



"Dedicated to Providing the Highest Level of Public Safety Services to our Community"



2017
Annual
R E P O R T
Benton County Fire District # 1

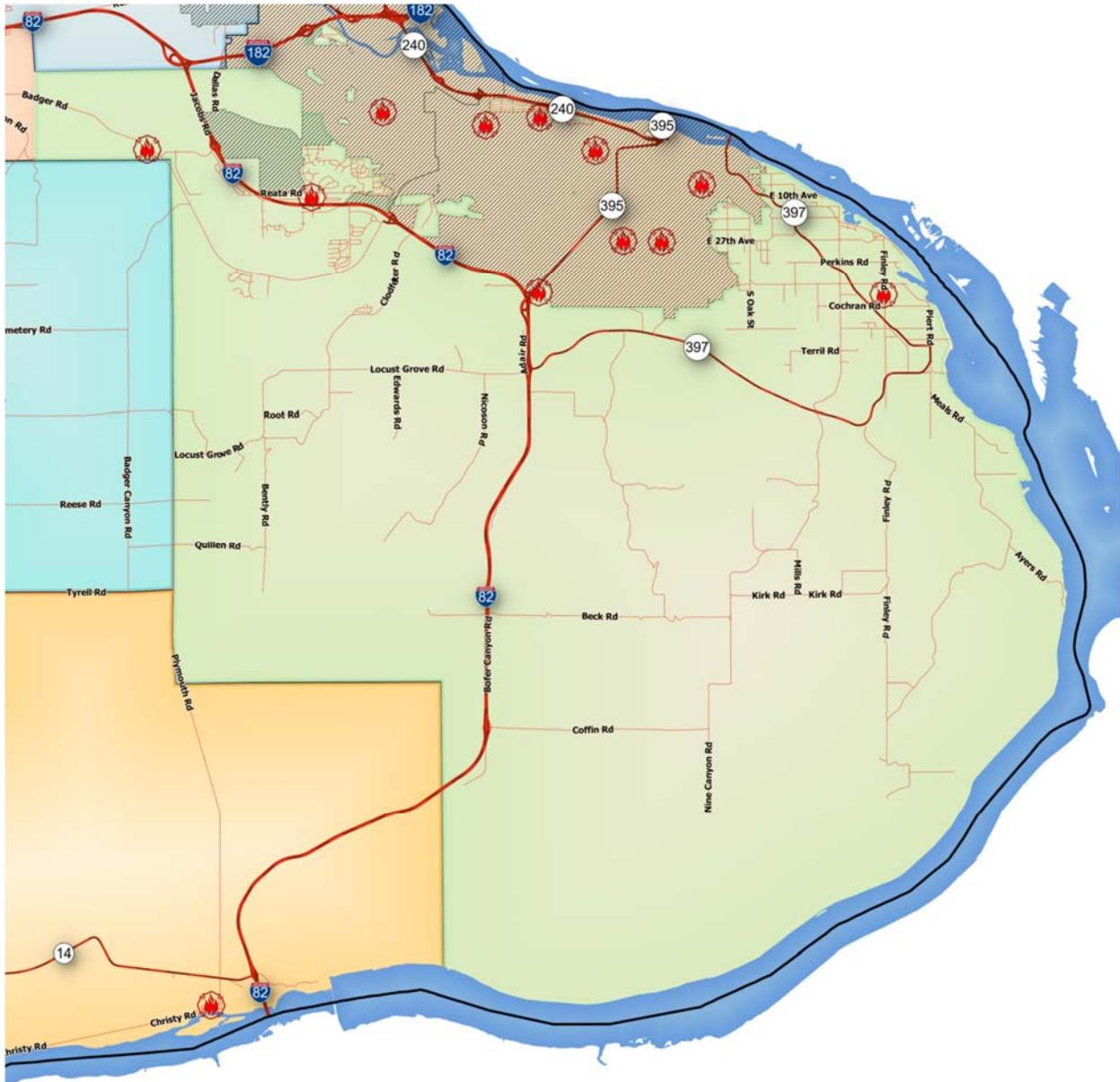
2017 OVERVIEW

Benton County Fire District #1 responded to 1,516 emergency and non-emergency calls in 2017, an increase of 14.3% from 2016. Fire District #1 also provides automatic aid and mutual aid to the cities and surrounding fire protection districts throughout Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties. Through Cooperative Agreements with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Spokane District, Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Washington State Fire Mobilization, the Fire District also responded with fire suppression forces and incident management personnel to 28 out of area fires, including support of two California Wildland Complex Fires.

Because of the unique nature of the Fire District, not only providing all primary fire and emergency medical services, the District takes on additional responsibilities such as administrator for the Tri-County Hazardous Materials Response Team, Benton/Franklin Medical Program Director, Southeast Washington Air Group (SEWAG), Joint Fire Training Center, Quad-County Fire Chiefs policy repository, and Juvenile Fire-setters Program fund.

The District was very successful in many capital projects that will be outlined within this report.

Benton County Fire District #1 Service Area
Indicated in green on the map



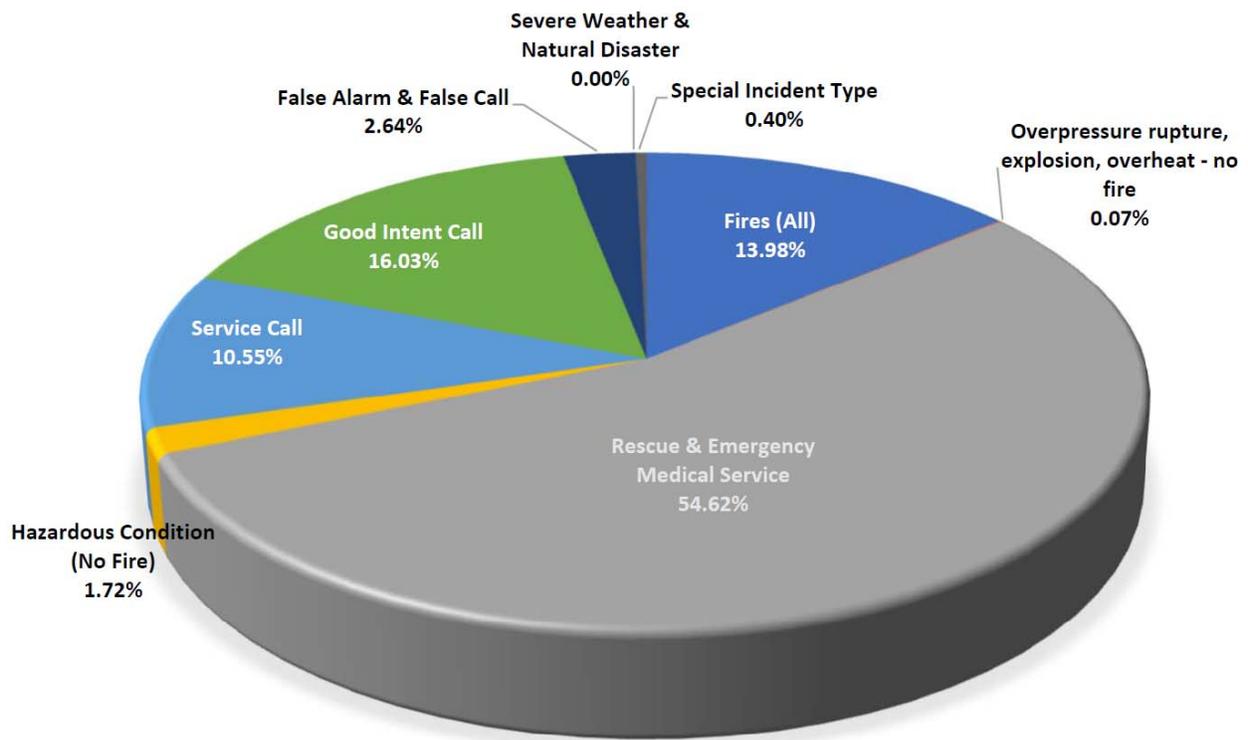
**There were two annexations by the City of Richland this past year for a total of 30.4 acres. One area was off Keene Road and the other was on Jericho Road.*

OPERATIONS

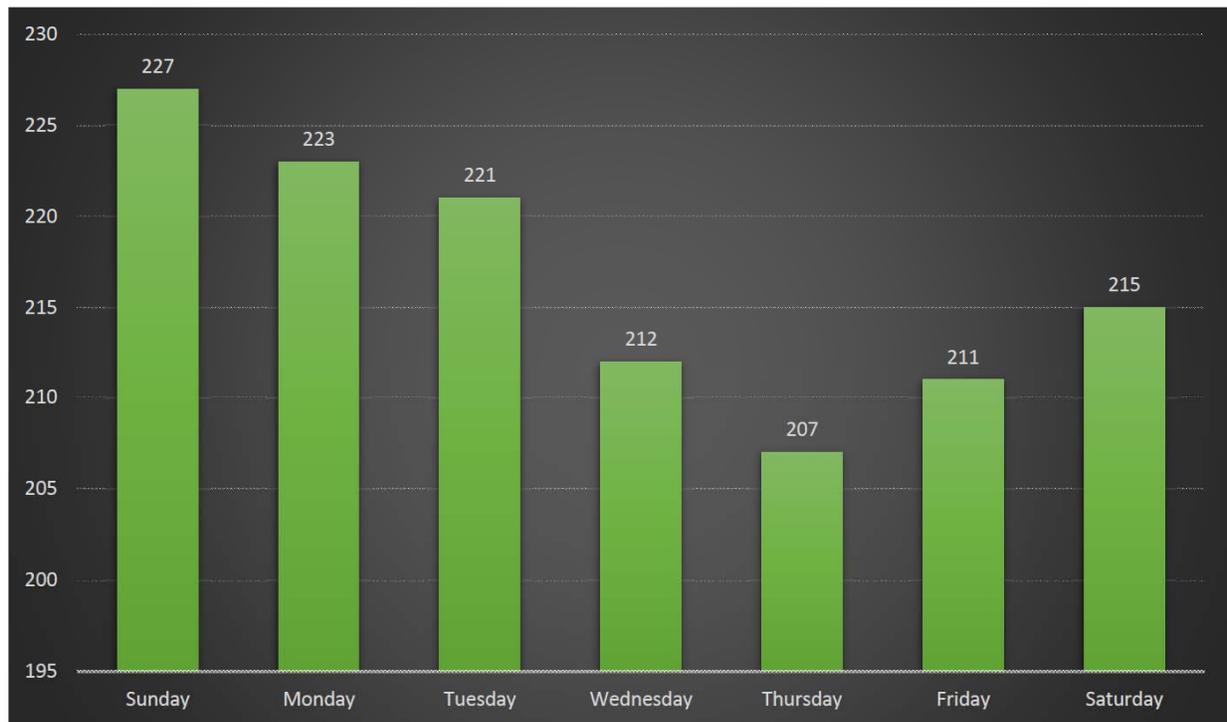
Breakdown and Description of Major Calls

The Fire District responded to 1,516 calls in 2017, up from 1,298 calls in 2016. The increase is due to the steady rise in medical calls. A breakdown of the calls is listed in the table below.

Major Incident Type	No. Incidents	% of Total
Fires (All)	212	13.98%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	1	0.07%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	828	54.62%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	26	1.72%
Service Call	160	10.55%
Good Intent Call	243	16.03%
False Alarm & False Call	40	2.64%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0	0.00%
Special Incident Type	6	0.40%
TOTAL	1516	100.00%



Incidents by Day of the Week - 2017



Fire Incident Loss - 2017

Total Fire Incidents	Total Property Loss	Total Content Loss	Total Losses	Average Loss
38	\$1,195,440.00	\$362,900.00	\$1,558,340.00	\$41,008.00

Fires: Includes all fires in buildings and mobile homes, vehicle, mobile properties, recreational vehicles, natural vegetation (Wildland) and outsider rubbish where the Fire District had to take action and extinguish the fire.

Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (no fire): Excludes steam mistaken for smoke. Includes overpressure rupture from steam or a boiler where the Fire District was called to assist.

Rescue & Emergency Services: Includes medical assists, motor vehicle accidents with injuries and no injuries, lock-ins, search for people and all rescues.

Hazardous Condition (No Fire): Includes chemical and radiological releases with no fire, hazardous electrical condition, hazardous building condition with no rescue and standby for hazardous conditions.

Service Call: Includes person in distress, water removal, animal rescue, public service assistance, unauthorized burning and cover assignment or move-up such as standby at a fire station.

Good Intent Call: Includes dispatched and cancelled enroute, authorized controlled burning, vicinity alarms (not fire alarms), smoke scare, and no incident found on arrival.

False Alarm & False Call: Includes malicious alarms, bomb scares, and fire alarm system malfunctions.

Severe Weather and Natural Disaster: Includes severe weather or natural disaster standby, earthquake, flood and windstorm/tornado damage assessment.

Special Incident Type: Includes citizen complaint, code or ordinance violations and miscellaneous uncategorized incident types.

Response Times

NFPA 1720 - Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operation, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments.

NFPA Table 4.3.2 Staffing and Response Times

Service Zone	Demographics	Minimum Staff to Respond	Response Times (Minutes)	Meets Objectives %
Urban	>1000/mile ²	15	9	90
Suburban	500-1000 mile ²	10	10	80
Rural	<500 mile ²	6	14	80
Remote	>8 mile travel	4	20	90
Special Risk	TBD by AHJ	TBD by AHJ	TBD by AHJ	90

**AHJ = Agency Having Jurisdiction*

Urban Service Zones are the un-annexed areas within the city limits. Urban zones are predominately residential and include the Tri-City Heights and two small parcels on West 10th Avenue and Union Street in Kennewick and the Valley View and Jericho Road area off Columbia Park Trail in Richland. The recommended urban response time is 9 minutes. The first arriving engine met the objective 52.35% of the time. The minimum staffing of 15 was not available within the response time. With our current automatic aid agreement, we continue to average 5 minutes or below response times to the Tri-City Heights and Valley View areas with the first arriving apparatus meeting objectives of 9 minutes 96% of the time.

Suburban Service Zones are outside the City of Kennewick and City of Richland. Suburban zones are residential and small farms that include the area east of Kennewick to South Verbena Street and the un-annexed area off West Clearwater and West 10th Avenue. The recommended suburban response time is 10 minutes. The first arriving engine met the objective 63.7% of the time.

Rural Service Zones are the Finley and Badger Canyon areas. Rural zones are residential, small farms, agriculture and commercial or industrial. This includes all of Finley area south to the Horse Heaven range; the El Rancho Reata community; Clodfelter Road and the Tripple Vista subdivision; and Badger Canyon Road and Dallas Road. The recommended rural response time is 14 minutes. The first arriving engine met the objective 50.76% of the time.

Remote Service Zones are south of the Kennewick Irrigation District Canal. Remote zones, except for Clodfelter Road and Tripple Vista, are large dry land wheat and irrigated agriculture along the I-82 corridor over the crest of the Horse Heaven Hills; east of the Plymouth Highway along Coffin Road to the county boundary east of McNary Dam. The recommended remote response time is 20 minutes. The first arriving engine met the objective 67% of the time.

The minimum staffing to respond in the response time listed in **NFPA Table 4.3.2** could not be met except for providing EMS care with a medic being dispatched under auto-aid from Kennewick, Richland or Benton County Fire District No. 4. The District is so wide spread with five to six miles between stations that first arriving engine with an (average) crew of three arrives to take initial action or provide EMS care. To meet the minimum staffing required to take safe action on a structure fire requires additional Fire District and auto-aid engines be dispatched to all responses. Second and third due engines make up the remainder of the staffing and arrive within an average of 7 minutes for Urban; 9 minutes for Suburban; 11 minutes for Rural and 20 minutes for Remote.

Career Staff

We continue to operate with one on-duty career Captain for every 24-hour shift at Station 160. Three career Lieutenants assigned to day staff, Monday through Friday, bolstering our staffing levels. A Maintenance Supervisor Captain and Maintenance Support Captain are assigned to the shop and available for response during the weekday. We are able to use the day staff officers to backfill during vacations, sick leave and training. The Fire Chief and Training Captain are available to respond to emergency calls during all hours, which at times can become challenging while ensuring each of their administrative assignments are complete. We attempt to ensure that three qualified firefighters are available at Station 160 and two qualified firefighters at Station 120 with a mix of career, resident and occasional volunteer firefighters. Unfortunately, this system is not fail safe.

Volunteers

The 85 volunteers remain the backbone of the District. Without these men and women, the District would have to look at new revenue streams that would greatly burden our citizens or dramatically reduce our services. These individuals that stay with the District must be recognized for the ever-increasing time they spend to meet minimum training and response status. We continue to be a bellwether of the nation; the volunteers that have five plus years on the District seem to adjust well and many have retired after 25 years of service. However, for those that do not make this mark, there is a large turnover rate (an average of 10% volunteers per year) and a sharp decline in participation once they complete initial recruit training.

Apart from the volunteer firefighters, we have five “rehab” volunteers that assist with providing food and drinks for on-scene personnel during long duration incidents. The District also has opportunities for Administrative Volunteers to assist with administration and special projects at the Fire Administrative Center and Training Center.

Resident Firefighters

Our resident firefighters do an outstanding job! We have sharpened our program over the years to include a reimbursement education incentive and offer a stipend and a point system to encourage resident firefighter participation. Residents are required to provide 234 hours during a five-week cycle to our citizens, which may include college education time. The District currently has fifteen qualified resident Firefighter positions. Six to reside at Fire Station 160 and nine at Fire Station 120.

TRAINING



Each year Benton County Fire District #1 places a large amount of training focus on health and safety of the volunteer and career staff. The largest contributing factor to firefighter deaths nationwide is heart attacks, followed by motor vehicle accidents; both private vehicles and apparatus responding to and from incidents and training. Therefore, we promote physical fitness, require biennial physicals and focus on driver training.

Recruit training consists of Basic Wildland Firefighter, Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention (EVIP), Structural Firefighting and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations. All our in-house or joint recruit training efforts are held at the Fire Training Center in Kennewick with Benton County Fire District #2 and #4, Franklin County Fire District #3, West Benton Fire and Rescue, and Walla Walla County Fire District #5.

Annual training in the fire stations consists of firefighting skill maintenance as required by the Washington State Safety Standards for Firefighters (WAC 296-305) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) along with Wildland fire refresher as required by NWCG. In 2016, volunteer and career firefighters totaled 9,986 training hours.

One of the largest portions of our training budget is tuition and travel for volunteer and career staff for further education in fire and emergency medicine and outside training in officer development. All of this is an attempt to maintain and advance the District's service level to commensurate with the growth and the needs of the community we serve.

In 2017, new regional records managements and training databases were beginning to take shape by most of the larger departments in Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla County to share and reduce the purchase cost. The Tri-County Training Consortium concept continues to develop.

A block of training topics presented regionally (block training) in 2017 was very successful with three specific subjects delivered to many area firefighters. The classes presented were Live Fire, Rescue Task Force, and Command Lab, a fourth class was cancelled due to the time commitment of the other classes. In addition to the block training, all area firefighters have been introduced to Rescue Task Force, the intervention method in an active shooter event.

Training Hours by Month for 2017



PUBLIC EDUCATION



The District continues to reach out to the community through participation with our community partners. Annually the District participates in the Benton Franklin County Fair providing prevention, outreach and education, Kid Fishing Day in Columbia Park, Polar Plunge and the newly formed program Slips, Trips, and Falls among other area activities. Throughout the year, the District provides education to community groups and prevention and outreach to the schools. This is especially visible during the month of October; Fire Prevention Month with

“Exit Drills in the Home” and fire safety presentations for elementary students at Finley Elementary and Cottonwood Elementary.

ADMINISTRATION

Grants

The District was awarded an Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant in 2017 for six thermal imaging cameras (TIC). This grant provided a total replacement of current TIC's for all front run engines. The Fire District also received Department of Homeland Security grant funds for the purchase of updated technology in Mobile Data Terminals. Along with the purchase of additional units with our annual operating budget, the Fire District has completed installation of the new terminals in all but two of the identified resource recipients.

The District also received other funding or grants to assist in the purchase of equipment. A donation was received from Nutrien (formerly Agrium, Inc.), in Finley, as part of their community participation program to purchase two four-gas air monitors. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources awarded the District a matching grant in which fire shelters and other miscellaneous personal protective equipment was purchased.

Financial

Fire District #1 revenue is heavily reliant on property taxes as a primary source for operating and capital revenues. By law, the District is restricted to a maximum of \$1.50 of tax revenue per \$1,000 of assessed value without a vote of the citizens. The District's general fund levy rate was \$1.43 in 2017. Annexations out of the District into local cities and the addition of new construction within the Fire District have a significant effect on tax revenues. This has allowed the levy rate for individual citizens to decrease while increasing tax income from \$2,558,324 in 2016 to \$2,681,634 in 2017.

To finance large capital expenditures, the District needs to seek voter approval to sell bonds or the Board of Fire Commissioners can purchase bonds using operating capital to pay back the principal and interest. With the remaining \$0.07 of the \$1.50 tax levy, the District paid \$56,728 in a non-voted engine bond and \$69,745 in a non-voted administrative office facility bond payment. The administrative office facility is supported by \$100,000 in rental income, of which \$9,400 was paid in Washington State leasehold excise taxes. The District also paid \$166,500 in voter approved apparatus bond expenses.

The District maintains a reserve fund for unexpected expenditures and for future planned projects. At the end of 2017, this fund had a balance of \$422,546.

Major expenditures in 2017 include \$215,000 for a Type 5 wildland fire engine, \$114,000 for two command staff vehicles, \$50,000 in firefighter personal protective equipment, \$27,000 in lighting renovation at Fire Stations 120 and 140, \$13,000 for a new asphalt ramp at Fire Station 130, \$30,000 for professional marketing services and community outreach for a potential Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy, and \$46,000 in information technology services.

Annual Expenditures

	2016	2017
Legislative	\$15,871	\$27,933
Administrative	\$652,454	\$708,804
Election	\$3,055	\$3,745
Legal	\$2,504	\$1,442
Operations	\$965,891	\$995,242
Suppression	\$106,522	\$96,754
EMS	\$13,533	\$12,369
HazMat	\$5,421	\$5,692
Communications	\$68,366	\$72,268
Automotive	\$336,140	\$331,874
Logistics	\$5,054	\$3,626
Public Information	\$1,714	\$33,122
Fire Investigation	\$0	\$183
Training	\$176,646	\$145,878
Safety	\$279	\$683
Facilities	\$124,340	\$128,078
Capital	\$409,743	\$859,098
Interfund Transfers	\$0	\$30,000
	\$2,887,533	\$3,456,791

Revenue and Expenditures by Fund

	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense
	2016	2016	2017	2017
General Fund	\$3,666,152	\$3,126,496	\$4,068,650	\$3,456,791
HazMat Fund	\$279,405	\$207,721	\$260,790	\$182,287
Training Center Operating Fund	\$73,583	\$70,557	\$61,805	\$56,114
SCBA Fund	\$87,591	\$14,253	\$122,915	\$12,039
MPD Fund	\$33,138	\$16,891	\$39,335	\$16,242
Arrowhead Building Fund	\$77,772	\$70,533	\$77,088	\$70,345
Type 3 Engine Bond Fund	\$82,703	\$56,728	\$83,016	\$82,728
Apparatus Bond Fund	\$190,339	\$164,600	\$194,014	\$167,100
Capital/Bldg Construction Fund	\$208,539	\$11,496	\$229,158	\$50,712
Reserve Fund	\$418,742	\$30,000	\$422,546	\$0
	\$5,117,964	\$3,769,274	\$5,559,318	\$4,094,358

SUMMARY

The Fire District had another very successful year in training, emergency responses and public education activities. In addition, the District remains active within the community by participating in various events, as well as working with our neighboring fire agencies daily. Our relationship with those agencies remain strong and a priority for the District. In a very close relationship with the Kennewick Fire Department, the two agencies share a joint training center that continues to become busier as years go by. A busy training center means an increased budget and that is exactly what the Fire District and Kennewick Fire Department will be doing in the early months of 2018.

The District continues to address challenges as they arise. Some of those challenges include costs associated with operation of the District outpacing revenue sources and trying to enhance programs while meeting staffing needs. The Fire District, enhanced the public outreach program with a consultant that is assisting with the possibility of an emergency medical services (EMS) levy in 2018. Many public meetings attended, and media releases delivered throughout the year. To maintain our volunteer and career staffing requirements, the Fire District was successful in filling a vacant lieutenant position this past year and put nearly 30 individuals through the volunteer firefighter recruit academy. With the increasing demands both on the District and throughout our community, retention of volunteers is a constant challenge. The Resident Firefighter Program is also in the process of continually improving both internally and working with neighboring agencies to make the program valuable to both the participants and the District.

Operationally, 2017 was the busiest year on record for the Fire District. Not only did we have 1,516 requests for service, we assisted in 28 out of area fires including two assists to California. The projection for continued increase in emergency response is at the forefront of the Fire District vision with the possibility of increased EMS service.

The District was very proactive in the replacement of some well-aged command vehicles along with the purchase of a new wildland apparatus out of annual operating funds. Facility upgrades were also recipients this past year in the form of lighting, flooring, paint and furniture. We will continue with those updates in coming years.