

Treynor Volunteer Fire Department



Russ Maguire, the fire Captain, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on February 23. He has been fire captain since 1994. They have elections every two years. He has been on the department for 26 years.

There are 28 members on the Treynor fire department. They have 8 or 9 EMTs, 4 paramedics, and 4 paid trainees from Council Bluffs.

The fire department is funded through tax levies. They do not charge for fire calls, but do charge for rescue calls. They use an EMS billing service, which takes 10% of the fees for their service. That brings in about \$18,000 a year. With a budget of \$120,000, they receive \$80,000 from taxes, \$19,000 from fundraisers, and get \$3,000-\$4,000 from grants.

The fire department receives about 130 calls each year. 75% are ambulance calls. Treynor and Lewis Township have a mutual aid agreement to help with calls.

They are having a lot of technology improvements. The new 900 MHz communication system is a big improvement.

There is a lot of training involved in being a volunteer for the fire department. They hold monthly training. The fire department pays for the equipment needed, so the volunteers only cost is their time. A full set of equipment weighs about 50 pounds. People have to be 18 to join the department.

Daytime calls are difficult. A minimum of an EMT and a driver are needed to respond to a call. Russ carries a pager and also gets a text on his phone. The system allows people to call in and Russ can see who is responding to the call. An ambulance laptop will show the route to the call location.

Large equipment is expensive. A new ambulance costs \$120,000. A 2000 gallon pumper truck costs \$160,000. The best piece of equipment for field fires is a farmer's tractor and disk.

The fire department has some fire extinguishers that they sell for cost.