

JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
AUGUST 19, 2019

Mayor Shaw called the August 19, 2019 Informal Meeting of the Joplin City Council to order at 5:15 p.m.

In attendance were Council Members: Taylor Brown, Melodee Colbert-Kean, Keenan Cortez, Doug Lawson, Anthony Monteleone, Diane Reid Adams, Mayor Gary Shaw, Ryan Stanley, and Phil Stinnett. Also, in attendance were Interim City Manager Dan Pekarek and City Attorney Peter Edwards.

Fire Dept. Annual Review

Joplin Fire Chief Jim Furgerson presented the following information during his presentation of the FD's annual review:

- 8,431 calls for service in 2018.
- JFD has an ISO rating of 2.
- There are 96 Personnel in the Dept.
- The shifts run 24 hours on duty, 48 hours off.

Some of the jobs performed by the FD include:

Fire Suppression
Medical Emergencies
Haz-Mat Response
Vehicle Accidents
All Types of Rescues
Anything Else You Could Imagine

Statistical data overview

- 8942 responses made
- 24.5 responses per day
- Tuesday's are statistically the busiest day of the week
- The hours of 12pm – 5pm are the busiest time of day
- Rescue 3 is the busiest apparatus in the city
- General trends are showing an aggressive increase in call volume. While 2015 and 2016 were generally flat in growth, there are sharp increases in 2014, 2017, and 2018.
- 2019 is showing one of our largest increases to date within the first half of the year.
- Station #1 District has historically been the busiest station in Joplin.
- District 7 is the area around the east industrial park (32nd and Duquesne east), portions of I-44 (mm 11.0 – 13.0) and 249 (I-44 to area of 7th Street exit)
- Joplin Fire is automatic mutual aid for all structure fires in Webb City, the northern half of the Redings Mill Fire District, and the eastern half of the Duenweg Fire District.
- Currently there is no automatic aid agreement with Carl Junction, however we do respond mutual aid with them.
- Response Times begin when the call is dispatched to our personnel and all call types include non-emergent responses as well as stage for officers' incidents.
- Target response time for structure fires is 5 minutes and 20 seconds in accordance with Insurance Services Offices Standard of Response criteria.

- Target Goal is the first arriving apparatus to a structure fire arrives in less than 5 minutes and 20 seconds and the entire first alarm assignment arrives in less than 9 minutes and 20 seconds 90% of the time.
- A first alarm assignment consists of two engines, one ladder, one rescue, and one chief officer.
- The large lives/property save percentage in 2018 is due in part to an aggressive code enforcement program that assisted in keeping several fires in high value structures with minimal losses.
- Examples would be a fire at Ajinomoto Foods that was contained quickly as well as fires at Clean Industries.

Major Events in 2018

- New cardiac monitors purchased and placed on every front-line apparatus.
- New self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) replaced on all apparatus improving the safety equipment for our staff members.
- New rescue harnesses and bail-out kits issued to every firefighter to improve their personal safety on incidents.
- Large fire resulting in an all-call of personnel at R&R Recycling. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to half the structure allowing for the business to remain operational.
- Fire within Ajinomoto Foods contained to the equipment of origin by installed fire suppression equipment.
- Confined Space Rescue at Jasper Foods resulting in three workers pulled out of a hazardous atmosphere inside a tank. One firefighter was injured during operations.

Emergency Management—what we do:

- Disaster Planning
- County and City Emergency Mgmt.
- LEPC/Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Siren Maintenance & Testing
- COAD/LTRC/SMESO/4CEM
- Weather Monitoring for the City/County
- Manage the EOC During a Disaster
- Interface with SEMA and FEMA
- JFD Training Division

CHALLENGES

Risk has increased as call loads continue to climb. Firefighting is an inherently dangerous and ranked as one of the top three most stressful jobs in the United States. A vast majority of our current Fire personnel lack experience and have less than 5 years on the job. Veteran staff is needed to monitor complex scenes for safety and continuity of operations. Maintaining our current ISO rating and keeping pace with City growth.

The City Council thanked Chief Furgerson for the update.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43p.m.

Prepared by:

Barbara Gollhofer, City Clerk