



MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT

448 N. Warren Rd. Benson, AZ 85602

Phone (520)586-4690 Fax (520)586-8598

Fire Chief Report

January 2025

Presented at February 2025 Board Meeting

Incidents: 45 total; fire (3); EMS (18); other (24). Mutual aid received -1; given -1.

Total for 2025 – 45 ; 2024-45– up 0 calls. **This represents a 0% increase.**

Hazard Mitigation Collections: \$1111.20 collected in and deposited since the last Board meeting. Fourteen calls still in cue with over \$12K still working on. \$15K collected since back on track with data entry. Two more calls uploaded.

Apparatus:

Approximately \$6100 to get large tender up to a “maintenance” level, instead of a “repair” level. Chief’s car needs regular maintenance items like shocks, windshield wipers, etc. Waiting on budget review to ensure only doing what must be done for safety. Very thorough vehicle detail done by Chief’s wife to save \$. All minor items will continue to be done in-house to save \$. To date, these minor repairs on apparatus which DO NOT require a EVT have saved district approximately \$1900 figuring labor at \$100/hr which is low compared to what shop normally costs.

Approximately \$11,000 for front line pumper in-rail engine rebuild. Blew 3 rings in cylinder. Parts on order.

Small generator will be taken in to determine cost to fix/viability. We were not able to write a Homeland Security grant for a larger generator, as the one we would need moving forward would have been more than grant allowed for. We need one capable of powering much more in the event of a HS issue, so members of the public could be sheltered if necessary. This will be one major area of concern as we move forward at looking at building a station.

Airpack facepiece testing was conducted, everyone fitted, and we have officially transitioned into new MSA packs. We will be working with board member Nervik to determine the specifics on donating old airpacks to Mexico.

Board members Nervik, Temple, Capt Olander and I met with Bluespan, the company that has their antennae on our tower. It was very productive. They admitted giving poor service and have offered to pick up our Starlink invoice, which totals \$260/mo until they have issues resolved. They will be laying fiber-optic line in SE AZ as part of the BEAM grant. AZ received approx. 1B to enhance rural emergency communications. Bluespan indicated they would be doing it regardless of how much if any of the money they receive. This should lead to extremely upgraded communication abilities in and around our district to include faster rates, increased latency and less dropped service and most importantly it should significantly upgrade our abilities to communicate on scene, which is currently a safety issue for our personnel. Therefore, we are going to wait to see if we even need the mobile repeaters. We don’t want to get into another matching grant before we have a clearer picture of our budget future. We will be keeping a close relationship with them going forward.



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Helipad and Repeater: The repeater issue is on hold for a bit until we can see more clearly what Bluespan will be able to do. Thank you to board member Nervik for his work on the helipad. Last steps are required lighting and signage.

We have completed the 5th and last strategic plan meeting and have defined our six focus areas based on external and internal stakeholders' input:

Financial Sustainability, Operational Readiness, Internal and External Communications, Staffing, and Safety, Health and Wellness. Much more to come on this...

We have a new Mission Statement, again taking the external and internal stakeholders' thoughts into high consideration it now reads:

"Our mission is to protect life and property while enhancing the well-being of those we serve through strength, integrity and relentless commitment."

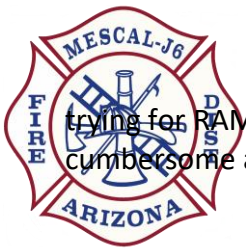
Personnel had an in-person meeting with Doctor Chad Lewis, MD. He is our specific medical director. He grew up in Southern AZ and returned to the area to work with IMD and their team of doctors. He is an extremely respected and yet a very approachable, down-to-earth person who is very interested in assisting us in continuing to deliver a high quality and level of care to our residents, IMD's director of training and our Paramedic Coordinator were also on the zoom meet. It was very productive, and many questions were answered.

PRR- YTD since tracking began in Aug = \$2587.49

I have received the initial boundary mapping. Our response area is about 3-4 X our paid taxation district area. We will be working now to fill in some roads, boundary-named lines, etc. The goal is to have a nearly 100% accurate map to post on our upcoming new website and a printed version at admin and station.

No news on our Gary Sinese Foundation grant for 7 AED's and all accompanying equipment. Hopefully soon. Only time will tell how our needs stack up against others.

GOHS grant is being written. Will be asking for lighter, electrically driven extrication equipment. There are numerous benefits to this including: lighter, resulting in one person being able to carry and potentially operate, resulting in decrease in back or other injuries. More power in spreaders and cutters, potentially decreasing extrication time, which in turn decreases time to surgical care, which then leads to very impactful results in patient outcomes as it pertains to the "Golden Hour". We are



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trying for RAMs and air bags, both of which our current ones are not reliable and are heavy, cumbersome and one person cannot move without risk of injury. New would be lighter but stronger.
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Our DFFM (wildland) grant has been submitted. We wrote for new basic PPE, ie: helmets, shirts, pants, and gloves for each member. Ours were frayed, tattered, torn and out of date. This is a matching grant and if awarded, we will match \$2700.

The AFG grant has been submitted. We wrote for structural PPE to replace those going out of timed service in 2025. We are hopeful this will be awarded, and our match will be in the \$700 range.

We will then again *consider* writing for the SAFER grant, asking to fund most likely between 3-6 personnel.

Capt Olander and I met with Lona Huffman of EREmergency, a company that specializes in small fire district insurance. She is presenting at the meeting tonight, so please see the minutes for more information. The initial info is good, potentially saving us with better coverage compared to VFIS, and the potential for moving our training records management system from Lexipol to their product, which would save an additional \$3800/yr to the district. They are also venturing into the health insurance arena, so we will await their quotes before moving forward on any additional benefits. More to come.....

I will be instructing (gratis) an Incident Safety Officer course in March, and we will be sending at least one person to that.

END