

### **By Jan Rahn**

*Managing Editor*

Two of the area's fire departments have compiled their figures for the past year and have elected officers for 2012.

Others will be submitted at a later date.

#### **Grant Fire Department**

Officers of the Grant Volunteer Fire Department who were elected during the regular business meeting on Dec. 5 officially took their appointed seats on Jan. 1.

Several of the members were re-elected to currently held positions and will continue to serve in those capacities throughout 2012.

Current Fire Chief Don Softley will serve the department in the same capacity for the third year in a row. However, he is entering his 18th year of serving as chief throughout his career with the Grant Volunteer Fire Department—which will total 35 years this November.

Softley's former stints as chief were from the mid-80s to early 90s, again from 1997-2004, and from March 2010 to present.

Fred Reichert was recently re-elected as assistant chief. Reichert has also formerly served the department for five years as its as chief.

Other re-elected officers include Rick Dreiling as senior fire captain, Jason Noyes as ambulance captain, Harlan Rahn as fire captain, Bryan Kroeker as fire captain and president, Kile Goodwin as vice president and Wayne Pick as secretary.

The department's new treasurer is Ron Krause, and Seth Cockerill was appointed to a fire lieutenant position.

Ambulance lieutenants for 2012 are Bob Tatum, Becca Lagler and Shane Mastre.

Elected to serve on the board of directors were Harlan Rahn, Seth Cockerill and Becca Lagler.

• **Calls in 2012:** According to Fire Chief Don Softley, the Grant Volunteer Fire Department/Perkins County Ambulance completed another busy year in 2011, responding to 170 requests for assistance.

The fire trucks responded to 37 dispatches. July and October were the busiest months for the fire department, said Softley, with eight responses during each of those months.

September was the busiest month for ambulance calls, with 17 dispatches.

The ambulance answered 131 dispatches for the entire year.

• **GVFD Members:** Twenty-eight members make up the roster for the department, including Justin Bremer, Billy Charles, Cassandra Cockerill, Seth Cockerill, Brad Dickinson, Rick Dreiling, Roger Friesen, Kile Goodwin, Bob Hochstein, Gerald Hostetler, Chasity Knoles, Bryan Kroeker, Ron Krause, Becca Lagler, Shane Mastre, Trent Mastre, Ward Mastre, Jason Noyes, Rick Ochsner, Wayne Pick, Harlan Rahn, Fred Reichert, Jesse Shireman, Don Softley, Bob Tatum, Jared Wedel, Dwight Wiebe and Shawn Wiebe.

The department will host their annual banquet toward the end of March.

#### **Venango Fire Department**

Venango Fire Chief Steve Tucker will also serve as the department's secretary-treasurer for 2012.

Other officers elected recently include Nancy Reynolds as vice president and Mike Dolezal as president.

The fire line officers for Venango are: Nancy Reynolds as ambulance lieutenant, Joe Scholl as

fire lieutenant, Mike Dolezal as fire captain and Troy Grothman as assistant chief.

- Venango Members: The full membership of the VVFD includes Steve Tucker, Troy Grothman, Nancy Reynolds, Joe Scholl, Mike Dolezal, Chris Costrini, Dale Grothman, Therin Davidson, Brian Hermann, Shawn Stutzman, Mike Frazier, Nick Huebner, Milissa Schmitt and Albert Beard.

According to Fire Chief Tucker, Venango had a total of 44 calls in 2011. Of these calls, 19 were for medical emergencies and 25 were fire/rescue/mutual aid calls.