



CITY OF LODI COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Present to the City for display, a Lodi Fire Department Centennial Badge
MEETING DATE: December 6, 2006
PREPARED BY: Michael E. Pretz, Fire Chief

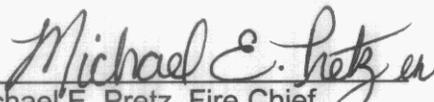
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Presentation to the City of Lodi for display, a Lodi Fire Department Centennial Badge.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On June 11, 1907, the first meeting of the Lodi Fire Department took place 6 months after the City of Lodi incorporated. The need for fire protection had been apparent since the first structures had been erected. During the first meeting, H.E. Welch was elected fire chief of the new department. The first volunteer firefighters department consisted of community business men with a need for 40 firefighters and a chief. Meetings were held once a month. Over the next 4 years, the department fought fires without benefit of an organized structure which led to the decline in volunteer membership from 25 to 8. On November 9, 1911, a renewed organizing effort was made that led to a permanent organization. The first badges were made available in April 1912.

In 2005, efforts were undertaken to strike a commemorative badge to celebrate the Lodi Fire Department's centennial. The badge features a replica of a 1921 Seagrave pumper, the second piece of motorized fire equipment purchased by the City of Lodi Trustees in September 1920. The badges were purchased by the members of the department.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

FUNDING AVAILABLE: None


Michael E. Pretz, Fire Chief

MEP/h

APPROVED: 
Blair King, City Manager