• The Facility Advisory Committee has been busy reviewing the condition of the District’s three stations located in Selkirk, Glenmont, and South Bethlehem. We’re looking at earlier studies and conducting a review of our buildings. In addition to necessary physical improvements, we’re discussing the need for more secure storage, health and safety upgrades, safe truck egress onto roadways, improved office & meeting space, and more room in the bays. We will be addressing all of these needs in the next few newsletters. Our focus this time is on the apparatus bays.

• Over the years, innovations in design, improvements in firefighter safety and comfort, and required emission controls have given us fire trucks that carry significantly more equipment than trucks from the 1950’s when our stations were built. Gone are the days when firefighters rode on the back of the truck. Firefighters now need to be seated and belted, with adequate headroom and cooling in the cab. Top mount pump controls mean that pumps are operated on a truck platform. Under-carriage emission controls are required. All of this means safer and bigger apparatus. As a result, bay height, width, length, and floor loading in all three of our stations are not adequate. Here are some specifics:
  
  o Firefighters can’t open apparatus doors fully to get in when there’s a fire call and trucks must be pulled outside for cleaning, inspection, and maintenance of equipment.
  o Firefighters gear is stored along the engine room walls. During a call, donning gear close to moving apparatus is a concern.
  o The stations lack exhaust emission control systems recommended by National Fire Protection Association Safety Standards (NFPA).
  o There is not enough room inside the apparatus bays to raise the cabs for service and repairs.
  o Our replacement fire apparatus needs to be specially designed to fit in the apparatus bays. This can cause the apparatus to be more expensive and less functional.
  o Bay height does not allow for relocation of apparatus for temporary or long term use between the three stations.
  o Limited height and size restrictions preclude mutual aid departments on standby from relocating apparatus into the stations, affecting continued use of mutual aid.
  o Apparatus bays are not sufficient to lay out fire hose for cleaning and maintenance.
  o There is not enough room to open apparatus compartment doors in order to inspect, clean and maintain vital equipment.

• More information can be found on our website: [www.selkirkfd.org](http://www.selkirkfd.org). Look for the Facility Improvement Committee page. The Committee can be contacted by emailing: [fac@selkirkfd.org](mailto:fac@selkirkfd.org)

Here’s an illustration of the change in truck sizes over time: