

From: GLEN SARADUKE
Sent: Wed 8/26/2009 12:12 PM
Subject: Structure Committe Input/thoughts from Glen Saraduke

On the structure committee input, the following comments/thoughts are provided (please pass on as applicable):

- Foothills needs a paid FT Chief. This Chief should be from a paid FD and have 10-20 years of experience (seasoned/mature) at a busy location. Also, Chief should have a college degree in Fire Science or a related field and have experience at budget. Many other similar size FDs in Colorado have already done this...and this allowed them to really move forward.
- Currently, nobody on FFR fits the above description. Only a handful of FFs at FFR even have a 2 or 4 year degrees (including me) in fire science/fire protection which in itself does not qualify a person. Most others at FFR only have the experience of FFR and nothing else.
- A paid FT Chief would provide consistent leadership and communication with the BOD, FF and community. In the past, Chiefs were picked by the membership based on popularity (not professional qualifications) each year...which provided no consistency in many areas. In the "old" days this kind of worked...but we can no longer do business like this.
- The paid Chief should hold occassonal (quarterly?) community meetings to communicate with the community with regards to level of service, goals to meet national standards, fire prevention, wildland risk, etc.
- The paid Chief needs to be active in local Fire Chief organizations like FMAC and the Fire Council, etc. to keep abreast of local issues. Also, a paid Chief should be attending some national conferences like the NFPA meeting to ensure FFR is aligned with national standards, safety, liabilty, etc.
- Please consider that FFR district is on the edge of a major metro area and not in the boondocks...we have a major interstate, housing on both side of the highway and tons of out of state visitors each each year. So we need to be progressive and move towards 24-7 coverage of some kind as a goal, along with compliance with national standards.
- Finally, I would let the new Chief make any decision(s) regarding a third paid FF responder and/or any PT administrative help for FFR.

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