



## City Council Annual (2020) Workshop Report

### 2019 Accomplishments

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2019 marks a special year for the Fire Department. Our total call volume has increased from 2018. In 2019 there were a total of 3,832 calls for service. Our list of accomplishments is lengthy, but these are 3 projects that I will highlight.

The first accomplishment is the Opening of Station #2. With a lengthy process and countless people involved, Station 2 opened for service on Monday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2019. Operating out of multiple fire stations, has a lot of considerations that effect daily responses. One of the biggest hurdles was not knowing from where and when a call will come in. The daily staffing has changed since we first opened. A problem was identified where Station 2 had only 1 firefighter in the building due to the other firefighters responding on a different call. This left the crew of 1 unable to respond to the next call in progress. Staff discussed many options and due to the call volume we decided to make a change in the staffing. Staffing was changed and vehicles were moved around to better cover all of the calls for the entire city. There are currently 2 firefighters working around the clock at Station 2. They are considered a “Jump Company”. They respond together on either the Fire Engine or Ambulance. If assistance is still needed crews respond from Station 1. In 2019 there were 1,125 times that there were multiple calls in progress throughout the city. Station two’s district (Bench Street and West) had 757 calls. Of those calls there were 4 Structure Fires and 8 Cardiac Arrests. The response time to Prairie Island have been reduced with the opening of Station 2. So far there has been a total of 169 responses to Prairie Island. We will continue to look at what the best way to operate and provide coverage for all emergencies throughout the entire city.

### 2019 Emergency Calls



The Next major accomplishment in 2019 was the Fire Prevention Office. The Fire Prevention Office is now fully staffed with 1 Fire Marshal and 1 Fire Inspector. This office is in charge of the fire inspections and fire plan review for all buildings in city limits. With the adoption of the Minnesota State Fire Code, we are legally able to enter a business to perform fire inspections and enforce the provisions of the fire code. During the fire inspections a few serious fire code violations were identified. One location had excessive storage of goods, another had code violations with storage of fuels. There was also Egg Crate style acoustical foam that was being used. This was similar to what was used in the deadly Station Night Club Fire in Rhode Island. As a result of the Ferrin's Furniture Fire last May, 9 recalled dehumidifiers have been removed from service from various locations. There are a total of 593 occupancies in the current database. Below is the breakdown of the inspections and plan reviews for 2019;

- **48 were inspected by the State Fire Marshal**
- **450 general Fire Inspections**
- **150 Re-inspections**
- **9 Sprinkler Inspections**
- **2 Special Suppression Inspections, 5 Day Care / Foster Care Inspections**
- **20 Code Consults**
- **13 Alarm Plan Reviews**
- **11 Sprinkler Plan Reviews**

In addition to the inspections and plan reviews the fire prevention office also oversees Public Education. In 2019 there were over 2,384 times where contact was made. This was accomplished through Station Tours, Adult Fire Safety Education, Child Fire Safety Education, and Fire Extinguisher Training. This does not include every time a firefighter informally talks to a citizen about how to be fire safe.

The Third major accomplishment was driver training. Driver training was identified very early for an area that needed more attention. Driver operators need to have a thorough in-depth knowledge of their vehicle. This covers driving the different type of vehicles from Boats, Ladder Trucks, Tender, Off Road Vehicles, Engines, and Ambulances. The operations also covers the specific pumps on all of the different style of vehicles. We have focused a lot of our training into this area. Of the 8,542 training hours, approximately 1,666 hours were spent on driver training. Seven firefighters attended outside training and achieved their State Certification in Fire Apparatus Operator. We focused on the following areas for driver training;

**Fire Hydrant Operations**  
**Rural Water Supply**  
**Foam Operations**  
**Winter Pump Operations**  
**Marine Operations**  
**Aerial Operations**  
**District Familiarization**

**Defensive Driving**  
**Winter Driving**  
**Fire Hose Operations**  
**Night Time Water Operations**  
**Off Road Driving**  
**Stand Pipe Operations**

This is a brief overview of some of our major accomplishments. This does not include any of times that a firefighter was thanked for their service throughout the year. This does not include the countless nights that the crews spend awake tending to a patient's side. Or the time spent on a scene of a structure fire. The staff has had an interesting year and are eager to continue to serve the public to the best of their ability.