

**AFD Mini- Timeline 2**  
**(By Herman R. Bishop)**  
**January 18, 2021**  
**Updated March 5, 2022**

**1882 To 1900, Early Fire Department, Volunteer Firemen Era**

1706 – Albuquerque founded on the site now known as Old Town  
1880 – Atkinson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway reaches Albuquerque (April 25, 1880)  
1882 – Volunteer Fire Company formed February, 1882 due to population increase, Population 3500  
1882 – February 1882, the “Albuquerque Hook & Ladder Company,” formed hand drawn, 25 volunteers  
1882 – July 1882, William Sanguinette elected first volunteer fire chief.  
1882 - October 1882, the firemen erected a fire station on Front Street (First Street)  
1883 – August 1883, The Atlantic and Pacific railroad organized a fire department (from AFD)  
1885 - June 1885, A fire hydrant water system approved and installed.  
1885 – November 1885, 2-wheel hand drawn hose company was formed. (23 volunteers)  
1885 – December 1885 2-hand drawn; 2-wheel hose carts purchased. 1200 feet 2 ½ inch hose  
1886 – January 1886, hose companies named Scott Moore, (Cream Color) & A.A. Grant (Brown Color)  
1886 - February 1886, 2-hand drawn Gleason & Baily hose carts arrived. (Wheels 6 feet, 3 inches tall)  
1886 - March 1886, 1-fire station, 1-hook and ladder company, 2- hose companies all hand drawn  
1886 - June 1886, The Fergusson Hook & Ladder company formed. Hand drawn by 23 volunteer firemen  
1887– June 1887, an early version of a fire alarm street box system was installed

**1900 To 1918, Horse Drawn Fire Wagons/ First Motorized Fire Trucks**

1900 - June 1900, Albuquerque population 6,238, City 3 square miles, 1 fire sta. and 3 volunteer fire companies  
1900 – June 1900, City Council approves paid fire department, 2 firemen, 1-part time chief, 20 volunteers -  
1900 - June 1900, Bernard Ruppe, fire chief, fireman Southerland, & fireman Ortiz  
1900 - June 1900, City purchased 2-fire horses, Tom & Jerry, 1200 lbs. each to pull fire wagons  
1902 – January 1902, a new horse drawn 40-gallon combination chemical hose was delivered  
1905 – July 1906, City Council approves Fire Chief’s position fully paid (Chief A. C. Burtless)  
1905 – October 1905, 6-paid firemen, 1-fire station, and 40 on-call volunteer firemen  
1908 – June 1908, Fire Station # 2, Highland Station goes into service @ 418 Elm Street S.E.  
1908 - July 1908, Fire Chief Burtless receives new horse and buggy.  
1908 - September 1908, Seagrave Hose Wagon delivered, with 1000 feet 2 ½ inch fire hose  
1908 – September 1908, new team of horses delivered  
1908 – September 1908, A 50-gallon, New Seagrave, horse drawn, Chemical Hose wagon delivered  
1909 – December 1909, 2-fire stations, 1-paid Chief, 9- paid firemen, fire hydrants and fire alarm boxes  
1910 - June 1910, new Chief’s buggy and new horse purchased  
1912 - February 1912, AFD accepted delivery of 1st American La France, 600 GPM, motorized fire truck  
1913 – August 1913, A new motorized Fire Chief’s Car approved by the City Council  
1914 – September 1914, American La France Delivered 2nd Motorized fire truck  
1914 – October 1914, Last AFD fire call made by fire horses on October 19, 1914  
1917 – March 1917, Assistant Chief Fred Russell Appointed to Fire Chief  
1918 – September 1918, AFD used horses as back-up until September 18, 1918 when the horse era ended  
**NOTE: DURING THE HORSE ERA, 1900 TO 1914, AFD HAD 11 FIRE HORSES AT ONE TIME.**

**THERE IS NO RECORD THAT AFD USED HORSE-DRAWN STEAMER PUMPERS DURING THE HORSE ERA.**

**1920 To 1930, Chief Fred Russell Era**

1920 - January 1920, The Department is completely motorized, 2 Stations & 25 firemen  
1920 - February 1920, - 2 Platoon system, 2 shifts, day 10 hrs. ,night 14 hrs., shift change @ noon.  
1922 – February 1922, AFD took delivery of a 1920 American La France, 75-foot aerial ladder truck  
1922 - April 1922, William Collister is Fire Chief after Chief Russell resigns over FF union issues  
1923 - June 1923, Fred Russell is Fire Chief after Chief Collister Resigns  
1925 – January 1926, 1925 AFD Annual Report submitted, Budget \$36,389, population 25,000, 2 fire stations  
1926 – January 1927 1926 AFD Annual Report submitted, Budget \$35,810, population 30,000  
1927 - May 1927 Ch. Russell & F.F. Seligman almost died in wreck with pumper, street car and chief's car  
1927 – May 1927 #1 Pumper 1924 American La France Pumper totaled in wreck  
1927 – July 1927, AFD bought 2- American La France Pumpers, 1- Buick Fire Chief's Car  
1927 - July 1927 City purchased 1927 American La France Pumper to replace old pumper totaled in wreck  
1927 – January 1928, 1927 AFD Annual Report submitted, Budget \$41,816,237 Fire calls, six second alarms.  
1928 – January 1929 AFD Annual Report submitted, Budget, \$46,355, population 35,000, 320 fire calls  
1929 – January 1930 AFD Annual Report submitted, Budget, \$50,236, 207 fire calls, 2 fire stations  
1930 - December 1930 Fred Russell is Fire Chief.

#### 1930 To 1940, Fire Chief Art Westerfeld Era

1930 - January 1930, AFD 2 fire stations, Budget \$50,236, 25 firemen 287 fire calls  
1930 - June 1930 Albuquerque population 26,570, City covers 3 square miles  
1931 - August 1931, Fire Chief Fred Russell dies while serving as fire chief  
1931 - August 1931 Arthur "Art" Westerfeld is appointed to Fire Chief  
1936 - Station 3 was built using funding from WPA, Works Progress Administration, cost \$60,000  
1936 - October 1936, Station 3 dedicated, AFD has 3 stations and 36 firemen.  
1939 - October 1936, 1939 AFD has 3 stations, 3 pumpers, 1- 75' aerial ladder truck, 1- Chief's Car

#### 1940 To 1950 AFD Continues Under Leadership of "Art" Westerfeld Fire Chief

1940 - From 1940 through 1949 AFD responds to Rescue calls with pumpers and the Chief's Car  
1940 – AFD 3 fire stations, 40 firemen, Population 35,449, City is 12 Square miles  
1940 - Fire Station Four built, 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Mountain Rd. NW, cost \$20,000  
1940 - Major fire at San Jose Church  
1941 - From 1941 to 1945 During World War Two, numerous AFD firemen served in the war  
1942 - AFD purchases a 1942 750 GPM Seagrave pumper  
1942 – July 9, 1942, A. R. Lasch Company fire, lasts 44 hours, \$65,000 damages  
1943 – City purchases 1943 Seagrave 1000 GPM Quad, Combination Pumper and Ladder Truck  
1945 – F.W. Woolworth building sustains heavy losses after major fire  
1948 – AFD purchases a 75-foot Seagrave aerial ladder truck, tiller driven  
1949 – Fire Station Five built at Chico and Dallas NE, Cost 23,867.

#### 1950 To 1960 AFD, More Growth Under Direction of Chief "Art Westerfeld

1950 – July 1950, Albuquerque has 5 fire stations 80 firemen, City is 49 Square miles  
1951 – Motor Equipment Company suffers major fire loss  
1951 – May 1951, Fire Station six is built at 6th Street and Griegos NW. Cost \$24, 017  
1951 – May 1951, Fire Station seven is built at 47th Street and Central Ave. NW, Cost, \$23,867  
1952 – May 1952, Best Moulding Company burns 24 hours, declared a total loss  
1953 - March 1953, Fire Station #3, Bryn Mawr & Central NE, remodeled to house 75-foot aerial ladder

1953 - July 1953, AFD Accepts delivery of 1953 Seagrave 75-foot ladder, 1953 – July 1953, 1953 1948 Seagrave 75-foot aerial ladder moved to station #3, Bryn Mawr & Central NE  
1953 - August 1953, Sears Roebuck and Company Dept. Store burns, 5th Street and Central NW. Major Loss  
1953 - August 1953, Scott Air-Pac breathing apparatus used by AFD first time at the Sears Fire  
1953 - August 1953, AFD establishes first Base to-Mobile Radio System, KKH, 709  
1953 - August 1953, City Budgets Money to purchase Scott-Air Pac's for all AFD fire apparatus  
1953 - September 1953, Ice Arena Burns, Declared major fire loss  
1953 – July 1953, AFD City firefighters granted “Kelly days,” (1 day off per 2-week shifts)  
1954 – August 1954, Fire Station eight is built at Graceland and Menaul NE, Cost \$24,375  
1955 – April 1955, Fire Station nine is built at 9500 Menaul NE, Cost, \$29,200  
1956 – January 1956, Fire Station One is relocated to 8th and Silver SW, Cost, \$112,000  
1956 – March 1956, Fire Station ten is built at 2841 Rio Grande NW, Cost, \$27,138  
1956 – October 1956 Fire Station eleven is built at Southern and San Mateo SE, Cost \$28,350  
1956 - December 1956, Fire Station Two rebuilt/remodeled, 301 High Street SE, Cost, \$35,000  
1956 - Chief Westerfeld establishes first rescue squad, Runs 1956 Ford Panel Wagon from Station One  
1957 – Charles II field Warehouse Burns, major fire loss suffered  
1957 - First fire training center established (later re-named AFD Fire Academy)  
1957 - Chief Westerfeld forms first Fire Prevention Bureau, Headed by Assistant Chief Milton Grande  
1957 - December 1957, AFD Annual Report, 11 Stations, 1350 calls, 395 Rescue Calls 236 County Calls  
1957 – December 1957, 11 Engines, 2 ladder Co’s. Firemen, 72-hour work week, F.F. Pay, \$290 Month,  
1959 - Major fire destroys Holy Rosary Church, Great loss.  
1959 - Arson program established under the fire prevention bureau  
1959 - Firefighter shortage, AFD recruits out of State, (Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, California)

#### 1960 To 1970, New Era, Chief Westerfeld Dies, Simon Seligman Chief

1960 – AFD 12 fire stations, 280 firefighters, 201,189, City 62 Square Miles  
1960's - AFD buys new well equipped, rescue vehicle, 1960 GMC, 150-gallon pump, 150-gallon water tank  
- The old 1956 Ford Panel Wagon Rescue vehicle is assigned to station two. Two Rescue Squads  
- AFD Changes from Class B to Class A Fire Alarm System  
- Canvas turnout gear replaced with new aluminum silver colored turnout gear, new helmet style.  
AFD gets 2- frequency, hand-held radios, Hi-expansion foam Generator, Closed Cab Trucks, fog nozzles  
1960 – July 1960 – Fire Station Twelve opens, at 201 Muriel NE, Cost \$ 30, 403  
1960 - July 1960, Fire Training Center, 1610 Kit Carson SW adjacent to zoo gets new classroom, Cost \$7,000  
1960 - July 1960, Population, 201,189, \$20 Mo. Clothing Allowance, \$7 Mo. Meal Allowance  
1960 - October 1960, 12 Stations, 12 Engines, 2 Ladder Companies, 2 Rescue Squads, 289 firemen  
1961 – March 1961, 1960 Annual Report, Budget, \$1,498,133, 279 Personnel, 1,465 Fire Calls, 474 Rescue Calls  
1962 - February 1962, Longtime Fire Chief “Art” Westerfeld dies of Cancer  
1962 - February 1962, Simon Seligman Deputy Chief appointed to Chief after death of Chief Westerfeld  
1964 - May 1964, Fire Station Thirteen Built, 6400 Indian School Rd. NE, Cost, \$119 802  
1964 - May 1964, Fire Station Fourteen built at 98th Street and Central SW, Cost, \$46,136  
1967 - January 1967, AFD purchases High Expansion Foam Unit  
1967 – December 1967, Fire Station Four relocated to 301 McKnight NW, Cost \$105,674  
1968 – May 1968, City purchases Mack, 75-foot Pitman Snorkel Truck, Cost \$61,770  
1968 – September 1968, Fire Chief Simon Seligman retires after serving 6 years as Chief  
1968 – September 1968, Ray Kuhn appointed to Fire Chief after retirement of Chief Simon Seligman  
1969 - December 1969, AFD Fourteen fire stations, 340 firefighters, Population 244,701.

#### 1970 To 1980, AFD Growth Continues by Chief's Ray Kuhn & “Art” Martinez

1970 - January 1970, AFD has 360 firefighters, Fourteen Fire Stations, Population, 244, 701, 83 square miles  
1971 - June 1971 Winrock Apartments Fire, General Alarm, Major Fire Loss  
1971 - June 1971, Major Riots Occur in Albuquerque, City locked down for several days  
1971 – August 1971 Montgomery Apartments Fire, General Alarm, Major Fire Loss  
1972 – May 1972, University of Albuquerque, Major Fire Loss, General Alarm Fire  
1972 – September 1972, Fire Station Three relocated to 141 Girard NE, Cost, \$150,674  
1972 – September 1972, AFD Firefighters build Fire Display Building State Fairgrounds, Given Blue Ribbon award  
1972 - October 1972, Major Fire at Leeds Shoe Store Downtown, Heavy losses suffered  
1973 - May, 1973, El Dorado Apartments Fire East Central Avenue, General Alarm, Major fire loss.  
1973 - July 1973, AFD firefighters on strike, 5 days, for better pay and improved working conditions  
1973 – September 1973, AFD purchases 3- 1000 GPM American La France Pumpers, first closed cab pumpers  
1974 - February 1974, Paramedic Program implemented in coordination with UNM Regional Med. School  
1974 - August 1974, Magidson’s Restaurant Fire @ 211 Central Ave. NW. Loss, \$400,000  
1974 – September 1974, Sandia Hotel Fire 319 1st Street SW, nine firefighters seriously injured  
1974 – October 1974, Fire Station Fifteen opens at 6600 Academy NE  
1974 – October 1974, Shoffner Lumber Company East Central suffers major fire, total loss  
1975 – January 1975, AFD Fire Administration, Fire Prev. Arson, records division, moved to 131 Adams NE  
1975 – January 1975, Annual Report for 1974 Budget, \$ 6, 492, 529, 3,700 Fire Calls, 6,140 Rescue Calls  
1975 - October 1975, Fire Station Sixteen opens @ 4727 Juan Tabo NE  
1976 – January 1976, Major fire, Rio Grande Title Co. 6400 Indian School Rd. NE, Major Fire Loss  
1976 - December 1976, 1975 Annual Report, Budget, \$ 8,609, 344, 4,659 Fire Calls, 9,743 Rescue Calls  
1976 - December 1976 – 21 Fire Pumpers, 4- Aerial Ladder Companies, 5- Rescue Squads, 56 hr. work week  
1977 - May 1977, New 1977 1000 GPM Clark pumper placed in service, first Automatic Transmission  
1977 - June 1977, Fire Station Seventeen opens at 3630 Yucca NW  
1977 - July 1977, Five -inch synthetic fire hose placed on all AFD fire pumpers  
1977 – September 1977, AFD Supply/Garage relocated to 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
1977 - October 1977, Annual Report for 1976, Budget, \$9, 812,407, 4,474 Fire Calls, Rescue Calls, 10, 853  
1978 - July 1978, AFD introduced physical agility test, began hiring women, blacks, native Americans  
1978 – November 1978, Annual Report for 1977, Budget, \$11,103,070, 17- Fire Stations  
1979 - September 1979, AFD Arson Building built, 1501 Kit Carson SW, Cost, \$150,000, By Fire Academy  
1979 – November 1979, City Hall suffers major fire, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, caused by smoking materials in trash can

#### 1980 to 1990, AFD Leaders Chiefs Leonard Ortega and Gerald Grimm

1980 - January 1980, AFD has 18 Fire Stations, 500 firefighters, 100 square miles  
1980 - March 1980 Fire Chief Arthur Martinez retires after 33 years' service with AFD  
1980 - March 1980 Leonard C. Ortega AFD 20-year veteran appointed to Fire Chief  
1980 - March 1980 Mayor Rusk cuts \$750,000 from AFD budget  
1980- March 1980, Engine 1 -A Eliminated, 20 firefighter positions cut, due to budget shortfalls  
1980 – March 1980, Hazardous Materials Response Program established  
1982 - December 1982, AFD Annual Report, Budget, \$16,269,672, 17 Engines, 5-Ladders, 8-Rescue, 474 F.F.  
1983 - June 1983, Station Eighteen opens 6100 Taylor Ranch Road NW  
1984 – February 1984, Sta. # 1 remodeled, Cost, \$400,000, Fire Administration, Fire Prev. Arson, moved back  
1984 - July 1984, AFD Receives first WANG Computers (Word Processors). Internet not available yet  
1984 - July 1984, AFD Re-Organizes Operating Procedures into 10 volumes, Headed by Dist. Chief H. Bishop  
1984 – July 1984, AFD Implements National Fire Incident Command System  
1984 - December 1984, Budget, \$16,46,250, 498 Personnel, 4,146 Fire Calls, 18,353 Rescue Calls  
1985 – October 1985, Computer Aided Dispatch System Completed and Implemented

1985 - December 1985, Fire Chief Leonard Ortega retires after serving six years as Chief  
1985 - December 1985, Gerald Grimm appointed Fire Chief by Mayor Ken Schultz  
1986 - July 1986, Hypalon Bunkers Phased out for not meeting National Fire Safety Standards.  
1986 – July 1986, New Nomex Bunker suits for firefighters purchased which meet National fire safety standards  
1987 – July 1987, Fire Station Thirteen, re-located to 4901 Prospect NE  
1988 – July 1988, Fire marshal’s Office, Arson Unit, relocated to 4901 Prospect NE

#### 1990 To 2000 AFD Chiefs, Grimm, Montoya, Chavez, Dominguez, Huling

1990 - January 1990, AFD 20 Fire Stations, 546 firefighters, population 446,400, City, 181 square miles  
1990 – April 1990, Chief Gerald Grimm retires  
1990 - April 1990, Tom Montoya, former Assistant Chief of Denver, appointed to Fire Chief  
1990 – July 1990, New Fire Academy, relocated from 1510 Kit Carson SW to 11500 Sunset Gardens SW  
1992 - July 1992, Fire station eight relocated from Graceland & Menaul NE to 1400 Indian View Place NE  
1993 - December 1993, Fire Chief Tom Montoya resigns  
1993 - December 1993, Greg Chavez appointed to Fire Chief by Mayor Martin Chavez  
1994 – July 1994 – Fire Station Nineteen opens at 3520 San Andres NE  
1994 – December 1994, AFD Annual Report, Budget \$18,847,841, 444 Personnel, 8,365 fires, 38,033 Rescues  
1995 - December 1995, Chief Greg Chavez resigns  
1995 - December 1995, Carlos Dominguez Appointed to Chief  
1997 December 1997, Chief Carlos Dominguez resigns  
1997 – December 1997, Morris Huling appointed to Chief by Mayor Jim Baca  
1998 – June 1998, Fire Station Fourteen relocated, moved to 9817 Eucariz SW  
1999 – July 1999, Fire Administration, Communications center, EOC, relocated to 11500 Sunset Gardens SW  
1999 – July 1999, Bernalillo County Fire Stations 27 & 29 incorporated into AFD  
1999 - July 1999, Wildland Firefighting Task Force begins, Heavy Technical Rescue program begins

#### 2000 To 2020, Chiefs, Robert Ortega, Jim Breen, David Downy, Paul Dow

2000 – June 2000, AFD Celebrates Their 100th Anniversary as A Paid Department, June 6, 2000  
2000 - June 9, 2000 Fire Chief Morris Huling conducts the 100 AFD Celebration, @ the Convention Center  
2000 – June 2000, AFD Retired Firefighter’s Association Formed, June 9, 2000, during AFD Banquet  
2000 - August 2000, Fire Station Eleven, 5403 Southern SE remodeled  
2001 – December 2000, Fire Chief Morris Huling retires  
2001 - December 2000, Robert Ortega is Appointed to Fire Chief by Mayor Martin Chavez  
2005 - June 2005, Fire Station five relocated moved to 123 Dallas NE  
2005 - July 2005, Fire Station Twenty-One opens at 10400 Cibola Loop NW  
2009 - December 2009, Chief Robert Ortega Resigns  
2009 - December 2009, James Breen appointed to Fire Chief  
2010 - February 2010, Accepted delivery, 4- Seagrave, 2000 GPM, Pumpers  
2013 - June 2013, Fire Station Seven relocated to 5715 Central Avenue NW  
2015 - July 2015, Fire Station # 22 10,005 Lyons NW (Paradise Hills) Transferred from Bernalillo County to AFD  
2015 - December 2015, AFD gets an ISO (Insurance Services Office) upgrade to Class ONE (Best Possible)  
2014 - January 2014, David Downey appointed Fire Chief upon retirement of James Breen  
2018 – January 2018, Paul Dow, Appointed Fire Chief upon retirement of David Downey  
2018 – May 2018, AFD changes name to Albuquerque Fire Rescue to reflect operations in modern times  
2020 - June 2020, AFD celebrates the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a paid department  
2020 - June 2020, AFD Retiree’s Association celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**2021 to 2030 AFD continues under the leadership of Chief Dow, Gallegos,**

**2021 – April 2021, Chief Paul Dow Retires, Gene Gallegos appointed Interim Fire Chief**

**2021 – August 26, 2021 Gene Gallegos promoted to fire chief by Mayor Keller, after the retirement of Paul Dow.**