



2021 FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

October, November & December

MISSION:

“The mission of Lenoir Fire Department is to provide public safety in the form of Fire Prevention, Fire Protection, Rescue Services and Emergency Medical Care. We will constantly strive to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Lenoir.”

VISION:

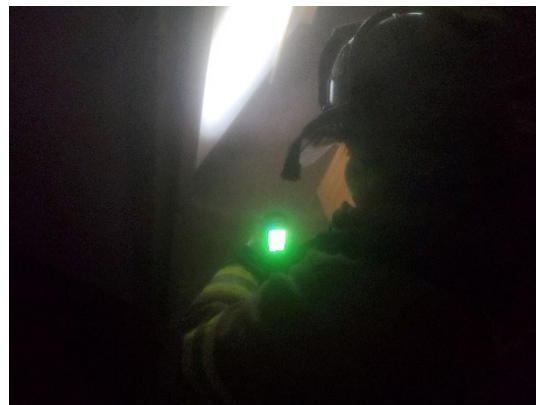
“To be aggressively proactive with respect to traditions and the realization of progression.”

OVERVIEW

Thank you for taking the time to look through Lenoir Fire Department's quarterly report. This report is designed to give you an understanding of the day to day operations of our department and staff for the fourth quarter of 2021. This quarter proved to be another busy one for our department and staff. The pandemic is continuing to have effects on our department. With another new variant of COVID discovered the City is still implementing increased protective measures for our staff and citizens. Also due to pandemic the City cancelled many events scheduled but we did hold the annual Christmas parade downtown. Calls for service was reduced greatly this quarter since it was decided that fire departments in the County would no longer respond to known COVID positive patients unless EMS needed help or patients were suffering cardiac arrest. The most notable impact was the drought our area was in which caused the North Carolina Forest Service and the City Fire Marshal to enact an "Open Burning Ban" for all outside fires in our City and State during the first part of December until we received significant rain.

MAJOR EVENTS

OCTOBER – The Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs) were purchased. This was made possible by an anonymous donation from a local business. All staff members trained on the operation and use of the new TICs before placing them in service. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to this company for their donation of \$12,600 for this project giving every riding position their own TIC for enhanced safety.



- This month we sent the QRV trucks to DANA Safety to be up-fitted with audible and visual warning devices for response. It took DANA about two weeks to complete.
- This month we sent the Tower back to the factory for repairs from the incident the previous month due to certification of the bucket. They had to replace the bucket and the yoke along with various other parts. On the way up to the factory we had transmission issues. We asked Sutphen to look over the truck and make necessary repairs.

- We provided Ambulance back-up stand-bys for two high school football games and provided medical stand-by for one car show downtown and one youth football game.

November – This month we were finally able to implement our Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) program. Beginning on the 22nd we started responding the two pick-up trucks and the SUV respectively from each station to medical calls. This should improve our response times to our patients and provide a cost savings on fuel and maintenance on our larger apparatus. We are also honored to have WBTV come do a news story on our QRV program as well to promote this new initiative. The following is the link to news story the was aired on WBTV:

<https://www.wbvtv.com/2021/11/18/lenoir-firefighters-train-new-equipment-that-will-help-save-lives/>



- This month we helped out the City’s Maintenance personnel with installing Downtown Christmas decorations. Annually the Maintenance Department installs many decorations for the Holidays and we always help them out by utilizing one of our Aerial Apparatus to assist with the hanging of the large wreath on City Hall.
- We were honored to be asked to assist with the annual Veteran’s Stand Down again that is held at the Broyhill Civic Center. We are asked to provide the raising of our large U.S. Flag as the veteran’s enter the facility to show our respect for the veteran’s service to our country and to honor them.
- We also assisted with the annual Turkey Drive held at the MLK Center. We provided personnel to assist with handing out turkeys for families that came to the event.
- This month we hosted the Caldwell County Fire Rescue Association meeting at our Fire Station 2 facility. Firefighters from the County attend these meetings to conduct business to better serve the citizens in each respective community. These meetings also allow each department to build networks for better communications between all County Fire Departments and other State and local agencies.
- We applied for a safety grant through the North Carolina League of Municipalities. This grant as with the previous safety grant is a 50/50 match with awards for each section up to \$5,000.00. We requested a Large Diameter Hose (LDH) Roller and cart for the worker’s compensation safety section and a Hose Tester for the Property Liability Loss

Prevention Section. The LDH roller will be utilized to assist our staff with the reloading of this hose during fire scenes and hose testing. Each section of this hose weighs in excess of 100lbs and this resource should reduce back, shoulder and knee strains of our staff. The cost of this equipment is approximately \$8,810.00 and our share would be \$4,405.00. The hose tester will be utilized to annually test all suppression fire hose. Currently we utilize a fire apparatus to complete the task which ties up an apparatus for the duration of testing and we stand the potential of doing damage to the pump. The cost of this equipment is approximately \$2,978.00 and our share would be \$1,489.22

- We provided back-up EMS ambulance stand-bys for two high school football games this month and concluded this operation for the year.

DECEMBER – On December 3rd, our Fire Marshal issued a Citywide ban on any outside open burning. This ban correlated with the NC Forest Service burning ban issued for the State due to high fire conditions and drought our area was experiencing. The ban lasted for two weeks and after we received significant rain to help with our drought conditions.

- We had 21 off-duty staff come in to assist with the annual City Christmas Parade. Our staff assisted the Police Department with traffic and crowd concerns and provided medical stand-by at various locations throughout during the parade. Our staff, with the help of Caldwell County Emergency Management, also set up and operate various portable light towers through the parade route to enhance public safety.
- We provide medical stand-by for the annual Cruisers toy give away downtown
- We purchased/received a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe this month to replace an Administrative Vehicle that was transitioned to Operations to support the QRV program. The cost of this vehicle was \$38,850. We are currently awaiting approval to up-fit the vehicle with audible and visual warning devices.



- This month several of our on-duty staff assisted with the annual City Luminary display hosted by Blue Ridge Cemetery. Our staff assisted with the placement of over 8,000 luminary bags/candles placing them on all grave markers and lining the roadways around the cemetery grounds.
- We provided medical stand-by for the annual Cruisers toy give away downtown.

- We also held our quarterly retiree breakfast this month and we had 18 retirees in attendance.
- This month we had 4 students from CCC&TI Early College who needed a community service project and we allowed them to do some painting at Station 1 and Station 2. They were here for three days and did a great job.

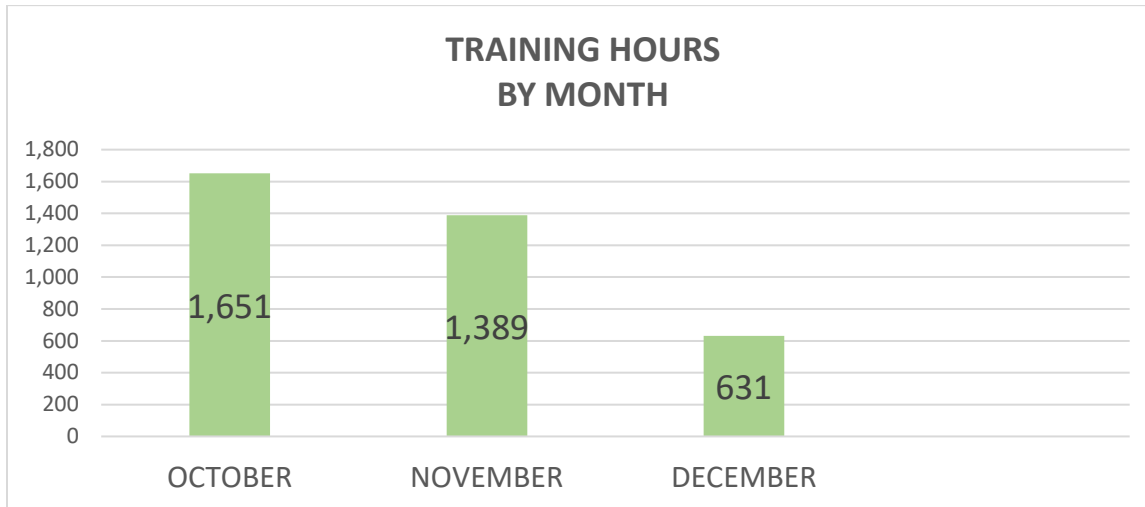
RESPONSES/INCIDENTS/CALLS FOR SERVICE

Incident Reports By Type of Situation Found	# of Incidents Current Quarter	2020 Quarterly Comparison	# of Incidents 2021 YTD
Fire, structure	6	6	24
Fire, vehicle & heavy equipment	6	1	18
Fire, brush or grass	22	12	55
Fire, trash	5	2	16
Fire, other	5	1	15
Medical call	240	225	1,257
EMS lift assist	20	13	73
Assist invalid, lift assist	10	3	40
MVA – with Injuries	19	36	88
MVA- no Injuries	40	39	168
Rescue call	25	25	104
Service call, public	67	54	264
Cover in assignment	1	2	8
Hazardous condition, other, power lines	11	18	50
Hazardous material or spill	7	10	40
False alarm, sprinkler	6	12	25
False alarm, smoke or carbon monoxide	35	49	133
False alarm, alarm sounded	21	24	93
False alarm, malicious & bomb threats	1	1	2
False alarm, other	17	18	107
Severe weather or natural disasters	7	8	19
TOTALS	571	559	2,599

Incident Responses by Districts	# of Incidents Current Quarter	Avg. Response Time/Minutes	Incidents 2020 Comparison	Response Time 2020 Comparison
Station 1	362	3.82	375	4.36
Station 2	144	3.28	131	3.79
Station 3	65	3.53	53	3.30
TOTALS	571	3.55	337	3.82

TRAINING REPORT

In the third quarter, our department personnel participated in a total of **3,671 hours** of training, on and off duty which averages to about **62 hours** per firefighter.



- **October**, we participated in EMT in-service, which is a monthly requirement and our focus on duty was on Thermal Imaging Cameras, Fire Prevention and Hydrant Inspections.
- **November**, we participated in EMT in-service and our focus on duty was QRV Driver Training and Vehicle Extrication.
- **December**, we participated in EMT in-service and allowed staff to take off the rest of the month off from on-duty training.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

- In the fourth quarter of this year we have performed and delivered **12 fire prevention presentations/programs**. We were able to perform these programs in businesses and schools and reached a **total of 1,190 people, 974 children and 216 adults**.
- This quarter, with our smoke alarm program. Our staff distributed and installed **25 smoke alarms** this quarter ensuring early warning detection of a fire and improving the safety of the citizens at these residences. This program is made possible by the grant award from NC Office of State Fire Marshal and the department budget.



FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Fire Marshal - This quarter the Fire Marshal performed a total of **106 fire code inspections** on businesses within Lenoir City Limits. In October he completed **34**, November he completed **38** and in December he completed **34**.

- Chief assisted businesses and developers with continued work to meet fire codes and planning at several different locations (City Recreation Department on Aquatic Center, East Harper Apartments, Bluebell Apartments, Caldwell Memorial at Quest for Life, Katts Corner, World of Discovery Daycare, Studio Blue Recording, JBS Meat Packing, Exela, old Thomasville Furniture Plant, LEO's, Malouf, Classic Dyestuffs, Williams Grocery Building, and Distillery and building at 105 Taylorsville Rd.).
- Also, this quarter there were 3 complaints businesses for fire code violations (RHA Behavioral Health Care, Lowe's Hardware and Red Roof Inn). We worked with them to resolve the issues found.
- 2021 Inspections – 3 ALE Inspections, 7 Complaints, 4 Courtesy, 7 Final CO's, 7 Fire Protection Systems, 8 Foster Cares, 1 Hazard use permit, 1 Hood Duct System, 3 Sprinkler, 4 Occupancy Standard, 29 Plan Reviews, 255 Regular, 19 Re-inspections, 3 and Special Hazard.
- Issued a burning ban on all open burning the first part of December and lifted the ban the middle of Decmebr due to receiving significant rain.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS – In accordance with N.C.G.S. Chapter 58 article 79, all fires that occur inside the City Limits of Lenoir are investigated for cause and determination. We have certified fire investigators on each shift and they work under the direct supervision of our Fire Marshal. This quarter we had **44 fires** that occurred in the City.

- Of the 44 fires mentioned, 6 were structure fires that occurred in residential and commercial structures. There were no major fires that occurred this quarter other than the residential structure fires mentioned.
- We had 20 instances of subjects performing illegal burns.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – The Fire Marshal also acts as the City of Lenoir’s Emergency Manager under the direct supervision of the Fire Chief. This position works closely with local and State Emergency Management and partners with the LEPC to respond and mitigate hazardous/disasterous incidents or situations.

- Natural Gas rupture on Whitnel Place, Roto Rooter.
- We had three different storm systems this quarter with heavy rains and high winds and we performed a few flood and wind damage assessments.
- Chemicals mixed at a residence caused hazardous fumes.
- Natural Gas Leak on Willow St. due to construction.

OTHER DUTIES – Our Fire Marshal also performs IT services for our department to help the City’s IT staff. This quarter, he decided to postpone the new software change until our Fire Rating Inspection has concluded in the first quarter of 2022.

- Applied for two grants through the NCLM – hose roller and hose tester.
- Re-applied for the smoke alarm grant through NCOSFM. The state was out of alarms and will notify us when available but did purchase a second round of smoke alarms provided by the City of Lenoir.

LOGISTICS’ REPORT

MAINTENANCE – This portion of the report will indicate any maintenance that took place on apparatus and/or facilities for the quarter.

October –Rescue 1 – Repaired exhaust damage \$506.06

- Ladder 1 – Repaired coolant site glass \$69.49
- Fire Station 1 and 2 – Painted exterior doors and engine bay moldings – \$179.56

November – Engine 3 Supplies – \$6.79

- Engine 1 – PM Repair work with fluids changed \$248.37
- Engine 2 – Repair work, broke front shock \$548.86
- Tower 1 – Repair wreck damage \$72,123.50
- Ladder 2 – PM Repair, replaced front tires, coolant hose, carrier bearing, engine water pump \$2,165.06
- Ladder 1 – Supplies, DEF \$11.73
- Tower 1 – PM Repair work, remove and replaced aerial cylinder cable, cleaned waterway and replaced seals, repaired side block, repaired transmission, cleaned and re-lubed ladder to remove shudder, replaced electrical board for audible.visual devices \$8,462.97
- Logistics Chief Car – PM Repair work \$72.34
- Deputy Chief Truck – PM repair work \$15.31
- Fire Station 1 – Dug out damaged concrete of the front apron, added gravel and poured new concrete \$15,195.53

December – Engine 1 – Replaced front wheel oil caps \$52.00

- Rescue 1 – NC Safety Inspection \$16.85
- Rescue 1 – PM Repair work, changed fluids and minor repairs \$219.81
- Ladder 1 – Supplies DEF and ELC \$58.41
- Ladder 1 – Repair work, bypassed heater shut off valve, fixed air leak, clutch solenoid and air compressor \$198.04
- Ladder 2 – Repair work, U-Joint grease, tested and charged system \$95.97
- Fire Station 1 and 2 – Painted offices and hand rails \$79.57

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES – This portion of the report will indicate the major equipment purchases for the quarter.

October – No major purchases this month

November – Upfit both QRV trucks with audible and visual warning devices \$18,076.66

December – 10 sets of structural fire turnout gear \$28,497.34

- 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe for administration to replace the administrative vehicle converted to Fire Station 1 QRV \$38,850

Respectfully submitted by;

Ken Hair

Fire Chief, City of Lenoir Fire Department