



By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

Members of the Grant Fire Department and honored guests gathered for the 2011 annual banquet and award presentation Saturday evening, March 12, at the Perkins County Senior Center.

Following a meal prepared by the Youth Development Club, Fire Chief Don Softley presented a year in review, President Bryan Kroeker recapped some humorous moments and Assistant Chief Fred Reichert presented a slide show.



Perhaps the most significant statistic is the upward trend of motor vehicle accidents that involve the use of a cell phone—either talking on the phone or texting while driving.

Softley said there has been an increase of at least one vehicle accident yearly over the past six or seven years with the vast majority causing personal injury, with the accident attributed to cell phone use.

In 2010, total calls numbered 169. Two of the major categories include fire calls which totaled 367 and ambulance calls which numbered 107. This figure includes transfers, medical, trauma, motor vehicle and standby for ball games.

Grant firefighters also assisted in five Flight for Life calls, along with several civil defense calls that included storm watch.

November was the busiest month of the year with 20 calls. The busiest time of day was around 5 p.m. and the busiest day of the week was Monday. In previous years the majority of calls came in on a Friday or Saturday.

Volunteers on the Grant Fire Department spent 1,244 hours in training and 1,689 hours in service to the public during 2010.

Following the banquet, participants gathered at the fire hall for games and refreshments.

