



Truro Talks

TRURO'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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The Future of the Fire Department

CSS, Fire & Emergency Services Project Manager, Thomas Impey

The Town of Truro is requesting this tax override to fund the increase of staffing of the Truro Fire Department to meet the present needs of the community and prepare us to move forward into the future.

Following the recommendations in the recent Lower Cape EMS Study by Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS), the Truro Fire Department will be transitioning to a fully staffed ALS transport service beginning in FY25. This has become necessary as the current model of working with the Lower Cape Ambulance Association is no longer a feasible option for our community. Cost increases and staffing shortages have rendered the current EMS system obsolete.

To provide the quality EMS service our community deserves; the Truro Fire Department will need to increase its current staffing. In phase I of this transition, the community was gracious enough to grant funding to increase staffing from eight firefighters to a total of 12 firefighters, four of whom will serve dual roles as firefighters/paramedics. Phase II of this process will be increasing staffing from the current 12 firefighters to 16 firefighters, eight of whom will act in dual roles as FF/EMTP.

Increased staffing levels will allow our fire department to fully serve our community for fire suppression and emergency incidents while also providing the highest quality EMS services to our residents. To that end, we are also requesting funding for an administrative support position. This will include EMS administration tasks such as ambulance licensing, billing, and purchasing of EMS supplies. This position is a critical component of our proposed transition to fire department-based EMS.

This additional funding will allow the Truro Fire Department to have complete control of the EMS service provided to our residents. It will allow the Fire Chief to review and revise the service as necessary to reduce response times and improve the overall quality of care provided to our citizens. The current model does not allow this municipal oversight.

As a result of this increased staffing, our firefighters, as well as the community will be safer. These staffing increases will allow our firefighters the opportunity to conform with OSHA's "two-in, two-out rule", an important standard in interior firefighting operations. It will also allow two firefighters to remain in our community to respond to emergencies while our ambulance transports to Cape Cod Hospital, nearly 38 miles away.



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Current staffing levels would leave our community unprotected during these transports. An additional benefit could be a better Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification for our fire department, potentially resulting in lower homeowners' insurance premiums for our citizens.

We humbly request your support for this warrant article which will allow the Truro Fire Department to provide the all-hazards response our citizens and visitors deserve.

Sincerely,

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