

## **2016 Annual Report- Fire Department**

In 2016 the Bridgewater Fire Department responded to more than **5700** calls for services. The majority of these calls are medical emergencies. The Fire Department responds to an **average of 15 calls for service each day**.

The list below represents calls for service in 2016.

- Abandoned 911 Investigation – 21
- Assistance – 223
- Brush Fire – 8
- Medical Emergency – 2545
- Investigation – 557
- MVA – 259
- Outside Fire – 21
- Fire Alarm – 433
- Health & Welfare Check – 15
- Auto Fire – 23
- Structure Fire – 12
- Mutual Aid – 44
- Inspections – 1604

### **Total calls for service – 5765**

The Department currently operates with 51 members including the Chief, Deputy Chief, EMS/Training Lieutenant and four Duty Groups. Each Duty Group consists of a Captain, a Lieutenant and 10 firefighters. The majority of our firefighters are certified Paramedics with the remaining firefighters certified as EMT Intermediate or EMT Basic.

2016 was a year of considerable change for the Bridgewater Fire Department in terms of staffing. The Department received notice of award for the **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (S.A.F.E.R.) hiring grant** in 2015. This award of **\$1.6 million funds the salary and fringe benefits for 8 firefighter/paramedics for a two year period** which began in January of 2016. These 8 positions provide 24/7 fire protection to the east side of town- something we were previously unable to provide due to inadequate staffing. The 8 new firefighters- Joshua Anacki, David Bradshaw, Andrew Daigle, Nicholas Furey, Cori Handorff, Thomas “TJ” Nicholson, Joshua Poh and James Reidy joined the Department on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the increased fire protection, the additional personnel allow us to consistently staff a third ambulance, and frequently staff a fourth. The need for the Department to run a third ambulance has become increasingly prevalent due to the large number of medical calls and transport time. The Department has recognized significant increase in ambulance revenue as a result of staffing the additional ambulances. **In 2016 we recognized \$1,544,579 in ambulance receipts- a 7.4% increase over 2015.**

Also in January of 2016, the Department added a Training/EMS Lieutenant position to its staff. This position ensures the Department is current on the latest advances in EMS and is trained in accordance with and meeting Departmental standards and mandated training requirements. Timothy Donovan was appointed as EMS/Training Lieutenant in January of 2016.

Firefighters Scott Myers and Carol Berghaus retired from the Department in the early half of 2016. Berghaus, hired in 1996 was the first female firefighter in the Department. Chief George Rogers also announced his retirement early in the year. Rogers had served with the Department for 34 years including 10 years as its Chief.

Upon announcement of Rogers' retirement, then Deputy Chief Thomas Levy was named Acting Fire Chief. Levy, the son of retired Bridgewater Fire Chief Clarence "Brother" Levy, had served as Deputy Chief for 10 years. **Thomas D. Levy was officially appointed the 25<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Bridgewater Fire Department in May of 2016.**

Levy's appointment as Chief resulted in the promotion of several officers within the Department; John (Jack) J. Hennessey Jr. was appointed Deputy Chief, Robert Mancinelli, Jr. was appointed Captain on Group 4 and Paul Chuilli was appointed Lieutenant on Group 4.

The Department's senior outreach program, **Bridgewater Seniors First**, continues to thrive. The program is a partnership with the Office of Elder Affairs with goals of promoting the safety, well-being and education of our senior population and to make their homes safer. Since the launch of the program in 2015, we have conducted 165 home safety visits and **twice been nominated for the Educator of the Year award** at the Department of Fire Services' Fire & Life Safety Conference. In June of 2016, the Department received a \$4000 grant award from FM Global 's fire prevention program to support Bridgewater Seniors First. One of the inaugural senior outreach programs in the Commonwealth, Bridgewater Seniors First has been a model for senior outreach program development in other communities.

I would like to thank the men and women of the Bridgewater Fire Department who continue to protect the citizens of Bridgewater. Their professionalism and dedication to this community is outstanding.

Thomas D. Levy  
Fire Chief  
Town of Bridgewater