

Mortuary Fund	67,051.05	
General Fund	4,687.11	71,738.16
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Total		\$118,380.53

Exhibit "L"

Motion that the report of the treasurer and the audit be accepted and printed in the Minutes. Motion duly seconded and carried.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

President Shuford, Fellow Firemen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In submitting to you my first report of statistics of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association's fifty-fourth annual convention, with the fine City of Asheville as our host, I am happy to inform you that you have made real progress in your endeavor to save lives and property in the Grand Old State. Your association has had a remarkable year and has made real progress, and every fireman of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association should feel proud of this as each one has contributed toward this success. We should not be satisfied with this progress but should be especially mindful and alert to redouble our efforts in preparing against any future possibility of what our unfortunate friends across the Atlantic are going through. With the War Clouds hovering more closely to the Land of the Free, we as firemen of this great state should take inventory and become better prepared to meet that destructive Demon—"FIRE", if and when it comes.

LOSS OF LIFE: In the year 1940 there were 53 lives lost by fires in burning buildings in the state. This was a decrease of 16 lives lost over 1939. In this decrease you played an important part. The lives lost other than in burning buildings were 179 from causes such as careless handling of oils and other inflammable fuels, outdoor fires, playing with matches, scalding and many others. This makes a total of 232 lives destroyed by fire. This does not give account of the lives lost from burning auto-

mobiles, trucks and tank cars on the North Carolina highways and streets. These figures are not available. However, Dr. Stimson, head of the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, says that his office, with the cooperation of the U. S. Bureau of Census and the North Carolina State Traffic Authority, will be able to give your statistician next year the number of deaths caused by burning automobiles, trucks and oil tankers. This loss of these 232 lives by fire is very saddening to us all; however, this is a reduction of 8 lives lost over 1939.

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS: The fire loss in the United States in 1940, as estimated by the National Board of Fire-Underwriters, was \$285,878,697, with a per capita loss of \$2.17. This is \$31,660,943, or approximately 10 per cent, decrease over 1939. This to me seems to be an outstanding record, especially when one considers the increase of buildings and property values, and we must also take into consideration fires that might have been caused by sabotage.

STATE FIRE LOSS: The reported fire loss in the State of North Carolina in 1940 based on actual reports furnished the Insurance Commissioner by Fire Department Officials was \$3,828,685 or an increase of approximately 7 per cent over the year 1939. The formula used by your present and past statisticians to ascertain the unreported fire loss is 40 per cent of our total loss, or \$2,552,456. This gives reported and estimated loss in 1940 of \$6,381,141, with a per capita loss of \$1.91. If the formula used by the National Board of Underwriters in computing the national fire loss of 30 per cent for unreported loss is used, the total state loss would be \$5,469,550 with a per capita loss of only \$1.53. When we take into consideration the national per capita loss of \$2.17, the North Carolina per capita loss is very favorable.

Your statistician wishes to call your special attention to the information received from all reports available, which shows that the actual fire loss in protected cities and towns in North Carolina, this including all departments represented in the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, is less than three per cent of the actual values involved in all the fires.

This year it is not possible to give you any figures or reports on fires causing destruction to our school buildings due to there being no special data on this specific class released by the N. C. Inspection and Rating Bureau for 1940-41. However, I am especially happy to inform you that not one single child in the State of North Carolina lost his or her life in the burning of a school building in 1940. Neither can I give you any comparison of the

Southeastern States loss with ours, nor compare the losses for the different cities and towns of our state, as this data is not available at present.

In checking the 1940 census of North Carolina I find that there are 26 cities and towns of more than 10,000 population, and 50 with populations ranging from 2500 to 10,000, and all of these cities and towns are members of the N. C. State Fire Association.

Of the 411 towns with a population of less than 2500 only 94 are members of the state association. There are 27 towns with a population ranging from 1000 to 2323, with a combined population of 36,851, which are not members of the association.

I would like to suggest that members of our organization who are neighbors of the following towns, as well as the officers of the association, contact these towns during the coming year and try to interest them in becoming members of this GREAT ASSOCIATION. These towns are: Archdale, Aulander, Burgaw, Conover, Catawba, Dallas, East Bend, East Flat Rock, East Lumberton, Granite Falls, Hazelwood, Jonesville, Kenly, Landis, Hemp, Lowell, Marshville, Mayodan, Murfreesboro, Norwood, Pineville, Ramseur, Randleman, Stanley, Walnut Cove, and any of the other smaller towns having fire departments.

We are indeed glad to welcome into our organization two new members, Halifax and Dillsboro, for the year 1940-41. I am sorry not to be able to report a greater number of new towns as joining our association this year.

TIME OF NATIONAL DEFENSE: In 1937 our beloved statistician, R. A. Joyner, brought to this association for the first time, I believe, a group summary of the fire equipment of the State of North Carolina. Again in his 1938 report he gave us another fine summary.

Since this information of equipment has been of so much value to the various departments, and the following inventory table of fire fighting equipment provides data which can be easily converted into National Defense information, your statistician, with the assistance of our good friend the State Fire Marshal, Sherwood Brockwell, has checked the fire fighting equipment of every city and town from the reports filed with the Insurance Commissioner by your city clerks as of October 1, 1940.

Your State Fire Marshal, in full cooperation with the Insurance Commissioner's office, the N. C. State Firemen's Association, and the State Volunteer Association, has set up for National Defense a clearing house for the benefit of every city and town in

North Carolina. Should a major emergency arise, this information would be invaluable. There is now being prepared by this office from this data a card index system showing trained men, apparatus, equipment, and water supplies available to all cities and towns within a radius of twenty-five to fifty miles. The State Volunteer Fire Department will have at its disposal when completely organized 3341 volunteer firemen and 797 paid men with a grand total of 4138 firemen protecting your and my life and property. There are 175 cities and towns represented in this report with a combined population of 1,130,915 men, women and children being protected by our wonderful organization.

This equipment consists of ten aerial trucks; twenty-nine ladder trucks; sixty-four auto hose trucks; two hundred seventy-six combination pumpers with the combined pumping capacity of 175,300 gallons of water per minute; eighty-four hand reels, 566,150 feet of 2½-inch fire hose, with a total investment of \$3,324,026 and a per capita investment of \$2.94.

During the past decade from 1930 to 1940 the population of these protected cities and towns has increased 269,655 in number. In the past two years the number of volunteer firemen has increased 168 and the paid firemen 66, or a total increase of 234 men. You have increased your aerial trucks to 19 and your combination pumpers to 276, or an increase of 41, and your water pumping capacity increased 20,690 gallons per minute. Along with this progress you have increased the total value of all equipment \$161,897 and lowered your per capita investment thirty-five cents.

Fire prevention through education has become almost universal in this great country of ours. Back in 1914 North Carolina being foremost in the realization of the need for EDUCATING its fire-fighters, established the first Fire College and Drill School in America. This was indorsed by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and has, as you know, continued uninterrupted since under the able leadership of that noble leader and Fire College educator, Sherwood Brockwell. Thirty-eight states conducted fire colleges with an attendance of over 75,000 firemen in 1941.

Your 1941 Fire College incorporated into its education program a new feature which was the Information Section. The Information Group of outstanding fire fighters consisted of Chief Hendrix Palmer, President of the International Fire Chiefs' Association; Chief Frank W. Bennett, the immediate past president of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs' Association; Chief John T. Waldron, Division Chief Fire Department Headquarters of the Greater City of New York Brooklyn Headquarters; Colonel L. L. Simpson, en-

gineer in charge of construction, of Fort Bragg, N. C.; Lieutenant Kenlon H. Brockwell, Post Fire Marshal, Fort Bragg, N. C.; Fire College Drill School committee; four uniformed firemen from the Durham Fire Department; Major R. P. Bishop, superintendent of traffic of the Durham Police Department, and our own esteemed conductor, State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell. The information given by this group of men, in the opinion of your statistician, is of inestimable value to the attendants of your Fire College and Drill School, and this training was, no doubt, taken home by the 304 firemen in attendance and put into everyday, practical use in protecting property and saving lives.

Fire Departments of North Carolina again received national recognition in awards and honorable mention from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce in its Educational program. Competing in this national contest were 281 cities reporting a combined population of 31,000,000. The First Award in the final classification class six, cities under 20,000 population, went for the first time to Salisbury, North Carolina. Two years ago Salisbury stood seventh in its class, and last year it was third. It has been steadily improving its record and today it stands at the top of its class. The educational program launched by the Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Fire Department has brought excellent results. Salisbury has been steadily reducing its fire losses since inauguration of the program four years ago, when its per capita fire loss was \$2.87. This has been reduced to a low of twenty-nine cents during the year 1940.

Durham and Greensboro received honorable mention for cities between 50,000 and 100,000. This, in my opinion, furnishes undeniable, indisputable evidence of North Carolina's sustained leadership in fire prevention, she having led the processing in one group and placing two honorable mentioned cities in group Four, thus winning **National Recognition** in two groups out of three.

I am pleased to tell you that many cities and towns in North Carolina have built, or have under construction, for their fire departments new fire stations during the past year. These cities are: Concord, Goldsboro, Greenville, Reidsville, Chapel Hill, Fayetteville, Ahoskie, Siler City, Scotland Neck, Granite Falls, Kinston, Roanoke Rapids, Windsor, and others.

Since the inventory table of fire fighting equipment was compiled, your statistician has learned in the past few days that this valuable National Defense information has been requested of all the forty-eight states. The Honorable J. M. Broughton received a short time ago an urgent request from Mayor H. F. LeGuardia, the United States Director of National Civilian Defense, for a

complete inventory of all fire fighting equipment in each city and town in North Carolina.

This was one of Mayor LeGuardia's chief requests in his program of National Defense, and as this information had previously been compiled by the statistician, in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal and the Insurance Commissioner's office, it was immediately available for National Defense.

In conclusion let me say that in the days to come, whether they be days of peace, defense, or aggression, the **FIRE DEPARTMENTS** of **NORTH CAROLINA** will furnish **PEACE OF MIND** as well as **PROTECTION** to its citizens, just as they have been doing for the past one hundred years.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert W. Brinson, Statistician.

(See next page for Statistician's Table)