



# State of the Department

January 1, 2020



## 2019 – YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2019 was another great year that presented our department with new challenges, new projects, new people, and a continued desire to improve the services we provide to our fire coverage area in the White Bluff, Rye Hill, Shadow Lake and a large portion of the Jenny Lind community.

**Personnel Updates:** This past year Chief Jim Almond decided not to run for Chief in 2020, due to some health related issues. Jim has served our department for over 25+ years, with (9) of those being Chief. He will continue serving our department in many ways and continue sharing his vast knowledge of the fire service with all of us. At our November 11, 2019 Election of officers, Mark Condren was voted to succeed Jim Almond as Chief of our Department, effective January 1, 2020. Mark has over (9) years with our department, serving in many roles for not only our department, but within the county as well. Mark was serving as one of our Captains, is an Adjunct Instructor with the Arkansas Fire Academy, a First Responder, a Reserve Deputy for the Sebastian County Sheriff's office and oversees the Search and Rescue team. Our department is very excited to see Chief Condren lead us into the future, and to continue with our rich tradition of improving our capabilities each year supplying our communities with the best possible services.

We also saw several of our firefighters that had to resign due to moving, other obligations and one being deployed with the military. We've added several new probationary firefighters that are in training currently and have added another person to our list of awesome auxiliary members, who support us in every way possible. We also added a Junior Firefighter to our department in 2019. We are actively searching for several more to join our department and have several recruitment campaigns going on to let the community know we have a need for more volunteers.

Our firefighters continue to train to improve their skills with Arkansas Fire Academy certified classes, In-House Training, and training with other county departments including the county wide water shuttle training. We have also participated in live burn training with the Fort Smith Fire Department at their training facility the last several years and will continue to take advantage of this nice training facility. Numerous classes, including the most recent CPR/AED refresher courses allow our volunteer team to stay effective and efficient in all areas. Our First Responders continue to train and improve their skills as well. The members of our department that are members of the Search and Team in the county also continue to keep their skills sharp, through training. Training is a never ending process.

**Trucks / Equipment Updates:** Several major projects were completed for our department in 2019 plus other major accomplishments.

- 1) The refurbishment of the Tanker we acquired from the county through the Jenny Lind VFD conversion is complete and the truck is a fully functional 2,200 gallon tanker. Maintenance updates and repairs, along with a new paint job, tank lining, major modifications to improve the functionality and some new tires, hoses, fittings, etc. will allow this tanker to be a vital part in our water shuttle operations, and will be able to mutual aid on water shuttle operations to other county fire departments as well.
- 2) We sold our ATV Honda 4-Wheeler and purchased a Polaris Ranger 800 4x4 UTV and converted it in 2019, into a multi-use piece of equipment for our department. This UTV is equipped with a 60 gallon water tank, pump, chainsaw, blower, water backpack and other wildland firefighting equipment. The UTV has been designed and built by our department members to be quickly changed over for use on Search and Rescue operations as well, when needed. All Wildland Equipment is built for quick on and off so the UTV can be used in multiple applications for our department.
- 3) We paid off our 2013 Tanker in 2019 and will begin looking into any possibilities to replace our oldest pumper with possibly a newer model. Our budget committee is working on numbers and options in 2020. We have purchased a

few sets of PPE and are looking into purchasing more personal protective gear that is needed for some of our firefighters who are currently in gear exceeding the 10 year life span of PPE as recommended by the NFPA. We will continue to search for grant opportunities to assist us in these projects, as all require substantial amounts of money to make happen.

- 4) Our department budgeted and purchased a Washer/Extractor to properly clean our firefighters PPE Gear, in 2019. This Washer/Extractor was installed and plumbed in, fall of 2019, and several of our firefighters built us a 4 stand air dryer for our PPE gear to dry out after washing, saving us several thousand dollars versus purchasing a dryer from a vendor.

Although we had many other great accomplishments in 2019, we continue to focus on the continuous improvement of the services we offer our communities. Our team of dedicated volunteers are second to none and dedicate a large portion of their daily lives to serving and protecting others. That takes a special kind of person and we are blessed to have a great group at the White Bluff-Rye Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

## **STATION AND DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

- Fire Department Established in 1976 (Have been in existence for over 44 years)
- Station "A" \* 12407 White Bluff Road \* was the first station for the White Bluff-Rye Hill Volunteer Fire Department – It is a county owned building and has 2 bays. This station houses 3 emergency apparatus, including a Pumper, Tanker and Brush Truck
- Station "B" \* 5325 Spring Mountain Road \* was built approximately 26 years ago on property donated to the fire department and has a community/training room and an upstairs storage on one end with bays to house 4 emergency apparatus, including a Pumper, Tanker, Quick Attack Truck and a Brush Truck.  
This station is owned by the White Bluff-Rye Hill VFD.
- Station "C" \* 14711 Rye Hill Road South \* was assigned to our department by the Sebastian County Quorum Court, County Judge and Emergency Management in April of 2017 to provide fire coverage and other emergency services to approximately 70% of the Jenny Lind community and all of the Shadow Lake Community. This is a county owned building and can house 3-4 emergency vehicles, including a Pumper, Tanker, Attack/Brush Truck, along with our UTV and trailer. This building also contains a community room/training room, and an office area which houses our washer/extractor.

**Our department provides: Fire Protection \* Emergency Medical Services \* Auto Extrication  
\* Search & Rescue \* Fire Safety and Prevention Programs \* Annual Santa Visit to our  
areas, Open Houses and Kid's Days**

## **PERSONNEL INFORMATION**

- We have (26) Firefighters on our current roster. (1) with over 31 years experience, (3) with 25 years plus experience and several with over 15 years serving our department. (2) are probationary firefighters that have just joined in the last few months.
- We have (6) personnel on our Ladies Auxiliary
- We have (1) Junior Firefighter currently in our Junior Program
- We have (6) First Responders (or above in medical certifications) providing Emergency Medical Services to our communities
- We have (9) members of our department that are on the Sebastian County Search and Rescue Team
- We have (2) Certified Arkansas Fire Academy Adjunct Instructor's and (2) Certified Arkansas Fire Academy Instructor I's
- We have a Board of Directors including a President \* Vice President \* Secretary \* Treasurer that oversee the finances of the department, tend to the purchases, membership listings, mail outs, special projects, etc.
- We have "Friends of the Fire Department" which assist us on large events with their time and talents

## TRUCK AND EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

- We have (12) apparatus (Including a UTV and Command Unit) currently housed in (3) stations... allowing us to have a Pumper, Tanker and at least one Quick Attack/Brush truck in each station.

<b>EMERGENCY VEHICLES for WHITE BLUFF - RYE HILL VFD</b>		
<i>Truck Call #</i>	<i>Station Assigned To</i>	<i>Description of Vehicle</i>
<b>APPARATUS ASSIGNED TO STATION "A": 12407 White Bluff Road</b>		
<b>Pumper 1</b>	"A"	1995 E-One 1000 GPM Pumper with 1,000 gal. Tank (Ford Chassis) (2,500 gallon fold-a tank)
<b>Tanker 1</b>	"A"	2013 KW T370 500 GPM Tanker with 3,000 gal. Tank (3,000 fold-a-tank)
<b>Brush 1</b>	"A"	2007 Toyota Tacoma 4x4 - 80 gallon tank w/ 5 gal foam cell
<b>APPARATUS ASSIGNED TO STATION "B": 5325 Spring Mountain Road</b>		
<b>Pumper 2</b>	"B"	1991 E-One 1000 GPM Pumper with 1,000 gal. Tank (GMC Chassis)
<b>Tanker 2</b>	"B"	1988 International S Series 2,200 gallon Tanker (2,500 gallon fold-a-tank)
<b>Brush 2</b>	"B"	1999 Ford F350 4x4 Dually w/ 250 gallon tank / 10 gallon foam cell
<b>Attack 1</b>	"B"	2003 E-One Fast Attack on Ford F550 Chassis 300 gal w/ 20 gal foam cell
<b>APPARATUS ASSIGNED TO STATION "C": 14711 Rye Hill Road South</b>		
<b>Pumper 3</b>	"C"	1995 E-One 1000 GPM Pumper with 1,000 gal. tank (International Chassis)
<b>Tanker 3</b>	"C"	1989 GMC Topkick 500 GPM Tanker with 2,500 gal. Tank (2,500 fold-a-tank)
<b>Attack 3</b>	"C"	2007 Chevrolet 3500HD 4x4 Dually w/ 250 gallon tank / 10 gal foam cell
<b>UTV 1</b>	"C"	2012 Polaris Ranger 800XP w/ 60 gallon water tank
<b>Command 1</b>	"CHIEF"	2010 Chevy Suburban 4x4

- Other notable equipment the department has, include: Jaws of Life \* Air Bags and other tools for Extrication \* Compressed Air Foam system on Attack 1, and foam capabilities on all Pumpers and 3 Brush/Quick Attack Trucks

## SPECIAL NOTES

- Our volunteers do this because they want to help others and give back to their communities.
- It is our goal to provide our communities with the best fire protection and emergency medical response that we can offer.
- Our department is 100% volunteer. We have NO paid personnel. We offer LOPFI which is a small retirement package as a recruiting tool.
- ISO rating is currently a class 4, that was effective as of August 1, 2018.
- We have approximately 1,950 plus homes, businesses, churches and other commercial structures in our fire coverage area
- We now cover approximately 28+ square miles.
- We have a FREE SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM - for anyone needing a smoke detector, along with other programs and materials to promote fire safety and prevention to our communities.
- We have a great tradition going on 28 years of taking Santa Claus around throughout our fire coverage area and hand out over 900 goody bags each year filled with fire safety coloring books, brochures, fire prevention activity books, crayons, candy and fruit.
- We host open houses, kid's days, host scouting groups, assist with birthday parties at the department that are fire truck themed, talk with children at daycares and with senior groups about fire safety.

*What if.....Volunteers Didn't Volunteer?*



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