



# THE NAVAJO NATION

JOE SHIRLEY JR.  
PRESIDENT

FRANK DAYISH JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT

December 27, 2006

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES

First (1<sup>st</sup>) Quarter Report  
Fiscal Year 2007  
(October, November & December 20007)

### I. Program Information

Director Name: Larry Chee, Fire Chief  
Telephone No.: (928) 871-6915  
Department: Department of Fire & Rescue Services

### II. Budget/Performance Information

#### 1. Funding & Expenditures

#### BUDGET EXPENSE FOR FY07

Funding Source	No. of Personnel	No. of Vehicles	FY2007 Personnel	% Budget Used	FY2007 Operating	% Budget Used
General	13	16	\$82,981.10	17%	\$82,025.19	15%
External	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	13	16	\$82,981.10	17%	\$82,025.19	15%

#### 2. Performance Report

- a. Call Volume - 283 calls were responded to this quarter from six (6) fire stations. 50 were fires, with 25 of those being structure fires. EMS calls and Motor Vehicle Crashes still account for over 50% of our calls. See attachment for call breakdown.
- b. Fire Property Loss - For all of our six (6) fire stations, reports indicate that for this quarter, there was an estimated loss of \$755,000.00 as a result of fires.
- c. Reaction Time - It took an average of 4.62 minutes for Firefighters to respond (from "Page Out" to "En-route Time") to emergent and non-emergent calls.
- d. Response Time - It took on the average 16.5 minutes to get on the scene of an emergent and non-emergent incident.

- e. Paid Man Hours - Career members put in over 875.38 hours of labor for emergent and non-emergent calls. These times reflect only call response.
- f. Volunteer Man Hours - Volunteers combined put in approximately 1,250.92 hours of service for response to emergent and non-emergent calls. These times reflect only call response.
- g. Mileage - 17,523 total miles were driven on department vehicles. This includes non-emergent and emergent driving, as well as department errands and other activity (fire inspections, public education, etc.).
- h. Students - For the quarter, the Department of Fire and Rescue Services educated approximately 1,385 people in fire (Fire Safety) and medical (CPR/First Aid) public education.
- i. Turnout Per Call - On the average only 2 firefighters responded per call for the quarter.
- j. Fire Prevention - 41 fire prevention classes were conducted for the quarter. These classes included Fire Safety and Fire Extinguisher training.
- k. Medical Prevention - 18 CPR/First Aid classes were conducted for the quarter.
- l. In-House Training - Individual Fire Stations conducted 24 in-house trainings for the quarter.
- m. Supervised Alarms - A total of 13 supervised fire drills were attended this quarter by the individual fire stations.
- n. Mutual Aid - Individual Fire Stations gave and were given 38 mutual aid calls.
- o. Fire Inspections - A total of 18 fire inspections were conducted for the quarter by the individual fire stations.

### **III. Accomplishments**

1. Because of the Volunteer Incentive Pay Plan (VIPPP), our budget now is \$1,013,278.00, with \$289,575.00 of it being directed toward the VIPPP.
2. Beginning the new fiscal year (October 2006), we began providing the volunteers with a response stipend, called the VIPPP. The stipend, which ranges from \$5.00 to \$20.00, is based on qualifications and type of service provided. The purpose of the stipend is to improve recruitment and retention of volunteers, as well as getting the volunteers to respond to more emergent and non-emergent calls. Additional stipends include a

training stipend for volunteers attending the Recruit Firefighter's Academy.

3. Three (3) bids were received for the purchase of new fire trucks. Independent Fire of Albuquerque was selected and a purchase order was submitted in the amount of 1.5 million to build six (6) fire trucks. The Navajo Nation has specified a KME body built on a 7400 4 x 4 International Crew-cab Chassis. The fire trucks will be equipped with a 1250 gpm pump, 1,000 gallon water tank, ample compartment space for equipment and a compressed air foam system (CAFS). The CAFS will turn the 1,000 gallons of water into 3,000 gallons of water. Delivery of the trucks is expected in September of 2007.
4. Purchase orders were finally submitted to selected vendors in the total amount of \$384,973.29 for the purchase of a command vehicle, storage trailer, communication equipment and hazardous materials equipment. Funding was allocated from the 2005 Department of Homeland Security to establish a Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) for the Navajo Nation. Delivery of all the equipment is expected within the first few months of the New Year, with delivery of the command vehicle and trailer in July.
5. Firefighter training is being hit hard this Fiscal Year in order to ensure the success of the Volunteer Incentive Pay Plan (VIPPP) and the Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT), as well as to meet the strategic goals of the department. The department continues to work with local entities to provide the most cost effective and quality oriented programs. The following trainings were conducted this 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
  - a. 24-Hour Structural Firefighting: Strategy and Tactics class. Northland Pioneer College provided 2 credits for the course.
  - b. Hazardous Materials First Responder 24-Hour Operations Level class. Northland Pioneer College provided 2 credits for the course. This course was made possible by ITCA.
  - c. Site Incident Commander. This course was made possible by ITCA.
  - d. Professional Rescuer CPR Course
  - e. Two (2) firefighters attended the Fire Science Academy in Reno, Nevada. Training was provided free through a grant and was related to flammable liquid fires. Last quarter, one firefighter went. It is hoped that three (3) more of our personnel will be selected in the next quarter.

6. Western Technical Safety Consulting (WTSC) will be conducting our Haz-Mat Technician Refresher Training at a cost of \$10,550.00. To help incur some of the cost, local Counties were approached through formal request. Of all the counties, Coconino was the only county that helped by providing \$3,000.00. Navajo County provided only \$250.00 and Apache County \$0.00.
7. The continued repair of fire trucks still continues. For this quarterly reporting period, Engine 311 (Reserve) was repaired at a cost of over \$7,000.00. Furthermore, Engine 70 (Indian Wells) was repaired from damages sustained from a blown front tire at a cost of over \$6,299.62. Engine 40 (Tuba City) is currently in a shop in Flagstaff for repairs of the air brakes and air brake system. It is estimated that the cost of repairs for Engine 40 will be over \$4,000.00. Engine 312 (Fort Defiance) continues to be worked on in Albuquerque, New Mexico for fire pump, engine and drive train work.
8. Engine 50 (Chinle), Engine 40, Tanker 16 (Fort Defiance) and Engine 10 (Window Rock) were all given new tires and rims to replace the dangerous split-rim design.
9. Fire Unit 3, a 1991 Chevy Tahoe with over 150,000 miles, was finally replaced this quarter with a 2007 GMC Yukon. We are currently waiting for Navajo Communications Radio Shop to re-install all emergency lighting and radios.
10. To improve the "paging out" of fire service personnel for the Chinle and Dilkon Districts, we purchased two (2) stand-alone radio systems with pager encoders. With this system, police dispatchers do not have to switch from Police to Fire Frequency on their radio consoles to page out for the fire department. It is believed that the reason for police dispatch not "paging out" the fire department appropriately is because when they switch they lose contact with their police officers. Only time will tell on how effective this new system will be on the "paging out" of fire department personnel for emergencies.
11. Smoke Alarm Project is still continuing. Under this project we, along with other departments and programs, will be installing 8,000 smoke alarms within the Navajo Nation, specifically Sawmill, Red Lake, Crystal, Pinon and the surrounding Chapters and Ramah.
12. Our department continues to train the public and other departments and programs in CPR/First Aid. For this fiscal year, we have trained over 100 people.
13. Reserved

#### **IV. Status of On-Going Activities**

1. Our office submitted a grant, titled Communication Infrastructure and Interoperability Improvement Project, under the 2006 Homeland Security Grant, to [former] Mark Howard's office under Arizona Division of Emergency Management in the amount of \$888,000.00 (rounded), to address our lack of a radio communication infrastructure and radio interoperability within the Navajo Nation. We were notified this quarter that our application was never considered because our application was misplaced. Despite all of our efforts of sending our project to many offices to market our needs, our application was never supported (and forwarded) and was misplaced.
2. We are still trying to hire two (2) Firefighters - one for Chinle and the other for Tuba City. The last time we advertised for the position, we had twelve (12) applicants, however none per qualified. As a result of that, we rewrote the job descriptions to include "comparative experience" so that we can pull from current volunteer firefighters. We are still waiting on the Department of Personnel Management Classification Section to review and return our job description amendments. When we get these back, we will re-advertise again for those Firefighter positions.
3. Proposal was also submitted to the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company for the acquisition of a Polaris Ranger. Our application was denied.
4. With training a priority this fiscal year, next quarter will bring the following training.
  - a. Class 07-03 Recruit Firefighters Academy
  - b. Hazardous Materials Technician Refresher
  - c. Decontamination and Supper Services
  - d. EMS First Responder
  - e. IS700 and ICS 100: Intro to NIMS and Intro to Incident Command System
  - f. ICS 200: Basic Incident Command System
  - g. Emergency Operations Center
  - h. Firehouse World Conference - San Diego, CA.
5. In March 2006, a grant (EMW-2006-FG-10978) in the amount of \$306,432.00 was submitted to the DHS Assistance to Firefighter's Act Grant for the acquisition of a pumper/tanker combination fire truck. This quarter we were informed that we were not awarded.
6. Only 3,000 smoke alarms have been received, and we are currently waiting on 5,000 more. This is the second batch of smoke alarms because the first set were returned due to a defect. This added three (3) months to the project.

- The 3,000 that were received were distributed for installation in Pinion, Leupp, Sawmill, Red Lake, Crystal, Pueblo Pintado, Iyanbito and Ramah. It is reported that the project is going slow because of other priority issues, those being the flue and holiday season, as well as the delay in receiving the smoke alarms.
7. Reserved

**V. Status of Action Plan (A, B & C Lists)**

1. With the Volunteer Incentive Pay Plan (VIIPP) in affect, we are expecting to see an increase in recruitment, retention and the number of volunteers going on calls. In the next quarter we will see the affects of the VIIPP.
2. It will take almost a whole year to build the new fire trucks. It is estimated that the six (6) fire trucks will arrive in September of 2007.
3. Homeland Security Grants
  - a. Purchase requisitions were submitted in the amount of \$385,000.00 to LN Curtis & Son's, FDC Rescue, Master Body Work and Niles Radio for equipment to address our HMRT. We anticipate that we will acquire all of our 2005 Homeland Security equipment before and during the haz-mat refresher training (except for the Command vehicle), which we will train with during the refresher and utilize on hazardous materials response.
  - b. Grant Program Number EMW-2005-FG-02690 in the amount of \$269,496.00 for fire hose, foam and other water application appliances was closed out and accepted by the Department of Homeland Security.
4. We except delivery of our Command vehicle and haz-mat trailer that we purchased with the 2005 Homeland Security Grant in July of 2007.
5. One fire truck (E-312) is still at Independent Fire in Albuquerque for repairs. E-312 has been there since FY2006 Third Quarter. Because of the age of the truck, many parts had to be manufactured adding to the length of time being out of service.
6. Currently waiting on more smoke alarms for continued installation. Similarly, NFPA is working with the Pueblo of Laguna and Zuni to install 500 smoke alarms as well.
7. Reserved

**VI. Outstanding Program Issues**

1. Funding

- a. This fiscal year, our operating budget was reduced as a result of the salary adjustments (COLA). As a result of this, we are unable to address critical fire and rescue needs in the form of equipment. Fort Defiance needs a Ventilation Saw, PPV and Smoke Ejector Fan, Tuba City needs a new Jaws of Life power plant (hydraulic pump), and all the stations needs medical equipment.
  - b. It takes money to make money. As a result of a limited budget we are really unable to apply for federal grants, which has a 10% matching rate.
2. Vehicles
    - a. We are still triaging the repairs of fire truck and continue to pay for the repairs, at considerable cost, out of our own operating budget. For this quarter, we have already spent \$10,000.00 on fire truck repairs and preventative maintenance (E-40 = \$4,000.00 and E-70 = \$6,000.00).
    - b. Fleet Management continues to place our Fire Service vehicles as a non-priority. For example, E-70's batteries went out and Fleet Management's on-call technician was called upon on a Friday evening. He told the crew that they had to wait until Monday for new batteries. With a purchase order in Flagstaff, we ended up getting Engine 70 new batteries from it.
  3. Reserved

## **VII. Problems/Recommendations**

1. Fleet Management's attitude needs to change. They need to understand that currently there is only one fire truck per district and that if a fire truck goes out of service, it needs to be repaired quickly, even during off-duty hours. To say, "wait until Monday" is placing the Navajo Nation at great risk, especially for something as insignificant as batteries. Every quarter we address this issue and nothing continues to be done.
2. Because we are repairing and maintaining the fire trucks through our own budget, we need that line item increased. As the fire trucks continue to age, the more it will cost. Granted, we will be receiving new fire trucks in September 2007, however this does not mean that we will be removing the other trucks from service. Doing so would place us back in the same situation in having only one fire truck per district. We will need to continue to maintain the older trucks to serve as back up during large fire incidents and when the newer fire truck is in

the shop for preventative maintenance service or out of area for an emergency incident.

3. Communities continue to request help in establishing fire departments. Despite these request, we find that other communities need fire protection more, such as those in Pinion, Red Mesa, Lukacukai, Kaibeto, etc. We find ourselves reluctant to commit resources (fire trucks, equipment, etc.) to a community in very close proximity to a fully active and trained fire department when other major communities need fire protection. If we had the additional funding to help, we would. But we must first try to help those communities that need fire protection because they are further away from fully active and trained fire departments or have target areas that we need to address.
4. To address a major public safety need, our department needs a significant budget increase that needs to be supported form the local tax base. Many of our problems and the lack of fire/rescue/medical services can be resolved with an adequate budget. We are well aware that a large budget will not fix all our problems and address all our needs, but it will fix our most oppressing problems - lack of equipment, lack of fire/rescue/medical protection coverage and lack of personnel.

VIII. Flow Chart

