

MELROSE FIRE DISTRICT

Firehouse Project Facts #1

November 6, 2025

CAPTIAL PLANNING

NYS Comptroller, Thomas DiNapoli

Local Government Management Guide, Multiyear Capital Planning

“New York’s local governments are responsible for maintaining and improving a substantial portion of our public infrastructure. A safe and reliable transportation network, clean and abundant water, modern educational facilities and other capital assets form the foundation for successful communities.”

“Unfortunately, numerous studies have pointed out that New York’s local governments have been underfunding their capital needs over the last several decades. In order to reverse this trend, additional federal, State and local resources may need to be dedicated for sustained investment. Equally important is a commitment by local governments to engage in effective multiyear capital planning.”

“There are many benefits to a robust capital planning process. Local governments should, and in some cases must, create a comprehensive inventory of their capital assets and “know what they own.” The process of prioritizing capital investments can make sure key assets are repaired or replaced before an emergency occurs. Finally, local government leaders can engage their community in understanding the costs and benefits of maintaining capital infrastructure.”

Melrose Fire District Facts

As of December 31, 2016, the Melrose Fire District’s Building Reserve balance was only \$66,696.

The 2017 Melrose Fire District - Operating Budget included only a small transfer to the Building Reserve for future capital needs of \$27,554.

The 2016 Melrose Fire District - Operating Budget allocated only \$5,850 for building repairs and maintenance for facilities exhibiting significant deteriorating conditions, the oldest section of which was 63 years old at that time.

The Melrose Fire Board of Fire Commissioners, recognizing their fiduciary responsibility to the community to maintain effective, efficient and safe facilities, engaged an architectural and engineering firm in 2016 to perform a comprehensive Building Condition Survey to evaluate facility conditions, identify any deficiencies and evaluate potential future capital needs.

For more information on the Building Condition Survey, please see Firehouse Project Facts #2, November 10, 2025.