



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Blake Hayward – Fire Chief

DATE OF MEETING: May 6, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Fire Department

Independence Fire has finished up our Firefighter 1 class for the year. We had 6 IFD members attend the class and 3 have finished testing and are nationally certified now. I believe the class started with 14 students and they lost a few during the class. I have been able to see firsthand how well this group works together and they all seem like a very good group of future leaders in their departments.

We have gotten to take advantage of the nicer weather and get out to do some outdoor public relations events. We attended the Career on Wheels event at the High School as well as a Health and Safety Day at East Buchanan Schools. Both of these events are a great opportunity for us to get out in the public, meet students and staff, as well as parents, and share what we do in the department which gives them a chance to engage and ask questions to our members.

We continue to work on training as this is a key component for our department and we strive to become better every time we train. We were fortunate to have training props brought in to allow our firefighters great hands-on training that we don't always get. In the last couple of months, we had a Forcible Entry Prop from the Quad County Fire Association as well as a Pump Operator Prop from the Iowa State Fire Service Training Bureau. The Forcible Entry Prop is designed to train firefighters on how to force an inward-swinging or outward-swinging door open. We trained on 1 person, 2 person operations as well as attempted new ideas and tactics that have come out. This prop allows different levels of difficulty and is one of our favorite props to bring in and train on. The Pump Operator Prop is the FSTB's newest prop and allows firefighters to simulate pumping or drafting in different scenarios and gives them the opportunity to learn what to do, without damaging a pumper or equipment. This was a great chance for some of our newer members to see what all takes place at the pump panel.

We have been asked to attend the Independence High School Career Day event again this year. We are excited to get out and meet with the students and show them some of the tools and equipment that we use during a call. Last year was our first time attending the event and we felt like it went really well. We had several students stop by and ask a lot of good questions and it gave us a chance to give them a look into public safety.

Please reach out if you have any questions,

Blake Hayward

Fire Chief