

Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department/LRFD

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

February 13, 2019

Submitted by Steve Rhodes, Fire Chief

I am hereby submitting an annual review of fire department operations as required by our LRFD Bylaws. Our Mission Statement is:

The Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department meets the needs of our community by providing well-trained firefighters for response to fire, rescue, medical and public service incidents. We protect lives, property, and the environment with compassion and a dedication to excellence. We meet or exceed the requirements of local, State and National statutes and standards related to the Fire Service. Our conduct will reflect our commitment to safety, honesty, personal responsibility, fairness, respectfulness and integrity. We recognize that the most effective way to protect lives and property is to prevent fires from occurring through fire prevention and education.

Staffing

As 2018 ends, we have 20 volunteers actively maintaining certifications and training. 5 volunteers are listed as inactive due to job commitments or current residence location. We continue to work with our FF trainees undergoing NFPA FF1 training as provided by our State certified instructors. All FFs, Driver Operators, and Chief Officers/Instructors have been recertified by the DPSST, and our Department was re-accredited through DPSST for the next 2 years. We currently have 1 paramedic, 2 Emergency Medical Technicians, and 10 Oregon Emergency Medical Responders as medical staff. All personnel, including Explorers, are trained in CPR/AED. Three of our FFs are also NFPA Apparatus Operators, and most of our heavy equipment drivers are commercial licensed. Three of our volunteers are currently enrolled at UCC pursuing FF, Nursing, and Paramedic careers.

Our Fire Explorer program continued in 2018, and 6 Explorers are registered and working towards the State FF 1 certification. This program is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, and is open to ages 14-18. The LRFD FF Association provided the funds to reregister our junior firefighters for 2019. 5 of the original Explorers have become State certified FF1s, and are moving toward First Responder related fields. We recognize former Asst. Chief Keith Williams, PM Lindsey Chitwood, FC Rich Chitwood, FC Mardi Radway as adult leaders, as well as all of our current members, for their continued assistance with the Explorer program. We continue to believe that this is the future of our Department.

Incidents

The LVFD responded to 164 calls for service during 2018. As a comparison,

2017 – 137 calls, 2016 – 161 calls, 2015 – 196 calls, 2014 – 160 calls.

We experienced a small increase in the number of incidents this year. Of the total, medical aids accounted for 82 incidents (50%), structure fires numbered 13 (8%), natural cover fires were 21 (13%), public assists were 10 (6%), motor vehicle accidents numbered 26(16%), alarm system malfunctions numbered 2 (0<1%),Haz/mat incidents totaled 8 (5%), and other miscellaneous calls totaled 1(<1%).

Of the total fires responded to, 12 were mutual or automatic aid into our surrounding jurisdictions. We received mutual or automatic aid on 5 incidents, evenly split between natural cover fires and structure fires. The LRFD experienced a fire loss of approximately \$722,575 in our District, primarily from a residential fire in the Del Castillo area. Total acreage burned within our area was 9.5 acres. Fire season extended into October, one of the longest in years.

There were no fire related human injuries or loss of life. Two MVAs resulted in single fatalities.

The LRFD participates in mutual aid and/or automatic aid agreements with all Fire departments in Douglas County. The current aid system benefits our District, and continues to provide paid fire engines and other equipment from DFPA, Douglas FPD#2, and Winston Fire for any fire in our District. While our wildland fire incidents were down in the LRFD response area this year, our firefighters and equipment were committed to several wildland fires in our surrounding jurisdictions, and provided backup in the County while other resources were committed statewide. Significant incidents included a structure fire on Del Castillo Lane, a grass fire on Dairy Loop Road, and two mutual aid multiple alarm fires at RFP.

Vehicles

The vehicle fleet of the LVFD/LRFD represents the majority of the financial assets of our Department. During 2018, our diesel equipment was again serviced, safety checked, and repaired as needed at Southern Oregon Diesel. This was the sixth year of our maintenance program, and I believe this commitment of both time and finances results in longer service life and safer driving operations.

Engines 1030, and 1031 passed the annual NFPA Standard 1911 pump tests in October. We are no longer required by ISO to do annual testing on Tender 1060. Each pumper was reported to be in safe and good operating condition. Tender 1060 will continue to be tested biannually due to less pump activity. Repairs were made to vehicles during 2018, including:

- New Batteries for E1030 and 1090, Emergency Light Repairs on 1030 and 1080. Radio for 1090.

- New Tires on one axle for WT 1061

- New exhaust system for Brush 1081 and minor engine work

- Battery Minder/shoreline system for WT 1060

Budgeted vehicle operations fund expenses for the rest of fiscal year 18/19 include annual maintenance for all heavy units. Near future (5 year) vehicle needs include planning for the replacement of Engine 1031, and a grant has been submitted. The new Brush 1080 has functioned as designed, and the old Brush 1081 is still mechanically sound, safe to operate, and cost effective as a reserve.

The donated utility vehicle from District 2 has been numbered , and has been integrated into our system as a safety and incident command vehicle. It was serviced, registered, and the title was transferred to the LRFD this year .

Future vehicle needs were identified in our 2013 strategic plan and will be addressed in the next few fiscal years. Engine 1031 and Tender 1061 will continue to be evaluated, with a replacement plan being brought to the Board. I intend to continue submitting for a FEMA Grant for the new 1031 each year, and will seek Board approval for any purchase if grant monies are awarded.

Equipment

The LVFD/LRFD was successful in securing an ODF/VFA matching grant for fiscal year 19/18. Funds for budgeted equipment purchase were \$20,028, with a matching return of \$9,977 from the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. We continue to offset future capital PPE costs, increase our firefighting capability, and provide for future training.

At this time, inventories are being updated again. Written tracking for all ODF grant equipment is due in 2019, and is being prepared. Future needs for the remainder of this fiscal year are minimal –mostly replacement of expendable equipment as it is used, worn out or damaged. We completed the annual testing of our SCBAs, quarterly testing of our breathing air supply, and annual maintenance of the air system compressor.

Future equipment needs to be addressed before 2022 include our SCBA units and bottles. The bottles underwent the final 5 year test of a 15 year service life. The SCBAs are now 2 generations old and approaching 15 years of service life. At this time, to replace 12 SCBA's and 24 bottles would cost approximately \$95,000. We are entering into a joint regional FEMA grant in FY 19/20 to seek funds for replacement with Dist. 2 and other surrounding jurisdictions.

The LRFD has also submitted for disaster equipment through a State bond funded grant program. Equipment identified includes a portable generator, a fuel trailer, a high clearance rescue vehicle, and mass care shelters/trailer. This equipment will better prepare our District to react after a disaster, becoming part of the solution instead of a burden on regional resources.

Fire Prevention/Public Education

The Lookingglass Rural Fire District falls under adopted Oregon State fire prevention codes. The current codes and standards are the 2014 edition of the Oregon Fire Code and the 2013 edition of the International Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Code. These codes outline requirements for new construction, as well as maintenance of existing occupancies and infrastructure. The State Fire Marshall in Medford, Mike Shaw, currently administers our District. At this time, only large assemblies, schools, and board and care facilities are being inspected due to personnel limitations on a schedule of once every 2 years. A contract was signed and approved by the Board in 2017, establishing a cooperative agreement with the State Fire Marshall and outlining their responsibilities.

DFPA enforces ORS 277 and any wildland codes in our area during fire season. They continue to permit and monitor control burns during and outside of fire season.

In October of 2018, the LRFD conducted fire prevention and education classes for Lookingglass School students. The program we presented included a physical agility for students, fire extinguisher and hose training, smoke detector education, a simulated motor vehicle accident/rescue, and a meet the firefighter/tour of equipment. We had 11 volunteers and explorers facilitate this program. We were also involved in the fire protection design and evaluation of the new school gymnasium, as well as the placement of a new hydrant and water system testing.

The LRFD participated in the annual Clean Up day in May of 2018. Vehicles paraded with the rest of the participants, and the Firefighter Association provided food and beverages as a fundraiser in the Grange. E1030 and 1080 participated in the Roseburg Veterans parade. Our firefighter association also made a donation and provided for a family in Lookingglass during Christmas.

A large variety of fire prevention material is on the LRFD website, and is easily accessible (thanks to our Webmaster). We still have smoke detectors available for installation from a small grant we received in 2014: we have installed several and more are still available for the public.

Future prevention efforts will involve programs relating to Wildland/Urban interface fire prevention and extinguishment. A Firewise program has formed in the Diamond Heights area, and we will continue to support it as it grows. We have identified home heating and cooking as common causes of fires in our area, and have worked to provide training and education to the public concerning these types of fires. A reflective address sign program was updated in 2018 to assist in locating incidents easier. Signs are provided without cost if needed.

Training

The Lookingglass Rural Fire District is required by State law (DPSST) to provide training in a variety of fire department related subjects. We are fortunate to now have two State certified Fire Instructors on our roster, and also provide required medical training through our paramedic trainee approved by our physician advisor.

New firefighters are required to complete a 90 hour course before FF1 certification, and existing firefighters are required to complete 60 hours of maintenance training each year. In addition, apparatus operators are required to complete 40 hours of supervised driver training after FF1 completion, and pass a performance test for each type of apparatus (engine,tender,wildland). Each additional certification requires 4 hours of maintenance training each year.

Our firefighters and Explorers are also certified in CPR/Automatic External Defibulator (4 hours), Haz Mat First Responder (4 hours), and Wildland Safety (2 hours) annually.

We offered 152 + hours of instruction this year. State and County EMS standards require 12 hours per year of continuing education for EMTs and First Responders. Training highlights have included live fire burn exercises with the UCC Burn Trailer, vehicle extrication, driver training (all personnel), haz mat training with Roseburg FD, wildland training with DFPA, large animal rescue, safety and operations classes with local utilities (Avista, Northwest Pipeline, Douglas Electric, Umpqua Basin Water), propane fire training with Tenmile hosted by us, SDAO risk management training, and numerous “wet” structural fire drills.

Our Firefighter 1 Academy will continue into 2019, as we gain new trainees and new Explorers. Future budgeted expenses include live fire training with propane as a finish to our FF1 program, incident command training, and certified wildland fire training for FF 1, FF 2, crew boss, and engine boss.

Facilities

Facility maintenance was an issue identified while preparing our 25 year planning document in 2012. During 2018 and the 18/19 fiscal year, maintenance and improvements completed include the repair of fire hydrant underground supply in our parking lot, more storage in the loft, more PPE storage lockers, and the continuing conversion to LED lighting. Remaining improvements and maintenance for this year include spot crack repair of the parking lot, more storage cabinets, an outdoor carport, overhead door maintenance, and continuing ADA improvements.

Extinguishers and safety equipment were maintained as required, building heating fuel was refilled, and any other expenses or repairs were minor in nature.

Capital Expense Outlook

A 25 year plan for capital expenses was completed and published on our website in 2012/2013. Those capital expenses continue to approach, and the plan should be revisited by the Board each year to evaluate the fiscal impacts coming. I will continue to search for grant opportunities to offset the major projected costs, and it may be cost effective to go outside for grant help and preparation as we did for the FEMA grant this year.

Financially, the District is sound and able to operate and maintain existing equipment and programs with our current budget. Any major new expenses or future capital projects will have to be funded by grant or other financial means.

As we begin 2019, the LRFD has upgraded our ISO rating and increased fire protection for our District. The Coos Bay Wagon Road/Flournoy Valley areas of our District are outside of a 5 mile radius recognized by the Insurance Service Office as a maximum travel distance for credit for our Class 4 rating. A satellite station with a redistribution of our equipment can address this issue while reducing response time, increasing fire protection District wide, and reducing insurance costs for many residents. The LRFD has a short term goal of creating a plan to identify funding sources and grant opportunities for the locating and purchase/leasing of a fire station site in the Flournoy Valley/Coos Bay Wagon area. This will include the type of building required, equipment to be stationed at the site, utility concerns, and a projected milestone/project timeline. I am committing to having a plan in place during the Fiscal Year 19/20, and initiating contact with the USDA for possible funding of a satellite station and equipment.

For further information about the operation of our community Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department and the Lookingglass Rural Fire District, please contact me, the Board of Directors, or the Fire Station at 541 679-5555.

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