Welcome to your 2010 Fire Department annual report, a reflection of our accomplishments and challenges over the past year. We’re proud to introduce a new mission statement that clearly defines our role and identifies values that the community can expect from our service.

**MISSION:** SAFETY AND SERVICE FOR COMMUNITY EACH OTHER EVERY DAY

**VALUES:** HONOR COMPASSION UNITY INNOVATION

Our vision as part of a 5-year strategic plan was “rolled out” in January and can be seen on our website at www.gjcity.org.

In 2010, we celebrated the retirement of nine employees totalling over 175 years of service. We wish them well and will miss their expertise and friendship. Many department members were recognized for their service and achievements including the following employees, who are congratulated for their promotion:

- Health & Safety Chief – John Hall
- Captain – Jim Curtis
- Paramedic – Ada Shillcox
- Firefighter/Engineer – John Bangert, Wes Engbarth, Mike Kochevar

During National EMS Week in May the Fire Department and Grand Junction Regional Communications Center employees were recognized for ten cardiac arrest saves.

Successful grant requests provided funding assistance for new/replacement vehicles and equipment. These new units rolled out our new color and logo scheme, proudly designed by members of the department. As other vehicles are replaced we will incorporate this scheme throughout the fleet.

We continued to explore more cooperative service opportunities with our partnering agencies. A number of joint training sessions were held with the Clifton Fire Protection District and Fire Prevention assisted their staff with school inspections. A new Memorandum of Understanding and increased training with the Grand Junction Regional Airport helped improve service and cooperation for airport events.

Customer service was a key reason the Department moved ambulance billing in house, rather than use a private provider. Staff has received great feedback from our patients and facilities on the service provided and convenience of having a local contact.

The Grand Junction Fire Department has a long tradition of outstanding public service. We have set a strong foundation and our path for the future is bright. We are appreciative of your support and of our City Council and City Administration in providing you the highest level of fire and EMS services. Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve.

**FIRE CHIEF KEN WATKINS**

**OPERATIONS**

Despite a sliding economy, the Department successfully made budget and personnel adjustments while continuing to provide exceptional service.

**Significant incidents were:**
- A large commercial fire at Bestway Services caused $1,500,000 of damage.
- The department responded to 58 calls for service on July 4 - a single day record.
- Innovative fire tactics at Naggy McGee’s Irish Pub allowed the restaurant to reopen the day of the fire despite significant damage.
- A partial collapse of the second floor at the Salvation Army Thrift Store kept units on scene for over 8 hours stabilizing the structure, clearing debris, and searching for a potential victim.

Truck 1, our new 100' platform ladder truck was placed into service in 2010. It was the first unit to transition to the traditional red color with the new department logo. The purchase of the truck was partially funded from an energy impact grant.

Implementation of new technology moved the department from VHF radios to a new 800 MHz system and the New World Computer Aided Dispatch system. This advancement will continue with the addition of a Fire Mobile program and Automatic Vehicle Locator system enabling the Communication Center to dispatch the closest unit based on the current location, improving response times.

Total calls for service to dispatch were 12,255: Fire • 1,821, EMS • 10,434. Of these calls for service, 242 were not reportable incidents based on State guidelines.

**AMBULANCE SERVICES**

EMS/Ambulance Services has had a busy 2010. An internal billing office was created by transferring one City employee from another department and hiring the department’s seasonal employee to process patient bills and payments. This is an added benefit to the citizens of our community as it facilitates personalized customer service.

New capital resources included two replacement ambulances and two other ambulances that were remounted on a new chassis. Approximately $177,000 in state grants were received to help in the purchase of stretchers, medical equipment and the two remounted ambulances.

A partnership was created with St Mary’s Hospital in the Bariatric Program to help citizens with medical conditions due to obesity. Our department is the only true bariatric transport agency in Western Colorado.

Ambulances averaged 30.7 responses per day and for the 5th year exceeded Mesa County response time requirements. This activity includes 4,910 emergency transports, 2,508 inter-facility transports and 43 mutual aid requests.

**Reported Incident Types: 12,013**

- Structure Fire: 117
- Non Structure Fire: 150
- EMS Calls: 9,436
- Hazards Condition: 252
- False Alarm: 480
- EMS Mutual Aid Given: 8
- Public Assist: 432
- All Other: 1095
Despite a down economy, Fire Prevention activity remained high with remodel projects, sprinkler and fire alarm system installations, and new construction including: Mesa State Student Housing, American Furniture Warehouse, Colorado National Guard Readiness Center, Cornerstone Square Apartments, Grand Valley Power, Caprock Academy and two hotels.

Many of these projects carry over into 2011 with most in the building phase or reviewed and ready to start.

Total Inspections: 4,323
- Fire Safety Inspection: 375
- Violation Inspection: 58
- Construction Inspection: 717
- Construction Plan Review: 582

Prevention Office
- Fire Safety Inspection: 2466
- Violation Inspection: 125
- Construction Inspection: N/A
- Construction Plan Review: N/A

Total Training Hours: 13,256
- Fire: 7543
- EMS: 4216
- Hazardous Materials: 618
- Explosive Technician: 398
- Specialized Rescue: 289
- Investigations: 192

Photos by: Jonathan Hobbs & Mike Page