Stoughton Fire Department

January 31, 2022 Police and Fire Commission Report

Fire Chief – Josh Ripp

We have been meeting virtually for business meetings, but have been in person for our trainings, with smaller groups. We have had 2-3 people out at any point with quarantine/illness issues.

PERSONNEL INFO

Personnel Statistics

We are currently at 38 staff members. The Breakdown is:

36 are Active

1 is on a light duty status

1 is on longer term medical leave

2 are in initial training status (just hired)

Retirement

Assistant Chief Richard "Dickie" Kittleson retired effective January 1, 2022. He had 50.5 years on the FD. He has stopped by occasionally, and may be assisting with a FD Auxiliary group setup.

Personnel Notes

- **Fire Tech Position –** Was approved for full time in 2022, and we are doing interviews on 1/31 for filling the position. The incumbent (Mason Barber) took a full time Chief position created at Brooklyn FD and EMS.
- **Committee on Recruitment/retention –** We are revamping some of our committees and adding a few, one of which is a recruitment/retention committee. This will look at all aspects of our department operations as well as compensation to help
- **New Members –** Taibar and Sean will be starting class in Lake Mills on February 3.

TRAINING:

Regular Trainings:

I have included the current training calendar put together by the training committee. The committee has been hard at work, and have also worked on getting our new members prepared for Entry level class. The schedule has been tweaked for 2022 so that the last training per month is a company based training, where captains train with their respective companies, vs combined groups for the other trainings.

This is in addition to the weekly classes for Entry level class. We expect them to complete enough class to be qualified for interior firefighting by state law.

Driver Operator:

We have 2 new personnel State Certified as Pumper Operators (Trent Nihles and Eric Hohol). There are 2 more in the same class this spring, and 1 person scheduled to take State Certified Aerial Operator class as well. This is a bit of a push to help us get some versatility in the department with staff. Most of our operators are also officers. This has proven to limit us at scenes, as generally, a person is limited in what they can do. If the person is an operator, they won't be able to move to an officer role, until the operator spot has been filled.

Fire Incidents

We have been responding to what seems is a bit higher number of structure fires than in the past. Mutual Aid wise, this is good to know that other departments are calling us for help. However, it's not good that we have more calls. That being said, the incidents in January (2 structure fires in a week), have given us some good lessons we are working through to improve our department operations. A brief description of those incidents follow:

1005 Stoughton Avenue:

Fire reported from an upper floor of the building at 19:09 Hrs. First units on arrival noted that heavy fire was pushing out of 3 windows on the upper floor. While enroute, FD staff asked for a box alarm, which brought an additional 3 engine companies, a ladder company, 2 Chiefs, an ambulance and rehab from Stoughton. This was in addition to the Ladder from Cottage Grove coming in mutual aid. We had to use both ladder trucks for overhaul as we worked to make sure the fire was out. Fire is under investigation, but initial estimates are for the damage to be over $140,000. No civilians were hurt, and we even saved a hamster from a 1st floor apartment. We had 24 personnel at that fire. We cleared the scene at 23:28 hrs.

1543 Williams Drive:

At 16:15 hrs., Fire was reported by the sole owner/resident of the house, in the back area of the home. The resident was mobility impaired as well. Upon initial unit's arrival, heavy smoke was issuing from the attic of the back of the home, with some fire showing through a window. The family of the resident/homeowner was on scene, and were assisting with getting her out of the home. An attack was made, and a box alarm was requested due to overhaul potential. Fire damage was limited to the back 3 rooms of the home, and the attic above. There was smoke damage through the rest of the building. Cause is under investigation. Estimated damage is $100,000. We did extensive salvage (tarps placed over belongings) to protect them from the water and insulation from the attic. We were on scene until 1917 hrs. We had 17 members respond to this call.

CALL STATISTICS

We are currently at 414 calls for the year. This puts us 63 calls ahead of last year.

Municipality Breakdown

	2021	**2020**	**2019**
Stoughton	258	205	224
Dunkirk	41	31	35
Dunn	31	34	24
Pleasant Springs	27	32	33
Rutland	26	12	14
Mutual Aid	31	37	39
TOTAL	**414**	**351**	**369**

Call Type Breakdown 2021

Fires	54
Alarms (Fire/CO/Gas) -	149
Accidents –	63
EMS Assists –	58
Brush/Wildland –	38
Other - (Water rescue, other assists, etc.)	52

Call Attendance:

Some parameters I'm working on is call attendance. Some caveats for the this are:

- We hadn't tracked calls where a cancellation page was put out (telling people to not respond). We will artificially have lower numbers for those calls.
- I will be giving some averages of numbers. I'm hoping to get better info for attendance at various call types.

So, what I have is the average per month, counting out the "cancelled" calls.

October – 12.4 people per call

November – 11.17 people per call

December – 12.42 people per call

Duty Crew Calls

We are going to be changing to a duty crew setup, once we can get things nailed down at comm center. This is take some of the call "loading" off everyone. Today, every call is assumed to be an all call (everyone responds). In looking at our calls, I've identified the calls that are an all call on the initial page, and then the calls that turned out to not need more than a duty crew vehicle. This is important because if we have everyone respond to the station, but only 1 truck rolls, only the first 4 or 5 people get to go on the call, everyone else sits. These people are typically the same staff, as they are the ones that live closest to the station.

October – **37** calls, **26** of those were ALL CALLS based on the initial dispatch code. Ultimately, only **20** truly ended up using more than the first crew of 4-5.

November – 34 calls, **23** of those were ALL CALLS based on the initial dispatch code. Ultimately, only **17** truly ended up using more than the first crew of 4-5.

December – 38 calls, **20** of those were ALL CALLS based on the initial dispatch code. Ultimately, only **15** truly ended up using more than the first crew of 4-5.

Projects

Ladder 4 – Is currently in Weyauwega, and we are awaiting word on if it's on track to be back in the planned 120 days.

Month	Mondays	Rotation	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3		PROBIES
January	3	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	10	A	VENT	ICE RESCUE			INTRO / ADMIN
	17	OFF	OFF MLK DAY				
	24	A	ICE RESCUE	VENT			PPE & SCBA
	31	AA	SCBA	SAWS	FOLD-A-TANK		TRUCKS & TOOLS
February	7	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	14	B	TABLETOPS	AIRBAGS			H2O SUPPLY
	21	B	AIRBAGS	TABLETOPS			HOSE
	28	AA	FOLD-A-TANK	SCBA	SAWS		SEARCH
March	7	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	14	ALL	WILDLAND - TENATIVE				
	21	ALL	CLASS A & DEPT PIC				
	28	AA	SAWS	FOLD-A-TANK	SCBA		LADDERS
April	4	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	11	C	MATC FE & Live Fire	STANDPIPE			TASK REVIEW - OFF NIGHT
	18	C	STANDPIPE	MATC FE & Live Fire			CHECK OFF - OFF NIGHT
	25	BB	ATV	WATER SUPPLY	PUMPING		RADIO / MAYDAY
May	2	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	9	ALL	SYTTENDE MAI				
	16	D	2 1/2" HOSE	2 1/2" HOSE			GAS METER / TIC / VENT
	23	BB	PUMPING	ATV	WATER SUPPLY		EXTRICATION TOOLS
	30	OFF	OFF MEMORIAL DAY				
June	6	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	13	E	CPR	CUTTING NIGHT			EXTRICATION
	20	E	CUTTING NIGHT	CPR			INTRO / ADMIN
	27	BB	WATER SUPPLY	PUMPING	ATV		PPE & SCBA
July	4	OFF	OFF JULY 4TH				
	11	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	18	ALL	ALLIANT - TENATIVE				
	25	CC	HOSE	BOAT	AERIAL		TRUCKS & TOOLS
August	1	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	8	F	ATV	SMOKE / BUILDING READING			WATER SUPPLY
	15	F	SMOKE / BUILDING READING	ATV			HOSE
	22	G	EXTRICATION	AERIAL RESCUE			SEARCH
	29	CC	AERIAL	HOSE	BOAT		LADDERS
September	5	OFF	LABOR DAY				
	12	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	19	G	AERIAL RESCUE	EXTRICATION			TASK REVIEW
	26	CC	BOAT	AERIAL	HOSE		ENTRY LEVEL CHECK OFF
October	3	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	10	H	SCBA CONFIDENCE	RIT			RADIO / MAYDAY
	17	H	RIT	SCBA CONFIDENCE			GAS METER / TIC / VENT
	24	ALL	PROPANE - TENANTIVE				
	31	DD	ROPES	LADDERS	SEARCH		EXTRICATION TOOLS
November	7	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	14	ALL	TECH RESCUE OVERVIEW				
	21	OFF	OFF THANKSGIVING				
	28	DD	SEARCH	ROPES	LADDERS		EXTRICATION
December	5	ALL	DEPT MEETING				
	12	ALL	CIVMIC				
	19	DD	LADDERS	SEARCH	ROPES		
	26	OFF	OFF CHRISTMAS				

Dept Meeting	**DEPT TRAINING ROTATION GROUPING**		
Dept Training Rotation		**GROUP 1**	**GROUP 2**
Company Training	A	1-2-3	4-5-6
Entire Dept Training	B	1-2-4	3-5-6
Off Days	C	1-2-5	3-4-6
	D	1-2-6	3-4-5
	E	1-3-4	2-5-6
	F	1-3-5	2-4-6
	G	1-3-6	2-4-5
	H	1-4-5	2-3-6
	I	1-4-6	2-3-5
	J	1-5-6	2-3-4

COMPANY LEVEL TRAINING GROUPINGS				
	GROUP 1	**GROUP 2**		**GROUP 3**
AA	1-6	5-4		2-3
BB	1-3	2-5		4-6
CC	1-4	2-6		3-5
DD	1-5	6-3		2-4