



Thornapple Fire and EMS Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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TO OUR RESIDENTS

Fire Chief / Paramedic Bill Richardson

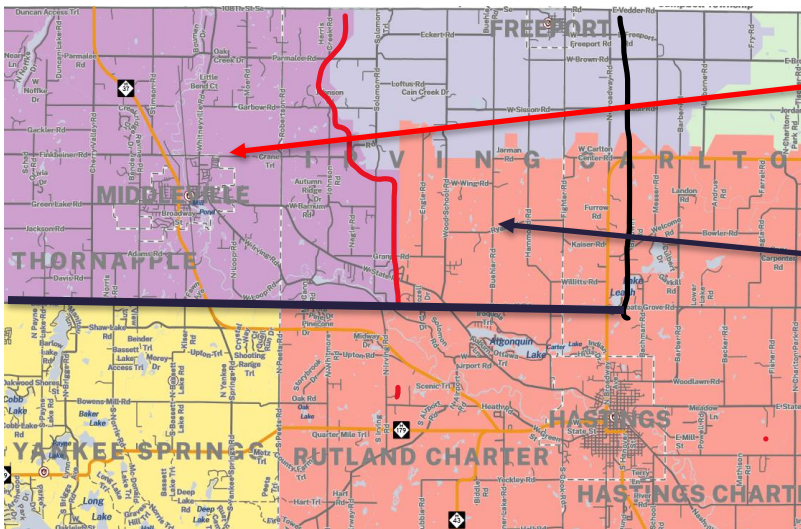
The Thornapple Fire Department is pleased to share its 2023 annual report. In this report you will find general information about the station, apparatus, equipment, personnel, and operations. We want to share our successes over the last year paired with our vision for the future.



Hire Date 7/19/2022

Thornapple Fire Department covers Thornapple Township, Middleville, and Irving Township from a centrally located station. The department responded to 1848 incidents in 2023 which is an 18% increase from 2022.

Thornapple Fire / EMS Department has highly trained staff ready to respond and mitigate emergencies. Crews had over 1500 hours of documented training and have over 257 years of experience. Only 3% of our service area has fire hydrants. Daily staffing of two Firefighter / EMT/Paramedic's 24 hours a day 7 days a week to respond to fire and EMS emergencies. Second Ambulance staffed with Paramedic's and EMT's 12 hours a day from 8:00am-8:00pm.



Thornapple Fire and Ambulance service area

Thornapple Ambulance only service area

Thornapple Fire Department is one of only a handful of full-time Fire Departments with transporting Advanced Life Support Services in Western Michigan.

Operations Overview

- 72 square mile service area
- 97% of service area is without fire hydrants
- Average in service time under two minutes (1:56)
- Last 3 fires of 2023 met NFPA 1720 – Having 10 firefighter on scene in 10 minutes or less
- 1 jump staffed Ambulance / Fire truck 24/7
- 1 staffed Ambulance 12 hours daily
- 7 full – time staff members
- 21 part-time staff
- 23 Paid On call
- 10 EMT's
- 14 Paramedics (2 critical Care level paramedics)
- 2 Michigan First Responders
- We added 6 new members this year
- 1 retirement and 2 resignations

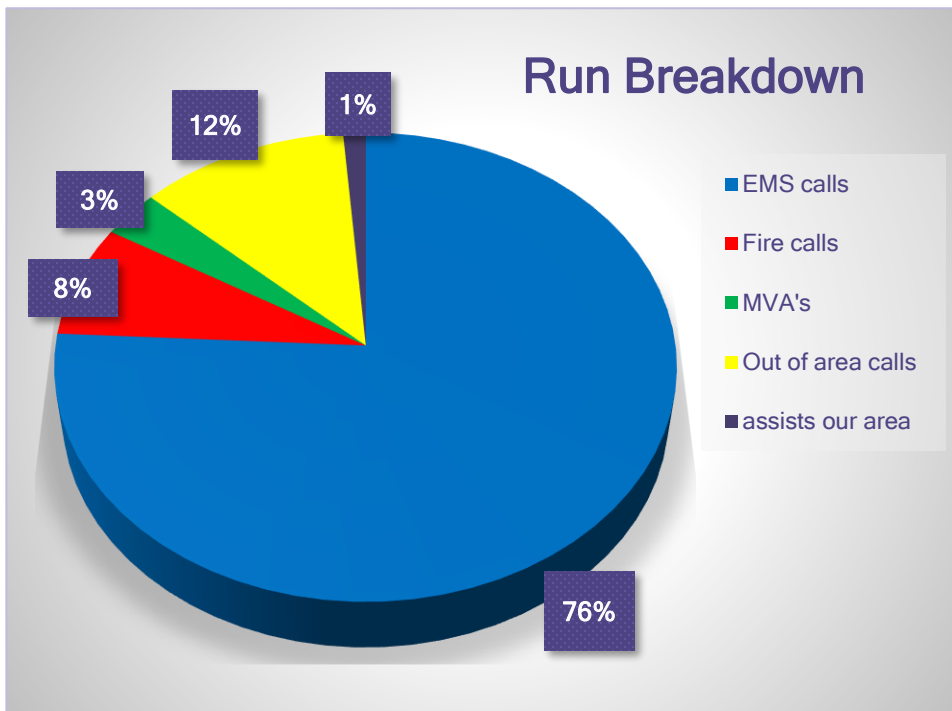
2023 Goals Accomplished

- Purchase new Pumper tanker and placed in service
- Increased quantity and quality of training
- Promoted a Training Officer
- Promoted a Fire Inspector
- Promoted a Shift Lieutenant
- Created a preventive maintenance program for apparatus
- Approved for State of Michigan CE sponsorship
- Sent seven members to EMT school four passed the National Registry Test
- Obtained a State of Michigan Grant to send five people to Paramedic school and pay for their wages.
- Sent two to Paramedic school who passed. Sent three more EMT's to Paramedic school starting in September.

Looking Towards 2024

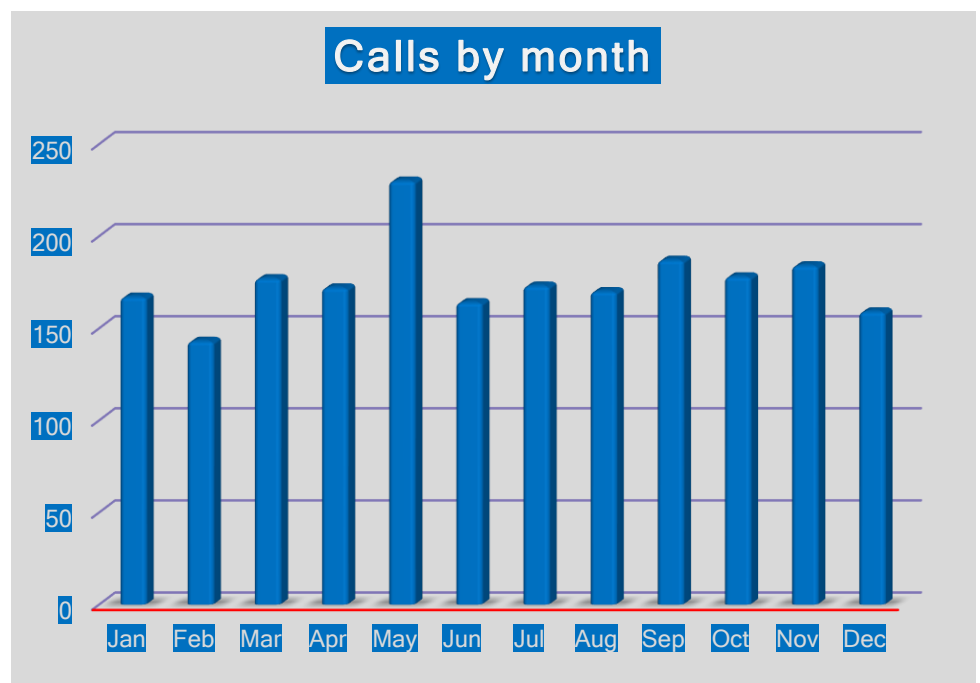
- The Department is working towards reducing its Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating which will save our taxpayers thousands of dollars in insurance premiums.
- Increase mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions
- Establish auto aid agreements to increase available resources more quickly
- Increasing community CPR and First Aid classes
- Becoming an approved State of Michigan initial education site for EMT classes.
- Purchase of a new additional ambulance and refurbishing an older unit.
- Continuing to work on preplanning of Bradford White
- Maintaining strong relationships with Village of Middleville and Irving Township.
- Continue to apply for grant opportunities from the state and federal government.
- Complete the Fire Station Master plan and prepare for large future projects
 - Grading
 - Drainage systems
 - HVAC replacement (<5 years)
 - Epoxy filling stable wall cracking to prevent water penetration
 - Performing preventive maintenance on all mechanical systems.
- Increase staffing level to 48 members

Call Volume Breakdown



Thornapple Fire Department responded to a total of 1848 calls in 2023 which was a 16% increase over 2022. Thornapple Township, Irving Township and the Village of Middleville have seen increases in population, which is a driver for call volume, so we expect to see increases.

Thornapple Fire Department averages 175 calls for service monthly. Thornapple township accounts for 36.5% of emergency calls for service, Middleville accounts for 47.5% of the emergency calls for service, and Irving Township accounts for 16% of the emergency calls for service.



Response Data



Thornapple Fire Department takes pride on quick response times covering the 72 square miles of Thornapple Township, Irving Township and Village of Middleville. Having crews in the station ready to respond allows for fast out the door response time average (from time of alarm to enroute first unit) is 1:56 seconds and an average on scene time (time of alarm to being on scene) being 11:52.

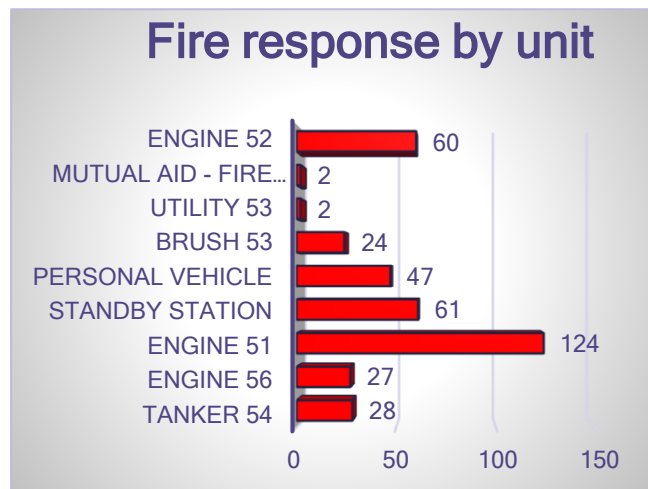
Paid on call staff paired with full-time employees do an amazing job protecting this community. One of the benchmarks the National Fire Protection Agency established, NFPA 1720, was to have 10 firefighters on scene within 10 minutes. The last three fires of the year crews, achieved meeting the NFPA 1720 standard.



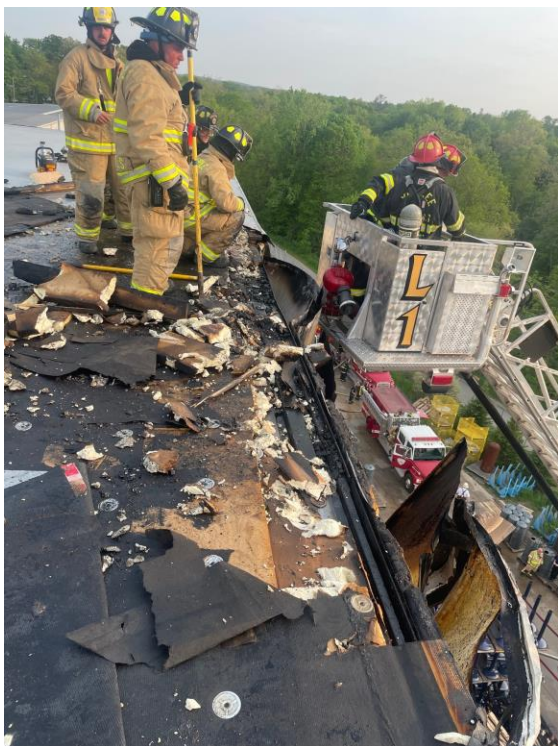
Average time of call to enroute 1:56 seconds
Average time of call to on scene 11:52 seconds



Fire Responses



Thornapple Fire Department responded to 14 reported structure fires. The largest fire was at Bradford White causing over \$600,000 in damage. We were assisted by Caledonia Fire Department, Wayland Fire Department, Hastings Fire Department, Freeport Fire Department, and Yankee Springs Fire Department. Crews met the NFPA 1720 standard and had water on the fire in the first 10 minutes of the call.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Thornapple Township Fire Department is the only transporting Advanced Life Support (ALS) Fire Department in Barry County and one of only a few on the west side of Michigan. Two ambulances are staffed daily, one for 24 hours and the other for 12 hours. These men and women are trained and licensed at the highest level of licensure in the state of Michigan (ALS / Paramedic). Thornapple Township Fire Department has two licensed Advanced Life Support and one Basic Life support ambulances.

Paramedics must complete 1200 hours of class, 500 clinical hours and a 240-hour internship before they can take the national registry test to become licensed. Paramedics can start IV's, give medications, read 12 lead ECG, monitor capnography, perform advanced airways including endotracheal intubation and surgical airways, pace the heart rhythms, deliver electrical therapy to the heart. Many of these therapies are the same first line treatments hospital Emergency Departments provide for their patients.



Medic 52 was placed in service in 2021 it is a Ford F550 4x4 Type I ambulance. M-52 is an advanced Life support vehicle that is in service 24 hours a day seven days a week (less maintenance time). This unit is equipped with Stryker power load, power cot, and Lifepak 15 cardiac monitor. The Department averages about 35,000 miles annually and this unit has 72,000 miles.

Medic 51 is a 2016 Ford E450 Type III ambulance. M-51 is in service 12 hours daily and is a back up to Medic 52. This unit is equipped with Stryker power load, power cot, and Lifepak 15 cardiac monitor. This unit has 175,000 miles and is scheduled to be refurbished later this year.



Bravo 53 is a Basic Life Support (BLS) unit and used when one of the units is down for maintenance or repair. This unit is also used when the other two ambulances are on calls. BLS units still have the capability of being upgraded to ALS when Medic 51 or Medic 52 goes out of service.

FIRE APPRATUS



Engine 52 is a 2022 Sutphen Class A pumper / tanker placed in service May 2023. It has a water capacity of 3000 gallons and a 2000 gallon a minute pump. Engine 52 is first out on all fire calls. The Engine has surround vision cameras, anti-roll mitigation, and anti-lock brakes. Having this unit will help our department decrease its ISO rating, which will save our taxpayers money. Projected replacement 2048.

Engine 51 is a 2015 Spartan / Spencer Class A pumper/ Heavy rescue. This Engine has the jaws of life, Rescue Jack vehicle stabilization struts, pneumatic lift bags, swift and ice water rescue. This Engine has seating for six firefighters. Engine 51 has a 1500 gallon a minute pump and a compressed Air Foam system to reduce water damage on small fires paired with ability to mitigate hydrocarbon and alcohol fires.



Tanker 54 is a 2000 International Chassis with a wolverine fire body. The tanker has 3000 gallons of water with a 500 gallon a minute pump and three quick dumps. This Tanker is used for outside the urban service boundary and responds on mutual aid calls.

Engine 56 is a 1998 International chassis with a wolverine fire body. This engine has 1000 gallons of water and 1500 gallon minute pump. This unit is no longer able to be certified as a class A pumper from the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) so it is currently for sale.



Wildland Fire equipment / Off Road

Apparatus



Brush 53 is a 2000 Ford F25 standard cab pickup. Brush 53 was placed in service 2001 it has a slide in skid unit with 200 gallons of water paired with a 30 gallon minute pump with dual hose reels. This unit is also utilized for wires down calls and any calls off road. We have no scheduled time for replacement.

UTV 57 is a 2018 Can am Defender XT HD10. This apparatus is multi functional and is equipped with a 50-gallon water tank, 30-gallon minute pump, and one hose reel. This unit also allows for patient movement for off road situation allowing them to sit in one of the four passenger seats or be transported lying down on backboard or stokes basket on the rear of the UTV.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Fire Lieutenant / EMT Jason Preslar



Hire Date 9/22/2011

2023 saw growth across the department. I completed and passed Fire Instructor 1, Fire Officer 1 and 2. We added members who completed Fire School in the spring and started Fire School. For the first time in a long time, department invested in department members. Two members graduated paramedic school in January as well as three paid on call members have started the paramedic program. Thornapple Township purchased a new Fire Engine as well as a renewed call for community outreach. 2023 was a year of growth and it shows. Late 2023, I was asked to take over the building and grounds. This will help the Chief focus on other areas needing his attention. With my 30 years of construction experience and my current role as Project Manager, it is an easy role to step into. This year we saw the roof get a much-needed replacement as well as seal coating of our parking lot. Our now building is 20

years old and starting to show its age.

My goal this year is to identify areas not already included in the master plan for updating. One of those areas will be the training room. With 20 years of wear and tear along with advancements in technology have put this training room behind the times. There has been a renewed focus on education, both for the department as well as the community, so an investment in this space could be warranted. I also began looking at our training facility in late 2023. Its current location and condition have made it underutilized. As the condition it is currently in, we will be unable to receive state funds to bring in or provide outside training. To repair the burn containers, I received quotes from BLOX, a container modification company, to make the necessary repairs. The proposal, while reasonable to the industry, was more than we felt comfortable presenting to the board. In 2024, I will be researching grant opportunities for improvements to the training center, with a goal submitting in the 2025 grant cycle. If we were able to invest in the training center, not only would we be investing in our people, but we would also be investing in the communities around us by being able to provide high quality outside funded training. In 2023 we saw growth in our personnel, in 2024 I would like to see growth in our facility.

Early 2023, there was also renewed push for community service outreach. Career fairs, school programs, home school tours as well as our turkey dinner and open house. One other area was our new fire hydrant social. The idea was well received; however, the turnout was lacking. Next year, our fire hydrant social will come to a hydrant near you. We will be taking our show on the road. Starting in May or June, we will be visiting hydrants throughout the township. Our goal is to reach as many people as possible, specifically kids, to show off our trucks, equipment and who we are. So, in an emergency, we provide a safe place and do not add to any fear brought on by the situation. As a department we will be more focused on preplanning these events to provide a better experience and opportunities to connect with the community we serve.

As a member of this department for the past 11 years, I have seen the most growth and forecasting in the past 2 years then in the previous 9. As lieutenant, I need to lead by example. In doing so, I will be attending classes again this year to advance my knowledge of the fire service. Specifically, attending Fire Officer 3 as well as adding some tactical classes to my schedule. If push for excellence and commitment out of our department members, I better push myself to do the same. I see 2024 challenging us just as 2023 did, but I believe this department is ready for the challenge.

Technical Rescue Report



Lieutenant / MFR Nate Otto

Technical Rescue often falls under the “high risk, low frequency” category, meaning TFD does not see these types of incidents on a regular basis and when an incident requiring some kind of tech rescue comes up, it typically is a higher risk to all those involved.

Hire Date 10/13/2011

With the low frequency of technical rescue calls, TFD must heavily rely on tech rescue training to become proficient at performing the required skills and tactics. Ropes and Knots, Rigging, Confined Space, Water/Swift Water Rescue, Ice Rescue, Commercial Building and Agriculture Incidents and Engulfment make up most of the focus of our tech rescue training. Typically, we can visit each topic in some capacity each year.

We were able to perform Ropes and Knots along with Rigging scenarios at various points throughout the year which need to be visited on a regular basis to maintain and build on muscle memory

Confined Space or a space that has limited means of entry or exit and is not designed for continuous occupancy can be any number of things. Often, we are using tools and skills from our Ropes and Knots along with Rigging training to perform Confined Space operations. Inside of this scope we can see agricultural related incidents like grain bins which we were able to train on this year using our grain engulfment tube.

Water and Swift Water Rescue training typically takes place in the spring when the river levels are higher. These trainings take a lot of prep work and coordination to make happen and involve many facets of our tech rescue knowledge.

Our Commercial Building unit this year consisted of a walkthrough of Bradford White which allowed us to familiarize ourselves with the ongoing construction and changes to the facility.

Along with training comes our equipment. Over the past two years TFD has acquired several pieces of equipment which allow us to perform the tasks needed for the incident. This includes multiple types of rope and line designed to perform specific tasks. Rigging equipment like pulleys and carabiners. Then our personal protective equipment like PFDs and dry suits.

Using and familiarizing ourselves with the use and care for this equipment is a high priority. This year we implemented rigging bags that are placed on our apparatus that allow us to deploy “Z Rigs” or “Tension Lines” depending on the incident more efficiently.

My goal for this next year is to continue to pursue effective training on all aspects of tech rescue. I would like to see us spend more time in the river with the growing interest of the public in enjoying that past time. Pushing the importance of knowing our equipment and how to use it is always the goal as well

TRAINING / A SHIFT COMMAND

Training Lieutenant / Paramedic Jansens



Hire Date 9/4/2003

2023 was transition year for the training program with a new Training Officer and Instructors. Despite this, the personnel of Thornapple Twp. Fire collectively have significantly improved the operational readiness for this community.

To start, the department spent countless hours training on the new tender pumper. Not only did we have to learn the operation of this new piece of equipment but it forced some change to the way we deploy our cross lays. The new minute man load has proven to be a very versatile option that worked well with the new apparatus. Hose deployment

efficiency is a critical training component and the one thing that can make or break as successful initial suppression operation.

When the weather breaks, we will be back outside doing more drills. A few officers completed a 40-hour Instructor I course last January. They are finishing up their required student teaching hours and working on their development and should be NFPA 1041 Instructor Certified soon. This was a pre-requisite to allows them to enroll and complete NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I & II which is another 125 hours each furthering their leadership development.

10 firefighters who completed their probationary task books and hopefully we will have a few more completing by the end of February. From my perspective, this was a rather monuments achievement for them as well as a hurdle for the training division. After completion of their task books they are capable of performing and responding to all calls with all equipment on their own and begin mitigation of an incident.

5 recruits in fire academy that are progressing well and are receiving continuous support as they prepare for their certification exams in May. A mentor program was implemented this year to provide recruits with a consistent support system by strong experienced firefighters. Most of these mentors will also be taking the Instructor 1 course this coming March.

4 new EMTs that completed their nearly 250 hour course last year. They have excelled through the orientation training and become an integral part in the daily operations. There are a couple more prospective EMTs that hopefully we'll see on shift later this year. We have 2 prospective Paramedics that completed the core of their program this past fall which is over 1,250 hours each. They still have some classes and tests to complete but they are almost there. There are 3 more prospective Paramedics that began their program this fall and we look forward to their successful progress.

With a little bit of guidance and encouragement everyone has had some significant personal achievements in 2023. As we look forward to 2024, many of the personnel already have training goals identified. The Officers will also be sitting down with everyone to conduct self- evaluations and assist in goal setting. On average personnel trained on a

weekly basis a minimum of 2 hours a night. This adds up to over 100 hours each which does not include extra training course and programs. Collectively, the department training was estimated to be over 3,000 hours.

QUARTERMASTER / C SHIFT COMMAND



SHIFT LIEUTNEANT / PARAMEDIC COLLIN CHRENKA

HIRE DATE 9/29/2020

2023 was a great year for our department. Along with running more calls than years prior, we have been training harder than ever before. As a department, we have implemented weekly training which has allowed us

to become much more competent with our tactics and equipment. C-shift spent lots of time training on self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) confidence, pump operation, hose line management, fire suppression, and emergency medical treatment.

This year, we instituted a community CPR and first aid program. It is very important to us that our residents be prepared not only for fire-related emergencies, but also medical emergencies. For people interested in receiving training in CPR or first aid you can reach out to me anytime via email at cchrenka@thornapple-twp.org to register for these classes. Additionally, if you work in a Thornapple or Irving township business and want your staff trained, we would be happy to schedule a class with you.

As quartermaster for the department, I have been working diligently to organize our fire gear and uniforms, along with ensuring that our members have well maintained and top-quality equipment. I am very thankful for our taxpayers who have supported us and entrusted us with these resources. It is my goal that we prove to you that every penny spent at the fire department is a worthy investment. C-shift thanks you for your support, and stands ready to help you when needed.

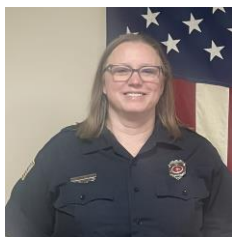
FIRE INSPECTION REPORT

- Promoted a fire inspector
- Developing a company-level inspection program.
- School fire safety education- Early learning center, McFall
- Fire Career overview- Lee, maybe the middle/high school was hit I can't remember
- Reestablishing the smoke/CO detector install program.
- Plans review program reestablished-Looked at Peace Church

2024

- Reestablish the mock disaster.
- Implement the company-level inspection program
- Continue life/fire safety education in the schools and community.
- Continue to perfect the smoke/CO detector program.
 - Establish with training the dept level walk-throughs of facilities in our jurisdiction

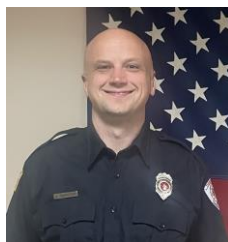
Staff



Katie Tyner-Green
EMT
Hire Date 10/13/2000



Brad Bender
Firefighter / EMT
Hire Date 10/12/2005



Joe Johnson
Firefighter / Paramedic I/C
Hire Date 3/2/2016



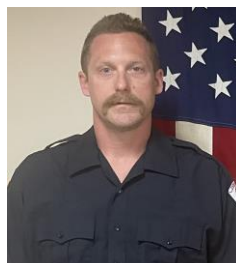
Steve Sage
Firefighter / EMT
Hire Date 12/5/2016



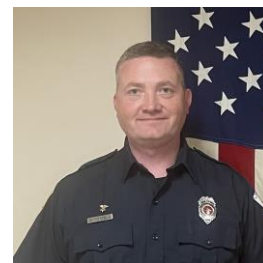
Royal Shilton
Firefighter/ Paramedic
Hire Date 10/11/2017



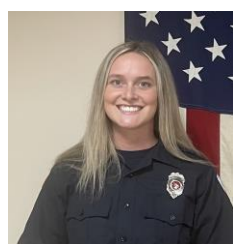
Tom Daniels
Firefighter / MFR
Hire Date 7/11/2019



Lloyd Skiba
Firefighter
Hire Date 8/29/2019



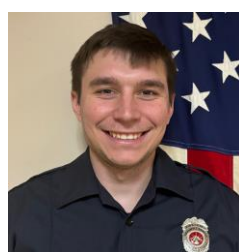
Mike Powell
Firefighter/ Paramedic
Hire Date 9/12/2019



Cas Vugteveen
Firefighter / EMT
Hire Date 6/26/2020



Julian Buchan
Paramedic
Hire Date 2/18/2021



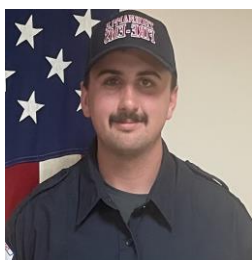
Shelby England
Firefighter/ EMT
Hire Date 4/13/2021



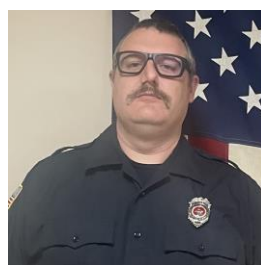
Eric Jachim
Firefighter
Hire Date 4/19/2021



Hannah Hollis
Firefighter
Hire Date 6/14/2021



Justin Niles
Firefighter
Hire Date 6/14/2021



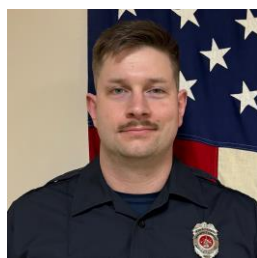
Brandon Luxford
Firefighter/EMT
Hire Date 10/20/21



McKenna Preslar
Firefighter/ EMT
Hire Date 10/20/2021



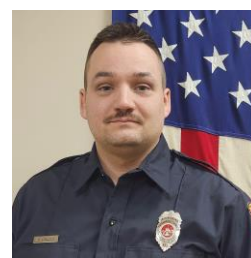
Caleb Meek
Firefighter
Hire Date 6/23/2022



Bryn Lymburner
Firefighter/ Paramedic
Hire Date 9/6/2022



Xavier Estrada
EMT /Recruit
Hire Date 12/20/22



Steven Arnold
Firefighter
Hire Date 12/29/2022



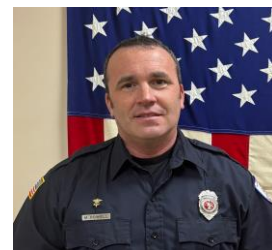
Join Wallace
Firefighter / EMT
Hire Date 2/6/2023



Jason Everest
Firefighter/ Paramedic
Hire Date 7/13/2023



Connor Sleet
Recruit
Hire Date 9/25/2023



Kevin Bull
Paramedic/RN/ Recruit
Hire Date 10/11/2023

Not Pictured

Christy Carter - Paramedic/ RN Hire Date 10/17/2022

CJ Hess - Paramedic Hire Date 12/08/2023

Brian Jahnke - Recruit Hire Date 1/4/2023

Dade Landon - Recruit Hire Date 11/3/2022

Chase Maslonka - Recruit Hire Date 9/25/2023

Brian Murphy- Paramedic Hire Date 3/11/2019

Roland Nulph- Paramedic Hire Date 9/22/2022

Chris Patterson - Firefighter / Paramedic Hire Date 5/11/2023

Evan Sidebotham- EMT Hire Date 1/25/2021

Gavin Ulman - Firefighter / Paramedic Hire Date 10/10/2022

Special Events



Fire Department push in ceremony

Blessing of the new fire engine.



Captain Alex Middleton's Retirement



Cardiac Arrest Save recognition ceremony Irving Township Hall.



Longevity Recognition

Katie Tyner-Green (20), Patrick Jansens (20), Brad Bender (15), Jason Preslar (11), Joe Johnson (7), Steve Sage (7)



Black Helmet Ceremony

(Completed all probationary objectives)

Mike Powell, Cas Vugteveen, Eric Jachim, Hanna Hollis, Justin Niles, Brandon Luxford, McKenna Preslar, Steven Arnold

Mckenna Preslar - Rookie of the year
Chad Klutman - Officer of the year
Mike Powell - Firefighter of the year



Caleb Meek – Completing
fire school and starting
firefighter probation