

June 19 2023

WHITEFIELD FIRE & RESCUE

Monthly Report for May 2023

Dear Residents of Whitefield

During May Whitefield Fire and Rescue (WFR) had a total of 28 emergency calls. Of these, 16 or 59% were medical. There were three motor vehicle accident calls, three brush fire calls, and two structure fire calls, both of which were mutual aid to neighboring towns, one to Jefferson and one to Alna.

With the advent of warmer weather some may have noticed that the “WFR Needs You” signs have reappeared alongside some town roads. In recent months WFR has gained two new and dedicated firefighters, Brandon League and Forrest Hisler. They are actively responding to calls and are also participating in the year-long “Firefighter One and Two” course offered by Lincoln County. They are a welcome addition to our small band of brothers and sisters but the need for additional personnel remains critical. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining please contact one of our chiefs (info below) or come to one of our Monday evening meetings to check us out.

Readers of this and previous monthly reports will have seen that medical emergencies generally constitute more than half of WFR calls. Julie Cowles, who together with her husband Steve Cowles, joined our emergency medical service (EMS) team earlier this year, has taken over the position of EMS One. Julie is an experienced and highly trained retired US Army nurse and we are extremely fortunate to have her in this new role. Whitefield now has three well qualified and dedicated medical first responders. But with an aging population the need remains great and more volunteers here would be particularly welcome.

Personnel, of course, are at the heart of any emergency service but equipment is also vital and here the news is good. WFR has just acquired a spanking new Kubota off-road RTV. It will be equipped with a forestry skid package containing a pump, water tank, hose and tools, which will greatly improve our speed and effectiveness in responding to remote and difficult to access brush and woods fires.

The cost of the trailer on which the RTV will sit and be transported may be covered by ARPA (federal) funds. The bulk of the rest of this project, including the RTV itself (\$21,370) and the skid including water tank (approximately \$6,400) is being paid out of the town’s revolving WFR capital improvement fund. In this and many other ways the people and the Select Board of Whitefield continue their generous financial support for the WFR. We thank you all!

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