



# 10/14/2024 Quarterly Report

EMS Calls: 8

Fire Calls: 1

- July
  - I started working on a new volunteer handbook to standardize training and ensure responders start with the same training. If anyone is interested in joining our fire department, feel free to give me a call or come by the fire hall to see what it takes to volunteer.
  - I worked on the Leary Firefighters Organization application to provide the rest of the funding for purchasing the LUCAS Chest Compression device. I did receive word that we were not awarded the funds. We are looking for other ways to make the purchase; however, we may have to consider using city funds.
  - Applied for and will receive funding from the Akerly grant. This helps refund some of the travel costs for the 2024 Alaska Fire conference.
  - I worked on writing a letter to OSHA regarding the new standards they had proposed. The letter states our opposition to the proposed OSHA standards and how the proposed standards would create financial difficulty for small volunteer fire departments.
- August
  - I want to thank the Alaska State Legislature, and all involved for passing funding for the purchase of a wildland fire truck for the Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department. This will greatly help expand our fire services to the Gustavus community.
  - We've successfully secured funding from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) to purchase a new water tender. The water tender will replace the one stored in the back of the firehall. As you can imagine, I have been working on the paperwork associated with the wildland fire truck and the water tender.
  - I met with the coast guard to discuss working on the shore-side response if a cruise ship had to unload its passengers into our town. I will be asking around town about people capacity, mainly the GCC and the School.
- September
  - Leah has started working on reorganizing the ambulance and training supplies, and I have begun looking into storage options. We are considering adding a Conex container at the back to store some items that do not need to be quickly accessed.
  - We were working on the radio repeater to update the software. We were able to obtain the ability to hang up on false calls, like butt dials.
- **2024 Fire Conference**
  - At the end of the fire conference, I and another volunteer left for Wasilla to attend the 2024 fire conference. This conference was created for fire departments throughout the state to come in and receive training that is otherwise difficult to get from where they are.
  - The first day included training on extrication equipment, where we used electric tools to pry cars apart. We also used stabilization tools to ensure a vehicle on its



side would be stable enough for responders to work on. The second part of the day was spent reviewing airplane emergencies. This was just going over the best and most common ways to knock down a fire in a plane.

- The next day, there was a class-led discussion on the most common issues that we navigate daily, weekly, and yearly. The speaker, Dan Grimes, discussed how he has dealt with these issues over his years as a fire chief. I ended up not attending the next session. I took the time to go to the USDA office to talk with Robert Chambers and his team about funding opportunities for finding the rest of the funding for the LUCAS Device.
  - The next day, there was the opening ceremony and Lobbying fundamentals. Lobbying fundamentals discussed the best ways to bring up issues to representatives and how to word your “ask” in a way that would most likely push it forward.
  - Thursday was a class that discussed the importance of pre-incident planning and fire and life safety inspections. It also discussed some ways fire departments can go to commercial-use buildings and draw up a response plan if the building were to catch fire. The next part of the day was a discussion on how leadership can falter in stressful situations and the best way to mitigate it.
  - The last day included more fundamentals and how creating a bedrock foundational principle can help keep new recruits in the fire service for longer. I am hoping to incorporate a lot of what this class has discussed into our fire department. The last class was about understanding how fire apparatus plumbing and components work. I was able to get an inside look into how fire pumps work and also learn a resource I can bring to Fire Department training.
- **Things of note:**
    - Because I am getting a couple of questions about our 911 system, we were able to change the 911 number transferring to the troopers to our 911 system. If you dial 911 on your cell phone or landline, you will reach Gustavus, AK Fire/EMS emergency services. If you need law enforcement services, you will have to dial their direct phone line.