

Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department/LRFD

2020 ANNUAL REP8RT

February 16, 2021

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 2020 ends, we have 18 volunteers actively maintaining certifications and training. 5 volunteers are listed as inactive due to job commitments, current residence location, or other administrative reasons. We continue to work with our FF trainees undergoing NFPA FF1 and FF2 training as provided by our State certified instructors. All FFs, Driver Operators, and Chief Officers/Instructors were recertified by the DPSST, and this is the first year of the two year State accreditation through DPSST. We currently have 1 paramedic, 4 Emergency Medical Technicians, and 7 Oregon Emergency Medical Responders as medical staff. All personnel, including Explorers, are trained in CPR/AED. Six of our FFs are also NFPA Apparatus Operators , and many of our heavy equipment drivers are commercial licensed. Three of our volunteers continue schooling at UCC pursuing FF, Nursing, and Paramedic careers.

Our Fire Explorer program continued in 2020, and 2 Explorers are registered and working towards the State FF 1 certification. Our program is no longer affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, and is now self-administered according to the National Volunteer Firefighter cadet program guidelines. Our SDAO insurance program has provided coverage for cadets at a reasonable cost. At this time, our past cadets are aging out (over 18) and have progressed to Volunteers. Some have become State certified FF1s, and are moving toward First Responder related fields. Chief Rhodes, Captain Chitwood, and Captain Fox are designated as adult leaders, and maintain certification in adult child protection training.

Incidents

The LVFD responded to 233 calls for service during 2020. As a comparison,

2019 – 172 calls, 2018 – 164 calls, 2017 – 137 calls, 2016 – 161 calls.

We experienced a large increase in the number of incidents this year. Of the total, medical aids accounted for 128 incidents (55%), structure fires numbered 21 (9%), natural cover fires were 39 (17%), public assists/safety were 21 (9%), motor vehicle accidents numbered 20(9%), Haz/mat incidents totaled 2 (<1%), and animal rescues totaled 2 (<1%).

Of the total fires responded to, 34 were mutual or automatic aid into our surrounding jurisdictions. We received mutual or automatic aid on 7 incidents, split between natural cover fires and structure fires.

The LRFD experienced a fire loss of \$80,000 related to structure fire in the Sugar Pine/Reston Rd area. There were no fire related deaths or injuries. We had a total of 11 acres lost due to natural cover fires.

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. Our wildland fire responses were up in the LRFD response area this year, and our firefighters and equipment were also committed to several wildland fires in our surrounding jurisdictions. We provided crews for one week manned 24 hours a day for the Archie Creek/Glide fire. Significant incidents included the previously mentioned structure fire in our area; structure fires in Camas Valley, District 2 (Melrose area), and Tenmile; trauma related vehicle accidents, and grass fires including a 3 acre fire in the Nandy/Zeigler area.

Douglas County suffered a wind event that caused a large conflagration east of Glide with over 100 homes lost or damaged. Lookingglass fire units were involved from the first afternoon, participating in several structural "saves" including a large trailer park. Three of our firefighters also were deployed to the larger fires around the State at the same time as members of medical teams.

The LRFD was also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic along with the rest of the world. It has resulted in new procedures and policies, more medical incidents in our area, remote and canceled Board and training meetings, an increased demand for PPE and sanitation supplies, and an adjustment to incident response. As 2020 ended, we are still operating under required OSHA and State Fire rules and guidelines to protect our firefighters and our community.

Vehicles

The vehicle fleet of the LVFD/LRFD represents the majority of the financial assets of our Department. During 2020, our diesel equipment was again serviced, safety checked, and repaired as needed at Southern Oregon Diesel or by Hughes Fire Equipment mobile mechanics.

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 2020, including:

1081- New Carburetor

1030- Pump/road air valve failure, on board air compressor, brake treadle valve

1090 – Emergency light work, new battery

1031 – New batteries

1091 – Radio installation, striping and lettering, emergency lights ongoing

1070 – Electrical relay outage, all emergency lights and siren

Avista Utilities donated a ¾ ton Dodge pickup to the LRFD this year, and it has been absorbed into our fleet. It was used extensively during the Glide fire, and transported personnel and equipment for the week. It has also been set up as a tow vehicle for the State generator. Near future (5 year) vehicle needs include planning for the replacement of Engine 1031 and salvage/replacement of Tender 1061. Our grant submissions have been unsuccessful so far. These future vehicle needs were identified in our 2013 strategic plan and will be addressed through possible grants, option levies, or bonds as directed by the Board. We 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. After our ISO evaluation, Tender 1061 (1979

Freightliner) became a reserve unit. It is no longer required to be part of our response to maintain our 4 rating. Our maintenance providers do not want to provide certification or maintenance to it due to liability issues. At this time, we will keep it as a reserve, do routine warm up and inspections, and plan to surplus it in the future when it becomes no longer viable. As part of a long range plan, we will continue to submit grant requests for a smaller, more efficient tender for our roll area to augment our response capabilities.

Equipment

The LRFD was successful in securing an ODF/VFA matching grant for fiscal year 20/21. Funds for budgeted equipment purchase were \$19,790, with a matching return of \$9,895 from the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. We continue to offset future capital PPE costs, increase our firefighting capability, and provide for future training. We were also successful in a joint submission grant with Fire District 2 for SCBA and spare bottle replacement, resulting in over \$90,000 of PPE. Our match was \$8,297. The new bottles and SCBAs will satisfy OSHA and NFPA standards for up to 30 years, and the award addressed one of our most pressing long term needs.

This year through grants with SDAO, we partially funded and finished the installation of the emergency power generator now in service (approx. \$20,000). The LRFD also completed the acquisition of a mobile 45KW generator from the State of Oregon for disaster preparedness (approx. \$30,000) at no cost to the District. This resource will become property of our District after a service life determined by the State, is ours to use, and available for deployment when requested. In conjunction with the Lookingglass Grange, we have completed a power system that will allow us to power up the building as a disaster shelter with Red Cross support.

Fire Prevention/Public Education

The Lookingglass Rural Fire District falls under adopted Oregon State fire prevention codes. The current codes and standards are the newer 2018 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 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.

This year, due to Covid 19 restrictions and the effects on school attendance, we were unable to complete our annual fire prevention program at Lookingglass School. It will be scheduled in 2021 as guidelines allow.

The LRFD participated in the annual Clean Up day in May of 2020. A small pandemic safe parade was conducted, but all fundraising and activities were canceled.

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 and available "extras" from the State received recently. In 2020, an event with the Red Cross involving community smoke detector installation was canceled due to Covid 19. We will attempt to reschedule in later 2021.

Fire prevention efforts will involve programs relating to Wildland/Urban interface fire prevention and extinguishment. A

Firewise program continues in the Diamond Heights area, and a new program is starting on Jade Drive. We will continue to support them as they grow. A reflective address sign program continues to assist in locating incidents easier, and is part of the local Firewise program. 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 have two State certified Fire Instructors on our roster, and also provide required medical training through our paramedic approved by our physician advisor. There are currently 3 firefighters continuing the process leading to Instructor 1 certification.

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. Covid-19 again affected our Department training, resulting in drill cancelations and station closure. We are part of the County wide online training program, and there were many offers of webinars and other on line classes. The firefighters made adjustments as needed, training in smaller groups on staggered days if required. After the difficulties, we were still able to present enough training to satisfy NFPA and DPSST standards. Training highlights have included live fire burn exercises at an acquired structure in Happy Valley sponsored by the LRFD, driver training (all personnel), haz mat training with Roseburg FD, a hazardous materials pipeline drill with local pipeline operators, wildland training with DFPA, safety and operations classes with local utilities (Avista, Northwest Pipeline, Douglas Electric, Umpqua Basin Water), SDAO provided OSHA training, quarterly tower drills at DCFD Melrose Station 3, a weekend auto extrication course for our ffs, and numerous “wet” structural fire drills.

Our Firefighter 1 and 2 Academy will continue into 2021, 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. The UCC burn trailer will make an appearance in the summer of 2021 after being repeatedly pushed back this year.

Board Members and the Fire Chief also attended on line training with various SDAO required courses on our online Safepersonnel training site.

Administration

During 2020, the LRFD was required to implement and adhere to new procedures concerning Covid-19, and was subject to several changes in reporting requirements. The Oregon Hazardous Materials Right to Know program information was disclosed as required. Year-end summaries were completed for DPSST, NFPA, and the State Fire Marshall as required. The LRFD continues as a member of the regional online training system, requiring a new reporting and records system. We continued our insurance programs through SDIS/SDAO, including liability/property, workers compensation, supplemental health, and the Employees Assistance Program. Due to reaching 5 years tenure with SDAO, the LRFD registered for rebate credit, signed a contract for limiting rate increases in the future, and received our first longevity rebate check.

Reimbursement requests have been made to the State of Oregon for our commitment to the Archie Creek fire, and should result in approximately \$11,000 being returned to the District.

Facilities

Facility maintenance and improvements were addressed in 2020, and future actions are under way. Continued conversion to LED lighting continues as costs allow. Materials were budgeted for and procured for the carport/shelter upgrade that will continue into 2021. The station emergency generator was installed, a natural gas meter and underground pipe was installed, and preparations are being made to switch building heating to natural gas with funding supported by SDAO. Paint supplies were purchased to update the station graphics and touch up exterior paint. There were minimal repairs required in 2020.

Capital Expense Outlook

A 25 year plan for capital expenses was completed and published on our website in 2012/2013. Those future capital expenses continue to exist, and the plan should be revisited by the Board to evaluate the fiscal impacts coming. We 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 in 2019.

While working on the upgrades to our current station in 2020 to address long term needs, as Fire Chief I was not able to make progress on possible expansion into the Flourney Valley/Reston area with a satellite station. I again will set a goal of initiating a plan of action to benefit our community members more than 5 miles from our current station.

Financially, the District is sound, and we are 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, such as bond measures or option levies as determined by the Board and voters.

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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