

Information Items

Safety and Licensing Committee

Wed, Mar 08, 2023 5:30PM

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 16:25

Okay, information items. We have on our agenda, which was on the last agenda, but moved for I think, for time reasons. And I believe the representative Cassidy could not be here at the last meeting. So, we're putting on this agenda is the emergency operations plan updates.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 16:42

So, if you view the attachments, you'll see that there is a revision revisions tracker, which outlines basically changes and updates. And then there's the basic plan. I'll turn this over to Cassidy for some, maybe just kind of a high level on the project, and—seven? Okay, go ahead. And if you could just give everyone your name and title with the city.

Cassidy Walsh (Emergency Management Coordinator) 17:07

I'm Cassidy Walsh. I'm the emergency management coordinator for the city. And the Emergency Operations Plan was not updated since 2017. And it was my goal to get this updated and continue to update this on an annual basis. So, you will have this presented to you—I'm pretty much gonna keep it on the February schedule.

Cassidy Walsh (Emergency Management Coordinator) 17:26

And the biggest updates was making sure that we were in alignment with state structure. So, the biggest annex that needed to be updated was annex L, the damage assessment. The state has taken on a new format for reporting our damage assessments after a major disaster. And so, we needed to align ourselves with the state.

Cassidy Walsh (Emergency Management Coordinator) 17:48

This will be an ongoing process, because we still have quite a bit of work to do to align ourselves with the emergency—the State Emergency Response Program. But I'm feeling pretty good about this right now. And this does take a lot of collaboration with every single department in the city and external partners, such as Red Cross, and Gold Cross, and a lot of other key stakeholders. So, this is a time-consuming thing. But it does give the general overall city response to any major disaster.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 18:21

Great, thank you. Yeah, it looks like—it looked like a pretty big undertaking to update it, revise it, bring it to the standards that it needed to get to. Any questions from committee? It's a 22-page plan.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 18:37

It's too bad that we have to have this plan. But I'm glad that we have someone who's reviewing it now on a regular basis and that we'll begin to see more updates as we come along. So, thank you very much, Cassidy.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 18:47

I agree with that. Any other questions or comments? Okay, that was an information item. So, no action.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 18:56

Good work. That's my comment.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 18:58

Good work. All right. Yeah. Thank you for coming. And thanks for the good work on the emergency plan.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 19:04

Let's move to the Fire—the 2022 Appleton Fire Department Annual Report. Great report. Thank you, Chief Hansen for everything AFD does. Really well put together a report highlighting, obviously, key initiatives, key milestones, or events. Anything you want to go through and highlight? Please, let's take some time and talk about some of those things.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 19:33

Thank you Chair. I'm happy to provide the 2022 annual report, and I just wanted to take a few seconds to hit on a couple of highlights. One being—

[There were some issues with feedback from the microphone which they dealt with.]

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 20:03

It might just be my magnetic personality.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 20:06

Is it showing up?

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 20:07

Yes.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 20:07

Okay.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 20:08

Seven is on.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 20:09

I'll turn it up a little bit here, back up. We turned it down, and now we're turning it back up. Okay, go ahead.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 20:15

So, with the 2022 annual report, a couple of highlights. So, first being that we went on over 7000 incidents in 2022. That's the most in the history of the fire department. We're seeing a very steady increase in incidents every single year.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 20:33

Of those 7,185 incidents, just over 5000, or roughly 72%-73% of those were medical emergencies within the city. Our two top medical emergencies were—number one was falls at 16%. And over years and years of data, we've seen somewhere around that 16% of falls, whether that's somebody that just needs help getting up, or it can be a traumatic incident where somebody falls off a ladder while putting up Christmas lights. So that falls category captures a lot.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 21:06

The next one was breathing difficulty, and that was 10% of our calls. So, when you look at, you know, the purpose of the fire department and medical response, there are two main things that we want to respond to

and that's chest pain and that's difficulty breathing. Those are where we can make an immediate—we can provide immediate intervention and help provide comfort and reduce the injury to that patient.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 21:33

We had a total of 98 confirmed fires in 2022. That number is actually lower. We're normally around between 124 and 144 on an annual basis.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 21:45

2022 saw quite a few grants approved for the fire department, just over \$2.2 million in grants. The largest, which you're familiar with is our assistance to firefighter grant that was for replacement of our portable radios. And that was a regional grant with a total of 18 fire departments participating. The next largest grant that we received was just under \$200,000 for paramedic training for our current employees.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 22:13

We completed over 27,000 hours of training in 2022. That roughly works out to 285 hours of training per employee. That number is impressive when you consider everything that we're involved in and everything that we do.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 22:31

Our fire prevention and public education division completed just under 5000 inspections in the year. We wrote up 2338 violations. And of those, 75% of them work were rectified within 30 days because anytime we have an evalu—violation, we have to do a re-inspection within 30 days.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 22:52

So that's just a quick overview of the report. You know, I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 22:56

Thank you very much. So, when you talk about inspections and addressing those with the violations and the follow up, that's all fire prevention measures, right? Finding things that could cause issues and then having the establishment address them like something either bare wires or something?

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 23:17

There's a variety of it. You know, it could be your exit lights are burned out. You could have boxes in front of an exit door. Could be something as simple as your fire extinguisher fire extinguisher was not checked, like it has to have an annual maintenance done on it. And if that wasn't done, that would be a violation as well. But then it can stem to, you know, at a restaurant that you haven't had your hood cleaned. And you know, that those builds up—build ups of grease and materials in there can cause fires.

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 23:52

Good. I remember when my dad had a had a local business and AFD would come in and point out a few things that were easy fixes just—we just thought, "No big deal. We'll put that box by the boiler room" and, and—but yeah, it was it was good interaction actually. So. Anything on awards or recognition that you want to highlight, and I'll open it up to members of the committee here.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 24:17

You know, I think every year, it's important to see the awards that we provide, and a lot of those are for, you know meritorious service, but the one that we really take a lot of pride in is the EMS Lifesaver award. So, what that is, is we responded to a cardiac arrest and we performed CPR on somebody and we received a heartbeat

back, and even more than that than just a heartbeat, but they actually walk out of the hospital. So, you know, we do what they call pulseless non breathers or PNBS quite often, you know, almost on a daily basis. But not—most of those are not successful. But these Lifesaver awards are given to individuals that literally saved a life and they are back into the community.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 25:10

Great, thank you. All members of the Committee questions, comments?

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 25:15

Why in nowhere on here does it say how many cats you saved from trees?

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 25:19

Hah hah. That would be under "Other".

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 25:23

That would fall under "other" other category. But honestly, you don't really save cats from trees because they usually come down. I will say that in my career, I've participated with the removal of a three-foot iguana and a 300 pound black bear.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 25:37

Excellent.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 25:37

When the DNR tranquilized them, it stayed in the tree, and we had to go up and kind of push.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 25:44

Excellent. Thank you and your staff for this wonderful report. I really appreciate seeing this great snapshot. We know what you guys do every day, and we appreciate that. But this is a great snapshot of what we see.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 25:55

Yeah, I agree. And it's good to see the amount of fires down below 100. Aldersperson Schultz, did you have?

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 26:02

Yeah. A couple of thoughts. Well, yeah, for last year, it feels like we've got a lot of structure fires the beginning of '23. I'm seeing a lot of reports. So, these things ebb and flow, apparently.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 26:12

They do. And usually in colder weather is when we see most of our structure fires because that's when you're using space heaters and frozen pipes in homes, and they're trying to thaw them out and all those nice things. The other peak time is any of the holidays because that's when you're doing a lot of cooking in your house, and then sometimes that doesn't go well.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 26:34

Turkey fryer?

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 26:36

That would be one of them.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 26:37

I'm curious to know about the—so 70% are remediated in 30 days, the other 30% that aren't what happens at that point if we're not remediated? Do they get a citation at that point or another warning? What's the—and then from that point, how many more are remediated? And I guess I'm just trying to get a sense beyond that 70% and 30? What is the other 30? And what happens to those?

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 27:00

Yeah, so we're required by the state to do a reinspection within 30 days on any violation. After—if we go back after 30 days, and there's still a violation, then we document that it was not corrected, talk to the property owner again, and then it stays on the inspection until they call us. And say that it's been rectified. Like, if, let's say it's boxes in front of a door, they can take a picture of the door with no boxes there, email that to us, and then we'll take that violation off. So, some of those are taking care of, you know, the next time we go, so 60 days.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 27:38

Typically, we don't cite anybody unless it is a serious life hazard. We understand that businesses get stock in certain times a year, stocking up for the holidays. So, we're trying to work with our partners as best we can. We're just there to hopefully make it as safe as possible.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 27:57

I guess I'm curious to know the nature of that 30%. Is it like obstructing exits? Is like not replacing emergency lights? Is it just a plethora of all those things? Or is there something that you see as a commonality in those people that aren't reacting quickly? Because I could see someone taking some time to clean their hood, might have to schedule that out a little bit. So that makes sense to me, but obstruction in front of a door or upgra—or having a fire extinguisher checked.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 28:28

Typically, in like an apartment building, it's exit lights, because you will send the copy of the inspection report to the property owner and then they may or may not do anything with it. So exit lights are one of the probably the easiest things to fix but yet the hardest thing to get somebody to fix.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 28:46

Okay.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 28:47

And just to clarify, it's 75/25 not 70/30. But not that it really changes anything. And then fire protection systems was a big number. So that might take longer than 30 days.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 28:58

Yeah. That would be having a company come in and check your fire extinguishers, having them check your hood system that you have that you know, whatever process you have underneath it to put out a fire if there is one, or even right down to cleaning that hood.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 29:14

Is that an annual requirement for restaurants to check the hoods and their fire suppression systems. It's once a year?

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 29:22

Yes.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 29:22

Okay.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 29:24

Okay, any other questions? Comments? Hearing none, thank you, chief.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 29:34

Let's move to directors' reports. City Clerk spring election reminders.

Clerk Kami Lynch 29:40

Yes, spring elections less than a month away. So, April 4. We are hoping to get ballots really soon. Likely won't get them until Monday and we have about 3500 absentee requests on file. So, we'll be getting mailing ballots out early next week. And then the deadline to register to vote online is next Wednesday. And then we'll have in person absentee voting starting on Tuesday, March 21.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 30:07

Great. Anything else from the Clerk's office?

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 30:11

Fire Chief hiring update.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 30:13

Yeah, just real quick. This past Friday, we held a promotional ceremony for a whole bunch of people. It was probably one of the biggest ceremonies we've had in a while. We had four battalion chiefs, two captains, two lieutenants, and two engineers promoted on Friday. So very exciting for them as they move into their new roles. That includes—one of the battalion chiefs includes the battalion chief of EMS, which was approved in the 2023 budgets. So, thank you, again, for allowing us to add that position, it's very well needed. As you can see, 70 plus percent of our calls are EMS related.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 30:51

We also completed our 2023 regional hiring process. We I'm happy to report that we're going to be hiring six new firefighters. They will be starting on May 22. All of them have received their final offers, and all of them have accepted it. So, we're really excited. We would have been at full staff, but just recently, we had a lieutenant and a firefighter turn in their retirement slash resignation. So, one is retiring. He's been on the job—he's a fourth generation Appleton firefighter. So that's pretty impressive. And then the other one, took a job in Dallas, Texas. Why? We don't know. He'll probably be back.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 31:37

Okay.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 31:38

After this last week I don't blame him.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 31:40

Oh, go ahead.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 31:42

Right.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 31:42

Bravo to your social media staff. I see all these photos regularly online. So, I'm glad to always see those and like those. And you know, it's nice to see those updates. The same with Chief Olson's as well.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 31:54

Again, that position was something that we changed in our TO. That was when we switch out the fire protection engineer position to a fire education specialist. So, Alex is doing a wonderful job and getting our presence more on social media. So again, thank you for approving our TO change.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 32:13

Okay. Police Chief Olson, Women in Public Safety Academy update.

Police Chief Polly Olson 32:19

Thank you, Chair. We had the Women in Public Safety Academy today. So, I came right here from there. Had about 40 participants from the young ladies, and then with mentors and other law enforcement and public safety officials, it was about 80 people that we had that attendance. So overall, I think it was a success. Just exciting to look at what we can do to continue to promote women in getting into some of these different public safety types of careers. Not just police, but fire was represented as well, and Cassidy was there from emergency management. So just really covered a wide—as was Amanda from legal. So yeah, just a wide range of, of different occupations. So, it was it was great.

Police Chief Polly Olson 33:08

That was fully funded, just to point that out, in grant money. So, Lieutenant Cash was able to secure grants from I think the Woman's Fund and some individual donors that paid for the training for today.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 33:22

Great. Thank you for the update. Any questions, comments? Okay.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 33:27

The last thing on our agenda is a list of a couple of special events. Early voting awareness, march 11. St. Patty's Day pub crawl, march 18th. And the ADI mini golf on the town April 8.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 33:39

Number seven.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 33:40

Move for adjournment.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 33:42

Second.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 33:44

Motion and a second to adjourn. All in favor? Aye. All opposed, four zero. We are adjourned.