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Town Of Limerick  
55 Washington Street  
Limerick, ME. 04048

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## COMMAND VEHICLE USE

### POLICY STATEMENT

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#### **Purpose and Scope**

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of a Fire Department command vehicle by use of the Limerick Fire Department Chief and other Fire Department personnel.

#### **Vehicle Requirements**

A command vehicle will be marked with Limerick Fire Department lettering.

A command vehicle will be equipped with a Fire Department radio for communicating with the dispatch center and will provide the dispatch center with an ETA if the response time is going to be delayed.

A command vehicle will be equipped with appropriated Code 3 audibled visible warning devices, to respond in emergency mode.

#### **Vehicle Use**

Use of a command vehicle in emergency and non-emergency situations is critical for staff to manage the functions of the Department, and to assist with calls from our mutual aid partners.

The Fire Chief may use a marked emergency vehicle, appropriately equipped, in the discharge of duties, and to an extent that is appropriate in order to maintain radio contact and subject to call anywhere within the Fire District, while performing public, personal, or Fire Department business.

With the assignment of a command vehicle, the Fire Chief is expected to respond after hours.

The Fire Chief and Chief Officers may use the command vehicle for out of area travel when conducting Fire Department business, or with the authorization of the Selectboard including for pickup of medical supplies or drugs. Because the Fire Chief is expected to respond immediately to emergency calls at all hours of the day and night, inadvertent personal use of the command vehicle is anticipated and approved by the Selectboard as it is in the best interest of the public.

The Fire Chief is free to use the vehicle for limited personal use within 10 miles of the township borders. Any use beyond these limits should be for Fire Department business only and must be approved by the Selectboard. Use of the vehicle is allowed anywhere in the State of Maine and New Hampshire if dispatched on an emergency response.

The vehicle shall be always available for use by the Chief or in Chief's absence for the Chief officer.

Fire Department Personnel may use the command vehicle for Fire Department business, as deemed appropriate by the Fire Chief.

Personnel using the command vehicle must keep a record of the miles driven for business use of the vehicle except for emergency calls. This will include the purpose of the trip, where the vehicle was driven, and the beginning and ending odometer reading.

Chief Officers will be able to use the command vehicle at the discretion of the Fire Chief in accordance with the Fire Chiefs' policies and procedures within the confines of this policy.

### **Safety and Requirements of Drivers**

- a. All Fire Department personnel operating a town vehicle must possess a valid Maine Drivers' License and be insurable.
- b. All Fire Department personnel as well as any passengers must always wear a seatbelt when riding in a Town vehicle as a driver or passenger.
- c. Handheld cellular telephone use is strictly prohibited to avoid any distraction while operating the vehicle. If absolutely necessary to use the device, pull over or use a hands-free device when using the phone. – Refer to Maine statute §2121. Use of mobile telephones and handheld electronic devices while operating motor vehicles prohibited
- d. All Maine Motor Vehicle regulations are to be adhere to.
- e. There is no smoking permitted in any Fire Department vehicle.
- f. There is no alcohol allowed in the vehicle.
- g. In the event of ANY accident involving a Fire Department vehicle, the driver must immediately notify the police, Town administration, and the auto insurance company.
- h. At no time will a Town employee leave the scene of an accident involving a Fire Department vehicle without a police response to the scene.
- i. The Vehicle Registration and proof of insurance shall be kept in the glove box of the vehicle at all times.
- j. Members of the public may be transported in a command vehicle if necessary to conduct Fire Department business, or in an effort to maintain response readiness.
- k. Passengers shall be 16 years of age or older except in cases of emergency.
- l. Passengers are covered as per Town Insurance Policy.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

The command vehicle must be maintained in a manner to ensure response readiness.

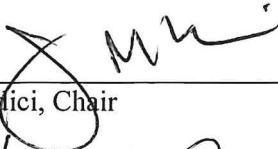
Preventative and standard maintenance must be performed on the command vehicle at regular intervals and in accordance with the vehicle's manual.

The vehicle should be checked daily to make sure all safety equipment is operating properly. All safety features shall be checked a minimum of weekly.

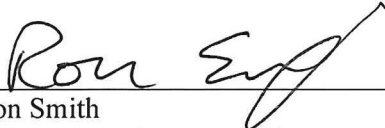
A log of all maintenance will be kept by the Fire Chief, or his designee.

The command vehicle must be always kept clean on the inside and out.


This Policy is adopted this 6 day of July 2022 by the Limerick Select Board.

  
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John Medici, Chair

  
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Wade Andrews, Vice Chair

  
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Ron Smith

  
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Gil Harris

  
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Katherine Proctor

Passengers are covered as per town insurance.