

AUDITOR'S
FORTY-THIRD
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON,
AND THE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
1854--55.

1854, MAY 1, (*both included,*) 30 APRIL, 1855.



BOSTON:
MOORE & CROSBY, CITY PRINTERS, 1 WATER STREET.
1855.

ENGINE HOUSES.

REPAIRS on the various Engine and Hook and
Ladder Houses, viz :

Carpenter's Work,	284 94	
Masons,	105 64	
Painters,	201 91	
Plumbing,	42 04	
Copper Work,	48 49	
Slaters,	5 80	
	<hr/>	688 82

PURCHASE STREET, New House
for No. 7.

Contract for Construc- tion,	1,600 00	
Extra Work by Con- tractor,	75 00	
Plans, &c.,	80 00	
Copper Gutters,	29 00	
Drainage,	125 00	
	<hr/>	1,909 00

BROADWAY, SOUTH BOSTON.

New House for No. 1, viz :

Repairs and Alterations, per Con- tract,	490 00	
Plans, &c.,	55 00	
Other Work,	72 42	
	<hr/>	617 42

<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$3,215 24	\$727,10

Amounts brought forward, \$3,215 24 \$727,107 43

EAST BOSTON.

Plans, &c., for the proposed new
house on Sumner Street, • 50 00

Per item No. 11 of Treasurer's Account, 3,265 24

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Exclusive of Engine and Hook and Ladder Houses, which are charged under their respective heads; and also exclusive of the Salaries of the Chief Engineer and the Clerk to the Board of Engineers, which are charged under the head of Salaries.

Annual compensation to the Assistant Engineers, Officers and Members of the various Engine, Hook and Ladder, and Hydrant Companies, 58,637 71

Repairs of Engines, Hose Carriages, Hook and Ladder Carriages, and other apparatus belonging to the Fire Department, exclusive of Hose and other work in that line, 3,078 96

New Leading and Suction Hose, Caps, Badges and Buckets, 2,239 38

Repairs on the Leading and Suction Hose, and other work in that branch, 1,339 88

Hire of Horses and Riders to draw Engines and Hooks and Ladders to and from fires, and to and from workshops for repairs, &c., 1,888 19

Constables, for attendance at fires, 871 00

Fuel for the Engine Houses, 695 50

Leather Preservative for Hose, 72 00

Oil for the Engine Houses and Torches, 596 28

° \$600 of this amount is credited to the Internal Health Department.

Amounts carried forward, \$69,418 90 \$730,372 67

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$69,418 90	\$730,372 67
Water for the various Engine Houses,	402 50	
New Ladders, and repairing old ones,	138 70	
Furniture and Utensils for Engine Houses, including apparatus for warming,	120 05	
Keys and Locks for the various Engine Houses, and for the use of Members,	72 60	
Expenses of collecting apparatus after fires, and other miscellaneous expenses of the Department, not charged elsewhere,	106 42	
Printing for the Department,	134 52	
Ringing the alarm bell at East Boston,	25 00	
Engraved Diplomas and Certificates of Membership,	31 94	
Stationery for Engineer's Office,	18 45	
New Reservoir Covers, and examining Reservoirs, and filling two,	93 00	
Care of Reservoirs at East Boston, and repairing the same,	26 00	
Cost of Refreshments furnished Fire Companies from neighboring Cities, who came to our assistance at large fires,	98 00	
Signs to designate location of Hydrants, &c.,	24 67	
Damages, for injury done by the Department,	25 00	
Rent of Rooms for meeting of Company, No. 8,	4 00	
STEAM FIRE ENGINE.		
Cost of this Machine without Hose, Hose Carriage, or Fuel Carriage,	8,000 00	
<i>This Machine has not yet been put into the service of the Department.</i>		
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	\$78,739 75	\$730,372 67

Amounts brought forward, \$78,739 75 \$780,372 67

NEW FIRE ENGINES.

Nos. 11, 12 and 13, at \$775 each, 2,325 00

NEW HOSE CARRIAGE, 60 00

TELEGRAPHIC FIRE ALARMS.

*The following payments have
been made on this account,
viz :*

Salaries,	
Superintendent,	1,200 00
Assistants,	3,486 00
Machinery,	
Wire, &c.,	2,565 09
Drugs and Chemicals,	299 03
Water Metres,	403 50
Removing and putting up Fire Alarms,	145 50
Moving Bells, and Repairs,	138 62
Signal Boxes, Keys &c.,	442 00
Carting, Omnibus Tickets, Expresses, &c.,	172 18
Carpentry, Lumber &c.,	94 59
Plumbing,	148 87
Painting,	11 50
Patterns,	12 22
Building Drain,	42 17
Washing,	9 75
Furniture,	103 94
Gas Fixtures,	72 47
Incidental Expenses	11 15

9,358 58

90,483 33

Amount carried forward,

\$820,856 00

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>		\$820,856 00
<i>Amount paid by Treasurer, per item No. 9 of his account,</i>	90,371 99	
<i>Amount outstanding,</i>	157 80	
	<hr/>	
	\$90,529 79	
<i>Transfers by Auditor,</i>	46 46	
	<hr/>	
	\$90,483 33	
	<hr/>	

N. B. *On the 30th April, 1855, the Department consisted of one Chief Engineer, nine Assistant Engineers, and twenty-one Companies, including three Hook and Ladder and five Hydrant Companies.*

Each Engine Company has one Foreman, one Assistant Foreman, one Clerk, one Steward, and thirty-six men.

The Hydrant Companies have twenty men, with the same Officers as the Engine Companies.

The pay of the Chief Engineer is \$1,200 per annum; that of the Assistant Engineers, \$250 each per annum; the Foreman, \$150; the Assistant Foreman, \$125; the Clerks \$125; the Stewards \$125; and the Men \$100 each per annum, except the three stationary Engine Companies, one Hook and Ladder Company, and one Hydrant Company at East Boston, who receive less pay as they are never required to leave that section of the City.

All the Engines, Hose, Hose Carriages and other Fire Apparatus, belong to the City and are under the control of the Chief Engineer.

FIRE ALARMS.—*A constant watch is kept at the Central Office, Court Square, night and day. Each Operator is on duty four hours. Two Persons are required to remain about the office at all times for safety in case of accident to any of the Machinery, or sudden illness of the attending Operator.*

No Operator is permitted to sleep during his watch, unless expressly relieved by some one else.

<i>Amount carried forward,</i>		\$820,856 00
--------------------------------	--	--------------

Amount brought forward,

\$820,856 00

Each Operator is accountable to the Superintendent for any omissions or mistakes that may occur at the Central Office during his hour of duty.

An accurate account is kept of the time of giving each alarm, and of the District and Station from whence it originates.

Alarms are transmitted to the Central Office, from the Signal Stations or Boxes, by turning the crank in the Box. The Police, and a person resident near each Box, have each a key to the Boxes.

Alarms are usually given in less than a minute from the time the crank is turned in any Box, which is done in accordance with certain directions understood by the Operator.

INCOME—1854—55.

ENGINE HOUSES.

Received for sale of a lot of Land on Purchase Street, formerly occupied by Engine House, No. 7.

Per item No. 69 of Treasurer's Account,

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

<i>Received from the Chief Engineer for old</i>	
<i>Hose, &c., sold by him,</i>	52 20
<i>For old No. 6 Engine sold,</i>	225 00
	<hr/>

CITY PROPERTY—1855.

CITY BUILDING—Corner of Court Square and Williams' Court. *It accommodates the East Division of the City Watch; the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, and the Magnetic Telegraph Fire Apparatus and attendants; Overseers of the House of Correction; the Water Registrar; the City Registrar and Superintendent of Burial Grounds; Superintendent of Lamps; the City Physician; and is also used as a Ward Room for the Citizens of Ward Four.*

ENGINE HOUSES—Fourteen, located as follows, viz: one each on Salem, Commercial, Purchase, Wall, Hudson, foot of Mount Vernon, East, Shawmut Avenue, Washington and Warren streets, in Primary School House; three at East Boston, and two at South Boston.

HOOK AND LADDER HOUSES—One near the City Stable on Harrison Avenue, Ward 11; one on Friend street, in Primary School House, and one at East Boston.

FIRE ENGINES—Twelve in active service, and two in reserve.

ONE STEAM FIRE ENGINE, not yet in commission, not being furnished with Hose, &c., for use. Cost \$8000.

MAGNETIC FIRE ALARM APPARATUS, in the City Building. Whole cost over \$20,000.

FIRE HOOKS—Eight.

FIRE LADDERS—Seventy-six, of different sizes.

HOOK AND LADDER CARRIAGES—Three.

HOSE CARRIAGES—Thirty-seven.

HOSE—About twenty-two thousand three hundred and fifty feet of Leading and Suction Hose.

FIRE BUCKETS—One hundred and forty-two.

THE ENGINES, HOSE, CAPS, BADGES, AXES, TRUMPETS, and all the other Apparatus used by the Fire Department, are owned by the City, and are under the care and control of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department.

RESERVOIRS—One hundred and thirty-three, of which thirteen are located at East Boston; seventeen at South Boston, and the balance in the different wards of the City. They contain from 300 to 400 hogsheads each, and are generally filled with rain water from the roofs of buildings.

HYDRANTS—For supplying water in case of fire; 838 in the City proper; 194 at South Boston, and 155 at East Boston. Total 1,187.