

HISTORY of the Larkin Township Fire Department

The Larkin Township Fire Department was established in 1955 and consisted of volunteers who met every two weeks to train in the operation of the fire truck and tank wagon. The first fire truck was built by Howe Co. and was high pressure with 750 gallon tank and had a price tag of \$10,000. Original headquarters were located on the corner of Waldo and Monroe Roads.

Norm Hitchcock was elected Fire Chief October 14, 1955 and served for 19 years before stepping down in 1974. He remained on the department for many more years. Arthur Atton, a volunteer for 20 years, was then appointed Chief in 1974 and served as Chief for 30 years before stepping down in 2004. As of today, he is still an active member of the Fire Department. In 2004, Fritz Bobalek was appointed Fire Chief.

Today the department is housed at a new larger building located at 3022 N. Jefferson, which was built in 1974.

Before the installation of fire sirens in 1956, members were notified about a fire after word had been received on a fire phone. Today firemen are provided portable fire monitors.

In 1965, a Mutual Aid Agreement was approved with the City of Midland. Today a Mutual Aid Agreement is in effect with the City of Midland, all other fire departments in the County and the DNR.

Should any nearby Fire Departments have a fire that requires extra water, manpower, or equipment, any of the other departments will respond as needed.

The Fire Department runs on a budget from the Township's General Fund and is set by the Township Board. There is no extra millage on the homeowner's taxes for fire protection.

The Department has grown from one fire truck and tank wagon to two fire trucks, tanker, grass truck and a rescue unit and provides backup assistance to other fire departments in the county should the need arise.

The success of the department stems from the dedication the volunteers give in making themselves available in emergency situations.