

Caledonia Joint Fire District

Multiyear Capital Plan for 2027

A Strategic Blueprint for Sustainable Growth

Introduction

Capital planning is an essential component of organizational management, especially to respond to emerging needs, and ensure the longevity of critical resources. The Plan enables proactive decision-making, prioritizes investments, and helps manage risk. This document serves as a strategic guide for Fire District Commissioners, and taxpayers promoting transparency and accountability throughout the capital investment process.

Executive Summary

A Multiyear Capital Plan (Plan) is a comprehensive strategy designed to guide the Caledonia Joint Fire District's (District) capital investments over a set period, typically spanning three to five years. The plan outlines the principles, objectives, and frameworks necessary to ensure that capital expenditures are aligned with long-term organizational goals, operational needs, and fiscal responsibility. By providing a roadmap for upgrading, maintaining, and expanding infrastructure and assets, the plan aims to optimize resource allocation, foster financial stability, and support sustainable development.

- **Strategic Objectives**

Identify and manage capital priorities with fiscal constraints without overburdening taxpayers or disrupting vital firefighting services. Additionally, it enables taxpayers to understand the costs and benefits of maintaining capital infrastructure.

- **Capital Needs Assessment**

In summary, the District's equipment is reported to be in satisfactory condition and well maintained overall. The following highlight major purchases and /or refurbished vehicles and equipment scheduled for the next five years.

Smaller scale vehicles have been moved to a three-to-five-year replacement schedule, depending upon circumstances. Current industry standards indicate the Fire District should receive a more satisfactory return on its investment when these vehicles are replaced within this timeframe.

2017 Chevy Tahoe

The Tahoe is currently issued to the Deputy Fire Chief and will be replaced by a 2026 Ford F150 Police Responder with a cost of \$75,000 by the end of 2026. This vehicle has had approximately \$8,600 in repairs and maintenance since January 2024. The District has prudently saved money to purchase the Ford F150 vehicle outright from reserve funds.

Background: Fire districts need deputy chief vehicles primarily to serve as a mobile command post and transportation for senior officers during emergencies. These vehicles are equipped with communication and logistical tools to manage incidents effectively and efficiently.

2007 Chevy 3500 Van

The Van is currently issued to the Fire Police. The van is one of the oldest vehicles the District owns and had been earmarked for replacement in 2030. This vehicle has had approximately \$597 in repairs and maintenance since January 2024. The plan has been updated to replace this vehicle in 2027 due to its advanced age and challenges of finding replacement parts. Preliminary costs are estimated to be \$100,000 to purchase a utility vehicle. The vehicle will be purchased outright with monies from the reserve funds.

Background: Fire police are essential for maintaining safety and order at emergency scenes, especially fires. They handle traffic control, secure the scene, and protect firefighters, bystanders, and property, freeing up firefighters to focus on their primary duties. These individuals must obtain transportation for their equipment and themselves to fire scenes. They cannot ride in the fire trucks, nor is there additional room for their equipment.

2021 Chevy Silverado Pickup Truck

The Silverado is issued to the Fire Chief. The plan has also been modified to move this vehicle up in the replacement schedule to 2028, with an estimated cost of \$85,000. This vehicle has had approximately \$2,000 in maintenance since January 2024. These costs are expected to rise due to vehicle aging. Reserve funds will be used to purchase this vehicle for cash.

Background: Fire department chief vehicles, often SUVs or pickup trucks, are crucial for efficient incident command and response. They provide senior officers with a quick, reliable means to arrive on scene, assess situations, and coordinate resources. These vehicles are equipped to handle various tasks, including communication, on-scene command, and even basic medical assistance.

2026 Ford F150 Police Responder

This vehicle is now earmarked for replacement in 2031 with an estimated cost of \$100,000.

2027 Utility Vehicle

The vehicle was not purchased at the time of this plan update but is earmarked for replacement in 2031 with an estimated cost of \$100,000.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus(SCBA)

The District purchased 25 SCBA units in 2017, and these must be replaced within 15 years. The number of required SCBA units will be determined closer to the actual replacement window of 2031 based upon the number of active firefighters. An estimated cost of \$270,000 is projected and units will be purchased with reserve funds.

Background: A self-contained breathing apparatus is a portable device worn to supply clean, breathable air in environments with smoke, toxic gases, or low oxygen. It is called "self-contained" because the user carries their own air tank, meaning they do not rely on a hose attached to a distant air source.

In New York, under [OSHA 1910.134](#) and fire service standards, a complete Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) unit does not have a single fixed replacement date, but its individual parts have strict maintenance, test, and expiration timelines. Composite (carbon-fiber) air cylinders have a maximum legal service life of 15 years from their manufacture date and must be permanently retired after that.

Refurbishment of Capital Equipment

The plan has been modified to consider refurbishment of trucks, in lieu of replacement when fiscally and operationally prudent. The following two large fire trucks have been included in this section.

2007 Pierce Rescue Truck

The truck is estimated to be refurbished in 2027 with cost estimates of \$129,000. The refurbishment will be paid for from reserve funds on hand.

Background: A heavy rescue fire truck is a specialized apparatus used for technical rescues, vehicle extrications, and structural collapses, functioning primarily as a comprehensive "rolling toolbox" rather than carrying water for firefighting.

2015 Pierce Quint

The quint is estimated to begin refurbishment in 2035, at an estimated cost of \$500,000. \$50,000 will be put into the reserve account annually toward the expenses.

Background: A Quint fire truck combines the jobs of a fire engine and a ladder truck into one vehicle. It gets its name from five core functions: carrying a water pump, an onboard water tank, a fire hose, an aerial ladder or platform, and ground ladders.

Remaining Capital Equipment

The 2008 Pierce Pumper Tanker is scheduled to be replaced in 2038 which will require debt to be issued. The truck replacement is estimated at 1.8 million, and the District will have saved \$650,000 in their reserve accounts as a down payment. \$50,000 will be put into the reserve account annually toward the down payment.

Background: Pumper tanker trucks, especially in areas with limited or no access to fire hydrants, provide a mobile water source for fighting fires. These trucks combine the capabilities of a pumper (water delivery and firefighting) and a tanker (water transport). This dual functionality is crucial in rural areas where water mains are not readily available.

The District currently owns a generator, air breathing machine, turn out gear, fire siren and hose that would be considered capital replacement items. These are deemed to be items that can be reasonably purchased through the budget process and would not be reserved for.

The scheduled replacement of all fleet vehicles and the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus is found on attachment #1.

Cash flow Projections

The District's primary source of revenue is real property taxes. It is the District's intent to purchase smaller scale vehicles through reserve funds, which are part of the District's budget each year. Large truck purchases will be obtained by issuing debt and the District putting aside reserve funds each year to be used as a down payment.

The table below attempts to illustrate the budget and reserve activity over the next five years based upon the plan schedule.

Year	Reserve Fund Starting Balance	Reserve Additions	Reserve funds spent	Debt Issued
7/21/26	\$846,352*			
2027		252,444	229,000**	
2028		252,444	85,000***	
2029		217,444		
2030		217,444		
2031		217,444	270,000****	
Total		1,157,220	584,000	

*Total is less \$75,000 for payment of 2026 Ford F150.

** \$100,000 for replacement of Van, \$129,000 for refurbishment of rescue truck.

***2021 Silverado replacement

**** SCBA units purchased

All purchases are subject to a comprehensive review and approval process involving the Board of Fire Commissioners. This includes competitive bidding requirements and the ability to “piggyback” off government contracts to obtain the best pricing.

Conclusion

The Board of Fire Commissioners will monitor the progress of the Multi Year Capital Plan and annually report at the time of the Budget Hearing the progress, expenditures and outcomes.

The Multi-Year Capital Plan will be reviewed annually and appropriate adjustments made if necessary. Annual updates incorporate changes in priorities, funding environments, asset conditions, and emerging needs. Flexibility is maintained to accommodate unforeseen challenges or opportunities.