

# The 2020 Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District Report to the Community

## Chief's Report – Bryan Ware

The District remained steady in 2020, responding on 252 calls for service. Of those the District responded on mutual aid requests within Pueblo County 19 times and received mutual aid assistance from outside agencies on 3 occurrences. Like everyone, the District was faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and altered not only how we responded on calls but also had to change how we delivered training to our members and other services to our community. The District was able to help support the Pueblo County COVID testing site for 6 months and brought community testing to Beulah on two separate occasions. Even with the alterations to in-person training the District was able to still complete over 1500 hours of member training. These trainings are crucial to ensure our members have the most current medical and rescue practices so that we can serve our community to the best of our abilities.

One asset that the District has incorporated into Search and Rescue Missions is K9 Tundra with handler and responder Scott Robertshaw. Tundra is a 7 ½ -year-old lab who has completed over 2500 hours of training and is certified in Wilderness Air Scent searches. We would like to recognize them as they were awarded with a Letter of Commendation following a search and rescue mission on the evening of July 20, 2020. The Huerfano County Sheriff's Office had responded to the Greenhorn Mountain area on a report of a missing 20-year-old male. Our agency along with Pueblo County Search and Rescue was requested for assistance to include Scott and K9 Tundra. Scott and K9 Tundra remained on the search for 2 days overseeing the Operations Division of a large-scale search pattern. The lost hiker was found safely and returned to his family. The dedication that Scott and K9 Tundra have put into becoming 1 of only 3 Search and Rescue K9 units in Pueblo County is truly remarkable and greatly appreciated.

In 2020 we asked our citizens to help with donations to purchase ballistic vests and helmets for when responders are called to situations that require such protection. We want to say THANK YOU as many of you stepped up and helped fund this project allowing us to purchase 4 ballistic vests and through a donation from Randy and Deb Wills of Point-Blank Enterprises, we were able to obtain 8 ballistic helmets. The District is still in need of 4 additional vests (each vest cost \$ 1,372) to place on the first out engine. We are still seeking some grant opportunities as well as donations to help complete this critical project.

Lieutenant Amber Remain is currently working on a project to design and build training props that would allow our members to have a realistic interaction with training. In the coming months we will be pushing out prop designs and ideas on our social media accounts and ask that if you have any extra lumber or are handy with construction that you might look over these prop ideas and if able either construct one of them or help by supplying the materials. It is imperative that we offer the best training opportunities to our members so when they are faced with such scenarios in real life they are prepared.

As always, I would like to thank all our citizens for all of their continued support. We look forward to 2021 and wish everyone a healthy and joyful year.

### COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

March 27, 2021

May 22, 2021

July 24, 2021

Call 485-2367 to schedule your donation.

### Wildfire Community Mitigation Day

Saturday, May 15, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00pm

At the Beulah Fire Station 1

Come learn about how you can mitigate around your home.

Visit the District's Website for more information [www.beulahfireambulance.org](http://www.beulahfireambulance.org)

**2020 Statistics****EMS**

Total EMS Responses: 145

Total Transported: 93

**Types of Calls**

Traumatic Incidents	33
Medical Incidents	112
Difficulty Breathing	18
Chest Pain	16
Cardiac Arrest	2
Deceased	4
Stroke	5
Other	69
COVID	13

**FIRE**

Total Fire Responses: 119

**Types of Calls**

Structure Fires	3
Wildland Fires	19
False Calls / Smoke Scares	21
Rescue Calls	26
Service Calls	38
Utility Problem	4
Other / Stand By	5
Severe Weather	3

**Total Number of Responses: 252**

Some EMS responses require a fire response as well, generating a response count, but this does not increase the overall total number of responses counted for 2020.

**Treasure's Report**

2020 Income	\$ 477,664		2020 Expenses	\$ 477,573
Pueblo County Property Tax	\$ 324,805		Professional Expenses	\$ 6,277
Specific Ownership Tax	\$ 27,534		Department Expenses	\$ 68,537
EMS Billing	\$ 68,478		Building Loan	\$ 117,389
Fire Contracts	\$ 1,397		Administration	\$ 180,360
Cash Donations	\$ 18,916		Insurance	\$ 22,235
Investment Income	\$ 6		Office Expenses	\$ 32,966
Grant Income	\$ 1,229		Public Outreach	\$ 2,768
Reimbursement	\$ 16,035		Capital Projects/Reserve	\$ 23,000
Sale of Assets	\$ 7,900		Vehicle Lease	\$ 11,364
In-Kind Donation	\$ 11,364		DOLA Reserve	\$ 12,677

**EMS Billing Changes**

Since 2010 the District has been billing for EMS services and like everything in our daily lives, we have seen the cost of EMS services increasing while the amount the District has collected for such services has diminished. In January of 2020 the District changed billing companies in the hopes of being able to recover more income for our services. One obstacle that the District has run into is that in the past, the District only billed Residents insurance companies leaving the remaining balance to be written off. We, along with many other EMS agencies, have seen a national trend of insurance companies paying less for the care provided. This coupled with many residents not carrying health insurance has left the District with minimal EMS recovering income. The Board of Directors looked at options to help offset this and finalized a new billing plan in December of 2020. The new plan will require that all medical runs (resident and non-resident) be billed the same. The resident's EMS bill will be written off when one of the following criteria is met (1) resident's insurance pays the bill with a minimal allowable collection of \$500, (2) the resident is not able to afford a payment and meets the financial waiver criteria that is established by the District, or (3) the resident pays the EMS bill with a minimal amount of \$500 being collected. The District Board felt it was only fair that each resident be treated the same when it comes to financial responsibility for EMS services while still not requiring the residents to be responsible for the full EMS bill as many other communities do.

**Recruitment and Free Certification Training**

The District is accepting applications for volunteers who live in our community and want to serve. The District will put you through the EMT certification course and Firefighter 1 course in Beulah at no cost to you. We will be hosting an open house on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 10am at Station 1 for anyone interesting in gaining more information about becoming a member.