
From: Greg Gammon
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 8:20 AM
To: Fire Services - All Staff
Subject: Important notice

I want to thank all of you for the support I've been getting during these past few months. I believe that your realizing that within your own standards of professionalism to how you approach this job that we have been able to ward off some of the major department cuts that we were faced with just a few months ago.

Our sick leave usage is down and EMS transports have been very high. The combination of these two things, along with some of the other cost savings measures we have taken have put us on track to meet our 7 million dollar budget cut obligation. Based on this, I am going to rule in favor of the grievances that pertain to staffing the Battalion Chiefs w/aide each shift and the third fire investigator will be brought back to full staffing effective today, before the grievance reaches the city manager.

You all know our budget will continue to be closely scrutinized by city management. I am asking all of you to please use your sick leave only when it's needed and continue to transport. These two things are helping to keep me from having to make cuts. We can do this but it will take all of us to work together, and be the utmost professionals in how to approach our job.

Throughout all of these town hall meetings that many of you have attended, you know that there is a certain amount of public displeasure with firefighters. We're getting beat up by many but were still praised by most. I have been defending our fire department and its members at every one of these meetings.

We have a few of our crews that make things difficult for the rest of us. The biggest complaints that I hear over and over are the amount of time spent at gym's and how we 'dress differently' while we're out in public. (meaning everyone not in the same uniforms). If we ever needed the public perception of us changed it's right now. Please - when your in public, you should be all dressed according to the SOP's. We're not a lounge or a gym, we're a professional fire department and we should always act the part. We need to get 'all' of the public back on our side and we can do this through our professionalism, through our appearance and through our actions. Spending 2-3 hours a day at the gym like some crews do is just the kind of actions that tear us down. I'm not going to say don't go to the gym, but as a department, it would do us well if we used our station exercise equipment for the next couple of months because we're going to continue to be in the spotlight and we need as much good publicity as we can get, and that is through our professionalism.

I rarely ask for anything more than to do your jobs to the very best of your abilities and to follow the rules. I'm fighting for you every day. I'm not asking you to do me any favors, I'm asking you all to step up to help our department because we need it. We can have a lot of control over our destiny if we just do our jobs right, show up to work, not abuse sick leave, transport and treat people professionally.

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