

Taylorville Fire Department
End of Year Report
2005

I must begin this report with an apology for its' delay. Since I believe excuses are generally for the folks who fail to complete goals, I can only offer this apology and offer my personal feeling that this has been a year of activity and accomplishment only to see January 1st 2006 upon us and feeling we are so far behind.

As a result of not having the power to slow down the passing of time, this report will not reflect all the activities of 2005, but it hopefully shows that the department has been progressive in meeting our community responsibilities and instills a sense of pride from you for your fire department

As with the 2004 End of Year Report I have attempted to break the following activities into categories for ease of reference.

Runs:

Total Runs for 2005: **1313** Total Runs for 2004: 1255

Fires: 141

- 28 fires involving residential structures
- 22 fires in non-residential structures
(50 Structure Fires) (Career Overtime and Volunteer FF Costs = \$12,707.95)
- 91 fires including vehicles, brush, dumpsters, etc.

Rescue / Emergency Medical: 893

- 49 medical assist
- 651 EMS-Patient
- 81 vehicle accidents
- 9 extrications
- 2 lost person search
- 2 person in distress
- 15 public service assist
- 82 EMS other

Mutual Aid Given: 7

Hazardous Material: 33

Other: 137

False Alarms: 93

Of the 1313 calls for the year, there were 86 calls overlapping each other, 59 calls occurring within 15 minutes of each other, and 121 calls occurring within 30 minutes of each other.

We continued, through the year, to satisfy requirements of Illinois Office of State Fire Marshal regarding the submittal of NFIRS report. This process is also required at the federal level as a condition for grant awards.

Budget:

The 2004/05 Budget was \$1,121,898. After subtracting projected revenues, the projected expenditures were reduced from the 03/04 appropriations of \$806,898.00.

The 2005/06 Budget is \$1,261,653. After subtracting projected revenues, the projected expenditures were \$30,852.00 over the 2004/05 appropriations.

The 2004/05 Budget holds a \$30,308.00 appropriation to address the city share of three federal grants totaling \$345,579.00. There are line items in the 2005/06 budget that were reduced from last year. However, at first glance it may appear that we have a slightly increased budget from 2004/05.

As of December 31, 2005 (58.33% into the fiscal year) we had expended 53.06% of our budget. While this typically would not be too alarming, I have held a concern, for several months, that will likely last throughout the fiscal year, for one line item. As of December 31st we had expended 95.65% of our equipment maintenance line item. This line was reduced from the 2004/05 budget with a prayer that we would not have more than one major repair expenditure. I fear the \$20,000 reduction will be badly missed. I expect by the time this report is prepared we will be over on that line item and count on the remaining lines to fall under projection to cover the equipment maintenance line.

Of the remaining manageable line items the average expenditure in relation to appropriation is 54.17%. Our 2005/06 budget is not a very forgiving budget. I believe all members of the department are cognitive of this fact and I appreciate their support in attempting to keep all lines in the black.

Grants:

The Taylorville Fire Department continued to benefit from the 2004 grants as well as a new 2005 US Homeland Security Firefighter Assistance Grant. The following is a summary of grant projects to date.

<u>Grants</u>	<u>Project Total</u>	<u>City Share</u>	<u>Federal Share</u>	<u>Status</u>
2004 Assist To Firefighters (90%/10% match)	\$215,119	\$21,512	\$193,607	<i>Approved</i>
2004 Fire Prevention and Safety (90%/10% match)	\$ 45,460	\$ 4,546	\$ 40,914	<i>Approved</i>
2005 Assist To Firefighters (95%/5% match)	<u>\$ 56,597</u>	<u>\$ 2,829</u>	<u>\$ 53,768</u>	<i>Approved</i>
	\$317,176	\$28,887	\$288,289	

With the support of the these grants we has been able to:
 Improve firefighter safety and service through enhanced communication equipment and inventory
 Improve firefighter safety and service through improved breathing air equipment
 Improve firefighter safety and service through improved protective clothing
 Improve firefighter safety and service through the future replacement of unreliable fire hose
 Address public safety with equipment and programs never before available
 Recuperate nearly 50% of a firefighter's first year salary
 Share surplus radios with other City Departments
 Assist other fire departments by way of the sale of surplus equipment, at a less than market value, and recuperate matching grant revenue.

US Congressman Shimkus visited the department on June 18th, to see how the grant support has help the department, and present us with the ceremonial check.

This past year we established a radio tower and repeater system on the top of Hershey Tower. We were also successful in obtaining a new radio frequency for the fire department. As a result of these two endeavors we are now able to communicate at greater distances, and not be threatened by the risks inherent with too many response agencies using a single radio frequency.

Our request for staffing increase by means of federal grant support, SAFER Grant, was denied. We continue to believe the support of this grant was important to a vital fire department line position.

In 2006 we will have another USHLS FF Assistant grant request opportunity. Our goal in the past has to improve upon community service through the protection of our firefighters. I believe we have done

well through improvement of protective gear, communication equipment, and support materials such as hose and air supply. I also feel we have enhanced their safety and community service through the efforts we have initiated in the area of grant supported public education programs.

In 2006, I hope for us to write another USHLS FF Assistant grant. I feel with this grant support request we must consider a replacement for the Tower. If grant guidelines are similar to those in previous years we will not be a top priority since we would be requesting a replacement rig VS a first time purchase piece of equipment. However, I am optimistic that as facts are gathered, and the grant guidelines become clearer, we will be able to make a good argument for support of a new ladder truck, offering greater service, and less maintenance concerns at an overall saving to the city budget.

Fire Protection District:

The Fire Protection Board has provided support upon request. On _____ they provided a general fund support payment of _____. This past year they have provided direct support of the fire department with the purchase of; _____. Over recent months they are considering the purchase of a Rapid Response Unit for the fire department. The will serve multiple response functions. IE: Brush/field fires, Mobile Air Supply for TFD and Mutual Aid Depts. Vehicle Extrication, and Emergency Medical. The 1986 Squad 2 will be sold if the district decides to pursue this new vehicle. While the district has provided much appreciated support, it should not be concluded that they are able to off set departmental or city budgets. Though the growth of the City of Taylorville is to be welcomed, it also means a reduction in revenue for the district.

Foreign Fire Tax Board:

In 2005 the Taylorville Foreign Fire Tax Board purchased \$6,367.43 of equipment for the fire department. These purchases range from hand tools to portable radio microphone clips and computer hazardous material software. I appreciate the responsible manner in which this board has managed the foreign fire tax funds as they continue to provide support for the fire department that would not otherwise have been possible.

Career Staffing:

We cannot express the appreciation we hold for the support we received from the City Mayor and Alderman resulting in the addition of two additional career firefighters in 2005. Firefighter Mathew Adermann joined the department on March 14th, and Firefighter Nick Hackney joined on July 6, 2005.

Firefighter Aderman served as a certified firefighter II and Para-Medic with the Vandalia Fire Department prior to joining the Taylorville Fire Department. A portion of FF Aderman's first year salary is covered through the 2004 US Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant. He is our lead firefighter in coordinating the initiation of our Remember When Program and Wrist Watch Program.

Firefighter Hackney served as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Taylorville Fire Department prior to his July career entry date. As a TFD Volunteer he had earned his Certified Firefighter II, Emergency Medical Technician, and Dive Rescue Certifications.

Following successful completion of the University of Illinois Firefighter Academy both firefighters were assigned shifts and have proven to be welcomed additions to our department.

In 2005 Firefighter Crews was promoted to shift officer position holding the rank of Captain. Captain Hackney was also promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief. Both promotions established a settling effect on the organizational structure of the department. Assistant Chief Hackney has played a major role in the creation of much needed departmental records. The duties of our Shift Captains and the Assistant Chief have changed significantly over the past two years. Both of these individual have done a remarkable job in adjusting to the changes and supporting the services of the department.

Volunteer Staffing:

The organizational footprint of our Volunteer Firefighters has changed over this past year. Though we are not satisfied with our membership that seems to stabilize around 20 personnel, I am proud of the participation we are receiving from those members. We must continue to support our volunteer firefighters and support our need to increase this group's membership.

In 2005 an adjustment to the volunteer training and response compensation was approved by City Council. The Volunteer Firefighter response and training compensation was outlined under three pay grades. Each pay grade had respective achievement and longevity requirements. The approved criteria is listed below.

Grade 1

0-Completion of 2nd year: \$5.00 per hour in increments of 30 minutes

Grade 2

Beginning of 3rd year – completion of 6th year: \$7.00 per hour + minimum achievement criteria

Achievement Criteria: [Completion of one of the following]

12 hours structural firefighting training from Illinois Fire Service Institute [Live Fire]

Grade 3

Beginning of 7th year - \$10.00 per hour + minimum achievement criteria

Achievement Criteria: [Completion of one of the following]

Illinois Office of State Fire Marshal Certified Firefighter II

Illinois Office of Public Health EMT-B (must maintain certification)

A member must hold a Good Standing Membership, or Special Service Membership to receive a Grade 2 or 3 pay

A Grade 2 or 3 pay may be approved under the Conditional Membership status at the Fire Chief's discretion

Training:

Good Standing Membership or Special Service Membership will receive \$15.00 per Chief approved training session. Training sessions must be a minimum of one hour in duration to receive this payment. Conditional Membership must have approval from the Fire Chief to receive payment for training.

In 2005 Firefighter Vance Jefferies was recognized and received appreciation from the Fire Department, and the City Mayor and Council for his 25 years of service to the Taylorville Fire Department.

The training sessions for our Volunteer Firefighters continues to be weekly on Tuesday evenings. Attendance and participation speaks very admirably for this group.

The Volunteer Firefighters deserve a great deal of the credit for the service we were able to provide during the 2005 Christian County Fair. The Fire Department was able to offer a mobile medical cart, and offer personnel for the Demo Derby's, Rodeo, and Truck Pulls as a result of the joint involvement of our career and volunteer personnel.

In October we conducted a visible approach towards the recruitment of additional Volunteer Firefighters. Through radio, printed press, and posters we were pretty successful in getting our invitation to the community. On October 15th we conducted our first Open House/Firefighter Recruitment Day.

Of our 2005 goals the following were achieved; Rewrite By Laws, Rewrite and request approval for compensation, Increase membership with active members, Remove those members who are not meeting minimum standards, Establish a standard uniform, assess protective gear needs. We were successful in obtaining a grant enabling us to place our Volunteer Firefighters in proper protective gear that fits and matches existing gear.

Department Training:

	Recorded Training Hours		
	Volunteer	Career	Combined
2005	1,749.5	2,751.5	4,501.0
2004	1,610.5	1,313.0	2,923.5

The Taylorville Fire Department personnel hold 234 service related Certifications or Licenses. See attached TFD Certifications/Training sheet for greater detail.

These certifications encompasses such specialties as FF III, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Instructor I, II, III levels, Strategy/Tactics levels, Management levels, Hazardous Material levels, as well as technical rescues areas.

There are 4 Associate Degrees within the department and 1 Bachelor Degree.

This past year the department conducted a 40-hour; Office of State Fire Marshal approved Hazardous Material Operations class. Six personnel received this training for the first time and three of those personnel went on to successfully challenge the OSFM certification examination.

As part of the Haz. Mat. Operation training we went beyond the per scripted objectives to the next higher level of Hazardous Material Training. Nine personnel held the Operations Certification and thus were able to complete this training. Six of those personnel went on to successfully challenge the OSFM certification examination.

We had one firefighter complete his Firefighter III state certification requirements, and one firefighter successfully complete the OSFM Technical Rescue Awareness certification.

We hosted four University of Illinois Training sessions; Fire Essentials II, Fire Essentials III, Truck Company Operations for the Rural Department, and Specialized Vehicle Stabilization.

It is vital to the service of a community and the safety of our firefighters that members of the department are exposed to instructors, firefighters and training facilities beyond what is available locally. In 2005 the department supported the following training activities for the respective Officer or Firefighter.

4/19-4/22	FF Dunn	Fire Prevention Conference
3/14 – 4/20	FF Aderman	University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Firefighter II Acad.
6/02-6/03	Capt. Smith	University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire College
6/02 – 6/05	FF Burnett	University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire College
6/02-6/05	FF Hampsmire	University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire College
6/02-6/05	FF Wamsley	University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire College
6/02-6/05	Asst. Chf Hackney	University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire College
Sept.	FF Hackney	University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Firefighter II Acad.
4/10-4/14	Chief Lunt	Fire Department Instructor Conference
	Chief Lunt	OSFM Vehicle & Machinery Extrication Technician
2/12-2/13	Chief Lunt	Iowa Winter Fire School

We began last fall/early winter with in-house training that would bring personnel to the new state level extrication response criteria. We were not able to complete this program and plan to do so in the spring of 2006.

In short the training hours are up from the previous year, but continue to be short of where we need to be. While we hosted U of I training sessions, they were not attended by TFD personnel or neighboring communities to the level we should expect.

In 2006 we will continue to develop in-house training holding a focus on maintaining basic firefighter skills, technical rescue skills, and a fully trained hazardous material response capability. Within this goal we hope to support our water rescue team with the training they need to maintain and develop necessary skills. We also hope to establish a training schedule supportive of our established emergency medical service response standards.

Acting Assistant Chief Hackney has projected \$?,000.00, from the 2005 Illinois Office of State Fire Marshal training reimbursement program. The final determination will be made by the OSFM.

Building:

We continue with our goal of organizing and finding space in our facility. Though successful to some degree, the end result is that we have materials, records, equipment and pieces of our response fleet located at three addresses within the city.

Apparatus / Equipment:

All response apparatus were service tested and pump tested this year.

We did not test all ground ladders based on use of the previous year. Most ground ladders did receive in-house maintenance.

Firefighter Wamsley has provided a great deal of time and effort toward the goal of computer logging of all vehicle maintenance records. This required him to go back over at least a year of old records and in some cases he suggested we go either further back. I am not certain that he has been 100% towards his goal for 2005, but I am certain he has brought our vehicle record maintenance to reference able level never before available. A detailed print out of any of the expenses before are available anytime upon your request.

Squad 1: [1997]
\$3,338.32

Squad 2: [1986]

Engine 1: [1989]
\$3,553.03

Engine 2: [1990]
\$4,778.04

Tanker 1: [2000]
\$325.64

Tower: [1999]
\$9,369.64

Engine 3: [2000]
\$6,116.10

Jeep: [2003]
\$83.96

Pick-up: [1999]
\$70.34

Car: [1994]

Pontoon Boat: [1992]

Jon Boat: [1960's]

Air Trailer: [1980's]
Sold to Owaneco FD

Haz. Mat. Trailer: [2004]

Dive Trailer: [2004]

Dunk Tank Trailer: [1998]
May be used as replacement
of vol. cooker trailer

Vol. Cooker Trailer: [Old]
Rusted beyond repair

See attached Maintenance Cost by Apparatus sheet.

Public Service:

Most of the activities occurred at multiple times and locations. A more detailing list of locations, dates, times, and numbers is available upon request.

- Monthly WTIM Radio Guest
- Community CPR Classes
- Local 3144 Hosted Candidate Night
- Developed and conducted Home Fire Safety Surveys
- Guest Speaker, Baptist Church, Optimist Club, Kewanis

Participated with Easter Egg Hunt – Manners Park
Co-sponsored WTIM Smoke Detector contest with True Value
Conducted numerous tours and fire safety programs in the station
Prepared and served soup for Christian County Senior Citizens
Participated in Red Bland, AMVET, and Christmas Parades
Conducted checks and installed home smoke detectors
Installed and provided Children Car Seats
Accepted the service of two community service workers
Conducted fire safety training for local businesses
Distributed radios to 101 Heights, Park Glen, Meadow Manor, and Taylorville Care Center during phone outage
Hosted Ronald McDonald safety Show
Breakfast with a Firefighter coloring contest
Conducted Fire Ground Management training area departments
Christmas For Kids Program
Angel Tree Program

Mutual Aid:

We offered and received mutual aid with county fire departments in 2005. Most of these involved vehicle accidents. The most notable fires were a residential fire in the Stonnington Fire Protection District, and Main Street businesses fire in Nokomis, and support we received on the Round Table Restaurant, and the rural Tullis Machine Shed fire.

With a focus on being organized as departments come to the aid of respective communities we have been very vocal with our concern for a lack of mutual training. Fortunately it does appear that the long standing issue of a training agreement is history, and no longer a road block or excuse for us not to train together. We have also finally resolved the issue of an Acknowledgement of Conditions form in order to participate in hands-on training hosted by the Taylorville Fire Department. I have expressed via media print and broadcast, as well as expressed my position that the departments that do not train with us will never be called to help us. In short, when we need support we will request help from a department beyond the neighboring department if that happens to be the nearest department with whom we have training. Plus if those department's call us for assistance the response activities will be very guarded with a focus on our firefighters' safety. By the end of 2005, we have conducted Fire Ground Management training in the following departments: Pawnee, Rochester, Nokomis. We have scheduled the same training to be completed early in 2006 in the following departments: Sherman, Loami, Pana, Morrison/Palmer, Owaneco, and hopefully Stonington.

The importance of mutual aid should never be taken for granted. However, my experience is that you add the number of responders to a scene, one of two things will occur. Things get better much faster, or things will get worse much faster and the risk to firefighters is relative to either of these results.

As we enter the New Year we hope to continue to improve upon our relationship with our neighbors. We respect what they have to offer the Taylorville Fire Department, and feel we have something of benefit to offer their scenes. The training issue is a two way street whereby it is important to me that the concerns I have expressed can be applied in the direction of every department including Taylorville.

Joint training sessions is the best approach to a safe and efficient mutual aid response. In 2006 I hope to see more of these scheduled, and the Taylorville Fire Department will have to be represented in those sessions regardless of the location.

The fire department was represented in the national response to the Hurricane Katrina destruction in Mississippi and Louisiana. The department and City were represented through a Federal Response team deployment of Chief Lunt. Firefighter's Hafliger and Dunn responded as part of a State of Illinois MABAS deployment. Documentation has been submitted for reimbursement of City costs for the response of our two firefighters. Though a few fire departments' have received their reimbursement we continue to wait with little option but patience and confidence that our reimbursement will appear soon. Firefighter Hafliger

and Firefighter Dunn warrant special note in this report for receiving the United States Humanitarian Metal resulting from their deployment service.

Taylorville Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary:

Though they are not members of, or hold any official capacity with the fire department, this group deserves recognition in this report.

The organization formed on February 10, 2005. Though I would have been impressed if they simply focused on getting organized and purchasing a shirt representing their newly formed group, this expressed short set of goals obviously fell short of their expectations for the first year.

Fund Raisers

- TFD Shift Competition
- Anything Goes Fair (Booth)
- Yard Sale
- Avon Fund Raiser
- Sold TFD T-shirts

Activities

- Provided food and drinks for all day TFD Training Session
- 4th of July Parade
- Christmas Parade
- Hosted TFD Family Day Potluck
- Help wrap and deliver Angel Tree Project gifts
- Provide refreshments for Congressman Shimkus Visit
- Helped with MDA
- Helped prepare and served Chili/Veg. Soup for Christian County Senior Center

Donations:

- Training Table for TFD
- Distribute Trick or Treat Bags (Safety message for school children)
- Provided refreshments for Vol. FF Recruitment Day and Open House
- Donated to Christmas for Kids \$100
- Donated to Angel Tree Program \$100
- Donated clothing to Katrina Victims
- Provided food and water to firefighters at lengthy fire scenes

This group organized with a single focus of helping our firefighters. They have certainly held true to that focus in 2005. These ladies represent the purest sense of volunteerism for whatever they do it is always for someone else and in return they receive a thank you. I cannot overstate the admiration I hold for the commitment the charter officers of the Taylorville Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Those are: President Marla Smith, Vice President Carol Blanchetti, Secretary Shannon Wagner, and Treasurer Peggy Lunt. These four committed a great deal of time, attention, and energy to see that this first year would only be the beginning of many to come. Thank You.

2006 Goals:

- 1] Goals identified under previous sections of this report
- 2] Completion of Vehicle and Machinery OSFM certification level
- 3] Positive and decisive movement towards the construction of a fire department facility
- 4] Active membership with MABAS
- 5] Continue efforts to develop complete, accurate, and accessible records
- 6] Training on a daily schedule
- 7] Live structure fire training

- 8] Cooperative relationship with Christian County ESDA towards an available and equipped hazardous material team
- 9] Evaluate placement, inventory and response readiness all tools and hose on each rig
- 10] Replace all hose that does not pass testing
- 11] Improve upon community relations through more activities
- 12] Successful grant pursuits
- 13] Increase training with mutual aid departments
- 14] Implement monthly EMS training
- 15] Restructure the Volunteer Service with the establishment of Officer positions
- 16] Increase Volunteer FF membership
- 17] Develop department SOGs that do not exist and update or remove those that exist
- 18] Provide Dive Team training
- 19] Basic Vertical Rescue Training
- 20] Incident Management Training with mutual aid departments
- 21] City Emergency Response Plan
- 22] Implementation of the Remember When Program
- 23] Implementation of the Risk Watch Program
- 24] Business Inspection program
- 25] Find additional review sources for department

Chief's Personal Note:

I believe the service of our fire department and the safety of its' firefighters ended the year at a higher level than it began. However, I believe every member of the department would agree that today we fall short of the standards we will have achieved by December 31, 2006.

Thank you to Mayor Mathon, City Aldermen, and all city officials and employees for the difference you support has made. I especially want to thank the members of the Taylorville Fire Department, for without them there really would not be an End of Year Report.

Report Prepared: February 26, 2006
Chief Roger Lunt