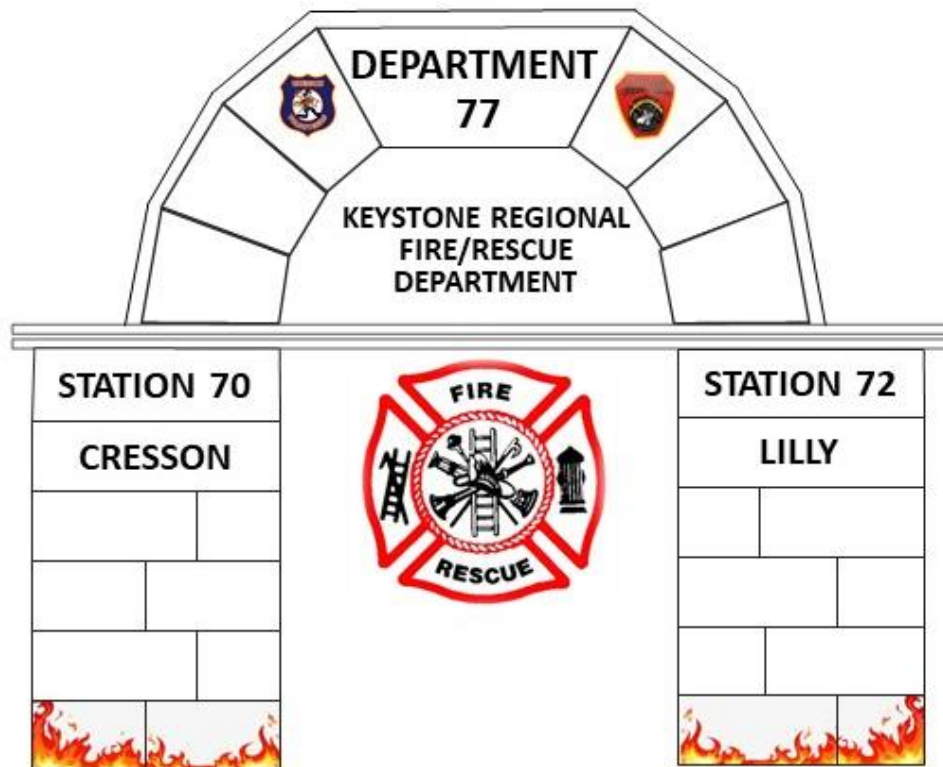

KEYSTONE REGIONAL FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



LOYAL TO DUTY

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

Dear Reader:

The membership of the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department 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 2020 with the goals and the objectives we have developed for 2021.

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department primary coverage area includes Cresson Borough, Lilly Borough, Sankertown Borough, Cresson Township, Munster Township, Washington Township and portions of Allegheny Township and Gallitzin Township.

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department 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.

The members of the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department 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 Department.

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

The only free item in your
Keystone Regional
Fire Rescue Department
IS THE VOLUNTEER

2021 Contact Information

Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department operates two fire stations:

- The Cresson Fire Station is also denoted as the North Station.
- The Lilly Fire Station is also denoted as the South Station.

MAIN OFFICE

PO Box 12
223 Ashcroft Avenue
Cresson, PA 16630

Department Phone Number: (814) 886-4485

Lilly Station Phone Number: (814) 886-2259

North Station	South Station
223 Ashcroft Avenue	505 Main Street
Cresson, PA 16630	Lilly, PA 15938

*Homepage: <https://keystoneregionalfirerescue.com/>



OFFICE/NAME	*E-MAIL
President David Fulton	president@keystoneregionalfirerescue.com
Vice President James Grodes/ North Station	vpcresson@keystoneregionalfirerescue.com
Vice President Paul Sklodowski/ South Station	vplilly@keystoneregionalfirerescue.com
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Trustee John Briel/North Station	trustee2cresson@keystoneregionalfirerescue.com
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Department Assistant Chief Dakota Schneider/North Station	asstchiefcresson@keystoneregionalfirerescue.com
Department Battalion Chief Joseph Adams/ North Station	bnchiefcresson@keystoneregionalfirerescue.com
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SECTION 1.

ARTICLES OF CORPORATION AND MISSION STATEMENT

KEYSTONE REGIONAL FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

ARTICLES OF CORPORATION

The purpose of the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department is for the purpose of Protecting and Preserving the lives and property of all citizens and the traveling public.

KEYSTONE REGIONAL FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department is to provide unlimited emergency fire and rescue service to any persons in need.

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.

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.

SECTION 2.
COVID-19 IMPACTS

The Covid-19 worldwide pandemic continues to have an impact upon the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department. Our fundraising events are a vital part of the volunteer fire service. Additionally, these events are an intricate element of our local communities. These interactive events provide our patrons and community members the ability to mingle and interrelate with family and friends, all while supporting their volunteer fire service. This section addresses some of the personnel and financial impacts that we are tackling during this pandemic.

Personnel:

- ✓ Firefighters continued to respond to all requests including emergency, non-emergency, QRS and ambulance assist.
- ✓ Firefighters followed applicable Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for first responders.
- ✓ All apparatus and station equipment were sanitized.
- ✓ Hand sanitizers were installed throughout both fire stations.

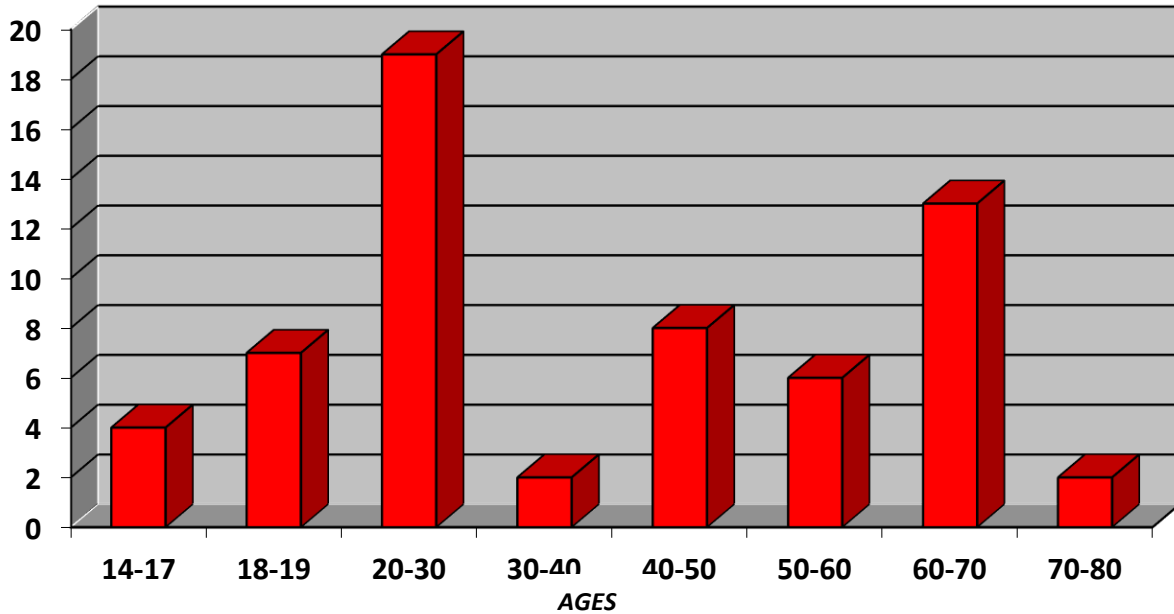
Financial:

- ⌘ The Department expended a large amount of funds on masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hand sanitizers, and other related items required for the safety of our firefighters and the general public.
- ⌘ Weekly BINGO fundraiser was cancelled for 8 months. Restarted in June only to be cancelled again. This has been extended for an unknown period of time.
 - Funds are normally used to pay monthly general expenses.
- ⌘ Spring Gun-a-rama (North Station) was postponed/reconfigured. A virtual public drawing was held for our customers in November of the original list of prizes with added bonus prizes. Our fund-raising profit was .07% of normal for this event.
 - Funds are normally used to pay approximately one-third of our annual insurance premiums.
- ⌘ 5K Run/Walk (South station) was cancelled.
 - Funds are normally used to pay monthly general expenses.
- ⌘ Carnival in Lilly was cancelled
 - Funds are normally used to pay monthly general expenses.
- ⌘ Carnival in Cresson was cancelled
 - Funds are normally used to pay monthly general expenses.
- ⌘ Gun Fest (South station) was cancelled
 - Funds are normally used to pay monthly general expenses.
- ⌘ Fall Gun-a-rama (North station) was cancelled.
 - Funds are normally used to pay approximately one-third of our annual insurance premiums.
- ⌘ Ticket Tournament (North station) was cancelled.
 - Funds are normally used to pay monthly general expenses.
- ⌘ All rentals of our community social hall and pavilion in Lilly were cancelled for 9 months to comply with CDC guidelines. This has been extended for an unknown period of time.
 - Contract revisions were implemented to comply with Commonwealth and CDC guidelines.
 - Funds are normally used to pay monthly general expenses.

SECTION 3.
MEMBERSHIP
2020 MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS	188
<i>Below is a breakdown of the 188 members</i>	
Contributory Members (non-participating)	129
Members Responding to Fire/Rescue Incidents	47
Members Supporting the Department in Fundraising Efforts	13
<p>The average age of our members responding to fire, rescue and Quick Response Service (QRS) incidents in 2020 is: 38 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 Active Members by Age



Section 4.

CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department has many staff certified, holding memberships in, and involved in many agencies. This brings about much expertise and prestige to the Fire Department.

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 Firefighters
- 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 Department

- 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 1 & 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 Department is also a member of the following organizations:

- Cambria County Regional Firefighters Association
- Central District Firemen's Association
- Firemen's Association State of Pennsylvania
- Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association

Fire Department members also represent the following Professional Associations:

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

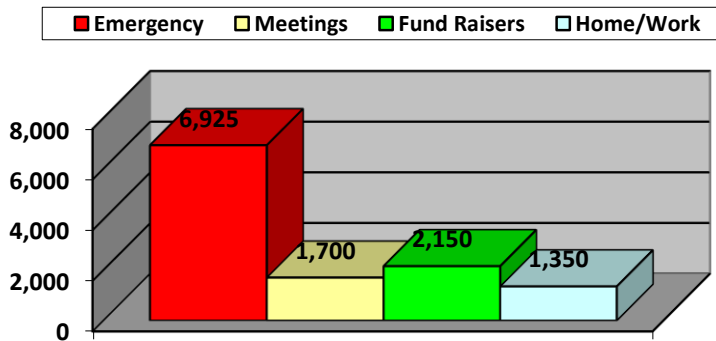
SECTION 5.

DONATED PERSONNEL HOURS

During 2020, our members donated approximately **6,925 hours of volunteer service**, both operating at emergency incidents, trainings, maintenance and other activities.

In addition to the above, approximately **1,700 volunteer hours** were donated conducting meetings to assure the operation of the Department. Approximately **2,150 volunteer hours** were expended conducting fundraising details to assure the financial stability of the organization. This is a reduction from previous years due to numerous fund-raising events being cancelled. Approximately **1,350 volunteer hours** were expended working at home or place of business related to Fire Department operations.

Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department members donated approximately 12,125 personnel hours in 2020



The Donated Personnel Hours total **DOES NOT INCLUDE** the meetings, purchasing, events, fire prevention training, general cleaning of apparatus, station, community social hall, pavilion, and other related tasks 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 2020 was **\$25.43**. Utilizing this data, in conjunction with the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department donated hours (12,125), the personnel cost saved for all municipalities involved was:

\$308,339.00

FUND RAISING EVENTS

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department sponsored approximately **30** days of fund-raising events/sessions in 2020. Based upon these events/sessions, the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department conducted an average of one (1) fund-raising session/event **every 12.2 days of the 2020 calendar year**. These are the **“actual”** days of fund raising to enable the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department to continue the endless and arduous struggle to meet the challenges of the rapidly escalating cost of providing emergency services and general operational costs.

This **DOES NOT INCLUDE** pre-planning of the events, organizational meetings, advertising, set-up and clean-up, supply ordering and numerous other related tasks.

SECTION 6.

LICENSES/PERMITS/CERTIFICATIONS

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department 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 is \$125.00
2. PA BINGO License---Annual fee is \$100.00
3. PA Charitable Contributions License---Annual fee is \$150.00
4. Boiler Room License/ Inspection (both fire stations) --- Annual fee is \$162.00
5. PA Liquor Control Board Interim Liquor License---Fee per each licensed event is \$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 (DBA) Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department
 - b. Cresson Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association
 - c. Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lilly
 - d. Lilly 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 grants/Contract using entities
11. System for Awards Management (SAMS)
 - a. Federal Business registration annual renewal
12. QRS License—Issued by the PA Department of Health

***MANDATED TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. Apparatus pump test/certification (*8 pumps*)
 - Annual cost averages \$4,900.00
2. Aerial (*Tower 70*) and all Department ground ladders test/certification
 - Annual cost averages \$2,300.00
3. Hose test/certification (*approximately 18,000 feet of hose*)
 - Annual cost averages \$4,100.00
4. SCBA test/certification (*39 units*)
 - Annual cost averages \$2,220.00
5. Air Compressor quarterly test/certification
 - Annual cost averages \$725.00

**These expenditures do not include any required repair or upgrade costs to meet certification.*

Various other governmental entities 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
7. Pa. Office of State Fire Commissioner-Executive Officers with contact information
8. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-required for FEMA grant issuance

SECTION 7.
SAFEGUARDING OF ASSETS

1. All assets are fully insured for current full replacement value.
2. All financial records undergo an Annual Independent Accountant's Review by the certified public accounting firm of SICKLER, TARPEY AND ASSOCIATES.
3. All awarded federal and state grant funds undergo audits by the administering agency.
4. The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association and the Lilly Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association are audited by the Pa. Auditor General's Office.
5. 24/7 video surveillance and recording equipment is in use at both fire stations, community social hall and pavilion.
6. Fire alarm and detection system a with an automatic notification is in place at North station and community hall.
7. An annual Insurance Assessment is completed for all assets.
8. The Department Treasurer is bonded to provide security of funds.
9. All apparatus drivers must be a minimum of 21 years of age.

FUTURE PLANS

1. Pa. State Police Vulnerability Assessment Survey to be completed at both sites.
2. Add a fire alarm detection and notification system at the South station.

SECTION 8.
EQUIPMENT/MAJOR ASSETS

EQUIPMENT

1. **AIR COMPRESSOR 2011 HYPRESS**



This unit is 9 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.

2. **HYDRAULIC RESCUE EQUIPMENT**



This equipment is 11 years old. The Fire Department operates a full complement of powered hydraulic rescue tools, on 4 different apparatus to assure availability. The hydraulic tools have the capacity to cut thru the additional safety metal built into newer vehicles. Additionally, hand tools, electrical tools and rope rescue equipment are owned and operated by the Department. The Department also maintains an air bag rescue system capable of lifting 134 tons.

3. **BATTERY OPERATED RESCUE EQUIPMENT**



This equipment is 2 years old. A powered rescue tool receives its power from the power unit component and generates the output forces of energy used to perform one or more of the functions of spreading, lifting, holding, crushing, pulling, or cutting. These tools are not restricted by wires or hydraulic hoses.

4. **THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS**



The Department operates four (4) 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, 14 SCBA have integrated TIC's for firefighters' immediate use in a hazardous environment.

5. AIR MONITORS



The Department has 3 advanced MSA Altair 5x gas meters which are used to detect levels 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. The meters 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.

MAJOR ASSETS

HOUSING -The Department currently operates out of 2 fire stations:

Cresson Station (North)- Built in 1973, the Department 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. The emergency generator is able to operate all electrical devices, radios, heat/AC and emergency alerting siren.

Lilly Station (South)- Built in 1974, the Department owns the building and property located on Main Street in Lilly, along with all interior fixtures and equipment. The building serves to house apparatus and equipment.

ANCILLARY STRUCTURES

Pfeister Building - 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 fund-raising carnival 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.

Pavilion—Located in Lilly, the pavilion is used to host an array of fund-raising events. The pavilion is also used by the public for numerous community activities.

SECTION 9.

2020 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

1. The Department obtained a \$20,000.00 grant for an emergency generator at the South station. The total estimated cost for this project is \$25,000.00. The property was surveyed and the pad area has been installed with the generator installation planned for March 2021. This will enable the station to be fully operational during a power outage or other emergency. The 5-Kilowatt diesel fuel generator, along with electrical service line and panel box improvements, enables the station to operate with increased safety and independence during power outages.
2. Asphalt curbing was strategically installed around the North Station and community social hall to redirect rain water infiltration into the station. Water infiltration occurs during very heavy rainfalls causing damage to the community social hall. This curbing was installed at a reduced cost by utilizing municipal cooperation.
3. Higher lumen lighting was installed at the Lilly pavilion for increased security and safety. This lighting, along with improved security cameras and signage, enables to Department to monitor and deter illegal activities in and around the pavilion.
4. LED lighting was installed in the North Station apparatus room and sections of the community social hall. These lights will reduce our energy consumption while increasing the lighting safety for our firefighters while working in and around the apparatus. The community social hall lighting increases the lumens in the restrooms, common hallway and kitchen areas. The light fixtures were obtained through a private grant with installation completed solely by our members.
5. Our 24-hour security monitoring cameras and recording devices were upgraded at both fire stations, community social hall and the Lilly pavilion. Due to the age of equipment and cameras, the parts were difficult to obtain, thus the need to expend our funds for the security upgrade.
6. The property of the South Station was professionally surveyed to enable the Department to determine the optimum placement of a 5-Kilowatt generator. The finalized survey also revealed additional property owned by the Department that was previously unknown.
7. After several years of financial planning, the damaged and worn overhead bay doors of the South Station are scheduled to be replaced in 2021. The preliminary cost estimate is \$18,000.00. The new doors will reduce our energy needs, increases security and enhances firefighter's safety. The old doors required fighters to stop apparatus in the middle of a state highway to manually close the bay doors when responding to an emergency or any time an apparatus was leaving/returning to the station. The new doors enable firefighters to open/close the bay doors remotely. This improves their safety, the traveling public's safety and reduces energy loss.

SECTION 10.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2020

1. The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company and the Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lilly became the **Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department** beginning on January 1, 2020. It was determined that the North station would be the main office. This addressed several issues: ADA compliance for members and others to attend meetings; Compliance with Federal and State grant requirements for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance by applying agencies; and the needed space to accommodate the members attending monthly business meetings.
2. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department 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 Department.
3. In accordance with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania law, the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department 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. Applicable members are required to obtain renewal certifications every 5 years.
4. Independent Accountant's Review of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company and the Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lilly financial records were completed by the certified public accounting firm of **SICKLER, TARPEY AND ASSOCIATES**. The accounting firm reviewed the financial records of calendar year 2019.
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.
We use an Independent Accountant's Review annually to ensure the Fire Department is utilizing the best financial practices to safeguard municipal contract funds, grant moneys, in addition to the wide array of community and corporate donations. While this is not a full audit due to the extreme costs involved, it is a review of all our financial records by an independent agency at a reasonable financial cost.
5. Officers attended meetings with each municipality that we provide fire suppression/rescue services. An update of Department management and operations was conveyed to the elected officials with contact information provided to enhance cooperation and communication. Additionally, we met with each municipality in July 2020 to provide an update on Covid-19 issues and the virus impact upon our fund-raising events and schedule.
6. The Department continue to explore numerous avenues of funding sources, including private and public donations/grants, to replace the radio system. The County of Cambria is converting the current countywide Fire/Police/EMS radio system to the 800-megahertz frequency in 2022. This County imposed **mandatory conversion** of the radio system will cost your Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department approximately **\$199,648.00**.

7. The Department continues to explore numerous avenues of funding sources including private and public grants to replace the entire roof of the North Station and community social hall. The current estimated cost is \$75,000.00. This is a reduction from the preliminary engineering estimates of \$120,000.00. The current rubberized roof has exceeded its material life expectancy and has developed leaks and seam lifting, causing additional damage and costs.
8. Our members volunteered thousands of hours of their spare time to raise much needed financial resources for the Department through more than 30 fund-raising events. The funds obtained through these numerous events are the stabilizing factor to maintaining financial solvency of the Department. These funds augmented municipal contracts and other private donations.
9. Through a collective collaboration of governmental and private entities, the Workmen's Compensations costs our volunteer firefighters remained fairly stable for municipalities, with several municipalities actually seeing a reduction in 2020.
10. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture completed inspections at the Cresson kitchen and Lilly pavilion kitchen with no deficiencies or recommendations. These kitchen licenses were renewed and are a vital component of our numerous fund-raising activities.
11. The Department 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 municipal funds and private donations from the citizens as much as possible.
12. Firefighters completed the Basic Firefighter and Firefighter 1 certifications. While the Basic Firefighter course focuses on skills and tasks necessary to assure safety on the fire ground, Firefighter 1 prepare the firefighters to perform essential and advanced fire ground tasks as well as allowing entry into all tracks of the certification system.
13. Members participated in multiple certified trainings through FEMA and the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioners Office with many members attaining certification in Hazardous Materials, Aerial Operations, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Vehicle Rescue, Fire Pump Operations, and an array of other courses and trainings.
14. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department, the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association and the Lilly Community Fire Co. Relief Association submitted numerous applications for grants to reduce the financial burden upon the Department, our members and the entire community area (*Refer to Section 14 for additional details*). The grant awards are used to sustain the financial viability of our Department, improve or replace fire/rescue apparatus or equipment, and improve the safety of our firefighters.
15. The Executive Officers and the full membership body conducted numerous meetings throughout the year to address events and responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and related guidelines.
16. Mobile video and audio recording cameras were installed in several apparatus. These cameras provide video/audio documentation of careless drivers, apparatus driver's skill, driving accidents, and reduces insurance fraud while responding to an incident and return to fire station. The apparatus of the South Station previously used several mobile recording cameras.

17. WEX Fuel Cards were secured for the apparatus of the South Station. These fuel cards automatically remove the Liquid Fuel Tax at the time of fuel purchase. This dramatically reduces the Department's time documenting and submitting application for a Liquid Fuel Tax refund. The apparatus at the North Station continues to use the WEX Fuel Card.
18. The Department 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 Department. In 2020, we received approximately \$73.00 of donations.
19. The Department 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
20. The Department employed a third-party webmaster to create a new homepage and email addresses for our Executive Officers. The homepage provides viewers extensive information about the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department, contact information, training and fund-raising dates, safety information and printable applications for membership. The homepage address is listed on the 2021 CONTACT INFORMATION page of this report.
21. The Department license for QRS issued by the PA Department of Health (DOH) was secured for both fire stations. The license application, along with a physical inspection of records, equipment and prior QRS responses, is required by the DOH for licensing.
22. The SCBA obtained through an AFG grant were placed into service at the South Station.
23. Boiler Room inspections, conducted by the Department of Labor and Industry, were completed at both fire stations. A license to operate was successfully obtained at both stations.

SECTION 11.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department receives numerous requests for active participation in an array of community events throughout the year. Each request requires various consideration, and participation by our volunteers. Additionally, some have minimal indirect costs, which often the volunteers pay themselves. Listed below are some of the community events we participated in.

1. With a special call from Santa, assistance was provided with firetrucks and supporting elves for Christmas festivities.
2. Our members assist the American Legion veterans with their Memorial Day ceremonies.
3. Fire trucks are always present at the local Easter Egg Hunts.
4. Fire Police, firefighters and apparatus provide traffic control assistance to numerous motorcycle Poker Runs.
5. Fire apparatus with firefighters respond to local schools requesting support as students return from various championship competitions.
6. At the request of the Mount Aloysius College Police Department, traffic control assistance is provided for the College graduation ceremonies.
7. Halloween parades in numerous communities.
8. We support the Penn Cambria Homecoming Parade with fire apparatus and traffic control.
9. The local Girl Scouts use our community social hall for their annual Girl Scout Cookie distribution site.
10. Our community social hall is used by the Penn Cambrai Football Boosters for their annual student dinner.
11. The Firemen's Pavilion is used by the Lilly Public Library for their summer reading program.
12. Provided available support for the Catholic Community of Cresson festival.
13. Provided aerial assistance to public and private entities for United States of America Flag raising events and technical support.
14. Our members show their gratitude and support of military veterans by freely providing the Department community social hall and kitchen for State Representative Frank Burns annual veteran's appreciation dinner.
15. In a show of support to our local school students, their families and teachers during the Covid-19 restrictions, and if requested, our firefighters with apparatus participated in Penn Cambria High School, and All Saints school graduations from pre-kindergarten to high school seniors.
16. Our firefighters brightened the birthday parties of all ages, from small children to senior citizens, during the Covid-19 restrictions. The sirens, horns, lights and waving firefighters added to the birthday celebrations.
17. The Department apparatus and personnel provided solemn memorial details for a fallen fire responder as the funeral processions passed through our area.

SECTION 12.

2020 COST SAVINGS AND DONATIONS

COST SAVINGS

ESTIMATED COST SAVING TO MUNICIPALITIES

Utilizing the *National Volunteer Fire Service Project Calculator*, it is estimated that the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department saved municipalities and residents the following amount of monetary funds during 2020:

Total Volunteer Savings	\$2,385,600.00
Savings per Firefighter	\$ 56,800.00

**Estimated Annual Savings
per each address in our primary coverage area:
\$702.00**

DONATIONS

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

This is our primary fund-raising event for the purchase and maintenance of the fire apparatus and equipment. With fire apparatus and equipment cost rising immeasurably faster than income sources, a donation by each residence and business is critical to the volunteer fire service survival.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE DONATION

in 2020 to the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department is:

\$13.48 PER EACH ADDRESS

This total (\$13.48) shows the **immense disparity** between individual/businesses donations and the **\$702.00** estimate annual savings per address utilizing the “**volunteer** fire service” --- versus a **paid** fire service.

Listed below is a breakdown of our 2020 Annual Fund Drive information for all municipalities combined:

- **3,348 addresses** were mailed a 2020 Annual Fund Drive Letter
- **Only 19.3%** of all residents/businesses **DONATED** to our 2020 Annual Fund Drive
 - Only 626 residents/businesses donated from all 3,348 addresses
- **80.7%** of all residents/businesses **DID NOT DONATE** to our 2020 Annual Fund Drive
 - 2,722 residents/businesses did not donate from all 3,348 addresses

SECTION 13. **GRANTS**

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department 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.

All of the grant applications were investigated, written, data inputted, and submitted by our volunteer members in their spare family time. No third-party grant writers are used, thus saving the Department funds. In addition, these same volunteers of the Department managed the grant awards, documentation and follow-up report submissions to the grant provider.

It is important to note that since the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department merger occurred, we are still eligible in some unique circumstances, to apply for grants under both former entities and their associated Relief Associations. The details depend upon the grant, grant administrator, and the time period and geographical regions the grant covers.

*Due to the numerous grants submitted and on-going grants, we divided this chapter into two sections for easier reading. The first section of grant information is directly related to the Department. The second section of grant information is directly related to one-time Covid-19 grants.

DEPARTMENT APPLICATIONS

Federal Grants

1. \$49,500.00 application through the Homeland Security Department to purchase battery operated rescue tools/air bags. The goal will be to increase the firefighting/rescue capabilities of the Fire Department while improving the safety of our firefighters and reducing the amount of manpower needed to operate the equipment. Our 10% share of an awarded grant is obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.
 - Status: Awarded
2. \$236,000.00 application through the Homeland Security Department to purchase and install radios and related equipment to comply with the new radio system of Cambria County. Our 10% share of an awarded grant is obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.
 - Status: Denied
3. \$30,000.00 application through the Homeland Security Department to purchase battery powered equipment. Our 10% share of an awarded grant is obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.
 - Status: Denied
4. \$185,000 application for a US Dept of Agriculture Rural Communities Development grant/loan to purchase of radios and related equipment to comply with the new radio system of Cambria County. If awarded the grant will be a 10% - 34% grant with the remainder in the form of a loan.
 - Status: This submission is pending the outcome of the resubmitted Homeland Security Grant submission

5. \$120,000.00 application through the Homeland Security Department to purchase gear washer/extractor with dryer, and new sets of firefighting gear. Our 10% share of an awarded grant is obtained through our in-house fund-raising efforts.
 - Status: Denied
6. \$200,000.00 inquiry through the Appalachian Regional Commission to purchase and install radios and related equipment to comply with the new radio system of Cambria County.
 - Status: Denied

PA State Grants

1. \$15,000.00 application through the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner for the North station. If awarded, the grant funds would be used to purchase firefighting gear.
 - Status: Pending
2. \$15,000.00 application through the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner for the South station. If awarded, the grant funds would be used to purchase firefighting gear.
 - Status: Pending
3. \$3,000.00 application through the Pa. Office of the State Fire Commissioner Unconventional Gas Well Drilling Program to purchase fire extinguishing foam.
 - Status: Denied
4. \$20,000.00 Community and Economic Development application through Representative Frank Burns to purchase and install a full station emergency generator for the South station.
 - Status: Awarded
5. An inquiry to the Southern Alleghenies Planning Commission for funds to assist with costs of the new radio system.
 - Status: Denied

Private Grants

1. \$7,500.00 application through the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies for assistance to replace the apparatus bay doors at the South station.
 - Status: Awarded at a reduced amount of \$1,000.00.
2. \$7,500.00 application through the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies for assistance to replace the entrance/egress doors at the North station.
 - Status: Denied
3. \$7,500.00 (maximum) application through ENBRIDGE to assist in the purchase and install radios and related equipment to comply with the new radio system of Cambria County. ENBRIDGE is a global energy infrastructure leader.
 - Status: Awarded
4. \$3,500.00 application through the Lee Initiate Health and Wellness for a new Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) at the South station.
 - Status: Awarded

5. \$3,500.00 application through the Lee Initiate Health and Wellness for a for a new rescue basket at the North station.
 - Status: Awarded
6. \$10,000.00 application through the ENERGY TRANSFER to assist in the purchase and install radios and related equipment to comply with the new radio system of Cambria County. Energy Transfer is one of the largest energy company transporting oil and gas products thru pipelines.
 - Status: Awarded
7. \$10,000.00 (maximum) application through State Farm Insurance Community Foundation for the acquisition of a vehicle control sign board and or used state farm traffic control vehicle for usage in controlling incidents on the local roadways.
 - Status: Denied
8. \$5,000.00 (maximum) application through DUKE ENERGY to assist in the purchase of radios and related equipment to comply with the new radio system of Cambria County.
 - Status: Denied
9. \$300.00 application through HARBOR FREIGHT for tools.
 - Status: Awarded
10. \$250.00 application through SHEETZ for financial assistance.
 - Status: Denied

***COVID-19--APPLICATIONS**

Covid-19 Federal Grants

1. The Department submitted an application for grant funds administered through the Homeland Security Department in the amount of \$3,000.00. We requested funds to purchase PPE at the North Station for direct equipment expenses incurred for Covid-19.
 - Status: Awarded
2. The Department submitted an application for grant funds administered through the Homeland Security Department in the amount of \$3,000.00. We requested funds to purchase PPE at the South Station for direct equipment expenses incurred for Covid-19.
 - Status: Awarded
3. The Department submitted an application for grant funds administered through the Homeland Security Department in the amount of \$28,000.00 for gear and equipment sanitation to remove potential virus exposure at the North station and South station.
 - Status: Pending

Federal Small Business Administration /Grants

1. The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company applied for a \$10,000 Federal Small Business Administration grant for lost revenues and operating expenses.
 - Status: Awarded

2. The Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lilly applied for a \$10,000 Federal Small Business Administration grant for lost revenues and operating expenses.
 - Status: Awarded
3. The Cresson Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association applied for a \$10,000 Federal Small Business Administration grant for lost revenues and operating expenses.
 - Status: Awarded at the reduced amount of \$1,000.00.
4. The Lilly Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association applied for a \$10,000 Federal Small Business Administration grant for lost revenues and operating expenses.
 - Status: Denied

Covid-19 PA State and Local Grants

1. \$57,000.00 application through the Cambria County EMA through the Federal Stimulus funds for reimbursement of expenses at the North Station related to Covid-19.
 - Status: Pending
2. \$24,000.00 application through the Cambria County EMA through the Federal Stimulus funds for reimbursement of expenses at the South station related to Covid-19.
 - Status: Pending
3. \$71,056.00 application through the PA Office of the State Fire Commissioner the Federal Covid-19 funds to reimburse expenses at the North station.
 - Status: Awarded at the reduced amount of \$25,342.00.
4. \$59,363.00 application through the PA Office of the State Fire Commissioner for Federal Covid-19 funds to reimburse expenses at the South station.
 - Status: Awarded at the reduced amount of \$24,384.00.
5. \$5,000.00 application through the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies for Covid-19 emergency supplies.
 - Status: Denied

SECTION 14.

2020 RESPONSE STATISTICS

Based upon PennsFire records, the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department responded to **312 incidents**. This number does not include the total for non-emergency alarms and requests for public assistance.

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department 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 Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department responded to during the 2020 calendar year, but may not include public assistance.

The primary coverage area includes Cresson Borough, Lilly Borough, Sankertown Borough, Cresson Township, Munster Township, Washington Township and portions of Allegheny Township and Gallitzin Township. This primary coverage area is approximately 74 square miles based on registered statistics. The following is a breakdown of the **312 incidents**:

Fires involving a structure	18
Vehicle fires	6
Fires	10
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	1
Railway/commercial freight incidents	0
Natural vegetation fires	2
Rubbish/dumpster fires	0
Motor vehicle accidents	74
QRS Response (<i>this is a non-reimbursed medical service</i>)	65
Stand-by/cover assignments/move up	21
False alarms/calls	35
Severe weather/natural disaster	3
Service Calls	48
Good Intent Calls	29
An average of 18 volunteer firefighters responded to each incident in 2020	
Based upon the reported incidents, an incident requiring a Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department response occurred an average every 28 hours .	

SECTION 15.

2020 FIRE LOSS STATISTICS

During the calendar year 2020, the Department responded to 18 fire incidents involving a structure within our primary coverage area (*Refer to Section 14 for additional details*). Of these responses, three (3) were working structure fires. A “working structure fire” is one capable of causing considerable destruction of property or loss of lives.

The other 13 fire responses involving a structure were mitigated by the Department prior to causing considerable damage or loss of life.

There were no fire-related deaths in 2020 within our fire coverage area.

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. 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 Pennsylvania current laws, 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 16.

2020 FIRE PREVENTION

Due to the Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions, in-station and in-person Fire Prevention presentations were not possible.

Fire safety links to are available on the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department homepage.

SECTION 17.

2021 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 and as requested.
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 costs, health benefits, or overtime costs.
3. Cambria County, through the Emergency Operation Center, informed all Fire, EMS and Police departments in Cambria County that the entire 9-1-1 radio system will change in 2022. The plan is to change the current 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 new system will replace the current system which is 13 years old.
 - a. In 2008, when Cambria County switched to the current radio system, our costs to purchase, install and convert our radio system exceeded \$92,000 (North and South stations combined). The full cost of the 2008 conversion was paid by funds obtained solely through our in-house fund-raising efforts. No financial support was provided by Cambria County or other entities.
 - b. The forthcoming impact upon our Department is **SUBSTANTIAL** in terms of financial costs. With the new radio conversion implementation, the Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will need 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 is **\$344,826.00**. Our Department cost will be in excess of **\$ \$199,648.00**.
 - c. 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 a basic amount equal for each fire department. Beyond the basic, Cambria County will pay an apportioned percentage cost for each radio item needed.
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 responses that our citizens, guests and traveling public request when they need our services.
5. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will continue our on-going quest to recruit new members to provide a minimal cost volunteer fire protection. 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.

6. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will accept the battery-operated rescue tools awarded through a grant to the Department in 2020.
7. Our volunteer firefighters will train and study for certifications in Essentials of Firefighting, Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, 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. 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. 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 firefighters and improve public safety.
9. 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 firefighter 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. We will continue to explore numerous public and private grants of various entities to identify any potential source of funding for the Department.
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 debt on the vehicle purchase loan while struggling to maintain the daily operational costs related to a fire department (utilities, insurance, administration, building maintenance, etc.). Our approximate current loan debt balance is approximately \$69,100.00. 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 continue to examine and scrutinize all cost expenditures on a daily basis. With constant diligence, the Department will continue to survive with fund raising activities supplemented with municipal support, governmental grants, and private donations.

16. 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.
17. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will install energy efficient upgrades and a full building emergency generator system at the South Station. The generator automatically engages and operates during any power outage.
18. The Department will explore energy savings improvements at the South station by having an additional layer of spray foam insulation added to the ceiling.
19. The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department will continue to submit applications for grants to supplement our in-house fundraising efforts.
20. 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.
21. The Department will secure a license for QRS issued by the PA Department of Health.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. The installation of new energy efficient overhead bay doors will be completed at the South Station.
25. The Department will continue efforts to combine reports, federal and state applications and operating licenses and permits under a singular name and entity to streamline operations.
26. The Department will continue to meet routinely with each municipal governing body within our primary coverage area. Additionally, we will continue to provide this Annual Report keep municipal leaders apprised on Department activities.