

XI. FINAL SUMMARY

The Board of Inquiry has concluded that there are several causative factors that may have collectively contributed to the Ladder Co. 26 accident on January 9, 2009, which resulted in the line-of-duty death of Fire Lieutenant Kevin M. Kelley.

The following list is a summary of the causal findings that have been delineated in the *Accident Cause and Determination* section of this Report:

1. An aging fleet of apparatus:
2. Need for certified mechanics to perform major repairs:
3. Installation of improper parts by outside vendors dating back to January 15, 1999:
4. Lack of adequate funding for preventive maintenance:
5. No employee assigned the specific responsibility of overseeing a preventive maintenance program:
6. Inadequate preventive maintenance program that did not meet the manufacturer's recommendations:
7. Insufficient manpower in the Maintenance Division:
8. Antiquated record keeping:
9. Lack of a system to communicate apparatus related safety bulletins:
10. An inadequate driver's training program:
11. Lack of a comprehensive daily apparatus inspection program:
12. Failure to drain apparatus air tanks on a daily basis:
13. Lack of a periodic thorough and objective safety audit based upon NFPA 1500:
14. Insufficient maintenance of L-26's air supply, air compressor and air reservoir tanks, according to manufacturer's recommendations; and
15. Severely reduced braking force due to improper brake adjustment of both front brakes and the right rear brake, and nonexistent brake force at the left rear brake.