

The Command Post

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From the Chief's Desk



Today's Fire Service has changed drastically in the past 5 years. Although the basic concepts of what we do and why we do it remain the same, the services we provide and the challenges we face present greater risk to firefighters and an increase in the administrative work load.

Across this country there are significant changes in the Fire Service due to the state of the economy. Local government and politicians are cutting budgets, and some fire protection is being cut all together. Fire Chiefs are being forced to use rolling brown-out and black-out strategies in station staffing to reduce or eliminate budget shortfalls. A rolling brown-out strategy consists of taking an aerial or engine truck out of service on any given day. This would be based on the frequency of calls in the geographic area, and the number of other aerial or engine trucks in the area in question. Other units would then be required to compensate for the unit taken out of service. This strategy, as we all know, results in a slower response time. A black-out, on the other hand, represents the actual closing of a fire station, which makes a temporary solution a permanent problem.

Communities that are property tax dependent, sales tax dependent and/or income tax dependent have faced the greatest challenges. The housing inventory has a direct bearing on property taxes as do consumer spending on sales tax revenue. Although we've had to make some sacrifices, I think we can all agree that we've managed. Over the next few months the City of Little Rock will embark upon a sales tax initiative and, with the support of the leadership of Local #34 along with each of you, I'm very optimistic that we can be successful. We're fortunate to work for a City Administration that recognizes the importance of public safety, not in their words but in their actions. A more detailed plan will be distributed when finalized.

As your Fire Chief, I recognize the selfless commitment, compassion, and dedication of each of you, and for that I'm forever indebted to you. The job you do each day for our citizenry is commendable and very much appreciated. You've been asked continually to do more with less, and each time you continue to deliver above and beyond. Today I see a brighter light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you and keep up the good work!

Gregory Summers, Fire Chief

LRFD 24/7

Oklahoma City Sales Tax Initiative

Contributed by guest columnist Fire Chief Keith Bryant of OKCFD



In the early 1980s, Oklahoma City was suffering a downturn in the local economy in large part due to the drastic decline in the oil and gas industry. There was higher than normal unemployment with a corresponding drop in personal income. Oklahoma City government is primarily funded by sales tax. Therefore, it becomes very challenging to adequately fund city services when sales tax revenue declines. This certainly had a negative impact on Public Safety services. The Fire and Police Departments had not kept up with the growth of the city over the past several years; their fleets were aged and in poor condition, response times were increasing and equipment and technology was not reflective of a modern metropolitan Public Safety system.

In order to address this critical situation, the Oklahoma City Council proposed a permanent sales tax increase to fund city services. Although this increase would primarily fund Public Safety, it also included funding for other city services such as parks, streets, etc. When this proposal was put to the voters for approval it was soundly rejected.

In March of 1989, three Oklahoma City firefighters were killed in a flashover fire in a single family residence. Following an investigation, it was determined that a contributing factor to these deaths was a catastrophic failure of the firefighters' SCBA. This incident served as an example of the inadequate state of equipment used by Public Safety personnel. Inspired by this tragedy, Oklahoma City Firefighters and Police Officers initiated and circulated a petition to gauge the citizens' level of support for a sales tax increase that would be earmarked specifically for Public Safety. Based on the results of the petition, the Oklahoma City Council put a referendum before the voters for a 3/4 cent dedicated sales tax to be divided between the Fire and Police Departments. The voters overwhelmingly approved the measure.

The projects to be funded from the Public Safety Sales Tax for the Fire Department were:

Construction and equipping 5 additional fire stations, fleet/vehicle replacement program; purchase and maintenance of firefighting tools and equipment; funding for a minimum of 200 personnel; funding of "other projects" that provide firefighting/rescue services, facilities or equipment.

All of these projects were completed in about 5 to 10 years. The Public Safety Sales Tax continues to fund 208 positions and many program improvements such as the Advanced Life Support (ALS) program and, most recently the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) total care program.

The Fire Department's portion of the Public Safety Sales Tax for the current fiscal year is projected at \$32 million. Due to sound financial management, we also have an approximately \$1 million fund balance. Having this source of funding has not only helped grow the Department and provide our members with the most up-to-date apparatus and equipment, but it has also sustained us during periodic economic downturns.

Chief Bryant has been Fire Chief for Oklahoma City Fire since February of 2005. Bryant was the department's Chief Officer of the Year in 2001, and was named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America in 1992. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Oklahoma State Fire Chiefs Association and the Oklahoma City Metro Area Fire Chiefs Association. He serves on the advisory board for the Municipal Fire Protection Program at Oklahoma State University in Oklahoma City and a board member for Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association.

LRFD EMS BICYCLE TEAM

Contributed by Captain Joseph Adams

In the middle of January 2011, the LRFD put together plans and requested volunteers to implement an EMS Bicycle Team Program. The main concept for the EMS Bicycle Team is to provide the citizens and visitors within the City of Little Rock an additional means to obtain medical care during large scale events where standard fire apparatus movement is severely hampered due to heavy vehicular traffic or voluminous crowds.

It has been proven by other emergency departments that members on bicycles can safely and quickly reach far away locations that are unable to quickly be accessed by vehicles or foot traffic. Such means of advancing medical care on bicycles make a world of difference when every minute and every second counts.

The department is very fortunate to have the volunteer services of members: Captains Al Emerson, Andre Martin, Naim Salaam, Kevin Hollins, Stan McKinney, and Firefighters Jason Fuller, Jason Gammel, Tye Herring, Robert Johnson, Anthony Natali, Eric Patrick, Phillip Prater, Kevin Stewart, and Robert Vest. Each member completed a strenuous try-out regiment which included: performing 30 push ups in one minute, 30 sit ups in one minute, and riding 10 miles within 50 minutes.

The EMS Bicycle Team's first event was "Riverfest" which was held the weekend of May 27-May 29, 2011. Following the event, Captain Andre Martin stated, "the ride went pretty good and we just had to know the quickest routes to get to the patients." Captain Martin also mentioned that they were kept busy riding between some pretty good distances. Captain Hollins stated, "Inter-agency workings went very smooth and it was an overall good experience." Firefighter Robert Vest noted that, "the program was a huge success and we received numerous compliments from the general public expressing their gratitude for us being there." With the LRFD Bike Team in place, the MEMS crews had their work load substantially reduced. FF Vest further stated, "the new bike team is a huge step toward a more progressive fire department and just another way to live up to our vision statement of "Serving with Pride, Excellence and National Recognition." Reviews from other bike team members suggest that the program itself amounted to being a positive service for the public.

As noted earlier, because of the commitments by professionals like each of you, the Little Rock Fire Department continues to provide the most effective and cost-efficient services to the general public. **KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!**



Shown from left to right:
Captain A. Martin, Captain K. Hollins, FF Jason Gammel, and Captain N. Salaam gearing up for Riverfest.

Operationally Speaking

Contributed by Assistant Fire Chief Doug Coney



As I sit at my desk today I am studying the NIOSH 2010 Fire Fighter Fatality Investigations and the recommendations that are contained in each of them. One of the fatality reports is of a 28-year member who was backed over with a fire apparatus and, as sad as that is, one of the recommendations is that this department ensures that backing SOPs are not only developed but followed. I ask each of you to review our SOGs and follow them. I do not want the LRFD at any time to be listed in this report, so please continue to be careful each and every day and always think before you act out there!

I want you to know we are doing everything we can to get our apparatus replaced and to provide you with the best equipment we can. We are going to need your help in getting the word out on the upcoming tax initiative and hopefully with the passage of the tax we will be able to replace and upgrade some of our aging apparatus.

Most of you are aware, the EMT continuing education program is undergoing some changes that will require all of our members to attend a 24-hour refresher class beginning this fall. This is a new state requirement and we have enlisted the help of some new EMT Instructors to help with the new program. A special "Thanks" to Captains Ahmad Salaam, Jeff Milburn and Firefighters Jeremy Jackson, Darryl Feagan, and Bo Vest for volunteering to help!

In the coming weeks you will be seeing some information on Air Management. This is a program that is mandated by NFPA 1404. I ask that each of you consider what the program is about and think about what it is going to accomplish. It will certainly make us a safer department.

The Training Center will be adding a new propane-fired vehicle car prop this summer. It is currently out for bid and will be placed on a new concrete pad in front of the current control pedestal.

A special thanks to Captain Jimmy Beck, Captain Brit Turner, Occupational Health Nurse Melinda Mitchell and the Safety Committee in pursuing the need for the LRFD to continue providing physical exams for its members. The new physicals will contain some more blood work and cardiac screenings, and we should be ready to award the bid by the first of July.

A special thanks also to Engineer Danny Poe for his suggestion that we put together a "storm kit." We are in the process of getting all of the items gathered and placed into a bag. These items will assist you in marking structures that have been searched and a way to document what you have done during a storm response.

I appreciate what each and every one of you do daily, keep up the GREAT work and watch out for each other as we approach this HOT summer season!

New Recruits

Contributed by Brittanye Gyce, Executive Secretary

Photo provided by Captain Steve Bell

Congratulations to the 13 members of the 2011 LRFD Recruit Class-A. The graduation ceremony for the recruits was held Friday, June 10, 2011 at the Robinson Center Exhibition Hall. The Little Rock Fire Department was honored to have Arkansas Fire Academy Director Rachel Nix to give the keynote address as well as the Little Rock Firefighters Pipe and Drum, who gave their first performance that evening. There was much to be celebrated with the recruits; especially for those who received rewards for outstanding achievement during the training process. PFF Justin Puckett had a memorable evening; receiving the Recruit Firefighter Achievement Award, the Recruit Fitness Award and the Outstanding Recruit Achievement Award. PFF Jonathan Vaughn received the Recruit EMT Achievement Award and PFF Joshua Karriem was the recipient of the Fire Chief Challenge Award. Job well done to all of the recruits on your hard work and success and the best of luck to all as they transition from recruits to probationary firefighters!

2011 Recruits

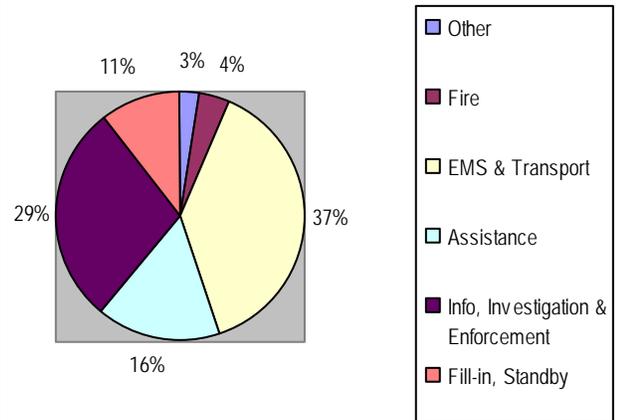
Reep, Casey	Biley, Bryan
Ward, Jason	Harrison, Michael
Bradford, Kinsey	Puckett, Justin
Karriem, Joshua	Morris, Richard
Rossberg, Timothy	Segovis, Bryan
Merriott, Christopher	Spriggs, Steele
Vaughan, Jonathan	



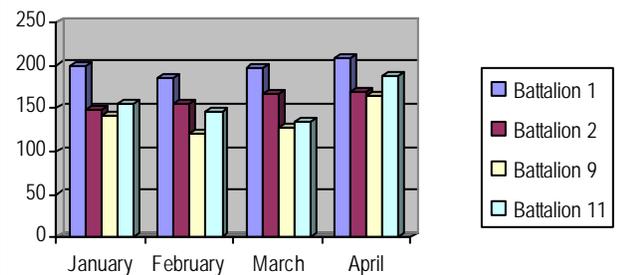
Quarterly Statistical Reports

JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL	
Engine 15	266	Engine 1	211	Engine 8	246	Engine 15	274
Engine 8	233	Engine 9	202	Engine 15	224	Engine 1	239
Engine 9	193	Engine 15	201	Engine 7	192	Engine 9	238
Engine 3	188	Engine 3	186	Engine 3	189	Engine 3	237
Engine 7	183	Engine 6	160	Engine 9	180	Engine 7	219
Engine 6	178	Engine 2	147	Engine 2	165	Engine 14	199
Engine 14	176	Engine 17	146	Engine 11	159	Engine 17	195
Engine 17	162	Engine 11	146	Engine 19	155	Engine 11	181
Engine 19	158	Engine 7	145	Engine 6	152	Engine 6	178
Engine 2	150	Engine 14	140	Engine 1	147	Engine 2	175
Engine 11	143	Truck 7	137	Truck 7	142	Engine 19	166
Truck 7	133	Res2cue	135	Engine 14	141	Truck 7	156
Engine 1	131	Engine 19	134	Engine 17	140	Engine 8	155
Res2cue	124	Engine 8	128	Res2cue	134	Engine 12	152
Truck 1	122	Engine 12	127	Engine 18	130	Res2cue	152
Engine 12	116	Engine 16	123	Truck 1	124	Engine 20	146
Engine 18	112	Truck 1	111	Engine 13	120	Engine 16	131
Engine 16	110	Engine 20	110	Engine 12	119	Engine 18	129
Engine 20	107	Engine 18	108	Engine 16	104	Engine 10	127
Truck 15	105	Engine 13	103	Engine 20	101	Truck 15	121
Engine 13	100	Truck 15	91	Engine 21	81	Truck 1	116
Engine 10	91	Truck 9	90	Engine 10	78	Engine 13	112
Truck 9	79	Engine 10	77	Truck 15	78	Engine 21	112
Engine 21	66	Truck 11	70	Truck 9	58	Truck 9	111
Truck 11	56	Engine 21	67	Truck 11	49	Truck 11	81
Truck 18	43	Truck 18	38	Engine 4	44	Truck 18	48
HazMat 11	34	Truck 21	35	Truck 18	44	Engine 4	47
Engine 4	29	Engine 4	33	HazMat 11	36	Truck 21	40
Truck 21	23	HazMat 11	31	Truck 21	33	HazMat 11	39
Truck 4	11	Truck 4	10	Truck 4	25	Truck 4	18

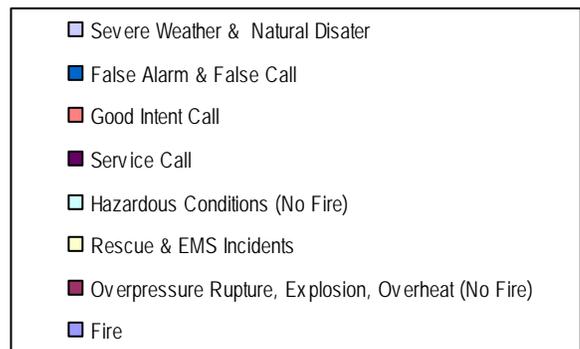
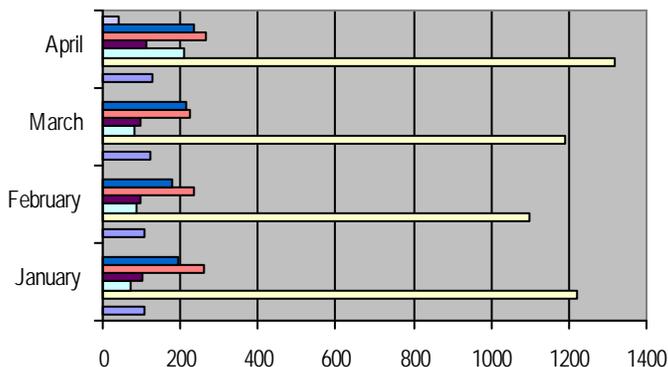
LRFD Incident Listings where action was taken January-April 2011



Battalion Chief Responses



Top Incident Listings by Incident Type



UPDATE: New Fire Station

Contributed by Paula Patterson, Administrative Services Manager



On May 5, 2011, bids for a General Contractor for the new West Little Rock Fire Station were opened. Six construction companies bid on the project with the low bid coming in at \$3,073,000. Available funds for this project total \$2,417,800 provided through a \$2,017,800 FEMA Recovery Grant and \$400,000 in short-term financing from the City of Little Rock. LRFD has been informed that no additional funds are available through FEMA. Options are currently being studied and priced by the architects and will be presented to LRFD in early June.



The LRFD welcomes FAE Patrick Pitts home from overseas! FAE Pitts returned from military duty May 5, 2011. Thank you for your dedication to the Little Rock Fire Department and to our country. Your service is greatly appreciated!

Promotions

Jeffrey Milburn	Fire Captain
Nathaniel Molsbee	Fire Captain
James Trantham	Fire Captain
Tony Rhodes	Fire Captain
Jeffrey Lentz	Fire Apparatus Engineer
John Seibel	Fire Apparatus Engineer
Edward Karriem	Fire Apparatus Engineer
Justin Clift	Fire Apparatus Engineer
Shane Reed	Fire Apparatus Engineer
Barron Garriga	Fire Apparatus Engineer

Retirements

Captain Charles Roark	Captain David Eichler
Captain Russell Wilkerson III	Captain Jacob Maxwell
FAE Jimmy Lunsford	FAE Clarence Barr

Births

FF Cody Maupin and his wife welcomed a baby boy, Cayden Maupin.

FF Jeremy Jackson and his wife welcomed a baby boy, Logan Scott Jackson.

FF Matthew Bradford and his wife welcomed a baby boy, Carter Gray Bradford.

Letter from the Editor

2011 has been a very busy year for the Fire Department. With 13 new recruits under the department's belt, plans for a new fire station and constant changes within the department, the year has practically flown before our eyes! As editor of the Command Post, I am very excited about the changes that lie ahead for the department and I want to capture it all for everyone to see! Be sure to keep an eye out for several upcoming events that will come about this summer including the ground-breaking for the new fire station, the fan drive, cereal drive, future town hall meetings, and much more. Stay tuned for the next newsletter; there is much more to see from the LRFD. Until next time...stay safe!

"Serving with Pride, Excellence and National Recognition"

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In Sympathy

FF D. Feagan lost his grandmother, Dolly Poe.

FF A. Franklin lost his mother-in-law, Patricia O'Neal.

FF S. Strayhorn lost his grandmother, Evelyn Tolley Wiley.

FF J. Clark lost his grandfather, Terry Clayton.

FF A. Vernon lost his grandmother, Estella Haley.

Capt. N. Molsbee lost his great-grandmother, Bethena Short.

FF C. Spruell lost his grandfather, Wesley Burson.

FF G. Godley lost the grandmother to his wife, Rhoda Rance.

FAE S. Evans lost his father.

Chaplain T. White lost his mother in law.

FAE C. Austin lost the grandfather to his wife, Carl Smith.

FF C. Smith lost his grandmother, Aline Smith.

FF K. Shepard lost his grandmother, Buelah Jones.

Capt. J. Lemon lost his father, LeRoy Lemon.

FAE C. Sanders lost his grandmother, Lola Mae Hale Sanders.

FAE K. Lovell lost his mother-in law, Nancy Wallis.

Capt. R. Griffin and FAE J. Johnson lost their relative, C.O. Strong.

Capt. A. Martin lost his father-in-law, Don Porter.

Capt. J. West lost his grandfather, Edgar J. Dye.