

Humboldt Fire Department, a good blend of experience and youth

BY DANNY WADE

When Humboldt citizens go to bed at night, they can sleep with certainty there are highly trained men that have their backs in the event of a fire. The Humboldt Fire Department is ready and able 24-7-365. Running three fully manned shifts, there are always crews at both fire stations ready to answer any and all calls.

The Humboldt Fire Department operates under the seasoned leadership of Fire Chief Chester

Owens and Assistant Fire Chief Leroy Kail. Owens has 44 years of firefighting experience under his belt. Kail is not far behind with 34 years of experience as a firefighter. Chief Kail is also an arson inspector.

Captain Greg Lencioni is the next highest-ranking officer on the fire department. Lencioni has been with the department for 26 years and serves as the HFD fire inspector.

Lieutenants on staff are Michael Lewis, Jackie McClinton and Robert "Harry" Ward, and serve as

lead officers for each shift.

Firefighters are Terry Baker, John Belanger, Jason Hamlett, Randall Jimenez, Daniel Knowles, Hunter Lewis, Noah Maxwell, Gary Mays, Scotty Moore, Lucas Reasons, Austin Rogier, Tim Strnad, Jonathan Strow, Jonathan Tibbs and Alex Trudo.

Chief Owens said there are currently 21 men on staff—two chiefs, one captain and four lieutenants in the chain of command. As of January, the department was short a few

firefighter positions but actively recruiting new candidates.

The chief said getting qualified candidates to apply has been difficult this past year, partially due to the coronavirus pandemic. Another issue in hiring is finding people that can complete the agility test. Chief Owens welcomes anyone wanting to become a firefighter to fill out an application. He said it is a great opportunity to serve the community.

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