STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

www.ellington-ct.gov

LAURIE E. BURSTEIN
First Selectman

MARY B. CARDIN
Deputy First Selectman

JAMISON J. BOUCHER
JAMES M. PRICHARD
DAVID E. STAVENS
SU THANVANTHRI
CHARLOTTE J. WARD

Town Administrator
MATTHEW D. REED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON
Notice of Special Town Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2026

Electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Ellington, Connecticut are hereby warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held at 6:15 pm in the Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr. Meeting Hall, Ellington Town Hall, 55 Main Street, Ellington, Connecticut on Monday, August 10, 2026 to discuss and vote upon the following:

- Lease Financing Agreement for the EVFD Replacement of Rescue 143

Backup material is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office, First Selectman's Office, and on the Town Website at ellington-ct.gov.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend in person or via ZOOM. Individuals will have the opportunity to raise their hand to provide their name, address, and comment.

Dated at Ellington, Connecticut, this 29th day of July, 2026.

Journal Inquirer: August 4, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Laurie E. Burstein

Laurie E. Burstein, First Selectman

Join Town Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84817359325

Town Meeting ID: 848 1735 9325 **Town Meeting Passcode:** 596000

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

29 Main Street, P.O. Box 911 Ellington, CT 06029
Ph 860-870-3190 www.ellingtonfire.org

Cole Prato: *Fire Chief*
Karl Neubecker: *Deputy Chief*

Brendan Burke*: Assistant Chief*
Thomas Adams*: Deputy Chief*

To: Board of Selectman

From: Cole Prato - Fire Chief

Date: 7/8/26

Re: Rescue 143 Replacement - Demo Truck

During budget deliberations, the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department's capital expenditure request to replace Rescue 143 was removed. This request was for replacing our 2001 Pierce Quantum Heavy Rescue with a smaller Ford F-550 featuring a 12-foot rescue body. We proposed this downsized option after careful consideration, determining that a 1:1 replacement was unnecessary because we have begun replicating capabilities on our Squads.

Following guidance from the Finance Office and the Board of Finance, we were directed to investigate lease financing for the replacement vehicle. The committee has been working diligently since then to develop an execution plan. In speaking with multiple other vendors, we found that the standard lead time for a new truck is 12 to 18 months, heavily dependent on chassis availability, which could extend timelines even further.

We currently have two primary options:

- **US Fire Equipment Proposal:** Our original proposal from US Fire Apparatus is for $359,500. It offers a shorter lead time of 180 days from approval, though it is also dependent on chassis availability. The quote for capital proposal is only valid for 365 days which expires 10/8/2026.
- **Rescue 1 Demo Unit:** During our search, we located a demo unit from Rescue 1 via New England Fire Apparatus. This demo is priced at $377,630, excluding lettering (approximately $5,000).

Note: Both options may incur additional costs for custom shelving and mounting brackets.

The demo option offers significant advantages: the vehicle is built and immediately available, allowing us to place it into service quickly and promptly retire and sell the 2001 Pierce Quantum. This timeline is critical because replacement tires and annual service for the current Rescue 143 were removed from the FY26/27 budget. Consequently, we have no allocated funding for its maintenance this year, meaning any breakdown could result in costly, unbudgeted expenses to keep the old apparatus in service.



TOWN OF ELLINGTON
FINANCE OFFICE
MEMO

Date: July 7, 2026
To: Board of Selectmen
From: Felicia LaPlante, Assistant Finance Officer/Deputy Treasurer FAL
Subject: EVFD R-143 Replacement Lease Finance

I am requesting that the Board of Selectmen initiate the process of financing the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) R-143 Replacement through a multi-year lease financing agreement.

During the FY 2026-27 budget development process, the Board of Finance discussed funding the fire truck through either the Capital Non-Recurring Fund or lease financing. After considerable discussion, the Board of Finance elected to remove the Capital Non-Recurring Fund appropriation with the intent that the apparatus would instead be financed through a multi-year lease agreement.

Because the proposed financing extends beyond a single fiscal year, the lease financing constitutes a multi-year obligation of the Town and will require approval at a Town Meeting in accordance with the Town Charter and applicable statutory requirements.

Should the Board of Selectmen decide to move forward with the purchase of the demonstration fire truck, the first lease payment is anticipated to become due during FY 2026-27. As no appropriation currently exists for this initial payment, the Town will need appropriate funding once the lease terms have been finalized and the amount of the first payment is known.

Since the lease financing has not yet been finalized, there is no immediate action required regarding the appropriation for the first payment. A funding request can be brought forward in the coming months after the financing documents have been completed and the payment schedule has been established.

At this time, I respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen authorize staff to proceed with the necessary steps to secure lease financing for the EVFD fire truck and to prepare the required Town Meeting resolution for consideration.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.