



CHIEF'S CORNER

The Budget Rolls On

Greetings everyone and welcome to the April edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope you have been enjoying the snow and the winter weather. It seems like Spring is having a hard time getting here and I for one am ready for the warmer temps and sunny days. As I am writing this it's the end of March and the snow is coming down heavily. The white stuff is piling up and I know I will have to shovel the sidewalk before dark. I guess I am just wondering when that global warming is going to kick in, but enough about the weather. As you can tell from the title of this month's Corner, I want to discuss the FY14 budget one more time before the City Manager and Council "put it to bed." By the time the May FlashPoint comes out, the budget should be pretty much done and we will talk about something else. So, unless there are major changes, this will conclude the budget talk for this year.

As previously discussed, the proposed FY14 budget is looking much better than the last several. The revenues are holding steady and, in some cases, slightly improved. The tough decisions that have been made over the last several years are paying off and as the City Manager is fond of saying, "we are in a much better place than we have been." So, the question is, what does this mean for the City and the Fire Department? The answer to this question will contain two parts. The first part is, there will be no major reductions in service delivery for the City or the Fire Department. The second part involves a proposed pay increase for City employees (including Public Safety). I will try to explain each part of this answer below.

As part of the budget process, each department was required to submit their budget and include a scenario with a five percent reduction. This information was used to set priorities and decide what

services were going to be funded. Some of the items included in the reductions were in fact eliminated and the monies saved helped get us to this place with the budget. Some vacant positions were taken, but no current employees lost their job. The areas that were funded will provide the citizens with the services they need and desire and no fundamental services were reduced. This means that departments will have the resources necessary to provide quality services for all of the city and the citizens.

The second part of this "budget question" is the Manager's proposed pay increase for city employees. As everyone is aware, there has not been a pay increase for most city employees for a number of years. Because of the strategies that have been employed over the recession and the tough decisions that have been made, the City Manager is in the position to recommend a general wage increase for all employees. The manager has proposed a 2.5% general increase for all employees, except for sworn public safety. These public safety employees received an increase last year and the manager has proposed a 1% increase for them this year. (This will help us to continue our desire to lead the market in this region.) The Manager has also suggested to Council that they look for the additional resources to increase the raise to 3% for non-sworn employees and 1.5% for sworn public safety. (This would mean that sworn public safety employees would have gotten a 4% raise for the year.) This would really help the workforce and bring some much needed "relief" from the increase in taxes we all saw in January.

Along with the proposed increase, the pay ranges would be moved at least 1% so the city could continue with its desire to lead the regional market and employees at the top of the range would see the raise in their regular salary and not as a lump sum. This means it would be reported to VRS as part of your salary and figured into retirement calculations.

Also, as part of the general fund FY14 budget, additional money for fleet purchases have been proposed and the Fire Department has some vehicles scheduled for replacement. If all goes as planned, we will be able to proceed with the purchase of a new ladder truck and two new pumpers once the proposed budget is adopted. These purchases should really help with some of the recent maintenance issues and allow us to improve our reserve fleet. We have also applied (from RSAF) for the replacement of a medic unit but will not know about this money until the first part of July. All things considered, the fleet stuff is looking really good.

Well that about wraps up the budget discussions for this year (I hope) and things are going much better than we thought they would last Fall. This budget has been dubbed "the no drama" budget and I hope it continues to live up to its name. With a little luck and a lot of hard work, it seems we are in a very good place. Thanks to all of you for your hard work in helping to get us to this point.

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

Chief

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APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following members who celebrate anniversaries with the department in April:

20 Years

Troy Burns

17 Years

Harvey "Blue" Morgan
Jody Mayberry

16 Years

Oscar Harmon

12 Years

Tammy Sage

11 Years

David Cox
Scott Hargis
Tim Jackson
Van Johnson
Stuart Massie
Steve Ripley
Scott Stanley
Nick Thomas

10 Years

Michelle Drake

6 Years

Ellen Davidson-Martin

CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Joey and Felicia Kilgore on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Rose. She was born March 10th and weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz.
- Congratulations to Charlie and Ashley Shealy on the birth of their daughter, Kendall Mary. She was born March 13th and weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz.

CERTIFICATIONS

Fire Instructor II

Will Copes
Eric Maschal
Jamie Maxwell
Jimmy Mitchell

PUBLIC EDUCATOR II COURSE OFFERED

The Lynchburg Fire Department is hosting a Public Educator II course May 14-16, 2013 (The prerequisite for this class is Public Educator I). The class will be held at Fire Administration.

To register, visit www.vafire.com. The deadline to register is May 4th.

MEET THE RECRUITS – RECRUIT ACADEMY #12

The Lynchburg Fire Department's 12th Recruit Academy began on March 4, 2013. With 24 individuals participating, this is the largest academy the department has ever had! So large in fact, it required the group to be broken into two battalions of employees!

Under the direction of Captain Allen Carwile and Master Firefighter Matt Millner, the Recruit Academy consists of a comprehensive fire, emergency medical, and physical fitness training program. Also assisting with the Academy are Captain John Ripley, Master Firefighter Matt Smith, Firefighter David Cox and various department and guest instructors.

During the Academy, recruits will learn the overall expectations of a Lynchburg Firefighter in areas such as station and vehicle maintenance and knowledge of Fire Department and City of Lynchburg policies, procedures, and standard operating guidelines.

In keeping with tradition, the recruit class was given a project/icon to refurbish during the course of the Academy. This year the class icon is an Akron Grant Multiversal Monitor Nozzle that was original equipment assigned to the 1941 Seagrave ladder truck. Special thanks to Rod Smith for helping locate this item. The 17-week Academy will conclude with the graduation ceremony on June 27, 2013 at the City's I.T. Building.



Robert Barkley



John Bowling



Travis Calloway



Chris Coleman



Jeff DeGoede



Colby Felton



Colt Freeman



Joshua Granger



Courtney Hall



Tyler Harrison



William Heywood



Chad Hogan



Roy Martin



Marquis Owens



Ruth Anne Phillips



Rudy Pierre



Eric Smith



Donald Smith



Dana Stillman



Brian Stinnette



John Thompson



Robert Tucker



Adam Wagner



Andrew White

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE...

By: Master Firefighter Abbey Johnston

In the March edition of this newsletter, I shared stories behind several of the recipients of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor. This month I would like to share a few more of those stories of courage and bravery and "honor those who serve..."

As I mentioned last month, during the week of February 19, 2013, I had the honor of representing the Lynchburg Fire Department, Local 1146, and the Medal of Valor Review Board at the Medal of Valor Award ceremony at the White House. I can't begin to explain how emotional the nomination review process was, as we receive between 150-200 nominations annually for this award. Most of the stories are intense, heart wrenching, and make me so proud to be a member of the public safety community. Meeting the Medal recipients and the families of those awarded posthumously was undoubtedly the highest honor I've ever been afforded.

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor is awarded by the President to public safety officers cited by the Attorney General and recommended by the Medal of Valor Review Board. The board, which comprises representatives of the public safety community and the general public, reviews the nominations and recommends individuals for recognition. Public safety officers must have exhibited exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness, presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her own personal safety, in an attempt to save or protect human life, where the act is deemed to be above and beyond the call of duty. Below are pictures and bios on a few more of the recipients who were recognized at the ceremony.



Officer Julie Olson
Maplewood Police Department, Minnesota

On September 7, 2009, Officer Julie Olson was called to assist North St. Paul Officer Richard Crittenden. A woman had called the police concerned that her estranged husband had returned to her apartment and might be inside. North St. Paul's police department had dealt with the suspect several times in the past, including as recently as the previous night when the suspect fled before squads arrived. The woman had an Order of Protection against the suspect.

Officer Olson and Officer Crittenden arrived on the scene at the same time. They initially searched a vacant apartment, knowing the suspect had hidden there in the past. They were then let into the complainant's apartment, which was next door to the vacant apartment. As they entered the darkened apartment, Officer Crittenden observed a flaming cloth advancing in his and the residents' direction. He pushed the residents out of harm's way and was struck in the face and side of the head with an accelerant-soaked t-shirt. The suspect grabbed Officer Crittenden in a "bear hug."

After a brief struggle, the suspect then grabbed Officer Olson in an apparent effort to disarm her. He then disengaged with Officer Olson and re-engaged with Officer Crittenden. The suspect grabbed Officer Crittenden's sidearm from his holster and fired one round at point-blank range at Officer Crittenden's head, killing him.

The suspect then turned the gun on Officer Olson. When Officer Olson heard one round sail past her ear, she responded as she had been trained, side stepping and returning fire. Another round struck Officer Olson's spare magazine on her duty belt, shattering it and causing pieces of the round to enter her strong-side arm. Now injured, Officer Olson returned fire on the suspect, striking him five times. While under the extreme pressure of the moment, she had the wherewithal to do a combat reload as she backed out of the apartment, only to find she had attempted to reload with the shattered magazine. She subsequently dropped the shattered magazine and reloaded with another magazine, as Officer Lon Bakke entered the apartment building. Officer Olson and Officer Bakke then re-entered the apartment to disarm and handcuff the suspect, who subsequently died at the scene.



Officer Rafael Rivera



Officer Sean Haller

Officer Rafael Rivera and Officer Sean Haller
California Highway Patrol, California

On February 25, 2010, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office attempted to serve a search warrant in the town of Minkler. As deputies attempted to breach the main door of the residence, they came under intense gunfire from within the building, which fatally wounded one of the deputies. The deputies immediately broadcast "shots fired" over the radio.

Officer Haller monitored the "shots fired" call over the radio and responded to the scene. Upon arriving at the scene, he heard gun shots. Officer Haller stopped his patrol vehicle and engaged the suspect in gunfire. Fellow California Highway Patrol Officer Rivera arrived and took cover behind Officer Haller's patrol vehicle. Both officers were engaged in gunfire with the suspect for an undetermined amount of time until someone on scene gave a "cease-fire" command. This was followed by approximately 30 minutes with no shooting.

Officer Rivera was able to move the downed officer to a location of cover. Although Officer Bejar did not survive his injuries, Officers Rivera and Haller exhibited great personal courage, while putting themselves in danger in their efforts to save Officer Bejar's life. The assailant in this incident subsequently committed suicide by shooting himself prior to the officers' entry into the residence.

To read more about other recipients of the 2013 Medal of Valor, visit www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/02/20/background-medal-valor-ceremony.

LYNCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT MUSEUM

By: Captain Jonathan Wright

Did you know that Lynchburg Fire Department (LFD) is turning 130 years old this month?



Since April 15, 1883, the Lynchburg Fire Department has provided service to the citizens of Lynchburg. It is hard to imagine the impact that LFD and its employees (past and present) have made on this community.

Through the years much of our history, log books, journals, equipment, and even vehicles have been preserved so that future generations interested in our service and history could step back in time and enjoy these relics.

The Lynchburg Fire Department Museum, Incorporated has been established for the purpose of preserving the heritage and history of our department. The ultimate goal is to have an area to properly display our history and relics for those interested to enjoy.

The incorporating officers and Museum Board members are:

President:	Rod Smith
Vice President:	Jonathan Wright
Treasurer:	Matt O'Daniel
Secretary:	Tammy Sage
Director:	Brandon Brown
Director:	Lewis E. Lichford, III

Fundraising opportunities are just around the corner, so stay tuned to future Flashpoint editions for more information about how you can help support preserving our history!

FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS & ELECTS OFFICERS

By: Acting Battalion Chief Heather Childress



At its March 2013 meeting, The Fire Foundation Board welcomed several new members. As a result of retirements and other time commitments, new members were selected.

Welcome to the following new members: Chief Brad Ferguson, Battalion Chief Jason Campbell, Firefighters Jamie Maxwell, Jeannie O'Brien, Marty Misjuns, and Neil Patterson. Acting Battalion Chief Heather Childress, Captain Roger Harris and Firefighter Darryl Dubose will retain membership on the Board.

The Board hopes to pursue several fundraising efforts and is excited to have new faces with new ideas to help achieve those goals. The Board elected the following new officers for 2013:

President:	Jamie Maxwell
Vice-President:	Roger Harris
Secretary/Treasurer:	Darryl Dubose
Treasurer:	Heather Childress

If you would like to help with any fundraising efforts or participate in Fire Foundation activities, please contact any Board member.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Communications Meeting

Date/Time: April 4, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

Place: Fire Administration Training Room

Operations Staff Meeting

Date: April 4, 2013

Time: Immediately following Communications Meeting

Place: Fire Administration Conference Room

BREMS Education Night

(Hosted by Centra & BREMS...Cost is FREE!)

Date/Time: April 9, 2013 from 7:00— 9:00 p.m.

Place: Lynchburg General Hospital, First Colony Conference Room #1. (Category 1 CE will be provided for ALS and BLS providers)

Presenter: Chris Adams, NREMT-P

Wimmer Chiropractor Offers Chair Massages For Fire Department Personnel

Dates/Time: April 8, 9, 10 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Place: Fire Administration Conference Room

Dates/Time: April 23, 24, 25 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Place: Fire Station #7

Contact: To schedule an appointment, call Jennie Mayberry at 455-6342. You must complete the screening form that was emailed to everyone and bring it to your appointment. If you need a screening form, contact Jennie Mayberry.

Webinar: Trauma/EMS Case Studies & Lecture Series

(Hosted by Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital)

Date/Time: April 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Topic: Five Places Where the Blood Goes: Commonly Missed Injuries and Shock in the Trauma Patient

Presenter: Dr. Bryan Collier, Section Chief Trauma Services Carilion Roanoke Memorial

Location: Lynchburg General Hospital, Dolan Conference Room

Contact: Amanda Turner at 434-200-5636

Other: Centra education credit will be offered for those in attendance.

EMSAT

Date/Time: April 17, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Geriatric Encounters: Specific Considerations for Emergency Care." Category 1 CE will be awarded for both the ALS and BLS providers.

Contact: Matt Millner, Training Division, ext. 6359

Operations Staff Meeting

Date/Time: April 18, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

Place: Fire Administration Training Room



Deadline for BREMS Awards Nominations

The deadline to submit BREMS award nominations is April 26th. For criteria information (and nomination forms) for each category please read over the Regional Award Guidelines posted on the BREMS website at www.blueridge.vaems.org.