

**Fire Prevention and Safety Grants 2004
Jonesboro Fire Department**

Community Profile and Identification of Financial Deficiencies:

The Jonesboro Fire Department is an all paid department serving an area of 105 square miles with a population of 60,000. We are the largest city in northeast Arkansas in population and geographic size with Arkansas State University College of approximately 9,500 students and the two major hospitals for all of northeast Arkansas. The city and surrounding area consists of urban residential, light industry complexes and farming. Within this demographic area there are four high schools, five middle schools, eight elementary schools, and one sixth grade center serving the educational needs of approximately 10,000 students. Also within the city limits are six nursing homes, ten assisted living homes and three group homes serving approximately 4,000 elderly.

Jonesboro is located in the northeast corner of Arkansas, approximately two hours northeast of Little Rock Arkansas and one and a half hours northwest of Memphis Tennessee. The Jonesboro Fire Department has been in existence for 105 years and currently has six stations and 85 firefighters. The population of Jonesboro has nearly doubled in the last fifteen years, putting a strain on the city's finances toward the development of its infrastructure rather than allocating monies to the growth and development of the city's fire department prevention and safety programs. The Jonesboro Fire department is funded through tax revenues raised by the city, which has been severely hurt by the down turn in the economy. There has never been any money budgeted for a fire prevention program or materials in the City of Jonesboro.

Identified Fire Prevention Need:

Risk assessment was done for the last five years utilizing Fire Program software package.

Incident Report, By Type of Incident

<u>Type of Incident:</u>	<u>Total of Incidents:</u>	<u>Percentage Value:</u>
100 Series-Fire	1,984	27.46%
200 Series-Explosions	47	0.65%
300 Series-Rescues & EMS	403	5.58%
400 Series-Hazardous Conditions (no fire)	1,131	15.66%
500 Series-Service Call	908	12.57%
600 Series-Good Intent Call	878	12.15%
700 Series-False Alarm & False Call	1,825	25.26%
800 Series-Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	18	0.25%
900 Series-Special Type	30	0.42%

Grand Total: 7,224

Type of Incident Most Frequent: 100 Series Fire

During the last 5 years, we've had 7,224 total runs or 1,444.8 per year (without medical or first responder calls). Actual fires represent the type of incident most frequent with 1,984 or 27.46% of the total over the last five years or 396.8 actual fires per year. With juveniles and the elderly involved in a large number of these fires. We have experienced six fire deaths over the last five years or 1.25 deaths per year. This represents three fire deaths for every 1,000 actual fires, or .30%. Cause of fire in the six fire deaths are as follows; electrical arcing, open flame from candle, improper use of smoking materials, falling asleep while cooking and electrical malfunction of heater unit.

Reducing the number of fires per year, although a very worthy goal, will not be adequate if we still experience a fire death rate of 3 for every 1,000 fires. Results will be measured as a reduction in both annual fires and the number of fire deaths per 1,000 fires over the next five years. Annually results will be looked at by the Fire Marshal's office and the program will be modified if the results to date are falling behind. We want to see our fire death rate reduced in this five year period to two per 1,000, or .20% and our actual fire runs reduced to 300 per year by the fifth year.

Project with Collaborate Partnership: Fire Prevention and Safety Awareness and In-Home Inspections

We have developed an extremely effective collaborate partnership for the past ten years with a local group in Jonesboro called "The Safe Jonesboro Coalition". This group is made up of community volunteers concerned for safety. They provide the community with free car seats, bike helmets, railroad crossing safety and a fire alarm program. This none profit organization through donations and grants purchase bike helmets, car seats and smoke detectors, distributing them through different programs. We are the main group sponsoring the smoke detector program. This program is run four times a year and involves half the department's resources for each event. We select the areas of Jonesboro covered through a risk assessment. After gathering together at a fire station with firemen, fire trucks and a group of volunteers, we drive to the pre-selected area to begin our program. We drive up and down the streets with the volunteers and firemen knocking on every door to install a free fire alarm and replace batteries.

The car seat program is also done four times a year at area shopping centers. Anyone needing a car seat is required to drive to the program site with the primary car and child and a volunteer will install a car seat free of charge. The bike helmet program is done at the schools twelve times a year. The volunteers spend the day fitting all the children in the second grade at each school in Jonesboro with bike helmets free of charge.

This year we installed fire alarms on Fischer Street, May 29, 2004. Unfortunately, we still experienced two fire deaths on this same street June 8, 2004, less than two weeks later. A two year old boy and his mother died in a house fire caused by faulty electrical wiring. We found no fire alarms in the residence. More needs to be done than just the installation of fire alarms. We must educate the public so that they actually feel a need to keep them in place and use them properly.

Our program objective will implement a comprehensive fire and safety program established to benefit the most vulnerable members of our community, specifically children age 14 and younger and the elderly and mentally and/or physically handicapped. Our program will be broad-based covering fire prevention, tornado and earth quake safety also. The specifics of the program are as follows:

- To mitigate injury and death by fire and accident, specifically in children age 14 and younger, the elderly and mentally and/or physically handicapped
- To establish an ongoing comprehensive injury prevention/fire safety education program in the community, specifically designed to address the needs of those demographic groups previously mentioned.
- To maintain the program in perpetuity, using community support developed through this program and the other programs all ready established

We want to implement a comprehensive fire safety program in collaboration with “Safe Jonesboro Coalition”. We want to be active in all their community events where we will have the opportunity to provide fire, tornado and earthquake safety. There are approximately 1,600 cars that visit the car seat program each year, 4,000 bike helmets given out a year and 1,200 homes visited during the fire alarm program each year. These meetings will be a great avenue to teach the children and parents at the same time. The program will be monitored through the Fire Marshal’s office and conducted with in-service personnel.

All personnel will be fully trained on the equipment and teaching methodology to be used. Our program’s curriculum will cover fire prevention, safety and escape in the unfortunate event of a fire. We will also cover basic earthquake and tornado preparedness and safety. For the adults, we will try to pull them out of their complacency by teaching the importance of prevention and the effects of fire. We will also stress and teach the value of home sprinkler systems and institute an in home fire inspection program in the homes we visit to install the fire alarms in an attempt to minimize common household fire safety concerns such as electrical, heating and general storage problems.

We are asking for grant money for two pieces of equipment to be used as stated above. The first is a combination sprinkler/fire house manufactured by Mobile Concepts. This is a mobile “classroom” featuring child-sized rooms, and real life safety hazards like smoke and heat. This creates an environment that provides children with the knowledge needed to prevent fires and the steps to follow if they find themselves in a fire situation. The combination sprinkler/fire unit allows the same vehicle to be used for adults in demonstration the effectiveness of home sprinklers. The house will primarily be used at all car seat and bike helmet programs along with our normal programs at the schools, shopping centers, fairs, etc.

The second piece of equipment, “Sparky the Fire Dog”, will help us deliver safety education in such a way that children, the elderly and mentally handicapped will never forget. The Sparky robot is built by Robotronics and an excellent tool to keep the

audience's attention to the message. The robot's main use will be at the fire alarm events because of its mobility to travel up and down the street with the volunteers but will be used at all the rest of the events as well. The robot will also be used at our normal school programs, shopping centers, fairs, etc.

With these tools, our department will have a program in place that will significantly mitigate injury and death from fire and other preventable incidences for years to come. These tools will be made available for every community within our district and neighboring departments within our county. In addition, we will incorporate these new tools in our programs at every elementary school, middle school, extended-care facilities, rest homes and other places throughout the community during significant events throughout the year. These events include

- Fire Prevention Week
- EMS Week
- School Bus Safety Week
- National Night Out
- Parades
- Bicycle Safety Week
- Etc.

Matching Funds:

Matching funds for this grant will be provided from our existing budget.

Program Costs:

1	Combination Sprinkler/Fire Safety House	\$33,200.00
1	911 Phone System	\$552.00
1	TV/VCR Viewing	\$875.00
1	Monitoring System	\$2,489.00
1	Honda Generator	\$3,750.00
1	Commercial Grade Carpeting	\$873.00
	Total Sprinkler/Fire Safety House	\$41,739.00
1	Sparky the Fire Dog & Pumper Super Package	\$8,073.00
1	Voice Modifier Option	\$250.00
1	Water Squirt Option	\$225.00
	Total Sparky the Fire Dog	\$8,548.00
	Total Grant Request	\$50,287.00
