

Bath Township Fire Department

Annual report

January, 2018

Overview

The Bath Township Fire Department has a long history of providing services to Bath Township. Old records show that it was originally established in 1929 with members having to provide their own tools and equipment. We have come along way since then and are providing more services to the community than our forefathers could have even imagined. We still have the pride in our department that I am sure they had when a group of people decided to provide fire service.

Staffing

The fire department is set up with a possible roster of 30. Currently that roster has 22 with full time chief and part time/ shared positions included in that 22. The roster fluctuates as people come and go with 4 people leaving in 2017/2018. We do have 3 new faces but only 1 has an ems license and none of them are fire trained. This is the problem when people leave the department, so goes knowledge, training and experience.

The current leadership is from Chief David Snider, Assistant Chief Ben Zeeb, Captains Kevin Douglas and Millard Sivak, and Lieutenants Jed Asher, Don Fuller, And Luke LaFargue

Current Trends

The run volume of the department had been on a steady increase per year with the yearly totals now 1100 plus runs. Around 80 percent of these calls are for medical assistance and the other 20 percent for other call for service from smoke alarm calls to structure fire.

Accomplishments

Some of the outstanding accomplishments of 2017 include;

1. Two personnel through inspector school
2. Two personnel through Blue Card officer training
3. Two personnel through MFR class
4. Four personnel through fire class

Unplanned projects

We had two large unplanned projects that were accomplished during the year which were our grass rig rebuild and a new to us light and air truck. The grass truck which was an old DNR truck developed an engine problem that was not cost effective to repair. Instead of buying a new truck, the firefighters wanted to refurb an old rescue that we had and use the chassis for the grass rig skid unit. This project was almost completely funded by the Firefighter Association funds and the work completed by the firefighters.

The second large project was purchasing a used light and air truck. This purchase I believe was a budget amendment due to coming up for sale at a greatly reduced price. This truck took some time to remove and replace equipment to serve our needs and is now in full operation. This truck gives us the capability to not only fill SCBA tanks on scene but also generate compressed air on scene. This is not always a common thing. Usually there are just storage tanks on this type of truck and once empty they need to leave to refill the tanks so this truck is a great asset for us and our neighbors that might need assistance.

Grant Received

The department was lucky enough to receive grant money for the Blue Card officer training and a DNR matching grant for a foam unit for wildland fire use. We also partnered with Dewitt Township on a large grant which allowed us to replace our radios at a greatly reduced price. These radios were going to have to be replaced

before 2025 when the federal government is going to change the standard so this made us well ahead of the game without a huge expenditure.

Setbacks

We were unable to utilize the complete Blue Card officer training grant. Due to the required hours to complete this course, we only had two people that completed the course.

The other setback is in the area of inspection's for our local occupancies. One of our inspectors that completed the course had left the department.

Short Term Goals

We are working toward an officers course that will be held in house and be able to adjust the class times to fit in with our personnel's available hours.

Continuing to implement recruitment and retention of personnel.

Continuing to implement the inspections program for public safety.

Long Term Goals

Part time staffing to reduce response times

Working toward adopting an updated version of the International Fire Code or National Fire Protection Code.

The continuance of vehicle replacement fund to replace the vehicles and apparatus to maintain our fleet to current standards. We need to put away for the future. These trucks and apparatus have become very expensive to replace.

In closing, this my first annual report and I was not totally responsible for all that happened in the past year. I am sure that there are some very important things that I have missed mentioning. I hope to be more complete in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

David Snider

Fire Chief

Bath Charter Township.