past year namely \$13,771 is the lowest loss for any year since 1917-18. It is believed that an important factor in effecting this result is the fire prevention and inspection work being done by the marshal. In addition to making 177 inspections, largely of business property, during the year the marshal has given talks in the public schools and before a number of organizations, along fire prevention lines, and has also sent out fire prevention literature and information to the residents of the village during Fire Prevention Week.

The department is at present ocme the entire ground floor of the . Village Hall, with conditions somewhat improved over those which existed when the building was also occupied by the police department and the other Village departments. However, the present building is in a very bad state of repair and if it were to be occupied for more than a few months, would require extensive changes, particularly if an additional piece of apparatus, recommended to the Council, is provided.

During the year, the Public Buildings and Grounds committee of the council gave careful consideration to the question of providing adequate quarters for the fire department, and under approval of the Plan Commission and its consulting architect. Edward H. Bennett, it was decided that the present site of the old Village hall is a proper location for a permanent central fire station. It has also been decided tenatively to proceed with the remodeling of the old Village hall for fire station purposes, providing the architect, S. S. Boman, can work out a plan which will substantially come within the budget appropriation of \$25,000.

The Council gave consideration to the advisability of selling the portion of the site of the old Village Hall, not actually needed for fire station purposes, either to the Winnetka Park District to be used as a park or to private individuals, but it was finally decided that the entire area should be retained by the Village as a park, for the present at least.

The Council now has under consideration a recommendation of the fire marshal and the village manager that an additional piece of fire apparatus be provided, consisting of an American LaFrance combination hook and ladder truck with 750 gallon per minute pumper, chemical equipment and hose body, at a cost of \$12,350, \$2,350 of which would be paid now and the balance of \$10,000 carried over a five year period at 5 per cent interest. This equipment would furnish a reserve unit, and is particularly needed to provide adequate ladder apparatus for handling, fires in the many buildings

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total fire loss for Winnetka for the in the business and residential districts, number of fire calls without calling

give careful consideration to the re- expense of two additional regular men. commendation of the fire marshal, in- Under this plan, there would be three corporated in the budget, that a car regular firemen, on duty at the stabe provided for the fire marshal, for tion at all times, on twenty-four hour use principally on inspection work and shifts. to avoid the necessity of the apparatus driving to the residence of the marshal before answering night calls.

It is suggested also that, if possible, the number of regular firemen be increased from four to six and that two of the regular men be advanced to the rank of captain. This would enable the department to handle an increased

which are over two stories in height. out the volunteer organization, which It is also suggested that the council would tend to considerably offset the

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