

# Southern Platte Fire Protection District

## **BUSINESS PLAN**

January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2018

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I wish to thank the employees for their diligence and continual review/refinement of this Business Plan. Also, a great big thank you also goes out to the Adrienne Renton and Board of Directors whom assisted with information for this document. This will be a living document and changed on an annual basis as needed to reflect the path of our department's growth and future.

Richard R. Carrizzo, CFO, MIFireE  
Fire Chief

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## SECTION I - MISSION, VISION, VALUES

### THE MISSION OF SOUTHERN PLATTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

*“We are committed to safeguarding life and property”*

- A. Our Mission** - Establishing what is truly important is the key to organizing everyday work and involving department members in a shared, committed, and continuous approach to service delivery.
1. **What business are we in?** Protecting lives, property, and the environment from fires, disasters, and emergency incidents.
  2. **Who are the customers we serve?** Unincorporated areas in the southern area of Platte County also including the Village of Farley, Waldron, Parkville, Houston Lake, Weatherby Lake and communities requesting assistance under automatic or mutual aid agreements.
  3. **What are the unique services we provide?** Education, prevention and emergency response.
    - a. Education is the first priority in developing a safe community. Awareness, self-regulation, and self-reliance are the cornerstones of a safe and healthy community.
    - b. Prevention activities provide professional guidance and oversight for processes and/or facilities, which may pose hazards. Public education and prevention programs reach over 16,000 citizens yearly.
    - c. Emergency response is the service of last resort for fires, accidents or intentional acts that threaten lives, property and the environment.
- B. Our Values**
1. Cooperation
  2. Honesty
  3. Loyalty
  4. Respect
  5. Trust
  6. Professionalism
  7. Open Communications
  8. Treat Others the Way You Want to be Treated

## **SECTION II - THE BUSINESS**

### **A. Description of Business**

1. Southern Platte Fire Protection District (SPFPD) is empowered to provide services by the Revised Statutes of Missouri, in particularly Chapter 321 Fire Protection Districts. SPFPD is responsible to the Board of Directors that are elected by the citizens of the District (see organizational chart in Appendix A). Missouri Revised Statute, Chapter 321, also governs this Board. They have the following powers, responsibilities and authorities:
  - To have perpetual existence
  - To have and use a corporate seal
  - To sue and be sued, and be a party to suits, actions and proceedings
  - To enter into contracts, franchises and agreements with any person, partnership, association or corporation, public or private, affecting the affairs of the District, including contracts with any municipality, district or state, or the United States of America, and any of their agencies, political subdivisions or instrumentalities, for the planning, development, construction, acquisition or operation of any public improvement or facility, or for a common service relating to the control or prevention of fires, including the installation, operation and maintenance of water supply distribution, fire hydrant and fire alarm systems; provided, that a notice shall be published for bids on all construction or purchase contracts for work or material or both, outside the authority contained in subdivision (9) of this section, involving an expense of ten thousand dollars or more
  - Upon approval of the voters as herein provided, to borrow money and incur indebtedness and evidence the same by certificates, notes or debentures, and to issue bonds, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter
  - To acquire, construct, purchase, maintain, dispose of and encumber real and personal property, fire stations, fire protection and fire-fighting apparatus and auxiliary equipment therefore, and any interest therein, including leases and easements
  - To refund any bonded indebtedness of the District without an election. The terms and conditions of refunding bonds shall be substantially the same as those of the original issue of bonds, and the Board shall provide for the payment of interest, at not to exceed the legal rate, and the principal of such refunding bonds in the same manner as is provided for the payment of interest and principal of bonds refunded
  - To have the management, control and supervision of all the business and affairs of the District, and the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of District improvements therein
  - To hire and retain agents, employees, engineers and attorneys, including part-time or volunteer firemen
  - To have and exercise the power of eminent domain and in the manner provided by law for the condemnation of private property for public use to

take any property within the District necessary to the exercise of the powers herein granted

- To receive and accept by bequest, gift or donation any kind of property. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any property received by the Fire Protection District as a gift or any property purchased by the Fire Protection District at a price below the actual market value of the property may be returned to the donor or resold to the seller if such property is not used for the specific purpose for which it was acquired
- To adopt and amend bylaws, fire protection and fire prevention ordinances, and any other rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and laws of this state, necessary for the carrying on of the business, objects and affairs of the Board and of the District, and refer to the proper authorities for prosecution any infraction thereof detrimental to the District. Any person violating any such ordinance is hereby declared to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as is provided by law therefore. The prosecuting attorney for the county in which the violation occurs shall prosecute such violations in the circuit court of that county. The legal officer or attorney for the Fire District may be appointed by the prosecuting attorney as special assistant prosecuting attorney for the prosecution of any such violation. The enactments of the Fire District in delegating administrative authority to officials of the District may provide standards of action for the administrative officials, which standards are declared as industrial codes adopted by nationally organized and recognized trade bodies
- To pay all court costs and expenses connected with the first election or any subsequent election in the District
- To have and exercise all rights and powers necessary or incidental to or implied from the specific powers granted herein. Such specific powers shall not be considered as a limitation upon any power necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and intent of this chapter
- To provide for health, accident, disability and pension benefits for the salaried members of its organized fire department of the District and such other benefits for their spouses and eligible unemancipated children, through either or both a contributory or noncontributory plan. For purposes of this section, "eligible unemancipated child" means a natural or adopted child of an insured, or a stepchild of an insured who is domiciled with the insured, who is less than twenty-three years of age, who is not married, not employed on a full-time basis, not maintaining a separate residence except for full-time students in an accredited school or institution of higher learning, and who is dependent on parents or guardians for at least fifty percent of his or her support. The type and amount of such benefits shall be determined by the Board of Directors of the Fire Protection District within the level of available revenues of the pension program and other available revenues of the District. If an employee contributory plan is adopted, then at least one voting member of the Board of Trustees shall be a member of the Fire District elected by the contributing members, which shall not be the same as the Board of Directors

- To contract with any municipality that is contiguous to a fire protection district for the Fire Protection District to provide fire protection to the municipality for a fee as hereinafter provided
  - To provide for life insurance, accident, sickness, health, disability, annuity, length of service, pension, retirement and other employee-type fringe benefits, subject to the provisions of section 70.615, RSMo, for the volunteer members of any organized fire department of the District and such other benefits for their spouses and eligible unemancipated children, through either a contributory or noncontributory plan, or both. The type and amount of such benefits shall be determined by the board of directors of the Fire Protection District within available revenues of the District, including the pension program of the District. The provision and receipt of such benefits shall not make the recipient an employee of the District. Directors who are also volunteer members may receive such benefits while serving as a director of the District
  - To contract for services with any rural, volunteer or subscription fire department or organization, or volunteer fire protection association, as defined in section 320.300, RSMo, for the purpose of providing the benefits described in subdivision (17) of this section
2. Territory included in SPFPD: Any property, whether incorporated or unincorporated, is included in the Fire District boundaries.
  3. Contract to provide services outside SPFPD: A property owner, township, or city may contract services with the Fire District by formal petition. Presently the District has a service contract Weatherby Lake Fire Protection District. The entity is charged the same tax rates as the citizens of SPFPD.
  4. Overview of Funding:

The Fire District formulates its budget within the targeted budget guidelines as set forth by the Board of Directors. SPFPD utilizes the following guidelines in preparing an annual budget:

- Budgets are formulated on a cash basis of accounting.
- Budget requests are cost based, utilizing past financial history and projected needs.
- Annual operating budgets are adopted for the Fire District.
- Revenues are generally derived from taxes, with a small portion of revenues derived from contracts services and fees.

SPFPD is responsible for submitting an annual, cost center based budget.

The Fire Chief relies on management staff for annual budget inputs. The senior staff is comprised of the 3 Division Chiefs and 3 Battalion Chiefs.

Senior staff is responsible for recommending new programs and associated costs, additional personnel, and any additional equipment needed that can be funded out of the regular operations budget. Senior staff also recommends supplemental requests (one-time funding requests from the County's general fund).

The budget process begins in June with request to the management staff. The preliminary budget is completed by August and a tax hearing is set and implemented. The tax hearing is a requirement of the State and the appropriate paperwork is filed with the State Auditor, through Platte County's Clerk. The Auditor will certify the tax rates and provides the District with a Certification Letter of the tax rates for the following year. In November a formal presentation, with a financial forecast for the upcoming budget year is given to the Board of Directors for adoption. Included in the budget is a revolving Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). During the November meeting the CIP is also adopted. In February of the following year, a year-end revised CIP is presented to the Board for adoption.

4. The Fire District is recognized for its readiness to respond to requests for assistance. Services are provided in suburban, rural, and light industrial areas. Platte County and other communities have traditionally supported fire safety as a matter of high priority.
5. Public fire services are not "for profit" enterprises. The service is provided as a community defense against catastrophic loss and suffering.
6. Emergency response services are available 24-hours every day. Other related services provided to the community are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and by special appointment.
7. Fires, emergency medical incidents, and other public service requests occur throughout the year. Our business is not generally perceived as seasonal; however, requests for services may vary with the seasons. In winter, there is a high call volume associated with the use of heating appliances and weather related hazards. During the summer months, designated as the "fire season" natural cover fires and water related emergencies typically present a significant hazard.
8. SPFPD is recognized for seeking innovative and cost effective ways to deliver services. Personnel in the department are indoctrinated to a performance oriented, "can-do, open" work culture. A cooperative management style has resulted in a collaborative labor-management relationship.
9. SPFPD is differentiated from other local fire agencies by its continued practice of Values-Based® Leadership and openness.
10. SPFPD provides regional hazardous materials response and is teamed with North Kansas City Fire Department to form the Northland Fire Chiefs Council

Hazardous Materials Team to 3 counties in the northland area of the region. The team is one of eight regional Hazardous Material Teams. The region is made up of nine counties and 119 cities in the bi-state metropolitan Kansas City region. The Mid-America Regional Council, commonly referred to as MARC, serves as the association of city and county governments and the metropolitan planning organization for the bi-state Kansas City region. The team is also designated as a Missouri State Hazardous Materials Response Team for Homeland Security.

## **B. Customer Service**

SPFPD has identified customer service as a top priority. Each personal contact is an opportunity to interact and provide a positive experience for the person who requests service.

1. SPFPD serves a variety of customers who have divergent and, at times, contradictory needs. SPFPD often has to deliver a service that reflects a balance between demands and staff/fiscal resources. Customers include:
  - a. A wide variety of external customers including the general public, property owners, occupants, patients, appointed and elected officials, etc.
  - b. Customers internal to the organization who receive services to support their functional needs.
2. Customer Relationship:

The relationship between SPFPD and customers varies with the services provided. Public Education personnel present information to improve awareness and self-reliance. A goal is to provide a positive experience through introducing and reinforcing fire and life safety messages. Fire Prevention personnel serve as advocates for the community at large. The regulatory nature of the service often impacts the customer; therefore, Fire Prevention must actively promote and “sell” the fire code, as adapted by each local jurisdiction, to businesses and developers. Under emergency conditions, personnel are immediately available to provide a service of last resort to protect lives and property. Often, emergency services are provided during times of personal grief or vulnerability. Therefore responders demonstrate their compassion as determined by the needs of the customer(s).

3. Customer Services Plan:

SPFPD adopted a Customer Service Plan for all of its personnel and the community. The plan is divided into functional areas; Public Releases, Schools, Community, Health and Welfare, Internal Customers and Partnerships. From the functional divisions it is further broken down into a level of priority, then into the financial impact to the District and its citizens.

## C. Products/Services Provided

### 1. Public Education

SPFPD operates an innovative public education program that encompasses school children, individual adult citizens, the elderly, community service organizations and businesses. This effort involves Fire District staff.

The Fire Prevention Division has the primary responsibility for the coordination and delivery of public education programs. One full-time Public Education Officer oversees the research, development and coordination of community outreach programs presented by all Fire District personnel. All personnel share the responsibility for conducting fire station tours, presenting fire safety programs, smoke detector and battery installation, address sign implementation, as well as numerous community events including safety fairs, health and safety clinics, seasonal festivals and career fairs.

The Fire Prevention Division is in charge of maintaining training aids available to all personnel. The audio-visual equipment, videos, brochures, handout materials, air packs, and numerous other materials are made available to personnel during the delivery of all programs. The Fire Prevention Division owns a “Safety House” Trailer that is used to present hands-on training for children of all ages on the proper safety techniques and escape plans in a home.

The FIREHOUSE® reporting system is crucial in assisting the Fire Prevention Division in determining high-risk groups, which, in-turn, allows staff to develop public education programs to assist in educating high risk audiences.

Requests for specific public education programs and community participation are received from the public through the Fire Prevention Division. Fire District personnel make every effort to respond to each request. Some popular annual activities are: July 4<sup>th</sup> Activities, Parkville’s Food Festival, and Thousand Oaks’ Festival. Neighborhood associations invite local fire station personnel to block parties and Homeowner Association meetings. Participation in community festivals keeps SPFPD crews busy in the spring, summer, and fall.

The FIREHOUSE® reporting system allows documentation of involvement in community events, training classes, and public education. Monthly reports are generated and records are maintained outlining the number of community service program contacts made, along with the number of children and adults reached each month.

## 2. Fire Prevention/ Life Safety

SPFPD enforces the 2003 International Fire Code (IFC) adopted by the Board of Directors. In 1999 a partnership was developed with the City of Parkville and Platte County for each of the three entities to work together and adopt the current Fire Codes. All cities have adopted the 2003 IFC.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, the 2006 Life Safety Code, the 2003 International Building Code and other nationally recognized standards are heavily relied on by SPFPD to support a comprehensive fire prevention/life safety effort. It implements its responsibilities through an integrated inspection, education, and code compliance structure. The ultimate goals are to prevent and/or control risks and protect the lives and property of its citizens.

The City of Parkville and District are both in the implementation process to adopt and enforce the 2012 International Fire Code, 2012 Life Safety Code and 2012 International Building Code in early 2014.

## 3. Fire Suppression

SPFPD maintains an adequate complement of staff, supplies, equipment, and apparatus to perform effective fire suppression in the jurisdictions it is committed to serve. The FIREHOUSE® database is utilized to monitor critical parameters related to fire suppression performance. Data is utilized to define areas of improvement and make subsequent revisions to Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's). SPFPD utilizes its Strategic Plan as a document to provide an adequate, effective and efficient fire suppression program within the fiscal restraints mandated by the governing body.

A standard first alarm response for a single-family residence consists of two pumpers, one aerial ladder, one rapid intervention team, two thermal imaging cameras, one staffing unit, one battalion chief and one ALS transport unit. This brings a minimum of 20 emergency response personnel to the scene. The incident commander, usually a battalion chief, has the prerogative to request additional resources as conditions warrant. Implemented in 2006, an auto-aid agreement was entered into with Kansas City Fire Department (KCFD). On all second alarm activations, an additional two pumpers, one aerial ladder, Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), one heavy rescue and one additional battalion chief. This will bring an additional 20 firefighters to the scene. All SPFPD personnel utilize the Incident Management System (IMS) to manage and mitigate all natural or man-made emergencies.

Daily emergency response staffing consists of eleven (11) career fire personnel on a 24-hour shift assignment, operating twelve (12) pieces of first-line apparatus, plus one battalion chief command vehicle out of four (4) fire stations. Several of

the twelve apparatus are cross-staffed by station personnel to provide enough flexibility to ensure an adequate standard of cover.

Apparatus staffing typically consists of three personnel (one officer, two firefighters) per engine or aerial, two personnel (one officer, one firefighter) on water tankers or brush units. Command staff vehicles and the mobile air truck are each staffed by one person.

#### 4. Fire Investigation

There is an effective program to investigate and determine the origin and cause of incidents which may endanger life and/or property. Certified fire/arson investigators are the core of the program. They work directly under the Prevention Division. In cooperation with the fire ground company officer, these individuals determine the origin and cause of fires when requested or when critical incidents occur. SPFPD fire investigators are certified by the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office as a "Fire Investigator." Investigations are conducted under the auspices of NFPA 921, *Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations*. NFPA 921 is a nationally recognized standard for investigators across the nation. The purpose of NFPA 921 is to establish guidelines and recommendations for the safe, systematic investigation and analysis of fire and explosion incidents. Fire investigation analysis and the accurate determination of causes of fires are fundamental to the protection of lives and property.

#### 5. Rescue/Extrication

Three SPFPD pumpers carry hydraulic rescue equipment and all personnel receive regular training in its use. In addition, two pumpers carry pneumatic bags capable of lifting several tons. These tools are indispensable in extricating victims from traffic accidents and industrial mishaps. All responses to extrication/rescue incidents typically include two pumpers and one battalion chief, as a minimum.

#### 6. Emergency Medical Services

SPFPD provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) first response medical care to the citizens of SPFPD. Medical responses comprise less than 50% of total alarm volume.

All SPFPD firefighters must be certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) by the State of Missouri upon their hiring. SPFPD operates all of its vehicles (engines, aerials, utility vehicles and tankers), which can function as medical first response units. SPFPD has approximately 90% members (100% of paid members) trained and certified at the EMT level, ten (10) at the Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate level and six (6) members at the Medical Intensive Care Technician (MICT) level.

## 7. Hazardous Materials Emergency Response

The Hazardous Materials/Terrorism Response Team (HMRT) mitigates hazardous material (HazMat) incidents. It operates according to guidelines specified in the Fire District's Standards of Coverage document. The HMRT is funded and overseen by Northland Fire Chief's Council and SPFPD. SPFPD HMRT operates one of two units for Northland Fire Chief's, in a three County area. The Northland Team is one of eight (8) metropolitan regional Hazardous Material/Terrorism Teams. Staffing for the HMRT consists of members from SPFPD; approximately five technicians are allocated per shift. There are additional personnel in each organization who are trained to the technician level. With the exception of civilian staff, all SPFPD personnel are trained to the minimum of HazMat "operations level."

Equipment used by the HMRT includes similarly equipped vehicles (Haz Mat 64) in the Northland. Each of the Northland vehicles carry electronic monitoring equipment, color-metric tubes (for detecting specific gases), and various detection strips, papers, and kits. Each unit also carries specialized tools, decontamination equipment, computers, reference libraries, over pack equipment, absorbents, communication equipment, and pneumatic pumps. Also included are Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)'s, Level A, B, & C personal protective equipment and auxiliary power generators. In addition to the five units in the Northland, the comprehensive resources of the organizations and County Emergency Managers are available. These include water tankers, air and light trucks, water tankers with foam capabilities, technical rescue vehicles, boats, command vehicles and aerial trucks. Through an automatic aid agreement with KCFD an additional foam truck, HazMat response Unit, and technicians and specialists are also available.

The two Counties span 792 square miles and cover a population of approximately 215,650 people. The response area consists of three major hospitals with over 760 beds. These hospitals serve most counties in Northern Missouri for specialized needs, including trauma and hazardous material problems. In addition, the two counties have over 1,000 miles of roadways, the second largest rail yard in the State of Missouri, with 500 miles of track and 3,000 rail cars daily. The Missouri River also travels approximately 30 miles through the two counties with barge traffic. Additional exposures to hazardous materials may occur due to transportation in over-the-road vehicles.

HMRT members are encouraged to continually advance their training. SPFPD supports their attendance at National Fire Academy (NFA) to take advanced courses.

## 8. Emergency/Disaster Management

SPFPD personnel staff the Platte County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and coordinate with the various other agencies during man-made or natural disasters. SPFPD's Fire Chief or his designee is the Representative for Fire/Hazardous Materials in the Platte County EOC. The Region and County use WebEOC as the data software and we are equipped for hookup immediately, including after hours, if called upon.

## 9. Administrative Services

The Administration Division is responsible for the day-to-day business operation of SPFPD. Regular administrative hours are 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday with the exception of recognized holidays. It is almost impossible to accurately describe the wide variety of duties performed by the Administration Division. However, the following are key functions performed by the Administration Division:

- The creation of clerical documents
- Coordinating the dissemination of inter- and intra- Fire District correspondence
- Coordinating the scheduling of meetings
- Recording and transcription of formal meetings
- Bi-weekly review and maintenance of payroll activities
- Tracking of capital equipment acquisitions
- Fire District representation before meetings of the Board of Directors of the Fire District
- Perform FIREHOUSE® data analysis as requested
- Coordinating personnel uniform requests
- Maintenance and tracking of personnel records
- Coordinating supply and equipment requisitions

## 10. Support Services

Support services include maintenance of facilities, apparatus, equipment and supplies to successfully perform job assignments and maintain a healthy and safe working environment. A Division Chief oversees these services.

## 11. Employee Safety

SPFPD is proactive in promoting safety in all aspects of its operations. The Safety Committee reviews all incidents involving personnel injury or property loss/damage. Each incident is determined to be preventable or non-preventable. The Division Chief of Training oversees these services.

## **G. Service Benefits**

1. Community based programs are designed to meet the needs of each Fire District community. Examples include: School Partnerships, Business Partnerships, Blood Pressure Program, Fire Safety talks to schools and senior citizen groups, Fire Safety House visits and participation in community block parties and other community events.
2. The Fire District performs all administrative duties thus reducing the many different needs of cities to expend resources required to operate their own fire department.

## **E. The Market**

### **1. Target Markets**

Communities served by the Fire District include: unincorporated Platte County, the cities of Parkville, Waldron, Weatherby Lake, Houston Lake and Village of Farley.

### **2. Service limits**

The Fire District has many mutual aid agreements with communities outside of the Fire District and an automatic aid agreement with the City of Kansas City. The Fire District also is a member of the Northland Fire Chiefs Council Hazardous Materials/Terrorism Team and responds, along with other departments, as a contingent to many communities in Platte and Clay counties, along with responding with the State of Missouri when requested.

The automatic aid agreement with Kansas City Fire Department provides automatic response to one another's emergencies depending on which agency has the closest unit to respond. The benefit to the citizens is that they receive quicker service to their emergencies with like trainer personnel. The two entities continually train together and respond to each other's service needs, as if there are no actual boundaries'. The benefit to each agency is the need to not have additional expenses for services that maybe needed.

### **3. Service Demand**

The Fire District has maintained land area and service population over its inspection. However, there is always a threat of the surrounding cities of Kansas City and Riverside to possibly annex areas of unincorporated Platte County. This creates the possibility of less land mass, population and tax revenue. Although, combined with the fact that cities within the Fire District are growing quickly shows promise of an expanded population within the Fire District in the coming

years. The need for additional fire stations and personnel will become a priority as this growth continues. It will also require growth of the Fire Prevention Division.

## **H. Our Partners**

It is the intent of SPFPD to maintain a cooperative working relationship with all service providers. At the same time, we recognize that provision of some services is competitive. Local fire jurisdictions enjoy exclusive operating areas while local or county governments determine provisions of service.

1. Fire protection services in Platte County, as outlined in Missouri State Statute, can be provided within a community's jurisdictional boundaries or through contract with the fire department of another jurisdiction or a private-sector emergency response contractor.
2. The Kansas City Fire Department (KCFD) maintains an automatic aid agreement with SPFPD that allows the closest unit(s) to respond to emergencies regardless of boundaries. Additionally, the seven (7) fire protection districts maintain an automatic aid agreement for water tanker/tender response. Areas are outlined that automatically dispatches "x" number of water tanker/tenders to reported structure fires in other jurisdictions.
3. An important factor in attempting to distinguish how various levels of government are accountable in the community is one of "local control." One measure of control is how money is spent to carry out the priorities of the community. At the city levels, various departments, including: police, fire, public works, etc. - compete with each other for available funds. In contrast, SPFPD is a single service provider, using all its financial resources to meet the fire protection and first responder emergency medical needs of each community and area served.
4. Successful fire service providers appear to have five primary features in common. They have:
  - adequate funding,
  - adequate staffing, either with volunteer, paid or a combination of the two,
  - collaborative labor-management relations,
  - customer service orientation, and a
  - perceived leadership status in service innovation.

Less successful fire agencies generally suffer from:

- inadequate funding, which limits resources for programs and restricts staffing options,
- lack of volunteer participation for volunteer and combination departments,
- labor strife and/or restrictive contract language that may limit an organization's ability to be competitive and implement change,
- failure to relate to customers, who ultimately determine the quality of service,

- lack of leadership or innovation, which can cause poor morale and stagnation.
5. SPFPD is successful because of regional economies of scale, flexibility in the provision of services, a well-trained work force, ability to establish and maintain corporate relationships with its customers, and a strong foundation of organizational and leadership values.
  6. The greatest challenge to SPFPD lies in maintaining a delicate balance of goodwill between its various partner agencies. Individual contracting cities may opt to provide fire services through other means, disrupting a regional continuity and uniformity of service. Additionally, cities under SPFPD jurisdiction may place singular demands upon the Fire District, compromising regional economies of scale.

### **SECTION III - KEY FACTS**

#### **A. Budget Description**

1. Overview
  - a. SPFPD is comprised of four (4) fire stations, three (3) of which are staffed 24 hours a day and located throughout the Fire District. There are nineteen (19) cities/villages within Platte County; five (5) are in the Fire District. SPFPD serves a response area of approximately 76 square miles and approximately 37,000 citizens.
  - b. Personnel costs to support 43 full-time positions are SPFPD's largest expense. A strategic goal is to continue to work through the budgetary process in order to provide total staffing, which will represent an increase of 3.0 FTE's, Firefighter positions to continue meeting NFPA Standards, with 4-person pumpers. For 2014, personnel costs have also been adjusted for an increase in the employer's portion of the Retirement System rate from 13.0% to 13.75%. The second largest expenditure category, contractual services, includes operating costs related to administrative and fleet management fees, utilities, telephone services, property insurance, facility repair, and travel.
  - c. SPFPD is supported by a Fire District-wide property tax. In 2014, the tax levy rate will be \$0.9257 per one hundred dollars assessed valuation. An additional rate of .0865 is also assessed for debt service. The rate was lowered to meet the State's requirement under the Hancock Amendment.
2. Administration
  - a. Fire Administration provides command and control for all Fire District services and programs. Staff is also responsible for conducting program

- b. The largest administrative expenditure categories include budget authority for administrative and fleet charges, insurance, utility services, and budget authority reserved in case of a large-scale emergency. The current capital outlay category includes the four subcategories, apparatus replacement, building/facility, communications and emergency account.
- c. The budgeted expenditure in the debt service account includes the payment on the bonds. On August 1, 1985, the District issued \$675,000 General Obligation Fire Protection Bonds from an approved amount of \$875,000 in April 1985, leaving \$200,000 still available to be issued. In August 1997 the remaining \$200,000 were issued. This was completed at a 4.73% rate. July 20, 1999 the remaining debt from the issuance in August 1997 was combined with the April 6, 1999 passage of \$3,875,000 General Obligation Fire Protection Bonds. In December 2013 the Board refinanced the bonds which increased the savings percentage to 4.32% with a present value of \$102,359.30 saving to the citizens of the District.

### 3. Maintenance

All work on SPFPD fire apparatus is contracted out to outside agencies that employ certified fire apparatus mechanics. Presently there are two maintenance shops in the region. Light work, such as light bulb replacement is completed in house. Nevertheless, apparatus maintenance, equipment maintenance and air compressor maintenance consume a portion of the Fire District's budget within Maintenance.

### 4. Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention establishes policies and procedures for interpreting and enforcing building and fire codes, fire safety evaluations of all buildings, public education, and investigation of incendiary or suspicious fire causes. This program also participates in the apprehension and prosecution of individuals suspected of arson.

### 5. Training

The Training Division conducts fire safety training for various industries, businesses and the schools throughout the Fire District and Platte County. This program is also responsible for maintaining a well-trained workforce that adheres to generally accepted safety procedures.

The Southern Platte Fire Protection District Training Center falls within the Training Division and continues to provide training in the region for a fee.

The revenue generated for SPTC is used to off-set the SPFPD training budget. Each year the goal is to reduce this expenditure from the budget and replace it with additional revenue from SPTC.

## **B. Accomplishments**

SPFPD personnel take great pride in their organization and its accomplishments. The following list highlights some specific points of pride:

1. Services
  - a. SPFPD reduced its Insurance Service Office (ISO) Rating by 2 points in 1999, to a Classification of 4.
  - b. SPFPD is a leader in emergency medical services. Since 1995, it has required that all personnel hold and maintain licenses as a Missouri Certified EMT. SPFPD, as a first responder agency, participates as one of the essential components of the Emergency Medical Services System of the region.
  - c. In 2010, the State of Missouri EMS partnered with Southern Platte Fire District and held its pilot course for Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate, in which ten (10) employees were licensed to this advance level.
  - d. An additional six (6) employees have advanced to the paramedic level, allowing the District to provide Advance Life Support (ALS) services to the District on a daily basis.
  - e. In 2009 the District received certification to become a State EMS Training Entity and received certification again in 2013, for an additional 5 years.
  - f. The Fire Prevention Division is the investigative, enforcement and educational arm of SPFPD.
  - g. In a partnership with the Northland Fire Chief's Council, SPFPD provides critical support as part of the Northland Hazardous Materials Team, one of eight teams in the UASI Region.
  - h. As one of two Tanker/Foam response units, the SPFPD has become a specialist in providing rural water resources.
  - i. Full data and communication integration was achieved and continues as a valuable resource with the Kansas City Fire Department Communications Center.
2. Personnel
  - a. Employees of the Fire District believe in, and enjoy, a collaborative labor/management relationship.
  - b. The employees have all participated in setting and continuing the strong organizational values and culture of the organization, which is non-traditional for the fire service.
  - c. Fire District personnel have been actively involved in the development and maintenance of programs including SCBA repair, apparatus design, physical fitness, benefit development, research and development, to name a few.
  - d. Fire District personnel take pride in a professional image. Positive perceptions of the organization play an important part in establishing and

maintaining credibility with the public and allied emergency service providers.

3. Resources

- a. The Fire District takes great pride in its fleet of emergency response apparatus. The vehicles incorporate state-of-the-art features. They are equipped and maintained to meet the variety of challenges faced by light industry, suburban, rural and wildland service areas. Apparatus specifications are determined by committee, which is composed of two members of administration, three from the union (one member from each shift) and 1 member representing the volunteer division.
- b. A computer network provides an information link to facilitate reporting and communication to all levels within the organization. E-mail, departmental folders, Internet/intranet access and a multi-layered computer programs help facilitate communication, data collection and even precipitates training and testing.
- c. Fire stations are strategically located in order to provide maximal benefit to Southern Platte County citizens. Location factors include population, response time and driving distance requirements as recommended by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Demographic information based on projected growth is periodically reviewed in order to determine ideal sites for future fire station locations.

## **SECTION IV - BENCHMARKS, GOALS AND STRATEGIES**

### **A. Benchmarks**

1. **PERFORMANCE MEASURE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE:** The Fire District has established a response time goal (measured from enroute time to arrival time) of less than seven minutes, District wide, 80% of the time, for all emergency medical responses.
2. **PERFORMANCE MEASURE FOR FIRE RESPONSE:** The Fire District has established a response time goal (measured from enroute time to arrival time) of less than seven minutes, District wide, 80% of the time, for all emergency fire responses.

### **B. Strategic Directional Statements/Goals**

The SPFPD is committed to the following long and short-term directional goals:

- The District will work to improve efficiencies and processes.
- To strengthen relationships with customers (internal/external) and other outside groups.

- To improve our community service programs through public education activities, prevention, community planning, and fire investigation.
- To improve personnel readiness, career growth, organizational safety, and effectiveness through the Southern Platte Training Center.
- To continually improve professional service delivery to our customers.
- Ensure that the District is expanding its organizational readiness through all current and future business activities.
- Exceed the customers', public, and District employees' expectations.

### **C. Strategies**

1. Projected FY 2013-2014 Changes  
The 2014 adopted budget for the SPFPD has been approved at \$4,468,347. This reflects a .2% increase over the 2013 budget. This increase is mainly attributed to a reassessment of our contract city, Weatherby Lake.
2. Projected FY 2014-2018 Changes  
SPFPD is projecting a small to moderate growth over the next five years. Growth in the Fire District will assist in maintaining the tax levy base, while increasing the revenue in order to assist in providing additional services. During the past economic challenges, the District continued to have a small amount of growth, without every decreasing in revenue.

## **SECTION V - HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

### **A. Formation -**

Before 1948, fire protection outside the City of Parkville limits was virtually nonexistent. Besides the inherent risk that fire posed to lives and property, the lack of fire service resulted in exorbitant insurance premiums.

The Parkville Volunteer Fire Department was organized and began operation in 1948 with the passage of a bond issue that allowed them to purchase a 1948 International fire truck and a new city hall/fire station on land donated by Park College (University) at the junction of First Street and Highway 9. Construction was completed with the volunteer firefighters.

Through the years the name changed a few times and the coverage area increased. In 1976, the South Platte Fire and Rescue Department became Southern Platte Fire Protection District. New stations were built and rented and new trucks were purchased for the growing Fire District.

Since then, continued population growth has resulted in subsequent growth and change within SPFPD. See Appendix B for further historical data.

## **B. Governance and Authority -**

SPFPD was duly constituted by action of the Firefighter's Association. The members believed that an affirmative vote was needed to establish a Fire District. The District was established in 1976 by virtue of State Statute Chapter 321 and all supplements to the general statutes of the State of Missouri.

## **SECTION VI – PHYSICAL RESOURCES**

### **A. Facilities** (See Appendix C for detailed information)

1. Station 1, 8799 River Park, Parkville, houses Pumper 61, one utility unit and one water/ice boat and is staffed daily by a captain and two firefighters.
2. Station 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main Street, Farley, houses two pieces of equipment: Pumper 62 and reserve pumper 6x. Station 2 is not staffed.
3. Station 3, 10811 NW 45 Highway, Parkville. Station 3 houses five pieces of equipment: Truck 63, Ladder 63, Tanker 63, Car 65, and Brush 63. Station 3 is staffed daily by a battalion chief, captain and three firefighters.
4. Station 4, 8795 NW Highway N, houses seven pieces of equipment: Pumper 64, Tanker 64, Brush 64, Haz Mat 64, the mobile air supply unit, Boat 64 and one utility unit. Station 4 is staffed daily by a captain and two firefighters. The administrative offices and personnel also share this station along with the SPTC Tower.

### **B. Apparatus** (See Appendix D for detailed information)

SPFPD maintains a vast array of emergency apparatus to cope with common and sometimes unorthodox emergencies. Other apparatus range from specialized emergency equipment to vehicles that are utilitarian in nature.

1. Pumpers – A pumper, also known as an engine, is the day-to-day workhorse of SPFPD. Each one is equipped with a pump, a water tank, a complement of ladders, and of thousands of feet of hose.
2. Tankers – A tanker is the water hauling backbone of SPFPD in rural areas. Each tanker is equipped with a pump, a large water tank, a complement of ladders and portable folding tanks. The portable tank is a small, temporary reservoir from which an engine can draft water and pump through hoses.

3. Brush Unit – A brush unit is the most versatile and most often used apparatus for natural cover fires in the SPFPD. Each brush unit is equipped with a 250 GPM pump, 300 feet of hose, a 300 gallon water tank, emergency medical equipment and miscellaneous hand tools. All are off-road capable with four-wheel drive.
4. Specialty Apparatus – See Appendix D.
5. Reserve Apparatus – SPFPD maintains one engine as a reserve apparatus. Pumpers are replaced at after 10 years of service and then are placed into reserve status for 5 years. Units are equipped similarly to front-line apparatus and can be placed into service at a moment's notice.
6. Staff and Command Vehicles – SPFPD also has a fleet of various pickups, SUVs and other vehicles for administration, fire prevention, operations and other staff personnel.
7. Maintenance - Fire apparatus and staff vehicles are maintained by external agencies that have certified fire mechanics and provide full-service for any type of repair. The fire mechanics are skilled at engine, pump, and small equipment repair. In addition, the mechanics fabricate many of the special appliances and associated hardware used in the fire apparatus. Pump testing and preventative maintenance are completed in compliance with state and federal requirements and recommended standards.

### **C. Other Resources**

1. Tools and Small Equipment - All apparatus carry various types and quantities of tools and equipment based upon the projected types of alarms. Each apparatus has a list of required tools and small equipment which must be carried on the vehicle. The components comprising this list meet or exceed the requirements of the NFPA. All apparatus have the tools and equipment necessary to meet their operational objectives. All similar apparatus carry a standard inventory of tools and equipment. An SCBA is provided for each member assigned to an apparatus, and each member has a personal breathing mask assigned to him/her. Each front-line unit, three pumpers and ladder truck, also carries a hydraulic extrication tool and supplies, thermal imaging camera and 4-gas meter.
2. Water Supply – The Fire District interacts with numerous water departments that provide water for fire protection. Agencies which provide water are: Missouri-American Water, Water District #6, Water District #1 and Water District #10, City of Weatherby Lake, City of Huston Lake. Additionally included is the City of Kansas City water system.

Some of these communities obtain water from the City of Kansas City; others are dependent upon their own systems.

The rural areas are supplied/supplemented by hauled water in the Fire District's tanker trucks. Fill points such as ponds, creeks, streams, wet/dry hydrants and flush valves are available throughout Platte County and the District.

As the towns and cities in the Fire District continue to expand so does community pressurized water systems. The working relationships between SPFPD and the agencies continue to strengthen with each project and day.

3. Communications – Kansas City Fire Department Communications Center (KCFDCC) provides primary, integrated communications support for 3 fire and EMS service agencies in Platte, Clay, Clay County, Jackson County, and Cass counties. The KCFDCC serves as a secondary PSAP, receiving their E911 calls primarily as transfers from Primary PSAPs in the region. The KCFDCC is staffed by communications personnel trained in both Fire and EMS disciplines. The KCFDCC is located at the Technical Services Bureau at 6750 Eastwood Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64129, It contains 14 radio consoles all of which could be in service at the same time during peak times.

Consoles are dedicated to dispatching Fire and EMS units assigned to the Kansas City Fire Department, Southern Platte Fire Protection District and Raytown Fire Protection District. The center also notifies other fire agencies of which have auto-aid agreements with them. The center, through use of the CAD system, utilizes a WestNet Station Alerting System to dispatch all units based on vehicle location via GIS for a closest/fastest response. All phone line and radio traffic in the KCFDCC is recorded.

SPFPD has the capability of being notified of alarms and or communication through the use of: 1) portable, mobile, and base station radios, 2) mobile data terminals in Fire Apparatus, 3) station printers with detailed cal information 4) land line and mobile telephones as well as 5) alphanumeric pagers and text messages.

Each station has a hardwired phone line which is provided by the District. This is a secondary means of notification in the event that the radio system goes down or does not work properly. All stations are interconnected via its private network, of which is also connected to the KCFDCC and is the primary connection for emergency alerting.

4. Information Management Systems - Office systems are developed and managed according to the IT Plan that SPFPD has in place, in accordance with policies and procedures established by the District. Communication systems are in place district wide, including a Local Area Network (LAN) system that supports data and e-mail transmissions, and a state-of-the-art telephone network. PC-based office systems are in use district wide; the generally used software package is Microsoft Office®. SPFPD has implemented the software program, FIREHOUSE®, to track, store and retrieve data related to Fire District operations.
5. Training - Training and subsequent staff competencies are insured through an integrated program of formal and informal educational programs. Formal training takes place in the Firefighter I and II categories through program curricula

developed by the Missouri University Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MFRTI). Other formal training is provided by local, regional, or national agencies, i.e., junior colleges, four-year universities, NFPA courses, the National Fire Academy, etc. A formal training schedule is maintained on SPFPD Internet system for all to view. Informal training is presented in individual stations by the station captain. Competency measurement is performed through peer inputs and a formal review process on a monthly basis and in conjunction with annual performance reviews. All new employees complete a formal testing process, evaluating their knowledge, skills and abilities each 6 months, for their first two years of employment. Each fire station has a text and video library from which training curricula can be developed. Likewise station personnel can use it for independent study. The Training Division also maintains a more comprehensive library at SPFPD Headquarters. Items may be checked out through the Division Chief of Training.

## **SECTION VII – MANAGEMENT**

### **A. Administration** (See Appendix E for biographies of Administrative Staff)

1. Nelson Hopper, Board of Director President
2. Gary Judd, Board of Director Treasurer
3. Michael Newburger, Board of Director Secretary
4. Richard R. Carrizzo, Fire Chief
5. David Rierson, Division Chief Training
6. Dean L. Cull, Division Chief Prevention
7. Adrienne Renton, Administrative Assistant

# GLOSSARY

**Adopt-A-School** – A mentoring program offered by individual station crews and monitored by Fire Prevention.

**Aerial** – Fire apparatus equipped with an elevating ladder and/or platform.

**BLS** – Basic Life Support.

**BOD** – Board of Directors

**Brush** – Fire apparatus specially designed to fight wildland/natural cover fires.

**CAD** – Computer Aided Dispatch

**Citizen** - A resident who lives within Southern Platte Fire Protection District.

**Customer** – Anyone, internally or externally, that we may reach out and provide a service to.

**EMT** – Emergency Medical Technician.

**Engine** – Fire apparatus equipped with a pump, water tank, ladders and fire hose.

**EOC** – Emergency Operations Center.

**Fire District** – This refers to Southern Platte Fire Protection District.

**Fire Prevention** – A division within SPFPD charged with public education, code enforcement, plans review and fire cause investigation.

**Fire Safety House** – A portable, trailer for teaching fire escape plans using a more realistic setting.

**FIREHOUSE®** - A commercial software program used by SPFPD for data collection and analysis.

**HazMat** – Hazardous Materials.

**HazMat Operations Level** – A firefighter capable of recognizing and identifying hazardous materials.

**HazMat Technician Level** – A firefighter capable of mitigating hazmat incidents.

**HMRT** – Hazardous Materials Response Team.

**ICS** – Incident Command System.

**IFC** – International Fire Code.

**IMS** – Incident Management System

**Incident Commander** – The person in charge of an emergency operation.

**ISO** – Insurance Services Office.

**KCFD** – Kansas City Fire Department

**KCFDCC** – Kansas City Fire Department Communications Center

**Ladder** - Fire apparatus similar to an engine, but also equipped with an elevating master stream device.

**Level A, B & C Personal Protective Equipment** – Different levels of hazmat protective clothing relative to the hazard. Level C is the least level of protection; level A, the highest.

**MICT** – Mobile Intensive Care Technician.

**Mobile Air and Light** – Specialized apparatus for refilling air bottles and for lighting large areas.

**NFA** – National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg Maryland.

**NFPA** – National Fire Protection Association

**PCECC** – Platte County Emergency Communications Center

**Public Education** – A branch of the Fire Prevention Division.

**Pumper** - Fire apparatus equipped with a pump, water tank, ladders and fire hose.

**Quint** – Fire apparatus similar to an engine, but also equipped with an elevating nozzle.

**SCBA** – Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

**SPFPD** – Southern Platte Fire Protection District

**SPTC** - Southern Platte Fire Protection District

**SOC** – Standards of Coverage.

**SOG** – Standard Operating Guideline.

**Technical Rescue** – A specialized rescue group capable of handling difficult or prolonged rescue operations.

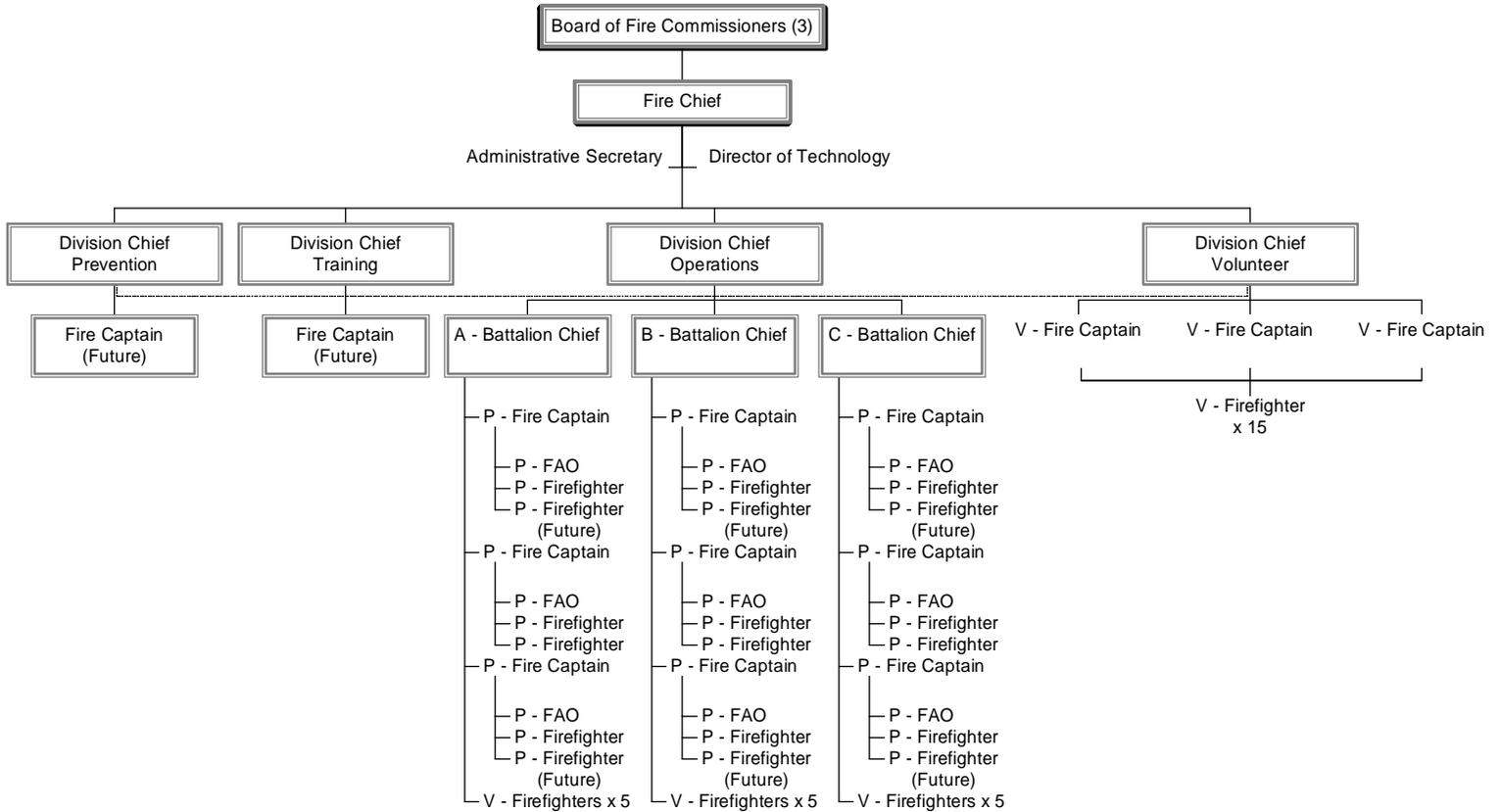
**Tanker/Tender** – Fire apparatus equipped with a collapsible water tank, capable of carrying 2000+ gallons of water and possibly having a pump and ladders.

**UASI** – Urban Area Security Initiative

**Utility** – A fire apparatus that is generic in nature, i.e., pickup trucks, mobile air cascade unit.

# APPENDIX A

## Southern Platte Fire Protection District Organizational Chart



# APPENDIX B

## The History of Southern Platte Fire Protection District

In 1838 Colonel George S. Park founded the village of English Landing along the curve of the Missouri River, north and west of the city Kansas. By 1900 Parkville was a growing city with lighted streets, bustling businesses and a progressive Board of Alderman let by Mayor H.B. McAfee (co-founder of Park College in 1875). The council voted unanimously to endorse Ordinance 67 on November 5, 1901, which dealt with the placement and rental of the city's first fire hydrants at the corner of Mill and Main Street and Main and First Street. These hydrants could provide the water flow necessary for fire protections and generate the formation of the city's first fire department.

Lewis R. Barker became the first appointed (and unpaid) fire chief of the new Parkville City Volunteer Department, the position under the specific terms listed in Ordinance 67. Two years later the department was already looking for a new leader. On October 10, 1903 the City Council recorded the following resolution introduced by Aldermen Brown and Green:

'Resolved that the volunteer fire company immediately organized and that the appointment of Mr. King, present manger of the Park College Water Works, and appointed by Mayor McAfee for the position of Fire Chief, be approved and duly authorized to secure a sufficient number of volunteers to organize said company. That a committee be appointed to report at the next meeting of the council some plan to secure the necessary supply of ladders and other equipment for use by said company and to rent or build a suitable building for the storage of the hose cart, ladders and other tools of the company.'

A written committee report of the department and progress were submitted to the council on May 9, 1904, discussed off the record and filed. By April 24, 1905 an expenditure of \$83.27 had Parkville's first fire department building nearing completion. It is unfortunate that the location was not available from any past records.

There was no reference to problems in the years following 1905. J.C. Dennis became Fire Chief in April 1912 to be succeeded in March 1919 by George Croskey, the town's blacksmith. He would remain chief until January 1945. During his tenure, the chief was compensated \$5.00 per day, but for the regular volunteers there was no such stipend for their services.

The City Council records indicated there was a 1936 Ford pumper purchased in 1937 for the sum of \$707.50 from the U.S. Fire Engine Co. The truck was nicknamed "Weavin Wilma" because the front end's tendency to wander while being driven. Its use outside of the city for fighting fires caused lots of heated discussion between the firefighters and the city. The 1905 fire station was no longer adequate or available because at this time a \$5.00 payment to Hauetter's Garage, located on the NE corner of Main and Second St. began, and would continue until 1948. A phone call to the local operator requesting the fire department prompted her to push a button on the panel that would set off the siren on top of the garage, calling the volunteers to respond.

In 1944 George Croskey was receiving \$40/50 every six months (including payment of the Chief's phone bill). In 1945 Eldon Guinn took the job as interim Fire Chief. There was no compensation for the chief in 1945, and no explanation was given. George Midwinter, who was employed at the college, replaced him in February 1946.

At the August 14, 1946 council meeting, a motion was made to place a bond issue of \$10,000 to purchase new firefighting equipment on the ballot. Mayor F.O. Russell also requested that Jack Miller, the current city marshal develop a plan to re-organize the fire department. Ironically eight days later a huge conflagration occurred at the Ameel Farm located at 9 Highway and Mattox Road, confirming the need for a second piece of equipment. 'Under state insurance rules a town cannot answer rural fire alarms unless the municipality has at least two fire trucks.' The Parkville City Fire Department was not allowed to respond and the North Kansas City Fire Department controlled the fire.

On October 1, 1946, a proposed bond issue to help the firefighters would fail by a narrow margin. The next day a roaring fire destroyed the apartments in the 700 block of Main Street, highlighting the desperate need for better equipment as well as a more adequate water supply. The city merchants were in support of the fire department's purchasing new and more modern equipment—after all, if the city had inadequate protection, then the shoppers wouldn't want to go to other locations to buy merchandise.

On January 6, 1948 a group of concerned citizens attended a meeting at the Community Church, located at Second and 9 Highway. Articles of formation were signed by the following participants: G. Midwinter, J. Miller, High Price, Tom Orr, Albert Dohrn, Harold Hibler, Fred Rasmussen, Leland Francis, G. Listrom, Hank Pollack, J. Cushing, J.XC. Tibbetts, Jr, Harold Black, Jim Griswold, Jim Vawter, Clyde Thomas, W. Montague, Dr. T. Casebolt, Larry Stephens, Gene Allen, Denny Campbell and Jack Spreitzer. This group included two representatives of the Missouri Fire Inspection Board. On January 23, 1948 the Rotary Club voted a formal sponsorship of the volunteer department.

The volunteers were optimistic and started training on a regular basis. On February 8, 1948 the first and third Tuesdays became regular drill nights. Busch Waldon, from the University of Missouri Fire School was persuaded to assist with training once a month. A Governing Board was elected and meetings with the city Board of Alderman allowed the Governing Board to search for land to build a new city hall/fire station, draw up a bid for a new fire truck and design a fire code for the city.

Readers of the weekly Gazette dated April 1, 1948 were treated to a front-page editorial exhorting them to vote for the fire bond issue. A small one-inch editorial greeted those readers at least twice in every column of the paper. "Lower your fire insurance rates and receive better fire protection by scratching out the word 'no' at the bone election next Tuesday April 6."

The new Parkville Volunteer Fire Department became operational following the bond issue election on April 6, 1948, which passed by a majority, but not by much, according to Clyde Thomas. There was an automatic 23 'no' votes cast in every election, regardless of the issue that was being voted on.

The first fire for the newly reorganized department was in a transient's car on 9 Highway. On Monday May 17, 1948 at 3 a.m. the volunteers were roused from sleep and responded quickly enough to allow the transient to disappear, in a still drivable vehicle. The Gazette ran an anonymous quote referring that the early morning run: "The wives, we are convinced, would make the better firefighter of the family. Before the siren had finished at 3 a.m. she was up and urging us to the fray. She had to supply information, clothing and convince us that it wasn't a dream, all at the same time. In fact, we don't remember anything very clearly 'till we were out of the house, a block away and asking...where was the fire?"

A new 1948 International fire truck was delivered following the completion of the new city hall/fire station on land donated by Park College at the junction of First St. and Highway 9. The building was constructed with bond money, and initially the labor of the volunteer firefighters. It would take professional contractors to complete the structure. The same week the new truck arrived; it was put into service during a driving rain when a house was struck by lightning. The truck's arrival energized the volunteers, and training expanded with its presence. The group knew they needed more and better equipment, and organized a fundraiser to obtain the desired items. They rented movies and used a projector and screen to show patrons various films during the summer. They used First and Main as their location, and also came up with a variety of dances, which were held at the Old Melody Hall, which was on 9 Highway. The first fundraiser was held on March 19, 1949 and cleared \$160.

Equipment purchased over the first three year period included a resuscitator, extra hose, Indian water tanks, nozzles, turn out gear, forcible entry tools and several miscellaneous tools.

Two distinct groups began to form in the city of Parkville. The firefighters liked to think of themselves as progressive and up to date; others felt that the fire department was attempting to run the city instead of the other way around. In November 1948, George Midwinter resigned his position as chief, and was replaced by Hank Pollack who was chief until 1950, then from 1951 through 1954. Harry Black would serve as chief for a year in 1950.

A sticking point for the city was its refusal to allow the city truck to respond to calls outside the city limits. This decision ended up as a rift between firefighters and the Board of Alderman. In 1950 Jack Miller presented a plan to protect over 1,000 homes and businesses outside the city limits. The council was advised that the majority of these people were willing to contribute to the upkeep of equipment and purchase necessary equipment.

The volunteers were given permission by the Alderman to use the small truck ('Weaving' Wilma) in the county. This decision was made under duress because the board was under citizen pressure to keep the trucks within the city limits. This dilemma prompted the firefighters who felt the fire service should protect everyone who needed their service, to form another political entity known as the Fire Protection Association of the Parkville Vicinity. The first meeting was held at the Parkville High School, May 5, 1950.

At that time three separate organizations existed: the Parkville Fire Department, the Fire Protection Association (which would evolve into the Community Fire Association) and the volunteer firefighters. The role of chief was now chosen not by the city council, but by the volunteers, who finally had a voice in their leadership.

The city provided the trucks and equipment, which were used by firefighters on a contract basis. The F.P.A. was raising funds to provide future service outside the city limits, and by October 1950 had enough money to put a deposit on a new truck. When the organization came up short of cash, Leland Francis, owner of the funeral home in Parkville signed a financial note so the truck could be purchased.

1950 and 1953 were busy years for the firefighters. Many times the equipment was used in the county. For example, three children were rescued and one died in a boating accident in Weatherby Lake in May 1950. The new resuscitator was used and praised by the community. A huge fire at the Linder Garage on Main Street in July brought the lack of water pressure to the attention of the city fathers. Another fire at the Golden Valley Hatchery, located on the east side of Main Street near the railroad tracks, brought the North Kansas City Fire Department in for mutual aid. The presence of the N.K.C units ran against the wishes of Chief Harry Black, and he resigned in protest. Dissention within the ranks was not unheard of—the lack of a unified mission for the department manifested itself in a constant change of chief and personnel. As a result, Hank Pollack was again elected chief.

A total of 144 runs were made in 1951. Including 22 house fires, and mutual aid to Riverside to assist with a fire at Beverly Lumber Company. Many of the fires in the rural area were grass fires, and required manpower and equipment to extinguish. One of the improvements to the rural area was the opening of Station 2 in Farley, which was moved to Main Street from a basement facility.

Mutual aid agreements were written between departments, whereas there had been verbal agreements between organizations. For Parkville this included surrounding communities of Riverside, N.K.C. Smithville, Gashland, Winwood, Northmoor, and Kansas City, to mention a few cities. Riverside and Lake Waukomis had public safety departments at the time, and six were fire protection districts (Camden Point, Dearborn, West Platte, Central Platte, Smithville and Edgerton).

By 1974 the volunteer firefighters and Chief Roy Marlowe realized that Platte County was growing so rapidly that the old subscription system was no longer able to sustain the fire department. The firefighters also realized that the fire service could no longer work exclusively in the area of fire suppression. Fire, rescue and medical emergencies became the new mission on the department. The Community Fire Association was dissolved and the South Platte Fire and Rescue Department was born.

The first meeting of the Committee to form a fire district was held on July 24, 1974. Eric Lindeman, a recent graduate of Park College and member of the department was its driving force. The committee studied Mo. Statue No. 321, which governed fire protection districts, their formation and regulation. A petition to hold an election was filed and granted. The first attempt held on Sept. 10 of the same year failed to pass.

While the defeat was a disappointment, it did not stop the committee from pressing forward to make a second proposal to get a district organized. The boundary lines were redrawn, removing a number of areas that had a negative vote on the first attempt.

A month before the second vote was to take place in February 1976, the chief collapsed and died while at Station 1 from a heart attack, and Charles Pike took over leadership of the department. The second vote proved to be successful, and John Schott, Walter Humphrey and Gerald Martin were elected to the first Southern Platte Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners.

A third fire station was established on Highway 45 at Lakecrest, which was rented garage space. It was later moved to a two bay prefab building just west of that location. When the district out grew that facility, a parcel of land west of that location was bought, and the new headquarters and dispatch center were moved there in 1991.

The District's boundaries became the City of Riverside to the south, the Mo. River to the west, Weatherby Lake and Platte City to the north, and Kansas City to the east. The district encompassed approximately 75 square miles.

K.C. Kerns was elected chief from 1977-1981 and again from 1984-1987. Robert A. Carrizzo was elected fire chief from 1981-1983 and again in 1988. Richard Jennings was chief from 1989-1991, and retired from the fire service after 16 years of active duty.

There were 695 calls in 1991, and 573 through Nov. of 1992, averaging about two calls a day. The Fire District committee was prophetic in 1974, realizing that the District would have many more medical calls than actual fire ones in years to come. 50% of the current calls are medical in nature, the others breaking down into hazardous material, trash, structure and vehicle accidents and fires, and other miscellaneous calls.

The District's Board of Commissioners in March 1987 passed universal building and fire codes and all building plans within the District must be submitted to the inspectors for their approval. There was a lot of heat and crying over this proposal, and many builders initially objected to this proposal, but once they found out what it entailed, were more accepting of the codes which really helped them in the long run.

The District assigned a public relations officer as well as a fire prevention officer for specific duties, and these two programs were a big help in winning over the public's knowledge about what the District did to serve the patrons.

Training for the members of the organization was established, and each Monday night, the volunteers met to acquire new skills. Probationary firefighters had a second night of training so they could get oriented to the procedures of the fire department. Specialized training through the University of Missouri Fire School was available, leading to degrees in Fire Science as well as Emergency Medical Technician status. Several of the volunteers performed 'double duty' as they worked for various departments around the Kansas City area and returned on 'off' days to work with the Fire District.

Many changes have taken place since its inception in 1901. The city of Parkville (formerly English Landing) has changed from a supply station on the river for points north and west to a first class county with a burgeoning population. The Parkville City Volunteer Fire Department traded hose carts for modern pumper, and welcomed its first

fully paid chief, Peter Sturner who started his job in January 1993. A new heavy-duty rescue squad was put in service the same year as Chief Sturner was sworn in.

Squad 13, as it was named, was the vehicle by which the fire department made the transition from being a strictly interpreted 'fire department' in that all the calls were generally fire related to a fire and EMS response system that got more sophisticated as the years went by. As the EMS program developed it was apparent that more tools were needed to handle the call volume, which over the years had been increasing.

While the squad was a two-person vehicle, many times it went on calls with another fire truck, mostly to help out with manpower. The squad was equipped with basic EMS gear, but its compartments were full of extrication equipment, ropes, a few tarps and miscellaneous tools that couldn't find a home on a pumper.

July 1993 was a month that would go down in history. For over a week it had rained in the upper Midwest, causing many small and large lakes and rivers to flood. Kansas City had during the month, several days of non-stop rain, which for the summer time was OK, but the weather forecasters were very concerned about the flooding problems that would result from the non-stop deluge.

Over the years the City of Parkville had witnessed several floods of varying degrees, but this one looked like it was going to be huge. Railroad tracks ran from Parkville down to Riverside, and in previous years, flooding had gotten up to the tracks, but because they were a few feet higher than fields next to them, had always stopped there.

As the week passed, it was apparent that not only was the Missouri River going to flood, but also it was going to be several feet over flood stage. Not only did it flood up to the railroad tracks, but kept on coming up to the foot of Main Street in Parkville. Word had gotten out that sand bags were sorely needed, and several volunteers from the area had come down to put in their time to help combat the impending disaster.

Our chief ordered all personnel who could come and help do so.

There was a 10,000-gpm pump placed at the foot of Main Street to dissipate the water. The flood waters merely laughed at the pump, and continued coming and coming at the rate of a foot every two hours, so that by the time the flooding stabilized, Parkville was basically an island of its own, with 5' of water covering the downtown businesses/A few fire fighters ventured out in a john boat inspecting the flooding, and found that on First and Main they were eye to eye with the awnings of the Parkville Exchange Bank, which were 9 feet above ground.

Our neighboring city of Riverside was over 80% flooded. Only one minor road was the way to get in and out of Riverside, which was literally an island for the better part of a week. This flood had caught the attention of the local media, and it turned out there was a film crew from Japan who had been in the area filming some local news for a program back home. They had first hand coverage of the disaster, and after it was over, shared some of their footage with the local stations.

The operation was so large that it was deemed a statewide disaster, which opened up many resources that we could use. The National Guard brought down 100,000 sand bags (empty) for Parkville to use. The local shopping center was used as a resource center, which quickly filled up with supplies.

Hundreds of volunteers were spending their valuable time helping Parkville survive a 500-year flood. Many radio stations were broadcasting from various points throughout the greater Kansas City area, and many local restaurants and businesses helped supply food and other essentials for the volunteers. After a few days, the local restaurants were almost competing as to who would outdo each other with a snack or meal. The firefighters and other volunteers were never without one theme and variation of pizza or a sandwich, but the dinners were really first class meals, which were brought hot from the oven to the scene. I think several firefighters ate better there they would have with a home cooked meal.

The call went out that ice was needed not only for drinks but to cool off the people who had spent hours on the front line filling and stacking sand bags. An hour later, a pickup showed up at the staging site on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and a farmer got out of his pick up, and asked a staff member where they needed ice. The firefighter went over to the back of the pickup, and in the bed was a 250-pound solid block of ice. Not trying to offend the farmer, the firefighter told him that they needed ice cubes, and not blocks of ice. The farmer shrugged his shoulders, got into his truck, and drove away in a cloud of smoke. He never returned with ice cubes.

The floodwaters finally went away, but the mess it left behind would take weeks, if not months to clean up. One piece of good news was that no one drowned as a result of the flooding. Knowing that these events don't happen alone, of the firefighters quipped afterwards, "Now that we've gotten rid of water, when are the locusts due to arrive?"

The flood was the real test for the first paid chief, and it took the Fire Commissioners a few months to realize that Peter had not lived up to their expectations. The board after much deliberation, asked him to resign in 1995, and he submitted his resignation in February of that year. He was replaced by a combination of two personnel, Richard Carrizzo who was named Administrative Chief, and Kenny Kerns who was appointed Operations Chief. Richard was working with the Lenexa Fire Department at the time and was officially named Fire Chief in later 1995. In 1996 Southern Platte hired 7 firefighters to help with the call volume. The District also had full time dispatching, which was handled out of Station 3, our headquarters station. After a cost comparison with what Platte County could do as far as providing the same service, the District decided that it would save several thousand dollars a year, and provide the Fire District with equal if not better service for dispatching.

In May 1999 there was a train wreck early one morning in downtown Parkville where a wheel bearing locked up on a train that was carrying coal to Kansas City. Because it occurred at 5 a.m., there was very little traffic on the road, and no one was injured or killed as result of this accident. It must have been a slow news day on the East Coast, because a picture and story on the accident was printed in the New York Times, which generally doesn't cover such stories

Because of the need for growth, a new headquarters station was built in 2001, which was located on N Highway near I-435. This was named Station 4. The previous year, Station 1 was completely torn down and replaced with a two-story facility that could accommodate sleeping and eating facilities.

Fire Chiefs for the Parkville Fire City Volunteer Fire Department through the Southern Platte Fire Protection District, 1901-present

Lewis R. Barker	1901-1912
J.C. Dennis	1912-1919
George Croskey	1919-1945
Ben Lewin	1945
Eldon Guinn	1946
George Midwinter	1946-1948
Harry Black	1950
Hank Pollack	1948-49,1950-1954
Martin Davis	1954-1967
George Commonellis	1968
John Rapp	1969-1970
Roy Marlowe (died in office)	1971-1976
Charles Pike	1976
K.C. Kerns Jr.	1977-1981, 1984-1987
Robert A. Carrizzo	1981-1983, 1988
Richard Jennings	1989-1991
Richard R. Carrizzo	1991-1992
Peter Sturner	1993-1995
Richard R. Carrizzo	1995-present

Apparatus from 1901-present

1901	Hose Cart
1936	Ford "Weavin Wilma"
1948	International
1949	International
1950	International
1952	Ford F6
1954	International
1964	International
1965	Ford (Boardman)
1969	Ford (Boardman)
1979	Seagrave Pumper

1980 Emergency One (wrecked April 1981)  
1981 Emergency One  
1981 GMC Brush Unit  
1984 SEMO Tanker, 2000 gallons  
1986 Pierce Pumper  
1987 Chevrolet 3500 Brush unit  
1990 GMC Tanker  
1992 Emergency-One, GMC Topkick Pumper  
1993 GMC Rescue Squad  
1996 Pierce Dash Pumper  
1999 Sutphen 75' Ladder truck  
2000 Ford F350, 250 gpm pump with 300 gallon tank  
2000 Pierce Quantum Pumps (2)  
2002 Ford F350, 250 gpm pump with 300 gallon tank  
2003 Doolittle Trailer, 26'  
2004 Ford F350 Mobile Air  
2004 Kenworth, Seagrave T-800, 3,000 gallon Pumper/Tanker  
2006 Pierce Dash, 2,500 gallon water tank and 250 gallon foam tank Pumper/Tanker  
2006 Emergency-One Typhoon Pumper  
2007 2008 Scotty Safety Fire House, Fiberglass  
2010 100' Pierce Ladder/Quint  
2012 Pierce Impel Pumper

- Alana Jennings, Past Firefighter and Communication Supervisor

# APPENDIX C

## SPFPD Fire Stations



1. Station #1, located at 8799 River Park Drive, Parkville, was built originally in 1947 and torn down and rebuilt in 2000, after the great flood of 1993 and is approximately 4,690 sq. ft. in size with two bays and covers a response area of mainly suburban areas. The station provides protection to The City of Parkville, including the downtown region.

The station houses: Pumper 61 and Boat 61 and operates on a 3-shift (platoon) rotation. The crews work a 24-hour shift on, 24- hours off, 24- hours on, 24-hours off, 24 hours on, four days off. Three personnel are assigned to each shift, including 1 Captain and 2 Firefighters.

Station #1 averages 39 responses monthly within its designated response area. Station #1 provides back-up response for Stations #3 and #4.

The major hazards in the response area are a water plant/facility, bulk fuel storage facility, and the underground business park.

Station #1 is block building with living quarters on the upstairs area and the apparatus are given the bottom half.



2. Station #2, located at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main Street, Farley. It is unknown when the original building was built, but in 1966 a fire destroyed the station. Between 1968-70 local residents rebuilt the station. In 2003 a living addition was added to the upstairs and made the station approximately 2,100 sq. ft. in size with two bays and covers a response area of mainly rural area. The station provides protection to the Village of Farley and Unincorporated areas of Platte County. This station is not manned by any career employees.

The station houses two pieces of equipment: Pumper 62 and Reserve Pumper 6x.

Station #2 provides Back-up response for Station #4.

Station #2 is a block building with living quarters on the upstairs area and the apparatus are given the bottom half.



3. Station #3, located at 10811 NW 45 Highway, Parkville, was built in 1987 and is approximately 10,265 sq. ft. in size with two bays (additional bay being built in 2007) and covers a response area of both urban and rural areas. In 1997 an addition was added to include the living area and an additional bay. The station provides fire protection to the City of Parkville and Unincorporated areas of Platte County.

Major businesses protected by Station #3 include: National Investments/Improvements and Graden School.

The station houses 5 pieces of equipment: Truck 63, Tanker 63, Ladder 63, Brush 63, Battalion Chief 65 and operates on a 3-shift (platoon) rotation. The crews

work a 24-hour shift on, 24- hours off, 24- hours on, 24-hours off, 24 hours on, four days off. Four personnel are assigned to each shift, including 1 Captain and 3 Firefighters.

Station #3 apparatus average 73 responses monthly. Station #3 provides back-up response for Stations #1 and #4.



4. Station #4, located at 8795 NW Highway N, Kansas City, was built in 2001 and is approximately 16,347 sq. ft. in size with six bays and covers a response area of both urban and rural areas. The station provides protection to unincorporated areas of Platte County.

Major businesses protected by Station #4 include: The Stations, Bloomer's Hardwoods, Gladwin Machinery and Water/sewage plant.

The station houses 7 pieces of equipment: Pumper 64, Tanker 64, Haz Mat 64, Air Unit 64, Brush 64, Utility 64, Boat 64 and operates on a 3-shift (platoon) rotation. The crews work a 24-hour shift on, 24- hours off, 24- hours on, 24-hours off, 24 hours on, four days off. Three personnel are assigned to each shift, including 1 Captain and 2 Firefighters.

Station #4 apparatus average 27 responses monthly. Station #4 provides back-up response for Stations #3 and #2.

Station #4 is an energy efficient design with distinct areas of the station; the living area, training area and administrative area. The structure utilizes a drive thru apparatus bay section.



4. SPTC, located at 8795 NW Highway N, was built in 2002 and is approximately 5,500 sq. ft. in size with 5-stories of usage. The facility sits on approximately eight acres in which other fire training props are used, including an addition self-contained SCBA maze, school bus, extrication vehicles and an inter-mogul. The facility has two burn rooms that allow for free-burning, an elevator shaft, 2 different types of roof pitches for ventilation drills, an attic simulation area, standpipe prop, and rope repelling anchors throughout.

# APPENDIX D

## SPFPD Apparatus and Vehicles

### 1. Frontline Apparatus (Engines/Quints)



An engine is the day-to-day workhorse of SPFPD. Each one is equipped with a pump, a water tank, a complement of ladders, and thousands of feet of hose.

Engine	Make/Model	Pump Size (gpm)	Water Tank (US gal)	Hose (In Feet)
9603	1996 Pierce Dash	1250	1000	2500
9202	1992 E-One Topkick	1250	750	2500
0602	2006 E-One Typhoon	1250	750	2500
1001	2010 Pierce 100' Ladder/Quint	2000	300	1700
1201	2012 Pierce Impel	1500	1000	2500

## 2. Tankers



A tender is the water hauling backbone of SPFPD in rural areas. Each tender is equipped with a pump, a large water tank, a complement of ladders and a portable folding tank. The portable tank is a small, temporary reservoir from which an engine can draft water and pump through hoses.

Tanker	Make/Model	Pump Size (gpm)	Water Tank (US gal)	PortATank (US gal)
0402	2004 Kenworth T-800 Seagrave	1250	3000	2500
0601	2006 Pierce Dash	1500	2500 500 Foam	2500

3. Specialty Apparatus



**Ladder 9901**

1500 Gallon Per Minute Pump  
2700 Feet of Fire Hose  
75 Foot Aerial Ladder / Platform

**1999 Sutphen**



**Utility Air 0401**

4 Cascade Bottle System  
12 Spare Air Bottles

**2004 Ford F350**

Spare Salvage material



**HAZ-MAT Trailer 0302**

Atmospheric Monitoring Equipment  
Mobile Communications Center  
Decontamination Gear

**2003 Doolittle 26'**

Generator

HAZ-MAT Entry Suits



**Brush 0004 and 0201**

High Pressure System  
250 Gallon Per Minute Pump  
300 Gallon Water Tank

**2000/2002 Ford F-350**

Four-Wheel Drive Capability  
300 Feet of Fire Hose



**Boat 61**

19.8' in length  
16-person system  
Ice/Water Rescue

**2001 Zodiac 18/20**

90 Horsepower Mercury



**Boat 64**  
16.5' in length  
5-person system  
Ice/Water Rescue

**2009 Lowe R1655**  
40 Horsepower Mercury

#### 4. Reserve Apparatus

SPFPD maintains two engines, as reserve apparatus. These are equipped similarly to front-line apparatus and can be placed into service at a moment's notice. The District replaces front-line pumper trucks after 10 years and places the unit into reserve status for approximately 5 years.

#### 5. Staff and Command Vehicles

SPFPD also has a fleet of various pickups, SUVs and other vehicles for administration, fire prevention, operations and other staff personnel.

# APPENDIX E

## Administrative Staff

1. Board of Directors:

- A. Nelson Hopper – President
- B. Michael Newburger – Secretary
- C. Gary Judd - Treasurer

2. Richard R. Carrizzo, Fire Chief

Richard R. Carrizzo has served as Fire Chief of Southern Platte Fire Protection District for the past 19 years. He directs 43 paid personnel, 6 volunteers and a \$4.4 million budget. Chief Carrizzo oversees fire prevention, emergency medical service delivery system, fleet maintenance, fire suppression, training and public education/fire investigation.

Chief Carrizzo was part of the original committee that formed the Northland Fire Chiefs Council Hazardous Materials/Terrorism Task Force in early 2000. He was a hazardous materials technician until promoted to captain/assistant shift manager, with another department in the region.

Chief Carrizzo completed his Chief Fire Officer Designation through the Commission on Chief Fire Officer Designation in March, 2001, served as a Peer Reviewer for the program for 10 years, and has served as Vice-Chair for the Commission on Professional Credentialing (previously the Commission on Chief Fire Officer Designation) representing Combination Departments.

Chief Carrizzo's professional background includes over 33 years of emergency response. He has authored several articles, along with giving numerous presentations/speeches. Academically, he holds a Master of Business Administration degree, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, an Associate degree in Applied Science in Fire Science and is a graduate of NFA Executive Fire Officer Program. In 2001, he received his Chief Fire Officer Designation from Commission of Professional Credentialing (previously, CFAI) and was re-Designated in 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2013. In 2007 he was also honored with the designation of MIFireI through the Institution of Fire Engineers, which he currently is still designated.

Active in local, state and national fire service professional organizations, Chief Carrizzo serves as President of the Heart of America Metro Fire Chief's Council, is an advisory board member for the community college's fire science program, past Executive Board Member of the Missouri Valley Division of IAFC and

serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs as the Association's Treasurer. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the International Fire Service Research Center and Policy Institute, along with serving on a for-profit corporation's Board of Directors.

He currently serves his community as the Chairman for the YMCA Community Mission Board and as a Boy Scout leader. Chief Carrizzo is also very active with his children's school.

He and his wife Jennifer have three children – Alexandria, Jackson and Aiden.

### 3. David Rierson, Division Chief of Training

Chief Rierson came to Southern Platte Fire Protection District in July 2008. Chief Rierson brought over 23 years of experience in the fire service field, beginning his career as a volunteer in Mitcheville, IA and advancing to the rank of Lieutenant. The last 19 years he had been employed with the City of Gladstone, MO where he held the position of Battalion Chief and Training Officer for the last four years. David also holds a paramedic license.

Chief Rierson's educational experience includes an Achieved Certification in EMT/Paramedic from Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa, an Associate's Degree in Applied Science-Fire Science from Blue River Community College in Kansas City, MO and he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Park University in Parkville, MO with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration. David is also enrolled in the Executive Fire Officer Program through the United States Fire Administration/National Fire Academy, designed to provide senior officers and others in key leadership roles.

David earned his Chief Fire Officer Designation (CFO) in May 2008 and the Designation of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) in December 2008. David was re-designated as a CFO and CMO in 2011. He is also a Peer Reviewer for both programs.

Chief Rierson is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and serves on the Professional Development Committee, Missouri Fire Chiefs Association, Western Missouri Fire Chiefs Association, Heart of America Metro Fire Chiefs Council, MARCER and Northland Fire Chief's Council.

Chief Rierson lives in southern Platte County with his wife and is the parent of two grown sons.

4. Dean L. Cull, Division Chief of Prevention

Fire Marshal Cull has been with the Southern Platte Fire Protection District since 1977. He has 37 years with the Fire District in many capacities, including Volunteer Firefighter, Chief Fire Inspector, Fire Commissioner and has been profoundly involved with training during his whole career. He joined the paid staff in 2002 as a Firefighter and then became Fire Marshal in 2006. He was then promoted to Division Chief of Prevention later that year. He leads and manages the inspection, education, and prevention programs in the District.

Chief Cull's education includes a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Associates Degree in Fire Science Technology and the University of Missouri Company Officer Certificate Program. Dean has many State of Missouri certifications, including Fire Officer II, Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator, Instructor II, EMT, and Hazardous Material Technician. He has been an associate instructor for the University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training Institute for over 18 years. He has created curriculum in and instructed swift water rescue technician and boat operations for regional departments and for the University of Fire Rescue. He is a Post Certified Law Enforcement Police Officer, since 1985. He has been with the Platte County Sheriff's Department since 1990 as a Deputy Sheriff and Investigator.

Dean is affiliated with the KC Arson Task Force, Missouri Fire Marshals Association, Heart of America Metro Fire Chiefs Council Fire Prevention Committee, and Missouri Valley Fire, Burn and Life Safety Conference Committee.

5. Adrienne Renton, Administrative Assistant

Adrienne J. Renton has been with the Southern Platte Fire Protection District since September 1998. As Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Renton handles all the day-to-day front office activities for the Fire Chief and three Division Chiefs. She also manages the payroll, accounts receivable and accounts payable processes for the department.

She and her husband Dave have three grown sons and six grandchildren.