

SOUTHWOLD FIRE DEPARTMENT

April 17th., 1968

The first fire prevention equipment in the Township of Southwold was purchased and owned by the Police Village of Shedden in 1920, a two-wheel cart equipped with fire fighting items. This was followed by a 1937 Fargo truck equipped for fighting fires.

In the fall of 1947, a delegation of ratepayers attended a Southwold Council Meeting with Members of the Shedden Fire Department asking the Township to take over the operation of the Fire Department and buy a fire Truck equipped by the John Bean Company of Lansing Michigan.

Shedden offered to either sell their equipment and give the proceeds to the Township or turn over everything including their building and lot with the understanding that if the fire equipment was moved from Shedden, the property would be turned back to the Police Village.

The Southwold Mutual Insurance Company offered to give a Grant of \$1,000.00 in 1948 and the same amount in 1949 to the Township if a John Bean equipped truck was purchased.

Southwold Council decided to accept these offers and to cash Victory Bonds for \$4,000.00 and make a special tax levy for the balance of the cost.

A Rec truck was purchased from Clarence Berdan in April 1948 and taken to Lansing to the John Bean Company to be equipped as fire truck.

Truck Chassis	\$2600.00
Equipment	\$5905.44
Duty and Sales Tax	\$2044.00
Total Cost	\$10,549.44

The Fargo truck was kept for use as a water tank and as a stand-by.

Charles Mabes was appointed Fire Chief by Southwold Council (No Assistant)

In the fall of 1953, serious difference of opinion on operation of the Fire Department between some of the Department and Council led to the re-organizing of the Department.

On February 13th 1954, Howard Hogsden was appointed Chief and Hugh Silcox Deputy Chief.

In 1954 the Fargo truck was taken to Hindleys Garage at Union and a complete overhaul was made including a new water tank and a Bickle & Seagrave pump and hose with other equipment at a total cost of \$2,057.70.

In Feb. 1959 a panel truck was purchased from V. Walsh Estate.

In 1960 a Ford Army surplus truck was purchased from Butterworth Motors for \$550.00 repairs amounting to \$693.86 were spent on this fire truck and it was stationed at Pingal.

In April 1962 the Shedden truck was taken to Lansing for repairing and updating equipment at a total cost of \$718.55.

In 1964, the Fargo truck was stationed at Talbotville storage being rented from D.C. Palmer.

In 1966 a new Fire truck was purchased from King Seagrave of Woodstock for the Talbotville area at a cost of \$15,923.00.

A new chassis was purchased for the Shedden Ford truck in October 1967 from Lyons Motors at a cost of \$3460.00 and equipment on present truck was put on the new chassis conversion costs totalled \$2,006.58.

A New Dodge Truck was purchased in the fall of 1967 from Mid-Town Motors for \$5,441.00 which will be equipped as a fire truck by King Seagrave Ltd. at Woodstock, to replace the present truck stationed at Pingal.