

HAWAII FIRE COMMISSION  
FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT  
May 9, 2007

**Budget**

- FY 2007/08 Budget: Received the Mayor's amended submittal to Council, which includes \$86,000 for replacement beds, stoves, and refrigerators at our stations.
- FY 2006/07 Budget: As Commissioners may have read in recent newspaper articles, overtime paid is high mainly due to personnel shortage and training requirements. We are carefully monitoring our budget to ensure no shortfalls.

**Alternative Funding and Grants**

- FEMA FY 2005 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant: (Plymo-Vent) Duct work completed on Stations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8. Awaiting electrical installation and formal training before system is operational. Training to be scheduled in early June.
- FEMA FY 2004 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant: (Burn Trailer) Still awaiting MOU from State Department of Transportation to relocate trailer to former airport site. Should be finalized soon.
- FEMA FY 2006 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant: No word yet on our grant proposal for fire safety & education trailer. Submitted in January; if successful, will work with committee on implementation.
- FEMA FY 2007 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant: Submitted our grant application on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for video teleconferencing equipment. Grant total request is for \$327,600 to purchase VTS equipment for 15 of our 20 fire stations (5 stations do not have basic technical capability to accommodate VTS), Training, Dispatch, and Administration.
- Firemans Fund Heritage Grant: \$12,500 received to conduct instructor training. Commissioner Bertsch attended check presentation ceremony.

**Capital Improvement Projects**

- Makalei Fire Station: No new updates from last month's report: (Preliminary site plan agreed upon. Consultant to conduct Environmental Assessment and survey of site.)
- Pahoa Fire Station: Supplemental contract obtained for design of intersection with Highway 130.
- Fire Administration & Support Facility: No new developments from last month's report. (Continuing to negotiate fee proposal with consultant for design.)

- Central Fire Station: No new developments from last month's report: (Received response from HUD; requesting an Environmental Review be conducted on parcel to be conveyed to the County. In process of selecting consultant.)
- Central Fire Station Retrofit Project: No new developments from last month's report: (Site meeting on hold. DPW awaiting general contractor (Beachside Construction) to submit revised sub-contractor listing. Upon resubmission and approval, will hold site meeting.)
- Captain Cook: No new developments: (Received fee proposal; currently under review by Department of Public Works).
- Paauilo Volunteer Station: No new developments: (Meeting held with DPW on site use issues. DPW Highways facility will use all of the area that is currently fenced. Fire Department has agreed to use site located on the Honokaa side of access road. Design will now include this area. Due to fact that DPW has funds available for construction, as an interim measure, DPW will include an area to temporarily house our volunteer vehicles.)

## **Promotions and Hiring**

Active recruits include:

### **Open-Competitive Recruitment**

- FF Recruit Candidates (re: 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> classes.) Candidates presently undergoing medical screening. Target date for hire for 36<sup>th</sup> recruit class is July 15, 2007. Have identified qualified applicants for interview phase. Looking at December/January for 37<sup>th</sup> class.
- FFR Family Orientation for 36<sup>th</sup> class will be held June 15 at 1730 at Aupuni Center Conference Room. Invitation open to all Commissioners.

### **Internal Recruitment**

- Battalion Chiefs: Assessment held for five candidates for EMS and FASO positions on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ask Commissioner Rosehill if he has any comments to offer on process.
- Battalion Chiefs (Emergency Operations and Special Operations): Internal recruitment for these two positions opened on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Closing date is May 16.

## **Emergency Operations Division**

### **Support Services Division**

#### **Auxiliary Services:**

#### **FCCC:**

- Began implementation of Wireless 911 in late April – the FCCC (with varying degrees of accuracy) is able to determine the location and number of a 911 cell phone call.

### **Maintenance Shop:**

- New Apparatus  
New Engine 6- HFD 500 arrived. Personnel are to be trained on apparatus in May.

### **EMS Bureau:**

- Developed price term agreement for EMS Supplies, submitted to Purchasing Division on April 13.

### **Inspection Bureau:**

### **Training Bureau:**

#### Operations Section

##### 34<sup>th</sup> Fire Recruits

Engaged in the EMT-I clinical portion of their class throughout the month of April. Clinicals will end on May 5<sup>th</sup> and they will go through skills testing and a final during the following week. Graduation ceremony is slated for May 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Nani Mau, beginning at 5:00 pm. They will be back in class on May 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>.

##### 35<sup>th</sup> Fire Recruits

Station Orientation and Driver Training on going. Class is divided: half is assigned to station orientation and the other half to driver training. They have been alternating between the 2 topics on a weekly basis. EMT preparation lectures involving topics such as medical terminology and basic anatomy and physiology has been interjected to aid their transition into EMT class which is scheduled to begin on June 12, 2007. The 35<sup>th</sup> has been busy giving back to the community by volunteering their time and assistance to the Merrie Monarch Parade, the Office Professional's Day Luncheon. They are planning to provide Lifeguards at the upcoming Waiakea High School Graduation Night in early June, being held at the Hilo Yacht Club.

##### 36<sup>th</sup> Fire Recruits

Preparation for the upcoming 36<sup>th</sup> Fire Recruit Class has begun. The course schedule is almost complete. Class supplies are being gathered and organized. The potential candidates have been selected and are going through the pre-employment process.

##### Other

Continuous implementation and monitoring of the Driver Audit and PUC Programs. Focused on program improvement.

#### Volunteer Section

##### East Hawaii

Trained 10 Companies, 52 personnel

Training included: Wet Drills, Hose Evolutions, & Communications

### West Hawaii

Trained 9 Companies, 70 personnel

Training included Wet Drills (including multi-company), Hose Testing, Vehicle maintenance and Communications

Report by Tom Brandt.

### **Other Support Division Activities:**

- Continue to work with FEMA for reimbursement of Oct. 15, 2005 earthquake costs.
- Consultant for new radio system selected (Macro Engineering). Data Systems taking the lead on handling negotiations. Radio group met with Mayor Kim to discuss long range development of this project.
- Working with Public Works, Pacific Wireless, and Corporation Council on the Kapoho Radio Tower to Puna Geothermal transfer (continuing). Funding approved by council in March. Bid specifications for equipment completed and submitted to purchasing on April 13.
- Distributed FF1 and FF2 Video training resources to all stations and Volunteer Captains.
- Bid specifications for 2007 Highways Safety Grant Award (portable generators, remote lighting, highway safety signs) completed and submitted to Purchasing Division.

### **New Projects/Business**

- Explorer Program: Stacy Domingo, Justin Neeson, Tracy Brennan, and Kimo Wilson working actively to get program off ground. Pilot program in Hilo will begin June 23.
- Burn Trailer: Demonstration to be held at Schultz Siding following the meeting.

### **Employee/Public Relations**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Employees & Awards Dinner: Confirmed date is Friday, August 17 at Hilo Meishoin.
- 34<sup>th</sup> FF Recruit Class Graduation: To be held May 12, 2007, at 1700, at Nani Mau Gardens.
- EMS Week: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run/Walk/Keiki Run to be held on Sunday, May 27, at Liliuokalani Gardens.