



Annual Report of the Laconia Fire Department
Submitted by Kenneth L. Erickson, Fire Chief

This is the report of the Laconia Fire Department for the calendar year 2008. The report may vary from quarterly reports due to finalized and updated incident reports. The report comprises three major sections: emergency activities, non-emergency activities, and personnel and finance.

2008 was an active and unusual year for the Department. The year was marked by many significant weather events. It seems that unusual weather events are becoming somewhat normal. The winter was extreme with record snowfalls that resulted in many buildings in the City collapsing from excessive snow loads. In July a tornado struck just east of the City. It was a record breaking phenomenon - it has been reported as the longest distance a tornado has maintained ground contact as well as its time on ground. We experienced many significant rain events during the summer and the worst event was a flashflood on August 8. Many homes were damaged and a significant portion of the Weirs boardwalk was destroyed. In December the area was hit by another ice storm. We were lucky as it just brushed the Lakes Region. Areas of the State were without power for more than 17 days. Just before Christmas we were hit with a large snow storm that dropped more than a foot of snow on the City. We experienced one of the biggest fires in recent history that destroyed Lakes Region Linen. All these events put tremendous strains on the residents, our firefighters and other City workers.

I am extremely proud to be the Chief of this great Department. This is a Department that consists of many men and women who give their all on a daily basis. They perform their duties under some very difficult conditions. They are exposed to hostile fires, dangerous chemicals, biological hazards, extreme weather conditions, and other unhealthy conditions almost every day. These firefighters perform their duties with compassion, professionalism, and dedication, and there are many people that are alive and well today because of their devotion to duty. Quite often, these firefighters push themselves to the limit and place themselves in harm's way to complete their assigned task. They have a great appreciation for life and understand how fragile it is better than most people because of the work they do and the things they see.

The men and women of the Laconia Fire Department will continue to do the best that we can with the funding that we are provided. However, it is my obligation to continue to bring forward the requests for new funds so that we can operate not just at an efficient level but also at a very effective level.

We are fortunate to have a Department that consists of very competent, dedicated professionals. Without these hard working people we would not be able to handle this workload.

Department Vision

To create an atmosphere that makes the City of Laconia and its Fire Department the premier place to work and live by offering competitive wages and benefits, maintaining the highest level of work ethic, creating a well-disciplined and well-trained team, and providing opportunities to grow and improve, and by providing the best in equipment and training.

We will be the fire department that everyone wants to be!

Goals

- To reduce the demands on the fire service and therefore reduce the financial burden to the taxpayer by lowering the annual fire loss, through improved public education, code enforcement, adoption of ordinances, improved emergency planning, improved firefighter training, improved staffing, and by providing the best equipment and tools, and by maintaining the fleet, equipment, tools, and firefighters in top condition.
- Respond to 90 percent of all High Priority emergencies within 4 minutes of dispatch (at 75%)
- Respond to all emergency calls in no more than 8 minutes (at 94%)

- To respond with an adequate number of firefighters so that we can effectively resolve, or at least stabilize, the problem or situation.
- To inspect all Target Hazard properties at least once every two years (40%).
- To complete all requests for non-emergency services within 72 hours (95%).

Long-term Operational Goals

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| ▪ Hire eight full-time firefighters | No action |
| ▪ Create and train a Technical Rescue Team | No action |
| ▪ Replace Ladder 1 | 85% |
| ▪ Replace Engine 2 | No action |
| ▪ Place Engine 1 in reserve status | No action |
| ▪ Replace Ambulance 1 | 40% |
| ▪ Cross staff Ladder 2 and Ambulance 2 | 50% |
| ▪ Build/remodel Central Fire Headquarters | 30% |
| ▪ Increase size of reserve call firefighting force to 16 members | 100% |
| ▪ Replace Engine 3 with pumper tanker | No action |
| ▪ Create position of Deputy Fire Chief of EMS | Complete |
| ▪ Achieve 200 hours of training – average | 85% |
| ▪ Create four positions of Captain Shift Commander | |
| ▪ Renovate/add to Weirs fire station | |
| ▪ Purchase medium size rescue truck | |

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Since the start of the new century we have seen a 30% increase in emergency calls. There were 5,565 emergency responses to 3,394 incidents, and 2,400 non-emergent activities, which resulted in an average of 16 requests for services per day; fifty-three percent of these services were emergency response. We rank as the 9th busiest fire department, the 15th most populated, and 12th most densely populated city. Our firefighters are some the busiest firefighters in the State. In 2008 we responded to an average of 425 calls per firefighter on-duty. The average for the 15 largest cities and towns in 2007 was 339 calls per on-duty firefighter. Our emergency's per 1,000 population is very high at 196, which is 28% above the average.

We remain at the point were we cannot guarantee a rapid and effective emergency response. Multiple and simultaneous calls continue to be a major problem and will only get worse as the city grows and the population ages. The number of firefighter's now available to safely combat a structure fire has improved because of the new hires, added call firefighters and automatic aid; but we still fall below what is needed. In 2008 we averaged 17 firefighters per building fire. If we had fires in just 1-family homes this would be very good. Unfortunately most of our fires are in multiple family dwellings and this leaves us seriously under staffed. As compared to 20 years ago we are responding to 840 percent more calls with 30 percent less staff on-duty.

Currently we can handle one serious call or no more than two minor calls at any time. In many circumstances we continue to send too few resources to many emergency calls and far too often we are leaving the City with no emergency response protection. We are working at the highest level of efficiency that is possible. This high degree of efficiency comes at a serious cost, which results in a lack of effectiveness. In our business this means higher property loss, higher medical and mortality rates, higher insurance claims, higher workers compensation claims, increase in injuries, and a significant potential for death or disabling injuries to our firefighters. Last year we lost 157 shifts due to injuries.

There is an officer and four firefighters at Central Station and an officer and two firefighters in the Weirs. We continue to hire off-duty firefighters on an as needed basis to staff a second ambulance in the Weirs and during major weather events. In addition LRGH is now funding one extra firefighter each weekday from 8AM to 5PM. This person is assigned to fire suppression and medical emergencies. This person allows us to dispatch a second ambulance from the Central Fire Station and still leave two firefighters in-service for the fire engine. These are our hours of peak service. The extra firefighter on-duty along with the 4 firefighters added several years ago has resulted in a drop in emergency recalls.

MULTIPLE EMERGENCIES AND EMERGENCY RECALLS

The multiple and simultaneous call rate for the year was very high at 35 percent. 1,189 times during the year we were working more than one emergency at a time. This is 36% increase in multiple calls since 2002, which is the first year I started tracking the problem. 590 emergency calls occurred simultaneously. It is not uncommon to try and respond to 2, 3, 4, and sometimes 5 calls at a time. This is a very serious problem that will eventually result in serious, if not deadly consequences. We simply cannot keep up with the demands being placed on the Department with current staffing levels (We have increased the size of the call force in an attempt to improve service. However these part-time employees are not available to deal with the multiple call situations).

Multiple calls result in long response times and long delays in providing services, as well as requests for mutual aid and emergency recalls. Multiple calls, serious fires and other emergencies resulted in 160 emergency recalls of off-duty and on-call staff. That's 13 recalls per month. The number of overtime hours paid was 892. The cost for the recalls was 28,871. LRGH paid for 35% of the total cost.

From a cost benefit analysis the emergency recall system is the best method to handle the problem of multiple emergencies and serious fires. However, it is not the most effective or safest method. Recalls result in delayed responses and can result in loss of life and increases in property damage. The cost of emergency recalls is less than the cost of one full-time firefighter.

The recall system allows us to utilize off-duty firefighters, who are already trained and equipped, to respond to multiple emergencies and serious fires. Their experience level is continually improved, and they have very good knowledge of the City. With the recall system and the added call firefighters we averaged 17 firefighters at each serious fire; the average response to a recall was 3 off-duty firefighters. This policy had a very positive impact on our recent insurance review.

FIRE SUPPRESSION – 14% of all calls

There were eight 1-alarm fires, three 2-alarm fires, and one 3-alarm fire in 2008. This number of serious emergencies is about average. A 1-alarm fire utilizes all Laconia on-duty staff and an off-duty response, as well as mutual aid to cover both stations. A multiple alarm fire requires all Laconia on-duty and off-duty resources and extensive mutual aid resources. The value of property damaged or destroyed by fire was a record high of \$7,677,000. The firefighters saved \$8.9 million in property. The fixed property lost has a tax value of \$105,000 and the property saved has a tax value of \$133,500. The dollar value saved to dollar loss is 54 percent. Our loss to save ratio continues to decline. The historical average was 75% save and 25% loss.

There were 473 reported fires, which accounts for 14% of all our responses. This represents an average year. There were 182 actual fires as follows:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
<u>Structural fires</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>92</u>
• Building fires	20	16	28	30
• Chimney fires	5	12	12	10
• Kitchen fires	28	38	42	21
• Oil burner fires	12	12	6	7
• Other inside fires	22	5	1	16
• Inside trash/rubbish	3	1	1	4
<u>Non-structural fires</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>59</u>
• Vehicle fires	8	18	13	13
• Outside fires	51	46	36	46
Fires in other towns		33		

- 33% of the fires were in multiple family dwellings; 34% were in non-residential; 32% were in 1-family homes
- 31% of fires started in concealed wall spaces; 6% originated in bedrooms; 12% started in kitchens
- Total property loss was \$7.6 million. 80% of all the loss came from the fire at Lakes Region Linen. This is the highest fire loss in many years.
- 21% of the fires were in the Weirs; 14% were Lakeport; 36% were downtown; 21% were the Westside.
- Eleven residents were temporarily displaced due to the fires.
- 47 fires were investigated to determine the cause and origin. Twelve fires were arson and 6 remain under investigation.

Major Fires/Emergencies 2008

- Gilbecki’s garage 1 alarm March 11
- 322 Union Ave. 2 alarms June 21
- Petal Pusher’s 2 alarms August 7
- Flashflood 1 alarm August 7
- Lakes Region Linen 3 alarms Sept. 4
- Middle School gas leak 1 alarm October 27
- 177 Valley St. 2 alarms Sept. 26

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND RESCUE SERVICES – 65% of all calls

Emergency medical and rescue type calls (EMS) accounted for 65 percent of all our emergency responses. Generally EMS calls require the least amount of resources; however they are the source of 80% of our multiple calls. We responded to 2,215 rescue and emergency medical incidents in 2008, which is a slight increase over last year. The calls were as follows:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Medical emergencies	1,980	2,001	1,776
Motor vehicle crashes	136	213	154
Extrication rescues	7	2	6
Pedestrian accidents	10	15	15
Water/Ice rescues	10	14	14
Misc. rescues or EMS	6	13	13

We treated 2,160 patients and 1,571 were transported to medical facilities. 40% of our patients are over the age of 65. 44% are between the ages of 25 and 65. 57% of our patients are female 43% are male.

The major types of medical calls are:

- Trauma emergencies - 42%
- Cardiac emergencies - 13%
- Respiratory emergencies - 11%
 - 131 patients were Status 1 or 2, which is life threatening or very unstable.
 - There were 47 sudden deaths and cardiac arrests.
 - 63% of the patients received Advanced Life Support measures

Falls are the leading cause of trauma injuries; motor vehicle and motorcycle crashes are the second leading cause; assaults (+8%) jumped significantly this year and were the third leading cause of injury.

The ambulance transported patients from other towns 48 times and other towns transported for Laconia less than a dozen times. The ambulance crew responded to 18 calls in other towns to provide paramedic services.

EMS calls by season. It was unusual this year in that EMS calls in the summer matched the EMS calls in the winter. Normally the summer time is much more active than the winter.

Summer - 26% Winter – 26% Spring – 24% Fall – 24%

In addition to EMS calls, the ambulance and crew are dispatched to approximately 90% of all fire related calls. The eight primary firefighters assigned to the ambulance are fully trained as firefighters as well as paramedics. The three ambulances combined had 2,803 emergency responses in 2008.

Note: EMS statistics are taken from LFD records and LRGH reports.

HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS 7% of all calls

Hazardous Condition type calls are generally emergency calls that could have resulted in injuries, fires, or environmental damage if not properly handled. These type calls can be very labor and time intensive. We responded to 248 hazardous condition calls, as follows:

Flammable liquid spills	36	Flammable gas leaks	29
Carbon monoxide alarms	20	Electrical hazards	53
Structural hazards	40	Misc. hazards	4
Aircraft stand-bys	66		

FIRE ALARM ACTIVATIONS – 11% of all calls

Thousands of properties in the city are protected with alarm systems. These systems can consist of smoke and heat detectors, manual pull stations, sprinkler systems, as well as combinations of all of the above. There were 357 fire alarms, which is a 14% decrease from last year. This is attributed to the new false fire alarm ordinance. The alarms were as follows:

Malicious false alarm	21	System malfunctions	133
Threats	1	Activation – minor fire/smoke	195
Misc. alarms	7		

We respond to a high number of automatic alarms every year. However, these alarm systems are instrumental in keeping our fire loss at a somewhat manageable level. The high number of “alarms-minor fire/smoke” reflects the number of times small fires were detected and in turn did not become hostile events. There is no doubt that without the alarm systems our fire losses would be significantly higher.

MISCELLANEOUS EMERGENCIES AND SERVICES – 11% of all calls

We responded to 392 emergency calls for public service and assistance type calls.

Cancelled enroute	65	Good intent call	18
Public service	106	Cover other stations	60
Animal rescues	5	No emergency found	48
Water problems	24	Controlled burning	66

The increase in miscellaneous emergencies can be attributed to technology. Cellular phones are everywhere and this is causing an increase in calls to 911 centers by people who perceive an emergency situation.

TIME/ DAY/MONTH OF EMERGENCY CALLS

The alarms were received during the following time frames:

	2008	2007	2006
• 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM	45 %	59 %	65 %
• 4:00 PM to midnight	34 %	27 %	23 %
• Midnight to 8:00 AM	21 %	14 %	12 %

The emergency workload during 2008 was definitely more spread out over the course of the day as compared to the previous 2 years.

The emergency calls by day of week as follows:

Sunday -13%	Monday -14%	Tuesday -13%	Wednesday 15%
Thursday -15%	Friday -15%	Saturday -15%	

These percentages are fairly constant; no one day is significantly busier than any other day.

Structure fires by day of week – no consistency

Sunday -10%	Monday - 10%	Tuesday - 22%	Wednesday -17%
Thursday -12%	Friday -20%	Saturday - 9%	

Total Runs by Month

August was the busiest month with 342 emergency calls, which is 10% of calls. November was the slowest with 259, which is 7% of emergency calls. The variation between the two months is insignificant. There was a significant drop in calls during July – possibly caused by a drop in tourists. The average is 283 calls per month, which is an increase of 9% over last year. In 2002 only June, July, and August had more than 200 calls per month. Today there are no months with less than 200 calls and we are close to reaching 300 calls per month.

Our emergency workload was always expected to increase during the summer months. There is now very little change to our work based on seasons. The summer months represent 28% of all calls. The winter represents 26%; the spring 23% and the fall 23%

RESPONSE TIMES TO EMERGENCIES

First unit on scene:	All Calls	Fires (structures)	EMS
• <u>Four minutes or less</u>	45 %	67 %	45 %
• <u>Five to six minutes</u>	32 %	19 %	35 %
• <u>Seven to eight minutes</u>	13 %	4 %	12 %
• <u>Nine minutes or greater</u>	10 %	9 %	5 %

- Average response time to structure fires was 4 minutes and 35 seconds
- Average response time to medical emergencies was 5 minutes and 06 seconds

Average response time to Structure fires by Districts

- North Laconia 9 minutes and 20 seconds
- Weirs 5 minutes and 40 seconds
- Lakeport 4 minutes and 7 seconds
- Downtown 3 minutes and 27 seconds
- West side 4 minutes and 32 seconds

Thirty-two percent of all structure fires had response times greater than four minutes. Four minutes is considered the best practice response time for safe and effective operations.

Average response times vary quite differently for the past six years; a low of 4 minutes and 13 seconds to a high of 5 minutes and 40 seconds. Long response times and the variations can be attributed to several key factors: overall area of coverage is large – 13 square miles per station, poor cross town road network, multiple calls resulting in delayed response, traffic congestion slowing down apparatus, an increase in calls in outlying areas, responding from call to call, not station to call.

CALLS BY DISTRICT

We have seen a steady increase in calls to the outlying districts of the City. In 2001 seven percent of all emergencies were in the Weirs district as compared to 13% in 2008.

	Fires	EMS Calls	All Emergencies
Laconia - central area	58%	79%	71%
Lakeport	14%	8%	8%
North Laconia	5%	3%	4%
Weirs	21%	10%	13%
Other towns			4%

APPARATUS RESPONSE

There were 5,565 apparatus responses during the year, which is a 9% increase.

Type of Apparatus Response

<u>Single apparatus</u>	2,030	56%
<u>Two apparatus response</u>	761	21%
<u>Three apparatus response</u>	370	10%
<u>Four or more apparatus</u>	188	5%

During the course of the year the apparatus is frequently on the road; going to or returning from alarms, inspections, and training. We average more than 15,000 movements of fire apparatus per year.

The busiest unit was Ambulance 4 with 2,439 emergency responses. The second busiest was Engine 1 out of Central Station with 1,123 emergency responses and third was Engine 5 out of the Weirs station with 566 responses. Ladder 1 responded to 502 alarms and Ladder 2 to 246 alarms. The calls by Ladder 1 have dropped significantly now that Ladder 2 is in-service in the Weirs.

MUTUAL AID

There are two types of outside assistance that we utilize – automatic aid and mutual aid. Automatic aid is when a neighboring town, such as Gilford, is dispatched to a Laconia call at the same time that we are notified. This system allows for a rapid response of adequate resources to a high risk emergency. Regular mutual aid is requested after we have arrived on-scene and determined that additional resources are needed to the scene or to cover the city. We assisted other towns 213 times and received assistance 140 times. The large majority of mutual aid calls were to Gilford and it was fairly reciprocal in return. The two communities work very closely together on a daily basis.

Of all the mutual aid responses 32 times we assisted at structure fires in neighboring communities.

NON-EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES

Emergency and Non-emergency activities combined resulted in just under 6,000 request for service. This number does not include training or pre-planning activities. Most non-emergent work is conducted during normal business hours so the actual daily work load is much higher.

FIRE INSPECTIONS/PREVENTION/CODE ENFORCEMENT

There were 2,387 fire prevention activities in 2008, which is a 32% increase in workload. These activities include inspecting fire alarm and sprinkler systems, heating systems, chimney installations, gas piping, oil and propane storage tanks, life safety inspections, assembly occupancies, investigations of complaints and hazards, issuance of permits, and plans reviews. The on-duty firefighters conducted 193 of these inspections. Our fire prevention bureau consists of one Deputy Fire Chief, 3 part-time inspectors, 1 part-time fire alarm repairperson, 1 part-time secretary and the 32 full-time firefighters.

The increase in the work load can be attributed to Deputy Roffo's aggressive actions to start inspecting multiple family dwellings which included the hiring of part-time inspectors.

Deputy Chief Charles Roffo manages the fire prevention bureau. He coordinates all the fire prevention and code enforcement functions of the department, which includes providing training to department members about new codes and changes in technology. He is an integral member of the City's Technical Review Committee for both Motorcycle Week and regular planning projects.

Major activities: Inspections 915 Plans reviews 300 Consultations 270

The majority of all fire prevention work is conducted during normal business hours.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Throughout the year members of the Department presented 190 hours of public education and safety presentations. Some of these presentations are being performed off-duty so the firefighters do not have to worry about responding to an emergency call and therefore disrupt a class. This is extremely beneficial to all the participants.

A big improvement this past year was the addition of CPR training to City employees. Deputy Riley coordinated these classes with City hall, Police and Public Works. This resulted in 746 training hours for CPR this year.

The on-duty firefighters conduct numerous fire safety-training classes at industrial facilities, nursing homes, and the hospital. Fire drills were conducted at educational facilities, nursing homes, and elderly housing complexes. The on-duty crews also visit all the schools during Fire Prevention Week to talk about fire safety. Lt. Chris Shipp coordinates the program for fire safety in the City school system.

TRAINING

Besides responding to emergencies the most important activity of a fire department is training. We must be well-trained to improve our levels of efficiency, prevent injury, and fulfill our mission of saving life and property.

Deputy Chief Pendergast is the Operations officer; part of her duties is to manage and coordinate all Department fire and rescue training. Deputy Chief Riley is the EMS officer; he co-ordinates all EMS training for the Department and Lakes Region General Hospital. In-service fire and rescue training this year amounted to 6,461 hours, which is a 68% increase over last year. Even with these great numbers there is very few training sessions that do not get interrupted by emergency work. The training equates to 184 hours per firefighter. This in service training saves the City approximately \$200,200 in overtime and shift coverage. There were 615 training classes during the year. EMS training on-duty resulted in savings of \$20,000 to LRGH.

Our training needs are very complex. We need to be capable of functioning at peak levels, as a team and as individuals. Unfortunately we do not get to plan when or what type of event to train for. Improper or inadequate training results in higher property loss, increases the risk of firefighter injuries, and could easily result in the loss of life. This year we undertook some very important training in firefighter safety and survival and lifting of bariatric patients. Training and planning is the key to a successful fire department.

The major training categories are:

• <u>Emergency Medical Continuing Education</u>	5%
• <u>Apparatus and Equipment</u>	8%
• <u>Firefighting techniques</u>	16%
• <u>Safety and Survival</u>	11%
• <u>Water, Ice, Dive and Boat Rescue</u>	6%
• <u>Supervisory, Command and Control</u>	6%
• <u>Pre-emergency planning</u>	6%
• <u>Customer service</u>	2%
• <u>Fire prevention</u>	2%

MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY AND APPARATUS

As part of their duties the firefighters perform maintenance to stations, apparatus and equipment. One big item that requires a tremendous amount of time and effort is clearing fire hydrants of snow. The firefighters go out after every storm and shovel the fire hydrants throughout the City. This year the firefighters put in 454 hours shoveling hydrants, which was a 219% increase over 2007. This is back breaking work however it is very important to our resident's safety to get this job done quickly. This is also very productive work because it helps teach hydrant location.

Approximately 5,000 hours of staff time is devoted to apparatus readiness and light maintenance of fire equipment and stations. The apparatus and equipment are checked and tested at the start of every shift. Each day one major piece of apparatus is thoroughly checked from top to bottom. This ensures a timely response and reduces equipment failure.

Captain Robert Landry is the Station Commander for Central Station and Captain William Drew is the Station Commander for the Weirs Station. These two officers are responsible to ensure that all the apparatus, equipment, and property is cared for and maintained in a constant state of readiness.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE

SERVICE AWARDS

LIFE SAVING AWARDS

The following firefighters were recognized for saving of a life during emergency medical responses.

Lieut. Tim Woods, Lieut. Dave French, Sn.Ff. Scott Hopkins, Sn.Ff. Mark Beauchemin,
Ff. Steve Hanser, Ff. Paramedic Deb Black, and Ff. Kyle Joseph.

These firefighters were also recognized by the American Heart Association and Governor Lynch for their actions.

Service Awards presented to:

Lieutenant David French - Ten years of service

Firefighter Paramedic Brian Keyes – Five years of service

Busiest Firefighter of the Year

Ff. Chris Beaudoin

The following Department members are recognized for their perfect attendance to work in 2008:

Sn. Ff. Lisa Baldini	Ff. Chris Beaudoin	Ff. Deb Black	Ff. Jay Ellingson
Ff. Rick Hewlett	Ff. Matt Leavitt	Lt. Chris Shipp	

The following members received an honorable mention for missing no more than 2 days of work:

Ff. Jason Bean	Ff. JP Hobby	Lt. David French	Lt. Mike Shastany
----------------	--------------	------------------	-------------------

FIRE CHIEF'S AWARD

Presented to Christina Simula and Juanita Wade for providing by-stander CPR.

Presented to Marshall Nye for providing assistance at a serious car crash.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Lt. Alan Barrett retired from the department after 22 years of service. Lt. Barrett was assigned to the Weirs Station.

Mark Beauchemin retired from the Department after 20 years of service.

Steve Ober, retired Lt., was hired as a part-time inspector and call firefighter.

Ff. Chad Vaillancourt was promoted to the position of Fire Lieutenant.

Ff. John Reese resigned to go back to the Loudon Fire Department.

Scott Thomas, Nate Lemay, Ray Eaton, and Andrew Francis were hired this year as probationary firefighters. All these positions were filled due to retirements or resignations.

Ff. Matt Leavitt completed his first probationary year and was promoted to Firefighter 1st Class.

Kerrie McCarthy was hired as a part-time secretary to assist with fire prevention.

Shawn Riley was hired as the Deputy Chief of Emergency Medical Services. This position is funded by LRGH.

REVENUE AND FUNDING

The department generates revenue through fees and permits and we also aggressively seek alternative sources of funding. In 2008 we received or generated the following:

• <u>Fire Alarm Service</u>	<u>\$ 42,000 (estimated)</u>
• <u>Permits and Fees</u>	<u>\$ 33,777</u>
• <u>Donations for water rescue</u>	<u>\$ 33,424</u>
• <u>SCBA replacement grant</u>	<u>\$ 225,000</u>
• <u>Fire prevention computers</u>	<u>\$ 9,000</u>
• <u>CO monitor</u>	<u>\$ 1,750</u>
• <u>Health & Wellness grant</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
•	
• <u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 346,951</u>

CHANGES/IMPROVEMENTS

The Professional Firefighters of Laconia Local 1153 purchased an Elliptical exercise machine for the fire department. The Department purchased a second unit so that both stations had these machines. The units were \$3,000 a piece. This is a generous gesture on behalf of the Union and shows their commitment to good health and safety.

The training for the new call firefighters has been moving along very nicely.

We received funding from the City council to replace the 1989 aerial ladder truck. A committee was put together and they worked diligently on this project. The bid was awarded to Emergency One for \$890,000. The truck Committee

consisted of Lt. Chris Shipp (Chairperson), Ff. Steve Hanser, Lt. Chad Vaillancourt, Ff. Jay Ellingson, and Ff. Jeff Desrosiers.

Funding was provided to hire an architect to develop preliminary designs for the addition/renovation to the Central Fire Station. A Committee was put together to work on this project. The committee consists of Deputy Chief Roffo, (chairperson), Deputy Pendergast, Captain Landry, Lt. Shastany, Lt. Vaillancourt, Admin. Assistant Trish Valovanie.

We were able to purchase 3 Automatic Defibrillators (AED) through a State grant and provide training to city employees. The AEDs were placed at the Library, City Hall, and Police Station.

We made significant improvements to our EMS capabilities by purchasing hydraulic stretchers, IV med pumps, EZ IO, oxygen therapy, which was purchased by LRGH, and a RAD 57 carbon monoxide blood analyzer, which was partially funded by a grant from the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire.

Our cardiac arrest save rate for the past two years is 12% which is twice the national average.

Working with Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health we assisted in developing a Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the area. There are currently 8 Laconia residents on the team. The team was deployed to the tornado as well as the flashflood and was used during the ice storm as well. The team is a great benefit to all the area communities.

The Dive Team provided stand-by service to the Timberman Triathlon and the Turkey Plunge.

Conducted a leadership seminar for the department as well as area departments.

Major Sponsors of our Water Rescue Team

The Peter Makris Memorial Bike and Boat Run

Platinum Sponsors

Irwin Marine	NASWA Resort and Beach Bar
Watermark Construction	Laconia Savings Bank
Lakeport Landing Marina	Meredith Village Savings Bank
Mrs. Gayle Miller	Rutter Media

Gold Sponsors

Trustworthy Hardware	Belknap Tire and Repair
Laconia Professional Firefighters	John Ganong Real Estate