:harry@ujfd.org).





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we serve. The communities are also growing as more and more homes are built and the equipment and people required to deal with emergencies in the communities must constantly be evaluated. Below are a few of the items that the UJFD is currently considering and evaluating. I want to caution people that these items are only under evaluation and these items are not set in concrete. However we feel it is important to be thinking about the future so we continue to be prepared to deal with the various emergency incidents that we will be faced with and be able to perform the tasks that need to be done while keeping the public and our firefighters safe.

### **Station Renovations / Additions**

The mortgage for the main fire station in Underhill was paid off in 2017. The station is 20 years old and is in need of some maintenance. We are working on plans to repair the roof at the Jericho Station, replace windows in both stations, service all our overhead doors, upgrade our security system and perform other minor repairs as necessary to ensure the longevity of the stations.

### **Apparatus Replacement Plan**

The UJFD will have several pieces of apparatus that are coming due for replacement in the near future. The UJFD will be evaluating our apparatus needs for the future. Along with evaluating what apparatus will need replacement, we will consider the life expectancy of our apparatus. As call volume continues to increase, so does the wear and tear on the apparatus which can affect the service life of an apparatus.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

The UJFD is currently evaluating our role in fulfilling the communities need for emergency medical services. We are discussing with Essex Rescue the current model of coverage that exists and whether or not it is sufficient or a change would provide better coverage to the communities.

These are the current major projects that the UJFD is going to be working on. In the future the department will bring forward our proposals and plans to the select boards to discuss the needs and impacts that these projects will have on the communities. The UJFD prides itself on being a progressive fire department working hard to keep its communities and firefighters safe for all the emergencies that we face.

### **Grants**

The UJFD was awarded Grants to upgrade all of our SCBAs including the air compressors and a new NFPA compliant fill station that will protect our firefighters from harm should something go wrong while filling a cylinder. We also obtained a fill station for our heavy rescue truck which houses our portable breathing air system. In addition to this we also obtained a grant for new gear extractors and a gear dryer. Research is showing that the protective gear we wear into a fire holds carcinogens from the fire and exposes firefighters to those cancer causing agents. Recommendations are being made to wash the gear immediately following a fire. With the washers and dryer we will be able to do that quicker and more effectively, reducing the amount of time a firefighter does not have gear.