



City of Shelton Fire Department Office of the Chief

To: Board of Alderman – Public Safety Committee
From: Francis T. Jones III
Subject: Monthly Report – March
Date: 4/02/10

Committee Members,

The following is the Shelton Fire Department – Chief's Report for the month of March of the fiscal year 2009 - 2010. This is a list of completed tasks and a short list of those tasks and projects in progress.

- 1) During the heavy rainfall period between March 29th - March 31st, the SFD responded to 25 calls for flooded basements, and one rescue call for a person trapped in a vehicle due to flooding on Walnut Tree Hill Avenue. The Chief Officers of the fire department along with OEM, SPD and EMS monitored the weather condition at the "Maples" and other areas of concern for potential flooding during the week. An operational plan was developed by the fire department as a precaution for potential major flooding risks in the "Maples", fortunately flood levels remained at the minor/moderate levels and only notifications and monitoring were needed. There were no relocations or evacuations needs.
- 2) I would like to seek the BOFC's permission to move forward if necessary, with the Public Safety Council in recommending hiring Oliver Associates to assist with frequency acquisition. **(Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)**
- 3) I would like to encourage the BOFC's to immediately move forward on filling the following approved budgeted positions within the fire department for Deputy Chief, Recruitment Officer, and Administrative Associate **(Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)**
- 4) I would like to recommend that the salvageable components of the municipal fire alarm system be donated to the cities of Ansonia & Derby which still maintain a municipal alarm system. Currently, the SFD municipal fire alarm system has been de-commissioned. I have obtained a detailed list of the remaining equipment from our contracted alarms mechanics of the remaining inventory of the municipal fire alarm system. The following items that still need to be removed by our contracted alarm mechanics are the digitizers, batteries, and the fire alarm circuit wires on the telephone poles. Approximately 50% of the wires have already been removed from telephone poles over the past year.

- 5) I also like to seek approval to have the contracted alarm mechanics work with our radio service provider to upgrade the fire sirens at each Fire House, to a radio controlled system. This system will be compatible with our new console at Police Headquarters, and will serve as a tertiary warning device, and could also be used during natural disasters.
- 6) I would like to purchase (4) Automatic Call boxes, one to be placed on each firehouse as a replacement to the old municipal fire alarm system. These call boxes use the telephone system to activate 911. These call boxes will enhance public safety, by providing access to 911 at the front entrance to our fire stations, since our fire houses are not manned 24/7. (See informational packet) **(Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)**
- 7) Ladder testing was completed this March, The preliminary report found that all aerial trucks passed, with some minor needs to be addressed through the Superintendent of Apparatus. All apparatus currently have ground ladders that are in-service, the company needed to make a few repairs as they tested the ladders, a few halyards needed replacement. Unfortunately, a few ground ladders during inspection failed and were replaced with spare supplies. We are now in need of replacing these spare ladders, (1) 24ft, (4)14ft Roof Ladders, and (2) 10ft Attic Ladders have failed the ladder test. **Funding will need to be secured to purchase additional ladders.**
- 8) SCBA Posi Checks and SCBA Bottle Hydro Testing is still in progress, numerous air-packs, masks, and bottles have been repaired or tagged O.O.S for repair/replacement. **Additional funding may be needed to be secured to purchase additional repairs/replacement of SCBA (Please see Quartermaster for status and complete details)**
- 9) Hose testing began on March 31st, The SFD needs to immediately replace the following amount of hose that failed during testing. (See attached report)
- 10)Marine 1 is in need of routine service, as well as a mooring cover, and bottom paint. **(Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)**
- 11)Marine 4 is also in need of routine service. **(Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)**
- 12)Ladder 33 is to be re-scheduled for repairs at Gowns & Knight to repair issues with the Tank to Pump Valve and Window Wipers for early April.
- 13)I would also like to purchase updated Ice and Water Rescue Equipment. (2) Dry suits for Company # 4, and (2) Mustang Immersion Suits for Companies 1, 3, and 5, and (4) Exposure Suits for Companies 1 & 5. This will replace old & worn equipment. **(Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)**

- 14) I would like to continue purchasing a new fire extinguishing agent for Car 2, 3, 5 and FM 2 to be carried within their city response vehicles as first responders. Currently, (4) items have been purchased, they have been distributed to Car 1, 4, 6, and FM 1. (See attached information)
- 15) I would like to suggest that a preventative maintenance program and contract be developed for 2010 for all, generators, Hurst tools, and small engines (Chain Saws, Vent Saws, Ect). This service is very important, since our tools are not run on a regular basis, thus causing the new Ethanol based fuels to separate from the gasoline causing problems with small engine operations. In addition the Ethanol is very corrosive to rubber products, such as fuel lines. This plan should be formally adopted by the BOFC's (Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)
- 16) I would like to suggest that a preventative maintenance program and contract be developed in 2010 for all of our hazardous material meters, thus reducing the problems that occurred this year with multiply meter failures. This plan should be formally adopted by the BOFC's (Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)
- 17) I would like to know the status of the purchase of additional four gas Bio-system meters to standardize our SFD meters for Huntington Fire Company & the Company Assistant Chiefs as requested in my December 2009 report. (Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)
- 18) The Apparatus Replacement Committee has finalized their plans. Specifications for a new Squad 5, Squad 30, Engine/Quint 44, and Engine/Quint 53 are complete. I would like to encourage that we look into purchasing these vehicles to replace our aging fleet of vehicles. My only change to the proposed specifications is, that I would like to see both Rescue Trucks be identical copies of each other, this will reduce the over cost of these vehicles and will provide standardization of resources. I would like to suggest using the Huntington Specification as a template for this purchase. The (2) Engine/Quint specifications are very similar the only difference is due to length and maneuverability requirements needed for Engine/Quint 44. Otherwise these are almost identical replicas. I have met with the Mayor to discuss these purchases and distributed a modified plan that works within our Capital Improvement Plan to the Mayor and Officers Council. (Please see attached) (Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)
- 19) The public safety committee in continuing to work with our vendor in acquiring new frequencies for the SFD, and upgrading our current radio infrastructure. The next upgrades will be for additional (10) MT -1500 portables, and UHF radios for Engine 35, Tanker 59, and Tower 7 and (2) USB devices for White Hills and SPD to decrease power surges attacking our radio system, I would also like to upgrade our Pine Rock Base station with a remote, and t- lines this will then allow all the fire companies communications between each other, and the ability to transmit tones from different bases. (Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)

20) I would recommend that the BOFC's immediately seek bids for much needed structural firefighting gear. I have provided a copy of our current gear needs to each Commissioner and the Quartermaster for review. After reviewing the inventory list, I would like to suggest 70 sets of turnout gear be acquired to replace the old, and un-safe gear immediately. In addition, I would suggest that Helmets, Gloves and Boots (rubber/leather) also be bid ASAP. I would then suggest that we look into purchasing another 50 sets of gear next year, this will replace marginal gear that will need replacement within the next one – two years. (Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)

21) I would like to suggest that a BOFC's move forward with the creation of a Facilities Renovation and Replacement sub-committee of the BOFC's. I would also like to suggest that each fire company participate by assigning a Company Officer to this committee and for the committee to also include the respective Company Assistant Chiefs. I would also like the BOFC's to ask the BOA to formally consider putting together a fire house renovation/building committee and to provide funding for engineering studies. (Carry over from previous reports for action to be taken)

22) A/C Ullrich, the Records Keeper and Secretary are in the process of updating, and notifying all Shelton FD members to complete their annual medicals and re-certs. Failure to complete these OSHA requirements will result in change of status as defined by the I-2 policy. Notice of status changes for non compliance shall be sent to the Respective Assistant Chiefs and Records Keeper by April 7th.

23) A/C Ullrich is completing a safety review of all firehouses, gear, equipment and apparatus. He has completed Companies 3 & 5. All deficiencies noted have been forwarded to the respective Commissioner or city agencies for mediation. Still awaiting a final report from Companies 1 & 4.

Yours in Service

Francis T. Jones III
Fire Chief
Shelton Fire Department