



Knoxville Fire Department

End of year report for 2019

Message from the Chief:

My first year as Knoxville Fire Department's Fire Chief has been challenging, rewarding and exciting all at the same time. The challenges faced were to be expected for any new Fire Chief in a new organization. These challenges are events that make us grow as individuals as well as a department.

One of the rewarding parts of the job is getting to work with the men and women of the Knoxville Fire Department. I get to watch them grow in this profession. I get to watch each of them adapt and overcome obstacles, and I get to watch as they pursue their aspirations and dreams of making this a better department.

I have also had the great opportunity to work with a great city staff whom has helped make my first year at Knoxville Fire Department smooth. We have had challenges, but with everyone's help we have worked to make Knoxville Fire Department better and the Knoxville Community safer.

Respectively,

Chief Cal Wyman

Community Risk Reduction:

In 2019, The Knoxville Fire Department has been involved in numerous community events. These events include reading to kids at schools, truck and station tours to schools and civic groups, Fire Prevention Week open house and chili feed, and Hosting the PTA safety night at the fire station. The Fire Department participated in several events at Hy-Vee in Knoxville as well as public safety night on the square. Thanks to a program provided to us by the State Fire Marshal's office the Knoxville Fire Department has been able to partner with the senior center and the VA to provide smoke detectors and/or battery changes to those in need, and we have been looking at ways to expand this program. The Knoxville Fire Department is committed to the safety and education to the community it serves. Public education is a vital part of our mission.

RUNS:

2019- Total runs 2157

2018- Total Runs 2103

2017- Total Runs 1943

Over the 3 year span the department has seen the call volume increase by 214 calls or 11%, this is a trend that has been seen nation wide in emergency services. In our department alone from 2018 to 2019 we have seen a 2.6% increase in the number of calls.

Statistics show if we were able to take more transfers out of the hospital this years call totals would have been close to 2350, but due to staffing issues we were unable to fill many of the transfers.

Training:

The Knoxville Fire Department was also able to purchase an assortment of new training equipment in 2019 to ensure our members are receiving the best training possible. The Department holds numerous EMS CEH classes, fire scenarios, and started a new on-line training platform called Fire Rescue 1 Academy. The department uses both in-house instructors and outside instructors to train our members. We currently have 10 members going through the Hazardous Materials Technician class offered by Marion County EMA.

We have also been working to complete our Training Center. Once completed we will be able to conduct live fire training, search and rescue training, high angle rope rescue training, fire

streams, ventilation, and skills training for EMS on victim removal. This will also be available to the PD for training on clearing rooms and other practical trainings. The Department did receive a grant from TC Energy for part of this project, as well as the grant other departments in the county have contributed to the project.

During 2019, Knoxville Fire Department had a total of 432 hours of EMS training and 585 hours of Fire Training. We have also had several members attend training at other locations and to hear nationally known speakers in the fire and EMS services.

Fire Prevention Division:

Knoxville Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division continues to keep code enforcement as a high priority. The Fire Prevention Division is to ensure all commercial facilities in Knoxville are safe for everyone. In addition, the Fire Prevention Division will ensure that existing structures are maintained in accordance with the fire code. The Fire Prevention Division also conducts new commercial development plan review to see that all new buildings are built in accordance to the fire code. The Fire Prevention Division also conducts liquor license inspections for any establishment that serves alcohol.

Equipment:

Engine 311 is a 1990 Pirece Lance that has steadily been increasing in cost of ownership. Due to the increased cost last budget year council approved the purchase of a new engine. The engine is being built at Alexis Fire Apparatus in Alexis Ill. This engine is scheduled to arrive April or May of 2020.

Engine 312 is a 1992 Pirece Saber. This engine has been the trusted work horse for the city since being purchased. It still requires some routine maintenance, but will make a good reserve engine for the city after the new engine arrives.

Ladder 314 is a 1998 Smeal 75 ft Aerial. It was purchased this year from the Clinton, Iowa Fire Department. With the addition of the ladder truck we are working towards lowering the City's ISO rating. The ladder will also allow the fire department to protect the city better, and make the firefighters job safer. The ladder truck also provides the fire department to expand its capabilities.

Rescue 317 is a 2008 Pirece medium duty rescue. This unit carries all the technical rescue equipment, and TNT tools (Jaws of Life), ice rescue equipment, confine space and trench rescue equipment. This unit has very low miles and with routine maintenance will continue to serve the city well.

Ambulance 936 is a 2012 Chevy type III ambulance. This ambulance is also starting to show its age, and as call increase the cost to maintain this ambulance continues to rise, This ambulance is

scheduled to be replaced in 2020. This ambulance has been rotated to the third out ambulance in attempt to keep repair cost down.

Ambulance 937 is a 2015 Ford type I ambulance. This ambulance is in very good shape, and with continued routine maintenance will continue to be a good ambulance for the department.

Ambulance 938 is a 2018 Ford type I ambulance. As this ambulance is only a couple years old, it will continue to be our primary ambulance for the city.

Boat 31 is a 1972 Boston Whaler rescue boat. It is currently stored in the City Garage off site from the fire department. The boat is used several times every year and continues to be an asset for our department.

Ranger 31 is a 2019 Polaris Ranger, that the department was able to purchase through a grant from the State Fire Marshal's office. It has a 55 gal tank and pump capable for fighting vegetation and fires off the main roads. It also has EMS capabilities to transport a victim from the scene of an accident to the ambulance in the instance an ambulance isn't able to get to them. For example all the trails in the state parks.