



NOTES TO COUNCIL

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilors
From: Michael Spurgeon, City Manager
Date: April 23, 2021
Re: Notes to Council

1. STAFF REPORTS / ITEMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

- BAFD 2020 Annual Report

2. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE / NOTIFICATION

- Press Release – New Mayor, Vice Mayor Elected in Broken Arrow
- Press Release – BA hosts All Forces World Cup softball tournament
- Press Release – Ethan Hutchins Hired as Community Outreach Coordinator
- Recent Media Coverage

3. SPECIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

- N/A

Respectfully submitted

Michael Spurgeon

clm

Attachments



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SECTION 1 - STAFF REPORTS



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from the Fire Chief



Looking back at 2020, it seems so long ago that I wrote a message for the 2019 annual report. The series of events, calamities, and unforeseen circumstances that arose in 2020 were unprecedented, but your Broken Arrow Fire Department was here and prepared for every minute of every day.

The year 2020 was unbelievable for numerous reasons, but in spite of many obstacles, unforeseen crisis, and other surprises of the year, the Broken Arrow Fire Department (BAFD) was able to accomplish some amazing things. Our dedicated men and women of the department stepped up to serve our community like never before. Time and time again throughout the year challenges arose, and our trained, equipped, and dedicated team were there for our customers. I am proud of the tenacity and perseverance of our team as we faced the worldwide pandemic, riots, inclement weather, and numerous other challenges. In 2019's annual report, I bragged on our team and said they were second to none, and once again this year they proved it.

In the spring of 2020 as the pandemic made its way to Broken Arrow, our firefighter/medics began asking the right questions; they began researching the symptoms; they studied protective measures; they sought out treatment options for our customers; and together we assembled a proactive and aggressive plan to protect our firefighters and community. We learned to balance response with prudence and safety with service. As we all learned together, we pushed each other to find new levels of safety and security even as we were unsure of our own situation.

Our members are typically accustomed to the perils of the fire and emergency medical services, but this year brought a nuance that we had to navigate. Our members' commitment to maintaining their own health and readiness was paramount to ensure the emergency service expected of our citizens could be maintained.

2020 will not soon be a year we forget because of the numerous challenges we faced as a community, but it is just as important to remember the significant accomplishments we had in spite of those challenges.

In 2020, BAFD partnered with Emergency Infant Services to place diapers and formula at our fire station in case a new mother and child were in need. In 2020, we managed to get into the schools (pre-pandemic) and read to approximately 1000 students. In 2020, we did a smoke detector blitz in our downtown area. This was done to remind our citizens the importance of new batteries and working smoke detectors in every residence. In 2020, we started construction on two replacement fire stations in locations that will reduce response times and improve service to our community. We brought in three brand new ambulances, two new fire trucks, and other much needed equipment to ensure our personnel had everything they needed to serve our community.

The list could go on and on of the many notable things our men and women accomplished for Broken Arrow, but one of the most important was attaining an ISO rating of 1. This is the highest rating a fire department can receive from the Insurance Service Office, and it takes everyone in the department and the city working together to achieve it.

There is no doubt that our firefighter/medics are the front line, the heart and soul, and the producers of our department. However, it takes the entire department, fire administration, city leadership, and Councilors all working in concert to provide the training and resources that allow our firefighters to accomplish great things on a daily basis.

It continues to be my honor to “Serve Others” as the Broken Arrow Fire Chief. It is truly a privilege to be a member of the City’s leadership team and a member of the fire department team.

Jeremy K. Moore

Fire Chief

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Some elements taken from Vecteezy.com

Incidents

Incidents by Type

EMS: 10,362

Fire: 280

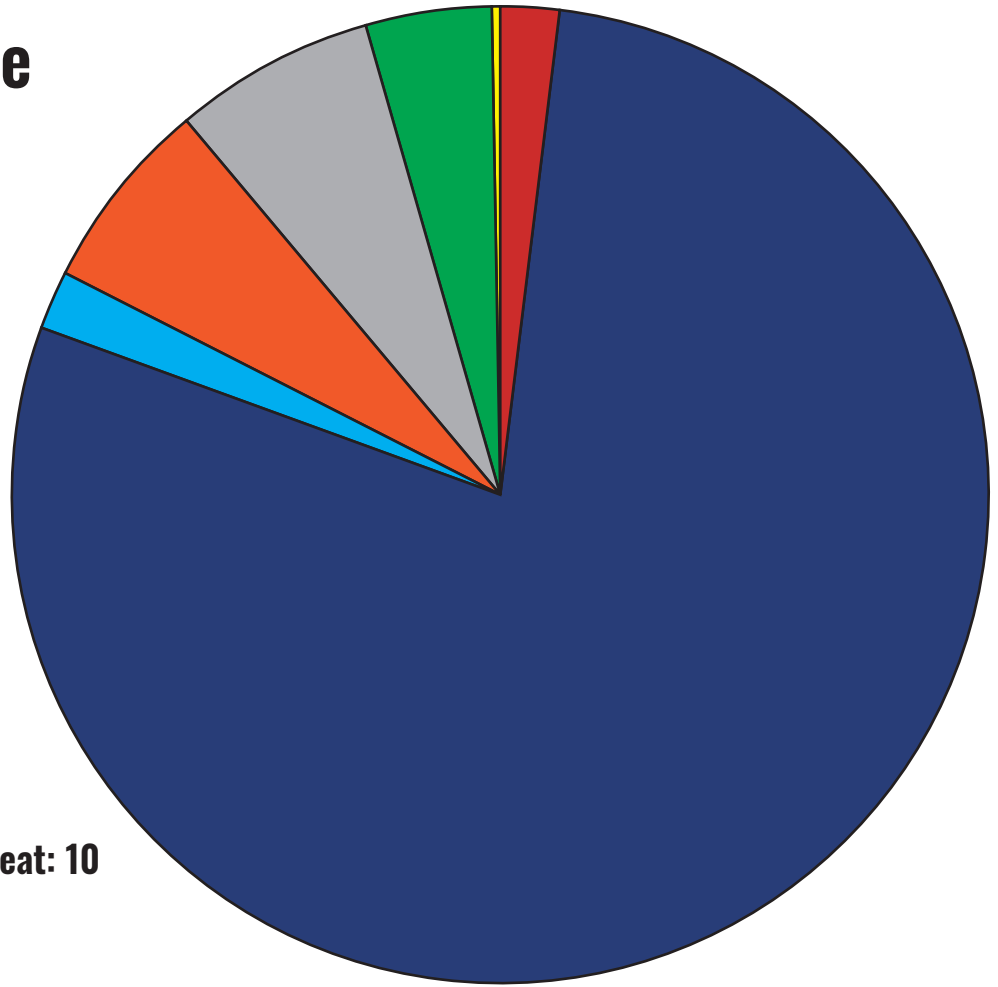
Good Intent Call: 882

Service Call: 853

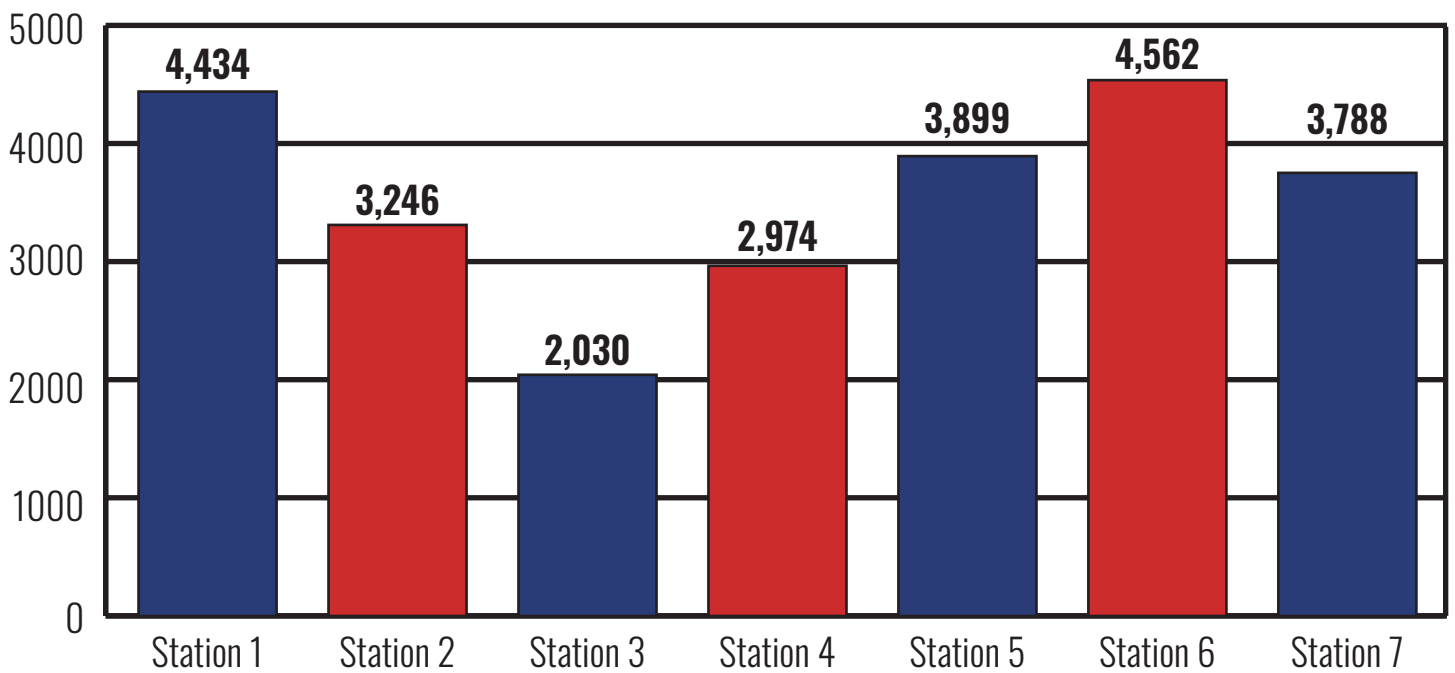
False Alarm: 548

HazMat: 237

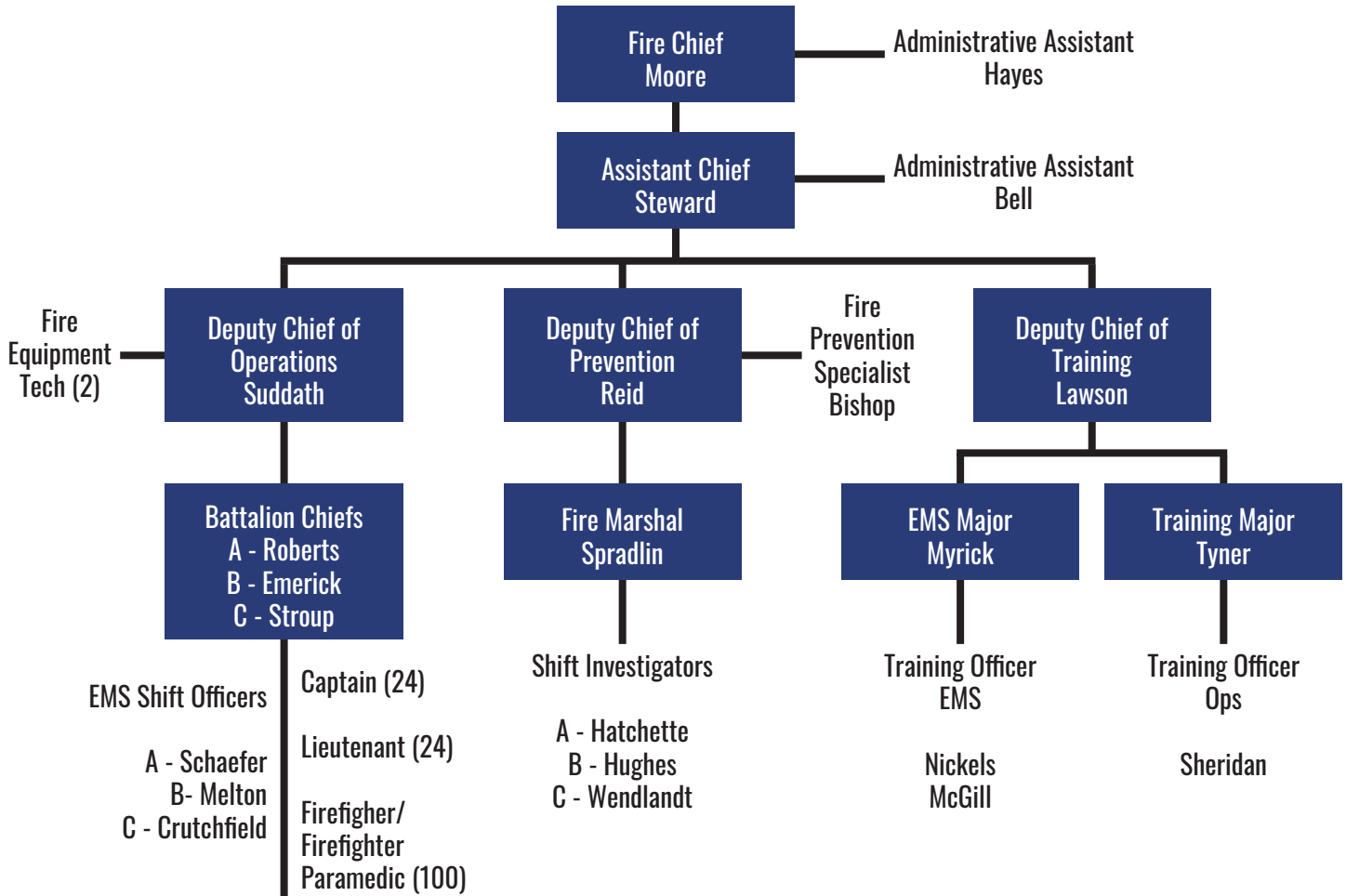
Rupture, Explosion, Overheat: 10
Weather: 4
Special/Other 3



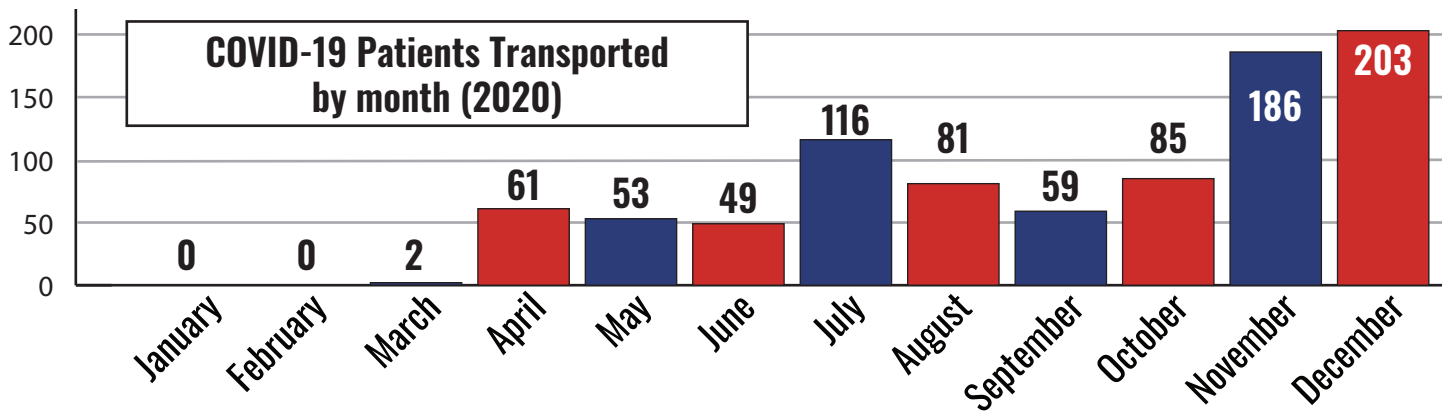
Responses by Station



Organizational Chart



COVID-19/Coronavirus Response



COVID-19 Related Expenses

\$1,045,514.68

Personnel costs associated with COVID

\$138,816.79

Overtime paid to personnel to cover quarantined BAFD members

\$44,637.60

Supplies and equipment

\$14,765.72

Cost of personnel to stand up Squad 8 due to COVID numbers

Operations Division

The Operations Division is responsible for handling all of the fire, rescue, and emergency medical calls that occur within the fire department service area. Within the Operations Division there are three separate shifts that work 24-hours on and 48-hours off. Each Shift has an authorized strength of 53 sworn personnel with at least 32 personnel cross-trained as nationally registered licensed paramedics. Each shift has one Battalion Chief who supervises seven fire stations, which operate 7 fire engine companies, and 7 Advanced Life Support Ambulance crews. Each fire station has a Captain in charge of 5-7 personnel daily. In 2020, the Operations Division is equipped with 1 command vehicle, 1 emergency medical officer vehicle, 5 fire engines, 3 ladder trucks, 6 brush trucks, 7 paramedic ambulances, 1 rescue truck, 1 rescue boat, and the Oklahoma Task Force 1 Technical Rescue unit. The BAFD experienced a notable spike in call volume during the height of the pandemic's effect on Broken Arrow. In response to the surge, an 8th ambulance was added to the fleet for peak hours of the day to mitigate the temporary increase in call volume. Squad 8 operated during daytime hours for approximately two months, taking 204 calls with an average of 3.92 calls per day. By mid-February, call volume had returned to pre-pandemic baseline levels and the additional squad was removed from the line-up.



In 2020 the fire department began construction to replace both Fire Station #3, in the Southeast part of town, and Fire Station #7 in mid-town Broken Arrow. The funding for the replacement of these two aging buildings were made possible by the passage of separate bond issue votes from the citizens of Broken Arrow. The fire department anticipates the new Fire Station #3 will be operating by late spring 2021 and the new Fire Station #7 will be operating by late 2021 or early 2022.



BAFD proudly partners with the public schools and chamber of commerce to improve the quality of life for Broken Arrow citizens of all ages.

Average notified to enroute time: 1.03 minutes

Average enroute to on scene time: 5.65 minutes

Prevention Division

Over the last two annual reports, we have discussed the organizational positions of the Fire Prevention Division and the duties that are performed at each level. We have also defined the vast array of responsibilities that we perform on a day to day basis. The Prevention division continues to review site, fire alarm, and sprinkler plans daily as evidenced by the 229 plans that were examined throughout 2020.

The Fire Investigators were kept busy this year as they investigated 44 structure fires either in commercial or residential buildings. On a positive note, only two of the fires were determined to be cases of arson. This number is well below the national average of nearly 14 arson offenses for cities the size of Broken Arrow.

Also, citizens of Broken Arrow contacted our Division seeking permits to burn within the City. A total of 38 permits were issued after our Fire Investigators inspected the burn sites and determined that all safety conditions were met.

Fire and Life Safety inspections are a major commitment to ensure that all new and renovated building meet the safety requirements for both the owners of the businesses and all their patrons. During the past 12 months, the Prevention Division completed more than 600 inspections consisting of Life Safety, sprinkler, fire alarm and kitchen hood inspections.

On October 31st, the Fire Prevention Division in coordination with several firefighters, selected an

area of Broken Arrow and implemented a “smoke detector blitz”. The objective of this endeavor was to perform door to door surveys to see if citizens had operational smoke detectors in their homes. If no detectors were found, and with the permission of the residents, our firefighters installed smoke detectors in the appropriate locations within the homes at no cost to the owners. Within approximately four hours of walking the streets, our firefighters had installed over 100 smoke detectors and replaced dozens



of old batteries. The Fire Prevention Division will continue this activity, performing this function twice a year in various areas located in Broken Arrow. Our goal is to educate our citizens on the importance of having a working smoke detector, and to create a safe environment for all citizens of Broken Arrow.

Training Division

While 2020 was a challenge to say the least, the Fire Department's Training Division was able to come up with some creative ways to continue the Department's very necessary training in a safe manner amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first half of the year, the training staff focused on delivering continuing education to department members virtually in an effort to keep the members safe and limit their exposures.

In February, the Department welcomed eight new members to the team. These eight cadets went through a rigorous 19-week academy where they learned and honed skills in firefighting, EMS, rescue, and hazardous materials. Once the cadets graduated their academy they were assigned to a shift and station where they continued to reinforce their training.

During the second half of the year the training division provided advanced firefighter training using live fire evolutions as well as training needed for members to renew their EMT and paramedic licenses.

In addition to providing instruction to Fire Department members, the training



staff provided community education to the general public. Over 500 citizens received instruction on topics like CPR, Stop-The-Bleed, and fire safety. The training staff is hopeful that the pandemic can be brought under control in 2021 and be able to reach even more of our citizens with these lifesaving training programs.

*Photo was taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency Medical Services

The Broken Arrow Fire Department responded to 13,192 emergency calls in 2020. This resulted in transporting 7,555 patients to the surrounding area hospitals. In March of 2020 our routine emergency calls became very non-routine because of a pandemic. 2020 proved to be demanding for both those within the department and within the City of Broken Arrow.

2020 made our jobs challenging both in the field and as administrators. The EMS Division had to



change the way we do business drastically. During 2020 our firefighters looked very different — wearing face-shields, masks, gloves, and gowns on almost every call. Our call volume increased significantly. The additional volume paved the way for us to deploy an additional ambulance to protect the citizens of Broken Arrow. The pandemic compelled the EMS division to find new and innovative ways to complete our daily tasks.

Although COVID-19 has been challenging, it helped the Fire Department become even more progressive as we took challenges head on and embraced them. In 2020, BAFD was able to add new iPads to all ambulances with wireless keyboards as well as purchase three new state-of-the-art ambulances. BAFD was also able to purchase two new medical ATV vehicles to replace our aging ones in the fleet. Like most of the world, many of our meetings and interactions moved to virtual platforms.

During 2020, the EMS Division strengthened relationships with the Regional Medical Response System, Medical Emergency Response Center, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and other EMS/Fire agencies to help us take care of our citizens in Broken Arrow during this Pandemic.

BAFD provided logistical support for the Trump rally at the BOK in Tulsa. Plans for 2021, include a SALT (sort, assess, life-saving interventions, treatment and/or transport) Triage program and a Fall Awareness program for the elderly.

The EMS Division has kept their heads held high and our members have done tremendous work during this Pandemic in 2020. Even under these circumstances we have overcome adversity and continue to see great accomplishments by all. We are proud to see so many of our members recover from COVID-19 and members step forward and begin to receive the COVID vaccine. We are excited to see what unfolds in 2021 and to see what we all can accomplish.

Revenues	Fire/Rescue Subscription Program.....	\$51,880
	Ambulance Revenue (EMS Billing & GEMT).....	\$3,814,773.07
	LifeRide.....	\$2,039,327.30

2020 Promotions

Jill Boeckman	Lieutenant
Lee Conner	Lieutenant
Dallas Driskell	Lieutenant
Gus Gaylor	Lieutenant
Fred Hoke	Lieutenant
Camron Ayers	Captain
Kevin Farrow	Captain
Kevin Easterwood	Captain



2020 Retirements

Reginald (Kim) Henry	Lieutenant	February
Loren Palmer	Captain	April
James (Larry) Bauder	Captain	May
Robert Adney	Captain	June
Gerald Stroup	Battalion Chief	November

Awards



Company of the Year

B shift Station 5

Brandon Smith, Jonathan Swecosky, Charles Schumann, Brady West, Garret Blocker, Beau Stringer & Katheryn Harsen

Busiest Company of the Year

A shift Station 6

Stephen Coldwell

Firefighter of the Year



Awards



Rusty Stringer

Company Officer
of the Year



Jake Sheridan
Officer of the Year



Katheryn Harsen
Rookie of the Year

Stations Under Construction

Two brand new replacement fire stations were under construction during 2020.



Station 3

Located on 23rd Street, north of the Creek Turnpike at approximately 115th Street, the new Station 3 replaces an older station about two miles away on Elm Place north of Jasper Street.

Once complete, the new Fire Station 3 will have three bays sized and equipped for modern

firefighting apparatus. Reco Enterprises is constructing the station, which will cost approximately \$3.8 million, funded by the voter-approved 2011 and 2014 General Obligation bonds.

A topping out ceremony was held in October in place of a traditional groundbreaking because that was not possible during the initial shelter-in-place order for the COVID-19 pandemic.



Station 7

Ground broke on a replacement for Broken Arrow Fire Station 7 in September at Washington Street and 1st Place. The new station replaces an aging Station 7 about one mile away on Elm Place north of New Orleans Street. This station had been decommissioned once before when the current Fire Station 2 was completed, but was put back

into service when the Fire Department expanded operations to include a seventh station in 2016.

The new Fire Station 7 will have four bays sized and equipped for modern firefighting apparatus. Coweta-based Bravo Builders is constructing the station, which will cost approximately \$3.6 million, funded by the voter approved 2018 Build Our Future BA General Obligation Bond package.

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Broken Arrow City Council and City Manager

From left: Councilor Johnnie Parks, Vice Mayor Scott Eudey, City Manager Michael Spurgeon, Mayor Craig Thurmond, Councilors Debra Wimpee, and Christi Gillespie



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SECTION 2 - GENERAL

For Immediate Release

Date: April 20, 2021

Contact: Jennifer Swezey, City of Broken Arrow

918-607-8921 | jswezey@brokenarrowok.gov

CBA Release 21-24

New Mayor, Vice Mayor Elected in Broken Arrow

Mayor Wimpee and Vice Mayor Gillespie begin two-year term

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma – Following the swearing-in ceremony for incumbent City Councilor Debra Wimpee (Ward 1) and newly elected City Councilor Lisa Ford (Ward 2), the Broken Arrow City Council voted to elect Debra Wimpee as Mayor and Christi Gillespie as Vice Mayor at their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 20. Wimpee and Gillespie will each serve a two-year term in those roles.

With Lisa Ford joining the Council, this is the first time in Broken Arrow history that three women (Ford, Wimpee, and Ward 3 Council Member Christi Gillespie) will serve on the City Council at the same time, according to City records.

This is also the first time in Broken Arrow history there has been a female Mayor and Vice Mayor holding office as the same time.

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Background: The City of Broken Arrow operates under a council-manager form of government. City Council members are unpaid elected officials. The City of Broken Arrow is divided into four wards, which are redrawn periodically such as after a Census year, in an effort to keep a fairly even population distribution in each. The Broken Arrow City Council consists of five councilors - one member from each of those wards and an at-large member. Each member is eligible to serve four years, with elections held every two years on a staggered schedule (Wards 1 & 2 are elected together, then two years later Wards 3, 4 & at large are elected). One unique aspect of Broken Arrow is that while the four ward representatives must live in their ward, all registered voters in the City are able to vote for each seat.

The primary role of the Council is to serve as the policy makers for the City. Its responsibilities include adopting local codes and ordinances, approving the budget and approving contracts for the City. The City Council is also responsible for hiring the City Manager, as well as hiring the Presiding Judge for the Municipal Court. The Council elects a mayor and vice mayor from among its own members every two years. One of the primary functions of the Mayor and Vice Mayor is to serve as the chairperson and vice chairperson to the Council.



For Immediate Release

Date: April 22, 2021

Contact: T.J. Gerlach, City of Broken Arrow

918-259-2400, ext. 5348 | tgerlach@brokenarrowok.gov

CBA Release No. 21-25

BA hosts All Forces World Cup softball tournament

Teams featured made up of active or retired police, fire or military players

BROKEN ARROW – Broken Arrow’s Challenger Sports Complex will host the All Forces World Cup Softball Tournament this weekend.

The tournament will feature about 20 teams with players from at least 15 different states. All players are current or retired members of the Armed Forces or Department of Defense or Homeland Security services, police officers, firefighters and other first responders.

An opening ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 23, with on-the-field action starting at 8 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday. The ceremony will feature the national anthem, presentation of colors, and a memorial wreath to honor fallen heroes.

For more information, visit the All Force Softball League’s website, www.playasfl.com, or Facebook page, www.facebook.com/allforcessoftballprogram; or Challenger Sports Complex on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Challenger-Sports-Complex-102801181485469.

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BROKEN ARROW POLICE DEPARTMENT

1101 N 6th Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012

PHONE: (918) 259-8400; FAX: (918) 251-2427

Press Release No.: 21-13

Date: April 19, 2021

Subject: Ethan Hutchins Hired as Community Outreach Coordinator

Ethan Hutchins has been hired as Community Outreach Coordinator for Broken Arrow Police Department. He takes on this new role after 8 years of television news reporting across Oklahoma and Texas.

Ethan Hutchins has covered hundreds of stories from tragic murders to severe weather. Most notable, Ethan has reported on the Waco Twin Peaks Biker Gang shooting, Dallas Police shooting along with recent protests and riots and countless critical incidents. He has specialized in crime in the community and has worked to help the victims of families find closure. His skills at meeting people and telling their stories will be essential in working as a liaison between the police department and the community. In this new role, Ethan will bring the same passion from his years in journalism to make a difference in Broken Arrow and the citizens he serves.

Ethan is married to his beautiful wife Rose and the two are expecting their first daughter Charley in the coming days.

Ethan can be contacted at ehutchins@brokenarrowok.gov or 918-451-8213.

Authority/Title: Officer C.L. Walker/Public Information Officer

Phone Number: (918) 344-2553





INTEROFFICE MEMO

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilors
From: Jennifer Swezey, Communications & Media Relations Manager
Date: April 23, 2021
Re: Recent Media Coverage

Below are some links to news coverage in Broken Arrow this week.

<https://www.krmg.com/news/local/broken-arrow-holding-get-fit-festival-tomorrow/6ZNRG22P5BDN5DU2I5UKLBL32M/>

<https://www.newson6.com/story/607f6c084122540bba8f8400/broken-arrow-elects-new-mayor-vice-mayor>

<https://www.publicradiotulsa.org/post/wimpee-gillespie-elected-mayor-vice-mayor-broken-arrow#stream/0>

<https://www.news9.com/story/607d7842d56bac0bd11aba13/broken-arrow-city-council-to-vote-on-new-mayor>

<https://ktul.com/news/local/broken-arrow-repeals-mask-resolution>

<https://www.krmg.com/news/broken-arrow-makes-history-with-new-mayor-vice-mayor/QWZ6VG7PZZD7XFU3YWTCWSYIBI/>

<https://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/broken-arrow-swears-in-new-mayor-vice-mayor>

<https://www.fox23.com/news/video-women-make-history-leaders-broken-arrow/b928ac93-c49b-4367-b175-394ed4e86625/>

<https://www.news9.com/story/607d7842d56bac0bd11aba13/2-new-broken-arrow-city-council-members-to-begin-terms>

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Swezey



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SECTION 3 - SPECIAL EVENTS