

Thomaston Fire and EMS Department



January 2026

Monthly Report – January, 2026

Submitted by: David Hanna, Fire and Rescue Chief

Date: February 23, 2026

1. Executive Summary:

January marked a strong start to the year for Thomaston Fire & EMS. The department completed its annual Maine Department of Labor required training while successfully transitioning to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). This new reporting platform represents an important milestone in the continued unification of Fire and EMS services. For the first time in Thomaston's history, all calls for service are now recorded, documented, and managed under one integrated system, improving accuracy, transparency, and operational coordination.

Work also began on the department's first unified strategic plan and the development of a combined FY27 Fire & EMS budget, further aligning operations and resources under a single organizational structure.

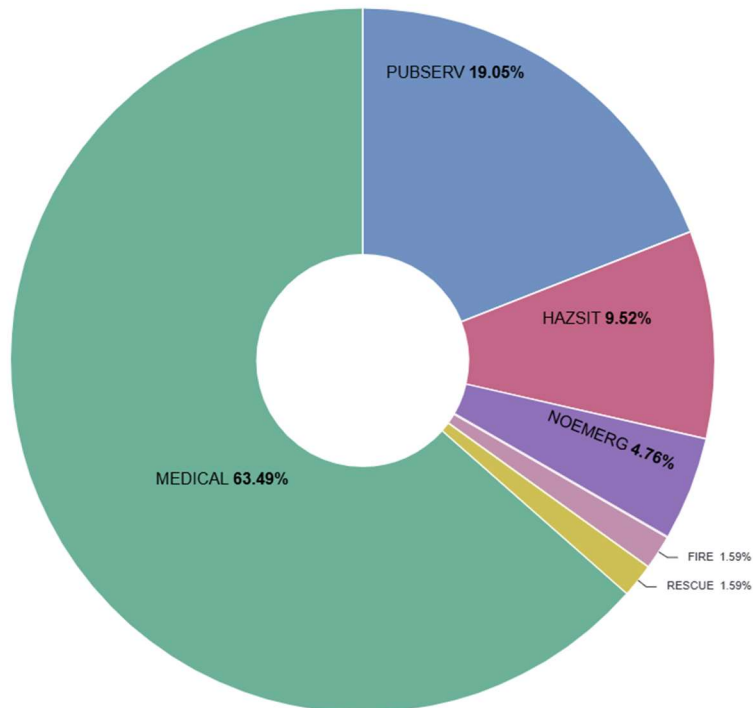
Despite winter storms and increasing service demands, personnel remained fully engaged in both preparedness and response activities. Crews cleared hydrants throughout town, responded to a significant structure fire in a neighboring town, and the department was awarded a grant to enhance wildland firefighting safety equipment.

This is an exciting time to be associated with Thomaston Fire and EMS as we continue preparing for the future while maintaining the highest level of service to our community. We completed many important projects over the past year, we are looking forward to several key initiatives in 2026, including the new fire station, the continued development of the EMS Lieutenant position, enhanced BOL documentation and compliance efforts, developing the FY27 budget and increase training efforts for all fire and EMS personnel.

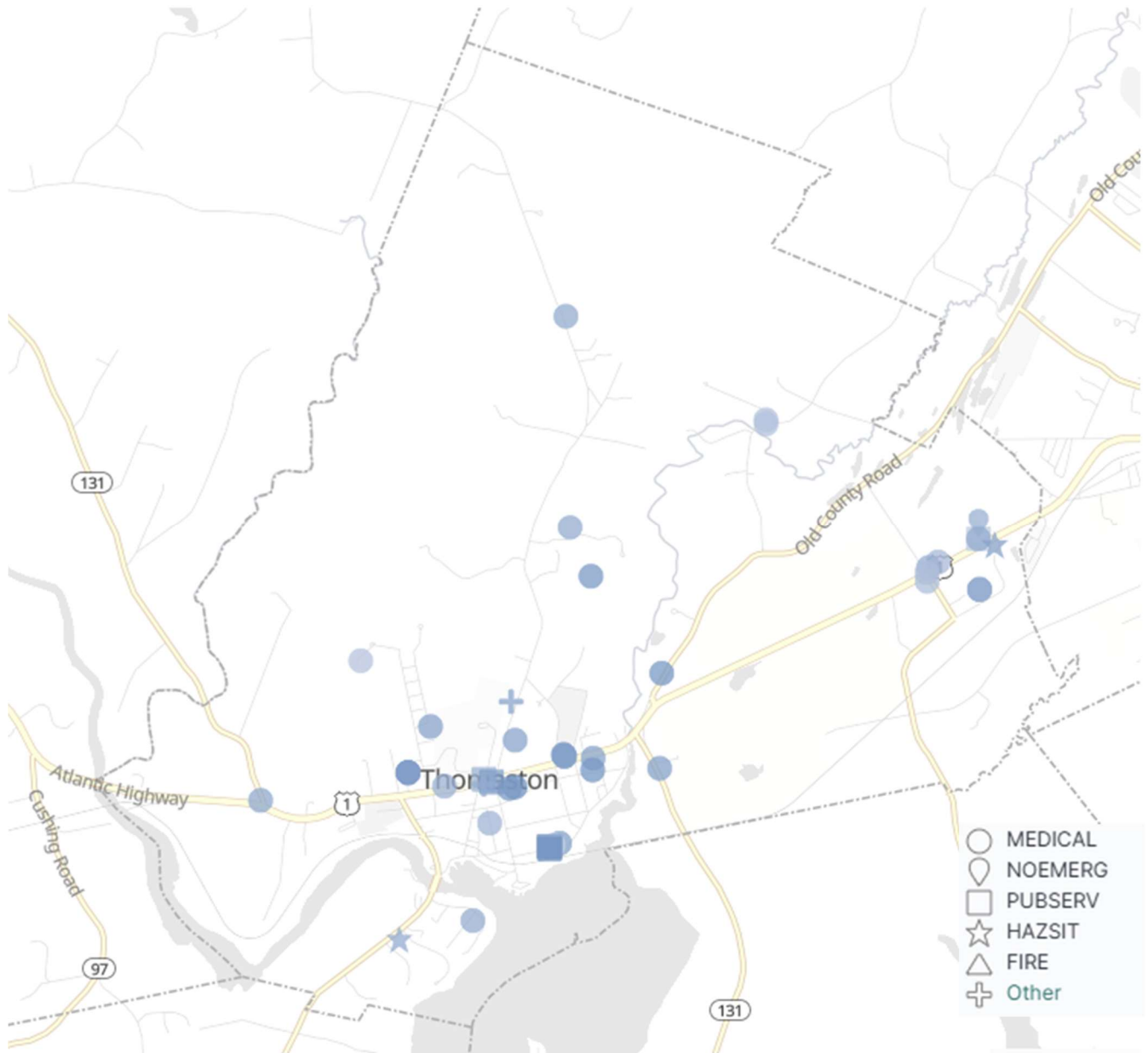
2. Call Volume & Response Statistics:

Type of Call	Number of Calls	Percentage	Year to Date
Total Calls for the month	61		61
Total Vehicle Responses for the month	93		93
EMS Responses for the month	39	63.49%	39
Fire Responses for the month	22	36.51%	22
Shifts with Paramedic Coverage for the month	37	59%	
Shifts without Paramedic Coverage for the month	25	39.4%	
Shift Left Uncovered for the month	1	1.6%	1

Call for Service by Type



Call for Service by Locations



3. Personnel and Staffing Notes:

Existing EMS Staff and Certification Levels

Category	Name	Certification	Notes
Rotating Per-Diem	Goodine, Sean	EMT – B	Enrolled - AEMT class
	Charlie Adams	AEMT	
	Bouchard, Jacky	EMT-B	
	Sanfilippo, Sebastian	Paramedic	
Per-Diem Paramedics	Camber, Dennis	Paramedic	
	O’Hare, JT	Paramedic	
	LeCaptain, Kevin	Paramedic	
	Morton, Ryan	Paramedic	
	Swan, Park	Paramedic	
	Elliot Stanley	Paramedic	
Per-Diem AEMT’s	Dearborn, Trinity	AEMT	
	Maynard, Kaytie	AEMT	
	Neagle, Jill	AEMT	
Per-Diem EMT B	Leo, Alan	EMT B	
	Cooley, Gabe	EMT B	
	Root, Mike	EMT B	
Per-Diem Observer			Observer

Training

- On January 8, 2026, the department conducted its annual mandatory Department of Labor training in accordance with Maine Department of Labor and OSHA requirements. This training ensures that all members remain compliant with state and federal workplace safety regulations applicable to fire and EMS Departments. Some of the required topics included blood borne pathogens training, respiratory protection training, personal protective equipment checks, hazard communication, workplace safety, and employee health and safety. In conjunction with the classroom training, respirator fit testing was conducted, and all members’ protective gear was inspected to verify proper condition and serviceability. These components are critical to ensure members are properly protected and medically cleared to operate in hazardous environments. Attendance was strong, with the majority of members present. Members unable to attend are required to complete the training by the end of the month to maintain full compliance with Maine Department of Labor standards and departmental policies and to remain active members in the Department.

- On January 15, 2026, Chief Hanna participated in the monthly Emergency Management Agency (EMA) meeting, during which current and potential grant opportunities were discussed. Although brief, the meeting provided valuable information regarding available countywide resources and coordination opportunities.
- On January 20, 2026 an officer meeting was held where several important items were discussed including response expectations, proper use of personal protective equipment, CAD integration into our department reports, and radio communications. Additionally there was discussion on the recent increased call volume to the town forest and the future needs associated with gaining access to and the extrication of these patients. Other items discussed were the new pending fire station and an update on the ongoing Fire and EMS strategic plan.

Promotions or Recognitions and Classes:

- The Knox County Mutual Aid Association held its annual January meeting at the Somerset Hotel in Rockport. The meeting was very well attended, with representation from most Knox County fire departments. Thomaston was represented by Deputy Chief Jamie Leo, Assistant Chief Bob Coombs, and Fire & EMS Chief David Hanna. During the meeting, elections were conducted, and Chief Hanna was elected to serve on the Executive Board of the Knox County Mutual Aid Association.

4. Apparatus & Equipment:

- Engine 4 required repairs to its air brake system, a critical safety component essential to the safe operation of the apparatus. The issue was identified during a routine weekly apparatus inspection conducted by per diem firefighter Gabe Cooley. Upon discovery the issue it was reported to command staff and the apparatus was removed from service until inspected by a certified mechanic. Once it was deemed safe for operation it was returned to service until a permanent fix is completed next month.
- The department took delivery of five new SCBA bottles as part of our annual purchase program. This proactive cost-saving measure supports regular rotation of safety equipment, ensuring new bottles are placed into service as older units are retired at the end of their service life. This regular replacement schedule has been in place for several years and is budgeted for as part of our annual budget process.

5. Facilitates Update:

- On December 6, 2026, a meeting was held with a representative of the USDA to discuss the Congressionally Directed funding for the future fire station. Attendees included Kara George, Town Manager; Chris Rector, Select board Chair; Andrew Hyland and Curtis Robinson both of Port City Architecture; and David Hanna, Fire Chief. This initial kickoff meeting focused on outlining the process for moving the project forward, identifying the goals and requirements necessary to access the federal funds, and establishing a clear project timeline. Much work still remains and more to come in later monthly reports.

6. Fire Prevention, Public Education, Community Events and Outreach

- Due to several significant winter storms, department members devoted considerable time to shoveling out fire hydrants throughout town. Maintaining clear access to hydrants is a critical preparedness measure that the members of the Thomaston Fire Department take very seriously. Residents are strongly encouraged to clear any fire hydrants located near their home after each snowstorm, as this greatly assists our volunteer firefighters. Because it is not always possible for the department to reach every hydrant immediately following a storm, community participation is a vital component of this effort and directly supports effective emergency response.



Department members shoveling hydrants





- On January 13, 2026, I met with Fire and EMS Chief Dave Ellwell of the South Thomaston Fire Department to discuss shared staffing challenges and mutual aid coordination. With several members serving in both the Thomaston and South Thomaston EMS departments, the discussion emphasized the importance of continued collaboration to maintain reliable delivery service while supporting the well-being and sustainability of personnel in both organizations.

- JT O'Hare has been consistently helping out with both the fire and EMT education at the Midcoast School of Technology as part of our outreach program. JT volunteers his own personal time every week to support this effort and receives no paid compensation for his involvement. His commitment is driven by a desire to help prepare the next generation of firefighters and EMTs by sharing his own practical knowledge, real-world experience, and skillset. JT's dedication reflects positively on the Thomaston Fire and EMS department and demonstrates a strong commitment to community engagement and professional mentorship all in an effort to prepare the next generation of emergency service first responders.



7. Administrative Updates and Notes and Significant Calls for Service:

- On January 19, a significant structure fire occurred in the neighboring town of Friendship, with heavy fire conditions and reported explosions. Thomaston Fire & EMS personnel responded with **Engine 3** as part of a mutual aid assignment and assisted in fire suppression operations. This incident is another example of the dedication of Thomaston Fire & EMS members, who not only protect the residents of Thomaston but also serve as a critical component of the mutual aid system throughout the Midcoast region. Responding on Engine 3 were Assistant Chief Coombs, Lieutenant Adams, and firefighters Spear and Johnston.



- The department responded to another call for a hiker who had fallen in the Town Forest, marking the fourth such response to this location since July 2025. As with prior incidents, a former department member and current Town employee assisted with locating the patient. The increasing frequency of these calls reflects the growing use of the trail system and highlights the logistical challenges associated with patient access and removal in this area of town. As these incidents continue to rise, it may be prudent for the department to explore grant opportunities for a UTV or similar equipment to improve response efficiency and responder safety during trail-based rescues.
- A brief meeting of the Knox Region Communications Committee was held to appoint a new law enforcement representative. Thomaston Police Chief Eric Quatrano was unanimously elected to the committee, strengthening law enforcement representation and further enhancing Thomaston's presence on this important regional group.

Budget Updates / Recent Major Purchases

- Both an initial and follow-up meeting were held between the Fire Chief and the Town Manager to review and discuss the FY27 Fire and EMS budget. As part of this year's budget process, and for the first time, the Fire and EMS budgets are being combined into a single, unified emergency services budget. This approach reflects the operational reality of an integrated Fire & EMS service and allows for a more accurate, transparent, and responsible allocation of taxpayer resources. The process is complex and involves more than simply merging two existing budgets. Instead, it requires a careful evaluation of overlapping costs, opportunities for efficiencies, and the strategic reallocation of resources and funds to improve service delivery.

A primary focus of this effort is the incremental and fiscally responsible expansion of paramedic staffing, EMS needed resources and fire capabilities. These investments are being evaluated with an emphasis on improving responder and patient safety, reducing reliance on mutual aid and overtime, and ensuring sustainable service levels as call volume and medical demand and complexity continue to increase.

The combined budget approach is intended to balance sound financial stewardship with the Town's obligation to provide high-quality, reliable emergency services, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently while enhancing the overall safety and well-being of the community.

Grants Awarded/Applied for

- On January 16, 2026, the department was notified that it had been awarded a Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant through the Maine Forest Service. The grant application was submitted in October 2025 and provides funding for the purchase of Nomex wildland fire shirts. This is a 50/50 matching grant totaling \$3,800. The required matching funds will be absorbed within the existing FY26 departmental budget for protective clothing. The grant will allow the department, for the first time, to properly equip members with wildland specific personal protective equipment. Prior to this award, members were required to operate at wildland fire incidents wearing structural firefighting PPE, which is not designed for extended wildland operations and presents unnecessary heat and stress concerns. The acquisition of this equipment will significantly enhance firefighter safety and ensure continued compliance with applicable NFPA standards. A future report will provide notification once the equipment has been purchased and placed into service.



8. Projects & Future Planning

- On January 12th 2026 the department held its first strategic plan meeting, marking an important milestone in the ongoing unification of the Fire and EMS departments into a single, integrated organization. This meeting represents a foundational step in both our broader organizational transformation and department rebranding effort.

As these two historically separate departments are brought together, it is essential that we intentionally develop a shared mission, vision, values, goals, and objectives that clearly define who we are as one department and how we will serve the community moving forward. The strategic planning process is designed to align personnel, operations, and leadership under a common identity; while preserving the strengths, traditions, and professional standards the citizens of Thomaston have come to expect.

This initial meeting focused on establishing a clear framework for moving forward in logical, achievable steps, with careful consideration given to how the Thomaston Fire & EMS Department is envisioned to operate in one, five, and ten years into the future. The next meetings will build upon this foundation and will guide informed decision-making related to staffing goals, training expectations, service delivery standards, future facilities, and community engagement.

Ultimately, the strategic planning process will serve as the roadmap for a unified, modern, and progressive Fire & EMS Department, positioned to effectively meet the evolving needs of the community now and into the future.

9. Challenges & Needs

- The department has successfully transitioned to the new National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). I am pleased to report that Thomaston Fire and EMS completed all required preparatory work in advance of the transition and was well-positioned for implementation. As with any new nationwide system rollout, there have been some operational issues at the State and National levels. These matters are not agency-specific and are being addressed as the system continues to develop and stabilize. As NERIS matures and our personnel gain additional familiarity with its functionality, we anticipate continued improvements in efficiency and reporting processes. Overall, the department is in good standing with the transition and remains committed to ensuring accurate, timely reporting under the new system.

10. Upcoming Needs:

- Over the coming months, the department will be focused on a number of significant initiatives, including meetings and coordination related to the new fire station project, budget development, strategic planning efforts, and continued monitoring of Department of Labor compliance and documentation requirements. These projects represent important long-term investments in the organization and will require a significant amount of time and effort.

To effectively manage this workload, we have expanded our internal capacity through delegation of responsibilities to Lieutenant Mike Root, Lieutenant Charlie Adams, and Lieutenant Ryan Morton. Their leadership and engagement have strengthened our ability to move multiple projects forward simultaneously.

Additionally, Deputy Chief Jamie Leo and Assistant Chief Bob Coombs remain highly involved in departmental operations, including planning, communication, purchasing, and emergency response. Their continued leadership and operational involvement provide stability and ensure that both administrative and frontline responsibilities are effectively balanced.

End of January 2026 Report