

# Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical

## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



## FROM THE CHIEF



Chief Mark F. Bradford

I am proud to present this summary of the activities of Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical for the year 2010. This last year has been one of significant challenges for the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department. While, like every other department in the City we have been faced with fiscal challenges, our delivery of emergency services is still second to none and continues to be our top priority. As our calls for services continually increase, we continue to search for new and creative ways to meet our mission, to be "Committed to Saving Lives and Property".

In December, we underwent our first ISO Public Protection Classification rating evaluation since we were awarded a Class 2 in 1986. We anticipate receiving the results from the latest evaluation in mid-2011.

In 2010, five members retired, taking 125 years of accumulated knowledge and experience. Among them were Lawrence's first Fire Marshal and first female firefighter. As we say goodbye to our retirees, we create opportunities for new members to begin a career with us in the fire service. We welcome them to our department and family.

The department continues to place a high priority on being able to respond with specialized equipment and personnel to incidents involving hazardous materials and/or where special rescue (trench, rope, confined space, water/ice, and structural collapse) is needed. These types of incidents require significant amounts of training and additional equipment for our personnel.

LDCFM continues to be very proactive, efficient, and exceptionally effective in our delivery of services. I can assure you that LDCFM stands ready to meet its responsibilities and any challenges encountered. Each day, our members report for duty with the intention of providing quality services based on a need. It is because of the bravery, loyalty and devotion of all the department members that all citizens of Lawrence and Douglas County can feel secure knowing that their safety is in good hands.

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.



"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."  
*Arthur Ashe*



## HAPPENINGS

### ISO

ISO, which stands for Insurance Services Office, provides reliable, up-to-date information about a community's fire-protection services to help insurance companies establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties.

ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes three categories: the fire department, communications, and water supply. The fire department is evaluated on training, inspections, apparatus, and personnel. Communications is evaluated on receiving and handling alarms, dispatch, communication centers and stations. Water supply is evaluated on fire flow, distribution, and mapping. All three of these categories must work together efficiently to achieve a good rating.

ISO uses this evaluation data to assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection while Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. By classifying communities' ability to suppress fires, ISO helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, country-wide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. By securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services.

LDCFM's previous evaluation occurred in 1986, when we were awarded a Public Protection Classification of 2. We were evaluated again in December 2010, and anticipate receiving the results in mid-2011.



### New Medical Director

Dr. Kye Evans took over as Medical Director for the department in November 2010. As Medical Director, he is responsible for lending leadership, medical expertise and support for the delivery of quality pre-hospital care to the community, the monitoring of service performance through participation in medical review procedures, and EMS training program activities. In addition to being Medical Director for our department, Dr. Evans is an Emergency Medical Physician at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. He and his wife Karen have three children and live in Lawrence.

Dr. Evan replaces Dr. Scott Robinson, who had served as medical director since 2001.



Kye P. Evans  
DO, FACEP



### 1968 Truck Returns

In 1955 Lawrence received its newest fire truck from American LaFrance. It was purchased for \$27,250 and delivered on a rail car. The truck saw many years of service and was identified as unit "68". Unit "68" was eventually retired and disposed of by the City. Retired fire lieutenant Harold Mallonee gained control of the truck and stored it in hopes of eventually restoring it. In 2010 he gave it to the firefighters so that it could be restored for historical and parade purposes. It is currently being restored as funds and time allow.





## Accreditation Team

In 2008, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical was awarded accredited agency status by the Center for Public Safety Excellence's Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Each department submits annual compliance reports for the subsequent four years, with an application for re-accreditation occurring the fifth year. The assessment process includes review of the department's Strategic Plan, Standard of Cover, and over 270 performance indicators and how well the performance indicators were accomplished. The process also required development of an improvement plan for each performance indicator. The accreditation process included a visit by a team of assessors to validate and verify the performance indicators and confirm the identified areas of needed improvement. In March 2013 our accredited agency status will be up for renewal. To assist with the renewal process, an Accreditation Team consisting of nine department employees from varying ranks and experiences was formed. The Team received specialized training in the accreditation process from CPSE, and has begun working on the department's Standard of Cover, which sets response standards and levels throughout the city.

## HAPPENINGS

### Peer Fitness Program

The department began participating in the Peer Fitness Program in 2010. The Peer Fitness Program is a joint endeavor by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Realizing that meeting the challenges of tomorrow's fire service requires that we maintain the physical capability of uniformed personnel throughout their fire service careers, they set their sights on strengthening the foundation of the fire service, the firefighters and EMS responders. As part of the Fire Service and Joint Labor-Management Wellness/Fitness Initiative, the IAFF and IAFC formed a task force that has successfully implemented the Peer Fitness Program.

The American Council on Exercise (ACE) was chosen to collaborate in the development and implementation of the Peer Fitness Trainer certification program for firefighters. ACE is a non profit organization dedicated to promoting the benefits of physical activity and protecting consumers against unsafe and ineffective fitness products and instruction.

The program provides certified fitness trainers and standards consistent with the health and fitness needs of the fire service. Peers that have successfully passed the certification examination have demonstrated they possess the knowledge and skill required to design and implement fitness programs, improve the wellness and fitness of the uniformed members in their departments, assist in the physical training of recruits, and assist the broader community in achieving wellness and fitness. Participation in the program by all department personnel is voluntary, non-punitive, and confidential.



### New Apparatus



Engine 1  
2010 Pierce



Medic 3 and Medic 11 (not pictured)  
2010 American Emergency Vehicles



EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS



Division Chief  
Rob Kort

Long-Time Division Chief Retires  
New Division Chief Promoted

Division Chief Rob Kort retired September 10, 2010 after 28 years of service. Rob began his career with the Douglas County Ambulance Service (DCAS) as a paramedic and worked his way up the ranks, retiring as a Division Chief with the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department. As Division Chief, Rob was responsible for a crew of up to 36 firefighters. His experience with DCAS helped

with the transition to the current fire department-based emergency medical service currently being delivered.

Rob was instrumental in the development and promotion of the Wheeled Sports Safety Program. With the help of local sponsors, the Wheeled Sports Safety Program provides high quality bicycle helmets to children under the age of 14 in the Lawrence and Douglas County communities. Along with program sponsors, the department hosts an annual wheeled sport fair where children can bring their bikes for a safety inspection, ride through an obstacle course, be fitted appropriately for a helmet and learn many other safety habits. This program would not be what it is today if it wasn't for the dedication Rob gave to this program and to the department.



After Division Chief Rob Kort's retirement in September, the department promoted Captain Lyle Schwartz to Division Chief in November 2010. Lyle began his career with the department in 1991 as an extra-board firefighter and by March, 1992 was hired as a fulltime firefighter. He obtained his paramedic certification from Johnson County Community College in 1998 and was soon promoted to Lieutenant. In May, 2005 Lyle was promoted to the rank of Captain, where he was responsible for a crew of firefighters and often filled in as an acting division chief.

Division Chief Lyle Schwartz will be a positive and dedicated leader in his new role and we congratulate him on his promotion.



Division Chief  
Lyle Schwartz

Lawrence's First Female  
Firefighter Retires



Captain Lexie Engleman

In 1981, Lexie Engleman was one of the first two female firefighters hired in the history of the Lawrence Fire Department. It made statewide news back in 1981 because so few women nationally worked as firefighters. Lexie worked her way up the ranks and was promoted to Captain in 1990. As a Captain, she was responsible for a crew of six firefighters and often filled in as an acting division chief, who is responsible for 36 firefighters or more. After 29 years with the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department, Lexie retired December 18, 2010. History was made when Lexie joined the department and she has left a lasting impression on all men and women of the community and the department.



First Fire Marshal Retires,  
New Fire Marshal Promoted



Division Chief  
Rich Barr

Division Chief Rich Barr, the only person to serve as the fire marshal for Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical, retired December 18, 2010. Rich joined the department in 1977 as a firefighter and worked his way up the ranks until becoming the fire marshal in 1985. The fire marshal is responsible for fire prevention, code inspections and enforcements, and fire investigations. He led a major initiative that took years to get Greek houses on the KU campus to install fire sprinklers.

Rich said his job changed considerably over the more than two decades as Lawrence grew and the department became more involved in planning and code requirements of buildings for fire safety. He enjoyed being able to interact with the public and business community. "With this particular job, I was blessed", he said.

Division Chief Rich Barr made a big impact, not only in the community, but within the department and with his peers. We will miss him dearly wish him the best.



After Division Chief Barr announced he would be retiring from the department, the process of replacing him began and after much consideration, Captain James King was promoted to Division Chief and took over duties as fire marshal.



Division Chief  
James King

Jim joined Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department in February 1988 as a member of the first extra-board class. He served 22 years in the Operations Division, rising to the rank of Captain in 1997. As a Captain, Jim worked on the Hazardous Materials Team and became the department coordinator in 2005. He attended Kansas University and was awarded a Bachelor of General Studies. Later, he attended Baker University where he completed a Master of Science Management in 1991. Jim has served on numerous department and City project teams including the Accreditation Team, the Apparatus Design Team, the Uniforms and Appearance Committee, and the Performance Appraisal Review Committee. Jim was promoted to his current position of Division Chief of Prevention in November 2010. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Arson Investigators, National Fire Protection Association, and the International Codes Council.

We congratulate Division Chief James King on his promotion.



Retired Firefighter  
Breakfast





## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

### Firefighter of the Year

#### Engineer Steve Welter



Engineer Steve Welter began his full time career with Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical on July 19, 1998. Throughout his years of service, Engineer Welter has demonstrated his dedication and professionalism to the fire service.

Steve achieved his paramedic certification in conjunction with two deployments to Iraq and demonstrated excellent leadership skills in the field during his paramedic orientation. He has shown his ability to adapt to the diverse clientele that our department serves on a daily basis. Even during the most stressful situations, his calm and reassuring manner helps put his patients at ease.

On September 24, 2010, Steve, along with other fire personnel, responded to a water rescue below the dam on the Kansas River. Upon his arrival, a patient was observed in extreme distress under the spillway. The patient ignored all requests to crawl to safety. Engineer Welter, at the risk of great bodily harm, crawled under the spillway and led the patient to safety. His actions on that day symbolized the personal sacrifice and bravery that the fire service is known for, and resulted in a successful water rescue.

Engineer Steve Welter has demonstrated excellent leadership skills in serving his country as well as his community while working to improve himself and his department. Steve lives in Osawatomie with his wife Keira and their three children.



### Retirees

#### Division Chief Rob Kort

Retired 09/10/10 after 28 years of service.



#### Firefighter Dave Davis

Retired 09/13/10 after 15 years of service.



#### Engineer James McKenzie

Retired 12/18/10 after 21 years of service.



#### Captain Lexie Engleman

Retired 12/18/10 after 29 years of service.



#### Division Chief Richard Barr

Retired 12/18/10 after 33 years of service.



### Promotions

- Capt. Ben Dennis
- Lt. Aaron Flory
- Lt. Joe Hardy
- Capt. Brandon Holloman
- Paramedic Ryan Kelley
- Div. Chief James King
- Eng. Jeff Krall
- Eng. Chad Lisher
- Lt. Chris Morrow
- Eng. David Plymire
- Eng. Jason Ray
- Eng. Tiffany Saturday
- Div. Chief Lyle Schwartz
- Eng. Alex Thomas

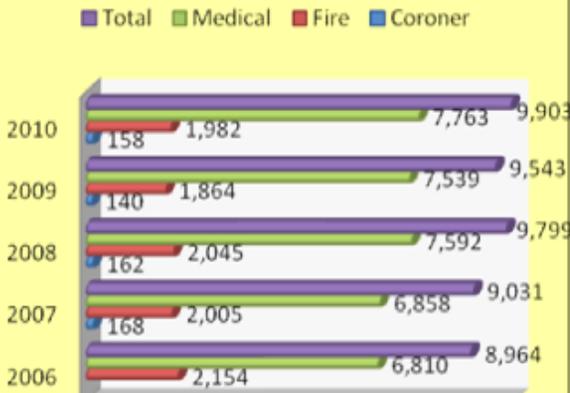
### New Career Firefighters

- FF Dustin Deathe
- Paramedic Blake Elder
- Paramedic Carl Springer
- FF Malcomb Stapel

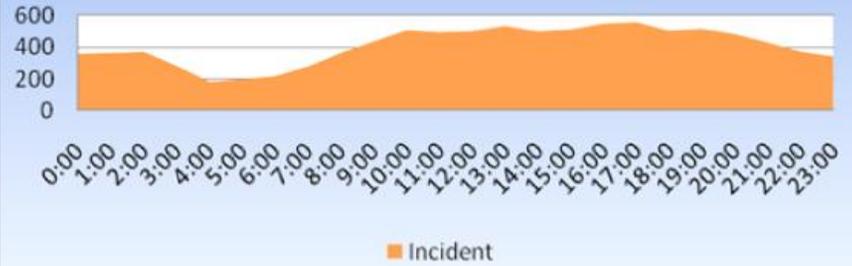


STATISTICS

Incidents in Past 5 Years



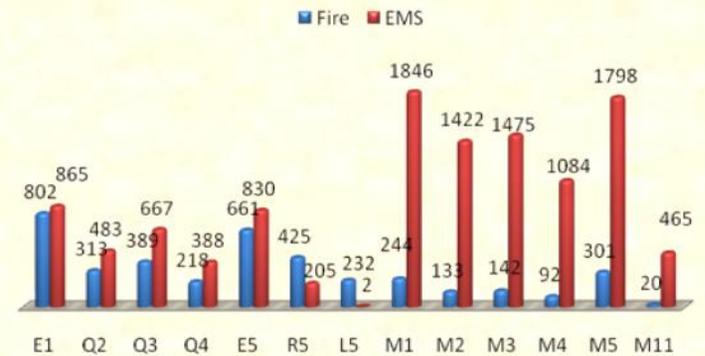
Incident by Hours of Day



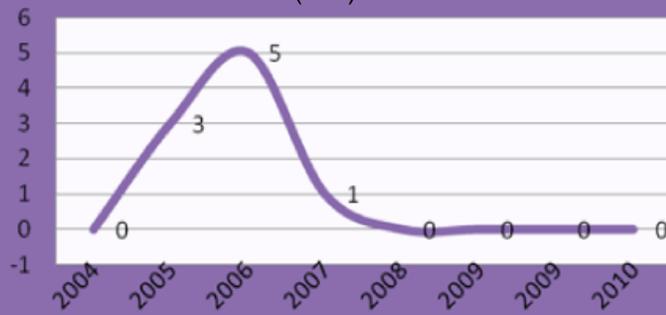
Incidents by Day of Week



Number of Responses by Unit



No. of Fatalities (Fire)



# Programs



ADMINISTRATION  
1911 Stewart Ave.  
Lawrence, KS 66046



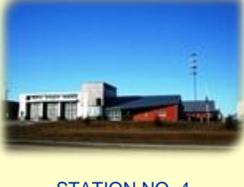
STATION NO. 1  
746 Kentucky St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044



STATION NO. 2  
2128 Harper St.  
Lawrence, KS 66046



STATION NO. 3  
3708 W. 6<sup>th</sup>  
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 Kibbee  
Baldwin City, KS 66006



INVESTIGATION CENTER  
1839 Massachusetts St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044



TRAINING CENTER  
1941 Haskell Ave.  
Lawrence, KS 66046

**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.

**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 providing leadership training.

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

**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 consists of six operations members who periodically inspect assembly occupancies and check for a variety of life safety items. The majority of inspections are directed toward 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 damaged 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 Specialists." They deliver a variety of programs directed at school children, university students, commercial and business safety and general safety.

**Safety & Hazard Houses**  
The purpose 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.

**SCBA**  
This program consists 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 to homeowners who are living on a limited-income, a senior citizen or disabled, who live in the city limits of Lawrence. 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 2010, 608 helmets were given away during the annual event.

## OUR VALUES

- Compassion & Respect
- Leadership
- Professionalism & Integrity
- Teamwork
- Proactive
- Excellence
- Pride

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