

Las Cruces Fire Department 2010-2011 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

JULY 1, 2010 to JUNE 30, 2011



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As we close out Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (FY 11) I am pleased to provide you with this Report to the Community that captures the year in review. I am extremely proud of our department for the many accomplishments that were realized this past year while operating with a reduced budget and staffing limitations due to vacant positions. It was truly a team effort on the part of our membership and they once again demonstrated their commitment to our mission and the community.

Working closely with City Council and City Administration in FY 11, some significant strides were made towards meeting several of our major needs. With funding for Fire Station 7 and a training structure in place, we are well on our way to improving fire protection for the West Mesa and Airport, along with reducing insurance rates for the entire City. This project will have a lasting positive impact for our community and will be a major area of focus for us in the coming year. We will also begin the design for a public safety complex on the east side of town that will contain a police substation, Fire Station 8 and possibly a new dispatch center.

The men and women representing the Las Cruces Fire Department (LCFD) are dedicated to providing the best possible service to you, our citizens. It is a privilege to work side by side with them as we embark on another year. Please contact me if you have questions or would like additional information about your fire department.



I am honored to have been selected to lead this organization into the future. Along with the other members of the Las Cruces Fire Department, I will work tirelessly to improve our service to you. If you have questions about your fire department, please feel free to contact me, Fire Chief Travis Brown at 575-528-3473.

The Las Cruces Fire Department is committed to safely provide customer service, fire protection, and education while maintaining the highest regard for our community and department.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

Honesty

Continually Striving to Improve Customer Service

High Performance

Openness and Teamwork

Respect for Diversity

Forward Thinking

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-2011

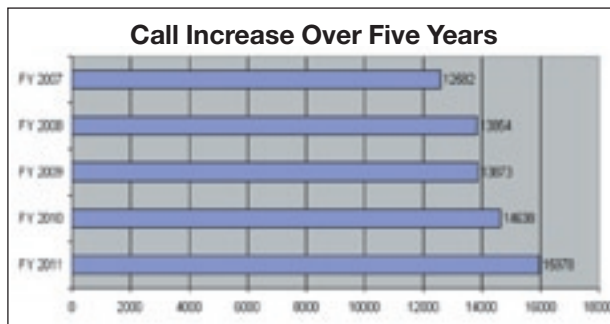
- LCFD provides service out of six staffed fire stations using six engine companies and two truck companies.
- At full staffing LCFD employs 128 personnel, which includes 124 uniformed and four civilian positions.
- We began this FY with no vacant positions and were able to maintain staffing at 100% through the end of the Fiscal Year.

- Three fire department employees retired this year including a lieutenant who retired after serving the citizens of Las Cruces for 34 years and 9 months; at the time of his retirement, he was the City's current longest serving employee.
- LCFD responded to 15,978 calls for service which represents a 9% increase in call volume over the last Fiscal Year.

* See Chart 1

Emergency Response

National response standards prescribe that our first arriving unit should take no more than five minutes from the dispatch time to the arrival on scene at least 90% of the time. For multiple unit responses, national response standards prescribe that all units should be on scene within nine minutes of dispatch. The three tables on this page summarize each fire company's compliance with the national response standard in FY 11 for single unit responses for fire, EMS and multiple unit responses.



Over 5 years, LCFD experienced the following difference:

- A 69% increase in calls for service.
- An increase of 26 square miles incorporated into the city limits of Las Cruces.
- An increase in population from 75,000 to 97,000 within the city limits, a 29% increase.
- A 23% decrease in the percentage of calls that meet national response standards from 80% to 57%.

FUNDING

LCFD has a total budget of approximately \$12.3 million that includes funding from the City's general fund, permit services fund, vehicle acquisition fund, and state Fire and EMS funds.

Fire Fund – \$480,784
down from \$493,242

EMS Fund – \$20,000
down from \$27,425

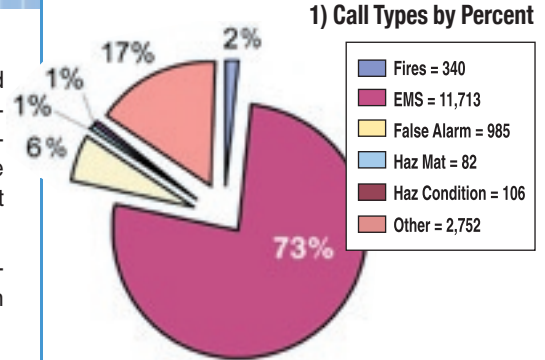
Grant Funding – \$265,815

Bond Funding – \$4 million

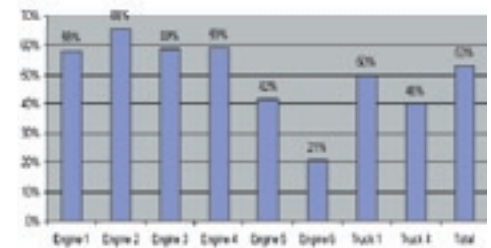
As the nationwide economic downturn continued, LCFD, along with all other City departments, was required to scale back budgetary spending by implementing a budget reduction of \$509,483. Though this impact was significant to our operations, we were able to continue service levels that were comparable to previous fiscal years through reduced spending on equipment.

Additionally, funding from the State Fire and EMS Funds also came in at reduced levels of 2.5% and 27%, respectively. Though these impacts are significant to our operations, service levels were minimally affected.

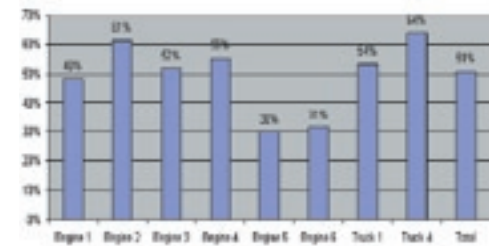
In May of 2011, \$3 million in funding was approved through the City's Bond Cycling process to be used for the design and construction of Fire Station #7, a fire apparatus for that station and a training tower and burn structure located adjacent to the station. Through the same bond cycling, an additional \$1 million was allocated for preliminary design of a Public Safety Campus concept on the east side of the city that will have facilities for police, fire and a 911 dispatch center.



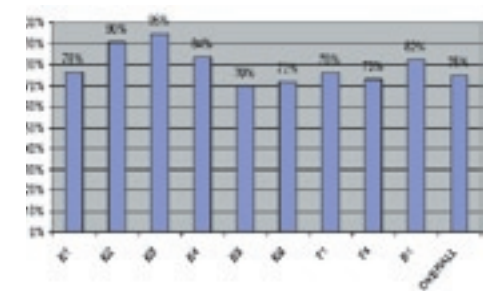
2) Percent of Fire Responses Under 5 Minutes



3) Percent of EMS Responses Under 5 Minutes



4) Complete First Alarm Assignment Arrival Within 9 Minutes



ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Bond Funding** – Received notice that \$4 million in Bond Cycling funding has been made available for public safety projects.
- **Fire Station #7** – Will be located at the intersection of Crawford Blvd. and Zia Blvd. on property adjacent to the Las Cruces International Airport. Station 7 will serve the airport, the West Mesa Industrial Park and portions of Interstate-10. The addition of Fire Station #7 will have a direct, positive impact on the insurance rating for that service area as well as the City as a whole. An application for a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) grant for nine personnel to staff the station has been submitted.
- **Public Safety Training Complex** – Will be located on the same property as Fire Station #7 and is a joint project in partnership with the Las Cruces Police Department. To date we have secured the property, received a grant to purchase a live fire training prop. The first phase of the training site layout has been completed.



Flashover training chamber in use during instructor training.

- **Flashover Training Chamber** – In 2010, the LCFD received a grant for this live fire training unit. The flashover training chamber was delivered and set up in June of 2011 and we have 13 trained fire department instructors.

- **Training Structure** – In May of 2011, funding was identified and approved for a new public safety training structure. The structure will consist of a four story tower attached to a two story residential complex with a single story annex. This structure will allow for fire and police department personnel to train in real world conditions. The training tower should be operational by the Spring of 2012.
- **Fire Station #8** – In May of 2011, funding was identified and approved for the design of a public safety campus on the East Mesa to include Fire Station #8, a police east side command and a 911 dispatch center. Bureau of Land Management property has been identified for the location and work is in progress to purchase/lease the property and to design the campus.
- **Public Safety Impact Fees** – All initial work required to prepare for implementation of Public Safety Impact Fees was completed in conjunction with staff from the Public Works department in preparation for a presentation to City Council for adoption in August 2011.

- **2nd Paramedic Class completion** – In conjunction with the Dona Ana Community College, the second LCFD sponsored paramedic class graduated six paramedics ahead of schedule in May 2011.



L to R: Chief T. Brown, T. Hart, T. Ekstrom, A. Embry, J. Lay, B. Burns, P. Brown, G. Lawhorn, M. Daniels, Medical Director Dr. T. Lemke, P. Erstad, S. Jaramillo, Instructor E. Watson, AMR Ops Mgr. J. Graham, NASA Fire Chief T. Jones.

- **Academy 27** – Sixteen fire cadets completed Academy 27 which included 20 weeks of fire suppression, hazardous materials, rescue, emergency medical services, and physical fitness training.



L. Avalos, S. Cuthbert, M. Danner, K. Haupt-Dolezal, N. Hernandez, M. Graham, C. Johnson, J. Johnson, S. Lopez, J. Montoya, J. Morales, K. Papke, C. Paz, D.H. Salas, C. Richards, N. Tracey.

- **FAA Annual inspection** – Passed the annual Federal Aviation Administration inspection that included a review of all training hours, general airport knowledge, a timed mock aircraft response and inspection of our vehicles and equipment.
- **New Apparatus in Service** – In February 2011, the LCFD took delivery of two 2011 Pierce Impel Pumpers that went into service at two of our busiest stations, Fire Stations #1 and #2. Those units were funded with loans from the NM Finance Authority and were purchased as a continuation of the 20 year vehicle replacement plan approved in 2008.

2011 Pierce Impel pumpers in service at Fire Stations 1 and 2.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The mission of the Las Cruces Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services Program is to deliver the best and highest level of emergency medical care to the community.

EMT Training Pilot Program

In our quest to provide the best care possible, nine of our EMTs completed advanced training this FY and upgraded their NM EMT licenses to EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic. This accomplishment was made possible in part through a pilot program in cooperation with Doña Ana Community College using a modified schedule and an accelerated curriculum. The course is tailored for those already employed with an EMS agency and have field experience. There were 11 graduates from this year's paramedic class (six of those from LCFD) representing three first response EMS agencies including LCFD, American Medical Response and NASA Fire. Three firefighters upgraded to EMT-Intermediate. In June, nine LCFD students began the EMT-Intermediate course using the same format. We anticipate the completion of that program in August 2011. This pilot program with its modified schedule allowed LCFD to maintain minimum staffing levels, reduce overtime and keep the employees on their shift schedule during their training.



STEMI Program Update

We completed the second and last phase of our STEMI Program in FY 11 which incorporates a field telemetry procedure capable of transmitting EKG information to the hospital for faster diagnosis and treatment of heart attacks. With a Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighter's Grant in the amount of \$83,036 received in FY 10, LCFD equipped the remaining apparatus with telemetry capable defibrillators. This completes the program and all eight of our apparatus are capable of providing field EKGs to area hospitals. With this additional training and equipment, more citizens are receiving faster diagnoses and care from hospital physicians when time matters most.



At the end of FY 2010-2011:

- Of the 15,978 incidents our Firefighter/EMTs responded to, 11,713 were requests for medical/rescue assistance which represents 73% of the total call volume.
- 45% of our Firefighter/EMTs provided advanced life support services as EMT-Intermediates or EMT-Paramedics.
- 55% of our Firefighter/EMTs provided basic life support services as EMT-Basics.

PREVENTION SERVICES

Fire prevention is the first step in providing life safety for our community and our firefighters. We accomplish this by enforcing the International Fire Code through business inspections at commercial facilities, reviewing plans for fire sprinklers, alarms and commercial and residential subdivisions. Inspections are conducted on an annual basis by Fire Prevention personnel and our suppression companies. Prevention Services provided the following Inspections in FY 2010-2011:



L to R: Lt. T. Sweetser, Inspector/Investigators W. Monsivaiz and A. Arias, Deputy Chief S. Mims, Inspector/Investigator R. Gonzales, Fire Protection Engineer M. Dubbin, Inspector/Investigator J. VonSchriltz.

Existing Building Inspections	171
Fire Extinguisher classes	11
Business Registration Applications	403
Total number of classes	35
Total Children classes	306
Total Adult classes	118

New Construction Inspections	101
Sprinkler System Inspections	58
Fire Alarm Inspections	22
Hood System Inspections	15
Plans Reviewed	312
Suppression Company Inspections	1013
Total Inspections	1783

Investigations

Our inspectors also provide fire cause investigation and determination. Any fire that creates damage or is incendiary in nature is investigated. The following investigations were conducted in FY 2010-2011:



Investigator Lt. R. Gonzales and Lt. G. Galaz investigate a residential roof fire.

Type of Incident	Number	Dollar Loss
Incendiary/Arson	22	261,275.70
Accidental	39	535,780
Natural	0	0
Undetermined	34	495,700
Other	3	
Vehicle	22	

	Firefighter Injuries/Deaths	Civilian Injuries/Deaths
Residential	0	1 / 1
Commercial	0	0



Prevention staff investigates a room and contents fire.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In addition to providing emergency response to the citizens of Las Cruces, LCFD strives to be a strong community partner in the area of public education, injury prevention and simply being a good neighbor. LCFD provides multiple programs to meet these needs.

Twice during FY11 our Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting (ARFF) Team provided aircraft crash protection for the US Navy during local training deployments. Deployments were from September to November 2010 and January to April 2011 for approximately 1,200 total hours of training time.



SPACEPORT AMERICA STANDBY: C Shift Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Team and Spaceship Two.

In October 2010 the ARFF team provided fire and life safety services for the runway dedication ceremony at the new Spaceport America facility located near Upham, New Mexico. Virgin Galactic landed Spaceship Two on the new runway and the dedication ceremony included Governor Bill Richardson and Sir Richard Branson.



Car Seat Program

The LCFD continues to provide car seat safety information and services to parents and children of our community. Six certified technicians assisted parents and guardians with the proper installation, inspection and use of car seats. Walk-ins and appointments accounted for over 250 installations and inspections. Hundreds of children are now riding much safer in a vehicle.

PUBLIC EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INTERVENTION

Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program

The main objective of this program is to prevent loss of life and serious injuries by providing three key components— education, intervention and if needed, treatment—to our target audience: juveniles who intentionally start fires. Currently, we have three trained Youth Fire Setter Intervention Specialists.

Total Number of participants	8
Court ordered participants	7
Self-Referrals	1
No-shows (required to attend)	4
Average age group of participant	12
Oldest Participant	17
Youngest Participant	7
Referrals received from the County	3

Safety Education

LCFD continues to provide various types of safety education and training to the community. This FY training was provided to 1,436 adults and children.

Adaptive Physical Education Program

Crews from Fire Station 3 go to Picacho Middle School on Mondays and Wednesdays to spend an hour with the school’s special needs population. While there, they participate in therapeutic activities with those children.



After School Program

The City of Las Cruces After School Program was designed to provide affordable, quality after school programs for children during the regular school year. The program helps children develop academic, physical, and social skills in a safe and caring environment. LCFD provides support by providing classes on fire safety. This year approximately 120 children attended various classes provided by LCFD.

VECINO Program

Vecino is the Spanish word for neighbor, and that’s what the LCFD strives to be, a good neighbor. The Vecino Program targets our local senior residents who are at least 60 years of age and/or are homebound because of a medical disability and have a non-existent or insufficient local support system. Firefighters call our Vecinos daily to check on their welfare. The program currently serves more than 35 residents with phone calls typically made between 8:00 am and 9:00 am each day by our firefighters. This year approximately 13,000 calls were made to our Vecinos. For more information regarding the Vecino Program please contact us at 528-3473.



PROMOTIONS AND RECOGNITION

FARMER'S INSURANCE FIREFIGHTER OF THE QUARTER



Steve Alexander
American Legion Post
10 Community Heroes
Firefighter of the Year
and 2010 3rd Quarter
Recipient



James Horcasitas
2010
4th Quarter
Recipient

RECOGNITION



Deputy Chief Steve Mims was appointed President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Southwestern Division in September 2010 and will hold the post until October 2011. DC Mims has been a member of the IAFC SW Division since 1997 and has served as New Mexico's vice president, first-vice president and second-vice president prior to his appointment as president.

2011 ANNUAL FIREFIGHTERS BALL



The department held its first Annual Firefighter's Ball & Recognition Ceremony on January 29, 2011 at the Las Cruces Convention Center. This event brought together current Fire Department personnel with retirees hired as far back as the mid-to late 1960's. Many retired firefighters attended our first annual ball.

PROMOTIONS

Several personnel earned promotions this fiscal year.



D/O Michael Daniels



Lt. Jose Leos



Dr/Op Tim Ekstrom



Lt. Billy Chaires



L to R:
Lt. Robert Atchison,
Lt. Gabe Galaz,
BC John Guerin,
BC William Grooms,
Dr/Op Cody Haver

RETIREMENTS

LCFD congratulates and thanks all of our retirees for your service to the citizens of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Fire Department. Many happy days ahead of you!

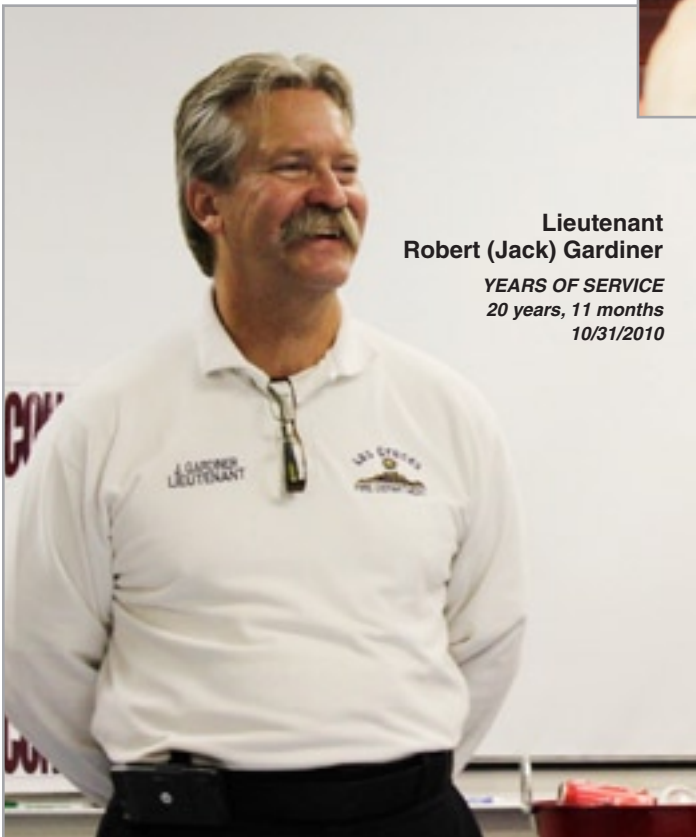
**Lieutenant
Robert Gonzales**

*YEARS OF SERVICE
34 years, nine months
12/31/10*



**Lieutenant
Robert (Jack) Gardiner**

*YEARS OF SERVICE
20 years, 11 months
10/31/2010*



**Firefighter
Laurel Irwin-Atchison**

*YEARS OF SERVICE
19 years
8/30/10*



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FIREFIGHTERS UNION LOCAL 2362

Contract Ratification

This past year has been full of learning experiences for the Executive Board and myself as President of Local 2362. We were able to work with Administration in accomplishing things such as creation of a Fire Marshal position, a revised work schedule for those wanting to become EMT-Paramedics and Intermediates, the Firefighters's Ball and finally a small cost of living increase. We continue to help each other in good causes like MDA and Bikes for Tikes. We are attempting to set up a benevolence fund to include Fire Administration.

The coming fiscal year brings new challenges to the department as it continues to grow. The City will be building new fire stations and hiring new personnel. Financial Articles of our contract will be revisited this April, and we hope City Administration will continue to address the financial needs of the membership in a positive approach. Local 2362 will continue to work with administration in providing the best possible service to the citizens of Las Cruces.

Sincerely,

Davie Salas, President, Local 2362

Contract Ratification

In late 2010, a three year contract with a reopener clause was ratified and approved. April of 2011 was the first opportunity to revisit the new contract. Hard work from the City and the Las Cruces Professional Firefighters Local 2362 resulted in another successful negotiation process. In June of 2011, the membership ratified and the City approved a 1.5% salary increase for all represented members.

FUTURE PLANS

LCFD remains committed to finding solutions to meet the service delivery demands that growth of the city has on our department.

- Begin construction of Fire Station 7 – Final design and the start of construction for Fire Station #7 should occur in Fiscal Year 2012.
- Construction of Training Tower and Burn Building – Construction completion should occur by spring of 2012.



Proposed site plan for Station 7.



Training Structure

- Continue process to finalize BLM Agreement for Public Safety Campus land acquisition on the east side.
- Begin next paramedic class in cooperation with Dona Ana Community College in January 2012; completion date anticipated fall/winter FY 13.
- Continuation of the department Apparatus Cycling Plan with specification and ordering of replacement apparatus for Fire Stations #3 and #4.
- Impact Fees – Consideration of adoption of Impact Fees for Public Safety, Roadways and Drainage are planned to go before the City Council in summer or fall of 2011.



For more information on the
2010-11 Fire Department
Report to the Community
and other public safety
programs, call the
Las Cruces Fire Department
at (575) 528-3473, or visit
us on the web at
www.clcfd.com



Fire Administration | 201 E. Picacho Avenue | Las Cruces, NM 88001
Phone: 575.528.3473 | Fax: 575.528.4082 | TTY: 575.528.4211