

Poudre Fire Authority Annual Report

# A Community Partner

Poudre Fire\_ Authority/ Fort Collins



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## Our Mission

To protect life and property by being prompt, skillful and caring. Our actions are anchored in the core values of **Courage, Leadership, and Duty.** 



## A Note From The Chief

You are the heart of what we do. Poudre Fire Authority is constantly working to improve and be proactive in the ever-evolving fire service. We are a proud community partner in Northern Colorado and beyond.

Collaboration with partners in emergency services such as 911 dispatch centers, education, law enforcement, health care, and private partners helps us reduce risk, provide services that save lives and potentially increase quality of life.

In 2017, PFA developed a new Strategic Plan through a community-driven process to determine critical issues and service gaps. Goals moving forward include providing innovative core services such as Emergency Medical Services (EMS), structural and wildland firefighting and rescue; proactive communications; and continued financial responsibility. The 2018 budget focuses on funding capital needs (technology, facilities, and equipment) and staffing for EMS, inspections, firefighting, mechanics, and Information Technology. PFA prepaid its Lease/Purchase Agreement for Station 4 (1945 W. Drake Road), saving \$450,000 in interest payments.

Looking forward, PFA will be innovative with fire-behavior research, drone technologies in public-safety applications, right-sized response deployment models, community-risk reduction, and educational opportunities. We will continue to be an active and engaged community partner.

- Chief Tom DeMint



We strive every day to be proficient, professional and compassionate for our community.

## Who We Are

Poudre Fire Authority is a multi-faceted entity — an organization, a family, and a community partner that is professional, committed, and responsible. Providing exceptional customer service through the values of **Courage**, **Leadership**, and **Duty**, is our number one priority.



## About Our Governance

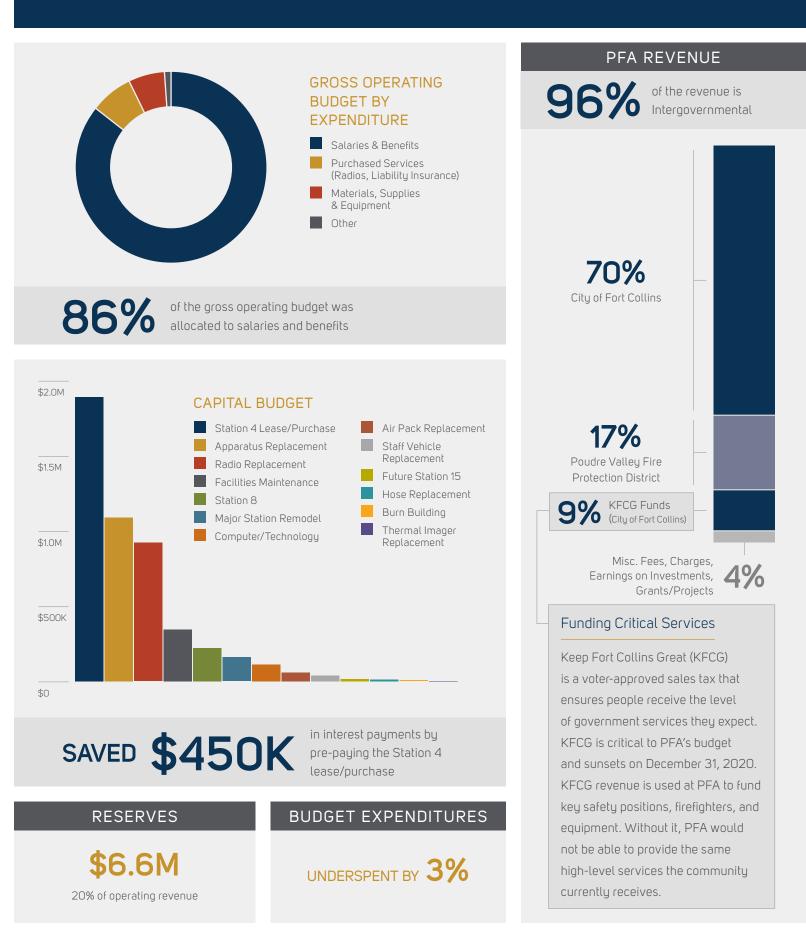
#### PFA was established in 1981 through an Intergovernmental Agreement (updated in 2014) between the City of Fort Collins and the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District (PVFPD).

A five-person Board of Directors, composed of elected members from the PVFPD Board and the Fort Collins City Council, governs PFA. Both the PVFPD Board and City Council appoint two members to serve on the PFA Board of Directors. The fifth member of the PFA Board is appointed by these four members and has historically been the Fort Collins City Manager. The Intergovernmental Agreement outlines PFA's funding through a revenue-allocation formula. The City of Fort Collins contributes a proportion of sales and use tax, property taxes, and the voter-approved "Keep Fort Collins Great" tax measure. The PVFPD contributes its mill levy (property tax) revenue, as well as pass-through Tax Increment Financing from a partnership with the Town of Timnath.

#### OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PFA BOARD CHAIR Gerry Horak VICE CHAIR Dave Pusey **MEMBER** Kristin Stephens **MEMBER** Mike DiTullio MEMBER Darin Atteberry

## 2017 Budget & Funding Outcomes



## Community Connections

Firefighter Travis Garcia talks with a young attendee at a 2017 event where firefighters demonstrated how they help remove people trapped in crashed vehicles, a process called extrication.

Poudre Fire Authority strives to reduce risk in our community by empowering people to live their safest lives. Through in-person classes, events, and other platforms, in 2017, PFA's staff collectively interacted with **11,456 members** of the community.

has **24 volunteer firefighters** who give their talents and hundreds of hours of their time to serve the communities of Stations 9 and 11, in the areas of Horsetooth Reservoir and Redstone Canyon, respectively. The calm, collected, and compassionate regional dispatchers, who handled **200,000+ calls** in 2017, assure Poudre Fire Authority firefighters arrive when you need them. You can help by registering your phone number for emergency notifications at **LETA911.org**.



#### Emergency Medical Services

### Be it falls, heart attacks, or broken bones, our firefighters are there.

Poudre Fire Authority works with public organizations, as well as through public-private partnerships and formal agreements, to provide world-class emergency medical services to people within Northern Larimer County.



#### Smart Science

### Innovation across PFA is key to providing the best-possible services.

Firefighting has greatly changed in recent decades. The study of fire science, knowledge shared by fire service partners, and new tools mean PFA's firefighters are more effectively and safely fighting fire and, in some cases, reducing the damage caused to a home in the process. Along with other Larimer County partners, PFA is also using public-safety drones in ways that are saving time and taxpayers' money. Also, PFA hazardous materials (hazmat) technicians, who study chemistry, work with community partners to keep people safe during hazmat incidents.



#### Keeping People Safe

### PFA responds to emergencies. More importantly, we work to prevent them from ever happening.

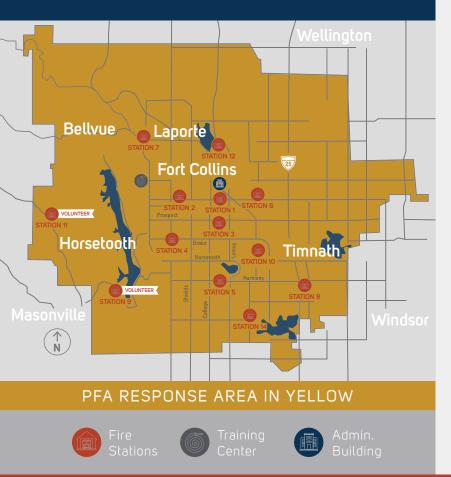
Before you step foot in a new building, PFA fire-safety experts have worked with developers, design partners, and contractors to make a space as safe as possible by checking items such as exit signs, alarm systems, and fire department access. Our staff works with partners who install and maintain fire-sprinkler systems, two of which successfully put out fires in 2017, no doubt saving lives and potentially millions of dollars in property damage.

## A Somber Reminder of Fire's Impact

#### Our community felt the ripple effects of three fire deaths in 2017

Sadly, three members of our community died last year in unrelated fires in their homes. Two were due to cooking fires, and another is currently classified as undetermined. Let us be clear: They are not statistics. They are people — those whom others knew and loved. Their deaths each served as a critical moment during which PFA educated the community about why fire still presents a danger, even though the frequency of fires and fire-related deaths are decreasing across the country. Thanks to concerted fire-safety education efforts by nationwide partners, including PFA, the overall 10-year fire death rate trend in the U.S. decreased 21.6% from 2006 to 2015 (U.S. Fire Administration).

Poudre Fire Authority protects about **206,000 people** and more than **\$29 billion** worth of property within its 235-square-mile service area.



## It Takes a Village to Save a Life

When you need help, you want to know you are receiving the highestquality care from prompt, skillful, and caring emergency responders.

Rest assured that is the case with our 189 full-time firefighters who, in 2017, trained for a collective 51,708 hours to ensure they are as prepared as possible for any call that could come their way. Seven days a week, 365 days a year, many people from emergency-response agencies and partner organizations across the state, nation – and in some cases, the globe – come together at PFA's northwest Fort Collins Training Center to work together, learn new skills, and practice existing skills so they can be the best for their communities.

A partnership of the City of Fort Collins and the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District, proudly serving Fort Collins, Timnath, Laporte, Bellvue, Horsetooth Reservoir, and Redstone Canyon, in Colorado. Our most important community partner is you.



Follow us to stay connected.





Learn more about PFA and access the 2017 Annual Report online at pfaannualreport.com