



RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUEST – RIDGID HULL INFLATABLE RESCUE BOAT

Project Description and Budget

The Southborough Fire Department is seeking to receive favorable consideration for a reserve fund transfer for the emergency purchase a Type 3, 13' 6" Ridged Hull Inflatable Water Rescue Boat (RHIB) with an appropriate sized outboard motor and trailer. The department currently maintains a 12' North Atlantic Inflatable Rescue Boat with a 20 hp outboard motor and trailer. The amount requested for this project is \$17,300.00 and will cover the boat, motor, and trailer. No facility modifications will be required to properly house the rescue boat.



Operations and Safety Cost Benefit

The department purchased a 12' inflatable water rescue boat in 2015 to replace a similar sized aluminum boat. The rescue boat is deployed for water and ice rescue incidents in town and mutual aid communities, as requested. Since 2017, the boat has been repair five (5) times for damage and air leaks at the seams. The most recent repair was made in September 2020. Early this spring the boat exhibited signs of another slow leak, requiring re-inflation once a week. During the June preventive maintenance inspection the re-inflation rate was increased to once every 24-48 hours. It has been determined that the readiness and reliability of the boat is questionable and the in service status is in jeopardy. The boat is projected to be replaced in 2030, but it is evident that further repairs will not extend its useful life another eight (8) years.



Bodies of water make up 9.6% of the total area of the town. The largest and most substantial is the Sudbury Reservoir that has a total area of approximately 2 square miles. This area represents a moderate to significant risk according to the findings of the department's 2020 Community Risk Analysis / Standard of Cover program.

The acquisition of a Type 3 13' 6 Ridged Hull Inflatable Water Rescue Boat (RHIB) with an appropriate sized outboard motor and trailer would provide a safe, reliable, and easily deployable water craft to water and ice rescue incidents. The selection of a RHIB compared to a flat, membrane hull, would provide enhanced durability and protection when operating near shore or around underwater structures; minimizing punctures. The selection of 13'6" RHIB is to accommodate additional weight capacity and a wider beam to improve stability. The current 12' boat's motor and trailer are not properly sized for the new RHIB, therefore these are included in the request. The department is working with a vendor for trade in opportunities. If none exists, the department will propose selling as surplus through a formal municipal bid process. The project, if not awarded through this request, is proposed to be added into the town's capital improvement plan for consideration at the Fall Special Town Meeting in 2021.

This request is consistent with the department's mission to "provide prompt and highly effective public safety and prevention services to our citizens, businesses and visitors" and the goal to "strengthen reliable delivery of essential emergency and non-emergency services". The request will also support risk reduction measures to areas identified in the department's 2020 Community Risk Analysis / Standard of Cover Report.

Statement of Effect on Operations

The department provides search and rescue of victims in or near the Sudbury Reservoir, as well as other bodies of water in Southborough. Other agencies that have jurisdiction and response capabilities include the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). These incidents may involve operating in swift moving water, swimming, self-rescue, victim rescue in open water or on ice, boat operations, night operations, and multi-agency coordination. The initial response for a water rescue requires an engine and ambulance response by land or via the department's rescue boat. The Incident Commander may also request the deployment of Massachusetts Fire District 14's Technical Rescue and Dive Team.

The acquisition of a Type 3, 13'6" Ridged Hull Inflatable Rescue Boat will contribute to the department's ability to meet the published service level objectives of 1) providing for the safety of responders, 2) gaining access to victim(s), 3) providing floatation device, and 4) affecting rescue.