

**REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROGRAMS**

Roster of Firefighting Equipment

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 27

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
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HISTORY

The fire services community is providing an invaluable service to the citizens of Virginia. The Department of Fire Programs conducted a study of the cost savings of volunteers in Virginia. It was determined that the cost saving of salaries alone amounted to \$469,000,000 per year. To fund these services is cost prohibitive. We are very fortunate to have so many professional firefighters in Virginia. The greater majority volunteer their time, talents, and resources to serve their communities and their State.

In 1984, the General Assembly passed Section 38.2-401 of the Code of Virginia which established a "Fire Programs Fund". Since 1985, \$44,028,797 has been collected and returned to the localities to purchase firefighting equipment and train firefighters. The professionalism of our firefighters and the quality of firefighting equipment has risen to an all time high in Virginia. The services provided by the fire services community of Virginia is second to none in the nation. However, the cost of equipment and training continues to rise.

Several years ago, the Department of Fire Programs saw a need to coordinate surplus equipment from one department to another. This has been done by the authority granted in Title 9, Chapter 25 and Section 38.2-401, Code of Virginia, 1950 (amended).

Since 1984, the agency has collected and distributed to other localities certain types of firefighting equipment and protective clothing (self-contained breathing apparatus, helmets, bunker coats and trousers, etc.) All of this equipment has been transferred at little or no cost to the receiving localities.

Item 442, Chapter 893 of the Acts of Assembly of 1992, directed the Department of Fire Programs to determine the feasibility of establishing and maintaining a "Roster of Firefighting Equipment" which has been declared surplus by local fire agencies and which may be available for acquisition by other localities.

THE REPORT

The Department of Fire Programs shall prepare and mail a survey to all local fire departments and agencies throughout the Commonwealth requesting the following on firefighting equipment and declared surplus:

- a. Type and condition of equipment
- b. Fire Apparatus -
 1. type of apparatus
 2. make
 3. year, model and weight
 4. other pertinent information
- c. Asking sales price, if any
- d. Contact person, address and telephone number
- e. Does your locality require surplus equipment to go to auction, if so:
 1. Location, date and time auction will be held

Upon receipt of the survey, the agency will enter all information into a computer using Professional File software.

The Department will prepare a listing of all surplus firefighting equipment statewide, listing all pertinent information and mail it to fire departments and agencies quarterly.

Special mailout will be prepared and mailed as required to advertise scheduled activities.

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost will be funded from current agency operation budget.

No additional computer equipment or software would be required.

SUMMARY

This program has been in place on an informal basis. This process will now be formalized with the appropriate records maintained by the agency. The agency will assume no liability for surplus equipment but will act only as a resource for availability.