

17th Fire Recruit Academy-2005



The Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department conducted its 17th Recruit Academy for Extraboard Recruits in 2005 at the direction of Captain James King and Captain Pat Talkington. The Academy put the Recruits through a rigorous fire, hazardous material and EMS curriculum. Throughout the 11 weeks, department members assisted Captains King and Talkington by providing instruction and valuable insight from their personal experience. The Academy was divided into two distinct portions — seven weeks of fire training under the direction of Captain King and four weeks of EMT-Intermediate training under the direction of Captain Talkington.

Under Captain King the recruits spent 616 hours of classroom and drill field time learning techniques in the use of personal protective equipment and breathing apparatus, search and rescue, fire behavior, building construction, use of ladders and hose, forcible entry, ventilation, and fire control. In addition, they also completed training and instruction in hazardous materials operations. The seven weeks ended with the successful testing and national certification of all 13 candidates.

Captain Talkington's class instruction consisted of anatomy and physiology, medical and trauma emergencies, IV therapy, treatment of medical and trauma patients, airway control and other related topics to better serve the public in these types of emergencies. They also attended clinical settings at Lawrence Memorial Hospital that included the emergency department, IV therapy, respiratory therapy, outpatient lab and LMH South. This preparation allowed for the successful completion of a certification exam administered by the Kansas State Board of EMS.

The 17th recruit class of 2005 is a welcome addition to the department.

James Barkley	Chad Lisher	Tiffany Saturday
John Darling	David Miller	Jason Ray
Alex de Valle	Brian Patterson	James Ziegler
Jesse Ens	David Plymire	
Troy Gourley	Jason Ray	

Confined Space Team



Members of Station No. 2 provide specialized response that includes the rescue of victims from confined spaces and from collapsed structures and trenches. During 2005 the depart-

ment focused on improving its ability to operate at collapsed structures by adding new equipment and attending specific building collapse training.

The new equipment includes a "snake-eye" search camera, a large capacity circular saw and a rotary hammer-drill. The camera allows rescuers to peer into crevices and voids to locate victims while the rotary hammer-drill can drill holes for the camera and chip away debris that may be trapping a victim. The circular saw will be used to cut large timbers and lumber needed to construct shoring inside the building.

Every month, Station No. 2 personnel review and train with selected equipment and techniques essential to these areas of specialized rescue. Training often occurs at the department's trench training area located at the Training Center at 1941 Haskell Avenue. In the spring of 2005, all department members received structure collapse training that dealt with lifting and moving heavy objects. Afterward all crews participated in a short drill where a section of collapsed floor had to be lifted and secured then the victim underneath removed. In the fall, Station No. 2 officers attended a multi-day collapse-training program covering all areas related to stabilizing and searching collapsed structures. The program ended with a 24-hour disaster drill in which a multi-story building was partially demolished and multiple rescue situations were presented.

2005 Retirees

- Lt. James Davies retired 02/28/05 after 24 years of service.
- Captain Larry Woydziak retired 03/1/05 after 26 years of service.
- Chief James McSwain retired 09/15/05 after 27 years of service.
- Engineer Mike Stalcup retired 12/24/05 after 26 years of service.

2005 Promotions

Thirty-five firefighters at Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical received promotions in 2005.

Promoted to Engineer:

Miguel Armenta	Scott Nissen
Earl Barnes	Mark Parker
William Besack	Paul Schneider
Robert Bethard	Jason Smith
Andrew Booth	Robert Smith
Karen Glotzbach	James Strohm
Chad Gunderson	Josh Taylor
Gary Gutsch	Justin Temple
William Hallagin	Brian Trigg
Joe Hardy	Steven Weaver
Brandon Holloman	Steven Welter
Sean Humphrey	Jason Williams
Chris King	Bryan Winfrey
Robin Leach, Jr.	Craig Yeager
John Mathis	

Promoted to Lieutenant:

Mike Fulkerson
John Hawkins
Robert Morgan
David Sherman

Promoted to Captain:

Lyle Schwartz
Eve Toefree

Additionally, two firefighters completed paramedic training through Johnson County Community College:

Chris Bryson
Chad Gunderson



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Mark Bradford Named Fire Chief



City Manager Mike Wildgen appointed Mark Bradford as chief of the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department on November 7, 2005.

Chief Bradford

had been serving as acting chief since the retirement of Chief Jim McSwain. As chief, Bradford is responsible for all aspects of the Fire Medical Department including fire, emergency medical services, hazardous material, rescue and management of the department's day-to-day operations.

"Mark's experience with leading fire medical departments combined with his knowledge of Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical makes him an asset to the Lawrence community," Wildgen said. "I am pleased to appoint him as fire chief."

Chief Bradford joined the department in February 2001 after working at the International Association of Fire Chiefs and serving the City of Lee's Summit for 23 years leaving as assistant chief. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration at the University of Kansas. He has extensive experience with budgeting and with facility and service planning.

Chief McSwain Retires after 27 Years



The top official of the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department retired in September 2005, after 27 years with the city. Fire Chief Jim McSwain took the post in 1978. During his

tenure, Chief McSwain emphasized the need for training and education to prepare people for fire service.

"Jim's service has been a tremendous benefit to both the Lawrence community and the men and women of the department," said Mike Wildgen, city manager. "His commitment and dedication is greatly appreciated and his impact on emergency services has been extremely valuable."

The Kansas Fire Chief Association awarded Chief McSwain the honor of 2003 Fire Chief of the Year. He was recognized for more than 25 years of fire service and leading the department to active involvement in EMS and to have one of the highest I.S.O ratings in the Midwest. He also was recognized for his leadership, creativity and service to the community.

Chief McSwain oversaw the 1997 combination of fire and medical services. The consolidation of two departments — one city and one county — into a new entity was challenging and time consuming and was successful, due to the chief's relationship and reputation with the ambulance service and county government. The department has grown from 62 employees in the fire department in 1978 to today's fire medical department of 130 staff with all personnel cross-trained to provide both fire and EMS response.

Chief McSwain also led the city in developing the 1996 Public Safety Report outlining the need for both the completed Station No. 2 relocation and the construction of Station No. 5 and Station No. 4 relocation. The plan redistributes fire medical facilities to match services with the city's growth. The plan allows the department to meet the response time, staffing and deployment issues pertaining to the city's current I.S.O. class.

In 1984 the City of Lawrence was granted an Insurance Services Office rating of Class 2, one of the highest in the Midwest. This was accomplished through Chief McSwain's firm

understanding of the I.S.O. evaluation process and the cooperation between the utility department and fire department to ensure that the infrastructure was available to support fire protection throughout the community.

Chief McSwain was also awarded the Budford M. Watson, Jr. Public Service Award by the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce in April 2005. He was recognized as an individual whose work in the public sector was a role model for others. His long-time service as chief was acknowledged as well as his involvement in having all university fraternities and sororities and Naismith Hall fully sprinkled. Also recognized was the creation of Lawrence's Special Rescue Team program.

Not just a firefighter, Chief McSwain has been in the fire service since 1962 with a career that includes teaching as an assistant professor at Oklahoma State University Technical Institute and Monroe Community College and service to the Fire Department of Montgomery, Ala. as a captain, inspector, firefighter, planning officer and company officer. He has also been involved with professional associations at the local, state, national and international levels.

Boardwalk Apartments—512 Fireside Drive



On October 7, 2005 at 1:19 a.m., Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical units were dispatched to a reported structure fire at Boardwalk Apartments at 510-524 Fireside Drive.

The fire ultimately destroyed an apartment building with 76 dwelling units, injuring 19 people and causing three fatalities. Twenty fire emergency units and 44 LDCFM personnel were dispatched to the incident. Johnson County Emergency Communications was contacted for Mutual Aid response, and Lenexa Fire Department, Olathe Fire Department, Johnson County Med Act, Topeka Life Star and Lifelight Eagle responded. The fire was determined under control at 4:07 a.m.

Due to the severity of the fire and the loss of life, the Douglas County Fire Investigation Squad was activated. In addition, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms National Response Team (Midwest) was activated and assistance from the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office was provided. In total, 48 investigators were assigned to the investigation effort.

The fire was determined to have been arson and a suspect was arrested and charged.

The property loss figures are in the excess of \$5 million. This, combined with the displaced residents, the serious injuries and fatalities, marks this fire as one of Lawrence's most disastrous.

Firefighter of the Year: Lieutenant Joe Mehl



Lieutenant Joe Mehl was hired as part of the department's first Extraboard Program on February 29, 1988. He soon became a full-time career member of the department on October 9, 1988, working as a firefighter/EMT-I.

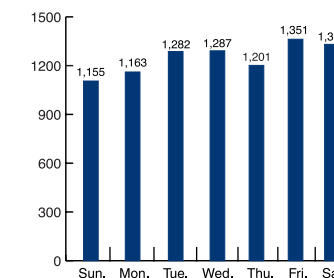
Joe attended the Paramedic (MCT) Program through Johnson County Community College (JCCC) during the fall of 1998 and was promoted to paramedic on February 14, 1999.

On February 25, 2001, Joe became a coroner scene investigator (CSI) and was promoted to lieutenant December 15 of that same year. For the past three years, Joe has been assigned to Station No. 2 which specializes in confined space rescues. He has consistently provided strong leadership skills in both on-duty and off-duty assignments to better himself and the department.

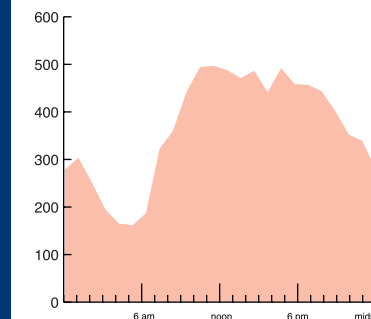
Joe is a member of IAFF Local 1596 and has headed the fundraising efforts for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) for the past seven years. During Joe's diligent fundraising for MDA his family became aware that his son, Lucas, was diagnosed with MD. Joe's skills, attitude, dedication and commitment make it clear why he was selected by his peers to be the 2005 Firefighter of the Year.

Joe has been married to wife, Kathy, for 28 years and they have three children; Johanna, Zachery and Lucas.

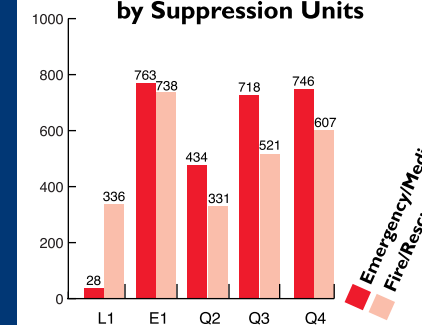
Incidents by Day of the Week



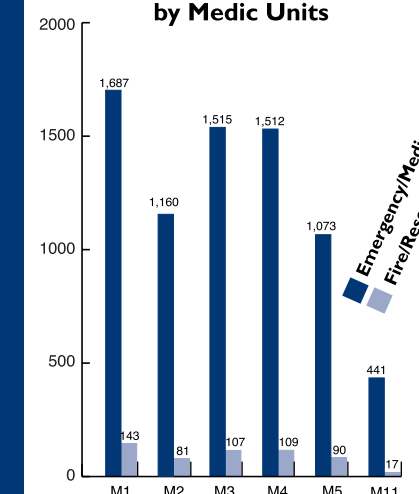
Incidents by Hour of the Day



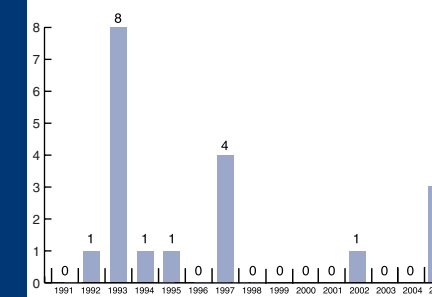
Number of Responses by Suppression Units



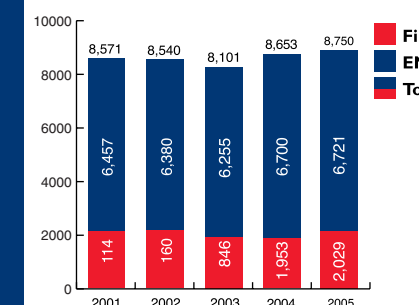
Number of Responses by Medic Units



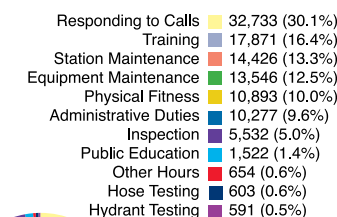
Fire Fatality Statistics for Civilians



Incidents in Past Five Years

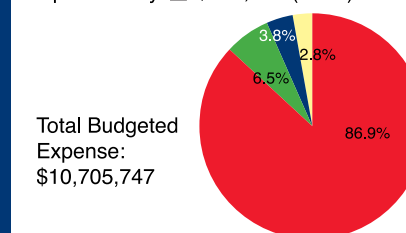


Allocation of Work Hours



Budgeted Expense Report

Personnel \$9,302,704 (86.9%)
 Contractual \$700,361 (6.5%)
 Commodities \$406,682 (3.8%)
 Capital Outlay \$296,000 (2.8%)



Total Budgeted Expense: \$10,705,747

