

# CITY OF MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT



# 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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The Mason Fire Department responded to 180 incidents in 2005. This represents an increase of 21 responses from 2004. The responses in the City of Mason remained constant at 69; there was an increase of 14 responses in Vevay Township, and an increase of 6 responses in Aurelius Township. Mutual aid requests from neighboring departments increased by 1.

The 2005 response numbers were:

City of Mason	69
Vevay Township	58
Aurelius Township	25
Mutual Aid	<u>28</u>
Total	180

The 2004 response numbers were:

City of Mason	69
Vevay Township	44
Aurelius Township	19
Mutual Aid	<u>27</u>
Total	159

The following is a breakdown of responses and totals for 2005 compared to 2004:

### City of Mason

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Structure fires	2	4
Vehicle fires	1	2
PI accidents	2	0
False alarms (alarm system, fires unable to locate, etc)	25	30
Carbon Monoxide alarms	3	1
Miscellaneous (wires down, fuel leaks, odor investigations, etc)	30	27
Fires other (rubbish, unauthorized & authorized burning, fires out upon arrival, etc)	6	3
Severe weather	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	69	69

In 2005, within the City of Mason, there were 40.7 actual hours spent at these 69 incidents, a decrease of 14.9 hours from 2004. The property loss was approximately \$255,700 for all incidents, an increase from \$144,350 in 2004. The property loss figure includes structures, contents, and vehicle losses. An average of 10 firefighters responded to these incidents, a decrease from 11.8 in 2004. The average response time from tone to on scene was 5.22 minutes, a slight decrease from 5.65 minutes in 2004.

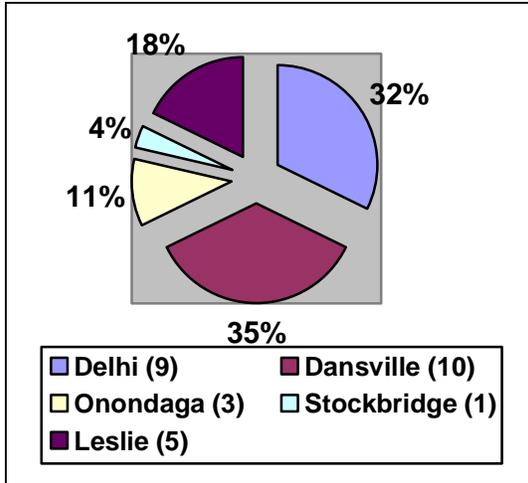
Aurelius Township	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Structure fires	2	2
Vehicle fires	0	0
PI accidents	3	4
False alarms (alarm systems, reported fires unable to locate, etc)	6	1
Carbon Monoxide alarms	3	1
Miscellaneous (wires down, fuel leaks, odor investigations, etc)	3	5
Fires other (rubbish, unauthorized & authorized burning, fires out upon arrival, etc)	3	5
Wild land, grass fires	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	25	19

In 2005, within Aurelius Township, there were 30.2 actual hours spent at these 25 incidents, an increase of 7 hours from 2004. The property loss was approximately \$48,200, an increase from \$35,000 in 2004. This figure includes structures, contents, and vehicle losses. An average of 11.2 firefighters responded to these incidents, a decrease from 11.7 in 2004. The average response time from tone to on scene was 9.96 minutes, a slight increase from 9.5 minutes in 2004.

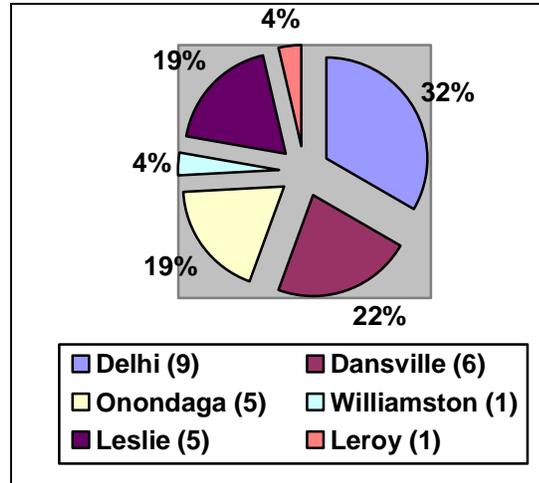
Vevay Township	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Structure fires	5	2
Vehicle fires	3	2
PI accidents	11	5
False alarms (alarm systems, reported fires unable to locate, etc)	18	5
Carbon Monoxide alarms	1	1
Miscellaneous (wires down, fuel leaks, odor investigations, etc)	5	13
Fires other (rubbish, unauthorized & authorized burning, fires out upon arrival, etc)	8	10
Wild land, grass fires	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	58	44

In 2005, within Vevay Township, there were 55.4 actual hours spent at these 58 incidents. The property loss was approximately \$1,522,700 for all incidents, a significant increase from \$120,500 in 2004. Note, the Eden United Brethren Church loss was approximately \$1,350,000. These figures include structures, contents, and vehicle losses. An average of 12.7 firefighters responded to these incidents, an increase from 11.5 in 2004. The average response time from tone to on scene was 8.7 minutes, a slight increase from 8.2 minutes in 2004.

### MUTUAL AID

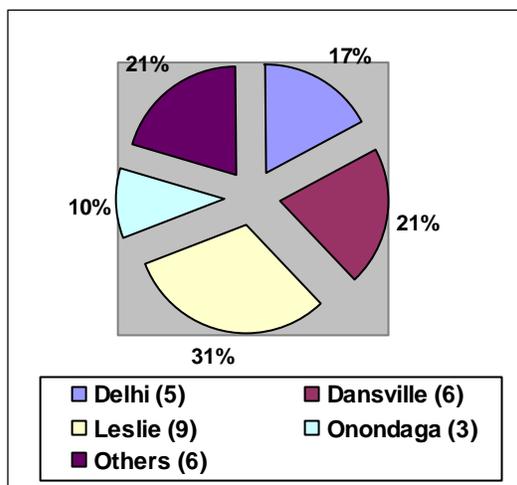


2005 Given

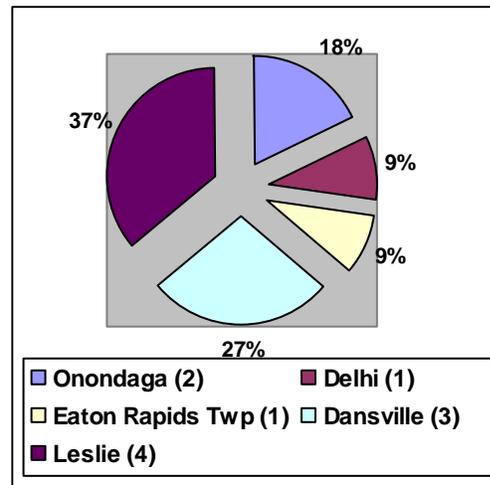


2004 Given

Mutual aid continues to be a vital part of fire ground operations. Property loss would increase without it, but more importantly firefighter safety would be compromised. Mutual aid not only brings needed equipment but firefighters to relieve exhausted and possibly shorthanded crews. Statistics have found that when people are tired mistakes and injuries increase. It is noted that there were not any Mason Firefighter injuries in the past year at any incident. In 2005 a total of 57.1 hours were spent helping our neighbors at these 28 incidents. This assistance is an increase from 50.1 hours at 27 incidents in 2004.



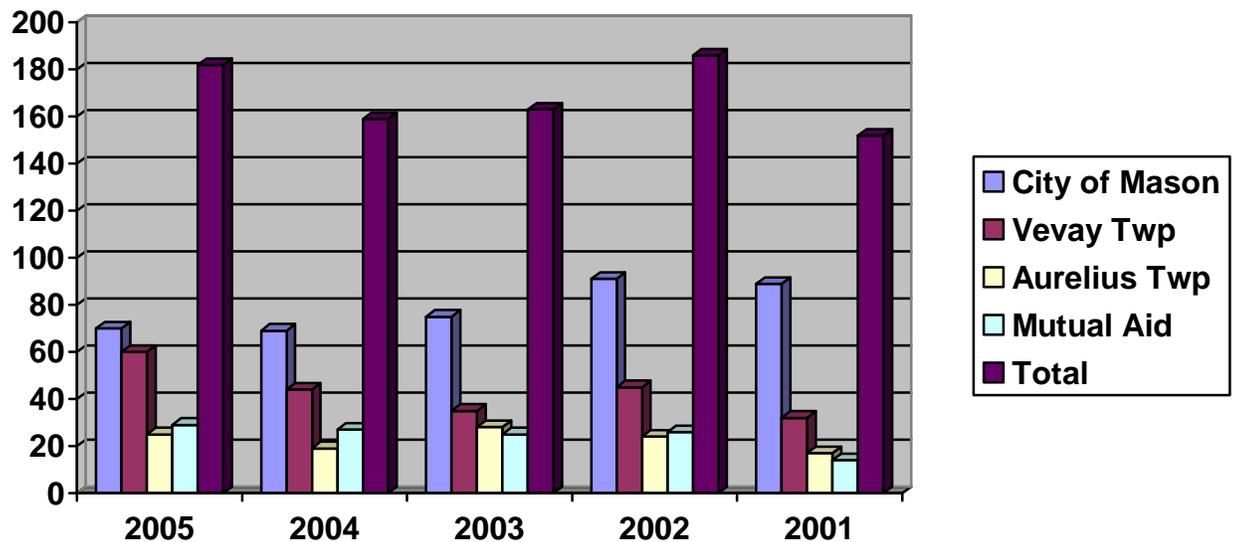
2005 Received



2004 Received

The mutual aid response is received as well as given. In 2005, mutual aid was received 29 times from our neighboring departments at 11 incidents. In 2004 mutual aid was received 11 times at 8 incidents. The numbers reflect that many times more than one department assists at a single incident scene. The "Others" listed in the previous chart represent one response each from Leroy Township, Rives Junction, Meridian Township, and Eaton Rapids Township and two from Hamlin Township. Also note that every department listed spent between 8 and 10 hours at the Eden United Brethren Church fire in early 2005.

The following chart represents a five year average of total responses.



### Mason Fire Department Structural Fire Analysis 2005

Date	Address	Structure Type	Loss*
1/28/05	1938 Eden Road ***	Church	\$1,350,000
3/22/05	397 N Edgar Road **	Dwelling	\$6,200
4/4/05	2116 S Ives Road ***	Out Building	Undetermined
5/4/05	649 Diamond Road	Dwelling	\$3,000
6/28/05	850 Brookdale Street	Dwelling	\$105,000
7/8/05	127 N Monroe Street	Dwelling	\$150,000
8/1/05	517 S Every Rd ***	Dwelling	\$85,000
9/4/05	1610 S Edgar Road **	Out Building	\$42,000
9/12/05	1925 Eden Road ***	Dwelling	\$80,000

\* Loss includes contents    \*\* Aurelius Township    \*\*\* Vevay Township



On January 28, 2005, the Mason Fire Department responded to one of the largest fires in recent years when the Eden United Brethren Church burned. The call came in just prior 3pm and when leaving over ten hours later, more than 200,000 gallons of water had been used to extinguish this fire. The Ingham County Tanker Task Force transported every drop that was utilized with a round trip distance of just over 7 miles for each load. Almost every fire

department in Ingham County plus two from Eaton County and one from Jackson County assisted at this scene. A total of seven engines and ten tankers from eleven agencies participated. Additionally on scene, over 100 firefighters from various agencies, plus Ingham County Heavy Rescue who refilled over 100 air cylinders at the scene. The efforts of all the departments who assisted that day saved the new addition that had been completed in 2004. The addition that had been added in 1978 was still standing, but unfortunately was damaged beyond repair.



June 28, 2005, the Mason Fire Department responded to a fully involved house fire at 850 Brookdale Street. Fire was emitting from all windows and doors located on the south half of the structure. Upon arrival, with an aggressive attack the fire was quickly brought under control but heavy damage had already been done. Firefighters needed to be rotated through a rehab station due to temperatures in the high 80s for fluids, to cool off, and to keep from going into heat exhaustion. The cause of this fire was established as hot oil catching fire while cooking.

July 8, 2005, found response to another structure fire in the city at 127 N. Monroe Street. The fire was confined to the basement where most of the fire damage occurred. Heat and smoke damaged the rest of the structure. The fire origin was determined to have been caused by a lamp falling into some clothing.





In August 1, 2005, the Mason Fire Department responded to a well involved house fire at 517 S Every Road in Vevay Township. Fire damage was extensive even though an aggressive interior fire attack was carried out. An unattended candle burning in a bedroom was determined to have caused this fire.

## **MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ROSTER**

David Scutt, Chief (26yrs)

Kerry Minshall, Assistant Chief (25yrs)

Mark Howe, Captain (23yrs)

Michael Buckner, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant (17yrs)

Stephen Armstrong, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (31yrs)

Jerry Adams, Firefighter (18yrs)  
Leon Clark, Firefighter (26yrs)  
Dana Clifford, Firefighter (1yr)  
Andrue Combs, Firefighter (3yrs)  
Justin Day, Firefighter (1yr)  
Scott Etzel, Firefighter (3yrs)  
Dennis Howe, Firefighter (27yrs)  
Jim Jones, Firefighter (18yrs)  
Dan Kennedy, Firefighter (2yrs)  
Larry Martin, Firefighter (30yrs)  
Art Moul, Firefighter (11yrs)  
Scott Preadmore, Firefighter (1yr)  
Dave Reid, Firefighter (10yrs)  
John Sabbadin, Firefighter (10yrs)  
Debra Scutt, Firefighter (20yrs)  
Paul Tuttle, Firefighter (2yrs)  
Matt Wood, Firefighter (2yrs)

Norman Austin, Engineer (33yrs)  
Jim Hays, Engineer (22yrs)  
Don Gailey, Engineer (16yrs)  
Leon Langridge, Engineer (21yrs)  
Don Parsons, Engineer (27yrs)  
Dennis Whipple, Engineer (42yrs)  
Russ Whipple, Engineer (16yrs)

Steve Fehrenbach, Trainee  
John Scutt, Trainee

Stan Jordan, Auxiliary  
Larry Howe, Auxiliary

Personnel changes in 2005 included one firefighter Rob Ottke, leaving the department and the addition of, Steve Fehrenbach and John Scutt, join the department as trainees. Dana Clifford and Justin Day were moved into firefighter positions after serving their one year as trainees. The department currently carries 31 personnel on the roster. We will look at adding another two personnel in trainee positions in 2006. The average seniority on the department is approximately 16.5 years.

Two of our members, Don Gailey and Larry Martin, answered the call to help the citizens in the Gulf States affected by Hurricane Katrina in September. They were deployed to Mississippi for approximately two weeks as FEMA employees. They worked closely with two departments during this time, McHenry and Northwest volunteer fire departments in Stone County.

Don kept thinking after their return about the destruction he had seen. This destruction was not limited only to homes and businesses, but the massive timber industry in the area that was now lying on the ground creating a huge fire load. With the limited resources these small departments had and the potential fire problem they faced Don decided to do something to help.

The City was in the process of rotating their fleet of pickups and two were available. These surplus vehicles are usually sent to auction, but Don approached the City Council and asked to have the two trucks donated for the McHenry and Northwest Fire Departments, which they approved. His idea was to make these vehicles into wildland firefighting trucks. Securing the vehicles was only the start. Money and equipment was needed to make these into wildland firefighting rigs. Pumps and tanks, lights, radios, hand equipment, and new paint to turn these formally green trucks firefighting red. Additionally donated equipment consisted of breathing apparatus, portable water tanks, turnout clothing, and much more.



After many weeks of determination and hard work the trucks were ready to go to Mississippi.

On Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, the trucks were loaded on a semi, and on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> the keys were handed to the Fire Chiefs of McHenry and Northwest Fire Departments.

Almost every fire department in Ingham County played a part putting this project together with money, equipment, and donations. The approximate value of trucks and all equipment totaled over \$65,000.

## NEW EQUIPMENT

In 2004, a federal grant was awarded to replace our out dated SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) air compressor. The grant amount was for \$35,000 with a 10% match from the City. This new 6,000 PSI unit was installed in early 2005. This provides us a safer, faster, and more versatile compressor. Refill can be completed not only on SCBA's and the supplied air for Tower 808, (in addition the mobile



cascade air supply system for Ingham County Heavy Rescue). All out county fire departments in Ingham County rely on this source of air to refill SCBA's at their fire scenes. At the Eden United Brethren Church fire Ingham County Heavy Rescue refilled over 100 air cylinders and had to use Leslie's compressor to refill.



In mid 2005 the Mason Fire Department received various equipment through a Federal Government, Homeland Security Grant administered through Ingham County. This equipment consisted of air monitoring equipment, radiological equipment, nerve agent and hazardous materials detection strips, hazardous material suits, gloves, and boots. The total value of this equipment was \$17,361. This equipment will enable

the department to respond to and efficiently handle incidents involving hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction.

## HIGHLIGHTS



### Mason Cares

The fourth annual Mason Cares event was held on September 11. This is a time to remember "The Day That Changed America" in 2001. This year the event fell on a Sunday and even though the community participation was down slightly it was still an overwhelming success. Colleen Briggs has been the driving force behind this

project since its inception. She solicits donations of money and supplies from businesses and individuals to make this a success. Citizens have an opportunity to come into the station, interact with the firefighters, have some fun, eat, and get a considerable amount of work accomplished.



## **Training**

Approximately 1,145 hours were spent training in 2005. This figure only represents the every other Friday night training sessions. Numerous other hours were spent by individuals or small groups training in specialty areas such as extrication, hazardous materials, tanker task force, officer advancement, critical incident stress management, rapid intervention, ice rescue, etc. Training is critical to keeping personnel appraised of current trends, innovations and to keep their skills sharp.



## **Fire Prevention Open House**

Our annual Fire Prevention Open House in October, coordinated by Firefighter Andru Combs, was a huge success. Approximately 600 adults and children visited the station to learn about the equipment and apparatus we use but more importantly to learn how to keep themselves fire safe.

In addition to the previous mentioned activities, various groups are welcomed to come to the station for tours and fire prevention activities throughout the year. These groups range from Pre School to Scout troops. We take every opportunity to do educational programs to make our citizens, and especially our children safe from fire.

The annual kindergarten program still takes place in October. This event started in the 1940s and continues today. Every kindergarten class in the Mason School District is visited and is presented fire prevention education with a ride on the fire truck. This has always been a learning experience the children look forward to. During our open house, we always have parents that mention that they remember when they were in kindergarten and rode on the engine.

The annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks program under the direction of Assistant Chief Minshall continues to be part of a tremendous community event. Numerous hours are spent preparing for this program that draws thousands from within the community and from the surrounding areas.

## APPARATUS



Tower 808 is a 4 year old 2001 Pierce Dash 100 foot platform. It is powered by a 500hp Cummings diesel, with a 2000 gallon per minute pump. This unit is first or second out for any structure fires. It has an AMPS 10k hydraulic generator, 300 gallon water tank, a full compliment of ground ladders, and 1,000 feet of large diameter supply line. The cab will hold 6 personnel and has air supplied to the platform.



Engine 809 is a 15 year old 1990 Grumman with a 1250 gallon per minute pump. This engine carries 1,000 gallons of water and 1,000 feet of large diameter supply line. This engine is the first or second out for any structure fire and vehicle fires during inclement weather. This engine has seating for 8 personnel in an enclosed cab. This unit also carries some extrication equipment to respond to vehicle accidents.



Engine 806 is a 21 year old 1984 Grumman with a 1000 gallon per minute pump and a 1,000 gallon water tank. This engine is the first out for vehicle and grass fires and third out for structure fires. We can carry 5 personnel, three in the open back and two in the cab.



Tanker 807 is a 21 year old 1984 3,000 gallon apparatus with a 500 gallon per minute pump on a Ford chassis. This tanker is housed at Station 2 on Curtis Street. It is the first tanker out when water is needed in the townships. This tanker is part of the Ingham County Tanker Task Force and will travel anywhere in Ingham County or the eastern part of Eaton County if needed.



Tanker 811 is a 22 year old 1983 International tractor with a 2,800 gallon 58 year old 1947 water tank. It carries a 650 gallon per minute pump driven by its own diesel engine. There has been a lot of hard work done over the years to this unit by our own members to make this former government fuel hauler into a water tanker. This is second tanker out for water supply in the townships. This tanker is housed at Station 2 on Curtis Street.



Ladder 818 is a 32 year old 1973 Joyce on a Ford Chassis. This apparatus started out as an engine and in 1980 a 50 foot Snorkel was added. Ladder 818 has a 750 gallon per minute pump and carries 300 gallons of water. This is considered a reserve unit, but is still maintained and in service for response.



Brush 810 is a 12 year old 1993 Dodge four wheel drive pick-up with a 100 gallon water tank and a 9 gallon per minute pump. This unit is primarily used for brush/ wild land fires, and occasionally to transport personnel. Equipment carried includes portable water back packs, brooms, pitch forks, shovels, and a 5,000 lb winch and brush guard.



Squad 815 is a 13 year old 1992 Chevrolet 3500 with an ambulance type box. This unit transports specialty equipment used for surface ice rescue, extrication equipment, confined space rescue equipment, and extra air cylinders to be used at fire incidents. This unit responds to every working fire with extra personnel, is used at the scene for firefighter rehab, and responds first to any vehicle pin in accident.



The Command Vehicle is a 1999 Jeep. This was formerly a police vehicle and when it was retired, the fire department purchased it from the motor pool. This unit responds directly to the incident scene with Incident Command being established and directed out of this vehicle. This unit responding first gives the incident commander a few precious minutes to size up the situation and plan a course of action for the incident before apparatus arrives.

Annual service was performed on all apparatus consisting of; lube, oil and filters, fuel filters, changing pump oil, checking; rear axle fluid, power steering fluid, clevis pins, batteries, and primer oil. This also included the annual DOT inspection that consisted of checking brakes, couplers, exhaust system, all emergency lighting, cab and body, steering, fuel system, suspension, frame, tires, and wheels and rims. Total cost \$2,400.

Annual pump tests were performed. Certification was received for Tower 808 @ \$250, Tanker 807 @ \$180, and Engine 809 @ \$220. Engine 806 failed the pump test. It was hoped that the failure was caused by valves leaking and after repairs @ \$1,200; it was determined to not be the case. When the pump was dismantled, it was found that the wear rings were shot, one impeller was bent, and the transfer valve needed to be rebuilt. These needed repairs were made at a cost of \$7,225. The pump passed the test, is certified and back in service.

Annual aerial and ground ladder testing was completed @ \$1,100. Everything was certified except the 35 foot ground ladder on Ladder 818, it was taken out of service.

There have been ongoing problems with Squad 815. It had been overheating, draining the batteries, and occasionally stalling, usually at incident scenes. The radiator was replaced after it was found to be plugged. Two new batteries and a high output alternator were added when it was determined that with all the lights on, more ampø were being used than produced. We have had no further problems since these repairs were done at a cost of \$1,600.

The generators on both Engine 809 and Squad 815 have had continual problems. These generators were 15 and 13 years old and were not reliable. Both had been sent for repairs repeatedly, but when needed would run rough, not stay running, or not start at all. This was both frustrating and dangerous to personnel operating, especially after dark. Both were replaced for a total of \$2,700.

Tanker 811 is in fair shape for the age of this apparatus. It still moves water and has a dependable pump, but the tractor trailer combination is not practical in todayø fire ground application. It is awkward to maneuver and personnel qualified to drive it are limited. Water has to be pumped off instead of being able to dump into portable tanks. This severely limits the applications it can be utilized for. The United Brethren Church fire is an example of when this unit was not used because of these specific limitations.

Engine 806 is also 21 years old and needs to be given serious consideration for replacement in the near future. Over \$8,000 in repairs were made to keep this apparatus in service in 2005. With its open cab design this has not been NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) compliant for the past few years.

Engine 809 is still the workhorse of the department. It rolls on approximately 90% of all responses. However this apparatus is now 15 years old and even though the maintenance costs have been reasonable and expected, it is getting to the point where maintenance costs are going to raise given its age and utilization. This will make a dependable second out apparatus when engine 806 is replaced.

The tank in Tanker 807 continues to have a leaking and rust problem and will be replaced in early 2006. Even with this replacement it does not mean it will be in the best of shape. This remains our number one response tanker but needs to be replaced and moved to reserve status. It has been felt that this vehicle, since it was new, was underpowered and sluggish. This was something we have lived with for 21 years but not without costs over what would have to be considered above normal wear and tear and general maintenance items. The engine had to be overhauled in 1993. In 1996 it went again for service for low power complaints. The fuel system was inspected and all fuel filters were changed, also the transmission was serviced. The engine injector pump and transmission torque converter both needed to be rebuilt in 1997. Electrical problems in 2001 were discovered. A new alternator, ground wires, and heavier service wire were installed. Brakes, oil seals, and brake chambers for the rear wheels were replaced in 2004. With the tank replaced and when it is moved to reserve status it will last many years with more limited usage. It is recommended to replace this tanker in budget year 2006/2007.

In conclusion, the age and condition of the apparatus continues to be a concern. All apparatus are maintained to a safe condition, but as the years pass the reliability decreases and maintenance costs increase. As mentioned earlier, tanker 807 needs to be replaced first at an estimated cost of \$240,000. Next engine 806 will need to be replaced at approximately \$400,000. In the near future the Command Vehicle will have to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

## **RETROSPECT**

It continues to be a privilege to serve as Chief of the Mason Fire Department. As I travel around the state and country and observe other departments, I realize just how fortunate I am. Being the leader of this department has never been ña one man showö. The input of every member collectively makes this a strong and effective team. Every member brings their own individual skills, personalities, and talents which we ultimately draw from for strength.

Department members give willingly of their time for those we serve with little recognition. The hours recorded from regular training and at the scenes of incidents in 2005 total over 3,300, averaging approximately 100 hours per person away from their families. This number doesn't include the many additional hours spent training and performing extracurricular activities where the hours are not tracked.

I would like to thank the officer staff and the members for continuing to work together to make this department strong and effective. A Huge Thank You to the understanding families who allow us to intrude and interrupt on their home life. It is also these family members that take care of us at incident scenes from providing cold and hot drinks, to full meals, and a word of encouragement when needed.

A special thanks to the Mason City Council, Administrator Martin Colburn, and all the City department heads and employees for their help and support again this year.

Respectfully submitted, February 6, 2006

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Chief David E. Scutt  
Mason Fire Department