

Finance + P.S.

Firefighter Tax Abatement Adjustment

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A proposal to increase in steps Deby's current ORDINANCE PROVIDING TAX ABATEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND STORM'S AMBULANCE CORPS up from its \$1,000 maximum to the current state maximum of \$2,000 under CGS 12-81w. This proposal includes an increase in the property tax abatement to \$1,500 for the October 2026 Grand List and then to \$2,000 for the October 2027 Grand List. All other languages in the current ordinance would carry over, and the new abatement schedules would look as seen below.

Current Setup		October 2026 Grand List		October 2027 Grand List	
Service Years	Max Abatement	Service Years	Max Abatement	Service Years	Max Abatement
1	\$ 250	1	\$ 375	1	\$ 500
2	\$ 500	2	\$ 750	2	\$ 1,000
3	\$ 750	3	\$ 1,125	3	\$ 1,500
4 or More	\$ 1,000	4 or More	\$ 1,500	4 or More	\$ 2,000

The total tax abatement amount over this period would adjust as shown below. The resulting costs would be an increase of \$13,750 in YR 1 and an additional \$13,750 increase in YR 2.

Abatements by Grand List Year					
Type		2025	2026	2027	2028
Property Tax	\$	27,500	\$ 41,250	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
Year over Year Abatement Increase		\$	13,750	\$ 13,750	\$ -

There are currently 12 volunteers who receive the motor vehicle tax abatement. If these volunteers purchase a home in Derby, they would also be eligible for the additional property tax abatement increases.

Chapter 177. Taxation

Article VI. Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel

[Adopted 10-24-2002]

§ 177-14. Abatement granted; amount.

The property taxes of each volunteer firefighter of the City of Derby Fire Department and volunteer medical personnel of the Storm Ambulance Corps who has served as a volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel for the City of Derby for not less than one full calendar year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the tax becomes due and payable shall have any property taxes owed to the City of Derby by such volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel abated in an amount equal to the lesser of the total amount of real and/or personal property taxes owed to the City of Derby for such fiscal year or an amount as calculated in the following schedule:

Column A	Column B
Years of Service as Firefighter or Medical Personnel	Maximum Amount of Taxes Abated by Statute
1	\$250
2	\$500
3	\$750
4 or more	\$1,000

§ 177-15. Eligibility.

- A. To be eligible for the tax abatement pursuant to this article for any fiscal year, an eligible volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel shall, on or before March 1 prior to such fiscal year, present a written statement certified to by the Chief of the City of Derby Fire Department and/or the President of the Storm Ambulance Corps, whichever is applicable, which statement will include the name and address of said volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel; that said volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel has served as a firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel for the City of Derby Fire Department and/or Storm Ambulance Corps for not less than the one immediately preceding calendar year; the total number of calendar years of service of said volunteer firefighter and/or medical personnel as a volunteer member for the City of Derby Fire Department and/or Storm Ambulance Corps; the percentage of fires and/or medical assists, whichever is applicable, attended during the immediately preceding calendar year; and certification of compliance with the requirements of § 177-20 of this article.
- B. Years of service shall not be deemed to have been interrupted by the department medical leave, by military service with the United States, or by injury where workers' compensation is invoked.
- C. If an individual is permanently disabled from performing as a volunteer firefighter or emergency medical personnel as a result of an on-the-volunteer-service injury, it is the intent of this article to provide that individual with a lifetime tax abatement for the full 100% allowed under this article.

- D. When a person has served as a volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel, left such service, and then returned to volunteer firefighting and/or volunteer medical duty, the person shall not be eligible for the tax abatement until he or she has completed one full calendar year of service from date of return. The person's total years of service will then include the number of previous years served. Eligibility for the particular fiscal year will be determined by the Commissioner and/or Chief of the City of Derby Fire Department and/or the President of the Storm Ambulance Corps, provided each volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel presents the aforementioned written certified statement by March 1 for the immediate preceding fiscal year.

§ 177-16. Application against certain taxes.

The tax abatement under this article shall be applied first against any real property taxes owing to the City of Derby and then against personal taxes owing to the City of Derby. In the event that the tax to which the abatement is applied is paid in installments, then the exemption shall be applied pro rata to each installment.

§ 177-17. Recordkeeping.

The Tax Collector of the City of Derby shall maintain a record of all taxes abated in accordance with this article.

§ 177-18. Continuation of program; limits on applicability; sale or transfer of property.

All dates referenced in this article shall, except as to year, apply to subsequent years, it being the intent of this article to create an ongoing abatement program until modified or eliminated by further ordinance change or repeal. The credit shall be applied first to real estate appearing on the grand list in the name of the qualifying member or, if there be none, or should it be not of sufficient value to accommodate the full allowable credit, then to any other property in the name of the qualifying member. Failure to make full utilization of the credit (or any use whatsoever), because of grand list property of insufficient value, shall not be construed so as to create any carryover abatement credit for use in subsequent fiscal years. The credit afforded hereunder shall terminate at the end of the fiscal year in which the qualified member dies. If property is sold or otherwise transferred during the fiscal year, the abatement may be applied on a pro rata basis to that portion of the fiscal year when the volunteer firefighter or ambulance corps member owned the property.

§ 177-19. Joint ownership of property.

The tax abatement under this article shall be applicable for any real and personal property, whether owned individually or jointly, of a volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel eligible for such abatement.

§ 177-20. Tax abatement percentage accumulation.

A volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel shall not be eligible for a tax abatement under this article unless that volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical personnel, during the immediately preceding calendar year, has met the requirements of accumulation of percentage, as set forth below in this article.

A. Accumulation shall follow the following requirements:

- (1) Member must accumulate percentages during each twelve-month period, said percentage accumulations to start January 1 and ending on December 31. A member could start accumulating points by joining the program at any time during the twelve-month period, after any probationary period has ended.
- (2) If a member belongs to the Derby Fire Department and Storm Ambulance Corps, percentage accumulation can be combined between the Derby Fire Department and the Storm Ambulance

Corps. Persons belonging to both the Derby Fire Department and Storm Ambulance Corps may only be credited for one activity, either Fire Department or rescue/medical, for each response and may not be given credit for both on a single response.

- (3) Any new member of the Derby Fire Department and/or Storm Ambulance Corps who is on probation cannot collect percentages until he or she is a full member of the respective company or unit. The probationary period is one year before any member can begin to collect points.
 - (4) Tax abatement will be awarded to each member based upon the below schedule. The member must obtain the minimum percentage accumulation indicated to be awarded the corresponding percent of tax abatement.
 - (5) The Chief of the Derby Fire Department, three Assistant Chiefs, Fire Marshal and members of the Fire Marshal's Office, Superintendent of Fire Alarms and Chief Drivers, even though paid a monetary amount for their services throughout each year in that position, are eligible under this article for the tax abatement.
 - (6) Members of the Derby Fire Department and/or Storm Ambulance Corps, while serving in a paid capacity, including but not limited to Fire Watch, Storm Duty or Medical Responses, will not be eligible to include any activities, while in a paid status, in the total attendance percentage for the calendar year.
- B. The amount of the abatement in a given fiscal year shall be based upon a combination of activities and functions in which a member of the Derby Fire Department and/or Storm Ambulance Corps participates in a given calendar year. This article is being implemented on a scale of time served basis and the member can only receive a maximum tax abatement as set forth in § 177-14, Column B.
 - C. The percentage for a particular activity and/or function as a volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical member for participation in the preceding calendar year as set forth below can be combined reflecting what a volunteer firefighter and/or volunteer medical member may receive as a tax abatement in the corresponding fiscal year with the understanding that the total amount of the tax abatement in the particular year is based upon the schedule set forth in § 177-14, Column B.
 - D. Volunteer firefighters and/or volunteer medical personnel who have met the above requirements shall receive a maximum tax abatement in accordance with § 177-14, Column B.
 - E. Accumulation of percentage will be issued on the following basis:

(1) Derby Fire Department.

(a) Alarms (six alarms per quarter equals 15%):

Number of Responses	Percentage
1 to 5	None
6 to 11	15%
12 to 17	30%
18 to 23	45%
24 or more	60%

(b) Drills/training (Department or Company):

[1] Zero to three per year: no percentage.

[2] Four or more per year: 15%.

(c) State of Connecticut certification:

[1] Firefighter 1: 20%.

[2] Firefighter 2: 30%.

(d) Longevity (based upon completed years of service):

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Number of Completed Years

Percentage

1 to 5	5%
6 to 10	10%
11 or more	15%

(e) Functions (Department/City-sponsored meetings, parades, etc.):

- [1] Zero to three functions: no percentage.
- [2] Four or more functions: 15%.

(2) Storm Ambulance Corps.

(a) Responses (six responses per quarter equals 15%):

Number of Responses

Percentage

1 to 5	None
6 to 11	15%
12 to 17	30%
18 to 23	45%
24 or more	60%

(b) Drills/training:

- [1] Zero to three per year: no percentage.
- [2] Four or more per year: 15%.

(c) Certification:

- [1] Emergency medical technician or higher: 20%.

(d) Longevity (based upon completed years of service):

Number of Completed Years

Percentage

1 to 5	5%
6 to 10	10%
11 or more	15%

(e) Functions (Ambulance Corps/City-sponsored meetings, parades, etc.):

- [1] Zero to three functions: no percentage.
- [2] Four or more functions: 15%.

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Human Resources Director Salary Analysis				
Muni	Employee Count	Salary	City/BOE/Both	As of Yr
Seymour	392	\$ 114,507.00	Both	2023
Plainville	319	\$ 107,341.00	Both	2022
Darien	429	\$ 157,604.00	Town	2024
South Windsor	551	\$ 156,729.00	Town	2024
Milford		\$ 127,649.00	Town	2024
Guilford	416	\$ 127,641.00	Town	2024
Branford	534	\$ 116,990.00	Town	2024
Ansonia		\$ 130,000.00	Town/COO	2026
Dataset Mean	440	\$ 129,808		
Recommened Salary Range for Posting \$105k - \$115k				

Fin + P.S. Cap. Fund.

Fund Transfer Request

A motion to transfer \$1.89 million dollars in surplus funds from the General Fund into the Capital Planning Fund. The \$1.89 million contains the unspent general fund budgeted capital along with the surplus funds of several revenue items detailed below. These revenue items are also shown in your budget adjustment requests as they would go to the Capital Planning Fund via a "Transfer Out"

Revenues	
Item	Amount
Interest Earned	\$ 199,312
Sale of City Property	\$ 172,143
Cannabis Tax Revenue	\$ 129,744
Rental Income	\$ 121,732
Telephone Access Line Tax	\$ 122,667
Police Outside Work	\$ 324,519
MV Tax Revenue	\$ 266,067
Revenue Total	\$ 1,336,184
Expenses	
Item	Amount
General Capital	\$ 556,097
Total Transfer Amount	\$ 1,892,281

This transfer will strengthen the City's ability to address current and future capital improvement needs without creating additional operating budget pressure in future fiscal years. By allocating these funds now, while they are available and while the City's fund balance remains within its targeted range, Derby can continue to proactively plan for and fund critical capital projects as needs arise.

Taking this action demonstrates prudent financial stewardship by preserving available resources for long-term infrastructure and facility investments, reducing the need for future borrowing or budgetary reallocations, and positioning the City to respond effectively to unforeseen capital expenditures. This strategic investment in the Capital Planning Fund will help ensure Derby remains financially stable while maintaining and improving its public assets for years to come.

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Flyer.

Brian Hall

7/16/2026

Subject: Request for Use of Opioid Settlement Funds for Emergency Response Vehicle Replacement

Brian,

I recently learned that approximately \$28,000 remains available through the City of Derby's Opioid Settlement Fund. Storm Ambulance is currently stocked with naloxone (Narcan) for public distribution through 2027 at the current distribution rate.

I respectfully request consideration for the use of these funds to replace our First Response ("Fly Car") vehicle, a 2003 Chevrolet pickup truck, which has reached the end of its reliable service life and is experiencing significant mechanical and safety issues.

The vehicle currently suffers from multiple deficiencies, including persistent airbag system faults that generate false warnings, extensive rust and deterioration of the right-rear fender and step, non-functioning heating and air conditioning systems, and ongoing engine performance problems. These issues affect both the safety of our personnel and the vehicle's reliability during emergency operations.

This vehicle plays a critical role in Derby's emergency medical response system. It is routinely deployed to provide advanced medical response when ambulances are committed to other incidents or when personnel must be rapidly reassigned between emergency scenes. It goes to cardiac arrests, priority medical calls, and drug overdoses, which figure prominently in the fast responses. An EMT/EMR can get into the vehicle and respond without moving a heavier vehicle (ambulance, rescue truck, etc.), move through traffic quickly, and arrive to render aid as soon as the vehicle arrives. One of its most important functions is responding to medical emergencies involving suspected opioid overdoses, where a single EMT or first responder can quickly initiate patient care, giving Narcan to reverse the effects of an opioid substance (Cocaine, Heroin, Fentanyl), including the administration of naloxone (Narcan), prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

In addition to its medical response responsibilities, the vehicle performs several specialized emergency support functions, including towing our rescue boats to water emergencies, transporting our hazardous materials response trailer, towing our confined space rescue trailer, and hauling our air compressor unit when required for technical rescue operations.

We recently had a call where a person attempted suicide, overdosed fell 50 feet down an embankment, the fly car got there, a member administered Narcan, while other crew members set up a rope system to remove the unconscious person up the bank and into the waiting ambulance.

Given the vehicle's direct involvement in opioid overdose response and emergency and medical care, I believe replacement of this apparatus aligns with the intended purpose of opioid settlement funding by enhancing the community's ability to rapidly respond to overdose

A: n + P.C. Fly Cam.
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incidents and other medical emergencies. The other responsibilities are a plus by having this vehicle available.

The cost of a basic vehicle, which is all we are looking for, is approx. \$60,000. We would pay the difference in the price of the vehicle from our operating funds, basically making the purchase less than a 50/50 split in the cost to the City.

I have attached photographs documenting the current condition of the vehicle for your review. I respectfully request favorable consideration of this proposal and appreciate your support of our emergency response capabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thomas Lenart

Thomas Lenart

Chief

Storm Ambulance & Rescue Corps

203-751-3347

Marc Garofalo

Finance + P.S.9

From: Brian Hall
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 11:25 AM
To: Marc Garofalo
Cc: Mayor Joseph DiMartino
Subject: BOA Subcommittee Fly car request
Attachments: fly 1.JPG; fly 2.JPG; fly3.JPG; Fly Car fund request.docx

Fly Car

Opioid Settlement

Per our conversation.



Brian Hall

Finance Director
City of Derby, Connecticut
1 Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT 06418
(203) 736-1453 ext. 1223
bhall@derbyct.gov

From: lsgt026@aol.com <lsgt026@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 8:36 PM
To: Brian Hall <bhall@derbyct.gov>
Subject: Fly car request

Brian, after weighing the two issues, replacing the fly car or the ATV. We feel that we can nurse the ATV more than the fly car (fewer responses, used for what it was designed for.) Therefore, we are hoping to use the funds for the car. It also aligns more with the drug funds purpose

Tom Lenart

I will be away next week with very limited cell service. If there are any questions please give David Lenart a call 203-751-3347.



fly + Car. 9



Fly + Car.9



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