

The groundwork for the Town of Oswego Fire District and the Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department was laid in 1980 when Bob Day approached the town board seeking permission to form a fire department. In November of that year, the town board formed a fire committee consisting of Fred Lockwood, Bob Raymond, Jack Slattery, Brian Kauffman, Bob Day, and Gary Hall.

In April 1981, the town board approved a motion allowing those that wished to form a fire department to incorporate, allowing them to attend training and research the purchase of equipment. In March 1982, the town board was notified the department included 35 individuals and a petition was presented to the board requesting a fire district be formed.

In October 1982 the town board formed a new fire committee consisting of John Goodney, Jim Lockwood, Pete Griffin, Bob Raymond, Brian Kauffman, Jim Regan, and Bob Baker. Ken Ellsworth reported the fire department had the manpower, a truck, and a rented building, and they were ready to start operating.

On December 27, 1982, the town board approved forming a fire district and appointed Robert Baker, Jim Lockwood, Jim Regan, John Goodney, and Robert Raymond as the five fire commissioners with terms to expire the end of 1983. The town board reappointed the five in January 1984.

1984

January 1984 marked the start of the Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department actively protecting the town of Oswego. Elected department officers included President Ted Todd, Vice President Bob Weigelt, Treasurer Marc Warner, and Secretary Pat McLaughlin. Line officers included Chief Jack Slattery, First Assistant Chief Dan Rupert, Second Assistant Chief Bill Carter, Captain Ford Babcock, Lieutenants John Babcock, Erwin Bennett, Ken Ellsworth, Ted Todd, Mike Germain, and Marc Warner, Engineer Bob Weigelt, and Assistant Engineer Bruce Todd,

From the Oswego County Messenger Friday, January 13, 1984:

OSWEGO TOWN - The Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department went to its first fire when volunteers were called to the Sebastian Palmitesso residence on Route 7, south of Thompson Road, shortly after 6 p.m. last night. (January 12, 1984)

The fire had a "good start" on the firefighters and extensively damaged the house, apparently extended from a chimney, according to a spokesman for Oswego County Fire Control.

An unidentified member of the Oswego Town department was taken to the Oswego Hospital and treated for minor burns, the spokesman said.

The Minetto Fire Department was also at the scene in mutual aid, and Hannibal stood by for Oswego Town. The Granby Fire Department was on standby for Minetto.

Oswego Town firefighters were on the scene until almost 10 p.m. A total of approximately 40 firefighters fought the blaze, the spokesman said.

No other injuries were reported.

1985

Vehicles in service in 1985 included 3451, 3432 (a 1957 CGMC), 3441 (a 1957 Ford), and 3461. The fleet included a new rescue (3461). The district received an FCC license for a base station radio. In the Fall of 1985, the department held an open house and dedicated the new fire station.

1986

The Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department held their first Chicken BBQ fundraiser in October 1986.

1987

The department logo “Blazing Bandits” was adopted in June 1987.

1988

The district purchased a 1988 Spartan LTA10 Sentinel pumper from FMC in 1988 (3442).

The department installed an outdoor basketball court

1989

The department created a Coffee Squad to assist with bringing food and beverages to extended incident scenes.

1990

The district purchased a 1990 Chevrolet Suburban Light Rescue (3462). The apparatus was received and put in service on February 2, 1990.

1992

The district purchased an International Heavy Rescue from Salsbury Fire Equipment (3461). The old Heavy Rescue was disposed of.

The station was expanded in 1992 to include offices and a commercial kitchen.

1993

A fire service awards program was initiated in 1993, and the department purchased its first defibrillator.

1994

In March 1994 a Cascade system was purchased to fill air cylinders at the station. The department extrication team won the Eastern Ontario Auto Extrication competition in Canada.

1995

A Plymovent exhaust system was purchased in July 1995, designed to keep vehicle exhaust fumes out of the station. A Mass Casualty Incident occurred in the district in July 1995 when a van carrying migrant workers went off State Route 104 and struck a tree. Three occupants were killed, and 14 others were injured. The department received Advanced Life Support (ALS) status in August 1995.

1996

In 1996 a Chevrolet Suburban was purchased and equipped with Advanced Life Support supplies (3462).

1997

On December 11, 1997, the district purchased a 1998 Spartan Gladiator pumper from Luverne Fire Apparatus of Brandon SD. The chassis included a Detroit diesel series 60 engine. The pumper included a 900-gallon Fiberglass tank and a Waterous CSU-2000 pump. This pumper replaced our 1984 pumper.

1999

Another station expansion was completed in 1999 to provide cold storage space. The department also obtained ice rescue equipment and starting training for such rescue operations.

Community members assisted department personnel installing a ball field behind the station for use by community members. The ball field was dedicated in honor of Butch Ponzi.

2000

Explorer Post #34 was established in 2000 at the Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department to encourage youths fourteen and older to explore opportunities in the fire and emergency medical service fields.

A 2000 Sea-Doo GTI watercraft and matching Karavan trailer were purchased from Ingles Performance of Phoenix, NY for potential water rescue operations. The department participated in a watercraft loaner program for several years, but the program ended.

A training tower was built in August 2000 within an enclosed fence.

2001

The rooftop siren was taken out of service and removed from the station in 2001. The exterior of the fire station was remodeled, including a new steel roof, brick façade, and siding installed.

2003

Oswego County experienced a 4-day ice storm in April 2003. Oswego Town fire station served as the emergency operation center for the town. The department received mutual aid from 27 fire departments and SAVAC. Department members logged 2,075 volunteers man hours during the event. There were 250 alarms including 2 structure fires and a handful of EMS runs. Mutual aid departments logged 1,100 man-hours of volunteer time.

The district purchased a Caterpillar Olympian G50F3 natural gas generator from Syracuse Supply in November 2003. The 45KW generator was funded by a FEMA grant to power the station during outage.

2004

During the summer of 2004, the fire district built a new 1,600 square feet addition off rear of fire station to house a new meeting room. The fire district entered a joint venture with the Oswego Town Board to also allow the Town Court and Oswego Town Senior Citizens group to use the new facility.

2005

The department refinished the old meeting room at the front of the building into a “Day Room” in 2005. With the new meeting room open in the rear of the station, a day room makes a more comfortable area for members to gather in between calls and after alarms.

Corporate member Norm Roth painted a mural on the outside west wall in 2005, dedicated to those who lost their lives on 9/11/2001 and to the men and women everywhere serving in the fire and EMS fields.

2007

The fire district purchased a new 2007 Ford F550 brush truck from Nye Ford on May 11, 2007. The pump skid was transferred from the 1998 chassis onto the new F550.

2009

The American Red Cross of Central NY Chapter honored the Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department with the Real Heroes Adult Good Samaritan Award in 2009.

The Oswego County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) honored Oswego Town member Crystie Weigand with the 2009 D.J. Ketcham Basic Life Support Provider of the Year at their May 2010 Banquet.

2010

A 2011 Kristy Special Operations trailer was purchased from Wheel-A-Way of Fulton, NY on December 15, 2010. The enclosed trailer is used for cold water, ice, and rope rescue operations.

2011

A Crew from Oswego Town responded with 3471 to assist with flooding conditions in Broome County in 2011.

A new 3462 light rescue was put in service in September 2011. The 2011 Chevrolet Suburban was purchased from Odyssey Automotive Specialty of Wharten, NJ and replaced the 1996 Chevrolet Suburban.

The Oswego County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) honored Oswego Town member Eric Koproski with the 2011 Lifesaving Award at their May 2012 Banquet.

2012

The 2000 Sea-Doo watercraft and Karavan trailer were sold in August 2012.

2013

The fire hydrant at the intersection of County routes 7 and 20 was painted purple by members of the fire department in August of 2014 for domestic violence awareness in memory of corporate member Theresa Moshier. Mrs. Moshier, who had been an active EMT with the department, was killed by her husband in 2013.

2016

Saturday evening, January 2, 2016, at approximately 8pm the Oswego Town FD volunteers were dispatched to a reported explosion and fire at the Dunsmoor Farms facility on State Route 104.

First arriving units found a working fire in an 18-wheel truck parked at the loading dock of the facility. An aggressive attack was initiated but unfortunately the fire made its way into the main facility and there was no stopping it from there.

Twenty hours later all units were back in service. Twenty different fire departments from 3 counties manning 39 pieces of apparatus aided throughout the event. The entire warehouse facility was a total loss, 2 nearby homes were able to be saved.

The department purchased a Bauer Unicus III Compressor System to fill SCBA cylinders at the station.

Each of the three chiefs' vehicles and every fire department apparatus were equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in 2016.

On November 8, 2016, Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department responded with SUNY Oswego Police, SAVAC Ambulance, and Menter Ambulance to a report of a 21-year-old male in full arrest in front of Oneida Hall. SUNY Police were first on the scene to apply the AED and start CPR. Upon the arrival of the two Menter crews all appropriate ALS interventions were put in place, including endotracheal intubation and the appropriate cardiac arrest drugs. The crews were able to successfully resuscitate the patient. A "Life Saving" award was presented to department members Bob McCaffrey, Anthony Sterio, Crystie Weigand, and Greg Herrmann by Oswego County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) at their 2017 Awards Banquet.

2017

In 2017, the department renovated our fitness center in the station basement with modern flooring and exercise equipment.

2018

A new 3411 rescue pumper was put in service in July 2018. The pumper was built on a 2017 Kenworth chassis by Kronenburg of Wanroij, Netherlands. The pumper included a 500-gallon Fiberglass tank, and an NP 4000 pump rated at 1,250 GPM.

The fire district purchased a Zoll AutoPulse, a portable resuscitation device that does automatic chest compressions in 2018. The device can perform compressions up to two hours, relieving firefighters from performing CPR.

A complete makeover of the Day Room was finished in 2018, including more seating and electronic equipment.

2019

In June 2019 the department was forced to take the 1998 Spartan Gladiator (3421) out of service due concerns of the frame strength. This was temporarily replaced with a RD Murray 1997 Spartan Gladiator pumper purchased from the North East Joint Fire District in Webster, NY. The pumper included a 850-gallon tank, 100-gallon foam tank, and a 1,500 GPM pump.

On December 17, 2019, the district sold the 1998 Spartan Gladiator pumper.

2020

The new 3462, a Ford F350 crew cab Light Rescue, was purchased from Tri Star Industries of Yarmouth, NS and put in service in January 2020 as the new 3462. The old 3462, a 2011 Chevrolet Suburban, was renumbered 3472 for use as a utility vehicle.

The new 3412, an HME Custom Fire Apparatus Model 1871-W pumper was put in service in May 2020.

During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the department participated in 52 “Birthday Parades” for our neighbors unable to hold traditional birthday parties.

2021

In May 2021, the fire department dedicated a plaque in memory of Sharon Ann Pupparo in the station garden. Three-year-old Pupparo died in a barn fire in 1966.

2023

The district sold the 1997 Spartan to Minetto Volunteer Fire Corporation on July 18, 2023.

2024

Our newest fire engine arrived in March 2024. The apparatus is a Metalfab, LTD pumper mounted on a Spartan FC-94 chassis, with a Cummins L9-450 diesel engine. The pumper includes a 750-gallon Poly tank and a Waterous CSU-2000 pump.

The district sold the 1997 Spartan to Minetto Volunteer Fire Corporation on July 18, 2023.