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HIGH LEVEL FIRE DEPARTMENT SET TO GROW

High Level Town Council recently approved funding allowing seven new members for the High Level Fire Department. According to Fire Chief Rodney Schmidt, the increase in personnel is overdue. "Our call volume has grown every year, and the department is being tasked to do more specialized responses. We are answering that demand by increasing our roster to 34 members". The majority of the funding is allocated to purchase new protective clothing, helmets, and breathing apparatus that would be used by the new firefighters.

The Fire Department is looking to recruit applicants that would be able to respond to daytime calls. "Like many other departments, sometimes we have a shortage of manpower during the daytime, so we need to have more members available to respond with", said Schmidt.

Fire Department members train weekly to meet the demands of the fire service, and to ensure new members acquire an increasing level of skill. "The scope of the fire service has changed dramatically", noted Deputy Fire Chief Mark Andrews, "today's department is involved in fire prevention, education, medical assists, hazardous materials, a whole array of rescue skills, all in addition to putting out fires".

Men and women interested in finding out more information on the High Level Fire Department or their application process are encouraged to stop by the Fire Hall on Monday evenings, or visit their website at www.incentre.net/hlvfd. "Joining the Fire Department is a big commitment, but it is one of the most rewarding things you can do for your community", said Andrews.