
CRESSON VOUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



LOYAL TO DUTY

*PROVIDING UNLIMITED EMERGENCY FIRE/RESCUE AND QRS SERVICE
TO ANY PERSONS IN NEED*

Dear Reader:

The membership of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company is pleased to provide this report to you as an interested party to our organization. By publishing an annual report, we are attempting to provide accomplishments of 2019 and goals that we have developed for 2020.

The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company wishes to express our gratitude to the elected officials of the municipalities that we serve and to the residents of our emergency service coverage area who have supported all of our past accomplishments, and with whom we anticipate being able to continue to move forward.

This Annual Report is a reflection of the 2019 Cresson Volunteer Fire Company while looking forward to 2020 as the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department. The 2020 Annual Report will include additional data related to the municipalities that were serviced by the Community of Lilly Volunteer Fire Company. This report also reflects some Lilly information, especially in the 2020 Goals and Objectives section.

The members of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company, as the trustees of your Fire Company, wish to extend an invitation for you to visit, become an active member, or at any time to query us on any matters that pertain to your Fire Company.

The progress made by the Company has always been the result of your continued support and assistance, and is done with the total benefit of the residents of the coverage district as our main objective.

"The only free item in the
volunteer fire service...
is the volunteer"

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SECTION 1.

ARTICLES OF CORPORATION AND MISSION STATEMENT

**CRESSON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
ARTICLES OF CORPORATION**

The purpose of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company is to protect and preserve the lives and property of the citizens of our fire service area.

**CRESSON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company is to provide unlimited emergency fire and rescue service to any persons in need.

The Company recognizes that persons in need are not in a position to mitigate their problem.

This will necessitate the intervention of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company to render assistance.

This intervention will be provided to the best of the ability of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company to whoever needs the assistance, without regard to the background of the person who has requested it.

SECTION 2.

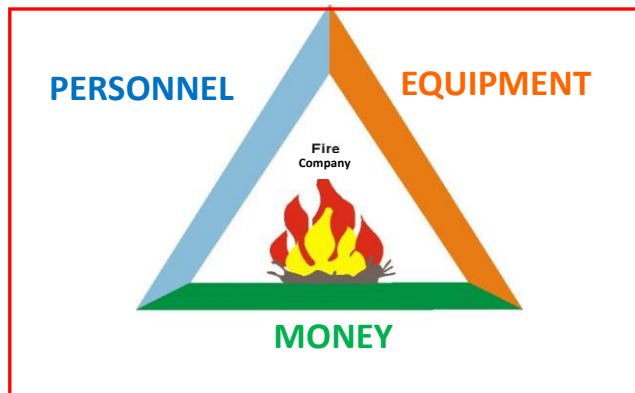
THE DISAPPEARING VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE

Pennsylvania Senate Resolution 6 (SR 6) was an evaluation of the volunteer fire service throughout the Commonwealth. This report was released in 2018 and clearly documents the numerous issues the volunteer fire service confronts.

Exert from SR 6...

The case for Pennsylvania playing a larger role in helping to maintain the viability of our volunteer emergency service organizations can easily be made in terms of public safety and funding needs. According to a 2001 Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute Study, the value of the service that our volunteers provide was estimated at \$6 billion. That figure may be as high as \$10 billion in today's dollars. If we lose our volunteer fire and EMS companies and volunteers the taxpayers will face a very steep price tag. The significant drop in the number of volunteer emergency services ranks can be directly attributed to the fact that (in addition to fighting fires and responding to every other imaginable emergency around the clock), our volunteer emergency service responders are often the same individuals who must raise the funds to pay for their own training, in many cases provide for their own equipment, conduct administrative services and support, and maintain equipment and facilities. Taken together, the many tasks performed by a decreasing number of volunteers only exacerbates the problem and overwhelms those who remain active.

The volunteer fire service in your community operates within the Fire Service Triangle. The three elements of the fire service triangle are: **PERSONNEL, MONEY AND EQUIPMENT**. The equal strength of each side enables the volunteer fire service to operate efficiently, safely, and at a minimal operational cost. The fire triangle needs the involvement all community members, governmental entities, and financial donors for a volunteer fire department to operate and survive.



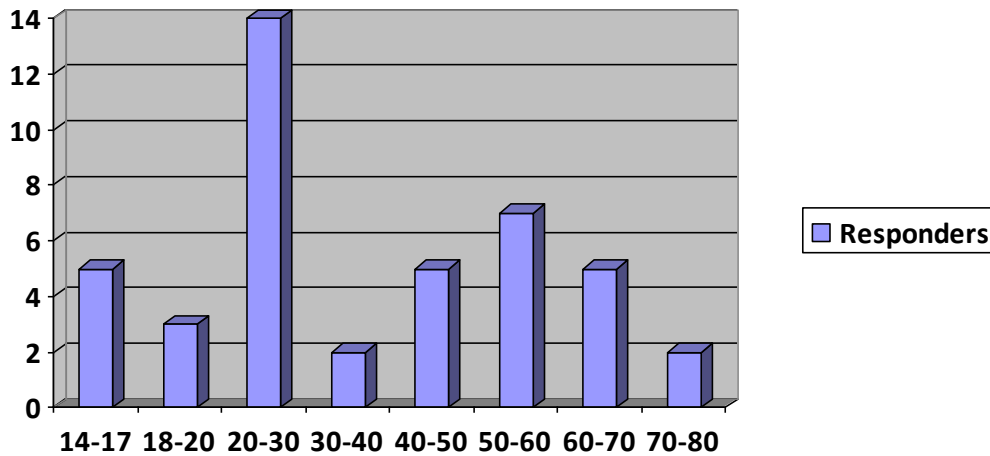
We bring the “**The Disappearing Volunteer Fire Service**” to your urgent attention in our plight to continue the cost savings volunteer fire service for your community.

Without adequate funding, the replacement of aging equipment and a drastic increase of volunteers for the fire service, the Fire Service Triangle will collapse, casting a catastrophic and life-threatening effect upon our communities, and ultimately the residents and businesses.

SECTION 3.
MEMBERSHIP
2019 MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS	151
<i>The following is a breakdown of the 151 members</i>	
Social Members (non-participating in fund raising or responding to incidents)	92
Members responding to Fire/Rescue incidents	43
Members actively supporting the Company in fundraising efforts	6
<p>The average age of members responding to Fire/Rescue incidents in 2019 is: 41 years of age</p> <p>In 2009, the average age was 36.5 years.</p> <p>This average age has steadily increased due to fewer young people committing to the volunteer fire service in Pennsylvania.</p>	

Number of members by ages responding to fire/rescue incidents



Section 4.

CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company has many staff certified, holding memberships in, and involved in many agencies. This brings about much expertise and prestige to the Fire Company.

Other Emergency Service Roles of Departmental Members

- Cambria County Emergency Management Agency On-Scene Coordinators
- Cambria County Fireman's Fire School Training Committee Members
- Cambria County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee
- Cambria County Local Emergency Planning Committee Members
- Local Emergency Management Agency Coordinators
- Local EMS responders

Professional Backgrounds:

- Accident and Illness Prevention Service Provider
- Certified Public Accountant
- Certified Occupational Safety Professionals
- Career Fire Fighters
- Correctional and Probation Officers
- Certified Safety Health Manager
- Commercial Driver License Operators
- Emergency Medical Technicians
- Industrial Hygiene
- Information and Technology (IT) Networking and Security Specialist
- Licensed Physician Assistant
- Licensed Physical Therapist
- Licensed Occupational Therapist
- Licensed Real Estate Agent
- Multiple Trades Staff
- Naval Hospital Corpsman
- Paramedics
- Pa State Fire and Emergency Service Training Instructors
- Physical Plant Directors
- Professional Administrators
- Registered Nurses
- Safety and Environmental Directors
- Security and Loss Control Specialists
- 911 dispatcher

Emergency Service Certifications held by various members of the Company

- Asbestos, Lead, and Radon, Abatement and Inspection Certifications
- Assistant State Police Fire Marshal
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Certified Life Safety Code Reviewer
- Emergency Medical Technicians
- Emergency Vehicle Operators
- First Aid
- Fire Arson Investigator
- Fire Inspector
- Fire Inspector I
- First Responders

- Fire Suppression Instructor
- Hazardous Material Operations and Technicians
- Local Emergency Management Agency Staff
- National Vehicle Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician
- PA Firefighter 1 & 2
- PA Fire Officer I & 2
- PA. Department of Health Vehicle Rescue Technician
- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Instructor
- Pro-Board Hazardous Material Operations Technician
- Pro Board-Certified Fire Instructor I and Fire Instructor II
- Registered Nurses
- Various other backgrounds

The Fire Company is also a member of the following organizations:

- Cambria County and Vicinity Volunteer Firemen's Association
- Central District Firemen's Association
- Firemen's Association State of Pennsylvania
- Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association

Fire Company members also represent the following Professional Associations:

- American Society of Safety Engineers
- International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- Keystone Chapter of Fire Service Instructors
- National Fire Protection Association

SECTION 5.
LICENSES/PERMITS

The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company is required to obtain and hold numerous licenses and permits to legally operate the corporation. The majority of the licenses and permits require the expenditure of financial resources to obtain and hold. All of the funds expended for these licenses/permits are obtained through in-house fund-raising activities.

LICENSES/PERMITS/REGISTRATIONS:

1. PA Small Games of Chance License—Annual fee \$125.00
2. PA BINGO License---Annual Fee \$100.00
3. PA Charitable Contributions License---Annual Fee \$150.00
4. PA Department of Agriculture Food Service License---Annual Fee \$80.00
5. PA Liquor Control Board Interim Liquor License—Fee per each licensed event \$30.00
6. Federal 990 Not for Profit Tax Return
7. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and Bradstreet business number
 - a. a unique nine-character number used to identify your organization for federal fund tracking
8. Employer Identification Number (EIN):
 - a. Cresson Volunteer Fire Company
 - b. Cresson Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association
9. Fire Department Identification Number/Department (Federal Issued) FDID/FDINS
10. Systems Applications and Products (SAP) Vendor ID:
 - a. PA Issued Vendor Number required for State grant/Contract using entities
11. System for Awards Management (SAMS)
 - a. Federal Business registration annual renewal

Additionally, numerous various entities which require reporting to comply with mandated obligations. There are indirect costs related to each entity but no direct fee.

ANNUAL REQUIRED REPORTING:

1. PENNDOT Fleet Registration- for all fire apparatus
2. PENNSFIRE-incident reporting system used by the Commonwealth of PA and Cambria County
3. Pa State Police Fire Marshal Reports
4. Federal 990 Non-Profit tax returns
5. State Charitable entity report
6. Pa. Dept of Revenue – quarterly tax withholdings

SECTION 6.

EQUIPMENT AND MAJOR ASSETS

1. RESCUE/ENGINE 70 2018 KME Predator Engine



This unit is 2 years old. This combination unit has a 2,000-g.p.m. fire pump, a 1,000-gallon water tank and a 30-gallon foam tank. The unit is designed to implement rapid fire knockdown, rescue services and rural water movements. The large pump can provide a vast amount of water over long distances without the need to have additional engines and

enables this unit to further support our rural areas without a hydrant system. The unit carries the primary hydraulic rescue equipment and manual rescue tools. The integrated foam system can provide 2 different foam types, commonly known as A & B type foams. Compartments are supplied on all sides of the unit to carry the multitude of items required to be certified as a fire apparatus. This unit has a fully enclosed cab with seating for eight staff.

2. ATTACK 70 2009 Crimson 5500 4x4 Mini-Pumper



This unit is 10 years old. This unit is a multi-facet mini-pumper with 1,000 G.P.M Waterous pump and 300-gallon water tank. The unit carries fire suppression equipment, wild land firefighting equipment, a 6,000 P.S.I. integrated cascade system, a hydraulic rescue system, medical equipment, roadway safety equipment, an 8 KW diesel generator with

quartz lighting and NFPA compliant chevron decals for visual safety. This unit also serves as a Quick Response Service (QRS) unit in support of the Cambria Alliance Emergency Medical Service.

3. TOWER 70 2005 Crimson Aerial Ladder Tower



This unit is 14 years old. This unit is capable of extending 103 feet and can support a maximum of 1000 pound in the tower bucket. The unit has a 2,000-G.P.M. water pump and a 300-gallon water tank. This unit carries 1,000 feet of 5-inch, 350 feet of 2-½ inch leader supply line and 700 feet of 1 ¾

attack lines. A 10 K generator supplies the auxiliary power for lighting and hand tools. Numerous rescue and ventilation tools augment the capabilities of this unit. The unit can carry 6 firefighters safely in an enclosed cab with an array of firefighting/rescue tools. The unit is certified annually to meet the NFPA specifications and is fully equipped with an entire complement of ground ladders, lighting and salvage equipment. The unit is outfitted with a waterway and breathable air piped to the bucket.

4. UTILITY 70 2005 Ford 250 XL pickup truck



This unit is 14 years old. This is a 4-wheel drive, 4 door diesel unit and is utilized as a firefighter and equipment transportation vehicle, off-road support unit, roadway safety and a variety of other discretionary responses.

5. **TANKER 70**

2002 Freightliner/American LaFrance Tanker



This unit is 17 years old. The unit carries 3,000 gallons of water. The unit has a 500-gallon per minute pump. The tanker has a 10-inch quick dump discharge on the rear of the unit to maximize the capabilities of the unit to supply water. The unit carries one portable dump tank capable of holding 3,000 gallons of water.

6. **ENGINE 70**

1996 HME/Quality Engine



This unit is 23 years old. This combination unit has a 1,500-g.p.m. fire pump and a 750-gallon water tank. This unit carries rescue equipment and is fully outfitted to function as a primary attack engine. The unit is also equipped with a reserve set of hydraulic rescue tools. The closed cab has seating for ten staff.

This unit is a dual function piece of apparatus.

7. **AIR COMPRESSOR**

2011 HYPRESS



This unit is 8 years old. The in-house air compressor has high-pressured capabilities up to 6,000 psi and certified as grade D breathing air as required by the Compressed Gas Association. The unit has a quarterly air sample analysis completed to assure the highest grade of quality breathable air and the proper operation of the unit and to comply with NFPA Standards.

8. **Hydraulic Rescue Equipment - *This equipment is 8 years old.*** The Fire Company operates a



full complement of powered hydraulic rescue tools, on 3 different apparatus to assure availability. The hydraulic tools have the capacity to cut through the addition safety metal built into newer vehicles. Additionally, hand tools, electrical tools and rope rescue equipment are owned and operated by the Company. The Company also maintains an air bag rescue system capable of lifting 134 tons.

9. **Air Monitors** – The Company currently has 4 air meters used to detect levels of gas in a direct area. The meters will detect a level of gas in a building, room or area outside. The meters are specially designed to detect gases you cannot see, smell or taste. All meters are designed to alarm when a certain percentage is reached, alerting the area is unsafe.



Gas meter #1- Detects the percentage of Oxygen (O2), Carbon monoxide (CO) and combination gas. This meter also shows the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) of a gas.



Gas meters #2-4 -These are new and more advanced MSA Altair 5x gas meters. These meters are designed to detect CO, O2, Hydrogen Sulfide, Hydrogen Cyanide and LEL. These were acquired at substantial costs and were placed into service in response to the needs requested by the residents and the environmental hazards of our fire protection area.

We also maintain a meter to detect radiation that was acquired through the Anti-Terrorism Act.

10. **Thermal Imaging Cameras-**



The Company operates two (2) Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC) and are types of thermographic camera used in emergency services. By rendering infrared radiation as visible light, such cameras allow firefighters to see areas of heat through smoke, darkness, or heat-permeable barriers. Additionally, 10 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) have integrated TIC's for firefighters' immediate use in a hazardous environment.

11. **Housing** - Built in 1973, the Company owns the building and property located on Ashcroft Avenue in Cresson along with all interior fixtures and equipment. The building serves to house apparatus, equipment, and provides an area to support numerous fundraising activities. The building also serves as a regional disaster shelter that operates from a natural gas emergency generator system in case of power outages.

Under an agreement with Cresson Borough, the Pfeister Building (formerly the Cresson Borough office/garage) is now used to store the devices needed to conduct the weeklong major fundraising festival in July and other events. The building is also utilized as a training site for our firefighters to train on various aspects of structural firefighting, rescue and interior/exterior fire ground operations.

SECTION 7.
ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2019

1. The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company *responded to 100% of requests* for fire/rescue assistance and QRS requests in a wide array of emergencies from the citizens, businesses, governmental agencies and travelers within our fire service area, fulfilling the mission statement of the Company.
2. The Community of Lilly Volunteer Fire Company and the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company held joint membership meetings in anticipation of the Corporate Partnership realization of the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department beginning on January 1, 2020 (*Reference Section 14 for additional details*).
3. Our members volunteered thousands of hours of their spare time to raise much needed financial resources for the Company through more than 65 fund-raising events. The funds obtained through these numerous events are the stabilizing factor to maintaining financial solvency of the Company. These funds augmented municipal contracts and other private donations.
4. In accordance with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania law, the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company follows the requirements to obtain Child Abuse History Clearances and PA State Police Criminal Record Check documents for volunteers with supervision duties of minors, and affidavits for minor members. For applicants and members who did not reside in Pennsylvania for 10 consecutive years, they must also provide an FBI clearance check. This covers all of our active members, both junior and active/firefighters. All members must obtain renewal certifications every 5 years.
5. Officers attended meetings with each municipality that we provide fire suppression/rescue services. An update of Company operations was conveyed to the elected officials with contact information provided to enhance cooperation and communication.
6. Through a collective collaboration of governmental and private entities, the Workmen's Compensations costs our volunteer firefighters remained stable for municipalities, with several municipalities actually seeing a reduction in 2020.
7. We continue to meet our goal that all apparatus drivers must be at least 21 years of age and are required to participate in training to become certified in Emergency Vehicle Operations. All drivers must provide documented proof of a current Pennsylvania vehicle operator's license as required by our insurance carrier.
8. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture completed our kitchen inspection with no deficiencies or recommendations. Our kitchen license was renewed and this is vital to our numerous fund-raising activities.
9. The Company continues to support local businesses with the purchasing of merchandise and materials. The community businesses are one the keys to a strong volunteer fire service and we support our local businesses with your municipal funds and private donations from the citizens as much as possible.
10. The Fire Company participated in the 7th Annual Camp Cadet program sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Police (*Refer to Section 13 for additional details*). We have proudly been participants in this worthwhile program since its inception in 2012.

11. Firefighters completed the Basic Fire Fighter and Fire Fighter I certifications. While the Basic Fire Fighter course focuses on skills and tasks necessary to assure safety on the fire ground, Fire Fighter I prepare the fire fighters to perform essential and advanced fire ground tasks as well as allowing entry into all tracks of the certification system.
12. Members participated in multiple certified emergency training through FEMA and the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioners Office with many members attaining certification in Hazardous Materials, Aerial Operations, Vehicle Rescue, Fire Pump Operations, and an array of other courses and trainings.
13. The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company participated in the Cambria County Renovations Department/Inmate Community Service Work Program which provides inmates real work experience while providing a valuable service to non-profit organization. The Department continues to explore and use various avenues to reduce expenditures and reduce the burden upon the participating volunteers of the Company.
14. The Fire Company submitted numerous applications for grants to reduce the financial burden upon the Fire Company, our members and the entire community area (*Refer to Section 10 for additional details*). The grant awards are used to sustain the financial viability of our Company, improve or replace fire/rescue apparatus or equipment, and improve the safety of our firefighters.
15. The Pennsylvania State Police held numerous Child Car Safety Seat inspections inside the Cresson Fire station. These free inspections provide parents and guardians with the information they need to keep a child safe in a vehicle. We are proud to support the State Police in this important mission.
16. The Fire Company is exploring numerous avenues of funding sources including private and public grants to replace the entire roof of the fire station and community social hall. These alternate funding sources can help to lessen the local costs associated with this anticipated large expenditure of \$120,000.00 or more. The current rubberized roof has exceeded its material life expectancy and has developed leaks and seam lifting, causing additional damage and costs.
17. An Independent Accountant's Review of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company financial records was completed by the certified public accountants' firm of **SICKLER, TARPEY AND ASSOCIATES**. The accounting firm reviewed the financial records of calendar year 2018. We are proud to report that the accounting firm's conclusion was: "*...we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the department financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America*". This report noted no deficiencies or recommendations in our financial practices or policies, which is a positive reflection and outstanding dedication of our Treasurer and the other officers of the Fire Company. We use an Independent Accountant's Review annually to ensure that the Fire Company is utilizing the best financial practices to safeguard your municipal contract funds, grant moneys, in addition to a wide array of community and corporate donations.
18. Mobile Internet access was added to several vehicles for IPAD usage. This technology enables officers and firefighters to access valuable and lifesaving information before, during and after an incident. This internet access is not provided free by the internet vendor and carries a substantial monthly fee.

19. The Fire Company established a PayPal account to enable governmental entities to submit contractual funds and for community members to submit a donation.
20. Asphalt curbing was placed in areas to redirect water into drains in an effort to reduce water infiltration into the social hall during heavy rainfalls. Damage from the 2019 summer storms caused thousands of dollars in uninsured damages. This proactive approach will help mitigate further water infiltration. The funds to expend on this preventive action were obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.
21. The ceiling of the apparatus section of the station is being replaced with the financial assistance of a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant. A metal ceiling was installed with added insulation to improve energy efficiency. The project was competitively bid in accordance with the USDA requirements. The awarded grant covers approximately 33% of the total cost of the project. An additional grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 was awarded from the Community Foundation For the Alleghenies. The MacDermid/Alpha Assembly Solutions Employee Committee of Altoona donated \$1,000.00 towards this project. The remaining 63% is being paid by funds obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts and various private grants.
22. The Fire Company upgraded our computer network and Wi-Fi accessibility throughout the entire building. Our antiquated computers were unable to process current technology data needed for visual displays, incident reporting and Wi-Fi accessibility. This upgrade enhances the Information Technology (IT) throughout the entire building. A member of the community with lengthy IT experience volunteered his time and expertise at no cost with design and recommendations, at a substantial savings to the Company
23. Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) kits (2) were purchased to equip FAST (Firefighter Assist and Search Teams) or RIT teams, a highly recommended tactic during any interventional firefighting and rescue actions. RIT teams, while not required by statute in PA, are highly recommended and considered a minimal safety standard. The acquisition of two RIT kits allows the Fire Company to initially implement a RIT standard while awaiting the arrival of others to assume this duty. The funds to purchase the RIT kits were obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.
24. The Fire Company continues to participate in the AMAZON SMILE program which provides all users of AMAZON the ability to designate .05% of purchases to a charity of their choice. Through our Facebook page, we encourage all readers to denote their charitable giving's to the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company. In 2019, we received approximately \$50.00 of donations.
25. The Fire Company continues to participate in county-wide initiatives for emergency services by having representation on various county committees inclusive of but not limited to:
 - a. Cambria County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
 - b. Cambria County-wide Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee
 - c. Cambria County Special Hazards Response Team Steering Committee
 - d. Cambria County Emergency Management On-Scene Coordinators
 - e. Cambria County Fire Training Committee

SECTION 8.
2019 RESPONSE STATISTICS

Based upon PennsFire records, the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company responded to **352 incidents**. This number does not include the total for non-emergency alarms and requests for public assistance.

The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company inputs each request for assistance as an incident into the Pennsylvania mandated statistical database. This system reflects a comprehensive description of the incidents that the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company responded to during the 2019 calendar year, but may not include public assistance.

The primary coverage area includes Cresson Borough, Sankertown Borough, Cresson Township, Munster Township, and portions of Allegheny Township and Gallitzin Township. This primary coverage area is approximately 73 square miles.

The following is a breakdown of the **352 incidents**:

Fires involving a structure	18
Vehicle fires	18
Railway/commercial freight incidents	0
Natural vegetation fires	14
Rubbish/dumpster fires	0
Smoke investigations	6
Motor vehicle accidents	82
QRS Response (<i>this is a non-reimbursed medical service</i>)	33
Physical rescue/Person locked in a vehicle	13
Fuel spills	2
Natural Gas/LPG leaks	9
Helicopter landing	0
Carbon Monoxide incidents	3
Electrical lines/problems	16
Police/Government/Public service assist	45
Animal rescue	0
Stand-by/cover assignments/move up	10
False alarms/calls	33
Severe weather/natural disaster	22
Flooding	26
Searches	1
Others	1
An average of 13 volunteer firefighters responded to each incident in 2019	
Based upon the reported incidents, an incident requiring a Cresson Volunteer Fire Company response occurred an average <i>every 25 hours.</i>	

We also respond to requests for participation in numerous community civic and governmental events. These include Halloween parades, Santa Claus treat deliveries to local schools, Veterans Events, Easter Egg Hunt, numerous Poker Runs, supporting local high school teams returns after playoffs, dedications, Mount Aloysius College graduation, Penn Cambria Homecoming parade, community parades, support for governmental agencies with water flushing, aerial services, and a host of other requests.

SECTION 9.
2019 FIRE LOSS STATISTICS

During the calendar year 2019, there were zero (0) working structural fire alarms in our primary fire district. There were numerous responses to potential structural fires, but these were mitigated prior to any structural damage occurring.

There were no fire-related deaths in 2019 within our fire coverage area.

This figure is due to the excellent cooperation that the Fire Company has with the multiple other emergency service entities which service the fire protection area. This cooperation is one aspect to ensure that the loss of life and property are kept to a minimum.

The above statistics are from the Pa. State Police Fire Marshal's reports that must be submitted for any property damaged by fire. The PennsFire reporting system was implemented by the Cambria 911 Center in 1998 and was instituted statewide in 2001. This system captures the loss data within the same system as the response data referenced earlier. We continue to be a vital entity in the implementation of data and improvement ideas to this reporting system. This is a mandated user component for submission of applications for federal and state grants and low interest loans pertaining to the fire service.

No statistics are kept of values of vehicles involved in fire if the vehicle was in motion. Under Pa. Law, this is considered a vehicle accident and is under the auspices of the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction at the time of the incident. This same process is used for wild land fires, which fall under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

SECTION 10.

2019 COST SAVINGS AND FUND RAISING

ESTIMATED COST SAVING TO MUNICIPALITIES AND RESIDENTS

Using the *National Volunteer Fire Service Project Calculator*, it is estimated that the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company saved your municipalities and residents the following amount of monetary funds during 2019:

Total Volunteer Savings	\$2,450,231.00
Savings per Fire Fighter	\$ 58,351.00

**Estimated Annual Savings per each address:
\$927.00**

2019 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

This is our primary fund-raising event for the purchase and maintenance of the fire apparatus.

With fire apparatus and equipment cost rising immeasurably faster than income, a donation by every residence and business is critical to the volunteer fire service survival.

The **2019 AVERAGE ANNUAL DONATION**
to the CRESSON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY is:

\$13.38 PER EACH ADDRESS

This total (\$13.38) shows the **immense disparity** between individual donations and the \$927.00 estimate annual savings per address utilizing the "volunteer fire service" ---versus a paid fire service.

Listed below is a total breakdown of the 2019 Annual Fund Drive information for all municipalities combined:

- A request for a donation was mailed to 2,609 addresses
- **Only 17.0%** of all residents/businesses donated and supported the 2019 Annual Fund Drive
- The total number of donations per all addresses received is 460 residents/businesses
- **83% or 2,149** of all residents/businesses **DID NOT** donate to the 2019 Annual Fund Drive in support of your Fire Company
- \$13.38 is the average donation from all addresses

SECTION 11.

GRANTS SUBMITTED AND RECEIVED

The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company has attempted to expand our avenues of funding sources by utilizing all public and private grants available. These additional funding opportunities help augment our ongoing efforts to provide the most efficient and cost-effective fire suppression, rescue, and QRS services to our communities.

The vast majority of the grant applications were investigated, written, data inputted, and submitted by our volunteer members in their spare family time. In addition, these same volunteers managed the grant award, documentation and follow-up submissions to the grant provider.

GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2019

1. The Fire Company submitted a grant application of \$15,000.00 to the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner. If awarded, the grant funds will be used to reduce the 20-year \$129,000.00 loan debt which was used to purchase the 2018 KME Predator Rescue/Engine.
2. The Fire Company submitted an application for grant funds administered through the Homeland Security Department for \$43,500. We are requesting funds to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC), Air Bags and Portable fans, multi-gas detector, Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) pack and gear storage racks. The grant request will be dedicated to ensuring the safety of our firefighters through modern equipment and training. The goal will be to increase the firefighting/rescue capabilities of the Fire Company while improving the safety of our firefighters. Our 10% share of an awarded grant is obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.
3. The Fire Company applied for a \$2,500.00 grant through PEOPLES GAS for funds toward the purchase of a gas meter detector.
4. The Fire Company applied for a grant of \$4,000.00 to purchase fire extinguishing foam and gas detection meter through the Pa. Office of the State Fire Commissioner Unconventional Gas Well Drilling Program.
5. The Fire Company applied for a grant through Harbor Tool and Freight for \$1,000.00 of various shop tools for use at the station.

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2019

1. *Application was submitted in 2018:* The Fire Company received a grant award of \$15,000.00 from the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner. The grant funds were used to reduce the 20-year \$129,000.00 loan debt which was used to purchase the 2018 KME Predator Rescue/Engine.
2. *Application was submitted in 2017:* A grant of \$11,000 was awarded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for an energy efficiency upgrade to the apparatus room ceiling. The Fire Company will expend approximately \$33,000.00 to fulfil the grant requirements. This grant required approximately 2 years of meticulous paperwork submissions and reviews along with project revisions. The additional funds to complete this project were obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts and other private grants.

3. *Application was submitted in 2018:* A grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 was received from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. This grant was awarded to provide financial assistance towards the apparatus room ceiling upgrade.
4. *Application was submitted in 2018:* A \$3,500.00 grant application was received through the Lee Initiative Health & Wellness Endowment in funds to aid in the purchase of a “5 gas” environmental air sampling pump. The unit shall include; remote pump probe and tubing, vehicle and 110 v chargers, sampling gas and calibration kit, data logging, in-vehicle mounting kit and/or protective carrying case. This will assist in compliance with the NFPA 350 standard for confined space entry. Our cost would be 15% of the awarded grant value. Any additional funds to purchase denied items are obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.
5. *Application was submitted in 2018:* The Fire Company received announcement of a grant of \$2,500.00 to purchase a battery-operated ventilation fan from ENBRIDGE, a global energy infrastructure leader. The ventilation fan provides increased air flow and greater portability for use. An additional \$1,500.00 is needed to supplement this grant award for the fan purchase. The additional funds to complete this project were obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.
6. *Application was submitted in 2018:* This awarded grant will entail expenditures of Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department funds. Thus, it is listed in this 2019 Annual Report. The Community of Lilly Volunteer Fire Company (CLVFC) was awarded a grant of \$143,847.00 through the Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters grant program for the purchase of 22 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Our SCBA units are required to meet certain National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and related Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations which govern some aspects of our operations (specifically all response to hazardous materials emergencies). Therefore, the CLVFC former SCBA units no longer met the requirements and are incapable of being upgraded, necessitating total replacement of our SCBA units. Additionally, the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will expend \$17,000.00, which is our share of the grant award. These funds are obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts. This will standardize the SCBA units of both the Cresson and Lilly fire stations.

GRANT APPLICATIONS DENIED IN 2019

1. The Fire Company application submitted through the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner Oil and Gas Well Fund for \$4,000.00 was denied.
2. The Fire Company application for grant funds administered through the Homeland Security Department for \$43,500 was denied. The requested funds were planned for purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC), Air Bags and Portable fans, multi-gas detector, Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) pack and gear storage racks.
3. The Fire Company application for a \$1,000.00 grant to purchase fire extinguishing foam from ENBRIDGE was denied.
4. The Harbor Tool and Freight application for \$1,000.00 worth of various tools was denied.

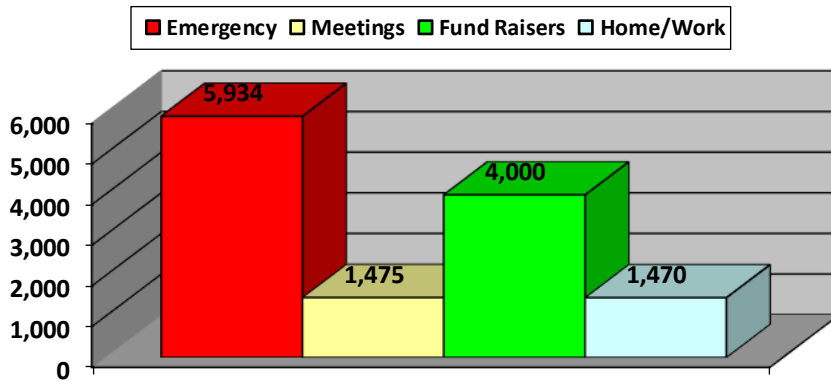
SECTION 12.

DONATED PERSONNEL HOURS

During 2019, our members donated approximately **5,934 hours of volunteer service**, both operating at emergency incidents, weekly training, certified training and fire prevention.

In addition to the above, approximately **1,475 volunteer hours** were donated conducting meetings to assure the operation of the Company. Approximately **4,000 volunteer hours** were expended conducting fundraising details to assure the financial stability of the organization. Approximately **1,470 volunteer hours** were expended working at home or place of business related to Fire Company operations.

**The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company members donated
in excess of 12,879 personnel hours in 2019**



The Donated Personnel Hours total **DOES NOT INCLUDE** the planning meetings, purchasing, events, fire prevention training, general cleaning of apparatus, station, banquet hall, and other related task that are associated with each singular fund-raising event that often take weeks of planning. This is in addition to the numerous alarms, public service details, meetings, and other community sponsored events that are noted above.

FINANCIAL VALUE OF PERSONNEL VOLUNTEER HOURS

According to the Independent Sector, a national company establishing the value of volunteer time in Pennsylvania, the hourly cost value for a volunteer in 2019 was **\$25.43**. Utilizing this data, in conjunction with the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company donated hours (12,879), the personnel cost saved for all municipalities involved was:

\$327,512.97

FUND RAISING EVENTS

The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company sponsored approximately **65** days of fund-raising events/sessions in 2018. Based upon these events/sessions, the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company conducted an average of one (1) fund-raising session/event ***every 5.6 days of the 2019 calendar year.***

These are the “actual” days of fund raising to enable the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company to continue the endless and arduous struggle to meet the challenges of the rapidly escalating cost of providing emergency services and general operational cost. This **DOES NOT INCLUDE** pre-planning of the events, organizational meetings, advertising, set-up and clean-up and supply ordering.

SECTION 13.

2019 FIRE PREVENTION SUMMARY

All fire prevention programs consisted of a video (optional), tour of the fire apparatus, donning of firefighter Personal Protective Equipment (PPE-Firefighter clothing) and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), as well as the use of the thermal imaging camera (TIC), and finally a question and answer session. The average time to present the program was 1 hour to 1-½ hours. The program was presented to children ages 3 to 10.

Preschools: Presented at the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company

- *LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE* – One (1) program with 20 children. Three (3) firefighters presented the program.
- *CHILDREN'S EXPRESS* -- One (1) program with 21 children. Four (4) firefighters presented the program.

Presented on Location

- *LITTLE PEOPLE* (Mount Aloysius College) -- One (1) program with 16 children. Four (4) firefighters presented the program.
- *LITTLE SAINTS* – One (1) program with 13 children. Two (2) firefighters presented the program
- *CHILDREN'S EXPRESS* – One (1) program with 27 children. Three (3) firefighters presented the program.
- *KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE ALL SAINTS* – One (1) program with 25 children. Four (4) firefighters presented the program at the Cresson fire station
- *PENN CAMBRIA PRE-PRIMARY* – One (1) program with 80 children. A total of five (5) firefighters of both the Cresson VFC and Lilly VFC presented the program. This program lasted approximately 3 hours.
- *PENN CAMBRIA PRIMARY*- One (1) program with 200 students. A total of ten (10) firefighters participated in this program with the Lilly VFC and Ashville VFC assisting in the presentation. This program lasted approximately 3 hours.

Individual Packets containing decals, fire safety pencils and related safety information were distributed to each person who attended the programs. The approximate cost to Cresson Volunteer Fire Company is \$500.00 annually. Approximately 390 children attended these programs during Fire Prevention Week.

Camp Cadet (Pennsylvania State Police sponsored): The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company participated in the Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet at Mount Aloysius College for 45 Camp Cadets. We, along with the Lilly VFC, presented instructions and hands on training in extinguishers, vehicle rescue, fire suppression and aerial operation. In addition, fire apparatus was displayed with the Cadets afforded the opportunity to operate hose lines at a reduced pressure to experience real firefighter tactics.

Mount Aloysius College (Freshman class): We, along with the Lilly VFC, presented instructions in fire suppression, fire extinguisher usage and other fire related practices.

Miscellaneous programs: Fire Extinguisher programs were conducted for employees at Wilkinson Bus Line and John Paul Manor II. The program begins with discussion, followed by a video on the use of a fire extinguisher. Following the video, the firefighter reviews the program and the type of fire extinguisher use. The program concludes with each member of the class using a fire extinguisher to extinguish a small Class B Fire. Each program lasts approximately 1½ hours.

Evacuation drills were conducted at John Paul Manor II and Mainline Senior Center.

SECTION 14.

KEYSTONE REGIONAL FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

After nearly 7 years and with a lot of in-depth work the past three years, the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company and Community of Lilly Volunteer Fire Department finalized our Corporate Partnership plan to become the **KEYSTONE REGIONAL FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT** (KRFRD) effective January 1, 2020.

The Executive Officers of the KRFRD were nominated and duly elected by the combined memberships of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company and Community of Lilly Volunteer Fire Company. The 2020 Contact Section of this report contains each KRFRD Executive Officer title, name, and email contact information.

The articles of incorporation for the KRFRD are: *Protecting and Preserving the lives and property of all citizens and the traveling public.*

The mission of the KRFRD is: *The Department recognizes that persons in need are not in a position to mitigate their problem. This will necessitate the intervention of the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department to render assistance. This intervention will be provided to the best of the ability of the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department to whoever needs the assistance, without regard to the background of the person who has requested it.*

It is anticipated this consolidation will help keep costs down, reduce some current costs, reduce insurance ratings for the various municipalities, and further strengthen the fire and rescue services provided to the citizens and traveling public. We also realized substantial financial savings by combining our insurance policies for the past several years as part of this partnership.

Additionally, this maximizes the available personnel, resources, and equipment. This enables the Cresson Fire station and the Lilly Fire station to remain viable and operational. This facilitates the sharing equipment and apparatus, thus avoiding the duplication of cost. Streamlining of the management operations promotes a more efficient method to enable this large corporation to meet the needs of the municipalities, the community and the Department membership.

Numerous meetings with all involved municipalities were held throughout the planning and implementation stages to keep municipal representatives informed of the progression. Additionally, service contracts were developed and implemented for 2020 to enable the Department to meet each municipality fire and rescue service needs.

Since 1986, the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company deposited and expended municipal funds from each municipality on the purchase, maintenance, operation, or repair of the fire house(s), or the maintenance, purchase, operation, or repair of equipment. This contract language continues in all KRFRD contracts and enforces the limitations of expenditures of your municipal financial support. No municipal funds will be expended for the Cresson Station social hall or the Lilly Station pavilion.

There are still copious amounts of plans, actions, and implementations which will need to be part of the KRFRD future. Each action and implementation require the KRFRD Executive Officers to be thoughtful and meticulous for the viable and sustainable future of the volunteer fire service in your community.

SECTION 15.

2020 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will respond to 100% of requests for assistance in a wide array of emergencies from the citizens, businesses, governmental agencies, various emergency services (Police, Fire, EMS), and travelers within and surrounding our primary fire service area.
2. The members of the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will continue to freely donate our time, talents, and professionalism to provide a local emergency municipal service with no personnel, health benefits, or overtime costs.
3. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will continue our on-going quest to recruit new members to provide a minimal cost VOLUNTEER fire protection service. This critical action must be a priority, if the long-standing tradition of volunteer firefighters for our communities is to continue. If this issue is not validated and addressed by the fire service and local, state and federal governmental entities, the volunteer fire service within our area will be adversely affected. This would possibly increase financial burden for the citizens and businesses through increased fire insurance rates and/or municipal operational cost.
4. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will meet the expectation of your community by providing highly trained volunteer firefighters with the proper equipment needed to meet the ever-changing fire and rescue services that your citizens and guests request when they need our services.
5. Cambria County, through the Emergency operation Center, has informed all Fire, EMS and Police departments in Cambria County that the entire 9-1-1 radio system will change in the near future. The plan is to change frequencies to the 800-megahertz range. This frequency range also dramatically increases the cost of radios and related items to be purchased and replaced.

The impact upon our Company was **substantial** in terms of financial costs. In 2008, when Cambria County switched to the current radio system, our costs to purchase, install and convert our radio system exceeded \$62,000. The full cost of that conversion was paid by funds obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts only. No financial support was provided by Cambria County.

With the new radio conversion plan, the Keystone Fire Rescue Department Department will have to purchase and install two (2) base radios with antennas. Additional required purchases are 10 mobile radios and antennas, 30 portable radios with charging banks, 50 new pagers and numerous other related items including installations costs. The estimated total cost to our Department will be in excess of \$160,000.00.

The current plan is for Cambria County to partially fund the new radio system through a County bond. A funding formula was developed whereby Cambria County will pay 75% of approved cost with the remaining 25% funded by the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department. Our current estimated expenditures share cost is \$40,000.00. This cost is based upon the basic engineering data and may rise when further restudies are completed. It is well known that the Cresson area poses special radio needs due to the terrain. This estimated cost is for all radio requirements of the KRFRD (Cresson Station and apparatus/ Lilly Station and apparatus/membership pagers). Our cost share must be obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.

6. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will accept the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus awarded grant to the Community of Lilly Volunteer Fire Company in 2019.
7. Our volunteer firefighters will train and study for certifications in Essentials of Firefighting, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Material Operations and National Vehicle Rescue certification. This is in addition to a wide array of other in-house and various other trainings and certifications courses.
8. After reviewing alarms and how the Cambria County 911 Center dispatches fire departments, we have altered our alarm dispatching procedures. The exterior fire siren(s) will not be sounded for many non-emergency alarms, such as trees down, miscellaneous details, and non-emergency type incidents. It will continue to be sounded for incidents involving vehicles, structures, or life hazards. While the Department will still be dispatched and respond, it will be done through the radio paging system.
9. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will support and encourage Federal, State and local legislation that will provide the means for the volunteer fire service to continue in our communities. With rapidly diminishing ranks of volunteers and the escalating cost of fire equipment, governmental support (federal, state and/or local) is critical to the survival of this municipal service. The goals of the legislation will be to encourage community members to become volunteer fire firefighters and improve public safety.
10. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will strive to develop a membership recruitment drive targeting people of the area who may have the desire to help improve their community by becoming a volunteer fire fighter or persons willing to assist in fund raising events. The Department's membership knows the volunteer fire service cannot continue without the full cooperation and support of municipal leaders, residents and businesses, media outlets, and community organizations.
11. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will evaluate multiple avenues to explore increased financial support for private, municipal, governmental, and non-profit organizations. This review of funding sources is vital to the survival of the volunteer fire service.
12. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will apply for monetary grants administered through the Homeland Department Assistance to Firefighters grant program. This grant will be used to obtain needed fire and rescue equipment.
13. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will continue our extensive efforts to improve upon the Insurance Service Organization's (ISO) fire ratings for all municipalities within our jurisdiction. This will be done by building upon the accomplishments previously mentioned and by using a list of items provided by the representatives from ISO during their last survey.
14. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will continue a wide array of fund-raising activities to reduce our \$129,000.00 debt on the vehicle purchase loan while struggling to maintain the daily operational costs related to a fire company (utilities, insurance, administration, building maintenance, etc.). With the rapidly escalating cost of fire apparatus and firefighting/rescue equipment, obtaining a positive monetary balance is paramount for the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department.

15. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will apply for monetary grants administered through the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner. This grant will be used for debt reduction of our VLAP loan of \$129,000.00. This debt reduction grant will help ensure the financial stability of the Fire Department.
16. We will continue to explore numerous public and private grants of various entities to identify any potential source of funding for the Department.
17. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will continue to examine and scrutinize all cost expenditures on a daily basis. With constant diligence, the Company will continue to survive with fund raising activities supplemented with your municipal support, governmental grants, and private donations.
18. The Department plans to further explore and pursue reimbursement through insurance coverage for costs related to emergency responses to reduce the reliance on local bodies for emergencies service costs.
19. During the course of 2020, the Fire Companies (*Cresson & Lilly*) will merge their web pages and Facebook pages to reflect the new Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department. This yearlong effort was developed by a webmaster with input from the Cresson and Lilly Fire Company combined memberships. While the financial saving will not be significant, there still be some savings once this is completed.
20. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will develop a plan for energy efficiency upgrades and an emergency generator system at the Lilly Fire Station. The energy aspect would include new overhead doors and ceiling insulation. The generator would automatically run during any power outage.
21. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will continue to submit applications for grants to supplement our in-house fundraising efforts. Some of the planned applications include:
 - a. Harbor Tool and Freight for donations towards our fundraising events.
 - b. ENBRIDGE for firefighting foam
 - c. PA OSFC for debt reduction grant
 - d. PA OSFC Oil and Gas Well for firefighting foam
 - e. Lee Initiative Health & Wellness Endowment for a STOKES Basket and rescue equipment
 - f. Assistance to Firefighter Grant through Homeland Security for laundering equipment of firefighter turnout gear
 - g. Community Foundation For the Alleghenies for apparatus ceiling replacement project
 - h. Homeland Security for upgrades at the Lilly Fire Station
22. Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department representatives will continue to participate in County Initiatives and Committees to assure that local representation exists in addressing county-wide initiatives.
23. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will continue to support all local initiatives that have occurred in the past such as carnivals, parades, children events and other activities.
24. Contracts for all services are being reviewed and where possible being combined for savings. Some of these include but not limited to: utilities, service contracts, insurances, purchases, etc.