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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT NUMBER 06-2013

From the Commissioner

Roderick J. Fraser, Jr.

We all follow what is going on in Washington DC with the budget crisis, the national debt crisis and the economic problems worldwide. But what does all of this mean to us? We have already seen a large decrease in Federal grant funding to the city from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and other Department of Homeland Security grant funding programs. The amount of money the City and the region had available to make purchases has gone down and we experienced a 40% decrease from FY2011 to FY2012. We expect to see that trend continue and the amount of grant money from DHS to go down every year. Additionally, the amount of direct local aid that the City receives from the state is decreasing each FY. This makes it more difficult for the city to balance its budget.

The good news is the BFD remains level funded by the City and our apparatus replacement plan is also fully funded. Mayor Menino remains committed to ensure we have the best and safest apparatus and the resources available for you to do your job and keep the residents and visitors to Boston safe.



HAZMAT – 1 (CBRNE Support Unit)

We have taken delivery of the new CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive) support unit. This new vehicle replaces the old HAZMAT Support Unit H-3 as well as replacing the Field Communications Unit. This vehicle was built using UASI funds by EVI (Emergency Vehicles Inc.) of Lake Park, FL and is a regional asset. HAZMAT-1 is a 2012 Spartan Gladiator flat top chassis with command/rescue body with a custom slide out built for the BFD. It is powered by a 475 HP Navistar MF-13 with an Allison 5 speed transmission with retarder. The new Hazardous Materials Support Unit has been equipped to also support the communications needs of a Hazmat incident. The typical hazmat incident may include a research officer communicating with members in encapsulated suits and a commander managing evacuation and decontamination operations all on separate channels.



Photo by Bill Noonan

Hazmat 1 is equipped with three radio operating positions. Two positions are for incident communications and the third is for the research officer. The two primary radio positions are capable of operating on the VHF marine band, UHF public safety band and VHF/AM aircraft band. Both positions can also access COMIRS, the statewide public safety trunked radio system. A Raytheon ACU-1000 has been installed to allow any of the radios to be patched into a BFD channel. In addition, a Futurecom digital vehicle repeater system will allow simplex on-scene communications to be linked to a wide area radio channel. The airborne video assets of the Massachusetts State Police Airwing can also be displayed on

any of the five displays in the vehicle. The video can also be displayed on a large monitor located in an exterior cabinet. Video from the helicopter, broadcast television, or the mast mounted camera can be routed to any display via a video matrix switch. Two Tellular cellular gateways will provide broadband internet access to the unit. The gateways utilize the Sprint and Verizon networks in order to provide seamless coverage. This Unit will also be used to set up communications for large special events as well as large scale emergency incidents in the city where the Field Comm had been required.

Executive Education and Conference Attendance: Education has been the ladder which many great men and women in the fire service have used to improve this noble profession and enhance the safety and survivability of firefighters for decades. Likewise training and drill have been the tools which have long been the earmark of the discipline of the professional firefighter. An impassioned dedication to the relentless pursuit of perfection at the task and tactical level through drill have made the Boston Fire Department the envy and the standard to which all other fire departments have been measured for generations. I believe that everyone from our newest member to our most seasoned veteran can benefit from education and training and that sending our people to training courses, executive education programs and conferences benefits the department.

In keeping with this great tradition this office will continue to support Executive Education which is designed to assist people in leadership positions grow professionally and refine their skills to be better suited to lead and improve the organizations they belong to. We have partnered with Harvard University to be able to send BFD leaders to Executive Education at Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Harvard offers programs for leaders from around the world and the programs at the Kennedy School of Government are highly sought after. Attending leadership courses at Harvard not only improve one's decision making and leadership skills, but brings Boston firefighters in contact with a large network of people in government around the world. Relationships with other Fire Chiefs and governmental leaders from both the US and abroad can provide the Boston Fire Department with a network of people to share ideas with and to continue learning. We can allow nothing to stop our efforts at building greater relationships for the Boston Fire Department with the leaders and innovators at this incredible institution in our community.

On a similar note, national conferences provide professionals the opportunity to learn more about their profession, meet others from their profession, network and build relationships that benefit their organizations and the profession as a whole. Conferences expose the attendees to new ideas, innovations, technologies, programs and thought processes that can be invaluable. The Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC), Fire Department Safety Officers Association (FDSOA), Fire Rescue International and others are examples of these opportunities for professionals to network, learn and grow. This office will continue to support our members who are interested in being part of these events, who wish to further their education and who wish to share that education upon their return from these events. This office and I know the members of this department also are proud and honored when members of the Boston Fire Department, are recognized as industry experts and leaders when our members go out and participate in these conferences as speakers, instructors and presenters.

The power of education, developing quality relationships through learning and the ability to share in a professional environment are all fundamental pillars of the Boston Fire Department. In participating in education we reinforce our commitment to our fundamental value of integrity, in supporting education we show our support of our fundamental value of loyalty, in sharing our hard earned lessons learned we show our value of personal courage. It is the duty of this office to continue to support the efforts of the members of this department in becoming more proficient, better prepared and better equipped to provide the selfless service to the citizens of Boston that this department has always provided.

District Chief David Joseph wins the Henry Shattuck Public Service Award

Assistant Fire Marshal District Chief David Joseph asks a lot of questions and is constantly thinking of how to do things better, more efficiently and more effectively. He is constantly checking and rechecking situations that affect the safety of the residents of Boston.

Chief Joseph has streamlined processes to decrease the amount of time it takes to get a permit approved and has developed an archive system for inspectors to more easily access past cases to refer to when making decisions. Chief Joseph was instrumental in the development and implementation of the nightclub sprinkler law and was also deeply involved in writing the city ordinance for restaurant stove hood cleaning and inspection which was the standard used by the state when crafting the state legislation for vent hood cleaning.

Chief Joseph relies on an outstanding staff of uniformed and civilian personnel at the Fire Prevention Division who all work hard to make him and the Boston Fire Department successful. Chief Joseph's willingness to give generously of himself to make the City a safer and better place to live and work has clearly earned him a 2012 Henry Shattuck Public Service Award. Thank you Chief for your leadership and commitment and congratulations on your selection for this esteemed award.



From the Chief of Department

Steve E. Abaira

As you are probably aware, I have made it clear that our department should and will become compliant with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards whenever they are applicable. These standards are generally a result of some tragedy that occurred to firefighters and/or the public. These standards are developed and amended periodically through a committee process that includes a variety of interested parties as members. Contrary to what you may have heard, the committee membership is made up of not only manufacturers but also representatives from users of the standards, installers/maintainers, labor, research and testing laboratories, enforcing authorities, the insurance industry, consumers, and special experts. Before a standard is promulgated it is published for public input and comment.



Some would have you believe that since NFPA standards are not “law” in the State of Massachusetts, we need not be concerned about following or being in compliance with them. Regardless whether we are compelled to comply by State law or not, when the bad thing occurs to one of our members, we will be scrutinized and our actions or inactions will be judged against what is known as “standards of care.” Standards of care include these nationally recognized standards. Not only will our practices be compared to NFPA standards but we will also be evaluated based on compliance with our own Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), learned publications and peer written articles, and experts within our field. These are some of the reasons why I believe it is absolutely critical that we are compliant with NFPA and our policies and procedures reflect current practices within our profession particularly when it comes to firefighter safety.

With that being said I want to briefly review where we are headed concerning what I believe is one of the most important firefighter safety issues, personal protective equipment (PPE). As you know we recently hired a company to create a database of all our uniform members that included an evaluation and accounting of your helmets, gloves, boots, bunker coats, and bunker pants. This was the first step toward the goal of being compliant with NFPA 1851, the standard on the Selection, Care and Maintenance of Structural Fire Fighting Protective Ensembles. As a result we know that we must replace all our firefighting helmets, and purchase nearly two thousand sets of new bunker gear so that all members have two compliant sets issued to them. As part of this effort we will be entering into a contract with a company to provide an NFPA compliant care and maintenance program. The goal is to ensure that our PPE is properly cleaned, inspected and repaired in accordance with the standard thereby improving firefighter safety and optimizing the life of our PPE. It is our intent to have field personnel rotate from one set of PPE to the other every six months. For example, members will be using set #1 from January 1st through June 30th and set #2 from July 1st through December 31st. The contracted company for cleaning, inspection and repair will collect all members bunker gear according to a schedule to assure that both sets are cleaned, evaluated and repaired at least annually. This will be a dynamic process that will first focus on bunker coats and pants and newly issued hoods. Helmets and boots will be addressed once the program is in place and institutionalized.

Facilities Management

It is my pleasure to introduce Arthur Bruno, who joined us in November, 2012 as a Department Painter. Arthur has over 25 years of Professional Painting experience in Commercial and Residential Facilities. In his role he will prepare surfaces for painting and finishing; applies undercoat and finish coats using the full range of application methods and materials. Recently Arthur has painted class rooms at the Training Academy, the Training Room at Fire Alarm Division, Class Room #1 at Headquarters, the floor leading into Headquarters and is currently completing the painting of Engine 49.



We have completed Phase I of our Generator Project, installing Generators at Engine 2, Engine 5, Engine 17, Engine 42, Engine 53 and Engine 56. Phase II is currently underway and includes Engine 3, Engine 4, Engine 8, Engine 37, Engine 48 and the Training Academy. Phase II is expected to be completed in September of 2013. Phase III has started with Generators being installed at Engine 20, Engine 21, Engine 22, Engine 33 and Engine 50, this phase should be completed in FY14.

Recently we completed energy efficient upgrades for three Boston Fire Department Facilities including Engine 20, Engine 28, and Engine 39. Building systems that were installed include energy efficient lighting, automatic occupancy lighting controls, LED exterior lighting, new boilers, new indirect domestic hot water heaters, and energy management controls. We expect that these Energy Conservation Measures will reduce annual energy consumption from 141,040 to 93,799 kWh, amounting to approximately \$10,629 in electric energy savings annually. The energy savings represent an overall reduction of up to 33% in electrical usage. Likewise, a reduction from 9,381 to 6,539 therms will result in \$3,410 in Gas savings annually, resulting in a 30% reduction in gas usage.

Five new KME Pumpers placed on order

We recently placed an order for five new KME fire engines that are foam capable and have the “pump and roll” feature. The cabs are KME Custom Predator Severe Service cabs with long four door chassis and true pump and roll capabilities. They are designed to respond to incidents in the miles of tunnels beneath the City of Boston. They will have a Waterous single stage pump and Waterous Advantus 6 Class A and/or B foam system, 750 gallons of water and a 50 gallon foam tank with external foam filling capabilities. The officer will have a remote control for an Akron Firefox bumper turret and a TFT Hurricane electric deck gun with 1000 GPM master stream with foam capabilities if needed for major foam incidents. Two ground spray nozzles will be installed under the piece to protect against the possibility of a rolling fuel source that could ignite while in a confined space. The Boston spec will also have air ride suspension in the rear, four forward facing full SCBA seats for the crew, a new Lock-N-Load hose bed cover in the rear that can be safely pushed back and then lifted for ease of repacking hose, Code 3 LED warning light package with additional warning lights in the front, FRC spectra scene lights, back stop and a backup camera.

Fleet Maintenance Division News

Three of our Fleet Maintenance Mechanics have recently been nationally certified as Master Emergency Vehicle Technicians (EVT); Luis Castillo, Christopher Willett and Thomas McCarthy. They join a select group of only 485 Master EVTs in the United States.

In order to be certified as a Master EVT, they each had to pass all seven certification exams given by the Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE); T1 Truck Gasoline engines, T2 Truck diesel engines, T3 Truck drive train, T4 Truck brakes, T5 Truck Suspension and Steering, T6 Truck Electrical Systems and T7 Heating and Airconditioning. They also had to pass all six exams given by the Emergency Vehicle Technician Certification Commission; F1 Maintenance, Inspection and Testing of Fire Apparatus, F2 Design and Performance Standards of Fire Apparatus, F3 Fire Pumps and Accessories, F4 Fire Apparatus Electrical Systems, F5 Aerial Fire Apparatus and F6 Allison Automatic Transmissions. Congratulations to all three!

Additionally, Luis Castillo has been promoted to the position of Fleet Safety Coordinator. Congratulations Luis.



Pictured (l-r) Director of Transportation Peter Cakridas, Luis Castillo, Christopher Willett, Thomas McCarthy and Commissioner Roderick Fraser

Headquarters Security

Beginning on March 13th, the Municipal Police have been contracted by the Department to provide additional security at Headquarters. There will be a Municipal Police officer in the front lobby checking credentials for visitors, signing them in and monitoring security cameras. Five additional cameras are being installed and doors other than the front door will be secured to prevent unauthorized access. We are also reviewing with DOIT a card access system to be put in place for all employees. A building security SOP will be promulgated to reflect changes in HQ procedures.