



Johnson County Fire Protection District

122 W. Young • Warrensburg, MO 64093 • (660)747-5220 • Fax (660)747-9791
jcfpd@jcfpd.net • www.jcfpd.net

Chief Larry W. Jennings
Assistant Chief Dee Bennett
Board President Ron Fitterling
Board Member Terri Brookshier
Board Member Terry Hill
Secretary/Treasurer Jaime Russell

PRESS RELEASE

May 4, 2009

JENNINGS NAMED FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR

Chief Larry W. Jennings of the Johnson County Fire Protection District received top honors at the 54th Annual Fire Firefighters Association of Missouri convention on Saturday, May 2, 2009. Chief Jennings received the Fire Chief of the Year award.

Chief Jennings began his career in the fire service in June, 1976 in Johnson County before the fire district was organized. In August, 1995, Jennings become the Interim Chief and in January, 1996 was made Chief of the District. In 1996 the fire district operated on a budget of \$129,000 and housed twenty-four pieces of apparatus in nine stations.

With the support of voters in Johnson County, a tax levy increase was passed in 2001 raising the levy from \$.20 per \$100 assessed to \$.36 per \$100 assessed. The increase assisted in purchasing new apparatus to replace pumpers and tankers in an aging fleet. In 2007, voter support passed a \$4.5 million bond issue allowing for the construction of new fire stations and purchase of fire apparatus and personal protective equipment. Through the efforts of Chief Jennings and others, the District currently has forty-five pieces of apparatus housed in ten stations operated by 130 personnel with a current annual budget of \$644,627. The District's response area covers approximately 525 square miles in the eastern two-thirds of Johnson County, excluding the cities of Warrensburg and Knob Noster.

Until June, 2007, Chief Jennings dedicated his time as a volunteer. In June, 2007 he became the first full-time paid Chief for the District. During his time as Chief he has instituted a training division, standardized engines, tankers, grass units and equipment throughout the District, added rescue/extrication services and secured the vehicle and equipment to provide that service, worked with the Warrensburg Early Bird Rotary Club to secure a Fire and Weather Safety House for public education and developed and implemented a Junior Firefighter program along with many other achievements. In addition to obtaining a fleet of ten new engines, ten new tankers and ten new grass units, an SCBA mobile cascade system and a rescue truck, Chief Jennings has overseen the construction of three new stations, the remodel of two stations and the construction/remodel of a new headquarters station that houses administrative offices along with crew and apparatus space.

Along with his contributions to the District, Chief Jennings currently holds certifications as Firefighter I and II and Fire Investigator as well as memberships with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Professional Fire and Fraud Investigators Association – Director, Missouri Department of Public Safety Fire Service Advisory Group, Johnson County Emergency Services Board, Johnson County Missouri Fire Association and Fire Fighters Association of Missouri.