



**Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical
Fire Medical Administration**

1911 Stewart Ave
Lawrence, KS 66046
Office 785-830-7001
Fax 785-830-7090
www.lawrenceks/fire.org

January 11, 2012

TO: All Members
FROM: Chief Bradford
RE: State of Department - 2012

Introduction

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for the world class fire and medical services you provided to the City of Lawrence and Douglas County throughout 2011. I would like to thank City Manager David Corliss and City Council Members, County Administrator Craig Weinaug and the County Commission for their commitment to public safety and supporting the efforts of our fire medical department.

Despite major economic and service demand challenges we face, we were able to accomplish many objectives and long range goals. This includes the delivery of Truck 5 and Medic 2, and successfully completing our accreditation Annual Compliance Report (ACR).

The New Year 2012 is bright with many opportunities that lie ahead. However, challenges will come as we continue to deal with the worst financial recession our nation has faced since the Great Depression. As we move forward into the New Year, we will continue to operate our department in the safest and most fiscally prudent manner. A new department 5-Year Strategic Plan and our annual Goals and Objectives document will continue to serve as our Road Map throughout 2017.

Accomplishments in 2011, current activities, and our goals for 2012

In 2011, our 12 newest firefighter recruits successfully completed their recruit class with "Flying Colors". I would like to thank our Training Division and the many members of our department who assisted our new firefighters through this rigorous process.

In terms of positive financial news, we are continuing our funding and purchasing of fire apparatus. In 2011, we added a 100' platform and a medic unit. In addition, we are utilizing sales tax and equipment reserve funds for the purchase of new mobile and portable radios.

In 2011, the department responded to over 9,857 incidents. Thankfully, none of these incidents resulted in a major injury to any of our members. This no doubt was the result of your commitment to safety, training, fire prevention, and work excellence. Our department made contact with over 14,408 community members through various fire department public education programs. In addition, we conducted over 3,500 fire inspections, and conducted over 34,539 hours of training for our members.

- ✓ CFAI Accreditation: In August 2008, the department officially received international accreditation status. Completing this intense self-assessment process was a landmark and monumental time for our City and the fire medical department. I am pleased to announce that in 2011, we passed our 3rd Annual Compliance Report (ACR). Although not nearly as time consuming as original accreditation, completing the ACR is by no means an easy task. This truly validates our maintaining of national standards and best practices. Most importantly, maintaining our accreditation status will ensure we continue our outstanding level of service to the City of Lawrence and Douglas County communities.
- ✓ Insurance Services Offices (ISO) Public Protection Classification Program: In August we received our Public Protection Classification (PPC) from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) with a total credit of 88.13%. With this percentage credit we retain our ISO PPC Rating of 2. Our goal was to obtain a PPC 1 rating which we fell short of by 1.87%.

To achieve a PPC 1 rating, an organization must receive a credit percentage between 90 and 100% in the final rating. Our raw credit percentage was 89.82% but was lowered utilizing a mathematical calculation defined by ISO to create a divergence factor. A divergence factor is created by comparing the overall fire department credits to the overall water system credits and adjusting the overall credit percentage. The theory behind this calculation is that if one of the areas noted is rated higher than the other area, the higher rated area cannot be as effective. A divergence factor is then calculated and applied to the overall credit percentage which is reduced. The divergence percentage assigned by ISO for this rating was 1.69%. This is how our raw credit of 89.82% was lowered to a final credit of 88.13%.

- ✓ Department Communications: Good communications at all levels has been and will continue to be a major focus. The bi-monthly discussions between all members keep members updated on department issues. In addition, members receive annual updates from the city manager. Please continue to use the chain of command and appropriate communications channels to make formal requests and resolve departmental issues.
- ✓ Management and Local 1596 work relations: *We continue to problem solve items using the Labor/Management Initiative (LMI) forum. In addition to our monthly Staff meetings that involves management and labor, LMI creates a positive and collaborative problem solving forum for us. This includes working on current department needs and planning for the future. The active participation between our Executive Staff and IAFF*

Local 1596 E-Board continues to be an invaluable asset in moving our department forward.

- ✓ Recruitment and Diversity: We continue to work closely with the Human Resource Department on upcoming outreach venues to enhance our abilities to reach future firefighter candidates that encompass a diverse and broad background. One of our strategic goals is to improve diversity while at the same time hiring and maintaining a highly trained and professional workforce.
- ✓ Community Relations: We continue to provide community contact through a number of outreach programs as previously mentioned; we strive to become further integrated and connected with the community.
- ✓ Assessment of our needs: Besides establishing bench marks and tracking goals, the accreditation process identified various needs we have in areas such as training enhancements, reliability of physical and infrastructure assets, relations with external partners, integrated technology, workforce planning, best practices through sound policies and procedures, and maintaining our agency accreditation. In terms of large capital needs, we have received approval for the continuation of apparatus replacement and continue to request capital needs for station 1 and the training tower replacement. City revenue funds and the current economic condition have become problematic in terms of meeting these needs. However, we will continue to explore all necessary avenues to meet current and future staffing and capital items needs.
- ✓ Fire Medical Station 1 and Training Tower: We completed an architectural review of Station Number 1 as requested by the city manager to determine an estimated remodeling cost v. new construction. In addition, we evaluated alternative build locations. The current facility has significant security and ADA accessibility issues. Currently the building's roof leaks and is becoming a safety issue. This item is part of the department's capital improvement request and is a strategic recommendation of our agency accreditation. Our goal is to complete the construction on the earliest possible date.

Our training tower replacement continues to be requested as part of our capital requests. As mentioned under the above assessment of our needs section, city funding priorities have changed due to the economic times. We will continue to look for alternative funding for this need as well.

- ✓ Employee Training: The department hosted two National Fire Academy (NFA) Direct Deliveries; Incident Safety Officer and Executive Skills-Influencing. We were also the host of a Regional Fire School held at the Art Center entitled "Five Alarm Leadership" that brought in well over 117 firefighters into the City. The Training Division additionally worked with Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute to host a Fire Officer 1 and Driver Operator student programs.

A 16-hour Emergency Medical Responder course was developed and delivered to EMS first responders in Douglas County. The course material and timeframe was very intensive but successful for students. Additionally, an EMT Basic to EMT transition was

delivered over eight Tuesday evenings for a total of 31 hours to additional first responders. The students were extremely happy with the course.

Work continues on preparation of the State Board of EMS emergency responder transition program. The Training Division provided assistance in the development of a grant submitted for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for a station conferencing system to facilitate the delivery of the 120-hour EMT-I to AEMT transition course.

Our 2012 training calendar is committed to delivering high quality training to our members as we continue to look for better and safer ways to do our job and "Train as if your life depends on it, because it does"!

- ✓ Prevention Services: Prevention moved to a formal credentialing process for division members through the ICC certification process. The goal is to have the Chief and captain position to achieve Fire Marshal certification, the lieutenant position to achieve Certified Building Official, and any future positions to achieve Fire Inspector II / Plans Reviewer.

Also, in 2011 we were able to get cooperation from Kansas University to update their hydrant testing and maintenance program. They will mirror the City process, placing hydrants on a three year testing and maintenance schedule.

- ✓ Emergency Medical Services: Medical incidents continue to make up approximately 80% of our response incidents. We continue to work closely with our Medical Advisor Dr. Kye Evans on various EMS items. On a positive fiscal note, our medical transport revenue continues to generate nearly \$1,600,000 for the County on an annual basis.
- ✓ Technical Rescue: Station 5 personnel delivered training in confined space and rope, trench, ice, water, structural collapse, and vehicle extrication to all Operations Division members. This was the first time all rescue disciplines were addressed in a calendar year as referenced by NFPA 1670.

The following Kansas State Task Force (KSTF2) grants were secured and purchasing begun: \$101,000 for technical rescue equipment – the majority of which will go to Lawrence, \$76,000 for structural collapse training (some of which will cover Lawrence backfill and overtime,) and \$146,000 for a regional disaster exercise (some of which will cover Lawrence backfill and overtime).

- ✓ Hazardous Materials Ops: We are extremely fortunate to have a full service department that is capable of handling the extraordinary and unique incidents such as hazardous materials. Many specialized incidents were handled in 2011 that resulted in positive and safe outcomes thanks to this specialized and highly trained group of individuals. In an attempt to ensure required resources are dispatched with appropriate staffing, we engaged in a new response matrix and apparatus deployment. We are consolidating two pieces of apparatus into one. Engine 4 will also be equipped with hazardous materials equipment that will respond to an estimated 95% of all hazardous materials incidents, reducing the need to have a dedicated hazardous materials vehicle.

- ✓ Cardiac Monitor and AED Replacement: Evaluated three manufacturers of 12-lead cardiac monitors and 3-lead AED's. Developed plan on deployment of monitors. Secured funding through the county to purchase new (Zoll) 12-lead monitors for all medic units and new (Zoll) AED -3 leads for fire apparatus.
- ✓ Personal Protective Clothing: As a response to city commission request we evaluated and conducted field tests on 3 manufacturers of personal protective clothing (Lion, Morning Pride, Globe). A department project team worked throughout the year with regular meetings, compiled evaluations, and made final decision on selection of gear. Request for protective clothing will go out to bid in January 2012.
- ✓ Explorer Post 2555: This group continues to do an outstanding job and make a significant impact in the lives of our youth throughout the community. The explorer post has proven to be another excellent recruitment tool for the department.
- ✓ City Employee Flu Shot – Community Immunization Drill: Coordinated the drive thru flu shot campaign clinic at Fire Station No. 5 for City employees with assistance from the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and City of Lawrence Human Resource Departments. Also facilitated the community wide drive thru flu shot clinic held on the campus of the University of Kansas.

Closing comments

Maintaining our accreditation status continues to have a very positive impact on our safety, level of service, and daily operations. We will continue to provide safe and effective leadership, training, equipment, and facilities for our members to ensure the highest level of Fire and Medical services to the City of Lawrence and Douglas County.

As mentioned, your skills, professionalism, and dedication are remarkable and make Lawrence one of the safest places to live and do business in terms of fire and medical services.

It's an honor and privilege for me to serve our great City and community with such an outstanding group of fire medical professionals. We are part of a world-class fire medical department and I look forward to accomplishing many things with you in 2012.

cc: David Corliss, City Manager
Cynthia Wagner, Assistant City Manager
Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager
Craig Weinaug, County Administrator
Sara Plinsky, Assistant County Administrator