Committed to Saving and Protecting Lives and Property

Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Committed to Saving and Protecting Lives and Property

An ISO 1 Community
Chief’s Message

It is a pleasure to share an overview of the accomplishments and activities that occurred in 2016, not only with our department but also within the community of Lawrence and Douglas County, Kansas.

Over the years, our citizens and elected officials have remained committed to making sure our trucks, facilities and personnel are a priority. The results of these efforts mean we are one of six cities in Kansas to achieve and maintain accreditation from the Commission of Fire Accreditation International, as well as becoming one of seven Kansas communities to have earned an elite Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 rating (see page 4).

As Fire Chief, I have the privilege to serve a great community and work alongside some of the most talented individuals in the Fire and Emergency Medical Service. I have watched members of our Department perform life and property saving deeds and monumental acts of kindness and compassion, without hesitation or asked for anything in return.

I am proud of our department and the community we service and I can honestly say we live by our mission.

Committed to Saving and Protecting Lives and Property

Accreditation Update

Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical remains on target with its accreditation commitments to the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). An annual compliance report is submitted every February to CFAI and we continue to work on re-accreditation. We were unanimously awarded Reaccredited Agency Status in 2013 and are working toward reaccreditation for 2018. The accreditation process has integrated into the daily operations and culture, and is the foundation by which we continue to provide quality services to the citizens of Lawrence and Douglas County.

The Department strives to achieve continuous organizational improvement through implementation of strategic initiatives and opportunities for further enhancements. In July 2016, the department contracted with the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Technical Advisor Program to facilitate a community-driven strategic plan process. The Technical Advisors hosted an external stakeholders meeting with a diverse group of community members including City Department Directors and the City Manager. The Technical Advisors collected feedback from participants on priorities of service delivery and expectations. Input from external stakeholders provided valuable information from the community about concerns and Department strengths. Internal stakeholders completed a three-day work session to develop goals, objectives, and critical tasks for the next five-year planning period. Consensus on a new PRIDE values acronym and terms was adopted by the internal stakeholders along with six strategic goals as part of the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan.

The CPSE Technical Advisor Program also conducted on-site workshops with Fire Medical to update the department’s community risk assessment and standard of cover document. Development of the risk assessment involves evaluation of the community’s fire and non-fire hazards and threats. The Department will analyze performance in the 13 demand zones within the City of Lawrence and Douglas County. The standard of cover defines the level of emergency response resources and deployment strategies that City of Lawrence and Douglas County leaders, department administration and members commit to provide, at a minimum, to all community members. A new Standard of Cover is expected to be published in 2017.

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Home Fires Campaign

Members from the department teamed up with the American Red Cross, Douglas County Chapter installing 51 smoke alarms in home of residents living at the Easy Living mobile home community. The American Red Cross launched the Home Fires Campaign in 2015, which aims to reduce fire injuries and deaths by 25% by the year 2020. Red Cross volunteers were partnered with members of our department knocking on 200 doors, installing lifesaving smoke alarms, and shared lifesaving tools and information in support of home fire prevention efforts.


Lawrence Festival of Trees

This year, department administrative staff members joined the festivities by donating their time and skills in creating the “Ring of Fire”, a fire department themed tree for the 30th Annual Festival of Trees event held at Liberty Hall. The tree was adorned in fire department related items, including fire hose, smoke detector, and topped with a fire sprinkler head. Before and after the event, firefighters graciously helped with set up and preparing and delivery of trees to their permanent homes for the holiday.

The Festival of Trees is the primary fund-raising event for The Shelter, Inc., a local agency serving children and families from Lawrence and surrounding communities. Donors from all over the Lawrence community provide trees and wreaths for the event, which are than auctioned off during the festivals gala. This year, the total raised during the auction was $43,000.

Lawrence Helmet Fair 2016

The department, along with many community sponsors, had another successful Helmet Fair on April 9th. The fair was held at Memorial Stadium before the Kansas Jayhawk’s spring football game. Participants (15 and under) received free helmets, had their bike inspected, learned bike and other safety tips, and could attend the spring football game. At this year’s event, 226 helmets were fitted and given away.

Thank you to our sponsors for making the helmet program and annual fair possible.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

The department launched an AED Replacement program in an effort to update and replace existing AED’s in City and County buildings. In 2016, 16 AEDs were replaced with Zoll Plus AEDs. These new AEDs are located at the Douglas County Courthouse, Lawrence Law Enforcement Center, Lawrence City Hall, Lawrence Airport, and all first responder agencies in Douglas County. As funding allows, the department’s goal is to have an AED in every City and County building by the end of 2017.

Traffic Incident Management System Train the Trainer

In December, emergency service organizations in and around the Lawrence community participated in Traffic Incident Management System Train the Trainer class held in Lawrence. This interagency program is designed to teach participates how to manage an incident involving vehicles on a roadway. Representatives from Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical, Kansas Highway Patrol, Douglas County Sheriff’s Department, Lawrence Police Department, Lawrence Public Works Department, and other agencies attended this interactive course, working through scenarios to help better understand the role of all responders.

Passenger Train Emergency Response Training

In December, the department hosted Passenger Train Emergency Response training, which was presented by Amtrak. The training provided information on right of way dangers, train dispatch information, challenges of extrication and case studies in the event of a catastrophic passenger train event. Training was attended by department members and first responders in the community.

Fill the Boot Campaign

In September, members of the department and IAFF Local 1596, hit the streets to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Thanks to our Lawrence community, $12,000 was raised in 2016.

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Fire Ops 101

Lawrence and Douglas County leaders where invited to come and see what the life of a firefighter and first responder is all about, during the 2016 Fire Ops 101 training held in October. The training was organized by IAFF Local 1596 and 15 city and county leaders participated. Participates were dressed in full firefight gear, partnered with a member of the department and put through several emergency scenarios that firefighter and first responder tackle nearly every day.

Fire Dynamics Research

Fire Departments across the metro attended “Brining Fire Dynamics Research to the Fire Ground” presented by the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute. This presentation covered the latest research from Underwriter’s Laboratory regarding flow paths of a fire throughout a structure, water application, and ventilation. This is a science-based approach to attacking modern fires and is the forefront of fire research. The lecture was hosted by the department at the Lawrence Art Center.

Operations Perilous Rain

Operation Perilous Rain was a functional exercise involving multiple agencies responding to a simulated hazardous materials transportation incident. This exercise was designed to enhance collaboration between public and private sector agencies during emergency incidents, integrate all agencies/entities into a cohesive incident management structure, and coordinate response between emergency operations center and incident command personnel, to include public and private sector entities. Participating agencies included Douglas County Emergency Management, Lawrence Police Department, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical, USD #497, American Red Cross, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, City of Lawrence Public Works, Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, KU Public Safety, Kansas 911 Coordinating Council, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Chemtrade Logistics, ICL Performance Products, Union Pacific Railroad and Groendyke Transport. This exercise not only heightened successes but also provided areas where agencies can work together to enhance our local response and recovery to any emergency or disaster.

Department Receives Top Rating

The City of Lawrence becomes a Class 1 community based on the Insurance Services Office (ISO) independent rating system for measuring the quality and effectiveness of municipal fire protection. Lawrence is one of only approximately 40 cities out of 48,000 surveyed in the U.S. to have earned an elite ISO Class 1 rating. There are currently 7 Class 1 communities in Kansas.

Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department, accredited by the Commission of Fire Accreditation International, joins an elite group of just 38 accredited agencies to attain an ISO Class 1 rating. ISO’s Public Protection Classification ratings are used to help establish fire insurance premiums for residential, commercial and industrial properties.

ISO’s evaluation program includes 10 classifications, with 1 being the highest and 10 being the lowest. The rating is based on a comprehensive review of fire department capabilities, the water supply system, and the Douglas County Emergency Communications Center, which handles dispatch and tracking services for fire incidents. According to ISO data, a community’s investment in firefighting services is a good predictor of future fire losses. Communities with excellent fire protection can expect less property damage and higher survival rates.
In November, the department hosted the *Fire Service Safety Culture: Who Protects Firefighters from Firefighters?* course provided by the National Fire Academy. Chief Officers and Captains attended the two-day course, which is designed to assist emergency services personnel in defining and advocating organizational change within the fire service relating to safety culture and risk cultures; influences on safety culture and risk categories; concepts, goals, and processes of risk management. The training consisted of looking at specific issues that affects the departments ability to maintain safety within the organization.

The department began preparations for such an event by adding Rapid Response Kits to our fire apparatus. These modular medical kits, from North American Rescue, are designed to provide initial triage and treatment of patients involved in a mass causality incidents, such as an active shooter or weather related scenario. These bag consist of tourniquets, chest seals, gauze and triage ribbons, which allows department members to provide treatment for 4 or more patients and stop external bleeding before moving them to a medic unit for transport to a medical facility.

The department hosted power line safety training in October to all department members. The unique opportunity was provided by Westar Energy, which included a presentation from Westar representatives and followed up with a live electrical demonstration using their “Hot Trailer”. The “Hot Trailer” is an eighteen-foot trailer that contained a scaled down versions of high voltage lines. Westar is able to charge the lines with a small amount of electricity and demonstrate what exactly happens when a real power line encounters an object.

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The City of Lawrence and Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical hosted the 100th Annual Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs (KSAFC) Conference. This years conference was held October 19-22, 2016 at the Doubletree Hilton. KSAFC was formed to provide chief fire officers and managers of emergency service in Kansas with a forum to discuss issues and dispense information applicable to life safety and property conservation, and to provide education, services and representation to enhance the professionalism and capabilities of the fire service.

The Company Officer Academy was a three-day event held during the KSAFC Conference in October. The academy provided skills and insight on leadership traits, communication skills, and values-vision-mission of a company officer, among other topics. Ten members of the department were able to attend and gain the benefits presented during the academy.

The academy was sponsored by Columbia Southern University and presented by retired Chief Lasky, Chicago and retired Chief Salka, New York. Chief Lasky and Salka have decades of experience as chiefs and company officers and have handled many of the difficult and challenging situations that we are likely to face sometime in the fire service future.

![KSAFC Conference](image)

**KSAFC Conference 100th Anniversary**

**Company Officer Academy**

**Forcible Entry Training**

**Power Line Safety Training**

**Rapid Response Kits**

With the unfortunate increase of mass causality events happening around the globe, the department began preparations for such an event by adding Rapid Response Kits to our fire apparatus. These modular medical kits, from North American Rescue, are designed to provide initial triage and treatment of patients involved in a mass causality incidents, such as an active shooter or weather related scenario. These bag consist of tourniquets, chest seals, gauze and triage ribbons, which allows department members to provide treatment for 4 or more patients and stop external bleeding before moving them to a medic unit for transport to a medical facility.
**Department News**

**2015 IFC Adopted**

The City adopted the 2015 International Code Council I-Codes, with local amendments, July 1, 2016. The I-Codes, including the International Fire Code, provide the best practices of industry for a safe built environment. Code cycles are three years in length and each cycle provides added improvements to fire protection systems and strengthens life safety for the public, the community, and emergency responders.

**Significant Fires**

Fires through the misuse or careless discarding of smoking materials continued to be a leading cause of building fires in Lawrence during 2016. The department responded to five building fires that were determined to have been caused by smoking materials that were disposed of improperly, causing property loss between $20 and $130,000. In all, the department responded to 56 building fires with an estimated value of nearly $19 million. The estimated total property loss for these incidents was $1,018,209, which equates to 94.6% of the properties saved. Proactive codes, automatic fire sprinklers, monitored fire and smoke detection, smoke alarms, training, response times, innovative equipment and the support of the community are all factors that influence the high percentage of saved properties.

The three most significant fires for 2016 were a residential fire caused by a space heater being too close to combustibles in a garage ($230,000), a wind driven fire involving an apartment building due to improperly disposed cigarette on a balcony ($130,000) and an incendiary fire with a fatality in a residence after a domestic dispute ($120,000).

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**Employee News**

**Anderson Creek Wildland Fire**

On March 23, 2016, Division Chief Shaun Coffey was deployed as a member of the Kansas Type 3 Incident Management Team (KSIMT) to Medicine Lodge, Kansas for the Anderson Creek wildland fire. The KSIMT with the Kansas Forest Service Type 3 Incident Management Team worked in support of the Barber County Governmental Agencies in managing the wildland fire. The Anderson Creek fire burned 353,351 total acres, with over 273,000 acres alone in Barber County from March 23-28, 2016. The Incident Management Team supported local effort in managing Barber County resources, firefighting resources from throughout the state, and state resources.

**“Firefighter Fit”**

The September 19, 2016 edition of Health, a magazine serving Northeast Kansas, featured an article about firefighter fitness highlighting department members from Station No. 3. The article emphasized the health, fitness, and nutrition goals some firefighters live by to better protect and save lives.

Featured in the article were: Captain Pete Easterwood, Lieutenant Tyler Tuckness, Engineer Jack Angell, Paramedic Reba Cunningham, Paramedic Brent Luedeke, and Firefighter Talib Muwwakkil.

**343 Firefighters Climb at Ground Zero**

On March 13, 2016, Engineer Dave Bova joined 343 firefighters from 29 states and four countries to climbed the 72-story World Trade Center in New York City to honor the 343 FDNY firefighters that lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

The New York City Firefighter Stair Climb was founded by two NYC firefighters in March, 2015. Each year a charity is chosen to be sponsored and the climb has had such tremendous success that it has become an annual event. The stair climb is not only a memorial for those who lost their lives, but a reminder that we will “Never Forget”.

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**Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical**

Mission – “Committed to Saving and Protecting Lives and Property”

CFAI – Internally Accredited Agency Since 2008

ISO - Class 1 Community
National Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Five years after the fact, Engineer Robert “Steve” Smith was formally recognized as having died in the line of duty. Steve, along with hundreds of other firefighters who died in the line of duty, was honored in Emmetsburg, MD for the Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service, October 2016. Steve’s name was added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial on the Academy grounds along with three other Kansas fallen firefighters.

Chief Bradford and Division Chief Doug Green had the honor of attending the memorial service on behalf of the department.

Valor Award Honorees

CPR/AED Life-Saving Award – to be awarded in recognition of acts taken involving the use of CPR and/or AED in a life-threatening situation where an individual’s life is in jeopardy.

Captain Mark Hummel
Lieutenant John Mathis
Engineer Silva Beach
Engineer Troy Gourley
Engineer Shadow Satter
Firefighter Mike Angrisano

Memorial Candle Lighting

Clinical Save Commendations

In 2016, the department saw several long term cardiac clinical saves and commendations were awarded to both department personnel, law enforcement and members of Douglas County Emergency Communications.

Department Members:
Lieutenant Miguel Armenta
Firefighter Matt Bahnmaier
Engineer Tim Childers
Engineer Brendon Crain
Engineer Dustin Deathe
Captain Ben Dennis
Engineer Matt Dohrn
Lieutenant Mike Fulkerson
Lieutenant Kevin Fussell
Division Chief Doug Green
Engineer Scott Nissen
Engineer Tim Reazin
Engineer David Russell
Captain Jim Saladin

Lawrence Police:
Officer Brad Johnson
Officer Walsh

DGCO Dispatch:
Sonya Baeza
Dogna D’Errico
Danielle Warnett

Clinical Save Commendations

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Clinical Save Commendations

Department Service Recognitions

30 Years of Service
Division Chief Eve Tolefree
Captain Pat Talkington

25 Years of Service
Engineer David Russell
Lieutenant Scott Seratte
Engineer Leo Leiker
Lieutenant Ed Noonan
Captain Jim Saladin

20 Years of Service
Lieutenant Dave Sherman
Engineer Jim Strohm
Rachel Palmer-Reeb, Assistant to the Chief

15 Years of Service
Engineer Travis Herrington
Chief Mark Bradford
Engineer John Dines
Captain Ben Dennis
Jeannette Reiling, Medical Claims
Engineer Josh Taylor
Captain Steve Weaver

10 Years of Service
Lieutenant John Darling
Engineer Troy Gourley
Engineer Brian Patterson

5 Years of Service
Engineer Carl Springer
Engineer Kirk Landau
Engineer Jim Reazin
Engineer Eric Miller
Engineer Mark Campbell
In Memoriam

Engineer Kenny Wyrick (1951 – 2016), worked for the department for more than 30 years, before his retirement in 2001.

Firefighter Roy Allen (1945 – 2016), worked for the department for more than 30 years, before his retirement.

Retirement

Captain Joe Schaumburg
Retired 06/13/2016 after 35 years of service.

Division Chief Bill Stark
Retired 12/23/2016 after 34 years of service.

Promotions

Lieutenant James Barkley
Engineer Charles Biggerstaff
Engineer Matt Dohrn
Dawn Hiebert, Medical Claims Supervisor
Engineer Todd Hipsher
Engineer Jennifer Persons
Lieutenant Jason Ray
Captain Jason Smith
Lieutenant Mike Smasal
Engineer Trey Strohm
Lieutenant Tyler Wade
Engineer Paramedic Alex Wolfe

New Fulltime

Paramedic Michael Angrisano
Paramedic Justin Dollard
Firefighter Kyle Evans
Paramedic Redell Frazier
Paramedic Cody Hoagland
Firefighter Eric Lynch
Paramedic Brian Murdock
Paramedic Jeff Shull
Paramedic Dustin Walthall

Employee News

Captain and Lieutenant Promotions

Captain Joe Schaumburg
Retired 06/13/2016 after 35 years of service.

Division Chief Bill Stark
Retired 12/23/2016 after 34 years of service.

In Memoriam

Engineer Kenny Wyrick (1951 – 2016), worked for the department for more than 30 years, before his retirement in 2001.

Firefighter Roy Allen (1945 – 2016), worked for the department for more than 30 years, before his retirement.

Praise to Lawrence and Kansas City Firefighters

“We will never forget what Kansas and our fellow fighters have done in support of our family. We have learned, when life gives you the unexpected there is one thing you can trust: the brotherhood and sisterhood is alive and well!”

Posted by Angela Hughes
fireengineering.com, 09/06/2016

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