Poudre Fire Authority Annual Report

A Community Partner

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A Note From The Chief

You are the heart of what we do. Poudre Fire Authority is constantly working to improve and be proactive in the ever-evolving fire service. We are a proud community partner in Northern Colorado and beyond.

Collaboration with public partners in emergency medical services such as 911 dispatch centers, education, law enforcement, health care, and private partners helps us reduce risk, provide services that save lives and potentially increase quality of life.

In 2017, PFA developed a new Strategic Plan through a community-driven process to determine critical issues and service gaps. Goals moving forward include providing innovative core services such as Emergency Medical Services (EMS), structural and wildland firefighting and rescue; proactive communications; and continued financial responsibility. The budget focused on funding capital needs (technology, facilities, and equipment) and staffing for EMS, inspections, firefighting, mechanics, and Information Technology. PFA prepaid its Lease/Purchase Agreement for Station 4 (1945 W. Drake Road), saving $450,000 in interest payments.

Looking forward, PFA will be innovative with fire-behavior research, drone technologies in public-safety applications, right-sized response deployment models, community-risk reduction, and educational opportunities. We will continue to be an active and engaged community partner.

- Chief Tom DeMint

We strive every day to be proficient, professional and compassionate for our community.
About Our Governance

PFA was established in 1981 through an Intergovernmental Agreement (updated in 2014) between the City of Fort Collins and the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District (PVFPD).

A five-person Board of Directors, composed of elected members from the PVFPD Board and the Fort Collins City Council, governs PFA. Both the PVFPD Board and City Council appoint two members to serve on the PFA Board of Directors. The fifth member of the PFA Board is appointed by these four members and has historically been the Fort Collins' City Manager. The Intergovernmental Agreement outlines PFA’s funding through a revenue-allocation formula. The City of Fort Collins contributes a proportion of sales and use tax, property taxes, and the voter approved “Keep Fort Collins Great” tax measure. The PVFPD contributes its mill levy (property tax) revenue, as well as pass-through Tax Increment Financing from a partnership with the Town of Timnath.

Who We Are

Poudre Fire Authority is a multi-faceted entity — an organization, a family, and a community partner that is professional, committed, and responsible. Providing exceptional customer service through the values of **Courage, Leadership, and Duty**, is our number one priority.

- **5x** PFA firefighters deployed to other communities to help during wildfires and hurricanes
- **611** Smoke alarms installed in high-risk homes
- **313** Child car seats installed and checked by PFA’s certified technicians
- **6,846** Building-safety inspections conducted by PFA personnel
**2017 Budget & Funding Outcomes**

**GROSS OPERATING BUDGET BY EXPENDITURE**
- Salaries & Benefits
- Purchased Services (Radios, Liability Insurance)
- Materials, Supplies & Equipment
- Other

**Capital Budget**
- Station 4 Lease & Purchase
- Air Pack Replacement
- Apparatus Replacement
- Staff Vehicle Replacement
- Radio Replacement
- Future Station 15
- Facilities Maintenance
- Hose Replacement
- Station B
- Burn Building
- Major Station Remodel
- Thermal Imager Replacement
- Computer/Technology

**Reserves**
- $6.6M
  - 20% of operating revenue

**Budget Expenditures**
- Underspent by 3%
  - Of operating revenue ($1M)

**Saved** $450K in interest payments by pre-paying for Station 4’s lease and purchase

**PFA Revenue**
- 96% of the revenue is Intergovernmental
- 70% City of Fort Collins
- 17% Poudre Valley Fire Protection District
- 9% KFG Funds
- 4% Misc. Fees, Charges, Earnings on Investments, Grants/Projects

**Funding Critical Services**
Keep Fort Collins Great (KFCG) is a voter-approved sales tax that ensures people receive the level of government services they expect. KFCG is critical to PFA’s budget and sunsets on December 31, 2020. KFCG revenue is used at PFA to fund key safety positions, firefighters, and equipment. Without it, PFA would not be able to provide the same high-level services the community currently receives.
Community Connections

Firefighter Travis Garcia talks with a young attendee at a 2017 event where firefighters demonstrated how they help remove people trapped in crashed vehicles, a process called extrication.

Poudre Fire Authority strives to reduce risk in our community by empowering people to live their safest lives through in-person classes, events, and other platforms. In 2017, PFA’s staff collectively interacted with 11,456 members of the community.

Poudre Fire Authority has 24 volunteer firefighters who give their talents and hundreds of hours of their time to serve the communities of Stations 9 and 11, in the areas of Horsetooth Reservoir and Redstone Canyon, respectively.

Poudre Fire Authority’s firefighters could not get to you when you need them most if it were not for the calm, collected, and compassionate regional dispatchers who handled 200,000+ calls in 2017.
Emergency Medical Services

Be it falls, heart attacks, or broken bones, our firefighters are there.

Poudre Fire Authority works with public organizations, as well as through public-private partnerships and formal agreements, to provide world-class emergency medical services to people within Northern Larimer County.

Smart Science

Innovation across PFA is key to providing the best-possible services.

Firefighting has greatly changed in recent decades. The study of fire science, knowledge shared by fire service partners, and new tools mean PFA’s firefighters are more effectively and safely fighting fire and, in some cases, reducing the damage caused to a home in the process. Along with other Larimer County partners, PFA is also using public-safety drones in ways that are saving time and taxpayers’ money. Also, PFA hazardous materials (hazmat) technicians, who study chemistry, work with community partners to keep people safe during hazmat incidents.

Keeping People Safe

PFA responds to emergencies. More importantly, we work to prevent them from ever happening.

Before you step foot in a new building, PFA fire-safety experts have worked with developers and design partners to make a space as safe as possible by checking items such as exit signs, alarm systems, and fire department access. Our staff works with partners who install and maintain fire-sprinkler systems, two of which successfully put out fires in 2017, no doubt saving lives and potentially millions of dollars in property damage.
A Somber Reminder of Fire’s Impact

Our community felt the ripple effects of three fire deaths in 2017

Sadly, three members of our community died last year in unrelated fires in their homes. Two were due to cooking fires, and another was related to improper disposal of oily rags used to stain a deck. Let us be clear: They are not statistics. They are people — those whom others knew and loved. Their deaths each served as a critical moment during which PFA educated the community about why fire still presents a danger, even though the frequency of fires and fire-related deaths are decreasing across the country. Thanks to concerted fire-safety education efforts by nationwide partners, including PFA, the overall 10-year fire death rate trend in the U.S. decreased 21.6% from 2006 to 2015 (U.S. Fire Administration).

It Takes a Village to Save a Life

When you need help, you want to know you are receiving the highest-quality care from prompt, skillful, and caring emergency responders.

Rest assured that is the case with our 189 full-time firefighters who, in 2017, trained for a collective 51,708 hours to ensure they are as prepared as possible for any call that could come their way. Seven days a week, 365 days a year, many people from emergency-response agencies and partner organizations across the state, nation – and in some cases, the globe – come together at PFA’s northwest Fort Collins Training Center to work together, learn new skills, and practice existing skills so they can be the best for their communities.

Poudre Fire Authority protects about 206,000 people and more than $29 billion worth of property within its 235-square-mile service area.
Our most important community partner is you.

Follow us to stay connected.

Learn more about PFA and access the 2017 Annual Report online at pfaannualreport.com