

HISTORY OF TULSA FIRE DEPARTMENT



ORIGINS...

On December 5, 1897, a fire broke out at the rear of Price and Gillette's Hardware in Tulsa's downtown business district. Shortly following the alarm; the streets became crowded with people rushing to the scene with buckets and blankets in an attempt to check the flames. The fire soon spread to the bank building (north) and Egan's Store to the south. The fire was intense, and impossible to stop. Beyond Egan's store was a row of wood frame buildings, and efforts were made to pull down two of the smaller ones next to the properties of origin, to no avail. The flames leapt to the frame buildings and efforts to save the remainder of the block would be in vain. It took the heroic efforts of men armed with buckets and wet blankets to prevent the frame structures across the street from bursting into flames from the intense heat. The whole east side of Main Street lay in ashes.

A group of young men gathered around the big heating stove in Bynum's General Store at the corner of First and Main to discuss the dangers from this fire and preventing similar occurrences. Tulsa had no water system, but on the northeast corner of First and Main, there was a water well, fed by drainage from the roof of the A. C. Archer Hardware Company building. This fire conscious group decided to install a gear pump in the well, operated by a windless and propelled by man power until the arrival of a good team of horses. A wooden reel was installed inside the well shed. The reel held about three hundred feet of two-inch linen hose. The force from the pump was sufficient enough to throw a stream as high as any building in the city. The entire business district was within the three hundred foot radius of the hose line. An alarm was sounded by the firing of numerous six shooters in evidence on the streets at the time ... Anyone hearing the alarm ran to the hose reel and hopefully pulled the hose in the direction of the fire. There was a need for an organized response.

FIRE CHIEF R. C. ALDER

(1900 - 1922)

On the night of June 6, 1900, the group met again at Bynum's store to organize a volunteer fire department, which was to assume responsibility for the equipment, and its operation. At this meeting, R. C. Alder was elected Fire Chief; Arthur Bynum was elected Assistant Chief, and Ernest Roop was elected Superintendent. The rest of the department consisted of Bob Epperson, Charles Brown, William Bynum, Bob Hall, Fred Scott, Ritchie Amerine, and others. Meetings were held regularly, and the men practiced often with the pump and hose while also servicing the equipment.

Early in 1901, Tulsa's newly formed volunteer department received its first alarm at Bill Stout's Barber Shop. The volunteers responded to the fire; they deployed hose and pumped water in a much more efficient manner than had ever been seen before. The building was destroyed, but the damage was confined. The volunteers gained prestige among the business men. The Town Council then allowed the men to be paid for each fire they responded to, and approved the

purchase of a chemical wagon by popular subscription. Tulsa's first fire engine was a regular wagon on which was mounted two large chemical extinguishers. There were two reels that carried about two hundred feet of garden hose, to be used for spraying the chemical on the fire. The wagon was promptly named the "Old Soda Fountain". The person nearest the engine house at the time of a fire hitched the nearest horse team, and rushed to the fire. Fun was often made of "Old Soda Fountain" but it saved several buildings during its time of service. The department was further strengthened by imposing fines for not attending drills and meetings.

1905 was critical to the migration of Tulsa's volunteer fire department to the paid service that we know today. A waterworks system was installed that included "fire plugs". Gamewell fire alarm boxes also began to appear on the streets of downtown. Pulling an alarm box caused the horses to be unhitched, turned on lights throughout the station, rang the station, and tower bells. Bell taps indicated the location of the fire. Chief Alder also appeared several times before the Council in early 1905 advocating a paid fire department. A force of four men was proposed with a team of horses, and a wagon. Mayor Reeder and the Councilmen favored a deal. Chief Alder was sent to Kansas City to purchase a team and wagon with instructions to make a draft for them. On Thursday, November 17, 1905, Chief Alder returned from Kansas City, with a team of horses, harnesses, horse releases, slide pole, gong, etc... That was enough to initiate ... Tulsa's first paid fire department which was installed on December 6, 1905 and housed at Antle's Livery. This two story building was the first municipal building in eastern Oklahoma. The Fire Company was located in front with sleeping quarters immediately above.

In February 1906, Tulsa received praise for providing updated fire equipment and complying with insurance underwriters. The Fire Department was said to be the most perfect in the country. Mr. Ingalls, the head of the rating bureau, said that if all the cities in America would pattern their fire protection after Tulsa, the fire losses would be diminished by fifty percent. Hose Company Number One was tested for response on March 19, 1906. The Electrical Inspector for the Oklahoma Fire Insurance Association came to Tulsa that Saturday morning, making his rounds. He expressed the thought to Chief Alder that the fire team was too large to make any time to the scene of the fire and asked for a test. Accompanied by the Chief, they went to Box No. 39 at Fifth and Cheyenne and turned in an alarm. Despite the fact that the alarm came in at the supper relief hour when only two men were at the Station, they made the hitch and responded in one minute and twenty seconds. This proved the inspector's error about the running ability of the team of Joe and Dan.

May 9, 1906: Box No. 48 was pulled at 0630 hours for The Opera House Drug Company. The Fire Department was able to extinguish the blaze with little damage to the building. At the same time, an electric horse release was organized which enabled the fire team to take its place in the harness and be ready to make the fire run. These fire horses were well trained. Sometimes they would get loose from their exercise pen. When they did, the young recruits would chase the horses and get them almost back into the corral; then they would break away again. When they

had enough of the game, one of the seasoned veterans would go to the Station and sound the alarm. The horses would run to their wagons and back into their harness, waiting for the fire run.

The Fire Department was in the process of expanding in 1907. It was to receive an aerial ladder truck that year. A new station was to be constructed and plans for a third. Tulsa was to receive a motorized fire apparatus in 1907. A Webb Pumping Engine was the fourth to be put into use in the United States. The site for Fire Station 2 had been chosen and the lot purchased from H. R. Cline at 513 North Main Street. Later that year the men were given one day off every eight days. There were eight men besides Chief Alder when this holiday shift was incurred December 17th, giving one of them a day off each day.

Chief Alder asked the City Councilmen for a motorized fire engine, and they complied. Chief Alder thought at that time, that motorized trucks would never replace reliable horse drawn rigs. Sharing this belief, the head of the Insurance Writers Bureau at Oklahoma City refused to give the City of Tulsa credit for the truck. One method Chief Alder used to keep fire loss down was to start a city wide cleanup campaign. He, with the assistance of the firefighters and a "scavenger" made a thorough canvas of the city, cleaning up old papers, rags, etc., to help eliminate fire hazards. They took the collected rubbish to the city limits and burned it

After attending a meeting in Guthrie of the Fire Chiefs of Oklahoma in December, 1907, Chief Alder returned to Tulsa and announced to the firefighters that he had been selected to serve on a committee of three to formulate a bill that would give the Firefighters a pension. The bill was to read that the Constitution of Oklahoma provide that two percent of all fire insurance premiums collected be put in the treasury of the city where the fire occurred. One percent of this money was to go to the pension for Firefighters. The other one percent was to go for the maintenance of fire apparatus. Some thirty states had this "two percent law" at that time. The Fireman's Relief and Pension Law was first established in 1909 by legislative enactment. The fund did not, however, become operative until 1911. In 1913 the cities participating received their first appropriations. The number of cities had grown from twenty in 1911, to three hundred and six in 1972, and four hundred and eighty-two in 1998. All participating cities received funds from percentage of premium taxes collected by the Insurance Commission. The first pension was paid out of the fund in 1929. In 1967, an increase and decrease clause was added to the pension laws providing for cost of living increases for retired pensioners. In 1970, a three quarter pension was added for members with thirty years' service. In 1971, a Collective Bargaining and Arbitration Law for Firefighters of Oklahoma was enacted. Tulsa was the first city in Oklahoma to sign a contract due to this new law.

A total of thirty-nine fire alarms were received in 1907. Twenty-eight were received over the telephone system. Ten were by Gamewell Alarm Box and one was a still alarm. This was five less alarms than the previous year. Chief Alder suggested new hydrants and repair of some of

those already installed. He asked for more Gamewell street boxes and more power equipment. He wanted a "Steamer" Fire Engine. He was quite forceful in his request for an aerial ladder, since the city was still without protection for buildings above two stories.

On February 5, 1908, the number one hose wagon, the crew and the grey team transferred their belongings to the new Fire Station 2 at 513 North Main Street. It had three large apparatus doors that were opened by the driver pulling a rope hung from overhead. The doors were counter balanced & opened outward.

The Katy Railroad Station was destroyed by fire in February of 1908. The fire had a head start as ice conditions hampered efforts. The fire was contained after 5 hours; both fire wagons were on the scene.

The Fire Department received its first aerial ladder truck, a three horse team, and a seventy-five foot aerial ladder for a reported \$5,000.00 figure.

A small fire in Fire Station 1 caused some raised eyebrows; straw between the jail cell ceiling and the first floor caught on fire. Minor damage was reported. The cause was put down as unknown. The same winter, the men at Station 1 received a practice alarm, hitched the team, cleared the station, hooked up to the plug at Second Street and Cheyenne, connected the hose, attached the nozzle, and had a stream of water in thirty-seven seconds.

Fire Station 4 was located in a building that once housed Tulsa's first livery stable. It was remodeled into a Fire Station when purchased by the City, because the Fire Department needed new equipment to augment that which was used at the 111 West Second Street Station. The Station was put into service on January 1, 1913. By October 1, 1913, there was not a piece of horse drawn equipment on the Department. Everything was motorized. Tulsa was the first city west of the Mississippi to have a completely motorized Fire Department.

Ross Shepard, 29 years old, and Ben Hanes, 27 years old, were taken to their death when a stairway on the fifth floor of the Mayo Building collapsed on October 24, 1917. The loss of life and property was close to \$500,000. Several other firefighters were injured.

Earlier in the year, May 28, 1917, the Tulsa Glass Plant was wiped out by fire. Inadequate fire mains, causing low water pressures, and "hundreds of automobiles loaded with people" who came to observe the action, were obstacles to the Fire Department's efforts in battling the blaze. Chief Alder urged the upgrade of underground telephone and telegraph lines. Also larger water mains to supply additional hydrants were recommended, including hydrants with a steamer connection so the Pumpers could be hooked up to them.

The Tulsa Fire Department answered 403 fire alarms in 1918. On July 4, 1918, the Uncle Sam Oil Company in West Tulsa burned with a loss of \$35,000; and on August 6, 1918, the Read Mill

burned with a loss of \$135,000. This fire was set by a German saboteur, who had "blazed" a trail through the Southwest, burning flour mills. He was later apprehended in Missouri. The weather was obviously a hindrance this night and two more fires were to be fought, bringing the total loss to \$250,000.

In February, 1919, a small group of Firefighters got together and formed Firefighters Local 176, of Tulsa. They applied to the International Association of Firefighters, organized in 1918, for the Charter.

In 1919, the Tulsa Fire Department went to two shifts, "A" and "B" platoons. The men worked an eighty-four hour week. Each day was divided into two shifts. The first shift was from 0800 to 1800 hours, a period of 10 hours. The second shift was from 1800 hours to 0800 hours the next morning, a period of fourteen hours. The men would change shifts on the first and fifteenth of each month, giving every man equal day and night shift duty. In 1935, the Tulsa Fire Department went from the eighty-four hour work week to a seventy-two hour week. The hours were twenty-four on and twenty-four off, starting at 0800 hours and continuing through the next morning at 0800 hours. In 1941, Tulsa Firefighters were granted a day off every two weeks, and two days off every two weeks, and two days off every three months. However, the men on the Tulsa Fire Department called their days "Kerr Days" after Dean Kerr (Chief Jennings' secretary). Dean's efforts in keeping the time off straight on the records were reason enough to dub the holidays "Kerr Days". The men received a two week vacation annually. Vacation time was scheduled to fall between the one day off and the two days off, giving them an extended leave.

Fire Station 6 at 1217 W. 17th Street was occupied on March 3, 1920. The Department boasted a personnel force of eighty-four, and sixteen pieces of apparatus. The Gamewell system had grown by this time to 103 alarm boxes.

On October 10, 1920, fire destroyed the three-story Grand Theatre building. Third floor residents were caught in life nets as their escape was blocked by flames. The loss was estimated at \$370,000. There was a delayed response. Five fire companies that responded to the fire, and found the building completely involved. Fire Station 7, located at 601 S. Lewis, was occupied on July 1, 1921.

In 1922, the "Grand Old Man", Chief R. C. Alder, retired from the service he so loved.

FIRE CHIEF WESLEY BUSH

(1922 - 1926)

Fire Chief Wesley Bush began his tutelage with a major fire at the Cosden Building. The top floors of the fifteen story structure were on fire. Hose lines were attached to standpipe connections within the building. A second assignment was called for and a fire stream was put

into service on the tenth floor of the Kennedy Building across the street to the north, and it reached the fire floor. Damage was confined to the penthouse and the attic floor

Three new Seagrave Pumpers were delivered in 1924; one 1000-gallon Pumper and two 750-gallon Pumpers. One 750 and the 1000-gallon went to Station 1, and one 750 pumper to Station 5. An 85-foot aerial truck was shipped later from the factory on April 25. Two new stations were completed. Station 8 at 1401 South Trenton and Station 9 at 105 South Phoenix went into service on August 1, 1925. The 1924 Tulsa Fire Department was composed of nine stations, 13 Companies and 122 men. Water from Spavinaw Hills Reservoir was brought to Tulsa on November 17, 1924. The reservoir was located 60 miles northeast of Tulsa.

November 6, 1925, the Fire Department consisted of 13 Companies in service and 2 in reserve. There were 123 men on the payroll, one Chief, two Assistant Chiefs, one Superintendent of Fire Alarm, one Master Mechanic, one Fire Marshal, one Secretary, two Fire Alarm Electricians, 12 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 13 First Drivers, 13 Second Drivers, 2 Operators, and 62 Privates. Trick boards or signal boards were made of wood by the men at Fire Station 1 and were distributed to every Station in June of 1925. These boards denoted the whereabouts of each Company at any time. Each Company was designated by a sliding block which indicated whether the Company was out of service, on a run, or available for response.

The fiscal year ending July 1, 1926 found that the TFD answered 1,091 alarms. A total of \$224,219 in damage was done by fires. 1926 saw Fire Chief Wesley Bush step down from that position, after a long and interesting career, as a firefighter, and as a Chief.

FIRE CHIEF R. E. Pitts

(1926 - 1933)

The Department of 1927 was rated among the best of the nation by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Chief Pitts stated that this was due to the efficiency of the Department as to its system and employees. Chief Pitts stated in his fiscal report that the Fire Department was able to rate among the best in America despite the fact that it was inadequately equipped, undermanned, and inadequately housed. "The Fire Department had not kept pace with Tulsa". He stated that where the Department had 120 employees, it should have had at least 150; seventeen pieces of apparatus instead of thirteen; 100 more fire alarm boxes against the 169 then in use; at least three more outlying Fire Stations; more fire hydrants; and a new Central Station. The average fire loss per capita over the nation for the previous five years was \$4.94. Tulsa was \$1.58.

On April 3, 1928, the Tulsa Firemen submitted to the people of the city a "Petition No. 2", calling a vote to raise the pay of the average fireman from \$.42 per hour to \$.56 per hour. They won, making the yearly salaries.

Dissention raised its head during this year as charges were brought against four members of the Department by Chief Pitts. The Department was under Civil Service at the time and the men couldn't be summarily discharged. Formal charges had to be filed and a hearing held by the City Commission. The men, if dissatisfied with the decision of the Commission, had a further appeal to the District Court. A considerable part of the controversy was said to have arisen through efforts of a "clique" to rename Wesley Bush in place of Chief Pitts.

In January of 1928, Cascia Hall School was destroyed. The loss was estimated at \$225,000. Fire Companies experienced difficulty due to low water pressure and the closest hydrant was several blocks away. The school was then on the outskirts, south-east of the city.

Bonds to build three new Fire Stations were approved by the voters of Tulsa in 1928. The Stations were built and placed in service in October of 1929:

- Station # 10 at 238 East Pine with a 750 Seagrave Pumper;
- Station # 11 at 1348 South Harvard with a 750 Seagrave Pumper;
- Station # 12 at 2808 West 41st Street with a 500 Pierce Arrow Pumper.

The Training Center Drill Tower was moved from Owen Park to Station 2 at 511 North Main in 1930.

On April 30, 1931, seventeen firefighters were overcome in a two alarm fire at Fields Apparel Shop. The fire was located in the basement of the building; and through heroic efforts of the Firefighters, it was contained to the basement. Gas masks used by the Firefighters were rendered useless by water; and a special helmet was brought from Talbot Theatres, through which fresh air was pumped to the wearers. In addition to the usual noxious gases and carbon monoxide, Firemen were exposed to formaldehyde gas, which Chief Pitts said was caused by a supply of insecticide. The unconscious Firemen were pulled from the fire and rushed to Morningside Hospital (now Hillcrest Hospital), which was soon filled to capacity. As a result of the Fields Apparel Shop fire, two things were done. New masks for Firemen were purchased and a smoke ejector truck was constructed in the shop at Station 4. The masks were supplied by two oxygen pumps with 100 feet of breathing hose for each and two portable oxygen tanks using cans of "cardoxide crystals". The smoke ejector was assembled an old mine fan consisting of a large pipe leading to a powerful suction fan. The unit was constructed on a rigid steel frame and mounted on a G.M.C. Truck that was purchased secondhand for \$75.00. It had one function ... to draw as much of the fumes and smoke from the burning building as possible.

The Tulsa Firefighters started a volunteer insurance program in 1931. Each man signed an agreement to donate \$10.00 to the survivors of an active Firefighter in the event of his death on or off the job.

The Tulsa Fire Department of 1931 consisted of 161 men, twelve Pumpers, four Ladders, and three Hose Carts.

Fire Station 13 was placed into service on August 15, 1931. It was located at 3924 Charles Page Boulevard.

Station 5 at 18th and Boston received a brand new building at the same location.

1933 saw a drop in manpower to 155 men. There were eighteen Companies in service, consisting of thirteen Pumpers and four Ladders, the Water Tower, and three Hose Carts.

Chief R. E. Pitts retired from his position as Chief of the Department on June 28, 1933.

FIRE CHIEF R W. GRAINGER

(1933 - 1940)

Daymond W. Granger was installed as Fire Chief on June 1, 1933... The battle between a streetcar and a 1922 Sea- graves Pumper in 1933, was called a draw. The streetcar was hit hard enough to set it at a right angle to the tracks. The fire engine did not fare too well either as pieces of truck and equipment were strewn for some distance down South Main Street.

In 1934, the Department moved into the fireproof, isolated, and brand new Fire Alarm Headquarters, located at Eighth and Madison. The electrician's shop was built adjacent to the Central Alarm Headquarters. The Kardex system was also installed at this time. All the Fire Stations had at this time, duplicate alarm circuits with a register and tapper on a primary circuit and a register sounder, gong, and automatic lighting on a secondary circuit. Each Station also had a telephone and an extension ringer connected to the Alarm Headquarters by direct line.

Station 1 at 111 West Second Street was no longer a part of the Department. Station 4 had been completely remodeled. A large repair shop was located at the rear of the station, a large hose storage room, and a hose drying tower was included. The executive offices of the Fire Department were on the second floor as were the living quarters for the men stationed there. The apparatus room had five bays that were two vehicles deep. It was headquarters for the Fire Department for thirty years. It was vacated in 1964 when the new Central Fire Station was placed in service at Fourth and Frankfort, an address that was outside the city limits in 1915.

On December 16, 1934, the Department appointed Captain F. V. Barton and Captain R. M. Walker, Tulsa's first District Fire Chiefs. They were in charge of all fires East of Yorktown

Avenue and were stationed at Fire Station 7, each manning a shift. Assistant Chiefs C. C. Jennings and C. H. Moore were now concentrating on downtown fires. Chief R. W. Granger said that the Fire Underwriters would give the city a gain of 13 points on its insurance rating because of the two new District Chief appointments.

On March 1, 1934, a public letter was compiled by the Department. It was to advocate a YES vote of the City Charter which would be voted on March 20. The letter asked the questions, "Should the Tulsa Fire Department be operated under a practical 'Civil Service' plan that the new charter specifies, or shall it be forced to continue its fight against political interference with the change of each City Administration?" and urged a yes vote.

The Fire Department was down to 151 men in 1935.

The Brady Hotel burned on January 23, 1935. The building was one of Tulsa's first attempts to develop metropolitan status. The building and its two annexes, the New Brady Cafe and several businesses on the Archer Street side, were destroyed. All of the guests in the 168 room hotel were safely evacuated. Seven firefighters were injured. They were taken to Sisler Hospital and Morningside Hospital. Firefighter Leo Howard was found in the basement of a manhole in three feet of water. He was pulled to safety, and revived after 15 minutes of artificial respiration. Damage in the amount of \$15,000.00 was done to the Fire Department equipment. In December of 1935, Chief Granger made up a Drill Evolution Instruction Guide for governing Company Evolutions. It consisted of "Order No. 1," which spelled out how the Drill Evolutions would be carried out, and "Evolution No. 1," which was to lay a line into the Drill Tower and charge it.

The Department installed windshields on the trucks in 1936. The first windshield was installed on Engine 12. A 16-foot aluminum Rescue Boat was obtained for the Department in 1936, along with "Hard Hat" diving helmets and dragging rigs. A trailer for the boat was made in the TFD shop at Central Station.

On March 31, 1936, the J. W. Dodge Electric Supply Company was the victim of a two alarm fire. The same building and company suffered the same fate again on December 28, 1936.

During the Depression years, Firefighters took a five percent cut and then a ten percent pay cut. The Department had dropped to 148 men in 1936 and lost two more in 1937, to have a membership of 146 men. The Tulsa Fire Department had lost more manpower and was down to 145 men. It would remain at this number through 1940. The Fire Department had 18 Companies, 16 Pumps, 3 Ladders, one Hose Cart, one Water Tower, one Flood Light Trailer, and one Rescue Boat and Trailer.

The Tulsa Cotton Oil Company was struck by fire for the third time in 11 years. Every Fire Company in the city was called to fight the fire on October 2, 1937.

In 1938, after responding to a building explosion near the Sand Springs Line, C. C. Rains was cut by a piece of metal, contracted tetanus, and later died.

Ed Hornbeck and John French drove a 1939 Diamond T. Fire Truck back from Battle Creek, Michigan and began to assemble the first enclosed cab fire truck on the Tulsa Fire Department. They built a complete truck; including the body, rear fenders, doors, rails, locks, etc., at Central Fire station. It had the first preconnects. Two 95 H. P. Ford trucks were put in service in 1939. They were equipped with Barton-American 600-gallon centrifugal pumps. These trucks were the first cab trucks placed in service on the Department.

Three large fires were to strike Tulsa Business Firms in 1939. The first was the Simmons Mattress Company. The second large fire was the Hanna Lumber Company. And, the third fire was the Consolidated Cut Stone Company.

Chief Granger asked Fire and Police Commissioner Rheam for bonds to buy new fire equipment. Most of the hose being used had been purchased in 1925 and would burst when used at fires. At the Hanna Lumber Company fire, 700 feet of hose burst. One old pumper quit in the middle of Peoria and had to be pushed out of the way; another was unable to pump a fire stream further than ten feet in the air. The ladders were old and splintered and the axes, life lines, and other tools were badly worn, lost or discarded.

Chief Granger was "exposed" in 1939. He had proposed to have all incinerators in the city inspected; and if they were found faulty, they would be hauled away. His neighbors promptly phoned the Tribune, which sent a photographer to take a picture of Chief Granger's trash burner, which was badly in need of replacement. The picture was run in the paper and Chief Granger quickly eliminated the trash burner. Chief Raymond W. Granger resigned from the Fire Department after charges were filed in a petition drawn up by several Firemen, and he joined the Navy. As a Lieutenant, he was badly injured by an explosion that occurred at Mare Island Navy Yard in San Francisco in November, 1942.

FIRE CHIEF C.C. JENNINGS

(1940 - 1950)

Chester C. Jennings was appointed Fire Chief on June 1, 1940. A sensational truck blaze loaded with 38,000 gallons of gasoline, in the heart of downtown Tulsa, was at Central Fire Station's front door. Flames reached six stories high. Heat and flames did damage to exposed buildings, but it was kept at a minimum by water curtains set up immediately by Firefighters. The old Security Building and Klars Jewelry were damaged. A Captain and two Firefighters were injured during the fire.

District Chiefs Barton and Walker had been "riding out" on Engine 7. In August of 1940 they were given their 1939 Ford Sedan Chiefs Cars, and moved to Station 11 at 1348 South Harvard. In 1940, the City of Tulsa was split into two Fire Districts. Downtown and West of Lewis was District 1. East of Lewis was District 2.

Snow, ice, freezing water and rotten hose lines combined to hinder firefighters on the night of January 7, 1940. The Boston Furniture Company burned. Most of the \$20,000 damage was confined to the basement. The Plaza Theatre, one of Tulsa's pioneer neighborhood movie houses, was also destroyed by fire in 1940. A firefighter was injured when a wall collapsed and falling bricks struck him. He was treated at Morningside Hospital.

Captain J. C. Warf was thrown from the seat of an open cab Seagraves Pumper when it collided with a panel truck at Pine and Rockford, while responding to an alarm. He was taken to Hillcrest Memorial Hospital where he passed away the next day. He was 51 years old at his death in 1941.

Three Firefighters and four other persons were injured in an accident that occurred at 11th and Lewis. A Be-Mac transport truck hit Engine 7 broadside. The transport truck overturned and Engine 7 received major damage. A light farm truck in which five people were riding was also damaged.

The Houston Ericksten Oil Company lost five gasoline storage tanks, buildings, trucks, and equipment to fire in 1942. Two Firefighters were overcome and taken to Hillcrest Memorial Hospital. Several Firefighters narrowly escaped injury when an exploding tank sent a huge cloud of flame over them, but they were unharmed. A two-alarm fire sent seven fire companies to the Premium Laundry on October 12, 1942.

The Dehydro Company Chemical Plant was destroyed by fire on August 18, 1943.

In 1943, Fire Department vehicles were equipped with mobile two-way radios.

Fire gutted the Porter Mattress Company on January 28, 1943. Firefighters were inside placing fire streams in all directions while two Ladder Companies had ladder pipes in action overhead. The roof caved in but the men inside escaped. Later in 1943 a 65-foot Seagrave Aerial Truck was purchased and put in service as Ladder 2.

The Wagles Bowling Alley and Recreation Center burned on January 12, 1944 at an estimated \$65,000.00. Two Firefighters were burned when an explosion in the rear of the bowling alley blew them from inside the building into the street. A second alarm fire was reported in the Bijou Tulsa Corp., the Downbeat Ballroom, and the Dixie Theatre. The temperature outside was zero.

Tulsa Firefighters were to have their own radio station in 1945. A 110-foot high aerial was placed at the Alarm Office and the new ultra-high frequency wave length station (FM 155 KC) was on the air. The Tulsa Fire Department was one of the first in the Midwest to be so equipped.

Two disastrous fires originated almost simultaneously shortly before 7:00 A.M on Wednesday, December 19, 1945, caused a loss estimated at One Million Dollars. This was the heaviest single day's fire damage in Tulsa's history. Completely destroyed were: Renbergs Clothiers with a loss estimated at \$350,000 in merchandise and \$150,000 to the building; and Barnes-Manley Laundry and Cleaners with loss to building and contents at \$350,000. The balance of the damage was to buildings and contents adjoining Renbergs. The heaviest damage was to Clarke's Mens Wear, whose stock suffered severe loss from smoke and water. The Renbergs fire originated around the gas heating system, and was turned in shortly before 7:00 a.m. and as the second alarm was given, the Barnes-Manley fire broke out, originating from an explosion in the boiler room. Every piece of Tulsa's fire equipment, except Engine 12 at Red Fork, was pressed into service to fight the blazes. Due to intense cold, 4 degrees above zero, hydrants in the area were frozen closed. The fire was under control by 9:00 a.m. The laundry was a mass of ashes, blackened brick walls and twisted iron framework. Deck gun nozzles, ladder pipe streams, and hose lines from adjoining buildings were used at the Renberg fire as well as hand lines from inside and the street. A reported explosion at the Renberg fire was in reality the roof collapsing.

The Esquire Laundry and Dry Cleaning Plant burned January 2, 1946. The laundry occupied the first floor of the two story structure. The second story was a rooming house from which twenty-three tenants escaped Assistant Chief Conger was overcome by smoke and sent to Hillcrest Hospital when the Vandever store burned on November 29, 1947. The disastrous fire caused an estimated \$750,000 loss.

Due to the fire, smoke, and water damage throughout the five story structure. The first alarm was received shortly after 7:00 a.m. and a second alarm soon followed. After nearly an hour of battle, the fire was finally brought under control.

In 1948, Engine 3 was responding to a grass fire in the 2100 Block of East Newton Street when it blew a tire. Engine 10 was dispatched to extinguish the grass fire. While waiting for the mechanics to arrive to change the tire, they noticed a suspicious glow from a nearby home. They grabbed water cans and put out the fire before the occupants knew their home was on fire.

In 1948, the Fire Department purchased two 1948 American La France 750-gallon Pumpers for \$6,000 each. They were put into service as Engine 3 and Engine 5. Four new American La France Ford 500-gallon Pumpers were purchased by the Department in November of 1948, for a total price of \$30,000.00. A new Fire Lane System went into use in 1948. It is similar to the Opticon system in use today and enabled responding fire equipment to traverse selected lanes, while opposing traffic would be halted by the specially synchronized traffic lights. At the Alarm Office, a Kardex file system told the operator what route the fire equipment would take, and which button to push to throw all traffic lights along the route on red.

Fire Station 16, located at 1401 North Lewis, was opened in 1949. It was equipped with a 1949 500-gallon, American La France Pumper.

In the summer of 1949, Tulsa Firefighters again circulated petitions to launch a drive for a Charter Amendment vote to reduce their 72 hour work week to a 56 hour week. They had circulated petitions for an election several months before, obtaining some 21,000 signatures, but the City Auditor held them void on several technicalities, such as the wrong size paper. When the petitions were filed, they had received 21,998 signatures of registered voters. The curtailed work week would increase the Department's budget by \$140,000 and would mean the hiring of 48 men, but would increase efficiency. The petition read that there would be no reduction in pay for shorter hours, and also read that the Firefighters would still be available for emergency calls at no extra overtime pay. On April 4, 1950 the voters of Tulsa overwhelmingly supported the Firefighters, by a margin of 28,896 for, and 13,162 against. The City Commission fixed the manner in which the Firefighters would work the 56 hour week, by implementing a 10 hour day shift and a 14 hour night shift. The men had been working 24 hours on duty and 24 hours off duty. On July 16, 1950 the three platoons began. Seventy-three new Firefighters had been hired and given a ten day training period. The first shift, "C" Platoon, went on duty at 0800 hours Monday morning, July 16th. They were relieved by "A" Platoon at 1800 hours that afternoon. The following morning at 0800 hours, they were relieved by "B" Platoon, and so the 56 hour week had begun. Twenty-six Drivers were promoted to Captain and fifty Privates were promoted to Driver when the third shift or "C" platoon was added.

Station 14 at 36th Street South and Lewis went into service to July 16, 1949, at a cost of \$85,000 to construct.

Fire Chief C. C. Jennings retired from the Department after 30 years of service, on May 31, 1950. He had served as Fire Chief for ten years. He joined the Fire Department in 1920 under Chief Alder.

FIRE CHIEF G. N. PARIS

(1950 - 1956)

Captain G. N. Paris was named Tulsa's sixth Fire Chief. On June 1, 1950. Chief Paris was faced with reorganizing the Department in line with the Charter Amendment of 1949. Chief Paris had twenty-one years on the job and was serving as Swing Chief when selected.

On July 5, 1950, a third shift was employed. Men would now be working a fifty-six hour week. "C" platoon was the first to work. The hours were split again to a ten hour day shift and a fourteen hour night shift and, as pre 1935; the hours were from 0800 to 1800 hours, day shift, and 1800 to 0800 hours, night shift. On January 29, 1955, the Tulsa Fire Department went to a

twenty- four hour on-duty and forty-eight hour off-duty schedule, maintaining the fifty-six hour week. "B" platoon was the first to work this new schedule

Fire broke out in the Pure Oil Company Building at 6th and Cheyenne, causing \$60,000 damage to the top floor. Assistant Chief R. A. McCall said that spontaneous combustion among paint cans on the third floor of the building caused the blaze. The stairway of the third floor had been torn out for remodeling and hampered the efforts of Firefighters in reaching the fire.

On May 28, 1952 a dispute over the promotional system of the Fire Department was taken to the City Commission. The matter seemed to center on the grading of "intangibles" which were defined as, "The rating of leadership, dependability, firemanship, and attitude". Firefighters (125) attended the Commission meeting and were given the opportunity to give testimony in the dispute. Some did for both viewpoints. The Commission promised to make a decision regarding promotions later.

In 1952, the Tulsa Fire Department built a Training Center at Newblock Park. A Drill Tower, five stories high; a drafting pit; a spacious concrete pad; hydrants; and a school room and offices made up the structure.

A three alarm fire was turned in at 9:00 p.m. More than 150 Firefighters from 11 Fire Companies fought the blaze. Firefighters from the first assignment had entered the building with hose lines and were making headway on one segment of the fire. The second assignment of Firefighters, called shortly after the arrival of the first companies by Assistant Chief C. E. Conger, backed up the men attacking what they thought was the base of the fire. They were ordered out of the building just two minutes before the entire west half of the roof collapsed. An ancient 28 year old Ladder Truck was partially trapped by the collapsing roof. Firefighters were able to later move the truck after playing streams of water over it to keep it from burning. The third alarm was called to help control the shower of firebrands and embers that were released when the roof collapsed, from falling on neighboring buildings and residences.

The Warehouse Market at 401 East 10th Street, burned on August 26, 1953, causing some \$800,000 loss. Firefighters were able to save some seventy new cars and trucks owned by Mid-West Chevrolet Company from damage. They were stored in the basement of the fire building. The Coliseum fire was the only larger, single loss fire in Tulsa's history up to 1956.

Fire Station 17 at 1351 North Sheridan Road was placed in service on July 1, 1953.

On February 27, 1954, the Standard Parts Company located at 818 S. Detroit burned. A loss of \$300,000 was estimated. The building was totally involved when the first assignment arrived. Some damage was done to the Caroline Apartments, 824 South Detroit, due to the intense heat and smoke.

In November of 1955, Chief Motor Freight Lines at 314-316 South Quincy burned. The building loss was listed as \$200,000. The fire was caused by an explosion, completely involving the structure. Firefighters were quick to extinguish the blaze, though they were hampered by exploding oil drums.

In 1955, the Tulsa Fire Department management decided that the District Fire Chiefs would have Drivers. Fire Station 18 was placed in service at 4802 South Peoria.

On April 3, 1956, Fire Station 19 was placed in service at Mohawk and Peoria.

The Department had grown to 343 men and 24 Companies in 1956 and had a valuation of \$846,971.00.

Chief G. N. Paris retired on May 15, 1956 after serving twenty-seven years in the service of the Tulsa Fire Department, the last six of which were in the capacity of Fire Chief.

FIRE CHIEF GALAIRD SARTAIN

(1956 - 1964)

Galaird L. Sartain was named Fire Chief on May 15, 1956. Two 100-foot American La France Aerial Ladders were purchased for the Department in 1956. They were placed in service as Ladder 2 at Fire Station 5, and Ladder 3 at new Station 2 located at 441 North Main.

On October 6, 1956, fire destroyed the downtown Safeway Store. The loss was estimated to be at \$500,000. The alarm was sounded at 08:00 hours. The fire broke through the roof, imperiling some thirty homes in the area. Chief Sartain said that the store appeared to be virtually a total loss.

In 1956 The Tulsa Fire Department hired the first Black Firefighters, and allowed Civil Defense personnel to work on Fire Companies, similar to the Auxiliary Police of today. They were allowed to work with the Firefighters until 1958, when the practice was stopped.

The Tulsa Fire Department had a compliment of 353 men in 1957. The Department was 27 Fire Companies strong and was equipped with 26 Pumpers and 8 Ladders. Station 21 (31st and Urbana) and Station 22 (McClure Park) were built in 1957.

C. A. Schoonover suffered a heart attack while on duty at Fire Station 13. He passed away in 1957.

On March 6, 1957, the Central Assembly of God Church burned. Assistant Chief Ralph McCall turned in a second alarm shortly after the first alarm at 5:20 a.m. was sounded. Firefighters saved the educational building, keeping the estimated loss at \$200,000.

Four new Fire Stations were completed and put into service during 1958.

Fire Station 21 was placed in service at 4606 E. 31st Street and housed Engine 21.

Fire Station 22 was placed in service at 616 S. 73rd East Avenue and housed Engine 22 and Ladder 6. New Fire Station 6 was placed in service at 1712 South Phoenix and housed Engine 6.

New Fire Station 12 was placed in service at 3123 West 40th street and housed Engine 12.

The Tulsa Fire Department, for the first time in its history, provided two SCBA for each four man company.

On July 15, 1958, Chief Sartain announced a new Fire Alarm System. The Fire Alarm Office had been completely remodeled and the new vocal alarm system was placed in service. The Gamewell System was kept in service as a backup system. Chief Sartain said that "instead of gonging every Station when an alarm comes in, the new system will tone only the Companies assigned. However, the Companies not assigned will know which Companies were". As was said before, this was an innovation in Fire Alarm Operation. The new system led the way for several Fire Departments to attain like equipment.

Because some Firefighters had retired without much cash on hand, the men of the Tulsa Fire Department decided to draft a contract whereby any Tulsa Firefighter who wished to participate could retire with \$2,500 cash after twenty years of service. Each man contributed a like sum to make up the amount. This contract has been revised since to keep up with the times, and probably will be again.

In 1959, a change was proposed to City government, and did not want to include the Firefighter's job protecting Articles 13, 13A, and 18 of the City Charter in their new form of government. The Tulsa Firefighters were of the opinion that these Articles were essential to their job, so the Firefighters went to the people to request the defeat of the proposed new form of government in the coming election. The new proposal was defeated.

In 1959 the Department received its first tilt cab, a 750-Gallon Boardman Ford Pumper. It was placed in service as Engine 21.

In 1960, the position of Deputy Fire Chief was created. In 1960, Firefighters and Policemen received a death benefit through worker's compensation in the amount of \$13,500.

On April 1, 1960, the Joe Hodges Warehouse burned. The manpower of the Department had grown to 398.

In 1961, the City of Tulsa gave the Fire and Police Departments a \$100.00 clothing allowance. Harrington's Clothiers were awarded the contract.

In 1961 the Tulsa Fire Department received the highest honor ever afforded a Fire Department in Oklahoma. The Department was selected by the National Fire Protection Association as the actors for their production of a training film entitled, "Fighting Tank Fires". The film was shot at the Training Center, and has been used all over the world.

On March 12, 1962, a fire at Todd's Market, 2209 North Cincinnati, was fought in the normal manner and contained to the rear of the store. After the area had cleared of smoke, dynamite was discovered!

In 1962, the Tulsa Fire Department had 393 members and had 28 Fire Companies. Ladder 6 had been placed in service at Fire Station 22 in 1961. Much to the delight of all Firefighters on the Department in 1962, the purchase of cotton fire hose was stopped, and Dacron hose was bought to replace it as needed. Dacron hose could be reloaded while wet.

Service Pay was adopted for Firefighters by the City of Tulsa and was put into effect July 1, 1962. Also, in 1962; the public approved a \$3,020,000 Fire Department Bond for stations, apparatus, and equipment for the Fire Department. With these monies a garage was built at the Training Center, taking it away from Central Fire Station, 17 West Second Street. Twelve new, White 1000-gallon Central Ford Pumpers, and three new, white Aerial Platform Trucks, two 75-foot Snorkels, and one 65-foot Snorkel. The 75-foot Snorkels went in service as Ladder 1, and Ladder 4. The 65-foot Snorkel was placed in service as Ladder 6. Land was purchased to construct Fire Stations, 23 and 24, and relocate Stations - 9, 10, 11, 13, and Central.

A training film on how to combat tank fires was completed in 1963 when a gasoline tanker exploded at the Texaco Refinery while refueling. Firefighters had the blaze quickly under control. The truck was ruined by a series of explosions and the loading dock was damaged, but the fire was confined to the immediate area. In 1964, Chief Galaird Sartain retired from the Fire Department on July 1st. He accepted a position at Oklahoma State University as Head of the Fire Training School.

FIRE CHIEF E. S. HAWKINS

(1964 - 1985)

Fire Marshal E. Stanley Hawkins was named to serve as the eighth Fire Chief of the Tulsa Fire Department. His term of office started on July 1, 1964. Shortly after Chief Hawkins was named Fire Chief, the new Central Fire Station at 411 South Frankfort was completed. The new air conditioned quarters and administrative offices were moved into on August 26, 1964. In 1964 membership was 407 serving on 30 Fire Companies. The value of the Fire Department was \$1,117,225.00.

On February 17, 1964 Fire Station 11 was relocated from 1348 South Harvard to 5009 E. 15th Street. March 9, 1964 New Fire Station 23 located at 4348 East 57th Street was placed in service. March 17, 1964. Fire Station 13 moved to its new location at 345 South 41st West Avenue. March 25, 1964. Fire Station 10 moved from 233 East Pine to its new location at 508 East Pine. The District 4 Chief was also relocated to this new station from Fire Station 2. May 21, 1964. Fire Station 9 was moved from 105 S. Phoenix to 1420 Charles Page Boulevard. July 25, 1964. New Fire Station 24 at 1104 East 54th Street North was placed in service.

In 1964, a Rookie class of Firefighters were given the first month long session of training, prior to going on company. Training previously had been only two weeks. They were trained in actual firefighting by burning urban renewal houses, with four training instructors.

Yeager Wholesale burned in 1965. The intense heat from the fire ruined the paint job on the new Ladder 1. The two alarm fire took several hours to contain. The Colonial Arms Apartments were also the victim of a second alarm fire in 1965. Two Firefighters were hospitalized due to this fire.

Unit 51, a \$97,000 Aircraft Crash Truck, was placed in service at Fire Station 51, at Tulsa International Airport on February 16, 1965

The London Square Apartment complex was the scene of a tragedy in 1965, as a young mother and her three children perished in a fire that involved their apartment. This fire brought to a head the fact that fire walls were not being built into these multi-dwelling structures. A year later in 1966, the same complex suffered more fire damage, but it was held in check by the fire wall that had been installed.

The Micro Wave Teletype Fire Alarm System was purchased with installation beginning in 1965. This was another first for the fire service. The system eliminated the old Gamewell Register and Gong, and the costly underground cables to each Fire Station. On April 25, 1966 the new Radio Fire Alarm Box Network was dedicated. On September 28, 1966 the Tulsa Fire Department completed the system

Fire Station 25 at 7419 East 42nd Place was completed on October 4, 1966. Tulsa now had 23 Fire Stations, 31 Fire Companies, and 420 men.

On March 3, 1967 three warehouses were destroyed by fire, which was fueled by high winds and required three assignments. It took 13 Engine Companies, 2 Ladder Companies, and 2 District Chiefs to contain the fire.

Rolla Clark Alder, Tulsa's first Fire Chief, made his last "Run" on November 22, 1967 at age 90. He was given full funeral honors. Engine 4 bore his flag draped casket from the First Baptist Church to Rose Hill Burial Park.

Stations 5, 7, and 8 were completely remodeled in 1967 and Fire Station 26 was placed in service. Fire Station 2 was moved to its fourth location at 102 West Archer and Station 3 was moved to its third location at 61 North Utica. Engines 25 and 26, Ladders 7 and 8, Squads (High Pressure Units) 3, 4, 5, and 6 were activated. Ladder 7 was a 65-foot Ward Lafrance Aerial Ladder and the first Truck equipped with an automatic transmission for the Tulsa Fire Department. Eleven 1000-gallon Boardman Ford Pumpers and one 750-gallon Pumper Ladder "Quad" Boardman Ford were delivered to the Department.

In 1967, 52 Privates were promoted to Driver and 27 Drivers were promoted to Captain.

On January 1, 1968, District 5 was created and housed at Fire Station 25 and would cover the Southeast Tulsa.

Tulsa Firefighters voted to increase their Cash Retirement Fund to \$3,500.

On February 19, 1968 a two alarm fire at the Barber Supply Firm, caused \$200,000 damage. Thousands of cans of hair spray exploded leaving a freon haze hanging over the area.

In 1969, the Department had 516 members, 39 Fire Companies and a value of \$1,797,500.

On March 1, 1970, Fire Station 31 at 3002 North Mingo Road was placed in service. Engine 31 and Ladder 11 were stationed there. The Fire Department now had 545 men, 41 Fire Companies. The Deputy Fire Chief's position was created on May 15, 1970. The Tulsa Fire Department's first Arson Team was also formed in 1970.

In 1971, Governor Hall signed into law a Collective Bargaining Bill for Firefighters and Policemen. The law enabled the two departments to negotiate with the City governments for whom they worked and, if that failed, they could arbitrate. However, the findings of the Arbitration Board would not be binding on the City. The citizens of Tulsa voted to raise the City Sales Tax one penny making it a tax of two cents on a one dollar purchase. This tax enabled the Fire Department to expand. Plans were made to build two Fire Stations. Fire Station 27 was to be constructed at 11707 East 31st Street, and Fire Station 28 was to be constructed at 7310 East 71st Street and placed into service in 1972. Engine 28 and Ladder 10 were housed there.

Two more Fire Stations were to be built later. Fire Station 29 would be at 7429 South Lewis, and Fire Station 30 would be at 14333 East 11th Street.

The Freight Damage Warehouse burned in 1971. Ladders 1 and 4 were both used to apply master streams.

Inadequate fire walls were blamed for the spread of the fire at the Executive Manor Apartments.

The Ace Apartment fire occurred during nearly zero temperatures. The building was vacant. Transients started the fire in the vacant building.

Tulsa Firefighters were named to the "Tribune Honor Roll" in October of 1972.

The Department had 602 men and 44 Fire Companies in 1972, and it proved to be the worst year for fire loss in Tulsa's history. More men were placed in the Fire Marshal's office as a result of the Executive Manor Apartment fire on April 13, 1972.

On February 27, 1972, the Camelot Inn had a second alarm fire.

On May 3, 1972, the Liberty Tower Apartments had a three alarm fire. Deputy Fire Chief W. R. Mackey coordinated the firefighting attack on the building, which included evacuation of the occupants and extinguishment of the fire on the involved floors.

On August 11, 1972, the Italian Gardens fire was the start of a series of arson fires.

On November 27, 1972, the Old Village Apartments were part of the plague of fires. The totally involved apartment collapsed, carrying a firefighter with it. He was not seriously injured.

On November 11, 1972, the Adams Hotel was the scene of a fire, about which the Fire Chiefs Magazine carried an article written by Deputy Fire Chief W. R. Mackey on how it was contained.

On December 1, 1972, Rathbones "Flair Flowers" was the scene of a second alarm fire.

This series of fires helped make 1972 fire loss, per capita, greater than any other year in the history of the Tulsa Fire Department. The total loss was \$3,901,126 with a per capita loss of \$11.76.

Fire Station 27 was placed in service at 11707 East 31st Street in February, 1973. Engine 27 and Ladder 12 were housed within. The Tulsa Fire Department now had 617 men and a total of 46 Fire Companies to cover a total area of 174.86 square miles. They consisted of: 30 Engine Companies, 14 Squad Companies and 12 Ladder Companies. Although the Airport Crash Truck was manned by Tulsa Firefighters, it was under the Airport Authority Management. The Fire Department ordered two new Diesel Pumpers in 1973, a first for the City of Tulsa. The Firefighters agreed to raise their \$10.00 per man Death Benefit to \$20.00 in 1973.

In 1973, the Service Paint Company was a second alarm fire. The total number of runs by the Fire Department in 1973 was 6,683. Engine 2 had the most with 460 runs.

The number of members on the Fire Department was 617, with a starting salary of \$625.00 a month.

In 1974 the Fire Department responded to 8,873 fires and other emergency alarms. This was an increase of 29% over 1973. Engine 19 had the most runs with 681.

Fire Station 29 was placed in service and six new 100-foot Aerial Ladders were delivered.

Funds were appropriated for land acquisition and the construction of Fire Station 4, and the number of members now totaled 628.

On June 8, 1974 a tornado cut a path through Tulsa. The emergencies handled by the Fire Department were varied and included fires, trapped victims, flood victims, and others. Three command posts were established. They were at Fire Stations 1, 18, and 28.

In 1975, the Fire Department instituted a "Home Inspections Program" to curtail the escalating occurrence and fire loss in residential properties.

The total number of runs by the Fire Department in 1975 was 8,415. Engine 19 had the most with 680. Manpower for the Department was up to 654.

In 1976, the Department protected 360,000 Tulsans. Over 181 square miles were covered with 610 Firefighters, 31 Engines, 12 Ladders, 4 Squads, one two-piece Air Crash Rescue Unit, 30 Fire Stations, and 237 Alarm Boxes. The Fire Department responded to 10,374 runs, a 20% increase over 1975 responses.

The fire loss per capita was \$15.65. Though thirteen fire fatalities occurred, it was a considerable improvement following the nineteen fatalities of 1972.

Management expressed that "The ability to support Fire Department needs and initiatives with documentation would determine their success in the future". Three member crews on Engines and Ladders was a major concern for Fire Department Management.

In 1977, fifteen fire fatalities occurred. Constant manning was requested. Fire Companies received walkie talkies, six new American LaFrance 1500 gpm Pumps, and 150 new air bottles were placed in service. The total number of responses in 1977 was down slightly to 10,064. Firefighters did enjoy a larger starting salary than the previous years. It was now up to \$750 a month. The total number of Department members was 662.

In 1978, for the first time, personnel safety policies required Firefighters to utilize full protective clothing and mandated the use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

The Fire Department began to yield to increased medical responses and acknowledged that "firefighting was becoming more than just firefighting". The Department announced it would be joining the other leading fire departments in the nation by implementing the NFPA Uniform Fire Incident Reporting System. The system required considerable attention to reports submitted for incidents, both emergency and non-emergency.

June 29, 1978 T. R. Coatney had a heart attack and died at Fire Station 11. His death was considered LODD.

Engine 19 made 841 runs in 1978. The total number of responses for the Fire Department was 10,980.

In 1980 the Fire Department made 12,645 responses. Engine 27 made the most runs with 695. There was a 28% increase in fire loss to \$14.0 Million, with a per capita fire loss of \$16. Fire fatalities totaled 15 compared to 2 in 1979.

Two new Fire Stations were to be built. Fire Station 2 was started at 524 West Edison, and Fire Station 32 was started at 6010 East 91st Street.

On April 5, 1980 the Stratford House Apartments burned. The complex had been under renovation; and as a result, the complex was largely unoccupied. No injuries were reported in the multimillion dollar blaze. The fire spread quickly from the roof of one building to another due to high winds.

On October 26, 1980 fire demolished the Meyer Restaurant Equipment Company. The three alarm fire was well under way by the time firefighters arrived. A pickup truck filled with gasoline exploded. Arson was deemed the cause of the explosion. The heat from the flames melted the emergency lights and shattered the windshield of a fire truck. Another fire engine had the paint cooked off one side; and firefighters spraying water on the building had hoses suddenly go limp as the heat caused lines to burst behind them.

Shadow Mountain Inn, one of the city's most popular restaurants, was destroyed by fire on the same day. Discarded smoking materials ignited linens in a storage area causing approximately \$40,000 in damage.

On February 12, 1981 a spectacular fire at the Sun Oil Company sent a column of flame and dense billows of smoke into the air. Although the refinery wasn't evacuated during the fire, Oklahoma Osteopathic College of Medicine, located across the street from the refinery, evacuated 300 students and staff members. A second Sun Oil Company fire occurred September 16, 1981. This night-time fire lit up the west-side.

The former St. Francis Catholic School building was destroyed on August 16, 1981. The structure was occupied by the Town & Country Private School. It took 100 firefighters three hours to bring the flames under control. A back draft knocked nine firefighters to the ground.

In 1981, the Fire Department membership reached 724. Engine 27 also had the most runs that year with 745.

The Department established an average 4 minute response standard in 1981. First Responder (EMS) calls increased. Additional training and CPR Recertification was completed for all personnel. This helped increase the total number of runs from 11,626 in 1981 to 12,530 in 1982. Squad 5 became the leader with 882 runs.

An anhydrous ammonia leak occurred at 6th and Denver on March 15, 1982. Firefighters were exposed to a hazardous concentration of this chemical which resulted in a rash. The Fire Department stressed to all members the importance of using all the protective equipment and clothing available to them.

March 21, 1982 there was a fire reported at United Plating Works. Upon arrival, there were flames and smoke visible and lines were laid. No one was killed at the time of exposure to the smoke and fire gases. After the fire, several men came down with bad symptoms, such as nose bleeds, sore throats, chest pains, difficulty in breathing, and headaches. One man succumbed to chemical bronchitis. The symptoms started showing up as soon as five hours after the fire, and in the many years following.

In May of 1982, a Firefighter was injured while engaged in fighting a fire at the vacant Boulder Park Apartments. He was in the basement when he lost water supply, allowing the fire to flash back on him, burning his left ear. The pump lost its prime.

Fire Department members had a definitive role in the movie production of *The Outsiders*. A Platoon (FS03) was called to fill a small pool in Crutchfield Park. The pool had to be drained and refilled several times; so before it was over. All three shifts at Station 3. Plus B shift at Station 10. And C shift at Station #9 were involved. Other involvement included the wetting down of city streets and railroad tracks for night filming so they would not show too much light or dominate in the night filming. A and C shifts at Station 3 were also hired on their off days to assist in the smoke and fire production at an old abandoned home west of Skiatook.

Dwight Wilson, Firefighter at Fire Station 19, received the American Red Cross highest national award, the Certificate of Merit, after successfully resuscitating a 15 year old youth overcome by smoke.

Stress Services, Inc. a private, nonprofit organization funded by the City of Tulsa, was developed in 1982 to provide professional counseling services to TFD members & families. The goals of the service included individual, marriage, and family counseling; stress management education.

In the fall of 1982, the Fire Department Tug-0-War team won first place at the Scottish Highland Games.

Fire Station 22 was closed for approximately 9 months in 1982 because of the asbestos that was sprayed on the ceilings. At the time of the spraying, no one was aware of the dangers of asbestos.

By 1982 the membership had increased again to 748 and the starting salary for Rookies was \$1,000 a month.

In the spring of 1982, twenty-four individuals were hired to create what became known as "Swing Companies". The idea was for the whole crew to take their "Kirk Day" together. Thus, a crew of 4 was created to rotate through a District to allow all Fire Companies their "City Shift's".

In January of 1983, nomex flashover hoods became available for the members of the Fire Department.

Police & Fire Commissioner Roy Gardner made headlines on August 9, 1983 by suggesting the City of Tulsa contract out fire response. The suggestion was prompted by the high percentage of workman's compensation claims being filed by firefighters. The City Commission approved a study by Risk Management Consultants on injuries suffered by Tulsa Firefighters and ways to prevent them.

Trash on the balcony of a third floor unit at the Westport Apartments caught fire at about 12:25 p.m. on November 9, 1983. Flames were shooting through the attic when firefighters arrived. Damage was reported to be in excess of \$50,000. There was water damage in two other apartments in the 21 unit building.

The three alarm fire at the One Eton Square Apartment s on February 23, 1984 was apparently started by a spark from a welder's torch. Thirteen of the 29 apartment buildings were destroyed. Damages ran into the millions of dollars. Neighbors were seen spraying down their houses with water to avoid the flames destroying their homes.

Oklahoma Fire Fighter Day was proclaimed by Governor Nigh on April 4, 1984.

FIRE CHIEF T. L. BAKER

(1985 - 2002)

Thomas L. Baker was named Fire Chief of the Tulsa Fire Department.

On February 1, 1985, a two alarm fire forced 15 residents of an apartment building near downtown into sub-freezing weather as more than 40 Firefighters fought the blaze. The roof of the three story Maxine Building collapsed as flames gutted the inside of the structure. The estimated damage was \$500,000. Firefighters braved temperatures of 6 degrees for more than four hours.

On February 25, 1986, more than 75 firefighters responded to Liberty Towers. The fire originated on the 12th floor. A second alarm was called. The process of installing fire alarms almost completed at the time of the fire.

The Eldorado Apartments was the scene of a two alarm fire on February 27, 1986. Four units were destroyed and at least four others were damaged. Firefighters fought the blaze for more than an hour in strong winds. The fire apparently started when a spark from a chimney landed on the wood shingled roof. Flames reached 40 feet.

In 1986, the Fire Department responded to 10, 670 runs.

On February 16, 1987, District 5, B Platoon responded to Mastercraft Body Shop. The blaze caused approximately \$250,000 damage.

The Fire Department implemented the Management Intern Program in the spring of 1987.

During 1987, the Department's Public Education section developed and implemented a response to the senior citizen fire fatality statistics. The results were astounding. The senior fatality rate dropped to 25% of Tulsa's 1,990 fire fatalities, and to a rate 1.9% below the 1987 national average for the group. The Tulsa Fire Department received the International Fire Chiefs "Fire Service Excellence Award" for the program's achievement.

The Department's total number of runs for 1987 was 10,094.

On Christmas Eve, 1988 a house fire injured three Firefighters caught in a flashover on the second floor. One firefighter was admitted to Hillcrest Hospital in critical condition.

In 1988, the last of the Gamewell Boxes were removed from the streets of Tulsa.

In 1989, Firefighter A. Leo Glenn, Jr., age 41 years, died of a heart attack at Fire Station 26 while at work.

In 1989, the total number of runs was 10,766, with Engine 27 making 879. The Department had 688 members. Riding on tailboards was discontinued.

The Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team was implemented in 1990. The team was to assist members with their physical and emotional reactions following critical incidents.

The Department began a "Five Year Master Plan" and became heavily involved in the implementation of "Tulsa's Enhanced 911 System". Microcomputers were installed in each Fire Station and Firefighters were trained in their use to meet the anticipated future demand of data management, i.e., Sara Title III.

The Tulsa Fire Department hired their first Female Firefighters on June 3, 1991.

The total number of runs for the Department in 1991 was 10,087. The Budget was \$32.7 Million.

In 1992, the total number of responses for apparatus was 11,933.

In 1993, Local 176 donated smoke detectors when the Fire Department implemented "Project Life". Firefighters were used to install smoke detectors in high risk neighborhoods. The pilot program covered a two square mile area. Project Life was a success due largely to the volunteer installers. Firefighters went door to door installing 562 smoke detectors in an area of Tulsa with the highest fire statistics.

The integrated planning process began a "Comprehensive Resource Utilization Study". Orientation sessions were conducted for prospective recruits. The Department assumed a more active role in EMS with fire apparatus responding to all life threatening emergencies.

Two Fire Stations, plus a downtown Ladder Company were scheduled to be closed October 1, 1993. Manpower was reduced from 783 positions in 1987 to 712 in 1993. Tulsa Fire Department faced the proposition of cutbacks or growth. The implementation of EMS Companies began.

The number of runs for the Department in 1993 was 18,943. They had 694 members at that time.

On January 19, 1994, the top two floors of the Petroleum Club in downtown Tulsa were totally destroyed. The fire was started on the 16th floor by two 13 year old boys. Approximately 120 Firefighters responded.

In 1994, there were 12 fire casualties. The total number of incidents responded to were 24, 498. Of those incidents, 12, 719 were Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses. The number of fires that year was 2,783, and the total fire loss was \$20.4 Million. The Budget added automatic defibrillators, fitness pay, rescue materials as well as increased hazardous material response capability, and replacement of five vehicles.

On April 19, 1995, just a little past 9:00 a.m., an explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in OKC killed 168 persons. Rescue workers responded from Tulsa and from around the nation to this tragedy.

A welder's torch sparked a fire that destroyed B & M Oil Company on June 12, 1995. Drums of oil were warehoused at the site and exploded. The blaze was battled all night and caused an estimated \$2.5 Million in damage.

In 1995, there were a total of 22,504 runs and in 1996 there were 27,070 runs by the Department. The leader in runs in 1995 was Engine 25 with 1,893 and in 1996 Engine 25 led with 2,471.

The 1996 Budget for the Fire Department was \$40.2 Million. The budget installed Phase I of the "Opticom" System to assist emergency vehicles with the control of certain traffic signals, and covered maintenance of the Department's environmental emergency response capability.

On July 17, 1997 more than 50 Firefighters fought a fire at Walden Machine Inc. The fire caused \$2,000,000 in damage. The fire at the Darlington Apartments complex on July 21, 1997 was the second two alarm blaze fought by Tulsa Firefighters in five days.

Response runs for 1997 were 28,516. Firefighter hoods and gloves were replaced. A rescue boat, vehicles, computer items, supplies and the replacement of the centralized database were budgeted.

On February 11, 1998 Firefighter W. D. Myers Jr., age 49, died of a heart attack in the jump seat of Engine 17 while returning from an incident. Warren's death was considered LODD.

Thermal Image Cameras were put in all Chiefs cars in 1998. The Fire Department purchased 6 cameras. The cameras were used for search and rescue, fire attacks, hazardous materials incidents, and overhaul operations.

Response runs for 1998 were 29, 402. The total number of members for the Department totaled 700, and the Budget for the Fire Department was \$44 Million.

FIRE CHIEF C. A. LACROIX

(2002 - 2012)

The Tulsa Fire Department has seen many changes over its 100 plus year history. In 1999 TFD decided to have a bigger role in providing Emergency Medical Service (EMS) to the citizens of Tulsa by adding 5 Advanced Life Support (ALS) engine companies. The first five were E22, E23, E24, E27, and E29. The first five ALS Engines paramedics were staffed by a group of firefighters that volunteered to be put on a forty hour work week to go to school to get there paramedic license plus some paramedics that were already on the job .This also triggered the addition of an EMS branch with one EMS training officer, two EMS support personnel and an EMS Chief. As the number EMS calls steadily increased so did the number of ALS companies to a level of 12 by adding (E13, E17, E18, E20, E26, E30, and E32). However this growth was not equally represented in the support side of EMS. By increasing the number of EMTs and paramedics on the job, the needed training for EMS was growing even faster.

Total response calls for 2002 was 64,020 of which 18,431 were EMS.

The Airgas fire on August 18th 2003 received national media coverage. The explosive inferno at Airgas Mid-South began about 4:30 p.m. Monday in the plant's storage yard, which holds containers of oxygen, propane, acetylene and other gases. Over 5000 cylinders were involved; some 75 employees were at work at the time of the fire. Amazingly no one was injured. An additional four homes and a business, Shea's New and Used furniture, were damaged. It was originally reported that just three homes had been destroyed until old photographs showed that one pile of rubble was actually two homes instead of one large one. The blaze caused the evacuation of a three-quarter mile radius around the fire and closed Interstate 244 in both directions. During the early stages of the incident exploding cylinders could be seen shooting across I244.

Buses ferried the displaced to an emergency shelter, where they were given food, drinks and other assistance. None of Airgas' products are considered toxic except anhydrous ammonia. Fire crews managed to keep the fire away from any ammonia. The fire was brought under control about 7:45 p.m. The fire triggered a Second alarm with off duty call back.

December 9th, 2007 was the start of one of the worst ice storms Tulsa would ever see. It was also the very first shift on Company for the 2007 rookie class. In the first twenty four hours TFD would respond to 1774 calls of which 198 structures fires resulting in 6 civilian deaths. From the 9th thru 15th there were 4427 calls 719 residential fires, 22 commercial fires, 831 EMS calls, with a total loss of life of 60. Total property loss was \$24,857,626.00. Almost the entire city was without electricity. Then Mayor Kathy Taylor started project power up. Electric companies from all over descended upon Tulsa to start rebuilding the electrical disruption system for the city. However a great many homes had their weather heads ripped from their homes. They needed to get an accurate account of how many homes were affected. The Fire Department and its members stepped up to the challenge. The city was divided up into regions and members volunteered to work overtime going door to door surveying the damage and compiling a list of each homes needs in order to return electrical services by Christmas day.

The single biggest improvement in equipment for the fire department came from the addition of thermal imaging cameras for each fire company. These were purchased through a grant from the Citizens Crime Commission of \$162,000.

During the 2009 budget planning for the city of Tulsa, then city councilor Martinson decided that the police and Fire Department budgets had grown out of control and were consuming too much of the sales tax dollars and proposed a 14 million dollar cut to be shared by each department. The fire department estimated that this would translate to 200 members being cut from the department and as many as 10 fire companies being closed down. On the night of the council vote over 200 uniformed firefighters turned out to oppose Councilor Martinson's proposal. Then Mayor Kathy Taylor, Fire Chief Allen La Croix, Union President Stan May and other concerned citizens stood up before the council to protest the plan. It failed by a 5 to 4 vote. After seeing how close they came to having their numbers cut and that there was a group of councilors that did not have public safety for the citizens of Tulsa a main priority, the union decided it was time to get involved politically.

That summer the union started a grass root campaign to get councilors that held public safety as a high priority retained in office and replace those that didn't. They organized a door to door campaign handing out flyers and informing the citizens of the facts about public safety. The campaign was very successful and has been reviewed by the IAFF as to how we did it and how it

can be used by other unions across the nation. This however would not be the end of the attacks on the fire service and its dedicated members by the City of Tulsa leaders.

After the collapse of the financial markets and the downturn in the economy, city tax revenue would fall off drastically. Newly elected Mayor Dewey Bartlett set his sights on the fire department and cutting its budget. The union and city under Mayor Taylor came to an agreement to keep the department fully staffed. The union members voted to take a 3% cut in benefits by paying a high portion of their pension contribution. Mayor Bartlett administration seeing that the city's budget was going to be even worse than projected came back with an additional 8.5% cut in wages or layoff 147 members. The union quickly started lengthy negotiations with the city and were able to develop plan that would be shared by all members. This would add up to the cuts the city needed to get through the budget crises and would not affect the members close to retirement pensions. The alternative would be laying off 147 members, the union called for a special ballot box vote, it passed. This not only saved 147 members jobs, it also showed the citizens of Tulsa how important their safety is to us by keeping the Department staffed and the city completely covered.

Total response calls for 2010 was 75,091 of which 35,638 were EMS.

During this same time the fire department administration was working on a new squad plan. Originally touted as a smaller less costly apparatus to operate, two squads were added to the two busiest stations in town, Station 27 and 22. A paramedic was assigned to each squad. The squads were reserve suburban's and would respond to medical calls and MVAs. After a six month pilot program to see how they worked, the administration along with a vote of acceptance by the membership moved forward with a slightly different squad program. It would replace five engine companies with two man ALS squads over a three year period. 2 Two the first year, two the second year and one the final year. They would go in at stations that had telesquirt ladders. The station would be staffed with one captain, two drivers and five privates. This would reduce the number of captains in the field by fifteen but still have a minimum of six at the station four on the ladder two on the squad. The first four squads are at station 22, 27, 26 and 32 with a fifth to go in July 1, 2011.

**FIRE CHIEF R. D. DRISKELL
(2012 ~ PRESENT)**

Chief Ray Driskell was sworn in as Tulsa's 11th Chief of the Fire Department in late June of 2012. In the days following his appointment, Chief Driskell welcomed twenty-three cadets graduating from the Tulsa Fire Academy

Delwayne Rucker was honored as a Tulsa Blue Employee in September of 2012. Delwayne's Spanish-speaking skills were proven to be an invaluable asset in the treatment of patients.

Mobile data terminals were introduced early in 2013. This has allowed fire apparatus to improve record keeping, hydrant mapping, guidance, and interact with the dispatch center.

The department upgraded its EMS response by adding three additional Advance Life Support companies. Engine 21, Engine 19, and Ladder 27 were brought on-line, bringing the number of ALS Engine companies to 16 and five Squads.

A new accelerant-detection K-9, Canyon, was welcomed to the Tulsa fire service. She was trained by the ATF, and was assigned to Investigator Scott Winford. Canyon replaces A. J. (Ajna) who died in 2010.

Firefighter Mark Meyer was selected as the 2013 Firefighter of the Year by the Rotary Club's Above & Beyond Committee. After being diagnosed with a stage 4 sarcoma, Mark began the Hydrants of Hope foundation, which helps children suffering from cancer, and their families.

FEO Dan Newbury was selected as the 2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars Firefighter of the Year. Dan was honored for locating and helping rescue the victims of a fire at 12th & Quaker. Dan then organized a fundraising campaign and purchased needed supplies and toys for the adults and children.

Twenty-nine cadets who graduated from the Fire Academy in March 2013 brought the TFD to just short of its authorized strength of 676 members.

Chief Driskell presented the Red Cross Save-A-Life Award to Captain John Stapleton and Firefighter Larry Jackson who together rescued a woman trapped on the floor of her burning apartment. The Chief praised the two for their bravery at March the 2013 Red Cross ceremony.

Ground was broken on Phase One of the New Fire Safety Training Center in April of 2013. The facility was funded at \$13.2 million from a 2005 general-obligation bond. The Fire Department and Tulsa Community College partnered on the effort to bring enhanced fire training to northeast Oklahoma. This replaces the Tulsa Fire Department's 61-year-old facility at Newblock Park. Two other phases are planned for the 34-acre plot at the TCC's northeast campus.

The TFD was recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the 2013 Heart Safe Community Award. The honor acknowledges the department's efforts in 2012 to vastly expand its service.

Former Fire Chief E. Stanley Hawkins passed away in July 2013 at the age of 92 years. Chief Hawkins served the Department for 37 years, of which 21 years were as Chief. Stanley was a WWII veteran prior to his TFD service. He was elected to serve IAFC President from 1981-82. He was well respected by the members who served under him and by others well into his retirement.

Three 114-foot Bronto Ladder trucks were deployed to the field. They were assigned to Station 31, Station 4 and Station 29. The trucks were valued at \$1.3 million each.

A Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train derailed in the early morning in north Tulsa in mid-December of 2013. BNSF officials believed someone tampered with the train's air brake system. As many as twenty cars came off the tracks in the 1800 block of North Fulton. 100 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into Coal Creek.

Chief John Steiner & District 3 members started the inaugural No Shave November competition to raise monies for charity. Members grew mustaches and other facial hair to promote solidarity and brotherhood.

Investigators Darrell Beeler and Mark Milstead were selected by the Oklahoma Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators as Co-Investigators of the Year for 2013. Their tenacious and proactive investigative style has resulted in many felony arrests.

Firefighters hit the streets to check/ distribute smoke detectors as part of Project Life after fatal fires in the city of two consecutive nights. A man was found dead after a fire engulfed his home in the 1500 block of West Oklahoma Street, and a woman died as a result of a blaze in the 1700 block of East 32nd Street North. Such "After the Fire" events are customary after fatal accidental fires in the city.

The Public Safety Education Division & Union President were among budget cutting proposals in early 2014. They were to be returned to Field Operations due to manpower shortages. Issues were resolved through the process and monies available.

Earl Blevins was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars for his off duty work with the Make a Wish Foundation.

Raymond Beard was honored as the Rotary Club's Firefighter of the Year for going Above & Beyond for donating a kidney to a fellow parishioner at East Virgin Street Church of Christ. Raymond used sick leave and vacation time to provide the gift of life.

Jason Dyer received the Tulsa Blue Employee Award for donating a kidney to a close friend in the spring of 2013, giving the generous gift of life. Jason has faithfully served the City for nearly 13 years.

Tulsa's Historic Booster Feed Mill (Admiral between Yale & Sheridan) was destroyed by fire about 1:30 PM Saturday. The building was 73 years old. Witnesses say a metal billboard next to the feed mill was struck by lightning & then the building went up in flames. The business was abandoned years ago and bought by Jim Wolfe, a photographer who used to take photos of the building for the local newspaper.

Captain Adam Balogh was honored by the Insurance Professionals of Tulsa for his off-duty response to a motor vehicle accident in November of 2013. Captain Balogh assessed the scene, triaged the patient's for severity & was able to direct resources as they arrived to best resolve the situation.

The Barnard Elementary School, 2324 East 17th Street, caught fire shortly before 5 AM on September 5th, 2014. The school was the current home to the Tulsa School of Arts & Sciences. Eight Firefighters were injured in a series of backdraft (fire) explosions, and were treated for varying burn-related injuries to their hands, sides of their faces and lower legs. Two Firefighters suffered third degree burns and were hospitalized as a result of the three-alarm fire. The ATF Response Team was activated to assist in the Investigation. The cause of the fire was determined to be related to a construction project. Firefighters were returned to the job as they healed.

Operation Relocation was designated as the effort to move TFD Administration from One Technology Center to the Old Training Center in May 2014. The Chiefs thought it important to be more accessible. EMS was moved into the old training center/ fire station building.

Twelve cadets graduated from the Fire Academy, in June of 2014. Mayor Bartlett gave the loyalty oath.

The City Council presented a proclamation to the TFD Training Staff on June 26th 2014 to honor their hard work and dedication in training the members of the fire department.

Captain Tim Marcotte (Planning Officer) passed away unexpectedly at the age of 45, in July 2014. He was laid to rest with full TFD honors with hundreds of Firefighters in attendance. Tim was remembered as a man who loved life and had a heart big enough to carry the dream of being a firefighter. Marcotte had served for 17 years.

The City Council presented a proclamation to the members of Squad 26A, Engine 6A, Engine 5A & District 3A on August 7th for their night-time rescue of a lost woman from a steep embankment/ ledge at Turkey Mountain.

The City Council presented a proclamation to the members of E-27 & L-27 who were recognized for delivering babies in the field, separately, but on the same day.

The City Council presented a proclamation to the Engine 20C on October 2nd 2014 for resuscitating a cat following a house fire. Firefighter Quinn Wehlacz was also recognized for the rescue and resuscitation a two year old.

The Fire Department upgraded to new Survivair SCBA's in November 2014 for \$2.7 million. Each member was fitted with a new/ personal mask. The basic function was the same, but the new tanks supply more air than the smaller older tanks, and replaced those that were 15 years old. All members were required to participate in an obstacle training course. The new air-packs were purchases with monies from a 2013 bond issue.

Feodor Vandendool of the 12100 block of East 25th Street was rescued by Tulsa firefighters when a fire engulfed the bedroom of his home. Feodor happened to be the father of Captain Phil Vandendool.

Firefighters pulled two adults and three children from a burning home at 11:45 AM in the 4700 block of 33rd West Avenue. Firefighters began working urgently to resuscitate them all. As

many as 45 firefighters and other department employees worked the scene. The City Council recognized the effort with a proclamation.

The Cyano Kit was introduced in early 2015. The Cyano Kit pulls the poisons attributed to smoke inhalation out of the body's bloodstream.

The Tulsa Rotary Club named Earl Blevins as the 2015 Above and Beyond Firefighter of the Year for his service to the Make A Wish Foundation. Earl has helped at least 50 kids during his affiliation with the organization.

Tulsa reached a milestone in 2015 when Captain Greta Hurt promoted to District Chief. She was the first woman to achieve that rank. Chief Hurt achieved the recognition after serving the TFD for 17 years. The first Female Firefighters were hired in 1991.

The City Council Recognized the effort in the creation of the Tulsa Fire Museum in a proclamation dated March 17th 2015.

The ResQPump was introduced in June 2015 to complement the ResQPod.

Chief Mike Mallory was recognized as both the VFW Local & National Firefighter of the Year. Mike is also known for being the unsung hero who can always be found working on Saturdays and Sundays to help firefighters with the items they need to make it through the weekend.

Phase one of the Fire Safety Training Center was dedicated at TCC Northeast in July 2015. The opening included the center's brand-new FS101, as well as a six-story drill tower with movable doors, walls and floors, an outdoor classroom, a retention pond and a special operations building for search and rescue vehicles and hazardous material resources. Future phases of construction will add swift-water rescue training, additional burn buildings, and a railroad spur with cars and an industrial loading rack and pipeline. The Tarrant County (Texas) College Fire Service Training Center was used as a model to build the center at TCC.

Many Firefighters began participation in Fit First Responder. The program was designed by Jonathon Conneely (Coach JC) to help first responders better perform their jobs and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. Mike McClendon was the first to win the competition of weight loss, healthy eating and exercise.

EMS vending machines were installed in five fire stations. This action is expected to save 30% to 40% of normal medical supply costs by electronically tracking use of supplies.

Twenty-three people were hospitalized in October 2015, after a rash of K-2 poisonings hit Tulsa. Many were patrons of the Iron Gate Soup kitchen downtown. K-2 is synthetic marijuana.

A class of 35 cadets was the first to graduate from the new TFD/TCC Training Center. They took their oath in January 2016. The department remained 20 firefighters below its authorized strength.

Dustin Fletcher was awarded the 2016 Rotary Club Above and Beyond Firefighter of the Year. Dustin is responsible for organizing the Smoke & Gun Charity fight night. The event pits firefighters and police officers against each other in MMA style, and boxing matches. The award was special this year, as it will now honor the memory of E. Stanley Hawkins award, who was Fire Chief (1964-1985) and a former Rotarian.

Months of negotiation, planning and presentation led to the passage of the Public Safety Tax in April of 2016. The tax was a renewal of the Vision 2025 effort, and was passed overwhelmingly by voters. The proposition includes a permanent sales tax to add 65 additional Firefighters, and moving to a policy of four Firefighters per truck, add new fire stations, maintain old fire stations and complete additional phases at the TFD/ TCC Training Center.

Total response runs from 2012 to 2015 have been averaging from 54,000 to 57,000 per year. Operating budget for the department in 2012 was 70.2 million. In 2016 the budget was 70.3 million.