

HILDALE - COLORADO CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

May 28, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS: A great deal of this month's efforts have been towards the administrative transition. Jesse and Porter have been working with Kevin to learn processes, deadlines, laws and requirements. They have reviewed where files are located on the server and have been given sign-ins and passwords.

The office staff has been working hard to make sure records retentions are up-to-date, sorting old files for disposal or archiving. Lily and Dan have been working with Sherrie Knudson, who has been invited to fill the duties of certification manager and patient care report QA and billing liaison.

Matthew Zitting, who has a degree in business management and accounting, to begin picking up the position of Accountant. Mary has been in the office for several weeks to help him learn the software, processes, and report requirements. Matt has been working with Kevin during the budget process to learn how it has been done in the past.

The day after the audit was presented at the April board meeting, Mary contacted Mr. Tyler Peterson with Gold Cross Billing Services to inquire about an extraordinarily high Arizona Medicaid write-off percentage. He looked into it and came to realize that there had been an error made by his staff regarding filing Arizona Medicaid claims at the end of FY2022-23, resulting in a large amount that was "written-off" by his staff. He was not informed of the error and immediately looked into it. The amount lost is estimated to be about \$74,000. To compound the loss, the Arizona Medicaid registration was not renewed, resulting in no claims being paid since October 2023 within this fiscal year. The potential amount that has been lost (to date) for untimely filing is about \$14,100. If the registration is not processed by the end of May, this amount will become \$27,002. The dollar amount of claims still pending is still being calculated. Mary has been working to evaluate the damages. Mary and Dan met with Mr. Peterson for several hours on May 23 to see where we stand.

We received a notice of award by the Arizona Dept. of Forestry and Fire Management of \$355,304 for a Type 6 Brush Truck. The 30 month period of performance ends at the end of 2026. Our commitment of \$25,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund and an additional \$13,200 for radios and set-up probably will not be required until the 2025-26 fiscal year. We have had a preliminary meeting with DFFM to discuss the contract, and are finalizing the final agreement.

Porter filled Kevin's registration at the Station Design Conference in Glendale on May 21-23. There were several excellent sessions and many vendor contacts made. One of the more promising ideas was a free-span steel building that is being used in several Utah locations.

TRAINING REPORT: The May ALS Inservice training was a presentation by Jeff Denning from First Responders First regarding the mental health services contract funded by a Utah DPS grant through Hildale City. A catered meal was provided.

Regular Tuesday evening training included training with the aerial apparatus. A few nights were combined with the HazMat Operations course, helping them get skills signed off in preparation for the UFRA test..

The special operation training focused on hazardous materials PPE.

A Recruit Academy graduation was held on the evening of May 24. The program included a keynote talk by Chief Joe Decker of Hurricane Valley Fire & Rescue. A video show of the recruits in action was viewed. The fourteen candidates were presented certificates of completion. Five of the candidates were from other agencies. Guests included members of the Fire Board, the Mayors of both cities, and the Chiefs of Kanab and Apple Valley. The Station 1 bay was filled with family and friends there to support their family members.

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Emergency repairs were made to the Engine 1011 turbo. The A110 suspension system was repaired and that unit is back in service.

Several routine vehicle services were completed. Summer heat brings out the need for AC repairs.

The delivery date set for the new Horton Ambulance has now been set for mid-July.

FIRE PREVENTION: The CPR Training Center certified 26 community CPR/First-Aid students in March. Donna has been preparing the program for a management transition.

Several inspections and plan reviews were conducted.

OTHER: A response was made first thing in the morning of Memorial Day to a report of a helicopter crash in the “Fischer Subdivision” north of Highway 59 at Mile 1. The small helicopter had apparently experienced a mechanical issue upon take-off and had a very hard landing. There were only minor injuries. The leaking fuel was secured and the scene turned over to investigators.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Kevin J. Barlow, Chief

5/27/24 – Small helicopter “hard landing” north of SR59 MP1.

