

Around Town

For Release 12 noon Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007

By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

The start of a new year is a good time to set goals and review progress made during the last 12 months.

The De Queen Fire Department and De Queen Police Department recently completed annual summaries of their activities.

Police officers responded to a total of 4,765 calls in 2006. May was the busiest month with 486 calls. February was the slowest month with only 288 calls reported.

A total of 1,908 of last year's police calls were for public assistance. Officers worked 400 motor vehicle accidents and wrote 407 citations for no driver's license or license-related offenses. There were 212 calls concerning loud music. Officers wrote 214 speeding citations and 32 tickets for failure to stop at a stop sign. There were 132 tickets for no liability insurance. A total of 207 police calls were for bank escorts and funerals.

According to the city's report to the National Information Bureau Reporting Service (NIBRS), larceny, burglary and motor vehicle thefts increased in 2006 over the previous year. Vandalism, drug violations and drunkenness decreased in 2006.

The De Queen Fire Department responded to 159 calls during 2006. Brush fires were the most common call with a total of 53 alarms. There were 32 structure fires and 23 motor vehicle accidents. Many of the structure fires were minor problems such as grease fires or electrical problems. Officers responded to 11 vehicle fires and 40 miscellaneous calls.