ANNUAL REPORT OF MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT 1939

RICHARD WIDMANN, Chief Fire Dept.

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Honorable James R. Law

Honorable Board Of Police And Fire Commissioners

Madam and Gentlemen:

I have the privilege to herewith present to you a brief report of The Fire Department Activities for the year 1939.

The number of alarms received were <u>844</u> of this number <u>62</u> were false and the balance were working fires. The total man hours for the entire department answering alarms was <u>840</u> hours and 51 minutes. The loss on buildings and contents was greater than in 1938, although the average loss per working fire was less than for the last past five years.

Unfortunately, two firemen and one civilian lost their lives in fires during the year. I deeply regret the loss of these lives.

Most of our apparatus is in good condition.
However, No. 2 Pumping unit which has been in service since 1922
is quiet badly worn and should be replaced within the next few years.
This is also true of the No. 4 Service truck which has been in service since 1919, provision should be made to replace this unit at an early date.

The Department Buildings are in good condition except for a general overhauling in the older units. The new No. 7 station constructed during the year was put in service January 15,1940. This station is greatly appreciated and is a valuable asset to our department.

May I call your attention again to the fact that a suitable yearly account be provided in a fund to cover future purchase of equipment and apparatus to replace that which because of age and depreciation is fast wearing out. Such a plan will fit into a budget program of purchases. A gradual replacement plan is far better than sudden or haphazard purchase procedure.

Depreciation cannot be figured to the dollar, it therefor becomes necessary to make an estimate. It may be said that the life of a piece of apparatus is from 18 to 20 years. Depending upon use, care, and maintenance. The rate of depreciation is from 5.5 to 6 percent of the original cost for each year of service, and from the enclosed summary of all apparatus, you may readily see the depreciation value at the close of 1939, and the need for such a fund.

I again call your attention to the fact that some provision be made to increase the man power of the fire department, over a period of not more than three years, to full strength for each

piece of apparatus. That thought be given to the erection of an engine house on the near north side of the city for future expansion and service to areas involved.

FIRE INSPECTION AND PREVENTION

During the year the Department Inspector made a total of 2482 inspections. Of these, 1221 were in the fire limits and 379 out of the fire limits, 828 were specials and 54 reinspections. A Total of 861 defects were noted in the fire limits and 217 out of the fire limits. 20 defects were referred to the Electrical Inspector and 44 to the Building Commissioner.

During the year Fire Drills are conducted in all schools and fire prevention programs conducted. Talks were given over radios, to Civic Clubs, P.T.A. groups, theater ushers, insurance groups, and church groups.

Fire department officials are of the opinion that the average citizen of Madison is becoming fire minded. As fire prevention is an educational function, I at this time want to thank school officials and teachers for their cooperation and interest in this work.

I am in hopes that in the very near future, means will be found to make this fire department activity more efficient, by adding man power.

FIRST AID SQUAD

You are perhaps familiar with some of the activities of the Fire Department First Aid Squad under the direction of Mr. Edward Page. And of the fine work being accomplished by other members of the squad which consists of seven men.

As usual, we assisted the American Red Cross in their annual roll call by publicly demonstrating what they had done for us in First Aid Work.

Members were called upon numerous times to give public demonstrations both in and out of the city, and First Aid Classes conducted where and when requested. Our First Aid Squad instructed firemen attending The Firemanship School conducted in August 1939 at the Wisconsin University.

The Boy Scouts were given the annual attention and throughout the year our men instructed them and helped them in that praise worthy work of scoutship. This is equally true with Girl Scouts.

Congratulations are due the entire membership of the Madison Fire Department for their unselfish volunteering of blood transfusions at the various hospitals.

Instruction work was carried on in the department during the year as part of the house drills.

We want to thank you for assisting, where you could. Rest assured our efforts will be toward a most efficient First Aid Squad.

DRILL AND FIRE SCHOOL

The drill and fire school under the Direction of Drill Master Sime became a reality June 27,1939. Since that time many improvements have been made in the evolutions and methods of handling tools, equipment, and apparatus in the fire department. The drills are set up in 35 standard evolutions, and a record kept of each man in the department. This also includes officers.

Education is finding its way into modern fire fighting methods. The drill school is the best means of conveying newer and less complicated ideas to the men. Of the 35 evolutions, no more than 18 can be taught at the various stations, due to the lack of equipment and suitable space to work in. It therefor becomes obvious that a drill tower is necessary, and I am in hopes that provision for the erection and equiping of such tower will be made in the very near future. We are now hindered in our outside drill work by passing cars and spectators and are not getting the best results under these conditions. Neither do we have the proper training area for the use of masks as to smoke or gases and acid fumes.

This summary will show the man hours spent in drills for the past 5 months.

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Co. No. 1 at 18 So. Webster St. - - - - - 568 hours
" " 2 " 301 No. Broom St. - - - - 136 "
" 3 " 1217 Williamson St. - - - - 258 "
" 4 " 1329 W. Dayton St. - - - - 276 "
" 5 " 2137 Atwood Ave. - - - - 206 "
" 6 " 957 So. Park St. - - - - 152 "
The No. 7 Station at 2410 Monroe St. will be
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included after January 15, 1940.

I am sure under the continued direction and instruction of Drill Master Sime that we will find a marked improvement in our fire department and in our fire fighting methods.

POLICE AND FIRE ALARM AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS SYSTEM

The following is a report of the work done during the past year:

Built $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of new private telephone line from #4 station to #7 station.

Built $1\frac{1}{8}$ miles of No. 4 circuit fire alarm from #4 station to station #7.

Added 7 additional private telephones and rebuilt 8 in service. Revamped the entire private telephone system.

Repaired and partially rebuilt Aerial Police and Fire alarm where needed.

Trimmed out trees that interfered with Police and Fire larm wires.

Laid 4475 ft. of fiber duct on State St.

Replaced 3650 ft. of Police and Fire Alarm cable on State St. Laid 8 laterals on State St. for future expansion.

Replaced 14 Mathews Joints on State St.

Replaced 4 interferring type fire alarm boxes with non-

nterferring type.

Extended fire alarm lines on Fair Oaks Ave. and Thorp St.

nd added 1 new non-interferring box on that line.

Added new Time and Date Stamp Set at #1 station.

Relocated fire alarm box 18 and police box 13 at State

ed Gilman Sts.

Installed Traffic Lights at Butler, King and Wilson Sts.

50 ft. of cable and 5 standards.

Installed new traffic lights at Park and W. Johnson Sts.

standards, 250 ft. cable.

Installed new service on pole and meter box at Park and

Johnson Sts. for traffic lights.

Replaced 110 ft. traffic light cable at Randall and

niversity Aves.

Replaced 80 ft. traffic light cable at Gorham and State Sts. Replaced 175 ft. traffic light cable at State, Johnson

nd Henry Sts.

Replaced 75 ft. traffic light cable at Fairchild and

tate Sts.

Replaced 80 ft. traffic light cable at E. Johnson and

amilton Sts.

Replaced 110 ft. traffic light cable at E. Washington ve. and Pinckney St.

Installed 3 new sodium flood lights on safety islands

n University Ave. used 150 ft. cable.

Relocated 1 traffic light standard at W. Johnson and tate Sts. and 1 at Orchard and University Ave.

Installed All Fire Alarm and private telephone equipment

n the new No. 7 Fire Station

Installed 2 new Flasher stop lights at Winnebago and

twood Ave. including Electric service.

Installed 1 new Flasher stop light at Bedford& W. Main, ne Flasher stop light Olin Ave. and Park St. and Flasher Slow Sign n University Ave. west of Highland Ave. including electric service nall three.

Relocated Flicker light at Gorham and N. Henry Sts. Did all maintenance work on Police and Fire Alarm &

raffic Light Systems.

From April 1, 1939 to December 31, 1939 inclusive, man hours doing this work was divided as follows:

Traffic System - - - - - - 615 hours
Police Alarm - - - - - 253 * *
Fire Alarm - - - - - - - - - 1925 **

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation the appreciation of the members of the Fire Department to the ice and Fire Commission, the Honorable Mayor and the Members of the mon Council for the interest taken in Our Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief, Fire Department

IN MEMORIAM

ADOLPH N. HABICH.

JUDSON H. HOLCOMB.

APPOINTED REGULAR FIREMAN

FEBRUARY -15- 1927

DIED IN LINE OF DUTY

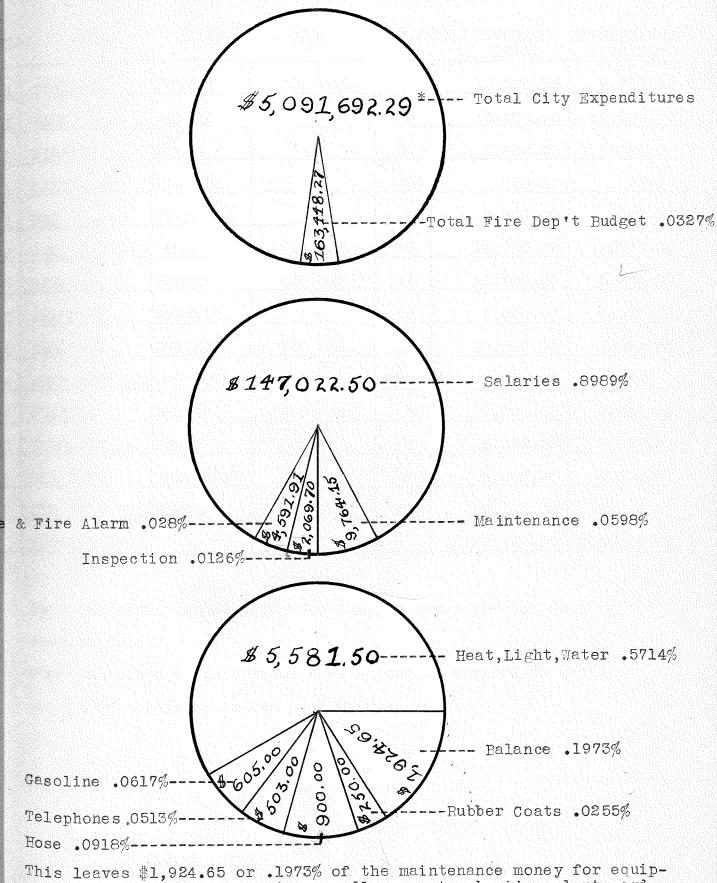
JUNE -10- 1939

LIEUTENANT EMIL PYFFEROEN.

APPOINTED REGULAR FIREMAN

JANUARY -23- 1917

DIED DECEMBER -18- 1939.



This leaves \$1,924.65 or .1973% of the maintenance money for equipment, supplies, laundry, repairs on all apparatus, heating plants and plumbing fixtures in all buildings.

SUMMARY OF ALL APPARATUS AS OF DECEMBER 31-1939.

STA	MAKE.	KIND.	SIZE	YRS.SE	CRV. PURCHASE PRICE	DEPRECIATION VALUE
1	SEAGRAVE	PUMPER	1,000 GAL.	10	13,500.00	6,750.00
1	MACK	AERIAL		6	16,500.00	11,550.00
1	KISSEL	HQSE CHEM.	W. A.	24	4,685.00	NONE
1	CHEVROLET	ELEC.TR.	~	2 ½ 2 ½	720.00	504.00
	REO	CHIEF'S		6	1,050.00	420.00
2	AMER.LAFRANCI	PUMPER	750 Gal.	17.	12,500.00	1,875.00
3	SEAGRAVE	PUMPER	750 GAL.	14	12,500.00	3,750.00
3	SEAGRAVE	SERV.TR.		15	9,500.00	2,375.00
4	SEAGRAVE	PUMPER	750 GAL.	16	12,500.00	1,875,00
4	AMER.LAFRANCI	SERV.TR.		20	7,700.00	NONE
5	SEAGRAVE	PUMPER	600 GAL.	76	6,200.00	4,340.00
6	SEAGRAVE	PUMPER	600 GAL.	4	6,622.00	5,297.00
6	SEAGRAVE	SERV.TR.		10	9,000.00	4,500.00
7	*GEN.FIRE TR.	PUMPER	750 GAL	NEW	9,183.00	9,183.00
	TOTAL VALUE				\$122,160.00	\$51,794.00

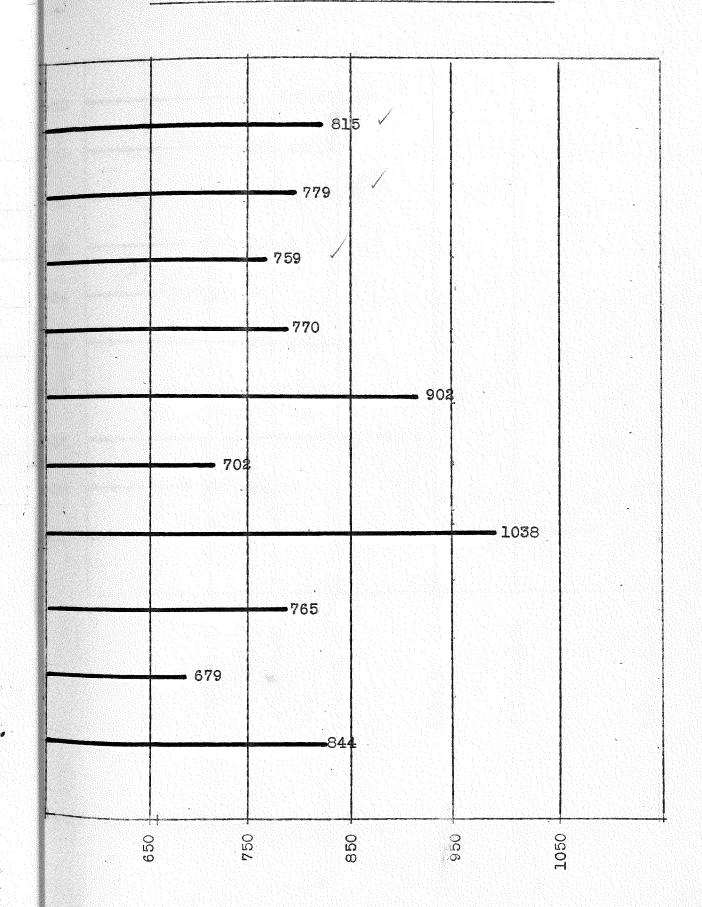
^{*} This includes the new apparatus that is ready for the opening of station No.7.

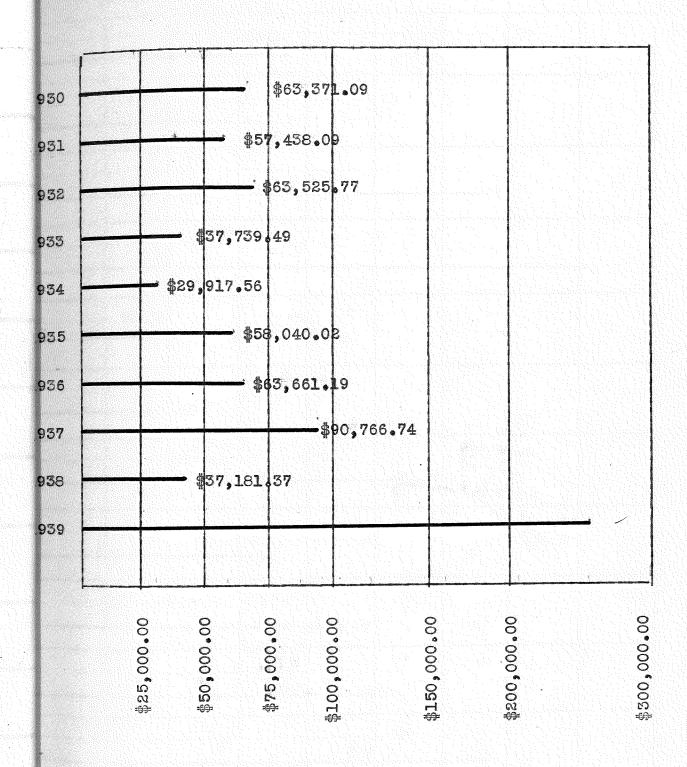
From the above it is obvious that a fund be created to replace pieces of apparatus in the near future.

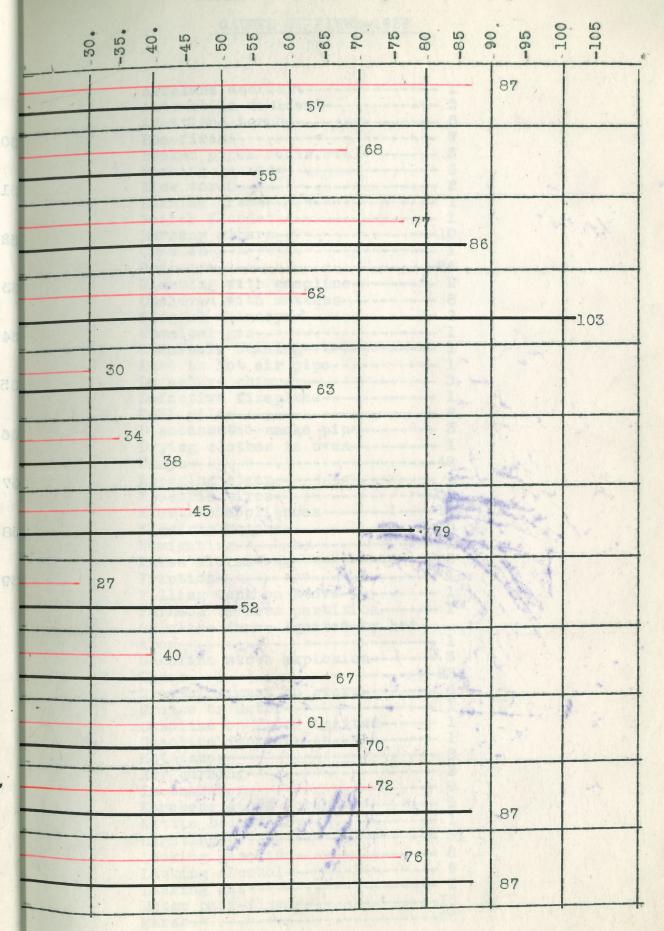
SUMMARY OF BUILDINGS AND SITES

STATION NO.	SITE.	BUILDING.	TOTAL.
1.	23,600.00	41,641.00	65,241.00
		19,610.00	30,235.00
2.	10,625.00		
3.	1,625.00	9,615.00	11,240.00
4.	2,200,00	21,421.00	23,621.00
5.	3,000.00	20,117.00	23,117.00
6.	775.00	21,709.00	22,484.00
7.	1,800.00	33,891.00	35,691.00

Total value of all Fire Department Buildings and sites including No. 7 station built in 1939.---- \$211,629.00







CAUSES OF FIRES-1939

Airplane accident 1
Automobile accident 3
Acetylene torch 5
Acetylene torch 5 Bon-fires 7
Broken pipes coils.etc 3
Burning leaves 6
Burning leaves 6 Blow torch 2
Purning tree 1
Roiler flooded1
Burnung embers10
Chimneys86
Cleaning with gasoline 2
Children with matches 8
Clogged chimneys 2
Chemical gas1
Chemicals burning1
Dust in hot air pipe 1
Defective chimney 3
Defective fireplace1
Coal pile2
Disconnected smoke pipe 3
Disconnected Smoke pipe
Drying clothes in oven1
Dumps
Escaping steam4
Electric wires55
Electric appliances11
Electric Motors15
Fumigating1
False alarms62 Friction1
Frietion
Filling tank on stove 1
Furnace to near partition I
Gasoline fumes ignited by not
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Gasoline stove explosion 3
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TO MITTING DOWN
Tratan heat-fired
Motor back-fired

CAUSES OF FIRES-1939 (continued)

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Oil b	urner-						34
Oil m	ops,ra	gs,et	C		men made and weak to-		3
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11		gas s					
11		stove					
11		11	pi)e	-		2
11		tar k					
***		water	chea	ater.	-		2
Greas	e in s	noke	hous	56	ng 1000 = 100 and	200 000 000 000	2
Greas	e on mo	otor-					1
Peat-	960 tow 1264 stp 400 000 1			AD 0000 1000 1000 0		Same and and read	LO
Rags	on moto	or					1
Refle	ction-		-		-		1
Rubbi	sh		the copy ages and			[53
Spark	s from	engi	ne				2
Spont	meous	igni	tior	<u>]</u> ——		gen with 450 5505	3
Smoky	stove-						5
	baseme	ent	WW 644 259 64		-		1
11	firepl	Lace-					1
Spark	s from	chim	nev-	ge was man ear in			14
Salama	ander		-			-	1
Smoke:	r's car	celes	snes	s			57
Smelt	smoke.		ens son and in				1
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WHERE FIRES OCCURED-1939

Automobiles	77	
Apartments	35	
Bakery	3	
Barns, sheds etc	10	
Bowling alleys	3	
Cleaning plants		
Churches		
Dwellings		
Flats		
Fraternities		
Filling stations	2	
Garages	12	
Hotels	5	
Hospitals	6	
Halls		
Laundrys	1	
Offices	9.	
Packing plants		
Pumping stations	1	
Restaurants	5	
Rooming houses	6	
Schools		
Sororities		
Stores		
Change	10	
Shops	10	
Taverns	9	
Shops	9	
Taverns	·1939 · 133	
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Taverns	9 1939 133 26 256 3 15 3 408 2D-1939	Management
Taverns	9 1939 133 26 256 3 15 3 408 10–1939 74 753 17 7ED–1939	to the same of the

SPECIAL CALLS 1939

Children locked in bath room———————————————————————————————————	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
OUT OF CITY CALLS-1939	
Automobiles————————————————————————————————————	2 1 3 21 4 10 4
Brick Cement or stucco Frame Stone Steel Other than buildings	1
Total number of calls	79

FIRE STATION NO.1.

18 SOUTH WEBSTER STREET.

Kissel combination chemical and hose wagon, used as an emergency truck, carries 1200 feet of $2\frac{1}{2}$ " hose, 40 gallon soda and acid chemical pressure tank, 200 feet of chemical hose, 1 Universal turret nozzle (3 tips) $1-1\frac{1}{2}$ ", $1-\frac{3}{4}$ ", 1-2", 1-20 foot extension ladder and one 14 foot roof ladder and other accessories. Bought in 1915. Purchase price \$4,685.00 Depreciation value none.

Chevrolet panel truck, used by the Electricion and his Assistant, carries tools and equipment for the maintenance of the Police and Fire alarm system and traffic lights. Bought in 1937. Purchase price \$720.00 Depreciation value \$504.00.

Personnel consists of Chief of the Fire Department and two Assistant chiefs, Secretary, Drill Master, Fire Inspector, Master Mechanic, 2 Electricions, Assigned as follows: 1-man as chief's driver, Assistant Chief and five men on engine, four men on aerial truck, (Secretary and Master Mechanic are assigned to duty on aerial truck and are included in truck crew.) Assignment of opposite shift the same. Entire personnel of station # 1 is 27-29 men.

Floor Watch duty is assigned to each man in his turn.

Alarms answered	255 — 264
2½" hose laid	24,150 ft. 2 98 8 3
2 hose laid	
Ladders raised	1,146 ft. / 507
Water pumped for booster	2,946 gals. / 904
Chemicals (small)	42 / 0
Time worked answering alarms and at	128-1 hrs. 8,352 Min.

FIRE STATION NO. 1.

18 SOUTH WEBSTER STREET.

VALUE OF SITE \$23,600.00 STATION \$41,641.00 TOTAL VAL.\$65,241.00

Seagrave triple combination pumper and hose wagon. 1,00 gallon capacity,100 gallon booster tank, carries 1200 feet 2½" hose,150 feet 1½" hose and 250 feet ¾" booster hose, one 20 foot extension ladder, one 14 foot roof ladder, Foamite generator 2 fifty pound cans of foamite powder, foamite special pipe, Ever-ready dry chemical extinguisher (Du-Gas), and other accessories. Purchase price \$13,500.00 Depreciation value \$6,750.00

\$4,040.62

1.

Mack International 85 foot aerial carries 264 feet of ladders besides aerial ladder. Aerial ladder equiped with invincible type ladder nozzle with tips for same as follows: 1-2", 1-1\frac{2}{4}", 1-1-5/8", 1-1\frac{1}{2}" l-1-3/8", charged with a 3" deluge line. Bresnan cellar nozzle, l goose neck cellar pipe, l directional cellar pipe, 2 siamese couplings, male and female inlets, acetylene cutting torch complete (3 tips), hose roller, life bag, l self contained oxygen mask, battering ram, 7-fifty pound cans of foamite powder, Life net 9\frac{1}{2} feet diameter, 2-14" flood lights, 1-12" spot light, light furnished by 1-1250 watt generator, also carries other accessories. Bought in 1934, Purchase price \$16,500.00. Depreciation value \$11,550.00.

Reo coupe (2 passemger) carries inhalator, first aid kit, blankets, burn kit and other accessories. Used fo Fire Department business and fire calls by the Chief and Assistant Chiefs. One man assigned as chief's driver. Bought in 1934. Purchase price \$1,050.00 Depreciation value \$420.00.

Dulys cor - Surbane price \$829.00 - My Value 373.05

FIRE STATION NO. 2.

301 NORTH BROOM STREET.

VALUE OF SITE \$10,625.00 STATION \$19,610.00 TOTAL VALUE \$23,621.00

Engine 2.

American La France triple combination pumper and hose wagon, 750 gallon capacity, 100 gallon booster tank, carries 1200 feet 2½" hose, 100 feet 1½" hose, 200 feet ½" booster hose and one 24 foot extension ladder. Bought in 1922, purchase price \$12,500.00 Depreciation value \$1,875.00.

Personnel consists of 1-Captain, 1-Lieutenant and 6 men. (2 shifts). Officer and 3 men on engine.

FIRE STATION NO. 3.

1217 WILLIAMSON STREET.

VALUE OF SITE \$1,625.00 STATION \$9,615.00 TOTAL VAL. \$11,240.00

Seagrave triple combination pumper and hose wagon. 750 gallon capacity, 100 gallon booster tank, carries 1200 feet 2½" hose, 100 feet 1½" hose, 200 feet ¾" booster hose, one 20 foot extension ladder, one 12' roof ladder. Bought in 1925, purchase price \$12,500.00 Depreciation Value \$3,750.00.

3.

Seagrave service truck carries 260 feet of ladders, 40 ggllon chemical soda and acid pressure tank, 250 feet of chemical hose, 6 fifty pound pails of foamite powder and other accessories. Bought in 1924. Purchase price \$9,500.00. Depreciation value \$2,375.00.

Personnel consists of 1-Captain, 1-Lieutenant and 10 men (2 shifts) Officer and 3 men on engine and 2 men on service truck.

Alarms answered	284 330
2½" hose alid	18,800 ft. 12,987
3 hose laid	
Ladders raised	843 ft. /257
Water pumped for booster	1,978 gals. 27/7
Chemicals (small)	24
Time worked answering alarms and at fires	157-½ hrs.
	1050

FIRE STATION NO. 4.

1329 WEST DAYTON STREET

VALUE OF SITE \$2,200.00 STATION \$21,421.00 TOTAL VAL.\$23,621.00

Seagrave triple combination pumper and hose wagon.
750 gallon capacity, 100 gallon booster tank, carries
1200 feet 2½" hose, 100 feet 1½" hose, 200 feet ¾"
booster hose, one 20 foot extension ladder and one
12 foot roof ladder. Bought in 1923 purchase price
\$12,500.00. Depreciation value \$1,250.00.

of a

American La France service truck, carries 236 feet of ladders, Life net, self contained oxygen mask and other accessories. Bought in 1919 purchase price \$7,700.00. Depreciation value none.

Personnel consists of 1-Captain, 1- Lieutenant and 10 men. (2 shifts). Officer and 3 men on engine and 2 men on service truck.

Alarms answered	206	- 7	7 %
$2\frac{1}{2}$ hose laid	15,000	ft.	19300
3th hose laid	9,200	ft.	5860
Ladders raised	6 85	ft.	853
Water pumped for booster	2,310	gals.	1197
Chemicals (small)	33		6
Time worked answaring alarms and at fires	109-⅓	hrs.	
	135		

FIRE STATION NO. 5. 2137 ATWOOD AVENUE.

TALUE OF SITE \$3,000.00 STATION \$20,117.00 TOATL VALUE \$23,117.00

Seagrave triple combination pumper and hose wagon. (suburbun type) 600 gallon capacity, 100 gallon booster tank, carries 1200 feet 2½" hose, 100 feet of 1½" hose, 200 feet ¾" booster hose, one 24 foot extension ladder, one 12 foot roof ladder. Bought in 1934 Purchase price\$6,200.00. Depreciation value \$4,340.00.

#3126.70

Personnel consists of 1-Captain, 1-Lieutenant and 8 men (2 shifts).Officer and 4 men on engine.

Alarms answered		235	166
2½" hose laid	and the same was the same and	31,750	ft./5450
3" hose laid		18,600	ft. ///00
Ladders raised		211	ft. /3 2
Water pumped for booster			
Chemicals (small)		9	
Time worked an sweriing alarms and	at fires	207	-¾ hrs.
14" lose		500	

FIRE STATION NO. 6. 957 SOUTH PARK STREET.

VALUE OF SITE \$775.00 STATION \$21,709.00 TOTAL VAL. \$22,484.00

Seagrave triple combination pumper and hose wagon (suburbun type) 600 gallon capacity, 100 gallon booster tank, carries 1200 feet of 25" hose, 100 feet ine 6. of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose, 200 feet $\frac{3}{4}$ " booster hose one 24 foot extension ladder, one 12' roof ladder. Bought in 1935. Purchase price \$6,622.00. Depreciation value \$5,297.00.

Seagrave service truck carries 265 feet of ladders. 40 gallon chemical soda and acid pressure tank, 200 feet chemical hose, deluge set and tripod, 6 fifty ick 6. pound pails of foamite powder and other accessories. Bought in 1929. Purchase price \$9,000.00. Depreciation value \$4,500.00. 2692.50

Personnel consists of 1-Captain, 1-Lieutenant and 8 men (2 shifts) Officer and 3 men on engine and 1 man on service truck. - 10 min - zeffins

Alarms answered----- 174 (178) 2½" hose laid----- 12,800 ft. / 3,500 Boaster Hese 3" hose laid----- 10,200 ft. 3,9 % Ladders raised-----422 ft. 23/ Water pumped for bosster----- 4,488 gal. 820 Chemicals (small) 12 -/ Time worked answering alarms and at fires---- 134-1 hrs.

Onal - 12,065.00 - Report Val 10, 545,15.

(suburb

Time wor

FIRE STATION NO. 7. 2410 MONROE STREET.

VALUE OF SITE \$1,800.00 STATION \$33,891.00 TOTAL VAL. \$35,691.00

General Fire Truck triple combination pumper and hose wagon. 750 gallon caparity, 160 gallon booster tank, carries 1200 feet of 2½" hose, 100 feet of 1½" hose, 200 feet of ½" booster hose, one 20 foot extension ladder and one 12 foot roof ladder. Bought in 1939 Purchase price \$9,183.00. Depreciation value \$9,183.00. This piece of apparatus was placed in service January 15th. 1940.

7.

Maria I

eletroui I.A.

Personnel consists of 1-Captain, 1-Lieutenant and 6 men (2 shifts) Officer and 3 men on engine.

aloransansund - - 102

21/3" home - 5650

Boartergale - 100

Boartergale - 1163

Small chem - 0

2/2 5600 1/2 more 1/2 more 1/2 3650 1/2 348 Small Blue 1/2 Ladder Toma Ladder HI-b

#4