



Chief's Corner

March Musings

Welcome to the March edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope you are doing well and surviving this wicked weather we have been experiencing. I just read where this February was the snowiest on record and the second coldest. But, take heart, spring is only a couple of weeks away and soon the days will be warmer and the flowers will be blooming.

In this month's corner, I want to bring everyone up-to-date on several items of interest and also discuss where the City is in this year's budget process. Let's get started, shall we.

The FY16 budget is well on its way to presentation and it looks pretty good so far. I think this year will be another "no drama" budget and the adaptation process will go well with City Council and there won't be any real surprises. There is no talk about major cuts to service and losing positions. This year the revenue projections are on target and the City's conservative approach over the last several years has certainly paid off and we are in a good place.

The City Manager will be presenting the budget to City Council on March 10th, at a work session, and he will also conduct a webcast that morning to offer employees a first glimpse and answer questions. There are several items of special interest to Fire Department employees contained within this proposed budget.

This budget currently proposes two additional firefighter/EMT positions to allow the department to continue the staffing of the second "power shift" medic unit. Six of the current SAFER positions will be transitioning to full-time over the next several months, but we are actually reducing (by six) our number of employees. The addition of these proposed firefighter/EMTs will make it possible to retain the second power shift. The other item currently in the proposed budget is funding for a command post in Fleet. If this item is approved, the department will be able to plan, spec, and purchase a command post that will meet our needs for the foreseeable future. We will be able to return the current command post/rehab unit to a single function vehicle and increase our rehab efforts and capabilities. The command post would be a great addition to the department's rolling equipment and would really be valuable during any large incident and also during extended incidents or special events. We would share this vehicle with other City departments when there is a need, but the Fire Department would house and maintain it. (If this vehicle is approved, I will be looking for individuals interested in designing and developing specs for bid. Let me know if you would like to be involved.)

City Council will begin deliberations as soon as the budget is presented by the City Manager and they will make the final decisions. Several work sessions are scheduled, but I don't think there will be a lot of "drama" with the adoption of this budget. Council will adopt the budget in May so stay tuned.

The second item I wanted to discuss this month is the department's return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) numbers and what appears to be responsible for our success. Recently, Battalion Chief Childress "ran the numbers" for the department's return of spontaneous circulation events and we currently stand at 52 percent. This means that out of every 100 people we respond to who suffer a cardiac arrest, 52 of them have return of a palpable pulse and are transported to the emergency department. This ROSC is twice the national average and as good as the best EMS systems in the country. This success is due to a lot of hard work by Fire Department employees and some of the changes we made in our approach to CPRs over the last several years. The department's adoption of "pit crew" cardio pulmonary resuscitation and early, continued use of the Lucas Device are the major factors driving this success. We have also made some changes in the drug therapy during CPRs and these have also made a positive difference. These changes came about as a result of evidence-based medicine studies and the results are validating the changes. Thanks to everyone for their efforts and helping to make this level of care a reality for the citizens we serve.

I also wanted to take the time to say "job well done" to the employees involved in our recent calls for service. Over the last month or two, the department has had a number of working fires and difficult emergency medical service calls. In each instance, you have done yourself and the department proud. It's this type of work that helps us deliver the great service our citizens have come to expect and deserve.

Until next time, keep up the great work and be safe out there. However, never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift."

Chief

IN THIS ISSUE

- Chief's Corner
- Years of Service
- Certifications
- 60 Second Safety
- David Griffin Seminar
- College Degree Requirements
- Training Division Welcomes New Fire Training Officer
- Officer Development Program
- Heating Oil Tanks
- Local to Host St. Patrick's Day Event
- Upcoming Event Reminders
- Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Award



LFD Years of Service

Congratulations to the following department members who celebrate service anniversaries with the Fire Department in March.

18 Years

Colao Lombre
Lewis Thomas
Jimmy Mitchell

5 Years

Chad Reeves

3 Years

Michelle Kuhn
Ricky Davis
Patrick Madigan

2 Years

Colt Freeman
Courtney Hall
William Heywood
Ruth Anne Phillips
Dana Stillman
Andrew White

Certifications

Paramedic

Roger Rozell

60 Second Safety

By: Captain Tom McCrickard

Vehicle Fire Approach

Most of you have probably seen the dramatic video of the explosion in New Jersey due to a gas leak. If not, visit the link below to view it, as well as the other videos associated with the article.

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com>

Please remember to always take these type of calls seriously. Remember, complacency kills and there are no routine calls.

Register Now!

Space Is Limited!

The Lynchburg Fire Department and the Lynchburg Fire Fighters Association (Local 1146) presents:

Dr. David Griffin
On a Mission, L.L.C.

In Honor of the Charleston 9:
A Study of Change Following Tragedy
May 29, 2015

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at
The Miller Center (301 Grove Street)

To register, visit www.lynchburgva.gov/dr-david-griffin-training-event.

Note, the program is limited to 180 participants so register early!



College Degree Requirements

By: Battalion Chief Jason Campbell

Are the Department's College Degree Requirements Going Away?

Rumor has it that the department's college degree requirements are going away. This is not true!

Interim Deputy Chief Greg Wormser and I attended the February business meeting of the Lynchburg Fire Fighters Association and were provided with the opportunity to talk about projects that we are both working on. I provided an update on two efforts of the training division that had to go with college degree requirements, so I will take this opportunity to clear up any misconceptions.

As I wrote in the January Flashpoint, the training division is working on a career development roadmap, of sorts, that will provide members of the organization with a picture of educational opportunities and training that will provide for personal and professional development. Included in that roadmap will be specific college courses that will be recommended for members of the organization leading up to promotional opportunities and following promotion. The design will also allow for an individual to follow the charted course and arrive at promotional opportunities with the appropriate number of college credits for an associates degree and a bachelors degree. Even if a member already has a college degree, they will be encouraged to participate in courses that focus on our career and organizational-specific needs.

To improve access to an affordable and career-specific associate degree, the department is working with Central Virginia Community College to resurrect the Fire Science degree program. This will be very similar to the agreement that the organization has in place with CVCC with the EMS degree program. The program will likely include a combination of classroom and web-based courses and will allow for college credits for certifications that members have already earned from VDFP, Office of EMS, VDEM and NFA. Tuition assistance opportunities are also being explored and will be an important part of the relationship.

During the discussion at the LFFA meeting, Interim Deputy Chief Wormser and I did discuss the possibility that in the future there may be instances where the organization is met with a shortage of qualified or abled members at various ranks. This may result in the need for the department to make "acting" officers while individuals complete the additional educational and/or training requirements. I think we can all agree that we must have individuals who meet the educational and training requirements AND have the ability to meet the needs of the organization and the ability to fulfill the requirements of a given position.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 455-6363.

Training Division Welcomes Fire Training Officer

The Training Division would like to welcome Captain Ronnie Coleman back to the position of Fire Training Officer. He will assume his duties as Fire Training Captain on March 11, 2015.

He will be responsible for developing programs/classes that will enhance the training levels of all department members and consequently our level of service delivery.

Thanks is extended to Captain Allen Carwile for serving as the Fire Training Officer. He will transition back to field captain at Station 3 (B Shift).

REMINDER — Officer Development Seminar

The department is hosting a three-day Officer Development Seminar on March 30, March 31 and April 1 for all Captains and Chief Officers.

The program will be held at Wiley|Wilson on Nationwide Drive. The program will feature professional speaker and executive coach Art Jackson of Eagles Nest Performance Management and Deputy Chief John Sullivan of the Worcester (MA) Fire Department. A full day will also be dedicated to facilitated mini-sessions led by Fire Department leaders intended to promote personal and organizational success. To register, visit www.lynchburgva.gov



Captain Ronnie Coleman

Heating Oil Tanks

By: Matt O'Daniel

Did you know that City Code Section 19-47.2 allows the Fire Marshal's Office to collect fees for things like blasting permits, tent permits, and permits for rendering a flammable/combustible liquid tank safe?

In recent years, the number of permits issued for tank removals has increased as many tanks which were installed in the 1960s have surpassed their life expectancy of 25-30 years (depending on soil conditions). In addition, the Virginia Petroleum Storage Tank Fund provides reimbursement to homeowners for removal of leaking oil tanks.

Typically, heating oil tanks are 250, 500, or 1,000 gallons. In the Lynchburg area, the 500 gallon tank is the most common. According to local statistics, 75 percent of the 500 gallon tanks tested in Central Virginia have been determined to have an active leak. The number one method for remediation is to simply empty the tank of any remaining heating oil, dig the tank out of the ground, clean the tank, and remove all contaminated soil from around the tank. The contaminated soil is then taken to either Richmond or North Carolina to be "cleaned." The tank itself is then recycled here locally. In some situations this method cannot be utilized due to lack of accessibility to the site. In these cases, a fill-in-place method is used.

To fill-in-place, the tank is cleaned as best as possible and an inert material is pumped into the tank. There have only been three instances in Lynchburg where this method of remediation was used. In these cases, the tanks were filled using a special mixture polyurethane foam. This foam is very similar to foam insulation sprayed into many houses. The main difference is this foam will harden up like concrete.

In 2013, the Fire Marshal's Office issued 35 tank removal permits, none of which were filled in place. In 2014, they issued 42 tank removal permits, of which three were filled in place.



Removal of a rusted oil tank



The dangers of oil from a leaking tank is shown above as the soil has become so saturated that it can light on fire.

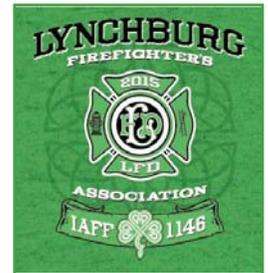
Local to Host St. Patrick's Day Event

The Lynchburg Fire Fighters Association (Local 1146) will host its annual St. Patty's Day event on March 17, 2015 at O'Charley's Restaurant on Wards Road. The event will be held from from 6:00-9:00 p.m.. Admission prices are:



\$20 per person (includes a short sleeve t-shirt, two beverage tickets, and appetizers) OR
\$25 per person (includes a long sleeve t-shirt, two beverage tickets, and appetizers).

If you are unable to attend the event, but would like to purchase a t-shirt, they are available for \$10 each (short sleeve) and \$15 each (long sleeve) for sizes S-XL. For size 2XL (in short sleeve or long sleeve), add an additional \$3. (T-shirt design pictured right.)



UPCOMING EVENT REMINDERS

Daylight Saving Time

Change Your Clock/Change Your Battery!

Daylight Saving Time begins March 8th!

Don't forget to "spring forward" and set your clocks ahead one hour. This is also a great time to change the batteries in smoke detectors. Additionally, smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years.

Retiree Breakfast

Date: March 9, 2015

Place: Cracker Barrel Restaurant

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Many Lynchburg Fire Department retirees gather on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Cracker Barrel restaurant to have breakfast and a time of fellowship. They would like to invite all retirees or current fire personnel who would like to attend to join them. If you have any questions, contact Sheffie Brizendine at 540-296-0734.

City Manager Budget Webcast

The City Manager will conduct his annual budget webcast for employees on March 10, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. The City Manager will make a presentation and will then open the floor for questions. You have several viewing options:

- Attend the webcast in person at City Council Chambers,
 - View the webcast from your desktop computer; or
 - View the webcast from the usual specified locations.
- Employees may submit questions real time to the City Manager at any of these locations.

Communications Meeting

Date: April 2, 2015

Place: Fire Administration Training Room

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Guns 'N Hoses Golf Tournament

Date: June 5, 2015

Place: Winton Golf Course (Route 151)

Details coming soon! Contact Toby Bouyea at 546-5884.

Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Group Award

By: Captain Abbey Johnston

Every day, public safety officers risk their lives to protect America's citizens and communities. To honor that commitment, Congress passed The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001, which created the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer. The medal is awarded annually by the President to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life.

On February 11, 2015, Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Attorney General Eric Holder presented the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to 22 recipients. Among those recipients were Sergeants John MacLellan and Jeffrey Pugliese, Officers Joseph Reynolds, Timothy Menton, and Miguel Colon Jr. (Watertown Police Department, Massachusetts) and Firefighters James Caruso and Patrick Menton (Watertown Fire Department, Massachusetts). Below is an account of the incident for which they were awarded.

On the evening of April 18, 2013, officers of the Watertown Police Department were advised that an M.I.T. officer had been shot and killed in the neighboring city of Cambridge. Shortly after roll call in the early morning hours of April 19th, a B.O.L.O. radio transmission was issued regarding an armed carjacking.

Minutes later, a second transmission was given that the carjacked Mercedes was being traced via the vehicle's location services to a location in Watertown. Officer Joe Reynolds radioed that he spotted the stolen Mercedes, along with a Honda. At this time the officers believed the incident involved a "routine" carjacking, they were unaware that they were about to encounter suspects who were responsible for killing three people and injuring more than 260 people just days earlier during the Boston Marathon.

Sergeant MacLellan responded to the area to assist Officer Reynolds in conducting a stop of the stolen vehicle. As he arrived, he observed the Mercedes making a left hand turn with Officer Reynolds following behind. Before Officer Reynolds could activate his emergency lights, the Mercedes came to a sudden stop and a suspect exited the vehicle and immediately advanced towards Officer Reynolds. The suspect began firing rounds at Officer Reynolds who then placed his vehicle in reverse attempting to get out of the line of fire.

As Sergeant MacLellan rounded the corner, a bullet pierced his windshield, showering glass in his face and nearly striking him in the left ear. The suspect fired additional rounds into Sergeant MacLellan's vehicle as he attempted to retrieve his patrol rifle. Due to the barrage of gunfire, Sergeant MacLellan was not able to retrieve his patrol rifle. He placed his cruiser into drive and quickly exited it with the intention that the cruiser would travel toward the suspects and draw attention away from Officer Reynolds and himself.

As the cruiser began to slowly crawl forward, both Sergeant MacLellan and Officer Reynolds were able to use it as cover as they advanced on the suspects. Within seconds an improvised explosive device was tossed by one of the suspects at the officers. The bomb bounced and rolled along the pavement landing a short distance away from the officers. The officers were pinned down by gunfire and were unable to retreat. They were able to shield themselves with the rolling cruiser and were unharmed by the bomb's blast. However, the concussion was so intense that the windows of Sergeant MacLellan's vehicle were blown out.

Officer Reynolds was able to move to cover in a residential yard as Sergeant MacLellan took cover behind a nearby tree, which he reasoned would allow him to continue to engage the suspects. Both suspects continued to fire on the officers and tossed several improvised explosive devices, one of which landed only a few feet away from Sergeant MacLellan. Sergeant MacLellan was exposed to the explosive concussion and debris of some of the detonating devices. However, he remained unharmed and continued to engage both suspects.

As Officers Colon and Menton separately arrived on the scene they also took cover as they immediately came under gunfire and the threat of the explosive devices that were being thrown by the suspects. Officer Colon positioned his cruiser to provide additional cover as he attempted to illuminate the suspects with his spot light. As the violent exchange continued, one of the suspects began running down the street charging the officers.

Sergeant MacLellan, who was out of ammunition by this point, began shouting at the man to surrender. Suddenly Sergeant Pugliese emerged from out of a residential driveway and tackled the suspect to the ground. Sergeant MacLellan assumed that the man had an additional explosive in his possession, and shouted to Sergeant Pugliese to back away. Sergeant Pugliese continued his attempt to handcuff the suspect who continued to resist. Despite the risks, Sergeant MacLellan and Officer Reynolds left their positions of cover and assisted Sergeant Pugliese in securing the suspect.

As the officers struggled with the first suspect, the second suspect entered the stolen Mercedes and accelerated towards them. At the last moment Sergeants MacLellan and Pugliese, and Officer Reynolds were able to jump clear of the speeding vehicle as this second suspect ran over the first suspect. The second suspect continued to flee in the vehicle dragging the body of the first suspect for a distance.

After the second suspect fled in the stolen Mercedes, Officer Menton heard a Transit Police Officer who had been wounded in the exchange call for assistance. This officer was bleeding profusely from his upper leg/groin area. Due to the location of the wound, Officer Menton was unsuccessful in applying a tourniquet and was forced to control the bleeding with direct pressure with one hand. With his other hand, he radioed for medical assistance.

Firefighters James Caruso and Patrick Menton responded to the scene of the ongoing gun battle. They were also aware at the time that the suspects were also deploying explosive devices, some of which had exploded and others that remain unexploded on the street, and were specifically responding to the request to assist the wounded MBTA Officer.

After arriving, Firefighters Caruso and Menton determined that the wounded officer was suffering from massive blood loss and lay unconscious with no pulse or respiration. As they worked to control his bleeding, the wounded officer was moved to the ambulance. Firefighters Caruso and Menton continued managing the officer's injuries as Office Menton took the responsibility of driving the ambulance to the hospital.

The second suspect was located and arrested 24 hours later, just a few blocks away from the original firefight. The described firefight continued for nearly eight minutes as other officers arrived on the scene to assist. During the firefight a total of five bombs were deployed and countless rounds were fired by the suspects. Each of these officers and firefighters were exposed to significant and continuing risks as they worked together to resolve this incident and save the life of the wounded MBTA officer.