



WATER WHEEL FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT

10603 N. Houston Mesa Road
Payson, Arizona 85541
928-474-3088 (office)
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Chief's Report

September 13, 2022

Operations:

Activity for 2022

90 Incidents

Activity since last report:

5 - EMS

2 - Special Duty (abandoned campfires)

Two individuals completed their training at State Fire School this year. This was the first time in two years that the school was held due to COVID.

Labor Day Weekend was a bit unusual for us this year. Historically the weekend has been the busiest of the three summer holidays but this year it turned out to be a bit different. We double staffed the shifts for the four day weekend to have extra help if needed. Turned out this year with no calls on the first three days of the holiday, however we had 5 calls on Monday. Two abandoned campfires and three medical calls.

Equipment / Facilities:

We currently still have one apparatus out of service for maintenance, BR746. This is one of the trucks that is normally at station 74 in Bonita Creek. This truck will remain out of service for an unknown amount of time due to the inability to find a high pressure fuel pump anywhere in the US. At last contact with the shop, we were number 115 in line for a fuel pump with no estimate on when one will become available. The estimate for the repairs on BR746 is in the neighborhood of \$9,000. SQ71 was returned to service late last week from repairs on the support structure of the fire pump. These repairs were nearly \$3,000.

We have sold one of the two apparatus that were declared surplus recently. The old 1984 water tender was sold to an animal sanctuary near Denver Colorado. The truck was picked up last Friday 9-9-22. We received our asking price of \$7,500 for the truck. Cost of selling the truck was \$750. The 1988 E73 is still listed on the brokers website for \$7,500 and there have been no inquiries to this point. I will be lowering the price on this truck to see if we can get someone interested in a purchase.

We have purchased a StarLink System for the District and it is in service at station 71. It currently is providing excellent fast internet service and is connected to the station cellphone booster. Performance is outstanding compared to our previous internet provider ViaSat and CenturyLink. The ViaSat system has been disconnected and the equipment is being returned. We still have CenturyLink for our phones and as a redundant internet provider for the present time.



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Administration:

AFG FEMA Grant awards have begun to be announced for 2022. We are still awaiting notification from AFG to see if we were awarded a grant for a new water tender. We were notified that we were not successful in our grant application from the Gila River Indian Community for the purchase of a second cardiac monitor. I have submitted a grant application to the Mogollon Health Alliance for the purchase of two EZ-IO drill kits for intraosseous IV access on trauma and cardiac arrest patients in the amount of \$2,170. We currently have one EZ-IO kit that expires early next year and our goal is to have two separate identically equipped ALS apparatus so we don't have to move equipment from one to the other to be able to make an ALS response.

We continue to move forward with the process of liquidating fire station 72 in Rim Trail. There is an agenda item at this meeting for discussion regarding the process and the status of the ongoing efforts.

I recently discovered that the last revision of NFPA related to fire hose has made the recommendation that fire hose be retired from service every 10 years, the same as structural turn out gear. More than 75% of our hose is more than 10 years old, so this is something that will need to be considered in future budgets.

With the presumptive cancer legislation that was enacted by the legislature a couple years ago we are looking at changes in some of the ways we do business. Because of these legislative changes our Workers Comp Insurance premiums have increased and recommendations from them for changes have been proposed. One item we have taken care of is to provide each FF with a second set of turnouts to wear in the event their primary set is used to fight a fire and potentially become contaminated with carcinogens. This second back-up set will allow time for the primary set to be cleaned before placing it back in service. To be able to properly clean these contaminated turnouts requires the purchase of a special washer/extractor machine at a cost of approximately \$8,000, another big ticket budget item. And to make things even more challenging, it has recently been discovered that the process used to make the turnout gear fire resistant uses a chemical that has been determined to be carcinogenic. This has necessitated rearranging equipment on the fire truck so that the turnouts are not carried in the passenger compartment of the truck. And the challenges continue.

Respectfully submitted;

Ron Sattelmater - Fire Chief