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Lammers: It could've been worse

By TODD GOTTULA , Hub Staff Writer

KEARNEY — When Bob Lammers got home from work Thursday evening, he saw trails of smoke oozing out the doors and windows.

“I ran to the kitchen thinking there was a pot on the stove or something,” said Lammers. “I saw more smoke coming from my son’s bedroom, where I found 4-foot flames shooting up the wall. ... Fire was coming up through the floor from the basement. That’s when I knew a pitcher of water wasn’t going to cut it.”

Thursday’s fire at 8 Crestview Place caused an estimated \$30,000 damage to Lammers’ home in north Kearney and sent one firefighter to the hospital.

The Kearney Volunteer Fire Department responded to the 5:17 p.m. call and had the fire under control within 23 minutes, according to KVFD reports.

One firefighter suffered heat exhaustion and was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital. KVFD officials declined to release his name but said he was treated and released late Thursday night.

Lammers is a well-known civic leader and Kearney City Council candidate who finished second in this month’s primary election to advance to the November general election.

According to KVFD reports, the fire started in a storage room in the basement of the home, where Lammers said two rooms were gutted. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Forty-eight firefighters and five trucks, including KVFD’s aerial truck, responded to the fire.

Lammers and his family are staying with friends in Kearney. The home is valued at \$206,000, according to the Buffalo County Assessor’s Office.

“We are fortunate this wasn’t worse,” he said. “The entire home has smoke damage, but nobody was hurt and a lot of items such as pictures were saved. We’re going to be OK.”

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Hub photo by Stephanie Fielder
KVFD Administrator Ken Tracy talks with homeowner Bob Lammers as firefighters bring a Thursday evening blaze at Lammers’ residence at 8 Crestview Place under control. Firefighters controlled the fire within 23 minutes, but it still did \$30,000 damage.

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