

Greetings everyone, I hope this email finds you well. It's been a busy week and a few things to catch you up on so let's get started...

- **Retirements / Promotions**—we had two retirements for which we wish them all the health and happiness in. And with all retirements come the promotions. Congrats to Lt. Mike Scott and Eng. Nate Keeney on their promotions!

- **Budget**—the Finance Committee approved our budget on Thursday...some highlights include: no reductions, new Fire Station 56, 56 new vehicles (3 boat motors, 8 engines, 10 rescues, 3 brush trucks, 2 tankers, 6 Prevention cars, new chiefs trucks, and utility vehicles. New MDT's and new radios. Also submitted was the 5 year CIP plan for new fire stations; Next year is 61 and 63, followed by 64 and then new 47. Each will have an engine and a rescue housed. Next step will be full Council in September for final approval.
 - The Station 63 land swap is still going smoothly. There is a state process to do this and will take approximately 6 months. Hence the delay in 63. If all goes well, new fire station 63 will be located on Point Meadows just off Baymeadows and I295 East. I'll keep you informed as we move along in this process.

- **AFG Grant**—Chief Castleman felt passionate about getting auto loading stretchers for our rescues to reduce wear and tear on our crews and reduce injuries. He requested all new rescues purchased come with auto-loaders for which we got. But what about our existing fleet? He wrote and applied for the AFG and today I'm happy to announce we were awarded 1.4 million to outfit all our rescues! Kudos to him and in a short amount of time you should see these being installed in our existing fleet. Well done!

- **USAR Accreditation**—this week we completed the accreditation process. All indication is we will be the first accredited USAR Type 1 team in the state, including the federal teams. Since the inception of the team in 2002, JFRD and the USAR leadership has been building this team as a type I in spite of funding at a type II. This week has validated all the hard work, dedication, and commitment by all the Task Force 5 members both past and present. Accreditation validates a team's capabilities. Basically an outside conglomerate that utilizes peer review agrees we are who we say we are and can do the job as tasked. Once accredited, we will go into a national database for deployments. No email will do the justice of the amount of work, planning, and logistics required to go through this process. Well done to all involved and more on this to come later...

- **Rescue 4 Able**—last Friday we placed R4A in service at Station 1 while Station 4 undergoes repairs. Once they are back open, R4A will relocate to 4. Year to date compared to last year, EMS calls are up 9.44% and fire calls up 5% which equates to 1000 additional calls per month for the department. My commitment to you continues to be placing a full time rescue unit in every station. If you were simply to take the 10 million dollar increase in pension contributions in our budget this year alone, we could do that now. Until monies can be freed up, we are doing the best we can with the resources we have.

- **High-rise Seminar**—The union is hosting a high-rise Seminar Sept 19, 20, and 21. Seating is limited to 300 per day. Chief Powers reached out to a renowned high-rise chief from Houston and we secured funding to bring them here. Please take the opportunity to come sit and listen to updates on high-rise firefighting. Although not a common event for JFRD, the capacity exists in our city and beaches area for them every day. Considered low frequency, high-risk runs, these types of fires have contributed considerably to the LODD's the fire service has had. All you have to do is Google high-rise fire LODD to see the listings....Attached is the flyer...
 - Here is video series to stir up conversation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdAsbtpzKnM>

- **JFRD Fallen Firefighter Sea of Blue March**—is almost here. Looks like the date will be Wednesday October 12th, C-shift. With the Museum under construction, Station 1 looks like the obvious choice for this year's Sea of Blue. Once we have the first IMT meeting to discuss, we'll let you know. Please clear your calendar for this very special event. Also, we will have a dedicated family and friends spot near the finish point again like last year.

Time to give some thanks....

- I was at sisters creek boat ramp last night about to go off duty for the day at 6pm when I heard patrol dispatch a call to a crash with injuries "Motorcycle vs Vehicle" at Whiteshell Fish camp on Heckscher Dr. Our closest patrol units were 15-20 miles away. I responded and as I approached the scene of the crash Engine #40 was pulling in behind me. What a great feeling to have the experts on scene at the same time as I got there to take care of the severely injured

motorcycle rider who just t-boned a car that turned left in front of him sending him flying through the air at what I'm sure was 50-60mph. Your guys all worked quickly and efficiently as a team to take care of this victim. Everyone was doing something to help this guy from Captain Irby all the way through the engineers, firefighters and paramedics. The crew at station #40 has been very helpful with whatever I need, whenever I need it out there with the boat side of this area as well.

What a great resource to have out there for the citizens who would have a very long wait for any help if it were not for having station #40 out there!

Respectfully, ***Pete Goody Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Marine Unit***

- Well done!!!
- All, as many of you know over the past several months numerous members of the JFRD, USAR, and HazMat Teams have been preparing for another first for our department, assessment by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) for US&R. This has culminated in an on-site assessment that began this past Tuesday and ended Thursday. Over the 3 days, the EMAP assessment team evaluated the capabilities of the Florida Task Force 5 that included not only Urban Search and Rescue, but a Heavy HazMat and Swift-water Rescue components were added to bring the FL-TF-5 in line with a Type I Task Force.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for helping to make this process a success. The Administration for supporting the time and planning that went into preparing for the assessment. The USAR, HazMat, K9, and Ground Support Teams for their time and dedication and going above and beyond for a successful Mobilization Exercise. The Training Academy for hosting the assessment team and providing a place to set up the Base of Operations for the MobEx. The Emergency Preparedness Division for providing a place, time, and equipment to prepare the thousands of pages of documents to meet the EMAP Standard. And the countless individuals who answered the call and for the information you were able to provide. I could go on for several more pages specifically naming individuals but I would inevitably leave someone out so I will close with thank you.

There is still more work to do, but without your help we would never have gotten this far. This accreditation will open doors for the JFRD and FL-TF-5 and will keep us at the cutting edge where we belong. –With great appreciation and respect, **Timothy J Smith** FL-TF5 Planning & EMAP Accreditation Manager, Lieutenant, Rescue 7-A

- Outstanding job to all involved!!!!

Well that's it for this *Week in Review*. Please continue to have our folks in your thoughts and prayers as some are truly having a tough time. I hope you get to spend some time for yourself this weekend and whatever you do you spend it with family and friends. As for me, it's the blind mosquito invasion in Welaka. 9.2 trillion of their closest friends have decided to visit us for the weekend. I'm not sure why they're called blind, they seem to go exactly where they want to.

As always, we thank you for what you do, why you do it, and for always showing why you are truly the Best Fire Rescue Department in the Country!

Very Respectfully,

Kurtis R. Wilson

Chief of Department

Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Dept.