



# Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical



# 2007 Annual Report

**Committed to Saving and Protecting Lives and Property**

## From the Chief

Chief Mark F. Bradford



This last year has been a year of significant change and growth for the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department. The conclusion of station construction was completed in 2006 with the dedication of our Community Percent for Art projects being installed and dedicated at Fire Medical

Administration/Station No. 5 and Station No. 4. Two new ambulances were placed in service along with a new Investigation vehicle (Fire and Coroner Services) and two brush vehicles as part of our vehicle replacement program.

We continue to be in a time where members of our organization move into the retirement

phase of their lives. Five members retired and with them goes 116 years of accumulated knowledge and experience. Of course, along with retirements comes an opportunity for new members to begin a career with us in the fire service. We welcome them to our department and family.

The department has been working for the last couple of years on developing a department strategic plan and working through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International's accreditation process. A site visit by four members from across the country and Canada completed a comprehensive review and appraisal of the department in November. I am happy to announce that the peer assessors will be recommending

accredited agency status to the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

As Chief, I am proud to be part of a community that is protected by the dedicated members of the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department. Each day, our members report for duty with the intention of providing quality services based on a need. We are committed to saving and protecting lives and property. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Board of County Commissioners, City of Lawrence City Commission, the County Administrator, the City Manager and their staffs, and to the citizens for their support.

### OUR VALUES:

Compassion & Respect

Leadership

Professionalism & Integrity

Teamwork

Proactive

Excellence

Pride

## Employee Highlights



Engineer-Paramedic  
Dennis Knight  
Retired 03/06/07 after 15 years of service.



Division Chief James  
Murray Retired 06/23/07  
after 32 years of service.



Engineer-EMT  
Melissa Warren  
Retired 06/23/07 after 16 years of service.



Captain Phil Kuhnert  
Retired 09/15/07 after 26 years of service.



Engineer-EMT-I Bruce Dixon  
Retired 09/15/07 after 27 years of service.

### Promotions

Division Chief Joe Hoelscher  
Captain Mark Hummel  
Captain Joe Schaumburg  
Lt. Robert Hardy  
Lt. Justin Temple  
Eng. Jason Love  
Eng. Russell Prothe

Division Chief Eve Tolefree  
Captain Clinton Lynn  
Lt. Miguel Armenta  
Lt. John Mathis  
Eng. Kevin Hodson  
Eng. Mike McMillen  
Eng. Neil Taylor

### New Career Firefighters

James Barkley  
Jesse Ens  
David Plymire  
Alex Thomas  
Alex Del Valle  
Chad Lisher  
Jason Ray

### New MICT

David Russell  
Tim Childers



1st Annual Retired Firefighter  
Breakfast, held 01/20/2007



20-year Service Award  
Recipients: Capt. Sandy Herd, Lt. John Hawkins, Capt. James Ens, Eng. Frank Angelone, and Capt. Scott Dieker



Firefighter of the Year  
Engineer Greg Murray

## Firefighter of the Year

Engineer Greg Murray was hired by the department in February of 1991 as a part of the extraboard program. He became a fulltime firefighter/EMT-I in August of 1992. In March of 2000, he was promoted to Engineer and in May of 2005, he became an Acting Officer certified.

Greg has shown his dependability and positive attitude through his daily work at Sta-

tion No. 5 and has become proficient in the Firehouse Software™, as well as dealing with other staffing issues, so much so that other department members look to him for support.

Greg continually volunteers for projects and is currently working on CAD update sheets to assure correct dispatch information.

Greg is a firefighter, Engineer, and Acting Officer who can be counted on to arrive at work on any day, in any position. His supervisors can be confident that an outstanding job will be done.

Greg has been married to wife, Robi for 13 years and they have four children: Blake 11, Molly 8, Colby 4, and Aiden 6 months.



Brush Truck

## Administrative Division

The Administrative Division, which is managed by Division Chief Bill Stark, implemented the Firehouse Software™ Records Management System (RMS) beginning January 1, 2007, to replace the existing RMS software.

Software modules include incident reporting, occupancy management, staff management, personnel scheduling, daily activities and inventory

control. Implementation of this software program has been challenging, but the ability to generate meaningful reports from collected data has already been realized. A continued goal will be enhancing reporting capabilities for all divisions.

An administrative assignment program was implemented in 2007, assigning captains to manage key department pro-

grams such as self contained breathing apparatus, special event scheduling, station supplies, and firefighting equipment among others. The goal of the program is to have better overall management of these programs with greater input from operations personnel.

The Administrative Division is responsible for apparatus and vehicle purchases.

## Business Division

The Business Division is a new division to the department and is managed by Alicia Holliday, Management Analyst for the department.

The Division is responsible for medical billing, budget management, accounting and finance operations, web site management, accreditation, and department-wide performance management.

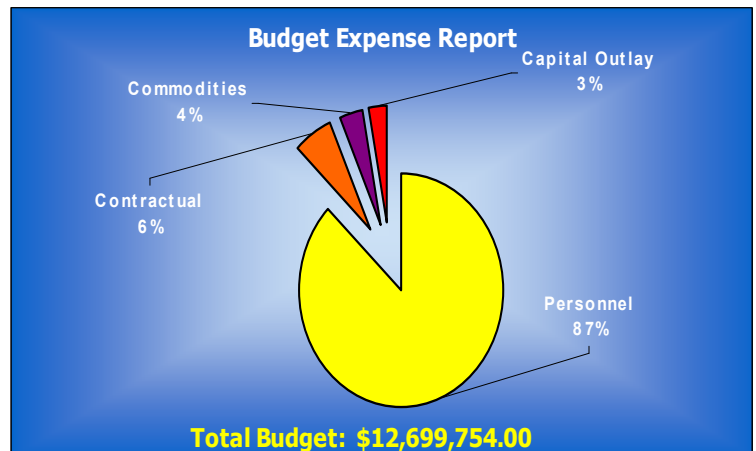
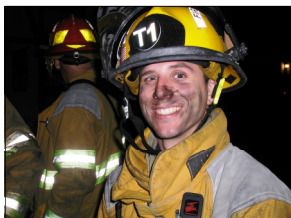
In 2007, 4641 medical claims were processed which amounted to \$2,112,963 billed; \$1,452,423 was collected during the calendar year. This is a 1.6% increase in medical claims, a 2% increase in

charges. Our 2007 collection rate was 68.7%.

The department's web site received 264,328 hits in 2007.

Here, citizens can find a variety

of information, ranging from seasonal advice to activities such as the helmet fair, as well as department information.







## Operations Division

The Operations Division provides service delivery for fire, EMS and technical rescue incidents. This division is managed by three shift commanders, Division Chiefs Joe Hoelscher, Rob Kort and Doug Green. Each shift commander has five Captains that manage a fire station and the companies that operate out of that station.

In 2007 the operations division responded to 9,031 incidents in Lawrence and Douglas

County, which correlates to one incident per hour over the course of a year. On average, they respond to a structural fire with dollar loss every twelve days.

**Greensburg & Coffeyville, Kansas Deployments:** Two Chief Officers responded to Greensburg, KS after the city was devastated by an EF 5 tornado in May. Chief Bradford and Division Chief Stark operated as incident commanders during two operational

periods. In July, Division Chiefs Coffey & Green led a group of eight firefighters to Coffeyville, KS where severe flooding occurred. Their mission was to relieve weary Coffeyville firefighters by providing coverage for Coffeyville residents and assisting in searching flooded structures. Participation in these incidents have helped make Lawrence firefighters more prepared to handle local emergencies of this magnitude.

## Prevention Division

The primary goal of the Prevention Division is to reduce the incidence and severity of preventable injuries and fire loss.

In 2007, the Prevention Division, which is managed by Division Chief Rich Barr, added to these goals with the adoption of the 2006 International Fire Code, implementation of the Downtown Fire Sprinkler Program and the addition of a new Investigation Vehicle and Investigation Center.

**Downtown Sprinkler Program:** The Downtown Lawrence Fire Protection Sprinkler System Incentive Program

(Downtown Sprinkler Program) is a proactive safety program aimed at getting fire protection sprinkler systems into downtown buildings. The Sprinkler Program will encourage downtown building and business owners to install new sprinkler systems and/or upgrade existing systems through a combination of city direct reimbursements and cost sharing mechanisms.

**New Investigation Building & Vehicle:** In 2007, the department purchased a new Investigation vehicle to replace the converted medic unit that had been assigned to Investigation. The new unit has four

work stations with laptop computers, network and wireless capacity. It also includes a mast-mounted remote control camera with recording capability. It will also serve an additional role as a mobile command vehicle.

**2006 IFC:** Beginning in 2004, the Prevention Division staff, along with the Fire Code Board of Appeals, began review of the fire code. In 2007, the Board of Appeals recommended the City Commission adopt the 2006 IFC. In September, the commission adopted, by ordinance, the new code with an implementation date of January 1, 2008.



Investigation Center and Investigation Unit



## Quality Service Division

In 2007, the Support Division became the Quality Service Division, which is managed by Division Chief Eve Tolefree.

Chief Tolefree is the department's public information contact (**Media Contact Line: (785) 830-7065**). This allows for updates on developing emergency situations and day-to-day departmental activities

to be available at one convenient phone number. This direct line will help facilitate media access to information during developing emergency incidents and will improve communication between the department and the media.

Also in 2007, the Quality Assurance Program was started. This program is intended to

ensure that quality pre-hospital patient care is being delivered for medical incidents.



## Training Division

The Training Division, managed by Division Chief Shaun Coffey, saw the retirement of Capt. Phil Kuhnert. Capt. Kuhnert was recognized for his tireless dedication in providing training to department personnel. Lt. Mark Hummel was promoted to fill Capt. Kuhnert's position. Capt. Hummel's knowledge and fresh perspective combined with Training Capt. Pat Talkington's expertise, will be a welcome addition to the Training Division.

During 2007, the department continued the Federal Government's requirement for NIMS implementation by completing IS-800, ICS-200 and ICS-300 classes. Additionally, the department hosted the NFA direct delivery course titled "Command and Control of Fire Department Operations" in September.

For the third consecutive year, the department participated in "National Firefighter Stand Down" day. This year's emphasis

was on the proper use of equipment to insure safe response, mitigation and return from all emergency situations.

Annual training in rope rescue, trench rescue, water rescue and emergency medical operations was provided to operations personnel. Operations personnel also received WMD awareness-level training and certification through the Department of Homeland Security.



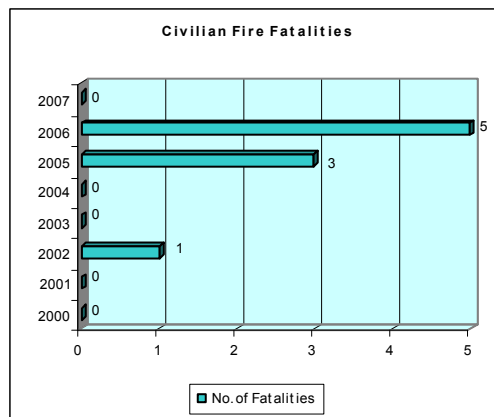
## Mass Casualty/Fatality Trailer

On December 20, 2007, the department took delivery of a Mass Casualty/Fatality Trailer.

The trailer was purchased by the Kansas Northeast Region of Homeland Security at a cost of \$105,980. The trailer has the capacity of treating up to 150 patients, both basic and advanced life support, as well as 150 fatalities. There are four 10x20 foot tents with walls in the basic triage colors. A 15,00 watt generator can provide lighting to the

tents and provide power to the heating/AC units on the trailer. There are two large oxygen cylinders with multiport regulators to provide

oxygen to 26 people at one time. A total of 27 adults and 10 pediatric patients can be fully immobilized using non disposable long spine boards.



The front of the trailer is set up as a small office that can be utilized by Coroner Scene Investigators, or can be used as a command post. The trailer will respond to emergencies in the Northeast region of Kansas.



Mass Casualty Trailer

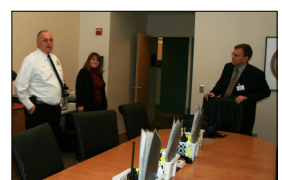
## Accreditation Update

In November 2007, a week-long site visit was conducted by a team of independent peer

assessors to determine whether the department should be awarded accredited

agency status by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The site visit was a culmination of a two-year process and resulted in the development of three key documents: a strategic plan, a 174 page Standard of Coverage, and a 419 page Self Assessment Manual. After careful

evaluation of the department, the peer assessors will recommend that the CFAI Board of Directors award the department accredited agency status at its February 2008 meeting. If approved as recommended, the department will be one of 122 internationally accredited agencies.





Monument to Firefighters by Benjamin Victor

### Art Dedicated at Stations 4 and 5

On January 13, 2007, artist Benjamin Victor of Aberdeen, South Dakota presented the department with his artwork: "Monument to Firefighters".

The city commissioned the sculpture at \$65,000 as part of the Lawrence's Percent for Art program.

The sculpture is displayed at the Fire Medical Administration/Station No. 5, 1911 Stewart Ave.

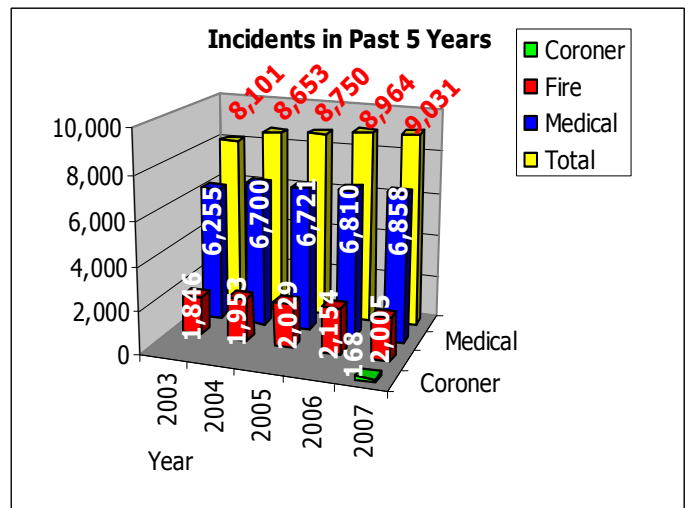
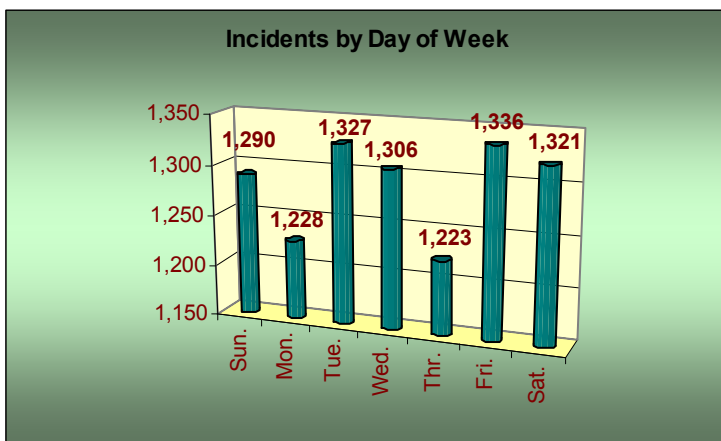
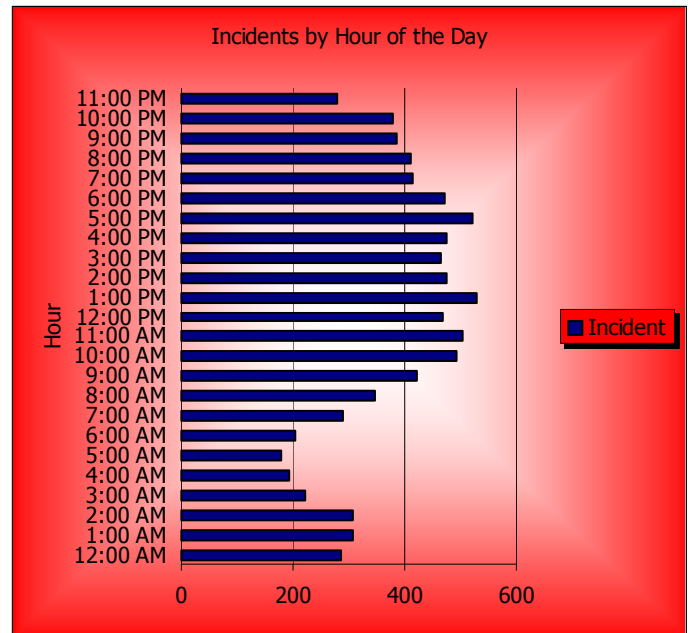
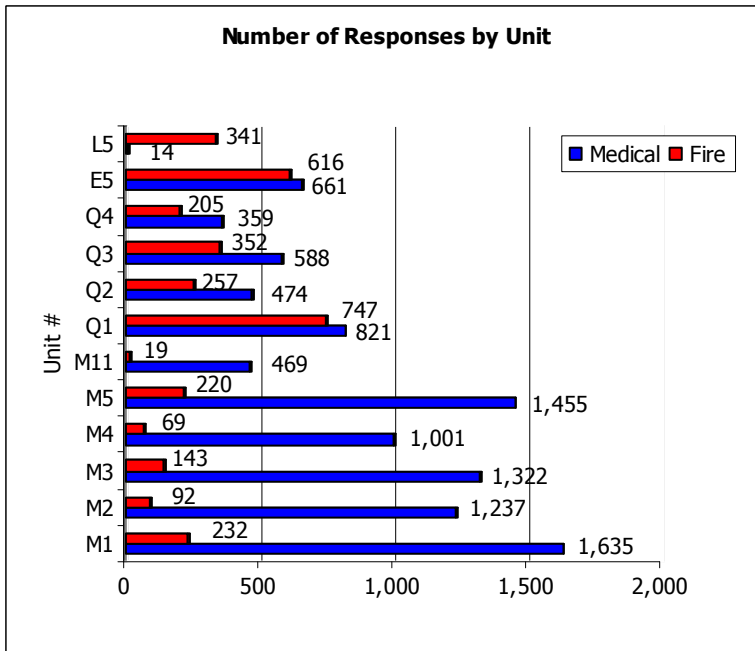
On November 2, 2007 artists Gail Simpson and Aristotle Georgiades of Madison, Wisconsin presented their artwork: "Beacon" to the department.

The city commissioned the sculpture at \$38,000 as part of the Lawrence's Percent for Art program.

The "Beacon" is displayed at Station No. 4, 2121 Wakarusa Dr.



Beacon by Gail Simpson & Aristotle Georgiades





## Programs

**Chaplain** - This program is currently overseen by Chaplain Paul Taylor, who was appointed in October of 1997. His duties include conducting critical incident debriefings, counseling victims families and emergency personnel, and training department personnel on stress management, among other requests.

**Coroner Scene Investigation** - This program has been in existence since 1995. All deaths that occur in Douglas County that meet certain criteria require investigation by the Coroner's Office. The team is made up of members from the department trained as medicolegal death investigators and investigates on behalf of the Douglas County Coroner's Office.

**Explorer Post 2555** - In November 2001, the department created the explorer post, which allows youth to gain insight in a possible career, while at the same time provide leadership training.

**Fire Investigation Bureau** - The department is charged by Kansas statute to investigate the origin and cause of fires within the city limits. Six personnel of the Operations Division are appointed as fire investigators and are Kansas State certified Fire Investigator II.

**Fire Safety & Hazard House** - The use of the fire safety house is to reinforce fire escape training from a dwelling. Hazard House is used to teach general safety and fire hazard identification through an interactive educational experience. Both programs are provided to all age groups.

**Greek Academy** - This program is directed at university students in fraternities and sororities. It provides hands on training in fire safety and survival.

**Health & Safety Program** - The department operates a health and safety program with a goal to eliminate accidents, damage to equipment and facilities for its members and the community.

**Juvenile Fire Setters** - This program works to help reduce the number of fires and burn injuries caused by children experimenting with fire. Children are usually referred to our program by way of concerned teachers, firefighters, parents or juvenile agencies. The basis of the program consists of a thorough interview with the individual and family. Subsequently, a fire safety education program is delivered and the importance of fire safety reemphasized.

**Mass Casualty/Fatality Trailer NE Kansas** - This Mass Casualty/Fatality Trailer was purchased by the Kansas Northeast Region of Homeland Security and housed with the department. It will respond to emergencies in the Northeast region of Kansas.

**Night Consultants** - This program consist of six operations members who periodically inspect assembly occupancies and check for a variety of life safety items. The majority of inspections are directed towards bars and nightclubs to ensure state occupant levels, exits, and operating life safety equipment are being met.

**Occupant Services** - This program provides support for the occupant/victim of a fire damage structure incident through assisting in retrieval of personal belongings, assessing social services, and providing information on recovery or cleaning of belongings.

**Public Education** - This program is provided through six incentive firefighters designated as "Public Safety Specialist." They deliver a variety of programs directed to school children, university students, commercial and business safety and general safety.

**SCBA** - This program consist of four operation members who are Scott Air Pak Technician certified for 4.5 and 2.2 systems. The purpose of this program is to maintain self-contained breathing apparatus, personal alert systems, and breathing air compressors.

**Smoke Alarm Program** - This program provides free smoke alarms for those individuals that live in the City and who are living on a limited-income, are a senior citizen or disabled. Included in this program is installation of batteries and detectors.

**Wheeled Sports Program** - This program provides high quality bicycle helmets to children under the age of 14. The department, along with many community sponsors, hosts an annual helmet fair. In 2007, 525 helmets were given away during the annual event. Also in 2007, the department implemented "Operation Kindergarten", where crews along with Leadership Lawrence Members of 2007, visited kindergarten classes in Douglas County.

## Station Locations



Station No. 1  
746 Kentucky St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044



Station No. 2  
2128 Harper St.  
Lawrence, KS 66046



Station No. 3  
3708 W. 6th  
Lawrence, KS 66049



Station No. 4  
2121 Wakarusa Dr.  
Lawrence, KS 66047



Station No. 5  
1911 Stewart Ave.  
Lawrence, KS 66046



Station No. 11  
212 Kibee St.  
Baldwin City, KS 66006



Administration  
1911 Stewart Ave.  
Lawrence, KS 66046



Investigation Center  
1839 Massachusetts  
Lawrence, KS 66044



Training Center  
1941 Haskell Ave.  
Lawrence, KS 66046



**Committed to Saving and Protecting Lives and Property**

Lawrence-Douglas  
County Fire Medical

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**We're on the Web!**

[www.lawrencefiremed.org](http://www.lawrencefiremed.org)