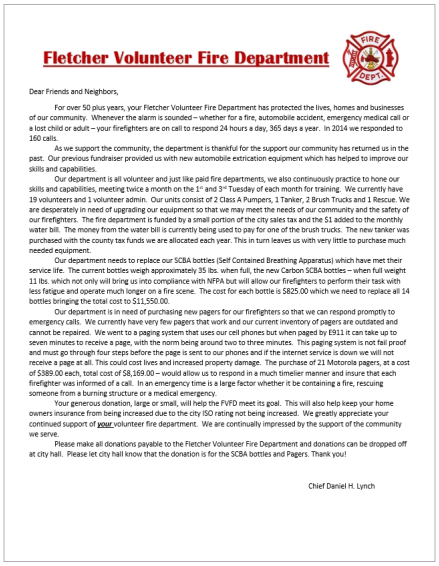
Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department Needs You!

Written by Ashleigh Balog
Wednesday, 13 May 2015 07:26 - Last Updated Wednesday, 13 May 2015 07:29



Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For over 50 plus years, your Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department has protected the lives, homes and businesses of our community. Whenever the alarm is sounded – whether for a fire, automobile accident, emergency medical call or a lost child or adult – your firefighters are on call to respond 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2014 we responded to 160 calls.

As we support the community, the department is thankful for the support our community has returned us in the past. Our previous fundraiser provided us with new automobile extrication equipment which has helped to improve our skills and capabilities.

Our department is all volunteer and just like paid fire departments, we also continuously practice to hone our skills and capabilities, meeting twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month for training. We currently have 19 volunteers and 1 volunteer admin. Our units consist of 2 Class A Pumpers, 1 Tanker, 2 Brush Trucks and 1 Rescue. We are desperately in need of upgrading our equipment so that we may meet the needs of our community and the safety of our firefighters. The fire department is funded by a small portion of the city sales tax and the $1 added to the monthly water bill. The money from the water bill is currently being used to pay for one of the brush trucks. The new tanker was purchased with the county tax funds we are allocated each year. This in turn leaves us with very little to purchase much needed equipment.

Our department needs to replace our SCBA bottles (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) which have met their service life. The current bottles weigh approximately 35 lbs. when full, the new Carbon SCBA bottles – when full weight 11 lbs. which not only will bring us into compliance with NFPA but will allow our firefighters to perform their task with less fatigue and operate much longer on a fire scene. The cost for each bottle is $825.00 which we need to replace all 14 bottles bringing the total cost to $11,550.00.

Our department is in need of purchasing new pagers for our firefighters so that we can respond promptly to emergency calls. We currently have very few pagers that work and our current inventory of pagers are outdated and cannot be repaired. We went to a paging system that uses our cell phones but when paged by E911 it can take up to seven minutes to receive a page, with the norm being around two to three minutes. This paging system is not fail proof and must go through four steps before the page is sent to our phones and if the internet service is down we will not receive a page at all. This could cost lives and increased property damage. The purchase of 21 Motorola pagers, at a cost of $389.00 each, total cost of $8,169.00 – would allow us to respond in a much timelier manner and insure that each firefighter was informed of a call. In an emergency time is a large factor whether it be containing a fire, rescuing someone from a burning structure or a medical emergency.

Your generous donation, large or small, will help the FVFD meet its goal. This will also help keep your home owners insurance from being increased due to the city ISO rating not being increased. We greatly appreciate your continued support of ***your*** volunteer fire department. We are continually impressed by the support of the community we serve.

Please make all donations payable to the Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department and donations can be dropped off at city hall. Please let city hall know that the donation is for the SCBA bottles and Pagers. Thank you!

Chief Daniel H. Lynch

Remember to support the Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department at their fundraiser on Saturday in Chickasha, 10-2pm.