September 2016 Overview -

September leadership truism: Leadership is your choice, not your title.

Highlights of the September report include: Fire Training Center drainage/main entrance projects; LFRA Administrative items/budget; Instructor of the Year; hiring Business Services Coordinator of Kristen Cummings; Roylene Sterkel retirement.

Training Center Drainage System and Main Entrance -

On September 6, 2016, LFRA, Public Works, and Risk Management staff appeared before City Council to propose a supplemental appropriation for the Fire Training Center retention pond mitigation/new drainage system, construction of a new entrance, and construction of a new emergency entrance/exit. This was the first of two readings. As previously reported, this has been an on-going project involving many moving pieces and complex, sensitive issues. No doubt, it was a great collaborative effort in bringing it all together, despite all the challenges. The fact that it was unanticipated and therefore unbudgeted made it even more challenging. I’m pleased to announce that City Council granted our request for a supplemental appropriation of $698,000 to complete this project. Staff greatly appreciates Council’s understanding of this project, and their nod to move forward.

Administrative Matters -

Renee Wheeler and our admin team have worked hard to complete the 2017 Proposed Budget. The LFRA Board and the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District have approved the budget. Now it is on to City Council for first reading on October 18th and second reading on November 1st. This is a huge amount of work, and this year we had multiple challenges associated with a significant increase in our health insurance costs. Additional administrative items/projects include:

- Employee Benefit Insurance Option Development – LFRA is looking at contracting with the Colorado Employee Benefit Trust (CEBT) for health insurance for LFRA employees. A decision will be made by the end of October.
- Researching workers compensation delays, and will develop a protocol for service that we negotiate with Tristar (adjuster) and the doctor providers, to expedite the workers comp process.
- Research Capital Funding Options.
- In conjunction with the Larimer County Workforce, we have brought an intern to LFRA to assist her in pursuing her fire service education and career.
- Continuing development of the 4th Amendment IGA which will allow transfer of all equipment and lease of all real property (from the City and the Rural) to the Authority.
- Capital Assets Strategy for getting equipment and apparatus loaded in the financial system for 2017 at the current value.
- Roylene Sterkel retirement breakfast. Roy has been with the fire department for 25 years, and has been an exemplary employee. Roy’s official last day was September 30th. (See pictures and the recognition plaque below).
- Onboarding Kristen Cummings (formerly Kristen Owens, a dispatcher with Loveland Emergency Communication Center), who will replace Roylene Sterkel. We are thrilled to have Kristen join our team!
Instructor of the Year award -

Community Safety  **Division Chief Ned Sparks was chosen as the recipient of the 2016 Larry Kettlehut Instructor of the Year by the Colorado Fire Training Officers Association!**

This is a very prestigious award well deserved by Chief Sparks. Below is an example of a few of the many ways Chief Sparks has contributed over the years to “make us better”, pouring his blood, sweat, and tears into training firefighters.

- Assigned the Training Captain position for Loveland providing in-service training for career members as well as volunteer members. Numerous academies, both career and volunteer, were overseen during his time assigned in the training division.
- Chief Sparks was one of the initial creators/developers of the instructional methodology curriculum supporting the State Fire Instructor I certification in which he has over 13 years of experience teaching this curriculum throughout the State of Colorado, having made contact with over 2000 students.
- Chief Sparks has been a strong supporter of the IFSAC certification system and supported the state certification system for the last 20 years. During this time he has helped serve on the State Officer and Instructor certification committees.
- Chief Sparks is an adjunct instructor for the state’s Fire Instructor II and III curriculum.
- Chief Sparks has been a proctor for the last 16 years and holds both a FF Proctor certification as well as a DO proctor certification.

What makes this even more special is the fact that Chief Sparks is the third LFRA recipient to receive this award the past few years. This is a distinction that few, if any, other departments hold. Captain Jason Goodale received the award in 2009, and Division Chief Greg Ward received the award in 2014. This goes to show the incredible depth and talent at LFRA...so proud of this organization. Chief Sparks will receive the award at the Colorado State Fire Chiefs conference in Keystone, CO on October 19th.

*Thanks for the support...it’s an honor serving you all.*
LFRA Board members, Left to right; Dave Legits, Chairman Jeff Swanty, Roylene Sterkel, Mayor Cecil Gutierrez, Mayor Pro-tem John Fogle, and City Manager Steve Adams.

Roy’s plaque read:

Distinguished Service Award

Presented to Roylene Sterkel

This award is given in appreciation of your extraordinary service to the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority. Your desire to serve the community as well as the organization have consistently been above and beyond. You exemplify a positive attitude, “can-do” mentality, calm demeanor, sense of humor, loyalty, steadfastness, intuitiveness, and willingness to get the job done no matter what. We have grown to love you for these traits... you have spoiled us and will be sorely missed. Your smiling face and humble countenance have become iconic to LFRA. We love you as family, friend, confidant, and honorary firefighter. You deserve a medal for putting up with us.

Respectfully, Your friends and family at LFRA

Thank you for 25 years of dedicated service  1991 - 2016
September 2016

RESPONSE

- **9/1/16** – Battalion 1, Engine 6 and Water Tender 5 assisted Poudre Fire with a fully involved house fire on Thompson Drive in South Fort Collins.
- **9/4/16** – LFRA was requested by Larimer County Emergency Services to assist with controlling the Starwood Fire northwest of Livermore. Battalion 1, Engine 216 and Tender 5 responded, Engine 216 remained on scene for three days.
- **9/10/16** – LFRA responded to a dive rescue incident at Boyd Lake State Park for a vehicle in the water. Rescue personnel assisted the driver to shore and divers worked with the tow truck to remove the vehicle from the water.
- **9/28/16** – Crews extinguished a residential fire on South Taft Avenue, the fire originated on the front porch and extended to the attic. The fire was quickly controlled by the first arriving engine company. The interior of the home suffered minimal fire and smoke damage.
- **9/29/16** – LFRA was dispatched to a residential fire on West 8th Street, crews controlled an interior fire that caused a significant amount of heat and smoke damage to the house. The homeowner was transported to the hospital by Thompson Valley EMS for injuries sustained in the fire.
- LFRA crews responded to four fatal traffic accidents within the last two weeks of September including a double fatal accident on I-25.

READINESS

- The Training Battalion conducted seven days of mutual aid live fire training evolutions. The drills included crews from Berthoud, Estes Valley, Front Range, Poudre and Windsor-Severance.
- Crews continued focusing training toward modern fire attack tactics, this training is being led by the Shift Captains.
- Several LFRA personnel attended an advanced vehicle extrication course hosted by the Platte Valley Fire District.
- The TAC Fire Team participated in the Loveland Police SWAT Team’s annual full team training week at the Fort Carson Army Post in Colorado Springs.
- LFRA hosted a three day Fire Instructor II & III certification course at the Training Center. This course was attended by twenty personnel from around the state including five members of LFRA. All five members successfully passed the written and practical exams to become certified.
- Live fire training was conducted for the Canyon Battalion Firefighters. The focus of the training was on modern fire attack tactics.

RESOURCES

- The cab and chassis for the new Engine 3 arrived at SVI Trucks in Fort Collins, the final delivery of the engine is scheduled for late November.
- A selection process was conducted for the Training Lieutenant Position, this process is always very competitive because of the highly qualified Lieutenants that apply for the rotation.

RELATIONSHIPS

- Fort Collins Police, Loveland Police, Larimer County Sheriffs Office, Thompson Valley EMS and SVI Trucks utilized the Training Center in the month of September.
- LFRA attended the Highway 34 project community open house to answer emergency response questions.
- Crews are assisting the Greeley Fire Department with several prescribed fires in open space areas around the City of Greeley. Prescribed fire opportunities are a great wildland firefighting training opportunity for LFRA personnel.
Advanced Vehicle Extrication Class

New Engine 3 Cab & Chassis
Update/overview of CSD, Special Events (Ned):

- DRT training and Empowerment team continues. After Action Review of the New Thought Church was conducted and report is being compiled.
- LFRA continues to work with partner organizations to create a program. The group is calling itself Thompson School Education Coalition – TSEC. LFRA is scheduled to begin with presentations for 1st graders on October 5th at Centennial Elementary with 6 other days in October.
- Discussions with the Budweiser Events Center regarding fire watch standbys taking place to ensure adequate, trained staffing is in place during events. The proposal from the BEC management is to have LFRA add a second firefighter to the events. We are moving forward with training LFRA personnel to meet the request. Contacting local departments around us to explore the use of their staff in the program.

Significant Building Plan Reviews and Inspections (Carie, Ingrid and Allen):

City Building/Fire project review:

- The airport installed vehicle fueling system without permits. CSD is working with airport personnel and Tracy Turner-Naranjo to resolve.
- Hach will install three new hydrants directly off the public water supply to meet fire flow. This is in addition to the private fire system on-site and required by Fire Code.
- Custom Blending is working through DRT and needs to provide more information for fire sprinklers.
- Lincoln Apartments has experienced significant gas leaks in their original piping. Xcel energy and City Building Department were also involved in identifying the problem and fixing the non-compliant pipe system.

Johnstown, County project review:

- Collinswood Designs is continuing to have issues with permits and inspections. To help the owner get a TCO, Larimer County Building department issued a “dummy permit” to inspect the building and allow the owner to legally move in. However, he fired his alarm contractor on Sept. 29 so there is still no alarm permit or testing completed. LFRA will approve a TCO once the sprinkler and alarm systems have been permitted and successfully inspected.
- Johnstown, Thompson Crossing HOA president has asked that we waive the two-access requirement because there are a lot of construction trucks in their neighborhood. We are working with the residents to educate and look at options for calming devices.
- Site and building drawings submitted for the Kiewit buildings at US 34 and Glade Road, which will be their offices for the next 3-4 years for the highway repair project. Larimer County and LFRA have been working diligently to get them through the processes. They erected their buildings with no permits, including a fuel farm and we are working with them to get it permitted.

Emergency Management – (Pat)

- The annual Family Safety and Emergency Preparedness Expo was once again a successful opportunity to connect with our community. Attendance was estimated to be over 700 and was by far the best attended expo to date.
- The grant paying for the Mitigation Master Plan and the Disaster Recovery Plan is the CDBG-DR. Several city employees met this month to align our efforts for the reporting requirements and to prepare for the inevitable state audit.
- June Richard continues to make progress in the effort to cross-walk the City’s Emergency Operation Plan with FEMA’s CPG 101 evaluation tool.
Detailed Activities:

**Flood Recovery**
- Mitigation Master Plan final draft in progress
- Disaster Recovery Plan final input process scheduled for early October

**Operations and Maintenance**
- Met with IT and Facilities Maintenance to finalize EOC upgrades

**Planning and Documentation**
- The first draft of the Mitigation Master Plan (MMP) and Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) were completed
- Continued to work on several IGAs and MAs
- Attended VIP visit planning meeting
- Continued to work on 2016 Emergency Management Program Annual Report
- Met with Karen in Human Resources on employee tier plan and campus closure plan

**Emergency Preparedness Relationships**
- Attended LCEM meeting
- Met with Shelley and Meshelle re: bike helmet program
- Participated in State Emergency Management conference planning
- Met with Jane Lopez, Larimer Connects re: buddy program
- Attended Executive Safety Committee meeting
- Attended NCEM

**Grants**
- Met with Cheryl for monthly grants review

**Training and Public Outreach**
- Completed the EOC user’s training video; currently building a city-wide training schedule
- Hosted a MGT317 Disaster Management for Public Services
- Facilitated the annual Family Safety and Emergency Preparedness Expo

**Training Received**
- Attended IT’s digital matrix user training program
- Attended IT’s mobile user training
- Participated in an Emergency Management accreditation assessment in Texas

**Exercises**
- Attended 2016 Airport FSE planning meeting
- Attended Blizzaster exercise planning meeting
- Participated in Larimer County EOC activation exercise

**Other**
- Met with Cheryl Re: workforce intern planning and scheduling
- Completed CareerWow web-based project

**Public Affairs – (Scott)**
- Created new training video for EOC login procedures
- Assisted/trained Allen with a few school inspections and data entry procedures
- Attended Emergency Managers Academy classes (3 days)
- Presentation for Loveland Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors on our BCOOP program
- Additional planning work and meetings for upcoming disaster drills
• Extensive edits and updates on the new City of Loveland/LFRA website, which was launched on 9/19
• Staffed safety info booth for City’s Health and Wellness Fair
• Staffed safety info booth for Water & Power’s Safety Fair
• Planned, set-up, and staffed safety info booth for our 2016 Family Safety and Emergency Preparedness Expo event (estimated 700 attendees)
• 7 car seat inspections
• 2 youth fire-setting family intervention sessions

Accreditation, ISO, Code Enforcement – (Ty)

The self-assessment process is nearing completion, with approximately 85% of the performance indicators finished. I ended up writing the performance indicators for the agency’s public outreach/education programs, as well as putting together the annual program planning and appraisal document.

Planning & Analysis
• Cheryl and I are still working on ideas for revising our current Urban Response Area and adding Suburban, Rural and others as necessary to accurately measure our response performance. Along those same lines, we’re also working on ideas for improving our month-end reporting.
• Completed month-end response performance analysis for LFRA, BTCVFD and TVEMS. Working on compiling response performance analysis for LFRA/TVEMS for Charlie/Delta and Echo medicals from 2011 through 2015 for the CRESA-SOC document to show full system resilience.

Community Safety Division
• We still seem to be having some issues with data entry/retrieval in ETI. Working with various staff members to improve understanding and attempt to identify root cause.
• Updated BEC standby requirements and LFRA policy. Recruited approx. 25 new participants for standby coverage. Developed new training program for BEC standby personnel. Provided 2 training sessions for BEC part-time staff. Worked 1 BEC standby.
• Coordinated efforts to facilitate Donald Trump rally at The Ranch in early October (determination of maximum capacity in two buildings, standby needs, etc.)
• Working with an event at the Thunder Mountain Amphitheater regarding extensive pyrotechnics display during a concert. This is the first time we’ve worked with pyro at this facility.
• Received request from event coordinators at 1st National Bank Building at The Ranch regarding citizen complaints of overcrowding at a karate tournament. Helped coordinate event layout that would maintain safe egress routes and avoid overcrowding issues.
• Resolved fire code issues at 1107 SE 14th Street.
• Working with Airport operations and City Risk Management regarding a new fuel tank installation for new Airport Storage Building.

Support operations division
• Worked one 24-hour overtime shift as D/O on E2.
• Assisted 5 times with covering as D/O on an engine to facilitate ARFF standby coverage.

Fire Investigations
• Assisted FIT Sandoli with investigation of residential structure fire at 3509 S Taft Ave.

Training – 39 hrs
• Received ICC Fire Plans Examiner recertification
• Working on NWCG Crosswalk for ICT5 and FFT1 certifications
• Captured benchmark times for mutual aid live fire drills
• Helped teach Fire Behavior for FRFC Academy @ PFA
• Participated in Modern Fuels Tactical Deployment training
Correspondence: This is lengthy but worth the read...well done Tyler!

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Linda Hoffmann <hoffmalc@co.larimer.co.us>
Date: Thu, Sep 29, 2016 at 5:20 PM
Subject: Fwd: WEB: County Employees - outstanding performance. - Private
To: Trisha Sims <simsta@co.larimer.co.us>, Lori Metz <MetzL@co.larimer.co.us>, Laura Walker <walkerla@co.larimer.co.us>, Tony Brooks <tbrooks@larimer.org>, Savannah Benedick <benediss@co.larimer.co.us>, "Fried, Eric" <friedeb@co.larimer.co.us>, Terry Gilbert <gilberr@co.larimer.co.us>, Darrick Turner <turnerdd@co.larimer.co.us>, Jerry Blehm <BLEHMG@co.larimer.co.us>, Adrienne LeBailly <LEBAILAE@co.larimer.co.us>, Justin Smith <smithje@co.larimer.co.us>, malisapd@co.larimer.co.us, John David Noe <noejd@co.larimer.co.us>, niswencs@co.larimer.co.us
Cc: Donna Hart <hartdl@co.larimer.co.us>
I spoke by phone this afternoon with Ms. Bruntz to thank her for taking time to write this thank-you note to all of you. She said many times during our call that all too often people will take the time to complain but seldom do they acknowledge outstanding, compassionate service. That's what she received from Larimer County, and she's grateful for your efforts. Wow, all I can add is well done! Thank-you for all you do.

Linda Hoffmann
County Manager
Larimer County, Colorado
(970) 498-7004 (direct)

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <krisbruntz@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 29, 2016 at 4:17 PM
Subject: WEB: County Employees - outstanding performance. - Private
To: hoffmalc@co.larimer.co.us

This message was sent by a visitor to the Virtual Courthouse.

Name: Kris Bruntz
Email: krisbruntz@gmail.com
Phone: 9703968922

Hello,

I wanted to reach out to you to tell you about my experiences with several of the Larimer County departments I believe you oversee. I live in Weld County but my mother lives/lived in Larimer until earlier this year. Sadly, today we hear a lot of negative things about the government and government employees however, to the contrary - I have had MANY different positive experiences (as well as life changing experiences for my mom), with the men and women of Larimer County.

First of all, Trisha Sims from Adult Protective Services and her Supervisor Lori Metz have been extremely helpful in providing me with the information or resources I needed to get my mother out many dangerous situations and the necessary health care that she needed (thanks also to her case managers/social workers). This consistent help and involvement in her life and with assisting me could have very well saved her life more than
once. Trisha cares about her people and is outstanding at her job. I have the utmost respect for her and Lori and all those in the Human Services department - it can be a thankless job so please hear me - THANK YOU!

Secondly - Tyler Gage from the Fire Authority - I also credit him with saving my mother's life... He was willing to go assess her home (which is very dangerous on many levels) and help convince her that her home and her living habits were putting her in grave danger. He took the time to educate her and my brother and communicate his findings to me as well. I have been trying for years to convince all those involved with her care that her living conditions and behaviors were very dangerous and without his support and that of APS she might still be living in that unhealthy environment and we might not have had the information needed to help the courts determine she needs further assistance. I truly believe his expert opinion and the time he took to help us was very heroic. A special thank you to Elder Care attorney Ricki Liska also.

Next, I would like to single out Tony Brooks and Darrick Turner who went way above and beyond to educate me and facilitate positive efforts to help my mother by addressing health, property, safety, code, and planning issues. And provide countless resources to help further assist my mother in her current situation. They were both very accessible and offered a tremendous amount of help yet they were also very professional in that the clearly defined the county rules and regulations and assisted in so many ways I can't begin to list here in this communication. Darrick demonstrated a very high level of dedication and took into account "very complicated issues" that others might have ignored and personally assisted in facilitating a resolution, as did Tony with his vast knowledge and ability to pull people together. They both continue to help me as I write this, providing names and numbers of those in their network that can further assist us. Just amazing are these two men - if I could nominate them for an award consider it done!

They are also heros to mom and I because without their help, professionalism, and compassion I wouldn't have had the knowledge or resources to provide the assistance my disabled mother needs. They have been excellent at communication, very accessible and responsive, and giving of their time. They both have a lot of heart and care about the community in which they serve.

I am very grateful for and impressed with all of the people I have mentioned above as well as the folks in the permit department, and sweet Savanah Benedick, one of the Planners. I will send this directly to the supervisors in their departments too but I must also mention Corporal Malisani and Deputy Noe and Nisewinder from the Sheriff's department. They all have been excellent to interact with and I can't thank each and everyone of them enough.

I don't believe any of them know the impact their kindness and professionalism has had on my mother and I, however it is important that you know and share this correspondence with their direct supervisors and co-workers if the opportunities arises. I believe each of them should be appreciated, celebrated, and considered great mentors and ambassadors because they are what makes Larimer County a great place to live and work. Thank you! Thank you! Thank You! Keep up the great work and heart. Blessings to all of them and you - please take the time to appreciate them and thank them for their hard work.

Sincerely,

Kris Bruntz
August 30, 2016

Berthoud Fire Protection District

Ty Drage, Accreditation Technician
Loveland Fire Rescue Authority
410 East 5th Street
Loveland, CO 80537

RE: Fire Investigation 101

Dear Ty,

On behalf of the Berthoud Fire Protection District, I would like to thank you for your willingness to assist our staff and guest from the Hygiene Fire Protection District in presenting the three (3) day course titled “Fire Investigations 101.” You presented the three (3) day course with great success; those participating commented on the value of the information provided and how much they learned.

Through your instruction, you demonstrated not only your knowledge, but your experience in fire investigation. The Berthoud Fire Protection District, through this course, will certify our line officers and those fire fighters who took the course in fire investigation. In a similar model to Loveland Fire Rescue Authority’s “FIT Program,” the District will utilize line personnel to investigate the cause and origin of fires within the District. In the event of a complex fire scene, one or both of our experienced certified fire investigators will be requested to investigate the cause and origin.

In closing, I commend you for your professionalism, preparedness, sense of humor and your willingness to take three (3) days from a busy schedule to instruct this course to our staff. I sincerely appreciate your enthusiasm as a fire service professional.

Respectfully,

Stephen Charles, Fire Chief

Cc Mark Miller, Fire Chief
       Ned Sparks, Division Chief