



IV K

***Community
Services***



IV K. COMMUNITY SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The Community Service section of the DEIS evaluates the potential impacts of the project on the Town's emergency service providers including police service, fire protection and ambulance.

1. EXISTING CONDITIONS

a. Bedford Police Department

The Bedford Police Department is a full-time, full-service agency offering professional police, protection and law enforcement services to Bedford residents, businesses, and visitors to the Town. Functions include community-based policing and patrol, traffic enforcement and investigation, criminal investigative services and youth services (DARE program, youth court and school liaison). The department is also responsible for parking enforcement, dog control and school crossing guards.

Under the Chief of Police the Bedford Police Department is organized into three divisions:

- Administrative Services – accreditation, scheduling, training, time & attendance
- Patrol Services – uniform patrol (5 squads), dispatch, emergency services, traffic, parking, crossing guards & dog control
- Staff Services – detective bureau, youth bureau, records, crime prevention & building maintenance

In 2005 the department employed 43 sworn officers and 13 civilian staff, and maintains a fleet of 20 vehicles.

The annual policing budget is around \$4.7 million (2005), with around \$300,000 being typically spent on overtime to maintain sufficient available resources and minimum mandated staffing levels.



The existing Police Department is located on a triangular plot of land shared with the Bedford Town Hall, Municipal offices, the newly-constructed courthouse and two other smaller buildings. The total amount of land is around 3.3 acres, with between one-third and one-quarter of this (approx. 0.94 acres) dedicated to the police building and associated operational, staff and visitor parking. The existing 7,265 sq.ft police building has long ceased to meet police department space needs effectively. The building is overcrowded, badly planned and working conditions do not support efficient police operations. Many functions must share small, crowded offices. The existing building was built in the 1960s, with a flat roof, structural steel frame, concrete mat foundation and brick masonry exterior. It was renovated in 1978/1979 as a police station.

The Bedford Police Department has grown steadily. Since 1971 the number of sworn officers has grown from 32 to 43, with a peak of 45 in 2004. The number of civilian and support staff has grown similarly, from an estimated 4 in 1980 to 13 in 2005. Numbers fluctuate from year to year, but the general trend is growth to support increased service demand. Actual staffing in the past few years has typically been 3 to 4 short of the authorized strength, with a concomitant reduction in service capacity, and stretching of available resources.

The Bedford Police Department deals with approximately 23,000 calls for service per year (including park checks). Over the past couple of decades the numbers of calls for service and the time spent on each call has gone up. Since 1978 the annual number of blotter entries has increased from 5,320 to 22,697 in 2004¹.

b. Fire

Fire protection services are provided to the Site by the Bedford Hills Fire Department. The Department was formed on February 4, 1903 and today has over one hundred volunteers who are supervised by three chiefs. The Department responds to a multitude calls for service from the public including but not limited to: fire alarms, motor vehicle fires and accidents,

¹ Bedford Police Department, Needs Assessment & Accommodation Report, December 2005



smoke investigations, and specialized rescue operations. Bedford Hills Fire Department also provides a FAST Team (Firefighter Assist Search Team) to our neighboring communities as a part of the Mutual Aid system. The members of this team have advanced training that is used to rescue a fallen firefighter if the need arises. In addition to responding to calls for service, the Department provides Fire Prevention education to all schools and organizations in the Bedford Hills Fire District and spends numerous hours keeping skills and education up to current standards.

The Department is housed in a two-story masonry firehouse located at 332 Bedford Road in Bedford Hills.

The Department utilizes and maintains the following apparatus:

TABLE IV-K-1 BEDFORD HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS			
Identification #	Type	Year	Model
Car 2031	Utility Vehicle	2007	Chevrolet 2500
Car 2032	Utility Vehicle	2001	Ford F-250
Car 2033	Utility Vehicle	2003	Ford F-350
Tower Ladder 57	Tower Ladder	2000	Seagrave Aerialscope
Engine 198	Fire Engine	1998	Pierce
Engine 199	Fire Engine	1991	Pierce
Tanker 5	Pumper Truck	2004	Seagrave Marauder
Mini Attack 9	Fire Rescue	1988	Salisbury International
Rescue 10	Fire Rescue	1995	PL Custom/International
Antique Engine 196	Antique Engine	1928	Dodge Brothers/Bufalo Fire Apparatus

Source: Bedford Hill FD Website

To date, the Department has responded to 81 incidents this year. Table IV-K-2 presents incident totals for the past 7 years.



TABLE IV-K-2 BEDFORD HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT RESPONSES 2001 - 2007	
Year	# Incidents
2007	336
2006	373
2005	363
2004	324
2003	312
2002	264
2001	239

Source: Bedford Hill FD Website

c. Ambulance

Emergency ambulance is provided to the Site by the Katonah-Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps (KBHVAC). The KBHVAC provides emergency services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The KBHVAC is part of the Town of Bedford Response System, which responds to the medical emergencies for both Katonah and Bedford Hills, and provides mutual-aid services for surrounding communities, as well as coverage for large sections of Interstate 684 and the Saw Mill River Parkway.

At present, the KBHVAC supports an active roster of more than fifty members - all volunteers. Members respond to calls through the Police Department's pager system in one of the Corp's two fully equipped modern ambulances.

The Corp responds to approximately 600 calls per year and in addition to providing emergency medical care, provides many other services, including free CPR training, free blood pressure readings at events, "stand-by" at parades, athletic events and instruction at schools and camps.

The Katonah Lions Ambulance Corps was founded in 1953, under the sponsorship of the Katonah Lions Club. The donation of a 1947 Cadillac



ambulance by the Katonah Fire Department made the Corps a functioning entity which answered sixteen calls the first year.

In October of 1964, the Corps purchased a newer ambulance and in 1967, the present property on Route 117 was purchased from the Town of Bedford, and an ambulance garage was constructed. By 1968, communications with the Bedford Police Department was established. The next few years witnessed tremendous growth. A paging system was initiated, and the number of calls answered increased rapidly. A second ambulance was purchased to handle additional emergencies.

In 1980, the name was changed to the Katonah - Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and in 1987, through donations of labor and materials from the community, and many hours of hard work by the Corps members, a new building was completed on the site of the old garage.

2. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

a. Police Department

The Project will result in a negligible demand for increased police services. The new church building will include security and monitoring features. Additionally, traffic congestion and parking constraints currently experienced at the existing facility during peak use periods will be alleviated by the construction of the new church. Abundant off-street parking would be provided thereby eliminating any need for overflow parking impacts on Buxton Road or Bedford Center Road. Furthermore, no impacts associated with the operational characteristics of the new facility are anticipated to require increased police services. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated.

b. Fire Department

The Project has been designed to meet all applicable building and fire safety codes and requirements. The building will be supported by state of the art fire protection and alarm systems including a sprinkler system. The Site is located 1.02 miles from the Bedford Hills Fire Department, and response



times from the Fire House to the Site are projected to be less than 2 minutes. Water supply for fire fighting purposes will be incorporated into the design of the on-site well system. Additionally, the opportunity to draw water from Broad Brook is an option in the case of an extreme emergency. The development of the Project will not adversely impact to the ability of the Bedford Hills Fire Department to meet the fire service demands of the community.

c. Health Care

The Project can adequately be served by existing health care facilities. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated.

3. MITIGATION MEASURES

a. Police Department

The Project will not result in a significant increased demand for police services. Periodically, special events held at the Church may warrant additional police services. In these instances, the Church will arrange for these services in advance with the Bedford Police Department, and will directly incur any costs associated with these services, such as Department overtime costs, etc. Beyond this commitment, no additional mitigation measures are required.

b. Fire Department

The Project will not result in any significant adverse impacts. The on-site well system will be designed to support fire fighting demands. The building will meet all applicable building and fire safety codes and requirements and will be supported by state of the art fire protection and alarm systems including a sprinkler system. No other mitigation measures are required.

c. Health Care

The Project will not result in any significant adverse impacts. No mitigation measures are required.