

AUDITOR'S  
FORTY-FIFTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES  
OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON,  
AND THE  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1856-57.

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1856, MAY 1, (*both included,*) APRIL 30, 1857.

CITY DOCUMENT No. 54.



BOSTON:  
GEO. O. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,  
No. 8, CORNHILL.  
1857.

## CITY EXPENDITURES

### ENGINE AND HOOK & LADDER HOUSES.

Cost of Fitting up one of the  
Buildings in the South Sta-  
ble yard for the accommo-  
dation of the Steam Fire  
Engine, \$448 56

Repairs, &c., on the  
various Houses,  
viz:

Carpenters' Work and Stock,	\$929 08
Masons' Work,	148 30
Painting and Glaz- ing,	318 70
Plumbing and Cop- per Work,	64 31
Slating and Setting Boiler,	15 75

<i>Am'ts carried for'd,</i>	\$1,476 14	\$448 56	\$178,231 32
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<i>Am'ts brought for'd,</i>	\$1,476 14	\$448 56	\$178,231 32
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Iron Work and  
Hardware, 28 41  
Gas Fixtures, 39 24

1,543 79

Removing a Building belong-  
ing to the City, from Harri-  
son avenue to Northampton  
street, to be fitted for a  
Hose carriage house for the  
Volunteer Company in that  
neighborhood,

50 00

2,042 35

*Amount paid by Treasurer per  
item No. 13 of his account,* \$2,003 01

*Amount not yet called for,* 2 37

*Transfer from Fire Dep't,* 36 97

\$2,042 35

### ENGINE HOUSE, *New, in East Boston.*

Cost of a new Engine House for Engine  
Company, No. 9, on Sumner street, East  
Boston,

3,000 00

*This House is in the new Adams School  
House, on the corner of Sumner and Lam-  
son streets, and this amount of \$3,000 was  
deducted from the cost of that Building as  
being the proportion which ought to be  
charged for the cost of this Engine House.*

*See Adams School House, page 53.*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

*Exclusive of Engine and Hook and Ladder Houses, which are charged under that head; 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,	\$61,613 02	
Repairs of Engines, Hose-Carriages, Hook and Ladder Carriages, and other Apparatus belonging to the Fire Department; exclusive of Repairs on Hose and other work in that line,	4,657 36	
New Leading and Suction Hose, Caps, Badges and Buckets,	5,932 48	
Repairs on the Leading and Suction Hose, Caps, Badges and other work in that branch,	2,314 69	
Hire of Horses and Riders to draw Engines and Hooks and Ladders to and from fires,	*2,221 96	
Amounts carried forward,	\$76,739 51	\$245,421 66

*\* \$650 of this amount is credited to the Internal Health Department, they having furnished the Horses from the City Stables.*

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$76,739 51	\$245,421 66
Fire Police, for attendance at fires,	623 00	
Fuel for the Engine Houses,	553 50	
Leather Preservative for the Hose,	108 00	
Oil and Fluid for the Engine Houses and for Torches,	538 87	
Gas,	12 12	
Neat's Foot Oil for Hose,	388 24	
Soap and Sponge,	41 14	
Gas Fixtures,	89 30	
New Runners for Hose Carriages, and repairs,	814 34	
Water for the various Engine Houses,	836 00	
Refreshments furnished to Fire Companies, who came from neighboring cities and towns to our assistance at large fires,	235 87	
Printing and Engraving for the Department, including certificates of membership,	193 45	
Warming Apparatus for Engine Houses,	262 55	
Reservoir Covers, new ones furnished by the Internal Health Department,	150 00	
Filling Reservoirs,	22 00	
Repairing Reservoirs,	57 75	
Ice and Snow, Cost of removing from Hydrant Boxes,	64 50	
Bells—Ringling an alarm bell at East Boston, one year,	25 00	
Expenses of collecting apparatus after fires, and carting machines to and from workshop for repairs, and other miscellaneous expenses of the Fire Department, not charged elsewhere,	302 07	
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	<u>\$81,557 21</u>	<u>\$245,421 66</u>

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$81,557 21	\$245,421 66
Ladders — purchase of new, and repairing of old ones,	514 87	
Furniture and Utensils for Engine Houses,	432 25	
Locks and Keys for the vari- ous Engine Houses, includ- ing spare keys for the use of members,	45 72	
Stationery for the Depart't,	75 24	
Damages — payment for in- jury done by the Depart- ment,	30 75	
Care of Reservoirs at East Boston, one year,	25 00	
Repairing Harness,	48 34	
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	\$82,729 38	

## STEAM FIRE ENGINE.

*Expenses of this machine, ex-  
clusive of the pay of the  
Company now attached to  
her.*

Salaries — one En- gineer 12 mos. 23 days, at \$800 per annum,	\$849 74		
Extra help for En- gineers,	10 00		
One Fireman, 13 months,	589 50		
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	\$1,449 24		
Repairing, Oiling, Hose, &c.,	925 11		
Drawing Engine to and from fires,	205 00		
Fuel,	171 54		
Blunderbus Pipes,	38 00		
Hose Saddles for			
<i>Am'ts carried for'd,</i>	\$2,788 89	\$82,729 38	\$245,421 66

<i>Am'ts brought for'd,</i>	\$2,788 89	\$82,729 38	\$245,421 66
Reservoir Curbs;			
Ropes, &c.,	37 85		
Steam Gauge,	25 00		
Tools for Engineer,	13 58		
Oil, Sponge, &c.,	7 42		
Fire Caps for En-			
gineers & Mem-			
bers,	50 00		
	<hr/>	2,922 74	

## TELEGRAPHIC FIRE ALARM.

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

Salaries of Super-			
intendent & his			
Assistants,	\$4,612 00		
Machinery and put-			
ting up same,	1,560 65		
Drugs, Chemicals			
and Zinc,	419 74		
Wires and putting			
up same,	244 64		
Repairs of Machin-			
ery and Wires,	175 17		
Freight, Expresses,			
Omnibus fares,			
and Carting,	68 44		
New Bells on the			
Boylston School			
House, Fort Hill;			
the Hawes School			
House, South Bos-			
ton, and Hudson			
st. Engine House,	770 57		
Washing the Office,			
Clothing & Bed-			
ding,	66 49		
Keys for Fire Al-			
arm Boxes,	61 03		
<i>Am'ts carried for'd,</i>	\$7,978 73	\$85,652 12	\$245,421 66

*Am'ts brought for'd,* \$7,978 73    \$85,652 12    \$245,421 66

Furniture—Beds &  
Bedding for Op-  
erators, 59 55

Water, used as a  
motive power, 45 00

Tools, &c., for Of-  
fice use, 43 50

Gas Fixtures and  
Warming Appar-  
atus for Office, 29 74

Incidental Expén-  
ses and Damages  
paid, 24 87

Carpenters' Work  
and Lumber, 17 80

Painting and Glaz-  
ing, 10 93

Rent of Cellar at  
South Boston for  
Motive Power, 6 00

Stationery for Of-  
fice, 5 25

Chaise Hire for Su-  
perintendent, 4 00

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8,225 37

93,877 49

*Amount paid by Treasurer, per  
item No. 16 of his account,* \$93,712 86

*Amount not yet called for,* 201 60

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\$93,914 46

*Transferred by Auditor to En-  
gine Houses,* 36 97

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\$93,877 49

N. B. On the 30th April, 1857, the Depart-  
ment consisted of one Chief Engineer, nine  
Assistant Engineers, and twenty-one Com-  
panies, including three Hook and Ladder  
and five Hydrant Companies.

*Amount carried forward,* \$339,299 15

*Amount brought forward,*

**\$339,299 15**

*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.*

*There is also one Volunteer Hose Company located on Northampton street, Ward 11. They have a Carriage and about 500 feet of Hose at their control.*

**PAY** — *That of the Chief Engineer is \$1200 per annum; that of the Assistant Engineers, \$250 each per annum; the Foremen, \$150; the Assistant Foremen, \$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, except on the order of the Chief, or one of the Assistant Engineers.*

**OWNERSHIP** — *All the Engines, 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, by the operators and others. Each operator serves two alternate terms of four hours each, as principal and as assistant operator; so that sixteen hours service at the office, out of every twenty-four, is required from each operator. No operator is permitted to sleep during his watch, unless expressly relieved by some one else.*

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

*Amount carried forward,*

**\$339,299 15**



*Amount brought forward,*

**\$339,299 15**

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

*The City is divided into seven Alarm Districts.*

*Each District is subdivided into Stations, in each of which is a Signal Box. There are now forty-nine Signal Boxes or Stations, the number in a District varying from 5 to 13.*

*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.*

#### **GRAMMAR SCHOOL HOUSES — NEW.**

*Cost of New Houses finished this year, viz :*

*ADAMS, East Boston, on the corner of Sumner and Lamson streets.*

*This House was partly paid for last year.  
See Report, No. 44, p. 56.*

*Deduct—Amount of estimated cost of the new Engine House, which is connected with this Building, and which is charged to Engine Houses, on page 39,*

**3,000 00**

*Total cost,*

**\$67,128 37**

*Deduct, cost of Engine House,*

**3,000 00**

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

### Chief Engineer.

Elisha Smith, from  
1st April to his  
decease, Nov. 24,  
full quarter al-  
lowed, \$900 00

Charles S. Clark,  
acting Engineer  
from 24th Nov.  
to 15th Dec., 72 33

George W. Bird,  
from 15th Dec.,  
3½ months, 350 00

### Clerk.

F. A. Colburn, from  
1 Dec., 1855, to 1  
April, 1857, at  
\$800, 1,066 67

2,389 00

*The Salaries of the Assistant  
Engineers, \$250 per annum  
each, are charged to the ap-  
propriation for the Fire De-  
partment.*

## INCOME-

### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Received from the Chief En-  
gineer, for old Hose, &c.,  
sold by him, \$187 75

From Auditor, for outstand-  
ing Drafts on the  
Treasurer's Books, settled  
by the Auditor with the  
Treasurer, and repaid into  
the Treasury, 229 49

*Per item No. 79, of Treasurer's account,* 417 24

### CITY BUILDING—Court square.

*All this Building, except a  
portion of the attic, is now  
occupied for City purposes,  
viz:*

*Water Registrar, City Regis-  
trar, Superintendent of Bu-  
rial Grounds, Chief Engin-  
eer of Fire Department, Of-  
fice of the Electric Tele-  
graph, and Superintendent  
of Lamps.*

One Attic, 10 00

## APPENDIX.

### *Hydrants.*

During the year fifteen new hydrants were established in the City proper, eight in South Boston, six in East Boston, also one in Roxbury. Altogether there have been established, up to the present date,

In Boston proper,	-	-	-	-	-	-	871
South Boston,	-	-	-	-	-	-	224
East Boston,	-	-	-	-	-	-	163
Brookline,	.	-	-	-	-	-	1
Roxbury,	.	-	-	-	-	-	5
Charlestown,	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Chelsea,	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Total,	.	-	-	-	-	.	<u>- 1,282</u>

Fifty-five hydrants have been taken out and replaced by new or repaired ones. One hundred and twenty-seven decayed hydrant boxes were taken out and replaced by others made of Burnetized lumber, and the same material was used to cover thirty hydrants that have been established this year.

The hydrants are all in good condition, and have been packed with salt hay, and every precaution taken to keep them in a working condition through the cold weather.

## CITY PROPERTY.

*Flats.*—About 8,940 feet of Flats on the west side of Charles Street, at the foot of Mount Vernon Street, part of which is occupied by the Engine House for Engine Company No. 4.

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

### SCHOOL HOUSES,

New Adams, at East Boston, on Sumner and Lamson Streets, 1856, with an Engine House for the accommodation of Engine No. 13.

## STATION HOUSES,

- No. 1. In Old Hancock School Building, Hanover Street. A House for Engine No. 8 is connected with this building.
- No. 6. BRICK HOUSE, Broadway, South Boston. This building also accommodates Engine Co. No. 6.
- No. 7. BRICK HOUSE, on Paris and Meridian Streets, E. Boston. This building also accommodates Engine Company No. 9, and Hydrant Company No. 6, and is used as a Ward Room for Ward 2.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

**ENGINE HOUSES**—Fifteen, located as follows, viz: one each on Salem, Commercial, Purchase, Wall, Hudson, foot of Mount Vernon, East, Shawmut Avenue, Washington, Warren, (in Primary School House,) and Northampton Streets; three at East Boston, and two at S. Boston.

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

**FIRE ENGINES**—Thirteen in active service, and two in reserve.

**ONE STEAM FIRE ENGINE**—Cost \$8,000.

**ONE HOSE CARRIAGE** for said Engine, with about 1,000 feet of Hose.

**MAGNETIC FIRE ALARM APPARATUS**, in the City Building.  
Whole cost over \$25,000.

**FIRE HOOKS**—Eight.

**FIRE LADDERS**—Seventy-six, of different sizes.

**HOOK AND LADDER CARRIAGES**—Three.

**HOSE CARRIAGES**—Thirty-eight.

**HOSE**—About twenty-three thousand feet of Leading and Suction Hose.

**FIRE BUCKETS**—One hundred and forty-six.

**THE ENGINES, HOSE, CAPS, BADGES, BUCKETS, 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 supplied by rain water from the roofs of buildings.

**HYDRANTS**.—For supplying water in case of fire; 867 in the City proper, 221 at South Boston, and 163 at East Boston. Total, 1251. *An increase of 22 over last year. The Hydrants are located at an average distance of 250 feet from each other.*