

Windsor Severance Fire Rescue

Apparatus from 1902 to 1951

Located at the Windsor Severance Fire Museum.

131 North 6th St Windsor Colorado 80550.

www.wsfr.us/fire-museum

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PRIOR to 1902

Before the fire department was formed in 1902, residents used water buckets and wet blankets to put out fires. The WSFR museum has three original fire buckets in its collection at the museum.

1902 HAND-DRAWN HOSE CART



Photo 2018-011, WSFM Permanent Collection

In 1902 a hand-drawn hose cart was purchased. It contained 550 Feet of 2-1/2" hose, nozzle, two axes, and four buckets. It had a lead rope and a gong which rang as it was pulled to the fire. It was either pulled by members of the fire department or a horse. Once at the site of the fire, the hose was hooked up to the nearest hydrant on the town's new water system which was completed in July of 1902. The hose cart eventually was put in storage in a local barn and lost to time. A similar hose cart to the one used in Windsor is on display at the Museum.

A Hook and Ladder Wagon was purchased in 1906 at a cost of \$350 from the Anderson Coupling and Fire Supply Company Kansas City, Kansas. Like the original hose cart, it was hand drawn. The museum has a scale model of what a ladder wagon from that time might have looked like on display as the whereabouts and fate of Windsor's Hook and Ladder Wagon is unknown.

1906 HOOK AND LADDER WAGON

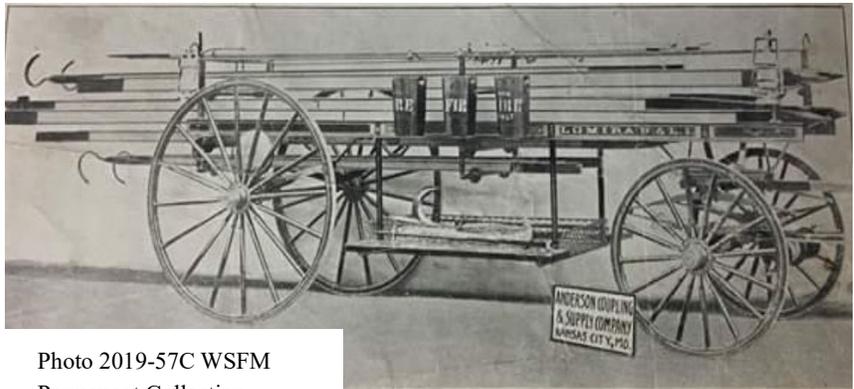


Photo 2019-57C WSFM Permanent Collection

1914 CHEMICAL ENGINE

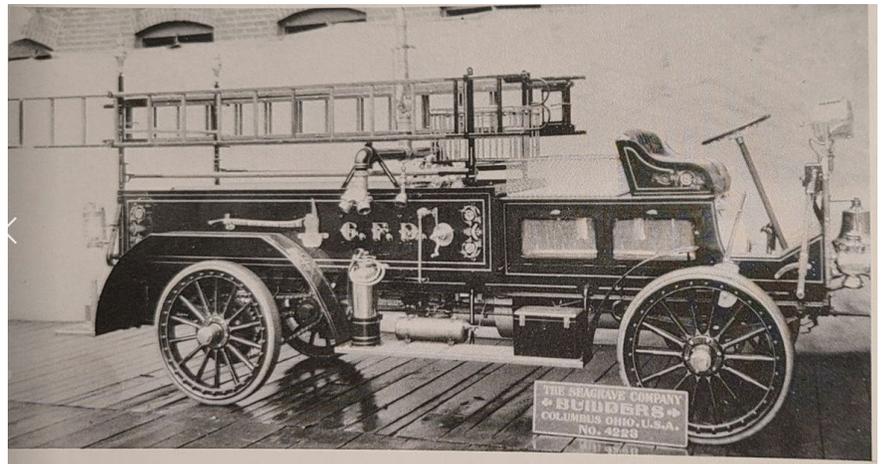


Photo 2018-014 WSFM
Permanent Collection

A new hand-drawn chemical engine was purchased for the fire department in 1914. It used sulfuric acid and baking soda to suppress fires. The acid was contained in a jar, and the baking soda was mixed in the water. Once the firefighters arrived at a fire the acid was mixed with the water and baking soda which produced carbon dioxide and created pressure in the tank that expelled the water through the attached fire hose. The chemical engine was sold to the Town of Grover in the spring of 1917. The museum has a similar period-correct chemical engine on display.

On December 11, 1916, a second hand 1910 Seagrave was purchased from the Greeley Fire Department. It carried a chemical engine and ladders. It was gasoline powered and had an air-cooled engine. The Seagrave was traded in for \$400 toward the purchase of the department's new REO Speedwagon in 1925. As the fate of this engine is unknown, the museum has scale model of what a Seagrave from that time might have looked like on display.

1910 SEAGRAVE



Above is a photo of truck Number 4223 at The Seagrave Company prior to delivery to Greeley Fire. Photo is from the book SEAGRAVE By Mathew Lee Copywrite 1991

1925 REO SPEEDWAGON



Delivery photo taken at Chessman Park in Denver. Photo WSFM 2021-021 Permanent Collection.



Delivery photo taken at Chessman Park in Denver. Photo WSFM 2021-022 Permanent Collection.

On April 28, 1925, a new REO Speedwagon fire truck was delivered to replace the 1910 Seagrave. It was sold to the Windsor Fire Dept. by the Julius Pearse Fire Department Supply Company of Denver Colorado. Julius Pearse purchased the chassis from the vehicle manufacturing company REO Speedwagon. (REO is short for **Ransom Eli Olds** of Lansing, Michigan.) It carried 1,500 ft of hose. Included were a chemical tank, chemical hose reel, hook and ladders, other firefighting tools, and accessories at a cost of \$2,000. The chemical tank held 40 gallons of water and sodium bicarbonate. This truck was traded in when the 1941 International Howe fire engine was purchased. The trade in was worth \$400. It was sold multiple times and was finally found sunk into the ground up to its axles in the back field of a retired Denver Firefighter. The person who found the truck and purchased it could barely make out "Windsor Fire Dept" lettering in the faded paint and contacted WSFR to see if we wanted to buy the truck. Though most of the wood components of the truck had rotted away, and items such as the seat and equipment were missing, most of the key components of the vehicle were intact. WSFR purchased the truck for \$2,500 and it returned home in July 2006. With a firefighter sitting on a milk crate, the engine fired up for the first time in almost 70 years, and it drove off the delivery trailer and into the fire station under its own power. The truck was fully restored by Windsor resident and antique vehicle restoration specialist Mike Wiley shortly thereafter. The fully functional truck is on display in the museum and can be seen in various community events and parades throughout the year.

1927 MODEL T CHASSIS CHEMICAL HOSE CART

The Severance Fire Department purchased a Model T Chassis in 1927. It consisted of two, thirty-five-gallon chemical tanks on a Ford Model T chassis equipped with a hitch that could be hooked over the bumper of a car or truck. It used sulfuric acid and baking soda which was mixed with water to build pressure and force the water through the hose to suppress fires. The equipment was stored at Gillespie's Severance Motor Company at a cost of \$5 per month. Although no photos of the hose cart exist, it was most likely similar to the chemical engine Windsor had in 1914, but with two tanks.

In 1941 an International Howe pumper, nicknamed “The Indian,” was purchased at a cost of \$3,647 to replace the 1925 REO Speedwagon. It was fabricated in Anderson, Indiana. It featured a 115-gallon water tank, and the Waterous Pump could pump 500 gallons of water a minute. It carried 1,400' of 2-½" hose, 250' of 1-½" hose, 100' of ¾" booster line, 2 lengths of 10' 4" diameter hard suction hose, a 24' extension ladder, a 12' roof ladder, and 2 all-purpose gas masks. The tank was increased to 250 gallons once the truck’s service life ended and it was used at the fireman games. Benches where the hose was originally carried were added in the 1970s. Since it was fabricated at the start of WWII it was originally painted Olive Drab Green. When it was delivered to Denver it was repainted "Denver Fire White." The Original Olive Drab paint can still be found in areas. The truck was never traded in or restored. It is on display in the museum and still runs and drives.

1941 International Howe

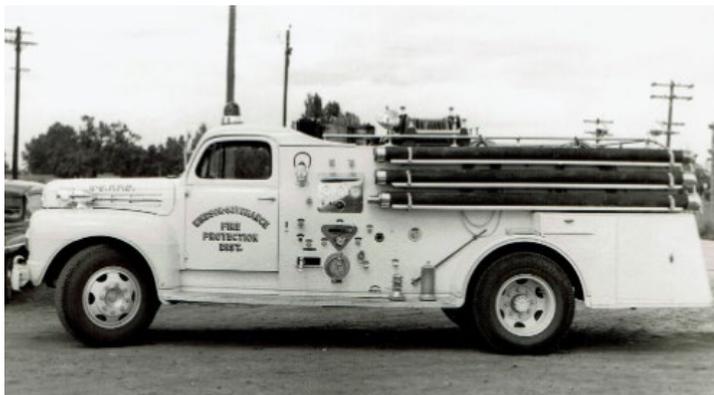


Photo taken in front of City Hall. Photo WSFR 2020-167 Permanent Collection



Driver side taken in Windsor. Photo 2020-168 Permanent Collection

1951 FORD HOWE



Ford Howe photo taken in Windsor Photo 2020-088 Permanent Collection

On June 28, 1951, a 1951 Ford Big Job/Howe of Anderson, Indiana engine was delivered. It cost \$11,672.30. It was the first truck purchased by the newly formed Windsor Severance Fire Protection District and was designed for both urban and rural fire fighting. Featuring a two stage Waterous pump, it had an output of 500 gallons per minute at 120 PSI. It had a second pump with an output of 60 GPM at 500 PSI. The truck held 500 gallons of water. It carried 250' of ¾" booster hose, 500' of 2-½" hose and 1,000' of 1/2" hose.

It also carried 3 lengths of 10' of 4-½" diameter hard suction, 3 lengths of 10' 2-½" diameter hard suction. It carried a 24' extension ladder and a 12' roof ladder and 2 SCBAs. It was sold to the Galton Fire Dept. in 2003 for \$1.00. Galeton sold the truck to Gary Pitcher of Dragon Casting in Greeley. He had the truck painted red. The truck was re-purchased by WSFR on July 7, 2013. In October of 2022 the truck was painted its original “Denver Fire White.” It returned in 2023 and is on display in the museum and still runs, though the pump was removed at some point and its whereabouts are unknown.