

Offered by Councillor JOHN TOBIN and MICHAEL ROSS

CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TEN



AN ORDINANCE REGULATING BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS STANDARDS

WHEREAS, On January 9, 2009, Boston was reminded of the sacrifice that our public safety officers make when Boston Fire Department Lieutenant Kevin Kelley, Ladder 26, was killed in a tragic fire truck accident. Unfortunately, it took the loss of a honorable firefighter's life to call to attention the lack of maintenance and deteriorating condition of some of our fire vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, Given the great sacrifice that fire fighters make every day to our community, the least the City can do is ensure that equipment is kept in conformance with manufacturer standards and provide for replacement apparatus in a timely manner; and,

WHEREAS, The Boston Fire Department's apparatus is heavily utilized. Unlike other small town or volunteer departments, the City of Boston's Fire Department is a professional group that relies heavily on their equipment and as such uses their apparatus a great deal. This great burden necessitates a uniform replacement standard; and,

WHEREAS, Boston can and must do more to ensure that our public safety officers are offered the best and safest equipment, nothing less should be acceptable. A minimum standard of replacement for fire apparatus will ensure that future needless tragedies are avoided; *NOW, THEREFORE*

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston, as follows:

Section 1.

CBC Chapter XI is hereby amended by appending the following:

11-4.8 FIRE APPARATUS STANDARDS

a. *Definitions.*

As used in this subsection, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

Frontline fire apparatus means all Boston Fire Department engines, ladders, tower ladders, rescues, and specialty vehicles that are staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day, three-hundred and sixty-five (365) days per year.

Reserve fire apparatus means all Boston Fire Department engines, ladders, tower ladders, rescues, and specialty vehicles utilized as temporary replacements for out-of-service frontline fire apparatus.

b. Apparatus Standards.

All frontline fire apparatus and reserve fire apparatus shall be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications. All frontline fire apparatus shall be replaced after 10 years of use. All reserve fire apparatus shall be unfit for duty after five (5) years of additional service after being used as a frontline fire apparatus, totaling no more than fifteen (15) years of service for said fire apparatus. Notwithstanding any of these provisions, a frontline fire apparatus or reserve fire apparatus may be declared unfit for duty at any time prior to the maximum allowed years of use.

Section 2.

The provisions of these sections shall be effective immediately upon passage.