

# Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department/LRFD

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

February 10, 2016

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 2016 starts, we have 17 active volunteers. Four volunteers joined during 2015, and 3 others were placed on leave due to lack of attendance to training and/or responding to incidents. We have four FF trainees undergoing NFPA FF1 training as provided by our State certified instructors. All FFs, Driver Operators, and Chief Officers/Instructors have just been recertified by the DPSST for 2016. We have 2 Emergency Medical Technicians, 9 Oregon First Responders, and all personnel are trained in CPR/AED. Four of our FFs are also NFPA Apparatus Operators, and our heavy equipment drivers are commercial licensed. Seven firefighters completed the Oregon Emergency Medical Responder course through UCC this year at minimal cost to the District.

A Fire Explorer program was started in 2015, and all Explorers are completing the State certified FF 1 academy here at the LRFD. This program is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, and is open to ages 14-18. The program was unfunded when started in 2015; but through a grant from the Vietnam Veterans Post 805, donations from Canyonville and Green Acres FDs, and the use of surplus and donated equipment we have a fully operational and outfitted group of enthusiastic junior firefighters. I want to thank Asst. Chief Keith Williams, Captain Tom Johnson, FF Lindsey Chitwood, and FF Rich Chitwood, as well as all of our current members, for their assistance with getting us to where we are today. We believe this is the future of our Department in the making.

### **Incidents**

The LVFD responded to 196 calls for service during 2015. As a comparison,

2014 - 160 calls,      2013 - 133 calls,      2012 - 102 calls,      2011 - 106 calls.

Of the total, medical aids accounted for 109 incidents (55.6%), structure fires numbered 30(15.3%), natural cover fires were 23 (11.7%), public assists were 9 (4.6%), motor vehicle accidents numbered 14 (7%), alarm system malfunctions numbered 1 (1%), Haz/mat incidents totaled 4 (2%), and other miscellaneous calls totaled 6(3%).

Of the total fires, 35 were mutual or automatic aid into our surrounding jurisdictions. We received mutual or automatic aid on 24 incidents, mostly for wildland fires occurring this past summer. The LRFD experienced a fire loss of approximately \$55,000 in our District, primarily from one fire involving expensive farm equipment.

There was no loss of life or reported fire related injuries.

The LRFD participates in mutual aid and/or automatic aid agreements with all Fire departments in Douglas County. This year, we provided response outside of our District on 35 incidents, while receiving aid in return 24 times. 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.

The total call volume increased by 36. Significant incidents included a rash of suspicious or confirmed arson fires during the summer, several fires at Roseburg Forest Products, two house fires in both Tenmile and Camas Valley, and a few hazardous materials responses involving natural gas pipelines and an acid spill.

### **Vehicles**

The vehicle fleet of the LVFD/LRFD represents the majority of the financial assets of our Department. During 2015, our diesel equipment was serviced, safety checked, and repaired as needed at Southern Oregon Diesel. This was the third year of our maintenance program, and I believe this commitment of both time and finances will result in longer service life and safer driving operations.

Engines 1030, 1031, and water tender 1061 again passed the annual NFPA Standard 1911 pump tests in October. This is a test required by ISO (Insurance Service Office) to maintain our insurance rating, as well as the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to maintain our accreditation as a Fire Department in Oregon. Each pumper was reported to be in safe and good operating condition. Some minor repairs were made to vehicles during 2015, including:

New front tires for E1030 and Water Tender 1060

New batteries for E1031

New clutch, flywheel, radiator, and water pump for Brush 1080

Budgeted vehicle operations fund expenses for fiscal year 15/16 include rear tires for 1030 and 1060, annual pump tests of the engines, and maintenance for all units. Near future (5 year) vehicle needs include a replacement of Brush 1080, and planning for the replacement of Engine 1031. Our Board has approved the purchase of a new 1080 using existing Equipment Replacement Fund monies. We were unsuccessful in obtaining a FEMA Grant or any Federal excess property as planned. The vehicle has been designed to satisfy our wildland fire extinguishment needs, while also providing a limited capacity to conduct initial attack operations at structure fires. It should be in service during the upcoming fire season.

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 be evaluated, with a replacement plan being brought to the Board.

### **Equipment**

The LVFD/LRFD was successful in securing an ODF/VFA matching grant for fiscal year 15/16. Funds for budgeted equipment purchase were \$14,034. Identified equipment purchases were reduced by ½ for this FY, and I will again submit for a VFA grant for FY 16/17. The previous grant and purchases made this year have allowed us to offset future capital PPE costs, finish outfitting the new 1080, complete our structural fire hose inventory, finish outfitting our firefighters with wildland protective gear, and purchase numerous small pieces of equipment related to the safe and efficient operation of this Department.

Water rescue gear was purchased this year to operate as support for Douglas County's water rescue team. We also increased our traffic and flagging safety through the purchase of lighted warning devices along with related training.

At this time, inventories have been updated and are in a maintenance mode. Written tracking for all ODF grant equipment is due in 2016, and is being prepared. Future needs for the remainder of this fiscal year are minimal -finishing annual maintenance and testing of our breathing air supply system, and replacement of expendable equipment as it is used, worn out or damaged;

### **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 office in Medford currently administers our District until a new Roseburg area Fire Marshall is in place. At this time, only large assemblies, schools, and board and care facilities are being inspected due to personnel limitations.

DFPA enforces ORS 277 and any wildland codes in our area. They continue to permit and monitor control burns during and outside of fire season. The LRFD, in cooperation with DFPA and the Sheriff's Office, conducted an investigation that still remains open concerning the 2015 wildland fires in our jurisdiction.

Illegal burning of garbage and other materials became an issue in 2015 as the Douglas County landfill started to charge for disposal. Educational material has been placed on our website, and a cooperative agreement between the LRFD, DEQ, State Police, and Douglas County Sheriff Office is in place for prevention, education, and enforcement.

Annual refresher training and education at Lookingglass School was completed again this year. We conducted extinguisher training and fire prevention training for the teachers, staff, and principal of the School in August. We also conducted our annual fire prevention training for all students at our Fire Station in October. Our Department has been a statewide leader in this type of training the past few years, and we still are. I am proud of our volunteer's efforts and commitment to the safety of our School.

The LRFD participated in the annual Clean Up day May 2, 2015. Vehicles paraded with the rest of the participants, and the Firefighter Association provided a food booth and Ice cream social near the Grange. Funds raised were applied to our annual Christmas benefit, with the delivery of food, clothing, and toys to a family identified by the Lookingglass School.

Our fire prevention material on the LRFD website is now easily accessible and extensive (thanks to our Webmaster). We secured a small grant from FireCorps (a national volunteer association) and First Alert for smoke detectors in 2014: we have installed several and more are still available for the public.

Future prevention efforts will involve the numerous programs relating to Wildland/Urban interface fire prevention and extinguishment. I hope to provide community wide education and coordinate avenues for funding as the fire season approaches.

### **Training**

The Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department is required by State law (DPSST) to provide training in a variety of fire

department related subjects. We are fortunate to have two State certified Fire Instructors on our roster, and also provide required medical training through a paramedic trainee from our own Department.

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

We offered 140 + 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 propane exercises, vehicle extrication, and numerous "wet" structural fire drills. This year UCC, with former Lookingglass Volunteer Firefighter Dale Pospisel, provided 60 hours of advanced level medical training to our Department. The result was seven additional State certified Emergency Medical Responders. Much of this training was offered outside of our normal drill nights, primarily on weekends.

Our Firefighter 1 Academy has stretched into 2016, as we gained four new trainees and our new Explorers. Future budgeted expenses include live fire training with propane as a finish to our FF1 training, a Swiftwater Awareness class, and Electric/Hybrid vehicle course, and several officer courses through the NVFC.

### **Facilities**

Facility maintenance was an issue identified while preparing our 25 year planning document in 2012. During 2015 and the 15/16 fiscal year, maintenance and improvements completed include the cleaning and painting of the exterior of the station, installation of plumbing for PPE washing, maintenance of the overhead doors, and maintenance and repair of the breathing air system. Budgeted expenditures in the planning and/or bid stage include drainage improvement for the front of the station, electrical reels for vehicle charging, and a new fire hydrant in our parking lot.

Extinguishers and safety equipment were maintained as required, building heating fuel was purchased, 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 in the near future to evaluate the fiscal impacts coming. There are options available for how to fund these expenses and what kind of equipment is needed. I will continue to search submit for grant opportunities to offset the major projected costs.

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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