

AUDITOR'S
FORTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON,
AND THE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1858-59.

1858, MAY 1, (*both included,*) APRIL 30, 1859.

CITY DOCUMENT, No. 41.



BOSTON:
GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,
No. 3, CORNHILL.
1859.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—This branch of City service is now believed to be in a very healthy and effective condition. The acquisition by purchase, (after a very satisfactory trial,) of two Steam Fire Engines has been found a great addition to its effective force. It is in contemplation to add two or more of these machines to the Department as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

The *Fire Alarm Telegraph* is found to work well, amply repaying its cost and keeping. The Expense for the whole Department for the year, including the Fire Alarm and the cost of the two Steam Fire Engines, has been but \$105,600, against \$107,350 last year.

ENGINE AND HOOK AND LADDER HOUSES.

Alteration and Repairs on these Houses, viz :

Carpenter's Work and Stock,	822	76	
Painting and Glazing,	751	44	
Whitewashing,	165	75	
Masonry and Drainage,	134	26	
Slating and Repairing Roofs,	56	10	
Gas Fixtures,	50	85	
Plumbing,	45	17	
Paper Hanging,	45	00	
Signs for Houses,	37	00	
Repairing Sidewalks,	11	50	
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	\$2,119	83	\$115,390 90

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$2,119 83	\$115,390 90
STEAM ENGINE HOUSES.		
<i>Cost of Fitting up Houses for the accommodation of the two new Steam Fire Engines, Eclipse and Lawrence, viz., Wall Street for the Eclipse—</i>		
Carpenter's Work and Stock,	\$797 04	
Mason's Work and Stock,	501 77	
Flagstones for Cess- pools,	193 03	
Plumbing,	167 82	
Slating and Roofing; and Copper Gut- ters,	127 90	
Warming apparatus,	129 75	
Gas Fixtures,	51 05	
Iron Work,	41 06	
	<hr/>	
	2,009 42	
<i>Purchase St. for the Lawrence.</i>		
Carpenter's Work and Stock,	525 47	
Mason's Work and Stock,	222 68	
Warming Apparatus,	119 46	
Painting and Glazing,	64 36	
Plumbing,	29 44	
Iron Work,	5 32	
	<hr/>	
	966 73	
	<hr/>	
		5,095 98
<i>Amount paid by Treasurer, per item No. 14 of his account,</i>	\$4,990 39	
<i>Amount not yet called for,</i>	92 74	
	<hr/>	
	5,089 13	
<i>Add Transfer by Auditor from Fire Department,</i>	6 85	
	<hr/>	
	\$5,095 98	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>		\$120,486 88

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$120,486 88
ENGINE HOUSE, WARD VII.—See <i>Ward Room,</i> <i>Ward VII.</i>	

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

47

Amount brought forward,

\$128,379 70

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.

The appropriation for the Fire Department includes the annual Expenditures of the Fire Department proper, am't'g to \$91,410 17

The cost of carrying on the FIRE ALARM SYSTEM am't'g to

7,861 02

And the cost and keeping in proper order for use the two STEAM FIRE ENGINES, am't'g to

7,708 66

Thus making a Gross total of \$106,979 85

The details of which are as follows, viz :

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Annual compensation to the Assistant Engineers, Officers and Members of the various Engine, Hook and Ladder, and Hose Co's,

\$70,433 44

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,

5,849 94

Amounts carried forward,

\$76,283 38

\$128,379 70

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$76,283 38	\$128,379 70
New Leading and Suction Hose, Caps, Badges and Buckets,	3,499 64	
Repairs on the Leading and Suction Hose, Caps, Badges and other work in that branch,	1,741 65	
Hire of Horses and Riders to draw the Hand Engines and Hooks and Ladders to and from fires,	2,382 63	
Bells for Fire Alarms, and Hanging the same, New Belfries, &c., viz :		
On St. Vincent's Asylum,	\$1,189 20	
On the Wells School House,	558 08	
Putt'g up new Steel Bell on the Mar- iner's Church, in Summer st., (<i>bell not yet accepted and paid for,</i>)	61 85	
	<hr/>	1,809 13
Fire Police—Special men ap- pointed for attendance at fires,*	805 81	
Furniture and Utensils for Engine Houses,	506 07	
Fuel for the Engine Houses,	551 79	
Expenses of collecting appa- ratus after fires, and cart- ing machines to and from workshops for repairs; and other miscellaneous ex- penses of the Fire Depart- ment not charged else- where,	501 18	
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$88,081 28	<hr/> \$128,379 70

* Since 1st February last this service has been performed by the regular Police officers, who receive no extra pay therefor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

49

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$88,081 28	\$128,379 70
Warming apparatus for Engine Houses,	408 54	
Water for the various Engine Houses,	352 00	
Ladders — Purchase of new and repairing of old ones,	499 47	
Gas and Gas Fixtures for Engine Houses,	390 31	
Neatsfoot Oil and Leather Preservative for Engine Hose,	262 25	
Stationery and Printing for the Department,	177 78	
Refreshments furnished Fire Companies, who came from neighboring cities and towns to our assistance at large fires,	158 62	
Oil and Fluid for Engine Houses and for Torches,	145 19	
Reservoir Covers—New ones furnished by the Internal Health Department,	135 00	
Extra services of Firemen at large fires,	135 50	
Signs for Engine and Hose Carriage Houses, and for designating the location of Hydrants in the streets,	118 66	
Filling and cleaning Reservoirs,	108 50	
Locks and Keys for various Engine Houses, including spare keys for the use of members,	83 63	
Engraving and Printing Certificates of Membership for the Department,	72 00	
Oil used at the trial of the		
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	<u>\$91,128 73</u>	<u>\$128,379 70</u>

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$91,128 73	\$128,379 70
Hibernia Steam Engine of Philadelphia,	60 60	
Carriage hire for Committee and strangers,	54 50	
Soap and Sponge,	50 47	
Damages — Payment for injury done by the Departm't,	36 50	
Care of the Reservoirs at East Boston, one year,	25 00	
Ringin Alarm Bells at East Boston,	25 00	
Washing and making Towels,	17 37	
Desk for Engineer's Office,	12 00	
FIRE DEPARTMENT,		
Exclusive of Steam Engines and Telegraphic Fire Alarm,	\$91,410 17	

STEAM FIRE ENGINES.

Paid on account of cost of the two new Steam Fire Engines, Eclipse and Lawrence, contracted for at \$3,500 each; of which the first payment of \$2,000 each has been paid, being The balance is payable 1st July next.	\$4,000 00	
Monthly Payments to the Sellers for running and working the Engines, and keeping them in repair, as per Contract, which exists one year, the City furnishing the Horses only,	1,611 00	
Cost of Three pair of Horses for drawing same to and from fires,	1,150 00	
Bedsteads and Bedding for the Steam Engine Houses,	321 17	
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	\$7,082 17	\$128,379 70

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$7,082 17	\$128,379 70
Cost of Harnesses, Ropes, &c.,	228 40	
New Fuel Wagon,	125 00	
Fuel at Trials of Engines and for service at fires,	75 14	
Keeping and hire of Horses prior to the erection of stables connected with the Engine Houses,	71 50	
Grain, Hay, &c., for Horses,	43 89	
Lanterns for the use of the men,	26 25	
Repairing Machines,	20 25	
Shoeing Horses and Medi- cines for same,	15 62	
Repairing Hose, Pipe, &c.,	12 94	
Washing Clothing and Bed- ding,	7 50	
	<hr/>	
STEAM FIRE ENGINES,	\$7,708 66	
	<hr/>	

TELEGRAPHIC FIRE ALARM.

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

Salary of Superintendent,	\$1,200 00	
Salary of Assistants,	3,510 00	
Three new Striking Machines,	1,152 50	
Signal Boxes and Repairing the same,	351 75	
Drugs, Chemicals and Zinc,	341 77	
Wires, and putting up same,	269 63	
Insulators, Copper Cups, Bat- teries, &c.,	176 15	
Office Machinery and Tools for repairing,	173 57	
Repairs of Machinery, Wires and Blacksmith's work,	105 20	
Washing the Office, Clothing and Bedding,	93 77	
Telegraph Paper,	79 35	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	\$7,453 69	\$128,379 70

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$7,453 69	\$128,379 70
Carpenter's and Mason's work, Repairing, &c., in office,	78 33	.
Other machinery and putting up the same,	68 52	
Water used as a motive power,	65 00	
Freight, Expresses, Omnibus Fares and Carting,	55 89	
Repairing Striking Machines,	38 42	
Incidental Expenses and dam- ages paid,	25 77	
Printing and Stationery for office,	23 94	
Rent of Cellar at South Bos- ton for accommodation of a striking machine,	16 50	
One Paper Reel for Tele- graph Register,	14 50	
Gas Pipes and Gas Fixtures for Office,	8 76	
Repairing Bells,	7 26	
Furniture for Office,	4 44	
TELEGRAPHIC FIRE ALARM,	<u>\$7,861 02</u>	
Totals, Fire Department,	\$91,410 17	
Steam Engines,	7,708 66	
Telegraphic Alarms,	<u>7,861 02</u>	
		106,979 85
<i>Amount paid by Treasurer, per item No. 16 of his account,</i>	\$106,363 71	
<i>Amount not yet called for,</i>	653 02	
	<u>\$107,016 73</u>	
<i>Deduct Transfers by Auditor to other accounts,</i>	36 88	
	<u>\$106,979 85</u>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>		<u>\$235,359 55</u>

Amount brought forward, \$235,359 55

N. B. *On the 30th April, 1859, the Department consisted of one Chief Engineer, nine Assistant Engineers, and twenty Companies, including three Hook and Ladder and five Hose Companies.*

Each of the Hand Engine Companies has one Foreman, one Assistant Foreman, one Clerk, one Steward, and thirty-six men.

Each of the Hose Companies has twenty men, with the same officers as the Engine Companies.

In addition to the above there are two Steam Fire Engines, which now are and will continue to be operated till 1st January, 1860, by the builders, under a special contract with them. They are to keep the Engines in repair, man them, and work them at every fire, and pay every expense, except the Horses, which are furnished by the City. Each Engine requires seven men, who are under the control and subject to the orders of the Engineers of the Fire Department.

The Contractors are paid monthly, viz: for the Lawrence, \$333 33, and for the Eclipse, \$266 66.

It is proposed to purchase two more Steam Engines, and to discard one Hand Engine and one Hose Company.

PAY — That of the Chief Engineer is \$1,200 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, No. 14, at South Boston Point; one Hook and Ladder Company, and one Hose Company at East Boston, and Hose Company No. 4 in Northampton Street, who receive less pay, as they are never required to leave their sec-

Amount carried forward, \$235,359 55

Amount brought forward,

\$235,359 55

tions 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 and the Committee on the Fire Department.*

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 the same 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.

An accurate account is kept of the time of giving each alarm, and of the District and Station from which 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 fifty Signal Boxes or Stations, the number in a District varying from six to thirteen.

Alarms are transmitted to the Central Office, from the Signal Stations or Boxes, by turning a crank in the Box. The Police Officers and one other 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.

Amount carried forward,

\$235,359 55

Amount brought forward,

\$235,359 55

☞ **THE MERIDIAN BELLS** *are all struck at the Fire Alarm Office. The greatest care is taken to secure the utmost accuracy, for which purpose a telegraphic communication with the Cambridge Observatory has been effected.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Chief Engineer.

George W. Bird, 1,200 00

*Secretary of the Board
of Engineers.*

Geo. H. Allen, 800 00

2,000 00

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Received from the Chief Engineer, viz:

For one spare Engine sold, \$550 00

Two old Relief Engines, sold
at \$75 each, 150 00

One old Hose Carriage, 50 00

Fifty feet old Hose, 14 00

764 00

Per item No. 79 of Treasurer's account.

FIRE APPARATUS.—I am happy to be able to report our fire apparatus in perfect working order. We have 500 feet of good hose, with all the appropriate machinery, and consider ourselves fully prepared for any emergency, which it is hoped may not occur, and of which we stand in little fear, as the greatest care is always exercised with regard to fires, lamps, etc., and even this slight risk would be lessened if gas were introduced.

CITY PROPERTY — 1859.

CITY BUILDING, corner of Court square and Williams court, covering about 2,035 feet of land.

This Building is occupied by the Second Police Station ; the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department ; and the Magnetic Telegraph Fire Apparatus and attendants ; 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, viz :

New Adams, at East Boston, on Sumner and Lamson streets, built 1856, with an Engine House for the accommodation of Engine No. 13. Lot 14,000 feet.

*Friend Street, 1843, 1,694 feet, 1 school.

* A Ward Room and Hook and Ladder House in this Building.

*Warren Street, 1854, 3,047 feet, 6 schools.

* An Engine House and Ward Room in this Building.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

No. 6. BRICK HOUSE, Broadway, South Boston. This building also accommodates Engine Co. No. 2.

278

CITY PROPERTY — 1859.

No. 7. BRICK HOUSE on Paris and Meridian streets, E. Boston. This building also accommodates Engine Co. No. 9, and Hydrant Co. No. 6, and is used as a Ward Room for Ward II.

No. 8. BRICK HOUSE on Commercial street, Ward I., covering 1,070 feet of land, fitted up in 1855. This is the HARBOR POLICE OFFICE. A House for Engine No. 8 is connected with this house.

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; four at East Boston, and three at South Boston.

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

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

ONE STEAM FIRE ENGINE.—The *Miles Greenwood* — out of service.

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

TWO STEAM FIRE ENGINES.—The *Eclipse* and the *Lawrence*; cost \$3,500 each.

HORSES.—Two pairs of Horses for the same.

FUEL WAGON for the same, cost \$125.

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 thousand three hundred feet of Leading and Suction Hose.

FIRE BUCKETS.—One hundred and eight.

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. 886 in the City proper; 236 at South Boston, and 168 at East Boston. Total, 1,290. *An increase of 16 over last year. The Hydrants are located at an average distance of 250 feet from each other.*

FIREMEN'S LOT.

Contribution by the City toward the cost of the Firemen's Lot at Forest Hills Cemetery,

1,000 00