

# Apparatus Refurbishment

## Dennis



## Walpole



**GREENWOOD**  
EMERGENCY VEHICLES



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# BEFORE



The NFPA's Fire Protection Handbook (17th Edition) states the following: "In general, a 10 to 15 year life expectancy is considered normal for first line pumping engines. First line ladder trucks should have normal life expectancy of at least 15 years."

Annual testing can help determine the current condition of your apparatus. These tests together with your record of maintenance should be considered to begin your specifications. This recommendation is ideal when consideration of refurbishing your apparatus begins.

Greenwood is staffed with ASE / EVT, Master Certified Mechanics and Certified Paint Specialists who are committed to perform repairs and paint work based on the highest industry standards. Call our Fabrication Department and we will be happy to assist you with your project.

Dedham, MA has its newly refurbished E-One Ladder 1 back in service. Greenwood performed a complete overhaul, including rebuilding all aerial and out-rigger cylinders, hoses and valves. The work included a chassis sandblast and repaint, as well as a complete cab/body exterior disassembly and repaint. A lighting package update and reflective chevron striping on compartment doors was also completed. The aerial communications cable, intercom and speaker were replaced. The apparatus was outfitted with a new alternator, springs and tires. The truck returned to the fleet, service ready from top to bottom.



# Apparatus Refurbishment

## Should you refurbish or replace your apparatus?

During challenging financial times it is difficult to balance the needs and safety of an aging apparatus fleet while working with a reduced budget. Departments must first consider expectations when contemplating such a project. Refurbishment in the right circumstances can extend the life of an apparatus while increasing safety and its emergency response capabilities.

Apparatus that have not followed a proactive maintenance plan can often exceed the cost feasibility for such a project. This is primarily due to the large expense of bringing the base apparatus to a suitable condition for refurbishment. Major repairs such as engines, transmissions, radiators, springs, and brakes in combination can escalate the project cost quickly. Our experience has shown that a refurbishment budget of 25-30% of the replacement value of the apparatus is a good guideline when considering the project. If the refurb cost exceeds this guide it is frequently a better return on the investment to consider purchasing a new truck. However, if a new truck isn't an option and the 25-30% rule is within reach then refurbishment will likely be your best course of action.

Your next step would be to have your apparatus tested and inspected by a reputable apparatus repair facility. Pump and Ladder test certifications should be current and available for review. This all helps to qualify the project. Discovering that your pump or aerial is significantly deficient may put the project past the budget rule. That is why we recommend that the apparatus be tested and inspected by qualified and trusted apparatus professionals prior to starting refurbishment. Confirming these qualifications should be a key component of deciding which refurb center you choose. EVT, ASE, and OEM certifications should be required and be relevant to the refurb's scope of work.

The professionals at Greenwood would be happy to assist you if you wish to evaluate your fleet and proceed with a refurbishment project. Remember, we also provide complete service to all makes and can assist you in setting your annual maintenance budgets.



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