the average annual expense has been heretofore about $75.000, but with the introduction of the water and fire plugs the expense will it is thought be reduced to from $60.000 to $65.000 per annum. Upon a careful consideration of the subject your committee have come to the conclusion that the pay system must ultimately be introduced in all our large cities, the question now is has the time arrived for the city of Baltimore to adopt it, to determine this we must look at the expense which your committee estimate as annexed, There are in the city at the present time seventeen fire companies, which have 11 spouting engines, 28 suction engines, 40 hose carriages and about 25-000 feet of hose, your committee are of the opinion that there are more fire companies in our city than its necessities require; if the companies were properly located twelve companies would be fully sufficient, for the effectual protection of the property of our citizens from destruction by fire, The twelve companies to be furnished with apparatus as follows: 4 engine companies each with 1 spouting engine 8½ inch cylinder. 1 suction engine 6 inch cylinder. 2 hose carriages and 1200 feet of hose. 8 hose companies each 2 suction engines 6 inch cylinders. 2 hose carriages and 1200 feet of hose. The expense of procuring the apparatus as above, we estimate as follows;

12 Engine houses, at $2000 each			$24.000
Deduct the value of the present engine houses the property of the city estimated	$15.000		$9.000
4 spouting engines	at	$1.300 each	5.200
20 Suction engines	at	750 "	15.000
24 hose carriages	at	75 "	1.800
14.400 feet of hose and connecting screws			8 784
Spanners, wrenches and other incidentals $100 each C.			1.200
Estimated cost of engines, houses and apparatus			$40.984

The next enquiry is what number of men will be necessary and what compensation should be allowed for the services they would be required to render, the number we have allowed is the smallest that would constitute an efficient department – the pay the same that is allowed in Boston, except the chief engineer and his assistants

24 hose carriages, 6 men each	144 men	
20 Suction engines 20 men each	400	
4 spouting " 40 " "	160	
	704 men at $80	$56.320

Forward

Brot forward	704 men	$56.320
1 engineer to each 12 companies	12 men at $125.	1.500
2 assistant engineers to each	24 " at 100	2.400
1 engine keeper to each company	12 " at 125.	1.500
1 chief engineer	1 man at	1.200
3 assistant engineers	3 men at 600	1.800
	756 men	
Annual expense for repairs of the apparatus of each company $300		3.600
Estimated annual expense of paid department		$68.320
Add cost of apparatus and horses		40.984
Estimated expense first year		$109.304

In view of the heavy demand that would be made upon the city treasury were the paid system adopted, your committee do not feel authorized to advise any action on the subject at this time, and offer the following resolutions

First Branch: N T Dushane, Evan M Norman, Edward Horney

Second Branch: John Dukehart, John W Willson

Resolved that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

Mr Dukehart from the joint committee on fire companies presented the following report and an ordinance, entitled "A supplement to an ordinance entitled an ordinance to divide the city of Baltimore into fire wards and fire districts," – approved March 28th 1848. which were read and laid on the table:

The joint committee on fire companies, to which was referred the resolution of enquiry as to the expediency of a change in the bounds and limits of the fire wards and districts, respectfully beg leave to report, that they have paid that attention to the subject which its importance appeared to require, and have agreed to offer the accompanying supplement to the ordinance dividing the city into fire wards and districts.

Your committee are of the opinion that the district system is the best plan that has been devised to prevent disturbances among our fire companies; the system has been tried for a brief period of time, and whilst in force, was effectual in preventing false alarms of fire, and consequently riots, as well as in the opinion of the committee preventing acts of incendiarism.

It was suggested to the committee, that the better plan