



LEWISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

ORGANIZATION. The department has 52 full-time and 16 part-time employees. Full-time personnel are divided into four divisions: Administration (fire chief and 2 administrative secretaries), Suppression (division chief, 2 battalion chiefs and 24 firefighters), Emergency Medical Services (1 battalion chief and 18 firefighters) and Prevention (division chief and 2 inspectors). There are 15 personnel on duty 24 hours each day serving the public from 4 fire stations; 3 in Lewiston and the Asotin County Fire Protection District 1 station: Station 1 (1 battalion chief, 1 captain, and 4 firefighters) serves downtown, North Lewiston and East Lewiston; Station 2 (1 captain and 3 firefighters) serves the East Orchards; Station 4 (1 captain and 2 firefighters) serves the airport area, West Orchards and Elks area; and the AC Station (2 firefighters) serves Asotin, Asotin County, Elks Addition, Hells Gate area and parts of downtown Lewiston. The three battalion chiefs are located at Headquarters.

MISSION. We will respond to each call with courage, conviction and compassion.

CORE VALUES. People are our most valued asset. Patient care comes first. Life takes precedence over property. Give the patient/ citizen the benefit of the doubt. Err on the side of caution. Send the appropriate resources for the appropriate call. Practice safety all the time. Customer service is paramount.

CROSS-TRAIN AND CROSS-STAFF. Firefighters are cross-trained to meet the various department missions; all department vehicles are cross-staffed. The on-duty crew takes the vehicles and tools it needs to perform the mission. Suppression and EMS Division duties include fire suppression; emergency and nonemergency ambulance service; aircraft rescue firefighting (ARFF) at the airport; hazardous materials response; rescue and extrication; disaster response; and public education. LFD is a multi-dimension, multi-function organization. By training and equipping the same personnel to perform numerous missions, the City receives greater return on its investment in personnel. All firefighters are certified EMS providers; all Paramedics and EMTs are firefighters.

Reserve Firefighters are part-time employees who fill in for full-time personnel absent for vacation, illness, injury, training, union business, jury duty, subpoena leave, leaves of absence less than 60 days, public education, awaiting new hires, and special assignments as agreed by both parties of the Collective Labor Agreement. Their activity is limited to either firefighter or ambulance attendant positions (FF/E71, AA/M71, M72, M73). Utilizing Reserve Firefighters greatly reduces overtime costs.

OPERATIONAL CONCEPT. Firefighters operate in teams carrying the tools and equipment needed to perform the various missions on board self-contained fire engines, ambulances and support vehicles. Firefighters function as risk managers, moving people, tools and equipment around to complete the multiple missions of the department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE. LFD has provided emergency and nonemergency ambulance service to Lewiston since 1961, and now by contract to Asotin, Asotin County, Colton, Nez Perce County, Uniontown and the southeastern part of Whitman County.

Effective January 1, 2010 our only response in Clarkston is for out-of-area transfers and trauma verified calls. Out-of-area transfers are a matter of patient choice and are not governed by Clarkston's ordinance establishing their ambulance service as the exclusive provider for the City of Clarkston.

Presently, counting the Reserve force, the department has 34 Paramedics, 7 Advanced EMTs, and 21 Basic EMTs. A council-appointed Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (EMSAB), created by ordinance, makes recommendations to the council on medical service issues relating to rules and standards. Our expectation for FY16 is to collect \$2.8 million or more in revenue on approximately \$3.7 million in billed services.

CALL VOLUME. Regardless of the number of vehicles responding to an incident, a "call" is defined as a single response to an address for assistance. We don't multiply the number of vehicles times the response to ascertain our call volume.

Total call volume for Fiscal Year 2015 was 7,813. Ambulance call volume was 7,292 and fire responses totaled 521. This is an increase in total volume of 4% from Fiscal Year 2014.

FIRE PREVENTION. The Prevention Division provides for the life safety of the public, as well as the firefighters, through the application and enforcement of the International Fire Code. The International Fire Code fits into an entire *family of codes* intended to work as a cohesive unit and is designed and written as a *minimum code* for the protection of life and property from fire and explosion. Prevention conducts plan review and new and remodel construction inspections under the 2012 International Fire Code (IFC); conducts fire cause and arson investigations; conducts business license inspections; issues blasting permits and monitors blasting sites; determines needed fire flow and fire apparatus access requirements per IFC; operates the Juvenile Firesetter Counseling Program; enforces the IFC on commercial use of hazardous materials and processes; and provides operational support to other divisions.

New construction, additions or remodels, as well as changes in occupancy or process, is subject to the City's review process. There are several City entities involved at this level however, only the Fire Department has maintenance responsibility over the life of the subject property.

The IFC is adopted into law by the State Fire Marshal through the authority granted by state statute (Idaho Code 41-253) as a minimum standard for the State of Idaho. Conversely, cities and counties must take specific action to adopt the International Building Code in their jurisdictions to apply and enforce its requirements. The Fire Marshal and Fire Inspectors are considered assistants to the State Fire Marshal in carrying out the provisions of the IFC (Idaho Code 41-256). This code has been constructed through a process of public hearings and debate with all interested parties, weighing the political, social and economic considerations against the technical and legal requirements found within. Changes made to it on a local level must be more restrictive, not less restrictive, per State law. The City of Lewiston has adopted less restrictive amendments in opposition to this direction; therefore, the City has chosen to assume that liability. The Prevention Division makes every effort to enforce the fire code uniformly, consistently and above all, in a fair and unbiased manner.

The City Code Board of Appeals may review Fire Department interpretations of the IFC but does not have authority to waive the code.

FIRE LOSS. Fire loss in FY15 was \$788,340.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE. LFD is the lead agency in the public-private partnership providing Level A hazardous materials emergency response to the five-county area: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce. The State funded the North Central Emergency Response Team (ERT) with \$97,000 in 1994 for three vehicles and equipment, and pays for some of the training. The State is the lead agency in cost recovery for emergency response. The City has ERT response contracts with Washington State University and the City of Pullman.

MUTUAL AID. LFD has mutual aid agreements with Asotin, Clarkston, Moscow and Pullman Fire Departments, and with Asotin County Fire Protection District, Moscow Rural Fire District and Wheatland Fire Protection District. The department also has an emergency services agreement with Clearwater Paper Corporation and Medcor. We work closely with city, county and state law enforcement agencies in Idaho and Washington.

VEHICLES. LFD operates 7 ambulances; 5 engines; a 100-foot aerial; a rescue/extrication truck; 2 4WD grass-firefighting vehicles; a utility vehicle; an aircraft/rescue/firefighting vehicle; 30-patient Mass Casualty trailer; Public Education trailer; 2 State-owned hazardous materials trucks and 4 trailers; and 2 pick-ups and 3 cars.

UNION. Battalion chiefs, captains, engineers, firefighters, Fire Inspectors and Reserve Firefighters are represented by International Association of Firefighters Local 1773; they are affiliated with the AFL-CIO and work under a Collective Labor Agreement that is negotiated to address wages, rates of pay, working conditions, and all other terms and conditions of employment as provided by state law.

BUDGET. The FY16 budget, out of the General Fund, is \$7,961,990. Personnel cost is approximately 87% of the budget.

WEED ABATEMENT. Concerns about uncontrolled vegetation within the City are directed to LFD. Failure of a property owner or person in control of any property within the City to properly control vegetation growth on their property, as well as the abutting rights-of-way, may be met with a fine or abatement of the nuisance by the City.

PROGRAMS. Department programs include Fire and Life Safety Education, First Grader Smoke Alarm Program, Juvenile Firesetter Counseling, Sober Graduation, Fire Prevention Week, EMS Week, Internal Quality Improvement, Ice and Cold Water Rescue, External Physician Quality Assurance Program, Blood Pressure Monitoring, Citizen Smoke Alarm Program, Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), Vehicle Recycling, Emergency Medical Information Cards, and a willingness of Firefighters to use their construction and computer skills to improve station living and working conditions.

CLASS 3. Idaho Surveying and Rating Bureau has listed Lewiston as a Class 3 fire protection city.

THE FUTURE. Continue to deliver quality customer service; firefighter safety and training; public education efforts with emphasis on smoke alarms; and complete the Strategic Plan.

Call volumes continue to rise and there is uncertainty regarding regional EMS system delivery. Working with the city council and city manager to evaluate service delivery models that appropriately address citizen expectations is paramount to success. The fire department is poised to assist the parties through this process and look forward to development of a plan that addresses all facets of public safety in a fiscally responsible manner.

Firefighter safety will continue to be an issue for the Department – immunization for work-related diseases, fitness, annual physicals and protective equipment. Public safety issues constantly evolve, as may be observed after the September 2001 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, DC. We look forward to serving you and are confident that we will be able to foster a positive working relationship that will serve the citizens of Lewiston well.

The Lewiston Fire Department considers itself a premier emergency responder. We provide a scope of services that are not found everywhere and we provide those services with vigor. With cross-trained and cross-staffed apparatus responding to myriad emergency and nonemergency requests, we are able to impact the lives of those calling almost immediately. We make recognition-primed decisions every day that mean the difference between life and death. Those decisions are a result of responding to thousands of calls every year that are different, yet similar in nature to those we've seen and acted on previously. The members of the Lewiston Fire Department recognize that its customers' first impression may very well be their lasting impression; compassion and professionalism are the essential elements we employ with every customer contact.