

Preface:



I am very pleased to present the Morgantown Fire Department Annual Report for the 2005 calendar year. This report offers a quantitative, statistical analysis regarding the Department's assets and operations. The report identifies both the emergency and non-emergency services provided by the Department and the organizational structure that enables these services to be delivered in a very professional manner.

What this report does not, and cannot, convey is the emotion, appreciation, and relief of those who receive these services. In addition, behind the impersonal figures contained in this report are the members and officers of this Department who routinely go into harm's way in order to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Morgantown.

It would be managerially irresponsible of me if I did not include in this Annual Report my most heartfelt appreciation and respect for those officers and firefighters who have made this enviable annual report possible. I am very proud of this Department and I am very proud to present this Morgantown Fire Department Annual Report for 2005 to the members of Morgantown City Council.

Current Programs and Services:

Although the Department's primary mission is to protect the lives and property of those whom it serves, the approach to that end is two-fold. First, and foremost, the Department tries to keep emergencies from occurring; however, we realize that we must also prepare minds, bodies, and equipment in case they do. This proactive, preparatory work is accomplished through the Department's **non-emergency services**. These non-emergency services include:

- **Planning**
- **Inspections**
- **Plan Review**
- **Code Enforcement**
- **Arson Investigation**
- **Public Education**
- **Public Training**
- **Departmental Training**
- **Maintenance and Repairs**
- **Data Collection, Records, and Analysis**
- **Counseling**

- **Physical Fitness**
- **Other non-emergency Services**

Despite best efforts, emergencies happen. Sometimes, these emergencies can escalate into disasters. These disasters can be either man-made or natural and can range in scale from small to overwhelming. The Morgantown Fire Department has an equally wide-range of emergency response services to respond to these situations. The Department's **emergency services** include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Firefighting**
- **Medical First Responder**
- **Confined Space Rescue**
- **Elevated Rescue**
- **High-angle Rescue**
- **Extrication**
- **Hazardous Material Response (Technician Level)**
- **Water Rescue**
- **Underwater Dive Team**
- **Search and Rescue**
- **Mutual Aid Responses with other departments**
- **Scene Stabilization and Security**
- **Flooding**
- **Natural Disasters**
- **Man-made Disasters**
- **Other General Emergency Responses not classified**

Resources:

Resources include four categories. They are facilities, apparatus, equipment, and most importantly personnel. The Fire Department operations are conducted in six separate **facility** locations. These are:

1. Public Safety Building = Administrative Offices
2. City Hall Building = Code Enforcement Offices
3. Wharf District Parking Garage = Storage Facility
4. Station One (Southside) = Main Fire Station for Company 1, Rescue 1, and Ladder 1
5. Station Two (Norwood) = Company 2
6. Station Three (Wiles Hill) = Company 3

All three of the current station houses were built in the mid-1950s. Company Two has recently had an addition and is in excellent condition. Company One has had minor renovations over the years and is in need of some comprehensive repairs. It is, however, in good condition given its service life. Company Three has received little

attention during the last five years in anticipation of its replacement and relocation. It is no longer suitable for its intended purpose.

There are four types of vehicles used in conducting Fire Department business. An engine, otherwise known as a pumper, is used to deliver water, men, and equipment on a fire scene. An aerial device, also commonly referred to as a ladder truck, is used to provide elevated master streams, proper ventilation, and to perform elevated rescues. The Department's Heavy Rescue Unit is the most utilized of all the apparatus. It is dispatched to almost every call and is equipped to perform a multitude of functions; not the least of which is vehicle extrication and other rescues. Finally, the Department has a variety of small vehicles that are used by the staff officers and the code enforcement members. Included in this small vehicle inventory are two pickup trucks that serve as tow vehicles for the Department's many trailer units and are used to transport equipment to and from an emergency scene.

The small vehicle fleet is relatively new and in excellent condition. In fact, two additional small vehicles were added to the Department's inventory this year for the two new inspectors. The Department's engine inventory is in good condition with the exception of Engine 5 and the mini-pumper. Engine 5 serves as a backup unit but has continued to fail its annual pump test for the last four years. The mini-pumper is quite versatile due to its small size and is used where access is problematic and during post-game emergencies in congested areas. This vehicle should be considered for replacement in the next two years. The Department's single aerial truck is tested every year and continues to pass with flying colors. Its all-steer capability serves this City very well. It is hoped that a second aerial truck will be purchased when the Wiles Hill Station is replaced. Finally, the Department's Heavy Rescue Truck is in deplorable condition. It was fabricated from a 1978 aerial truck that was damaged during a training exercise. This fabrication was performed in-house and was completed in 1998. Due to the age and use of this vehicle, it has surpassed its service life. As stated, this unit is the most utilized rig in the Department. Since delivery time for a replacement vehicle of this type can take up to one year, bid specifications and contractual commitments for its replacement should be done soon.

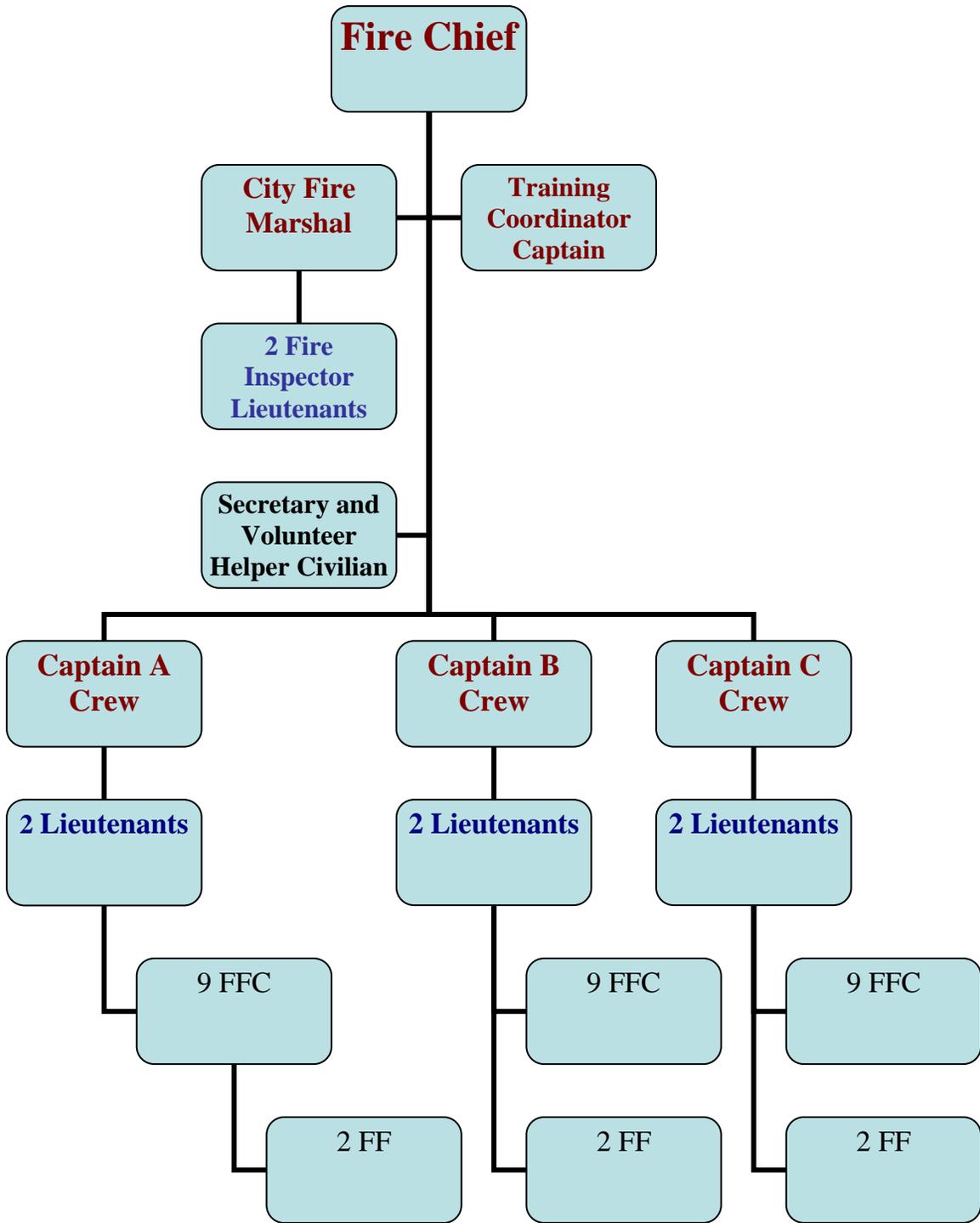
In addition to the Department's driving stock, the Department also has several specialty trailers, two boats, and one rail/trail gator unit. These are in excellent condition. A complete **apparatus** inventory is shown in the following table.

STAFF VEHICLES	STATION ONE	STATION TWO
1999 Ford Expedition	2000 Pierce Engine	2000 Pierce Engine
2002 Jeep Cherokee	1988 Pierce Engine 4WD	1977 American LaFrance
2001 Jeep Cherokee	1991 Pierce Minipumper	1926 Seagrave Antique
2006 Jeep Liberty	1996 Pierce Ladder Truck	2002 Ford F350 Pickup
2006 Jeep Liberty	1978 American LaFrance	2002 Boston Whaler Boat
	Rescue	

STATION THREE WHARF PARKING GARAGE
1994 Pierce Engine 2001 John Deere Gator
1994 Chevy ½ Ton Pickup 1960 Jon Boat

With regard to the **equipment** inventory, the Department has been extremely fortunate. Within the last few years, the Department has received two large Federal equipment grants and some State funding as well. In addition, the Department and West Virginia University entered into a Memorandum of Understanding agreement for the purchase of sixty-thousand dollars worth of radio equipment over a three year period that will interface. With all of this being said, along with several matching funds provided by City Council, the Department is well equipped with regard to power tools, hand tools, and other ancillary equipment such as Departmental radios.

The Department can boast that it has the best trained, most highly educated **personnel** of any Fire Department in the State. This year, City Council approved the addition of two full-time code inspector positions on the Department. These inspectors are a tremendous asset to the Department and will contribute greatly towards the Department's proactive approach to reducing the potential for life and property loss due to fire. Consequently, the Department now has 47 sworn officers, one civilian secretary, and a part-time volunteer assistant in the staff offices. A Departmental organizational chart is provided for clarity.



Year in Review:

Response Data



The Department responded to 2,523 calls for emergency assistance this year. This figure reflects a 5.7% increase over last year. The estimated property losses reflected in these emergency response figures is \$479,700. These loss figures represent a property loss decrease of 44.17% over last year's loss figures. Keep in mind that last year's property loss figures represented a 37% decrease over the previous year's loss figures. Clearly, even though the emergency call load is up

from last year, the corresponding property losses are continuing to go down. This statistical phenomenon may be attributed to the paradigm shift occurring nationwide in the fire service. Nationally, Departments are responding to fewer and fewer working structure fires, however, calls for other types of emergencies continue to grow. Simply stated, the Morgantown Fire Department is busier than ever before, but the proactive fire prevention activities employed by the Department have caused the property losses, due to fire, to be greatly reduced. A breakdown of emergency responses for 2005 and a comparative analysis of those for 2004 are shown in the following table:

Emergency Type	2004	2005	Difference
Fire-Related Responses	847	944	+11.3%
Hazardous Material Responses	45	30	- 33.3%
Rescue/Medical Responses	707	528	-25.3%
Other Types of Emergency Responses	788	1021	+29.6%
Total Calls	2387	2523	+5.7%

Training Data

While it is true that large-loss structure fires have been decreasing over the years in Morgantown, what is not so obvious is the fact that the number of smaller fires continues to grow as shown in the above table. Consequently, if there are more small fires than ever before, yet the property losses due to fire continues to decrease dramatically, the reasons become obvious. The members of the Morgantown Fire Department are putting the smaller fires out before they become large fires, or they are putting the large fires out before they do substantial damage! There are several reasons for this improved performance, however, one of the most compelling reasons is the level

of training and education that each member of the Department receives during the year. The training program at the Morgantown Fire Department is unequalled by any other Fire department in the State. For example:

- 1. Total individual in-house training hours = 10,711**
- 2. Average training hours per person per year = 238 (equates to 6 weeks of training per year for a 40hour per week employee)**
- 3. Training curriculum includes 50 categories**
- 4. Certified training from outside the Department = 2404 hours (approximately 9% increase over last year)**
- 5. Training provided by the Department to others outside the Department = 632 hours**
- 6. Two apprentice firefighters completed their 6,000 hours of training this year to become Journeyman Firefighters. (Program required by the WV State Dept. of Labor)**
- 7. Specialized Officer Training = 29.5 hours**

Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention Data

There is another reason why Morgantown suffered no fire deaths and minimal property losses due to fire this year. It is the aggressive and efficient application and enforcement of the State Fire Code, along with a conscientiously applied program of fire prevention and education. The following data will substantiate this claim.

- Total Fire Inspections = 480**
- # of Plans Reviewed for Code Compliance = 68**
- # of Assembly Inspections = 278**
- # of Violations found = 229**
- # of Corrections made to date = 202**
- # of Citations issued = 90**

Another vital proactive program that is instrumental in reducing fire losses is in the area of fire prevention and education. Here again, the following statistics will illustrate the emphasis placed on this area by the Morgantown Fire Department.

- General Public Relations Activities = 1,271 people**
- Fire Extinguisher Training = 92 people**
- Fire Safety Training = 4,182 people**
- Station Tours and individual counseling = 233 people**

Opportunities and Plans:

During this year, City Council increased the Department's Inspection Division by two Inspectors. This substantial investment included the personnel costs, equipment, and

vehicles. The value of this initiative is already being recognized in the way of fire code corrections to existing structures and increased occupancy load inspections for assembly occupancies. There is absolutely no doubt that Morgantown will be a safer City as a result of this investment and commitment by City Council.

The upcoming year appears to be an exciting one for the Fire Department. Plans are underway for a new North Side Fire Station that will replace the existing Wiles Hill Station. The construction of this new station will allow the Fire Department to meet the travel distance requirements set forth by the Insurance Service Office and will allow the City to maintain its current exemplary fire protection rating. Subsequently, every property owner in the City will benefit since their insurance premium rates will reflect the City's ISO rating. This new station will be able to house a much-needed second aerial truck. In short, this single growth initiative will propel the Fire Department into the 21st century in a way that has not been equaled since the mid-1950s.

From a current operational standpoint, it is important that the 1978 Heavy Rescue Unit be replaced soon. As shown previously in this report, rescues and general emergency calls are clearly the most prevalent of the Department's emergency response call load. As such, the Department's Heavy Rescue Truck is the most utilized vehicle in the Department. The equipment on this vehicle is specialized and is not available on-scene by any other vehicle in the Department. When this vehicle is taken out of service, the ability of the Department to operate efficiently is severely impaired.

Summary:

The goal of protecting lives and property during 2005, has been met with astonishing proficiency. In the end, no lives were lost due to fires. Property losses, due to fires, were substantially reduced over the losses incurred the previous year. This trend is a continuation of the previous year.

As the City continues to grow every year, the challenge of maintaining the loss figures shown in this year's annual report will increase proportionately. With Council's continued support and the implementation of the proposals outlined in the previous section of this report, the Morgantown Fire Department will be up to those challenges and will continue to protect the property and lives of the citizens that it serves.