



City of Rochelle
Fire Department
2017
Annual Report

Submitted by
David W. Sawlsville,
Fire Chief
February 2018



JANUARY 2017

Annual Ice Rescue Practice at Spring Lake

During a bitter cold night many department members went down to the marina at Spring Lake and began preparing for a training drill. The new banana boat was used to help the fire fighters get to the victim safely. The scenario was a victim was stranded in a hole in the ice and couldn't get himself out. (A hole had to be cut with a saw due to the extremely cold night and rapidly freezing ice) In a more typical scenario, if the ice were thin and somebody fell through, the rescue crew's would need the banana boat to disperse their weight to get to the victim safely. The rescue crews donned the Mustang suits that keep them dry and warm. The Mustang suit functions similar to a personal flotation device. Once the proper safety measures were taken, rescuers made their way to the victim and rescued them from the freezing water. This evolution was repeated several times to get our members trained and memories refreshed in this exercise.



Social Hall Kitchen Remodel

The kitchen remodel was facilitated by a generous, anonymous donation that funded nearly half the cost of the project. The hall renovations began in February, and were led by social member Brian Edwards. To prepare for the kitchen remodel and accommodate the churches that serve the free community meals on Monday's, a special room was built for their supplies.

Another separate room for the tables and chairs was built for renters. Behind the tables and chairs storage room, the social organization built its own private storage space. The kitchen portion of the project started with gutting the current kitchen. The size of the old kitchen was doubled by removing a wall.

The new kitchen features two entrances and two serving windows. All new lighting, floors, cabinets, counter tops, appliances and meal preparation tables were added just to name a few of the improvements. The social members completed the majority of the work donating their time and talents. The work was completed in February of 2018.

FEBRUARY 2017

Multi-Agency Response to rollover Accident on I-39

On February 18th, Rochelle Fire was dispatched for a 1-vehicle rollover on I-39 in the median near mile marker 103. 1-F-21 responded along with Ogle-Lee Creston. Upon arrival, crews found Lynn-Scott-Rock had been dispatched to the same accident and were on scene. The collision had been reported by IL State Police Officer who witnessed the collision while on a motorist assist. A LaSalle Ambulance also happened to be passing by the scene and stopped to assist. The LaSalle crew made first contact with the patient and suspected major trauma. The patient was also found to be entrapped. 1-F-21 requested a rescue crew to respond with Rescue 8. Lynn-Scott-Rock ambulance contacted a medical helicopter as the crew from 1-F-21 began preparing the wrecked vehicle for extrication. Creston's engine arrived and extrication began. Once extrication was complete, REACT Helicopter arrived, and the victim was flown out to a local trauma center.

Auto Pulse Added to Frontline Ambulance

Rochelle Fire received a donation from the Rochelle Community Hospital for a Zoll CPR compression board. The department completed software updates and purchased new batteries for the device totaling around \$5000.00. Since placing this equipment in service it has been used many times.

The Auto Pulse resuscitation system provides high-quality automated compressions to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. The device is easy to use and battery operated. The Auto Pulse squeezes the patient's entire chest to improve blood flow to the heart and brain. The only device of its kind, the Auto Pulse automatically sizes to the patient. The system is designed for ease of patient movement and transport. When



compared to manual compressions, the Auto Pulse has been shown to reduce interruptions in compressions during transport by more than 85%. The Auto Pulse is made for resuscitation on the move.

MARCH 2017

New Forcible Entry Door Prop

The Rochelle Foreign Fire Insurance Board and The Ogle Lee Fire Protection District split the cost of the new training prop. It has two doors to simulate multiple forcible entry scenarios. Multiple trainings were conducted for each shift, and then as a whole department on March 2nd.



This patented door system is by far the most realistic and versatile forcible-entry training device on the market today. Fire Fighters can train on every technique which applies to inward, outward, left-hand, and right-hand swinging doors. It simulates metal or wood jambs, and using a halligan, flat head axe, or maul. This forcible-entry simulator trains firefighters for these types of doors that are encountered in day-to-day firefighting. In most instances, the faster the door gets forced, the faster water gets to the fire. Firefighters know that quick entry usually leads to water being applied to the fire sooner.

Barn Burns Down Unnoticed in the Middle of the Night.

Early on the morning of March 27th, Rochelle Fire and Ogle-Lee Steward were dispatched to a fire in the area of Woodlawn and Elva Rd. After initial dispatch, engine 3 was notified that the fire was a fully-involved barn with another shed nearby. Ogle-Lee Steward arrived on scene first and advised the barn was fully engulfed in fire and on the ground. Steward crew began protecting the nearby shed. Engine 3 arrived on scene, and staged near the property entrance. Steward established that they had the situation under control and would remain on scene to protect the shed. There was no equipment or vehicles inside the barn. Engine 3 was released from the scene and no injuries were reported.

April 2017

96th Annual Firemen's Ball

The Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization continued a long tradition by holding its Annual Fireman's Ball on April 8th at Abrahams Bar and Grill in the Stillman Room. The D.J. began the evening at 7 pm, and at 9pm the band Prime Time Live took the stage. A silent auction and a 50/50 raffle were also held throughout the event.

Although the Fireman's Ball is mostly "annual", it was not held for two years during wartime, but it can be traced back to the 1800's. It is believed to be one of the longest running events in the community. Funds raised by the ball support the service efforts of Rochelle Firefighters including an annual Kishwaukee College scholarship worth \$2,500, sponsoring the Fireman Little League team, and the Firefighters' Hall among others. Local churches use the Firefighter's Hall on Monday nights to provide meals to nearly 150 community members in need.



**97TH ANNUAL
FIREMEN'S BALL**

**ROCHELLE
FIRE**
Est. 1877

When Sat. April 8th 2017
Where The Stillman Room in Hickory Grove
Time 7pm till 12am Doors open at 6:45pm
Cost \$10.00 per person

The Rochelle Firefighter's Social Organization awards a \$2,500 scholarship to a graduating RTHS senior attending Kishwaukee College.

Hors d'oeuvres **Firefighter Bartenders** **Silent Auction 9:30 pm** **50/50** **Photo Booth**

The Prime Time Live Band **Pure Choice DJ Service with DJ Nick**

Flair Provided by: J.L.B. PROMOS, INC.

Burned Food Caused Residents to Evacuate Apartment Building

On the afternoon of April 12th, Engine #3 responded to 907 N. 2nd St. Countryside Village Apartments, for reported smoke in the building. Upon arrival, the residents were evacuating. There was no active fire in the apartment, and firefighters found that burnt food caused the smoke on the first floor. Engine #3 remained on scene for about 40 minutes to clear the smoke out of the building and no injuries were reported.

Fire at Illinois River Energy

On the morning of April 25th, Rochelle and Ogle-Lee/ Steward responded to a reported fire at the Illinois River Energy ethanol plant on the south side of the Hub City. The call came in a short time after 4AM. The fire was contained in a heat exchanger at the plant, and caused by a fan that had apparently stopped working and the equipment overheated. The heat exchanger is enclosed in a piping system at the plant. The temperature inside the piping was higher than normal, so crews extinguished the fire inside the pipe. There were no reports of any injuries, and the damage was estimated to be around \$5,000. The estimated value of property saved was \$5,000,000.

MAY 2017

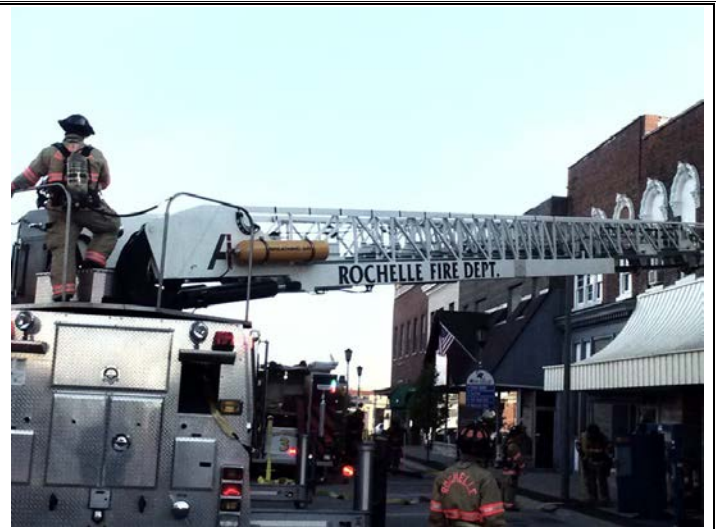
Fire Exercise Held In Downtown Rochelle



The Rochelle Fire Department along with all four Ogle-Lee Fire District stations held an exercise on May 3rd in the 300 block of Lincoln Highway in the former Moore's True Value Hardware store. Crews simulated a response from the Rochelle Fire station per the standard response times. Engine #3 responded first, and kept requesting additional fire crews.

The response was timed to simulate real responses. The initial engine company established first due company operations and scene size up. Then as Ladder 1 and Ogle Lee engines responded, they were assigned tasks. Crews performed various tasks including forcible entry, hose deployment, hooking up to hydrants, primary and secondary searches of the structure, and setting up the ladder truck to access the simulated fire. The drills also focused on improving the skills of communications and accountability.

There was a total of eight fire department apparatus participating between Rochelle and Ogle-Lee Departments and over 50 firefighters. This scenario was a downtown building fire. Using these skills on a downtown building can easily carry over to many other structures in the fire departments response area.



Kitchen Grease Fire

On May 6th, the Fire Department responded to 558 South 3rd Street a short time after 10:30am, for a fire located in the kitchen. It appeared that the fire was caused by burned food. Smoke spread throughout the home. The engine company used a fire extinguisher to douse the flames. The two residents at the home refused medical treatment at the scene. The estimated damage was around \$2,000.

Quick Response Helps Save Residence

On the evening of May 25th the Fire Department responded to an electrical fire in the basement of a 2-story home on 8th Avenue. Smoke was noticed a short time before 5pm at 303 8th Avenue. Fire crews were on scene in less than 5 min after being notified of a fire in the basement. The fire was contained in the basement of the home with smoke damage elsewhere inside the residence. The fire appeared to have started with an electrical problem in the service panel on the wall. Sparks then started cardboard boxes on the floor on fire. There were no injuries reported and the cost damage was estimated to be around \$3,000.

JUNE 2017

Fire Destroys Repair Shop at Grain Facility in Steward

Fire destroyed a repair shop on the evening of June 27th at a family owned grain facility in Steward. The fire was reported around 7pm just north of the intersection of Perry and Steward Roads. While responding from Rochelle, Engine 3 immediately noticed a large column of black smoke and requested additional mutual aid companies. Soon after, Engine 3 and Chief Sawlsville arrived on scene to find a metal structure was totally engulfed in

fire. Multiple hose lines were deployed and began attacking the fire. Ladder 1 arrived on scene and an elevated master stream was directed into the building through the partially collapsed roof.

There was some heat damage to the five grain bins at the location. Cost damage was estimated to be around \$300,000 as there was a semi-truck, a pick-up truck, along with tools and equipment in the repair shop. Crews were on scene for about three hours. The exact cause of the fire was unknown. Many nearby departments were called to the scene to assist including Compton, Shabbona, Paw Paw, and West Brooklyn. There were no injuries reported.



JULY 2017

Fireworks Appear To Cause House Fire

At 10:12pm on July 2nd a fire was reported to on Southview drive. The Fire Department arrived on scene and found smoke coming from the back of the residence. Fire was noticed a short time after the occupant was shooting off fireworks. The resident informed firefighters that he'd put the firework remains in the garbage. The fire went up the wall on the backside of the house starting it on fire. Firefighters quickly deployed a hose line and extinguished the fire before further structural damage occurred. Firefighters then ventilated the remaining smoke out of the residence and checked for extension. No injuries were reported. The Fire Department was on scene for about four hours.



Annual Fireworks Display

Rochelle Firefighters continued the tradition of conducting the Fourth of July fireworks display. The show was about 25 minutes in length and witnessed by a large crowd under a clear skies with temperatures in the 70s. Thanks to a generous donation by the Flagg-Rochelle Park District, this was the largest show in

Rochelle history. The annual fireworks display requires countless hours of work planning the show, preparing equipment, and training in safety, including nearly 100 man hours of work on July 4th alone.

Dive Practice at Hickory Grove



Each shift performed its weekly shift training by completing dive practice at Hickory Grove. Each dive team member completed multiple refresher drills in full dive gear. It is important for each diver to remain proficient with all the equipment and emergency procedures to prepare for various scenarios if the need arises for a dive rescue. The department has 9 members that are fully certified to perform dive rescues and recoveries. In rescuing a victim the first attempt is to either “reach” a victim from shore using tools. The next option

is to “throw” a rope to a victim who is physically able to assist in the rescue. If those measures are unsuccessful or not possible, the rescue boat is deployed and “rowed” to the victim. A “Go” rescue, by entering the water with floatation assistance or SCUBA equipment is the most dangerous technique and is implemented if no other rescue methods are viable.

Firefighters Assist with Flooding

Rochelle firefighters assisted multiple citizens in need in the early morning hours of Saturday the 22nd of July following 6+ inches of water in 24 hours. Firefighters encountered waist high water and used mustang suits to help keep them dry and safe. They knocked on doors and informed the residents of the situation and advised them to evacuate their homes. At 8:00am firefighters gathered and started filling sandbags for anybody in the community that needed them. Many other City employees and members of the public turned out, and filled over 200 sandbags. The Fire Department also helped distribute some of the sandbags, and helped place several dozen sandbags at homes along the Kyte River that were in immediate danger. Meanwhile an ambulance crew was sent to assist with an evacuation of a nursing home in Oregon. The fire station also served as a distribution point for cleaning kits provided by the Salvation Army.

August 2017

On the 21st of August a small plane made a hard landing at the Rochelle Municipal Airport, wind appeared to make the pilot lose control of the plane and it made a crash landing. The plane suffered damage to the wing, the pilot was uninjured. The fire department was called to assist with a fuel leak. The crew from Rescue 8 assessed the scene, determined that the scene was secure and there were no injuries reported. The crew from Rescue 8 found the pilot to be the only occupant of the plane and he was assisting the airport grounds crew to hook the plane up to drag it off the runway.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival

Firefighters were busy during the LHFF, selling over 2000 pork chop sandwiches for the social organization. The American flag was flown from atop Ladder 1 over the Hub City Cruiser's annual downtown car show. "Gertie" was also proudly on display at the car show, displayed here in front of Quin's Jewelry Store. The department also entered several apparatus in the parade.



SEPTEMBER 2017

40 Hour Hazardous Material Class



The Illinois Fire Service Institute conducted an Advanced Hazardous Materials Response Class (Technician B) at the Rochelle Fire department on consecutive weekends during September. 10 Rochelle and 1 Ogle-Lee firefighters completed the 40 hour class. Tech B is the highest level of certification available in the state of Illinois for hazardous materials training and builds on multiple prerequisite hazardous materials classes. Students were trained in the mitigation of incidents of a wide range. The students worked through several scenarios from rescuing victims, to sampling chemicals, and controlling a spill or a leak of dangerous chemicals.

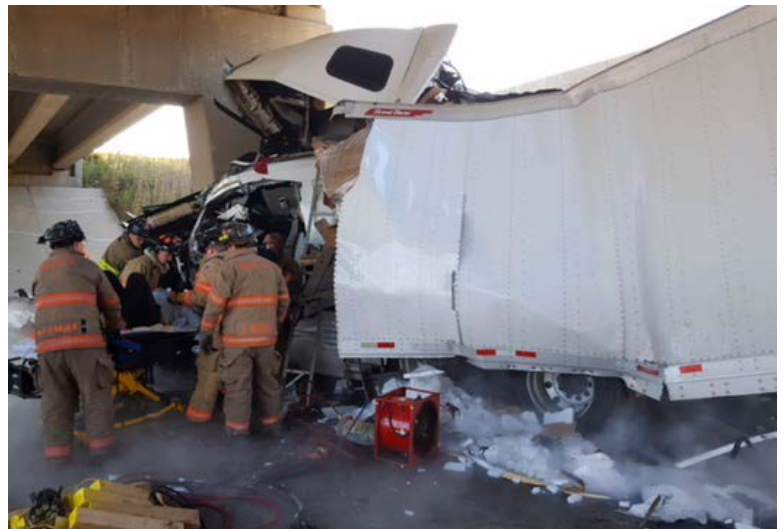
The Rochelle Fire Department currently has 15 Firefighters certified as Hazardous Material Technicians. The Fire Department was able to use a state education grant called Cornerstone to offset the tuition costs and by hosting the class in Rochelle we saved thousands of dollars in travel costs.



Semi Strikes Bridge Entrapping Driver

On September 5th a semi that was eastbound on I-88 entered the median and went down the embankment to Rt. 251 and collided with a bridge support. Contents of the semi load of dry

ice spread all across the ground. The driver needed to be extricated from the cab by extensive dismantling of the driver's compartment. The driver sustained moderate injuries and was transported to Rochelle Hospital. Crews were on scene for over an hour.



Rochelle-Trained for Oregon State Wildfires



As wildfires were burning throughout the Western United States and Canada, four local men were called to head west to share their knowledge in wildland firefighting. Firefighters including former Fire Chief and current City Councilman Tom McDermott, Fire Chief Dave Salwsville, Hillcrest Area Fire Chief Steve Builta and Ogle County Emergency Operations Coordinator Tom Richter spent four days in Oregon State training National Guard Members in wildland firefighting.

Since the regular firefighters in the western states were already deployed and occupied in the trenches of the wildfires, Oregon State

Governor Kate Brown called upon approximately 500 National Guard members to deploy to the state. Upon their arrival, they would require training in the field before setting off to work. Governor Brown contacted the Oregon State Firefighter Training Academy who then called upon other states to send trainers their way.

The Rochelle four spent their days training the Oregon National Guard in Basic Wildland Firefighting at the Oregon Fire Academy. Immediately following their training, the Guard members were sent into the hot zones to put their training into practice.

Fire Chief Dave Sawlsville commented on the warm welcome and many thanks received on the way home from Oregon. “They are a first-class operation in Oregon, right down to the TSA folks,” he recounted while telling of the thanks the group received throughout the airport and even on the plane. “Everyone was so appreciative to have the extra help.”



OCTOBER 2017

Dive Team Assists DeKalb Police

On October 2nd, the DeKalb Police Department contacted the Rochelle Fire Department to request divers to assist in the search for a hand gun that was allegedly thrown into the NIU Lagoon near Altgeld Hall in the early morning hours of October 2nd. For approximately 3 hours, members conducted multiple searches of the area of where the gun was reportedly thrown. The weapon was not located. It was later determined that the weapon was likely not discarded in the lagoon as originally reported. The Rochelle Fire



Department has on staff 7 Certified Rescue Divers. Rochelle Fire responded with 5 Divers and a support vehicle. The incident provided a great opportunity to train and network with our neighbors.



SWAT Medic Training

Three fire department members completed SWAT training in Lincoln, IL. The paramedics with Rochelle Fire have completed all of their training to be fully certified SWAT Medics. The paramedics trained over the course of the week on response scenarios, team building, tactical evolutions, and physical endurance. The RFD paramedics are members of the Ogle County Emergency Response Team and can deploy to give immediate medical care to responders and victims during a SWAT team operation.



Fire Prevention Month

October is always a busy month at the fire station. With students returning to school comes annual school fire and safety inspections. Firefighters conducted walkthrough inspections of each school in Rochelle and the Ogle-

Lee Fire Protection District which including Creston, Steward, Kings, and the Focus House. Firefighters ensure proper use of extension cords, electrical outlets, storage of chemicals, and general fire safety. Annual inspections are completed in coordination with the Lee-Ogle Regional Office of Education.

Each year, we set aside time to focus on fire prevention and education in our community. This year, the NFPA national theme was "Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out" and focuses on planning and practicing two escape routes from the home in the event of a fire. Firefighters engage with students in the classroom and at the fire station, providing students the opportunity to meet local firefighters and learn about the latest in fire safety. This year, Rochelle Firefighters interacted with over 400 students ranging from Pre-K to High School.



Joint Hazardous Material Drill

On Sunday, October 29th, firefighters from the Rochelle and Ogle-Lee Departments held a joint hazardous material drill with the emergency response team at Rochelle Foods. Rochelle is home to multiple cold storage and food processing facilities, which present unique HAZ-MAT challenges. Firefighters rely on staff at fixed facilities for their technical expertise and extensive training in on-site products. In this scenario, site staff provided knowledge and direction regarding the facility layout, location of key valves, and employee accountability. Firefighters from Rochelle and Ogle-Lee provided entry teams to manage a down-rescuer scenario and coordinated decontamination procedures. A debriefing following the exercise afforded firefighters to meet and come away with a better understanding of their respective roles in HAZ-MAT incidents. Both fire departments and Rochelle Foods employees reinforced the benefit of these training exercises and preparation is underway for another drill in the Spring 2018.



NOVEMBER 2017

Equipment Donation

Rochelle Fastenal representative D.J. Williams donated over \$900 in cordless power tools to the Rochelle Fire Department. The tool selection consisted of drills, an angle grinder, a portable bandsaw and numerous others which are vital for

extricating victims from vehicles and

industrial machinery. The Rochelle Foreign Fire Tax Board authorized \$1,300 for the initial purchase of cordless tools. The Fastenal representatives learned that additional cordless tools would also prove useful, and offered a donation. Mr. Williams and Rochelle Firefighters pose with the selection of tools donated.



DECEMBER 2017

New Hires at the Fire Department

The Rochelle Fire Department would like to welcome Mike McGill and Hailey Hopkins as our newest Paid-on-Call Firefighters. Mike is certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter and an EMT-Basic. Mike is also a volunteer Firefighter with the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District Flagg Center station. Hailey is a licensed EMT-Basic and a graduate of Kishwaukee College. Hailey is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing through the OSF St. Anthony College of Nursing.

Christmas keeping the wreath red:

In 1954, LT Paul Boecker of the Naperville Fire Department was working to develop a way to remind people to keep fire safety in mind when decorating for the holidays. His idea was to hang a wreath on the fire station and light it with red lights. If that station responded to a fire during the holiday season a red bulb was replaced by a white one. Each year, the U.S. averages 210 residential fires from Christmas trees. At the Rochelle Fire Department, we continue the "Keep the Wreath Red" tradition. In 2017 there were no fires related to the holidays in the Rochelle Fire response area.



Emergency Responses for 2017

<u>Ambulance Responses</u>	
January	117
February	104
March	128
April	134
May	136
June	137
July	143
August	132
September	143
October	109
November	135
December	146
Total	1564

<u>Fire/Rescue Responses</u>	
January	20
February	18
March	20
April	25
May	19
June	20
July	28
August	19
September	27
October	21
November	31
December	24
Total	272

Total Incidents: 1,836

The loss of property and contents to structure fires in 2017 totaled \$220,200. Total property and contents saved was \$14,143,610. Due to the work of the fire department, 98.5% of property and contents affected by structure fires was saved. Total ambulance calls from 2016 to 2017 remained unchanged. Fire/Rescue Responses saw a 5% increase from 2016. Rochelle firefighters compiled 1,686 hours training in 2017. Training time in 2017 covered a wide range of topics including EMS certifications, fire & rescue training, firefighter safety, HAZ-MAT, water rescue, and dive rescue training. Multiple firefighters also attended fire officer classes improving their knowledge and skills to become future leaders.

Rochelle Fire Department Roster

Full-Time Firefighters



Chief David Sawlsville

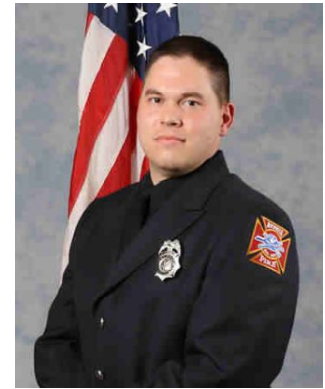
Red Shift



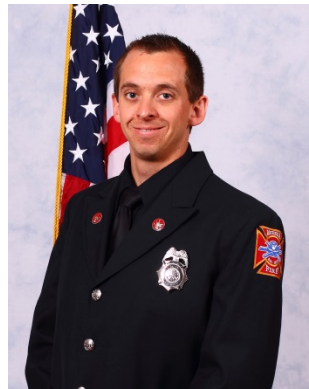
Lt./Paramedic J. Underwood



FF/Paramedic B. Edwards



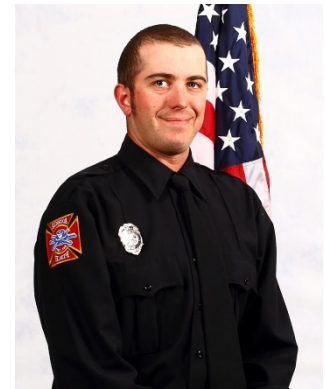
FF/Paramedic B. Johnson



FF/Paramedic R. Baylor



FF B. Baker



FF D. Champlain



FF/Paramedic C. Helgren



FF/EMT B. Hardcastle



FF L. Noggle



FF/Paramedic Brandan Sanders

Gold Shift



Lt./Paramedic D. Miller



FF/Paramedic R. Workman



FF/Paramedic J. Willis



FF/Paramedic K. Dougherty



FF/Paramedic T. Christopherson



FF/EMT L. Erickson



FF/Paramedic A. Gillis



FF/EMT Austin Gillis



FF/EMT J. Miller



FF/EMT N. Rhoads



FF/EMT C. Ward

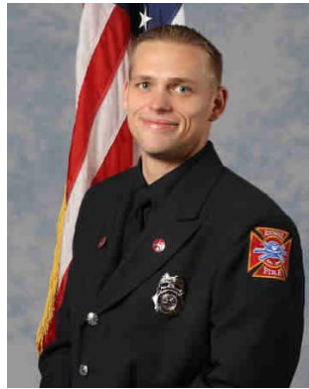


FF/EMT J. Valdivieso

Black Shift



Lt./Paramedic Z. Prewett



FF/Paramedic J. Good



FF/Paramedic J. Lewis



FF/Paramedic Tyler Carls



FF T. Leahey



FF/EMT R. Brown



FF/Paramedic D. Fisher



FF/Paramedic L. Harmon



FF/EMT B. Smith



FF. M. McGill



FF. S. Contreras



FF. M. Bolhous



FF. M. Wittenauer