

**HAWAII FIRE COMMISSION  
FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT  
January 14, 2009**

**Budget:**

- FY 2009/10 Budget: Met with Finance Department on January 12, 2009 to present our budget. Asked to look into cutting 5% from Other Current Expenses (OCE) accounts for present FY, and 10% for FY 2009-10.

**Alternative Funding and Grants:**

- FEMA FY 2007 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant: (Video Teleconferencing Equipment) Bid awards made but adjustments necessary due to higher than expected cost. Number of units reduced from 16 to 14. Will get Polycom prices to Commissioner Bowles once contract negotiated.
- FEMA FY 2008 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant: (health/wellness program, total budget is \$531,203) FRS Kim is working with Purchasing on bids for equipment and medical screening.

**Capital Improvement Projects:**

Makalei Fire Station:

- December 2008: County Council adopted Resolution 824-08 which accepted the donation of 2.802 acres of property from GKK Makalei. Details of the dedication deed are still being worked on through Corporation Counsel and attorneys representing the owners. Special Use Permit application submitted to Planning Department for review/approval in December. Process may take approx 3 months.

Pahoa Fire Station:

- December 2008: Retrofit of the exterior walls completed. Interior painting and finish work is continuing. Large missile impact resistant windows have been ordered. Contractor still awaiting approval of generator exhaust installation. Off-site road improvements continuing. Estimated completion date in February-March.

Fire Administration & Support Facility:

- December 2008: Design development is continuing. We're expecting updated design plans shortly. In need of additional funding for project.

Central Fire Station:

- December 2008: Final demolition and landscape inspection was conducted on 12/19/08 and final completion was accepted. Still awaiting word from HUD on the disposition request.

### Captain Cook:

- December 2008: Construction is continuing. HazMat abatement (removal and replacement of floor tiles) has been completed. Hose tower retrofit is nearing completion with the installation of an interior concrete wall being erected inside of the tower. ADA compliance work in the bathroom is continuing, as well as general building maintenance and earthquake repairs. In addition to required work, we are also requesting to paint the interior of the station. As part of the overall fire/police project, a new drywell will be installed at the driveway entrance with excavation beginning 1/5/09 that may have an impact on limiting access to the fuel pump at the rear of the fire station. Alternative arrangements have been made with State DOT to draw fuel from their baseyard.

### Promotions and Hiring:

#### Open-Competitive Recruitment

- **Ocean Safety:** Interviews conducted on December 5 for WSO Temp (South Hilo), WSO ½ time (South Kohala) and WSO ¾ time (South Hilo). Start date was December 16.

#### Internal Recruitment

- **Fire Equipment Operator:** Assessment Center exercises conducted on December 6 & 7, 2008. As of January 16, 11 new FEO promotions.
- **Fire Captain:** Internal recruitment to open on January 12; closes January 23, 2009. Will keep Fire Commission informed of assessment center as they are welcomed to sit in.

### Emergency Operations Division

- BC officers completed station visitation to pass on all pertinent information to improve communication.
- New MICTs are on line and utilized as floaters for vacancies within the battalion
- Fleet management project moving forward with vendor formulating the data base for the program. BC officers working closely with the mechanic shop and Laurine on this project.
- Hazmat Chemistry class in progress to certify as HazMat Techs.
- Tsunami drill on January 27.

#### Ocean Safety

- Report by Captain John Kapsky.

## **Support Services Division**

### **EMS Bureau:**

- Meeting held with representatives from Hawaii Air Ambulance (HAA) & American Medical Response (AMR) regarding HAA new interisland rotor wing service to discuss and revise HFD's Patient Transfer Policies & Procedures.
- In-service on Hawaii Life Flight helicopter – Hawaii Air Ambulance (HAA) new interisland rotor wing service – for Companies 6 & 12 at Kona Community Hospital & Company 9 at North Hawaii Community Hospital on December 18, 19, 22, 2008.

### **Auxiliary Services**

#### **Communications:**

12/01/08: Pictometry maps up loaded in dispatch positron mapping system.

12/03/08: Changed out CML computers

12/17/08: FASO attended Civil Defense's County Emergency System Activation class.

#### **Warehouse:**

12/18/08: Received and distributed island map booklets to all department first line engines and medics.

### **Maintenance Shop**

Apparatus and equipment repair  
109 total repairs/service  
17 of these were road service calls or trouble calls

Encourage preventive maintenance.

### **Training Bureau:**

#### **Recruit Training:**

##### **38<sup>th</sup> Recruit class:**

- Wildland firefighting class. Swim component coming up.

##### **37<sup>th</sup> Recruit class:**

- Completed their EMT-I portion on Dec. 12 and everyone completed and passed the final by 12/18/08.
- By 12/28/08 everyone had completed their make up hours for their DTR and is now certified to begin their 50/30 criteria on the medics.

## **Volunteer Section**

- Report by Tom Brandt.
- Next Volunteer Chiefs meeting on February 21, at 1000 at Laupahoehoe.

## **Prevention**

### Fireworks Stats:

- Sold 49 licenses this year vs. 55 last year.
- For New Years, sold 1,437 permits this year vs. 1,797 last year.
- During period 12/30 to 1/1/09, received 205 total calls this year, vs. 274 last year. Of these calls, 3 were fireworks related, vs. 2 last year.
- Fireworks imported to Big Island (cases):
  - Novelties: 18,898 this year vs. 23,367 last year. (19% decrease)
  - Firecrackers: 415 this year vs. 729 last year (43% decrease)

## **New Projects/Business**

- 2009 State Legislature: Meetings with Representatives & Senators, re: home rule for fireworks.
- Visit to warehouse/dispatch following meeting. Chief Gahan will be available to transport Commissioners to/from.

## **Employee/Public Relations**

- Station Decorating Contest: Participating stations included:
  - Central, Kaumana, Keaau and Honokaa
  - Kailua and South KohalaAll stations will receive \$100 cash prize award.
- American Heart Walk: Will be participating in annual Heart Walk on February 14, 0800, at Liliuokalani Gardens.
- FF Keoni Reich set a new world record in the law/fire division at the World Association of Benchers and Deadlifters in Las Vegas in November 2008. He deadlifted 722 lbs.