



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Letter	3
WRFD Mission, Motto, and Organizational Objectives	4
WRFD 2021 Organizational Chart	5
Highlights of 2020 Fire and Special Operations	6-7
Highlights of 2020 EMS Operations	8-9
Employee Recognition	10
Run Data Summary	11
Ten Year Call Volume Graph	12
2020 Financial Report	13
Fire Inspection & Health and Safety Information	14
2021 Department Goals	15

TO: Mayor Blaser, Police & Fire Commissioners, and City Common Council
FROM: Scott Young, Fire Chief Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department
RE: 2020 Annual Summary
DATE: January 25, 2021

I hope you find the Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department's annual summary for 2020 informative while providing some insight into the departments operations and activities over this past year.

Like most, many of us at the WRFD are experiencing Covid fatigue and are growing numb to the talk associated with it. However, it would not be fair to acknowledge the impact Covid had on the department and its members in 2020.

Covid affected all aspects of our operations within the department, from; 911 responses, operating at emergency scenes, training, public education activities, staffing, and fire inspections. As the year progressed, it was easy to lose sight on the fact that we missed many, if not most, of the opportunities that we normally have to interact with the public. It became apparent while completing the summary how many events were lost and we should never take the responsibility to promote public safety and education for granted.

One area that did not see an impact from Covid was the departments run volume. The department responded to 3,976 calls for service, the highest run number in department history, surpassing the previous high set just one year ago.

The department is looking forward to 2021 as we work to meet our annual goals and objectives. We are continually striving to be the best department we can and are proud of the services we provide to the community.

As always, if you have questions or need clarification on any part of the report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott Young
WRFD Fire Chief

WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Organizational Mission

- Professional at all times
- Proficient in all assigned tasks
- Polite to all whom we serve
- Compassionate to those in need

Organizational Motto:

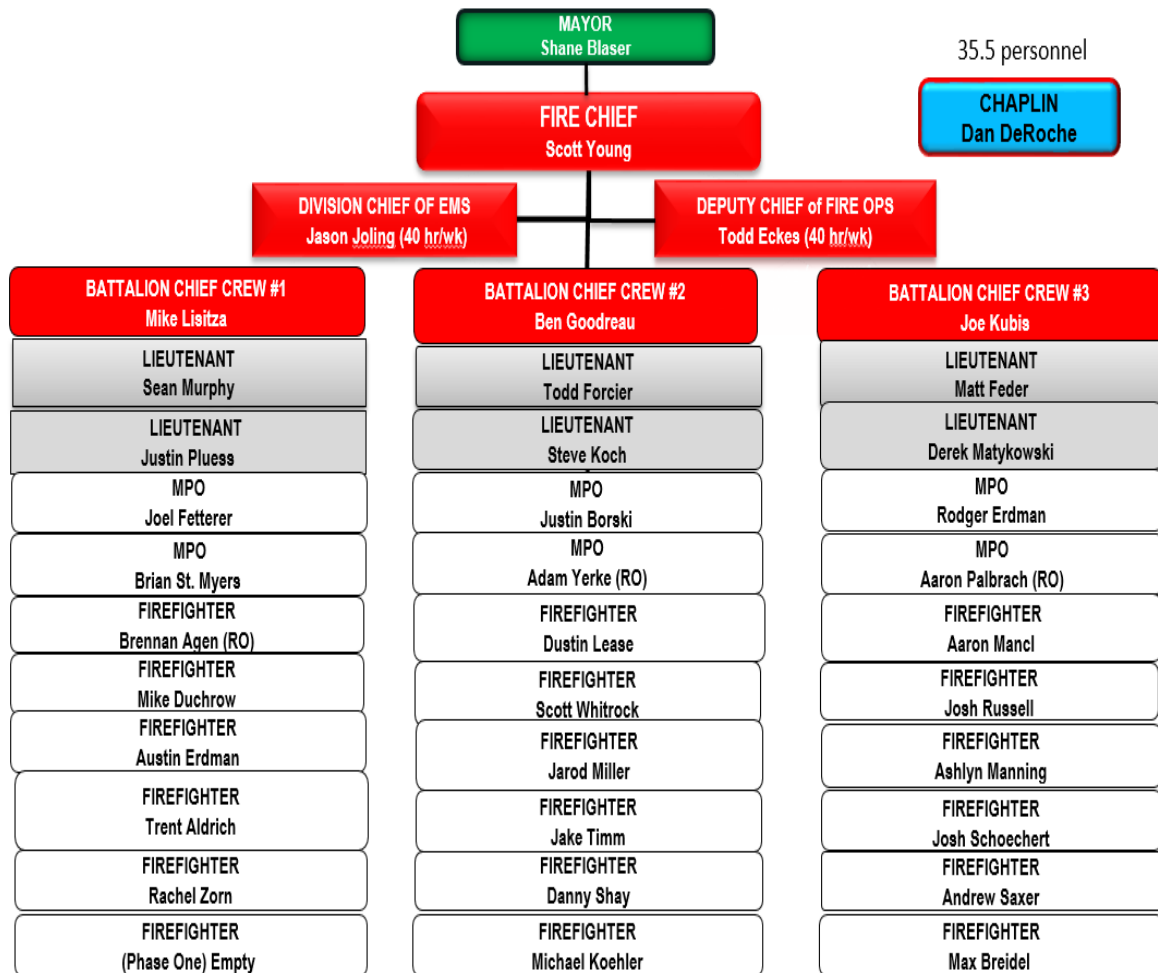
“Commitment to Excellence”

Organizational Objectives:

- Remain a community orientated organization
- Research and develop policies that enhance community and member safety
- Make every day a training day
- Apply best practices in EMS and fire operations
- Promote a culture of teamwork
- Remain fiscally responsible to those we serve
- Develop and mentor our future leaders
- Promote public education with a focus on fire safety and health related issues within the community

WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021 Organizational Chart



WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Highlights and Accomplishments of 2020 Fire and Special Operations

- The department responded to 300 fire alarms in 2020
- Of the 300 fire alarms, 48 were either structure, vehicle or wildland fire related.
Significant Incidents:
 - Structure fire at 851 Gardner St. resulting in total loss
 - Structure fire at 340 - 7th St So, resulting in moderate damage to first floor
 - Fire at the city's east side compost site, dry weather posed a threat with potential spread to nearby woods
 - Structure fire at Verso, fire in exhaust vent and roof above the #16 machine
 - Structure Fire at 2925 George Rd. One unit in the apartment complex sustained moderate fire and smoke damage
 - Structure fire in recycling facility located at 2510 Engle Rd.
 - Structure fire at 440 Daly Ave, resulting in extensive damage to second floor
 - Structure fire at 1930 Chase St. with moderate damage to garage
 - Responded to multiple fires in drying system located at 2721 Industrial St. While damage was minimal these were labor intensive fire events
 - Two civilian injuries from structure fires in the city. One patient sustained severe burns and was flown to a Burn Center in Madison. The second patient was treated for smoke inhalation with injuries that were not life threatening
 - One fatality from the structure fire on 440 Daly Ave
- Unattended cooking was the leading cause of structure fires in 2020
- WRFD responded to 90 motor vehicle accidents within our EMS coverage area with 58 injuries
- The Fire Vision Committee continued work on new Engine One, finalizing equipment needs and placement of all tools
- Truck 5 was equipped to function independently as a frontline apparatus
- Standardized equipment on Engine 1 to ensure a reliable water supply when working with Port Edwards Fire Department
- Hose testing was completed meeting NFPA standards
- All fire apparatus received annual DOT inspections
- Updates to the departments Fire Tac to promote safety and operational efficiency
- Heater installed in department's hazmat trailer. This unit can now be used for rehab with a warming option for members at a large or ongoing cold weather incident
- Modifications made to Squad 1 to improve ability to provide better salvage options after fire ground operations
- Purchased PPE related to firefighter safety when working in hot weather, hazmat incidents, and swift water rescues
- Modifications made to boat trailer for faster deployment in a rescue situation
- Received a Multi Rae and PID meters through a grant from Wisconsin Emergency Management
- Purchased and received 40 structural rated firefighting portable radios, Motorola APX6000

- **Fire Training Highlights:**
 - Reviewed ice/cold water rescue techniques
 - Wildland fire suppression principles given by the WIDNR
 - Advanced metering class for monitoring hazardous atmospheres delivered by Clarey Safety
 - Three members gained Fire Officer II certification
 - Advanced Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations for department officers
 - All three crews completed live burn training requirements
 - Simulated live fire training at the VA Clinic that focused on forcible entry, search and rescue, hose line advancement
 - Monthly training focusing on company fire ground operations, that included; ladders, rope systems, ventilation, forcible entry, search and rescue, Mayday and firefighter self-survivability, vehicle extrication
- **Fire and Special Operations Conferences Attended:**
 - One member attended a budgeting course held at the National Fire Academy
 - WSFCEA spring conference
 - All other conferences were cancelled due to Covid restrictions
- **Fire Education and Community Involvement:**
 - The department delivered fire education and safety handouts to WRPS kindergarteners and 3rd graders during fire prevention week
 - Teen job fair sponsored by LHS in March
 - Final Alarm Roll Call Procession
 - MDA fundraiser held virtually
 - Fire Safety talks with residents at Arbor Creek apartments
 - WRFD Charitable Foundation delivered food baskets for local families near Christmas
 - WRFD Charitable Foundation and Prevail Bank made a donation to Rapids Family Backpacks Program
 - WRFD Charitable Foundation donated a check to the Aspirus/Riverview Foundation Cancer Care program through the annual t-shirt sale
 - State Firefighters Memorial lawn care

WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Highlights and Accomplishments of 2020 EMS Operations

- The department received notice from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services that we were awarded a 3-year re-accreditation for our EMS division. We are one of two services in the state to hold this certification and there are less than two hundred nationally, an accomplishment that reflects the department's Mission Statement
- Received the Mission Lifeline Gold Plus Award. This award is given to services that meet American Heart Association standards in delivering pre-hospital care to patients experiencing an acute myocardial infarction or a heart attack
- Hosted monthly continuing educational opportunities to the departments Emergency First Responder groups (Biron, Port Edwards, Saratoga)
- Expanded the Community Care Paramedic Program in partnership with Aspirus – Riverview hospital and clinics
- Updated Mass Casualty and Active Threat response in coordination with WRPD
- Secured Dr. Sean Cashin as the departments Medical Director
- Completed individual report writing documentation and protocol compliance
- Presented 2019 EMS data to the Town of Saratoga and Village of Port Edwards boards
- Presented Saratoga and Port Edwards EFR's the Mission Lifeline Award at a monthly board meeting
- Disaster Planning with WRPS
- **EMS Training Highlights:**
 - Each member completed at least 40 hours of EMS refresher training, focusing on topics such as; cardiology, pharmacology, advanced airway support, respiratory and nervous system
 - All members re-certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support
 - All members re-certified in CPR
 - EMS Field Operational Guideline review
 - Josh Schoechert, Jake Timm, and Trent Aldrich successfully completed their Critical Care Paramedic class and certification test
- **2021 EMS Goal and Objectives:**
 - 12 leads on patients experiencing chest pain < 7 minutes
 - Scene time <15 minutes on patients having an acute myocardial infraction on 100% of the calls
 - Successful intubation on 80% of 1st attempts and 95% 2nd attempt,
 - Recognize missed airways 100% of the time
 - Transport trauma patients to the correct destination 100% of the time
 - Stroke scale on 100% of patients presenting with signs and symptoms
 - Sepsis alert, identify patients experiencing signs and symptoms of sepsis to reduce mortality

- **Conduct Run Audits on all:**
 - Ketamine administrations
 - Pediatric calls
 - STEMI
 - Trauma calls when Riverview/Aspirus is by-passed
 - All Delayed Sequence Intubations
 - Advanced level of care, transcutaneous pacing, electrical cardioversion, needle decompression, etc...
 - Any call where an error form is completed
- **EMS conferences attended:**
 - None due to Covid
- **EMS stand-by for the following events:**
 - Lincoln and Assumption Football
 - Polar Plunge held at the Ridges

WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Employee; New Hires, Promotions, Notable Anniversaries, and Retirements

New Hires:

- *Danny Shay, April 23*
- *Rachel Zorn, April 23*
- *Max Breidel, August 4*
- *Michael Koehler, September 16*

Promotions:

- *Steve Koch; Lieutenant, March 11, 2020*
- *Aaron Palbrach; MPO, March 11, 2020*
- *Adam Yerke; MPO, August 5, 2020*

Notable Anniversaries:

- *Derek Matykowski, 20 years*
- *Justin Borski, 15 years*
- *Rodger Erdman, 15 years*

Retirements:

- *Lieutenant Steve Belter, March 3rd, 2020*
- *MPO Scott Hacker, August 4th, 2020*
- *Diane Sloat, August 10th, 2020*

WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2020 Run Data:

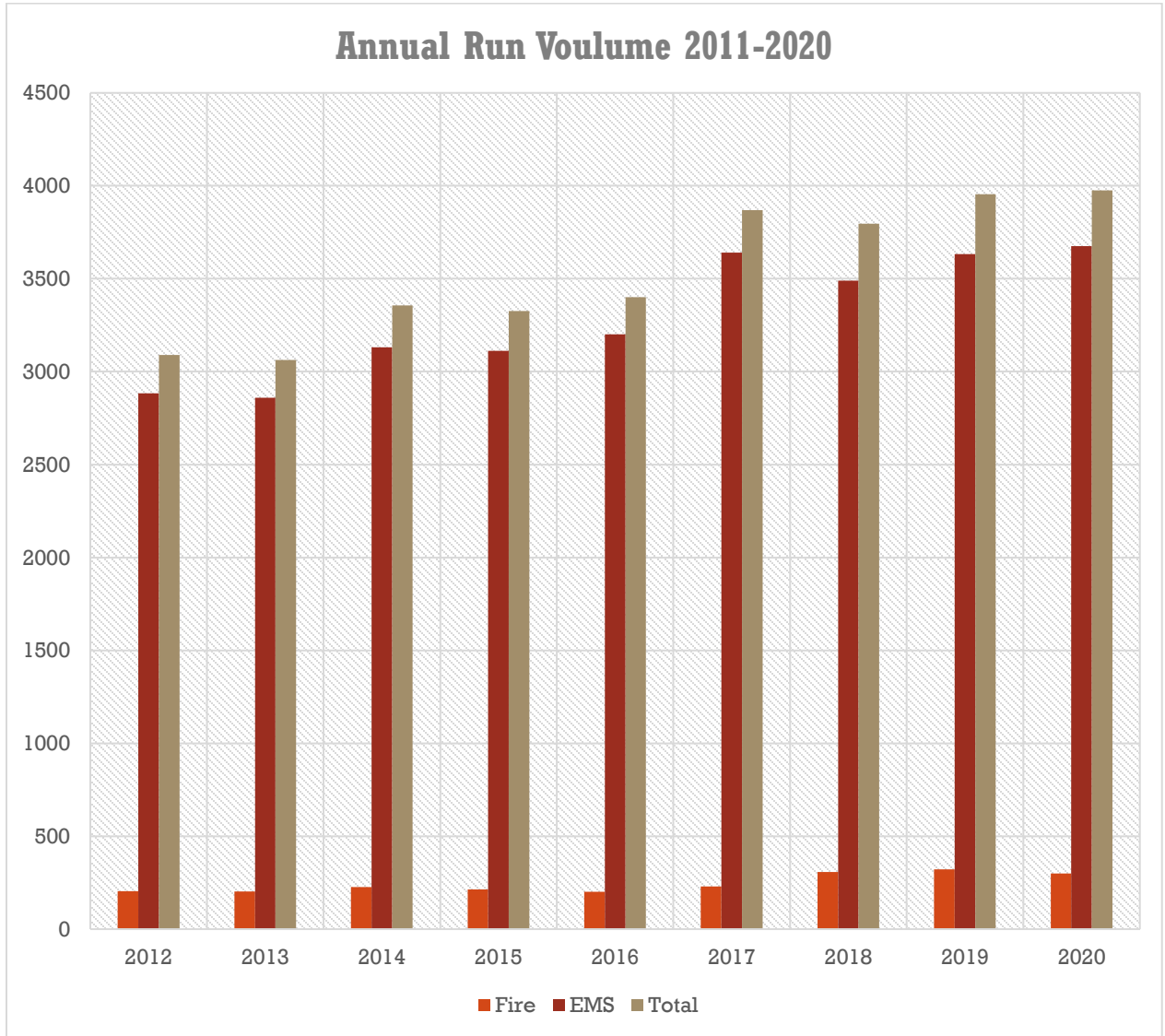
MONTH	FIRE 100 SERIES	FIRE 400 SERIES	FIRE 500 SERIES	FIRE 700 SERIES	EMS 911	EMS IFT	CCP	TOTAL
January	3	4	3	7	274	23	1	315
February	4	3	11	8	289	19	1	335
March	2	3	3	10	275	22	1	316
April	2	8	11	9	203	16	0	249
May	7	1	9	8	265	22	0	312
June	7	5	16	14	274	22	0	328
July	3	8	4	18	269	28	0	330
August	4	6	6	5	310	23	6	360
September	2	3	9	14	297	36	1	362
October	3	3	9	17	326	26	3	387
November	4	5	6	5	330	28	1	379
December	6	3	7	2	263	14	8	303
YEAR END TOTALS:	47	52	84	117	3375	279	22	3976

- Fire 100 Series: Fire (*structure, vehicle, wildland*)
- Fire 400 Series: *Hazardous Condition (spills, leaks with no fire)*
- Fire 500 Series: Service Calls (*water & smoke problems, burning complaints*)
- Fire 700 Series: False Alarms
- CCP; Community Care Paramedic

Annual Run Volume Past 10 Years:

YEAR	FIRE	EMS	TOTAL
2011	185	2806	2991
2012	204	2883	3087
2013	203	2860	3063
2014	226	3131	3357
2015	214	3112	3326
2016	210	3200	3401
2017	229	3640	3869
2018	307	3489	3796
2019	322	3633	3955
2020	300	3676	3976

Historical Ten-Year Graph:



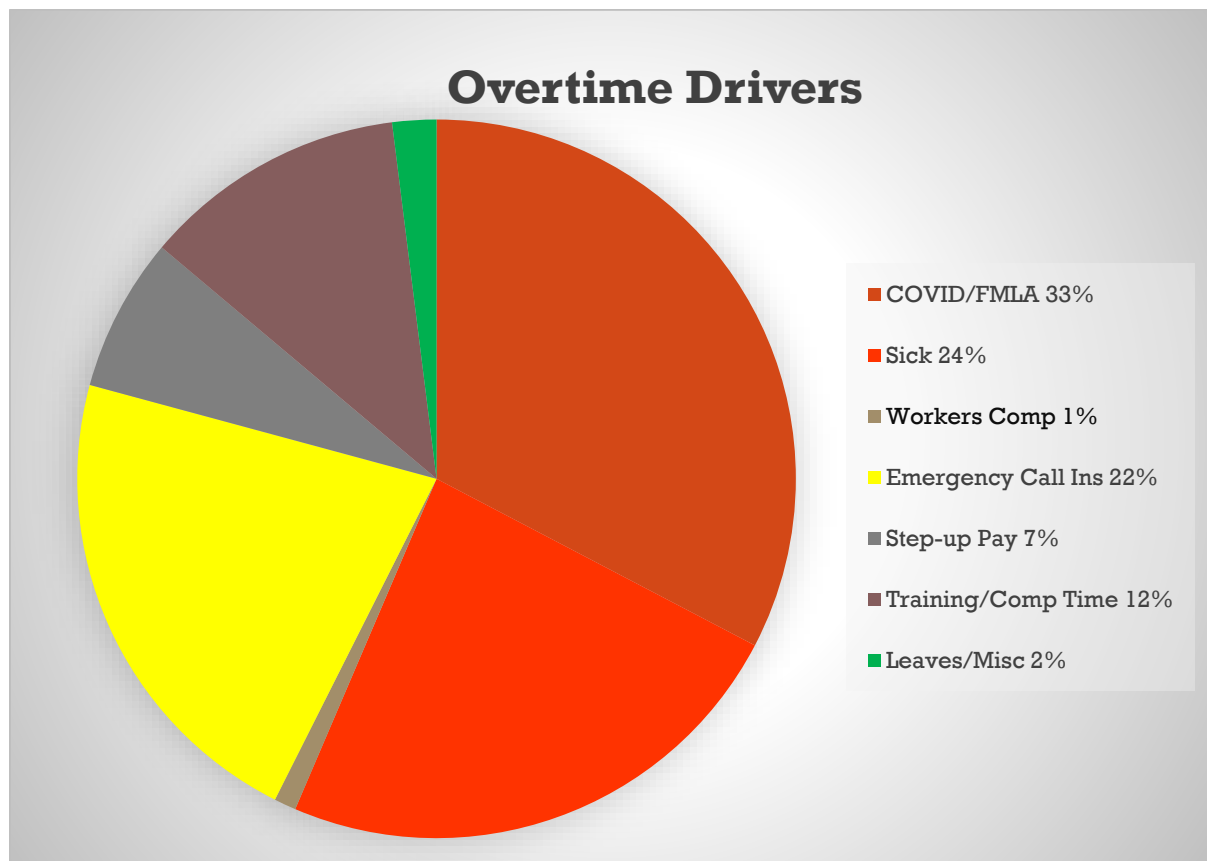
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2020 Financial Overview:

SALARIES & WAGES:	Allocated: \$2,544,462 Net: \$16,366	Used: \$2,528,096
OVERTIME:	Allocated: \$153,200 Net: \$54,518	Used: \$207,718
INTER-FACILITY PAY:	Allocated: \$32,500 Net: \$23,467	Used: \$9,033
40-HR/WK SAVINGS:	Total: \$13,705	

EMS REVENUE:

BILLED:	Total: \$2,423,195
COLLECTED:	Total: \$1,051,434
CONTRACTS:	Total: \$75,500



WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2020 Inspection Information:

- The department completed 853 fire inspections with 207 businesses having at least one violation

Confined Space Totals:

- Issued 712 confined space permits
- The WRFD provides 'rescue' stand-by services at no charge to area businesses

Health and Safety:

- Researched and recommended the upgrade to department portable radios. The old radios were failing at an unacceptable rate, at times leaving members without communication inside of a burning building
- Used a grant through Wood County Emergency Managements Hazardous Materials fund to purchase two wireless headsets that provides an additional layer of safety with better and more reliable communications during an emergency incident
- Reviewed all department injury/accident reports as well as near miss reports, analyzing the data for trends and making recommendations for policy changes where similar incidents could be avoided
- Developed a behavioral health resource guide in an attempt to decrease the stigmas surrounding mental health as it relates to the stressors associated with fire and EMS personnel and to provide employees confidentiality

WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021 Department Goals:

- Hold Fire Tactics and Strategy Classes for department officers with a focus on larger incidents
- Evaluate SOG's to ensure they are meeting department needs
- Conduct four joint training exercises with Port Edwards Fire Department
- Hold at least one training with mutual aid fire departments
- Continue monthly labor-management meetings
- Confined space training and live evolutions for all 3 crews
- Finalize fire station designs and begin construction on addition and renovation
- Write and submit the annual Assistance to Firefighters Grant focusing on equipment that is categorized as High Priority by FEMA
- Evaluate possibility of sending three members to school to obtain hazmat technician certification
- Review and make recommendations to the department depreciation schedule