



GVFD Quarterly Report July 2024

EMS: 16

Fire: 0

- **April:**

- EMT 1 class prep.
- Submitted paperwork to the DMV to get new license plates for our rigs. This is to stay compliant with new insurance requirements. We are still waiting for the DMV to send them.
- The Building Painting RFQ was sent out this month. This is to re-paint the firehall and have a better maintained building.
- I am still working on a program manager course. This will help me get better organized on large and small projects.
- The Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department received about 2,700 dollars for a Mini Grant to send our EMS Coordinator to the Southeast EMS Conference, which was hosted in Sitka.
- Was still working on, but now submitted, the Brothers Helping Brothers Grant. This is in the hopes to find the rest of the funds to purchase the LUCAS Chest Compression device.
 - We are still looking for additional funding. While I was told we have till 2028 to spend the funds, the money still can be pulled away by the state before 2028 if we have yet to make the purchase. It was recommended to make the purchase as soon as possible.
- There is a new OSHA regulation proposal which will affect fire/EMS Departments in the USA right now. The proposal is for OSHA to adopt a series of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommended standards into their regulations. While it was highly stressed that fire departments follow NFPA standards as closely as possible, it was not a requirement. If this proposal passes, this will expose fire/EMS departments everywhere to new lawsuits and / or fines who are not following the regulations. There are a lot of new standards which are being added and I can only list some of them here; but an example of the regulations would be annual physicals for every volunteer, geared to what they are responding tasks are. These physicals would include items like heart stress tests which are either administered in Anchorage or Seattle. Other standards include how to retire fire equipment, including rigs, whether they need to be replaced or not, training standards, PPE, and more.
 - There are organizations and larger departments writing letters to comment on the new regulations, and from what I am seeing mostly against. I am keeping an eye out for the outcome. The comment period was extended till July 22, 2024.
 - While federally, volunteers do not fall under the OSHA regulations and the states have the right to decide if they want volunteers to follow OSHA.



Alaska is one of the states which made the decision to include volunteers in OSHA regulations.

- In late 2023 we submitted the Wildfire Protection Planning grant along with several other cities, I received word we did not receive the funding.
- **May:**
 - The park hosted an EMT 1 class which we were able to send a volunteer over which he did pass.
 - Worked on prepping a trip to Palmer for a four-day Rural Fire Protection Training hosted by the State of Alaska. I went ahead and added some days to provide some time to tour other fire departments to see how they run their volunteer programs; I am hoping to get some probationary training papers from them soon.
 - We had our 2024 Health Fair. Besides an unavoidable interruption the fair went smoothly. Want to thank everyone who supported and helped and thank you for your patience waiting for your turn to have your blood drawn.
- **June:**
 - Spent most of the month traveling in South Central Alaska. I spent four days in Palmer in the Rural Fire Protection Training. This training was an overview of exterior firefighting and prevention training techniques for rural areas. I spent the rest of the week touring Girdwood, Chugiak and Anchorage Fire Departments looking at different avenues at how they run their departments. Spent some time looking at the training books for their new volunteers, which I am hoping to get a copy of to use for our new volunteers.
 - Met with the Cybersecurity assessment employee to see what their recommendations for the fire department would be.
 - The work for painting the firehall is starting. It is now finished; I want to thank Zach Williams for his time and work put into the project.
- **Announcement**
 - A month or so ago the Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department Truck and Skid Unit was submitted to the state of Alaska. Senator Jesse Kiehl pushed it into the Alaska State Budget. It was passed through the house and senate, then later signed by Governor Mike Dunleavy. We will be looking into the procurement, then purchasing a new truck for the Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department. This will help the Fire Department better respond in tight spaces for both fire and medical emergencies and provide better support in wildfire operations.

