LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE MEDICAL

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

“COMMITTED TO SAVING AND PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY”
As Fire Chief, my priority has been to efficiently manage our department’s budget in a manner that improves service delivery to our community, while providing the necessary tools, training and technology to the members of our department who provide that service. I believe our members possess all that makes our department great; Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, Excellence (PRIDE).

It is with great pride that I can report our department is one of just two-hundred thirty-nine fire departments in the world accredited through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). In 2017, the department prepared for it’s third accreditation review since 2008 by the CFAI.

As part of this review, we are striving to be compliant with the new 9th Edition of the Fire and Emergency Services Self-Assessment Manual (FESSAM). Documents included in this review are the Community-Risk Associations Standards of Cover (CRASOC), Community-Driven Strategic Plan, and Self-Assessment Manual, which consists of two-hundred and fifty-two performance indicators.

The document review process began in October of 2017 and should conclude in August 2018 with a hearing in front of a diverse board of commissioners who represent the CFAI. An outcome to this continuous improvement model is a joint review; the department, and the CFAI both identify opportunities for improvement. Based on this review, the commission will determine accredited agency status at the hearing in August 2018.

It is a pleasure to share an overview of the accomplishments and activities that occurred in 2017, not only within our department but also within the community of Lawrence and Douglas County, Kansas.

Review our Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover at:
www.lawrenceks.org/fire-medical/publications-and-reports/
IN OUR COMMUNITY

Operation Red File
The Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services partnered with sponsors in Douglas County to launch Operation Red File in February, 2017. Operation Red File is designed to help seniors keep their critical health information accessible if needed in an emergency.

Participants in Operation Red File receive a large, red, magnetic folder that can be placed on their refrigerators, where 1st Responder’s will know to look for it, for instant access to medical history, medication records, etc. Participants are encouraged to put copies of medical information and other critical documents, such as medication list, medical forms, and medical coverage information into the folder.

These “red” files are available on every fire apparatus, medic unit, and at the department’s Administration Office located at 1911 Stewart Ave.

2017 Lawrence Helmet Fair
This year’s helmet fair was a big success with 250 helmets being fitted and given to participants 16 and under. As well, participants were able to have their bikes inspected, learned about bike safety and many other safety tips.

Thank you to all our sponsors and the KU Women’s Swim Team for volunteering their time to help with this year’s event.

Community Blood Drive
In May, the department hosted a community blood drive to support the Community Blood Center (CBC) in their efforts to save lives by donating blood to benefit local patients. Lawrence and Douglas County citizen’s were invited to visit the Donor Bus, parked outside the Administration Office, to donate blood. We had great success with the drive and want to thank everyone that helped support CBC!

Neighborly Bond Issuance Supports Fire Truck Purchase
In April 2017, the city offered mini-bonds for the first time to help finance a fire truck for Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department.

The City worked with Neighborly to market and sell these bonds to local residents. These Neighborly bonds enabled residents to earn tax-exempt interest and invest in their future while supporting the future of the fire medical department.

The bonds were sold in $1,000 denomination for a total amount of $654K, enabling the department to purchase a 2017 Pierce Velocity Engine.

Fire Safety Presentation
Haskell University Pocahontas Hall
2017 Greek Academy
This program is directed at university students in fraternities and sororities. It provides hands on training in safety and survival.

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2017 Public Education
Over 115 public education events were given. Reaching over 7,300 citizens
3,412 Facebook Followers

LMH Health Fair
Community Blood Drive
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Project LIVELY
Over the past year, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department’s Project LIVELY program has become another important agency in helping the department meet its mission. Project LIVELY is a voluntary care coordination program that aims to promote health, independence and well-being for older adults. The department has been able to provide information on this program to our older patients in hopes of helping them remain independent.

If you know someone that might be interested in this program, please contact Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

School Safety Presentation
Community Development

It was another busy year for development in the City of Lawrence. While fire plans review for construction were down slightly from 2016, there were significant increases in the number of permit inspections conducted for construction (up 12%) and project reviews (up 20%) for development on the near horizon. Prevention staff completed 98% of all reviews within 15 days and 88% under 5 days, exceeding the City’s current goals of development reviews being completed.

The city continues its aggressive pursuit of commercial business inspections. The City currently has 4,510 commercial occupancies that are inspected annually by Operations crews, Night Consultants, and Prevention staff. In 2017, 98.5% of all commercial occupancies were inspected. This was an increase of 1.5% over 2016 efforts.

Home Inspections and Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms are a critical item in home safety to alert building occupants of a fire and we have continued to provide smoke alarms upon request to elderly and or disadvantaged home owners within the City of Lawrence. After the fire that claimed a life last Spring, department members canvassed the neighborhood in which the fire occurred to check, and when necessary, installed smoke alarms to improve life safety.

In the Fall of 2017, Engineer Mark Campbell, took note that a hearing impaired person that we responded to during a medical emergency did not have a smoke alarm that would alert them to a fire. Engineer Campbell took the initiative and assisted the resident with completing the documentation to obtain a smoke alarm for the hearing impaired, at no cost, through the Kansas State Fire Marshal. As well, he then assisted the State Fire Marshal’s Office with the installation of four additional devices to other community members.

Prevention staff continue to work with our partner, Community Village Lawrence (CVL), to conduct home fire safety inspections that provide an assessment and recommendations for a fire safe home to the elderly and or disabled that participate in the CVL program.
AutoPulse Devices Purchased

Douglas County Commission unanimously approved the purchase of several auto pulse devices, which provides high-quality automated CPR to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. The AutoPulse devices can perform a more consistent chest compression, increasing the chances of a positive patient outcome of pre-hospital cardiac arrests.

The department currently has 14 Auto Pulse devices in place and have seen an increase in clinical saves. Additional AutoPulse devices will be placed on apparatus not currently outfitted with one, as well as replace some of the existing outdated machines.

These new devices will allow us to better serve cardiac patients and coordinate with Lawrence Memorial Hospital, who also uses the newest medical technology.

Driver Simulator Training

In the fall of 2017, the department performed drivers training using the Kansas Fire Rescue & Technical Institute’s recently purchased driving simulator. The simulator allows firefighters to drive large, expensive trucks in virtual world without the risk of damage on the open road. As well, the simulator teaches muscle memory for new driving techniques, can fix bad habits before they begin, and more experienced drivers can sharpen their skills that haven’t been used in awhile. This type of training saves departments time and money, along with wear and tear on the engines and tires.

Douglas County Active Shooter Plan

The department built on its success of the implementation of the Douglas County Active Shooter Plan, which provides a framework for responding to those tragic events by hosting a large-scale tabletop exercise. This exercise incorporated a sizeable HazMat response along with an active shooter that evolved into a mass casualty. This was to evaluate and examine gaps in the response plan from the first arriving crews up through the implementation of Emergency Management. Local law enforcement joined the department in active shooter practical scenarios at Southwest Junior High and East Heights Elementary to begin training the crews on “warm zone operations.” This training is ongoing and more important now than ever.

Natural Disaster Drill

On October 19, 2017 several agencies (including public, private and non-profit) participated in a natural disaster exercises encompassing Lawrence, Eudora and Douglas County. The drill was conducted at the Douglas County Emergency Operation Center with representatives from these various agencies challenging each organization with managing on-going rounds of severe weather (excessive rain and tornadoes) affecting critical infrastructure. This successful exercise confirmed recent training and planning efforts, cultivated local partnerships and identified ways for each entity to enhance their operations.

In February of 2017, the department expanded its medical fleet by adding an ambulance which was stationed in the Eudora Public Safety Building within the City of Eudora.
Welcome to the Department

In 2017, we had the pleasure of welcoming some new members to our team to help fulfill our mission to the community.

Thomas Fagan was hired in August 2017 as the Division Chief of Administration, replacing retired Division Chief Bill Stark. Division Chief Fagan began his fire service career in 1999 as a volunteer firefighter/EMT in Gardner, Kansas. He became a professional firefighter in 2000 with the Lee’s Summit Fire Department in Missouri; later becoming a Paramedic in 2002. While with the Lee’s Summit Fire Department, he served as the accreditation manager helping them achieve accredited status in 2016. Division Chief Fagan has over 17 years of professional fire service experience working within a fire-based EMS system as a firefighter, paramedic, driver/operator, and officer. Division Chief Fagan is a Peer Assessor for the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and a credentialed Fire Officer (FO) by the Center for Public Safety Excellence’s Commission on Professional Credentialing.

Kevin Joles was hired November 2017 as the Division Chief of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) replacing retired Division Chief Eve Tolefree. Division Chief Joles began his fire career in 1996 as a volunteer and full-time Fire Specialist/EMT at Prairie Township Fire Protection District, Missouri. He rose through the ranks from firefighter to Battalion Chief from 2000-2005 with the Southern Platte Fire Protection District, Parkville, Missouri. He also served in Liberty, Missouri as a firefighter/paramedic and for seven years in academia with Johnson County Community College Fire Service Program. Since 2007, he served in numerous roles, most recently the Captain of EMS Operations/Training with the Olathe Fire Department, Kansas. He has over 21 years of professional fire service experience working within fire-based EMS system as a firefighter, paramedic, driver/operator, and officer.

Debbie Mitra was hired August 2017 as part of the Administration Division to support the department in budgeting and financial processes. Debra has a background in Budgeting and Financial Reporting, as well as a B.S. in Accounting and an M.B.A. with a concentration in Finance.

Commission of Professional Credentialing Fire Officer Designation

Captain Chris Morrow successfully completed the process and was credentialed with the professional designation of “Fire Officer”. This designation is awarded by the Center for Public Safety Excellence’s Commission on Professional Credentialing.

The designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate their excellence in seven measured components, including experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competence. In addition, all applicants are required to identify a future professional development plan.

Congratulations Captain Morrow.

Retirements

Division Chief Eve Tolefree retired, September 15, 2017, after 31 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Douglas County and the City of Lawrence. Eve, was the Division Chief of EMS and the first female Division Chief in the history of the department.

Administrative Assistant Debi Thompson retired, March 23, 2017, after 24 years with the City of Lawrence. She began her career with the Finance department before transferring to the Fire Medical department in 1997.

In Memory

Captain Jason Smith (1973-2017) worked for the department for 20 years, before his untimely death in May, 2017.

Engineer Jay Stalcup (1959-2017) worked for the department for 23 years before his retirement.

Edward Sangster (1945-2017) worked for the department for 31 years before his retirement.
Efforts to protect firefighters:

- **Firefighter gear washing machines**: The department is in the process of installing “bunker gear extractors”. These specialized industrial washing machines will be located in all Lawrence fire stations and be able to wash personal protective apparel contaminated by toxins during firefighting activity. The machines are an effort to reduce firefighter exposure to toxins and reduce the risk of cancer.
- **Apparatus exhaust reduction**: The department will be installing new apparatus exhaust systems in all Lawrence fire stations. These new systems will be a more efficient and effective way to minimize fire truck emissions in the apparatus bays, which is harmful to firefighters and the building. This project will be funded through 2018 capital improvement funds.

Training tower replacement:

- **The firefighter training tower located at 19th and Haskell will be replaced in 2018**. The replacement will address the degradation of the current building and provide some upgrades. The new tower will retain the capability of burning class-a materials, but within a larger burn room. Additionally, the tower will have an integrated smoke machine and several anchor points for rope rescue training evolutions. This project will be funded with 2018 capital improvement funds.

Replacement of fire engine:

- **Engine 1, stationed at 746 Kentucky will be replaced with a new apparatus in 2018**. The department is utilizing an Engine Project Team consisting of firefighters, apparatus drivers, apparatus mechanics, officers, and fire chiefs to design an asset to meet the needs of the community now and in the future. The team will be performing an assessment to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) to design the new Engine 1. The replacement engine will be funded by 2018 capital improvement funds, to replace a 2006 fire apparatus.

Accreditation:

- **The department will once again be evaluated in 2018 for accredited status by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI)**. The department was first accredited in 2008, but will be evaluated again this spring in attempt to achieve accredited status for a third time. This process includes a site visit by assessors and a hearing before the board of commissioners in August. The department is one of 239 accredited fire departments in the world. The department is one of 57 fire departments in the world holding both CFAI accreditation and an Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of 1.