

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Wickliffe Fire Department



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# Administration



Chief James G. Powers

# Office of the Fire Chief



The Fire Service responds to challenges each and every day. Sometimes those challenges may include trying to get someone's heart started after it suddenly stops, putting out a fire and looking for occupants as smoke and fire conditions intensify, extricating someone from a vehicle after a terrible crash or trying to explain that despite all the devastation a resident just experienced, that everything will eventually, get better. In 2021, the Wickliffe fire department responded to 2,795 incidents, which was a twelve percent increase over the previous year. This was the largest single year increase in almost two decades.

We embraced the challenges of a significant increase in incidents in the middle of a pandemic. Our personnel were exposed to the coronavirus several times every day for months as they treated our residents. It was a challenge to have personal protective equipment available for all of our personnel. Procuring protective equipment initially had many challenges as we sought equipment from vendors locally and across the region. Eventually, the Federal and State governments were able to help with supplies several months into the pandemic. The Fire Department served as the lead agency within the City of Wickliffe to keep all of our workers as safe as possible. Delivering services by all of our City services was essential and the Fire Department shared best practices on preventing spread and keeping staffs from spreading the virus to each other internally. Staffs were creative in order to limit spread, as keeping our essential services staffed was a constant concern.

Another challenge was vaccinations. Initially getting the vaccine for distribution was extremely difficult and limited. In many instances, our entire county only received 500 or less vaccines a week. The Fire Service of Lake County and especially many members of this department played a vital role in giving and distributing over 80,000 vaccinations. The City should be commended for taking on a leadership role and setting examples for other communities. We delivered drive thru vaccinations at our Service facility located in Coulby Park and then walk-in vaccinations at the Community Center almost weekly once the vaccine became more available. If our personnel were not here helping to distribute vaccinations in Wickliffe, they were lending a hand in another community. All of the departments of the city played a role in ensuring that Wickliffe hosted vaccination sites ran smoothly.

I hope that those challenges are behind us but others are on our doorstep. Not unlike other companies or agencies across America, we are struggling to find qualified employees. This department is considered a combination department. A combination department is one that is staffed by both career and part time personnel. It is similar to most departments in Lake County. Our part time staffing has diminished by fifty percent with no applicants or potential employees to fill vacant positions. The department has tried recruiting more than ever but as you see on the nightly news, we are in competition with so many more agencies and business for our workforce. While many of our staff believe this is the best job in the world, others wonder about the long hours, extreme weather conditions, and sometimes-difficult working conditions and often, most young people would rather not deal with the emotional situations that are often faced by our personnel. Recruiting staff will be a challenge for several more years and will have a significant impact on our city finances. It takes a team to deliver services, which means we need to be staffed appropriately. Without appropriate staffing, services can be diminished.

# Office of the Fire Chief

Despite many challenges, the Wickliffe fire department continues to serve our community with dedicated personnel that are motivated to perform at their very best. Our paramedics have had some of the best training possible and are fortunate to have the very best in equipment. We cannot do it alone, and we are fortunate to have the support of City Administration and Council to ensure we are up to date with our material needs. This past year, we took delivery on a new fire engine that will service the community for the next 25-30 years. Replacing fire apparatus that is over a quarter century old is important, as all our equipment needs to be reliable each and every day.

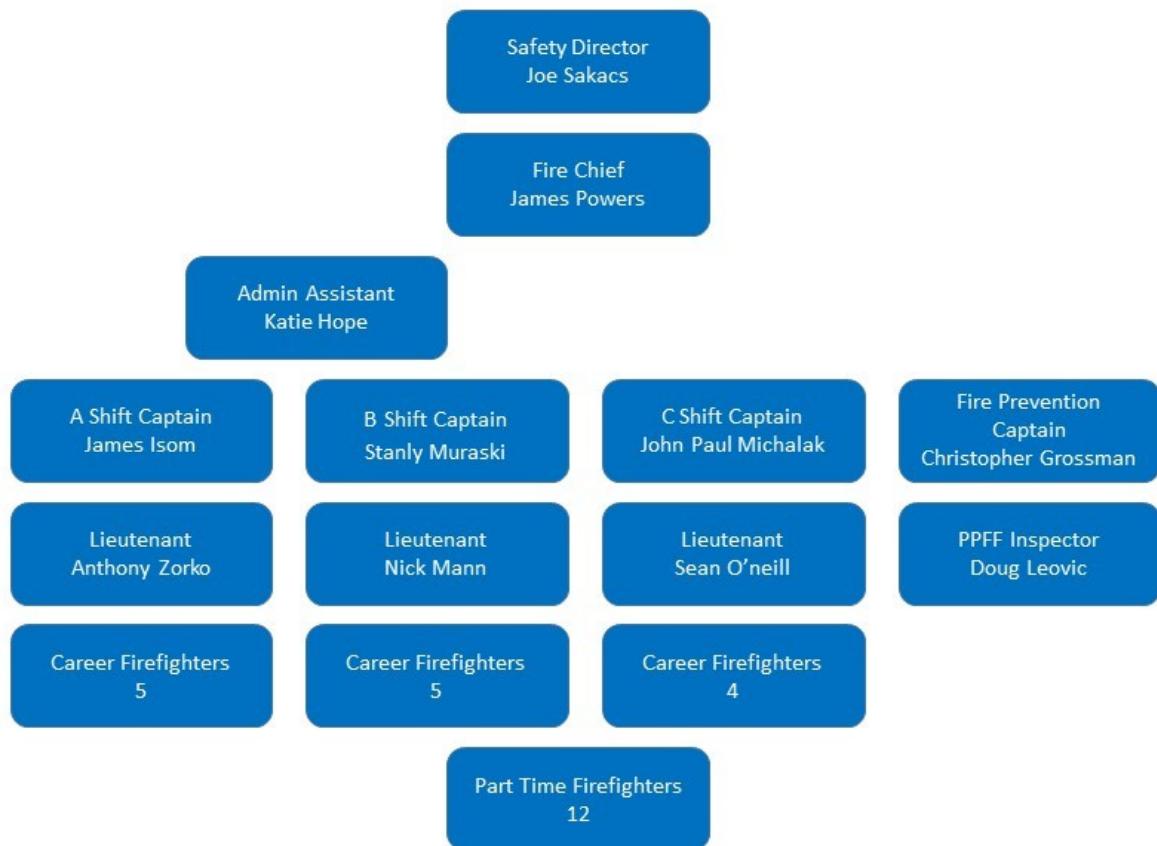
Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

Respectfully submitted,

*James Powers*

Chief of Fire

# Organization



# Captains



James Isom

A Shift



Stanley Muraski

B Shift



John Paul Michalak

C Shift



Christopher Grossman

Fire Prevention

## Lieutenants



Anthony Zorko

A Shift



Nick Mann

B Shift



Sean O'Neill

C Shift

## Administrative Assistant



Katie Hope

# Career Fire Fighters



Ken Stout



Mark Toth



Paul Baptie



Allen Intihar



Joe Ihlenfield



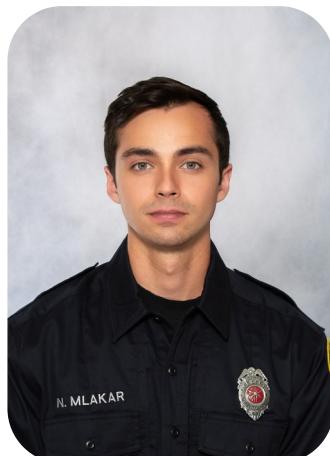
Joe Pavilonis



Kevin Igarashi



Eric Elchesen



Nathan Mlakar



Dominic Monastra



Nick Ciancibello



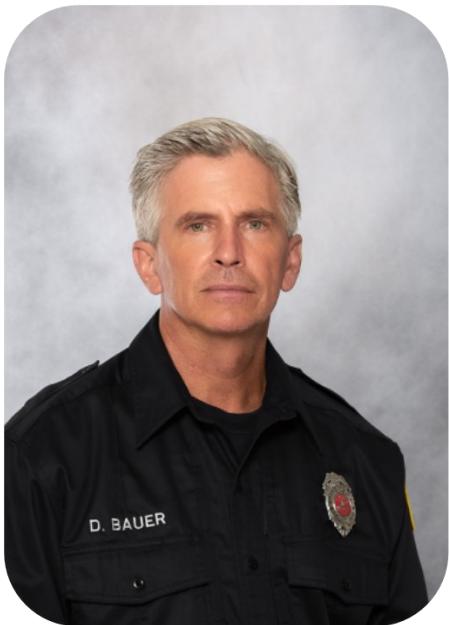
Wayne Grant

# Career Fire Fighters



Aaron Omlor

# Retirees



FF Dan Bauer

30 Years



Captain Doug Leovic

31 Years



FF Denis Paus

27 Years

# Part Time Fire Fighters



Tim Walsh



Stephen Bowser



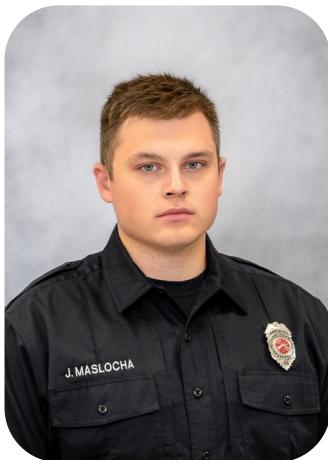
Kevin Crow



Brandon Shrewsbury



Austin Leovic



Joshua Maslocha



Eric Harb



Jose Colon



Nathan Galicz



Jacob Platt

Not Pictured:

Jacob Smith

Zachary Stryffeler

Jacob Stanevich

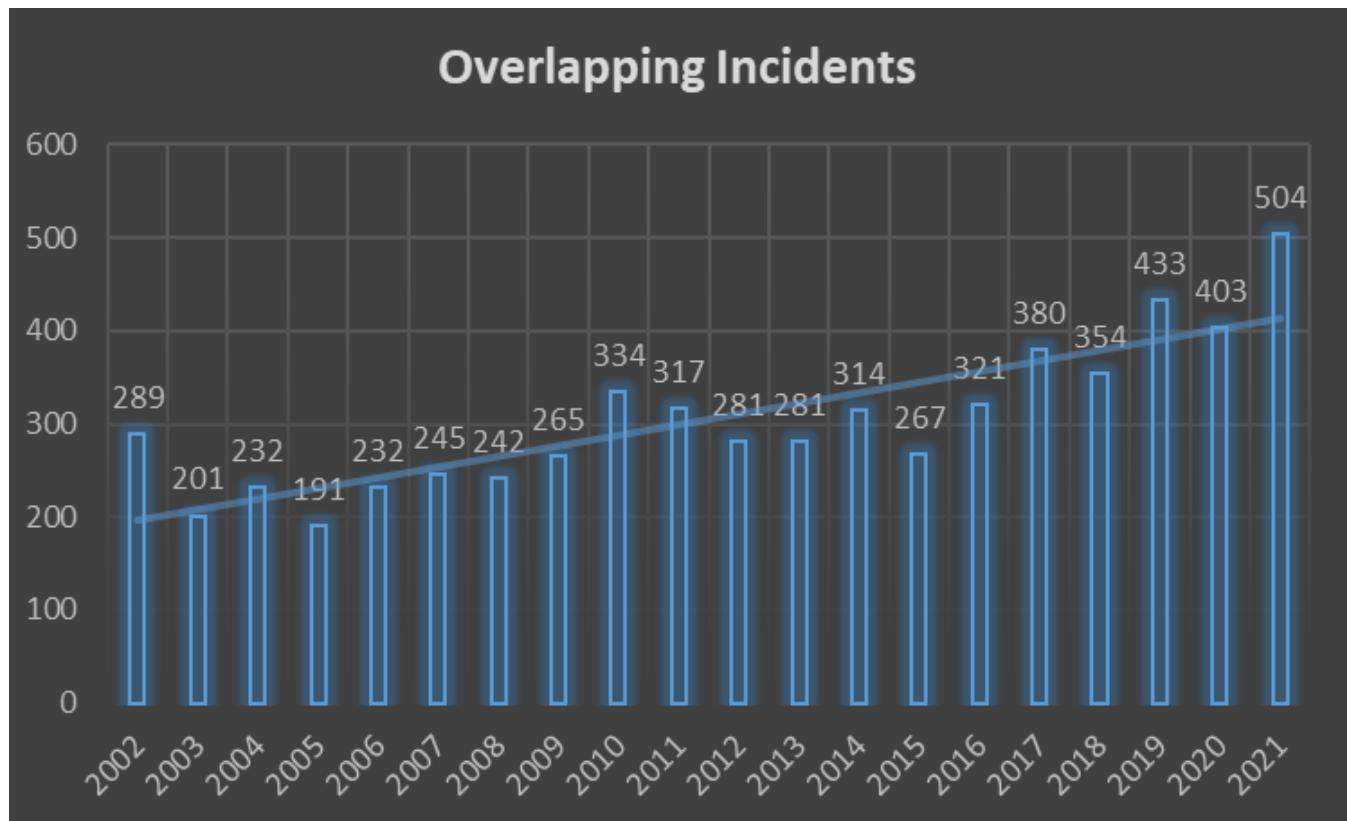
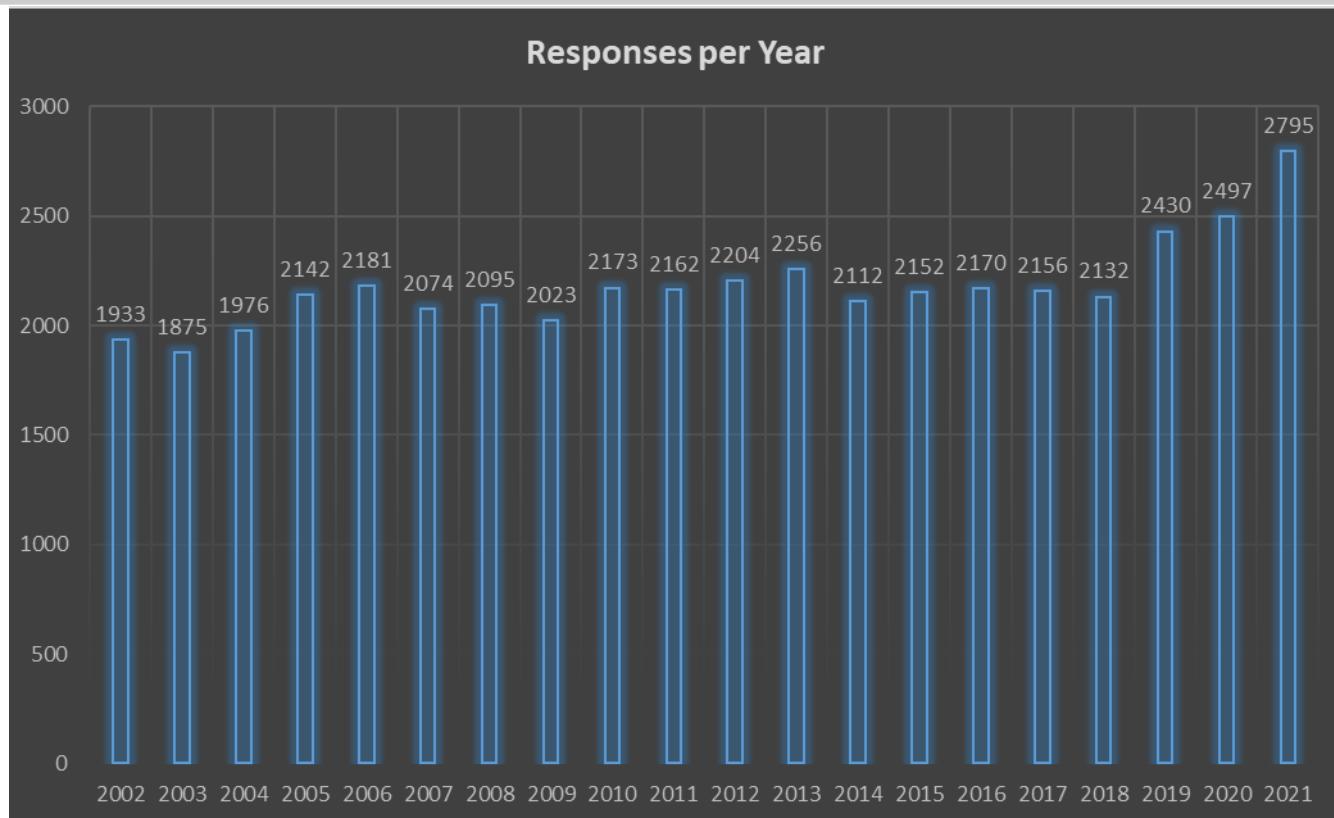
# Years of Service Completed

Name	Rank	Years of Service Completed
James Powers	Chief	34
Stanley Muraski	Captain	29
Ken Stout	Career Firefighter	29
JP Michalak	Captain	27
Mark Toth	Career Firefighter	27
Nick Mann	Lieutenant	21
James Isom	Captain	20
Chris Grossman	Captain	20
Sean O'neill	Lieutenant	18
Anthony Zorko	Lieutenant	17
Paul Baptie	Career Firefighter	14
Allen Intihar	Career Firefighter	3
Joe Ihlenfield	Career Firefighter	3
Joe Pavlonis	Career Firefighter	3
Kevin Igarashi	Career Firefighter	2
Eric Elchesen	Career Firefighter	2
Dominic Monastra	Career Firefighter	1
Nick Ciancibello	Career Firefighter	1
Wayne Grant	Career Firefighter	<1
Aaron Omlor	Career Firefighter	<1
Timothy Walsh	PPFF	15
Stephen Bowser	PPFF	13
Kevin Crow	PPFF	13
Brandon Shrewsbury	PPFF	8
Joshua Maslocha	PPFF	6
Austin Leovic	PPFF	6
Nathan Galicz	PPFF	2
Eric Harb	PPFF	1
Jose Colon-Nogueras	PPFF	1
Jacob Platt	PPFF	1
Jacob Smith	PPFF	<1
Zachary Stryffeler	PPFF	<1
Jacob Stanevich	PPFF	<1

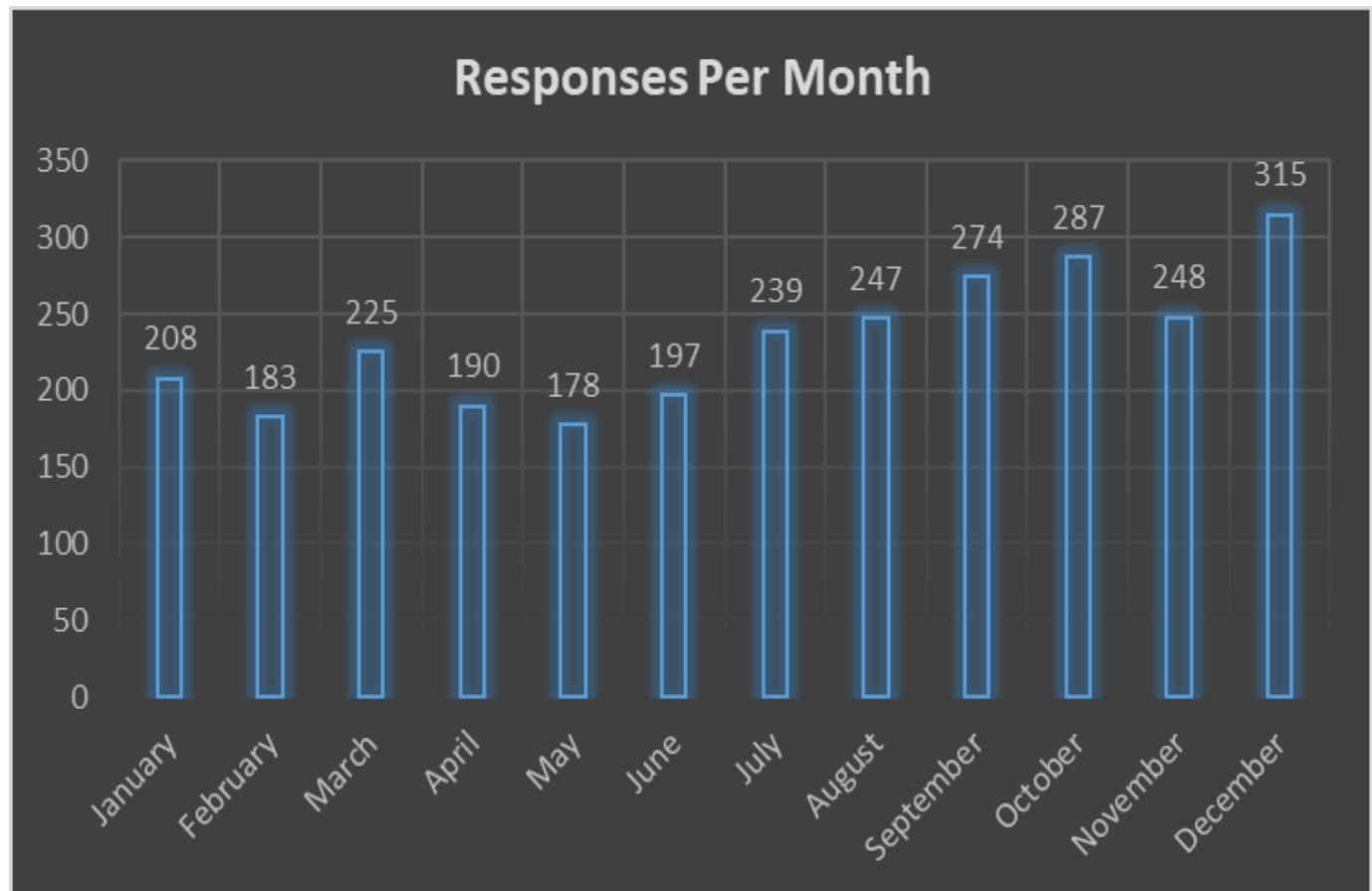
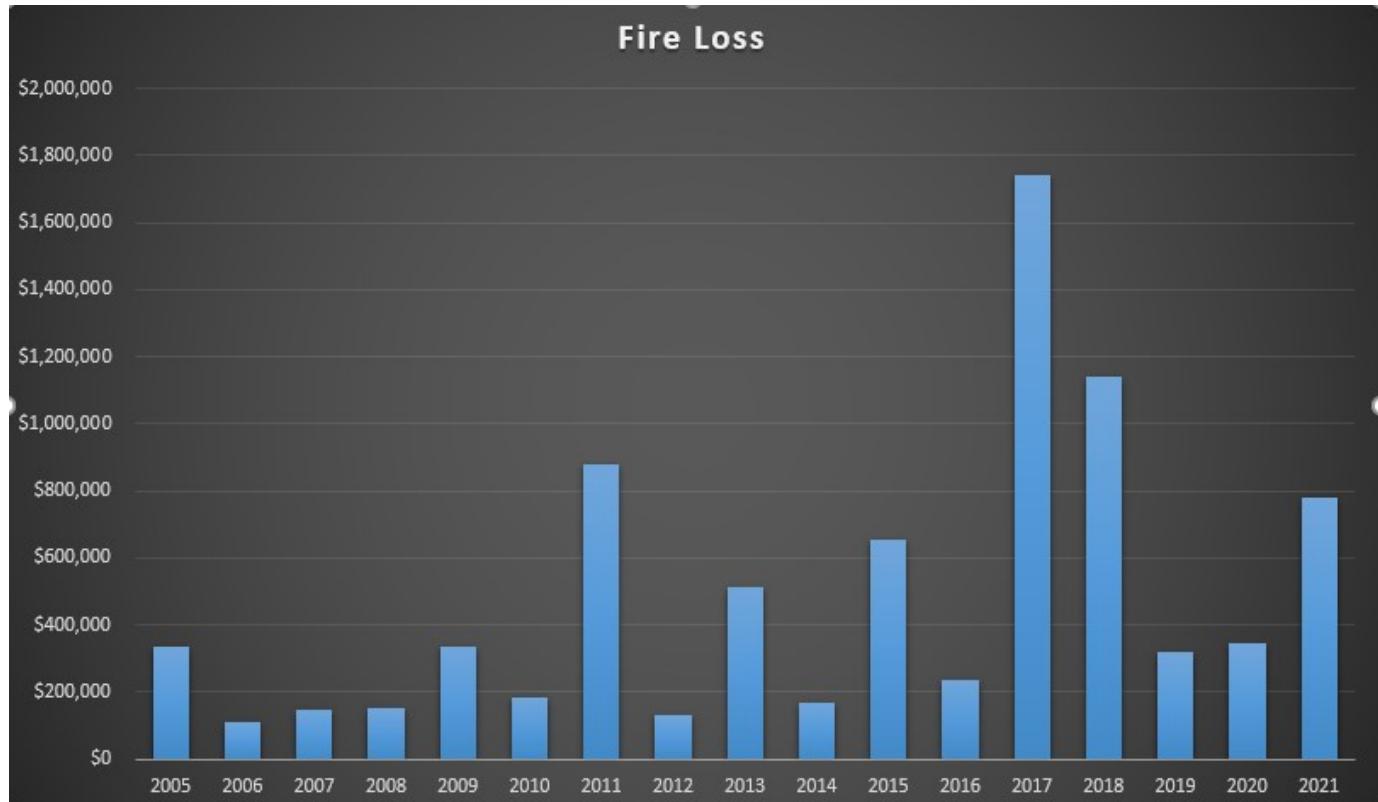
# Celebrating 100 Years!



# Statistics

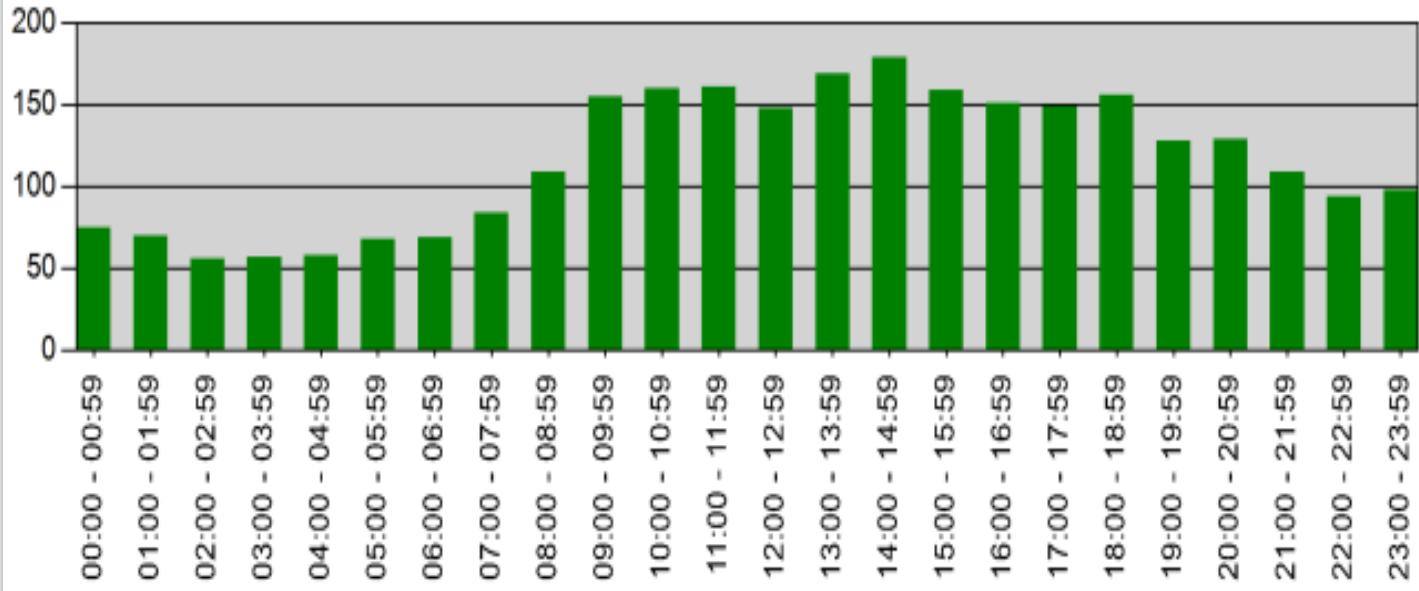


# Statistics

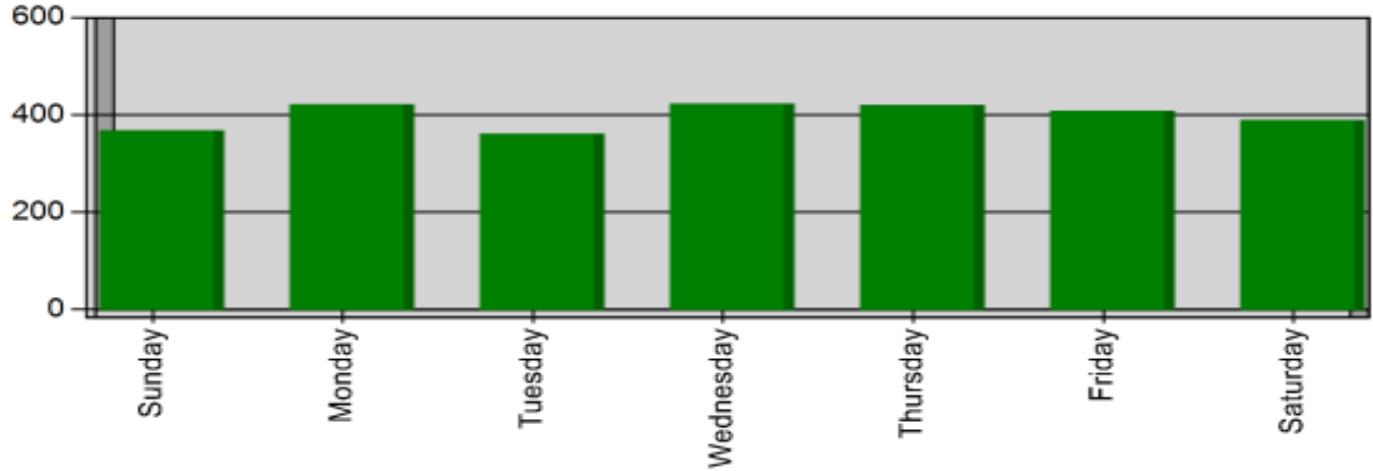


# Statistics

## Responses By Hour



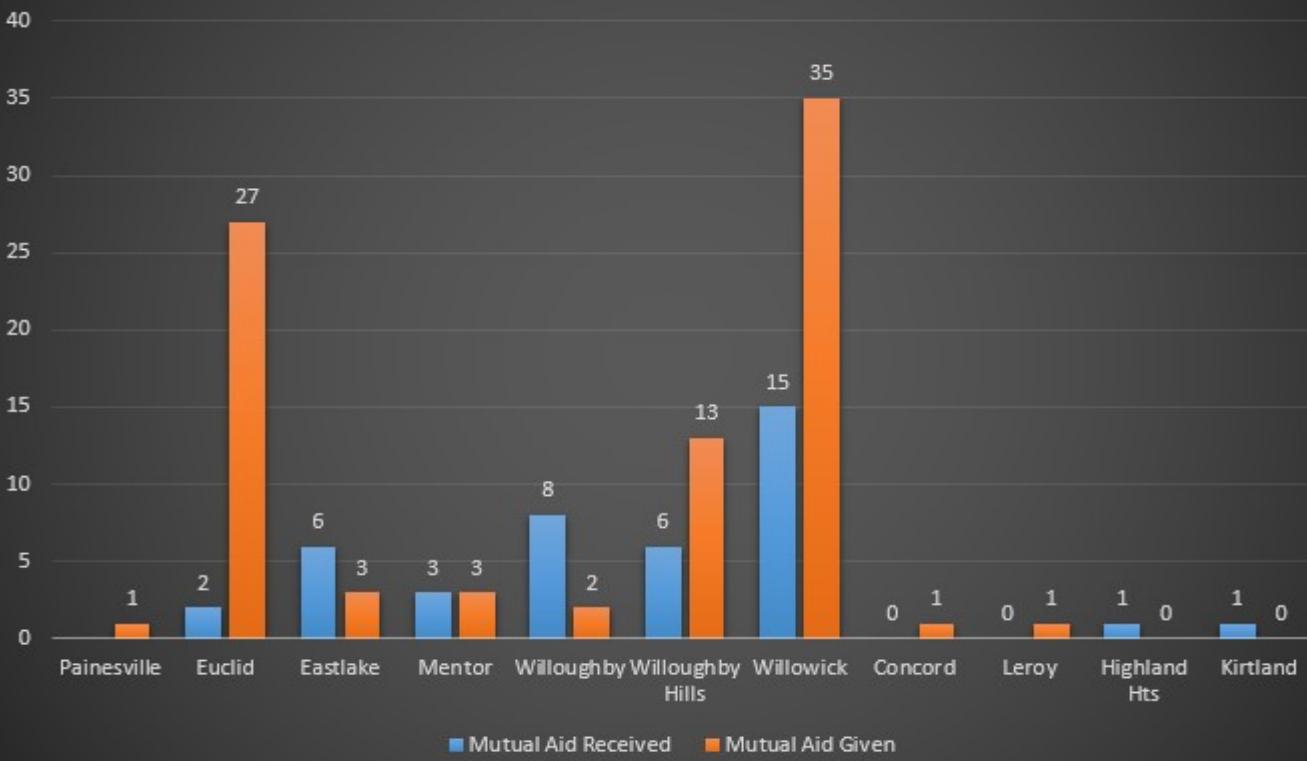
## Responses By Day



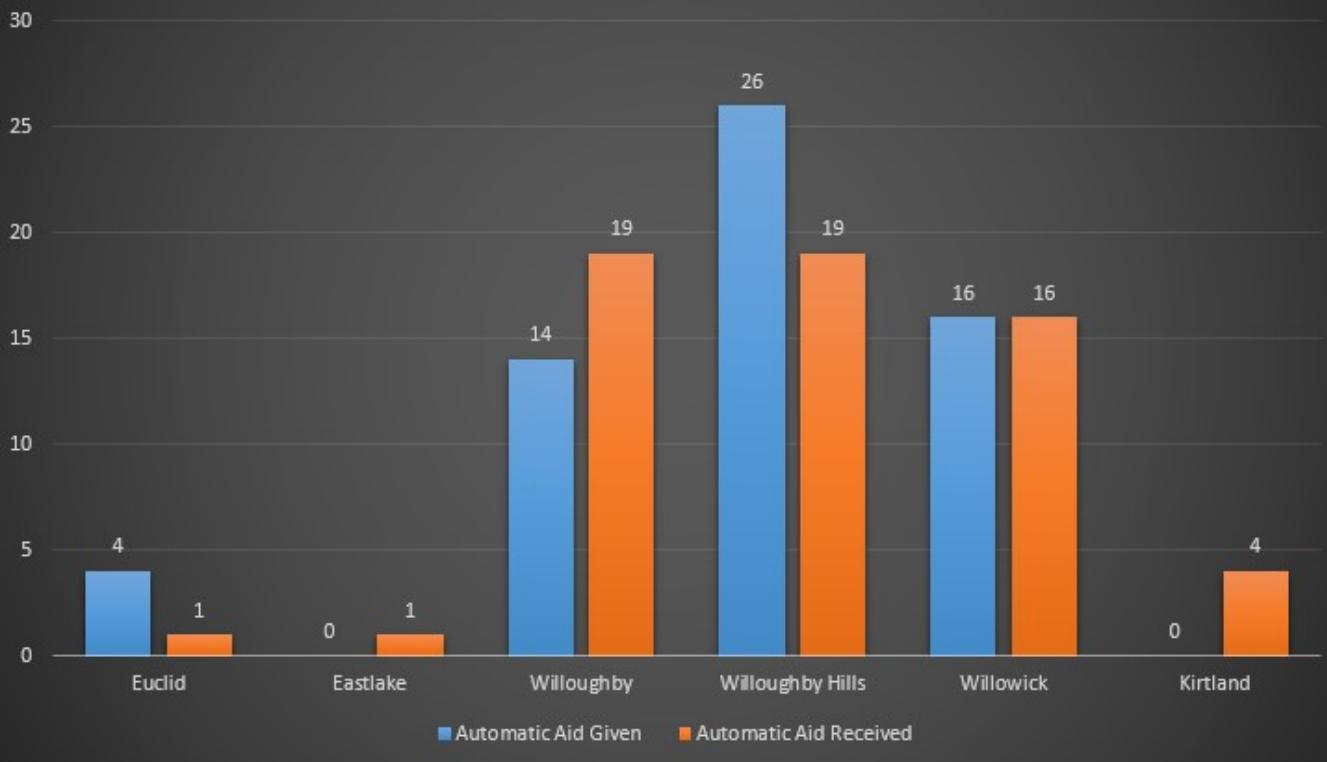
DAY OF THE WEEK	# INCIDENTS
Sunday	368
Monday	422
Tuesday	361
Wednesday	423
Thursday	420
Friday	408
Saturday	389

# Statistics

2021 Mutual Aid

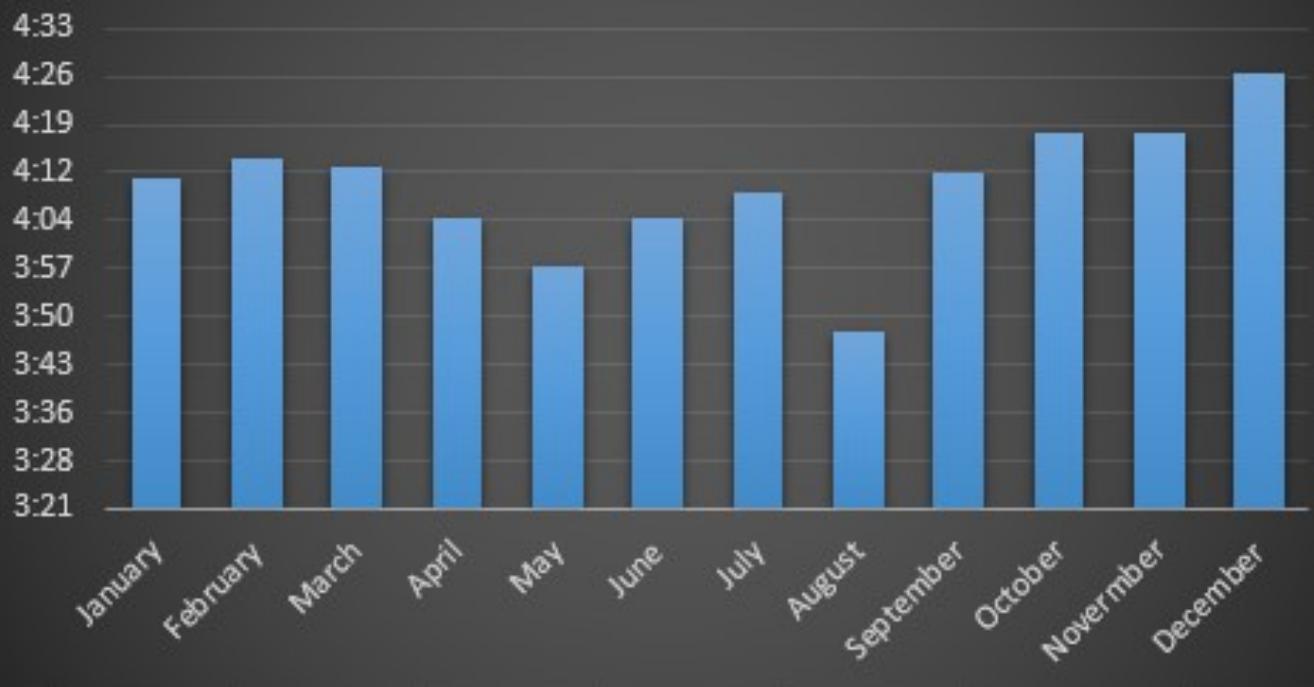


2021 Automatic Aid

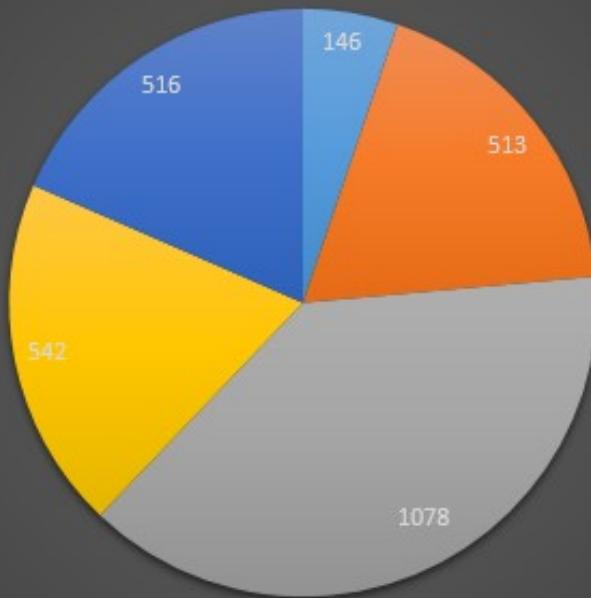


# Statistics

## Average Response Time 4:09



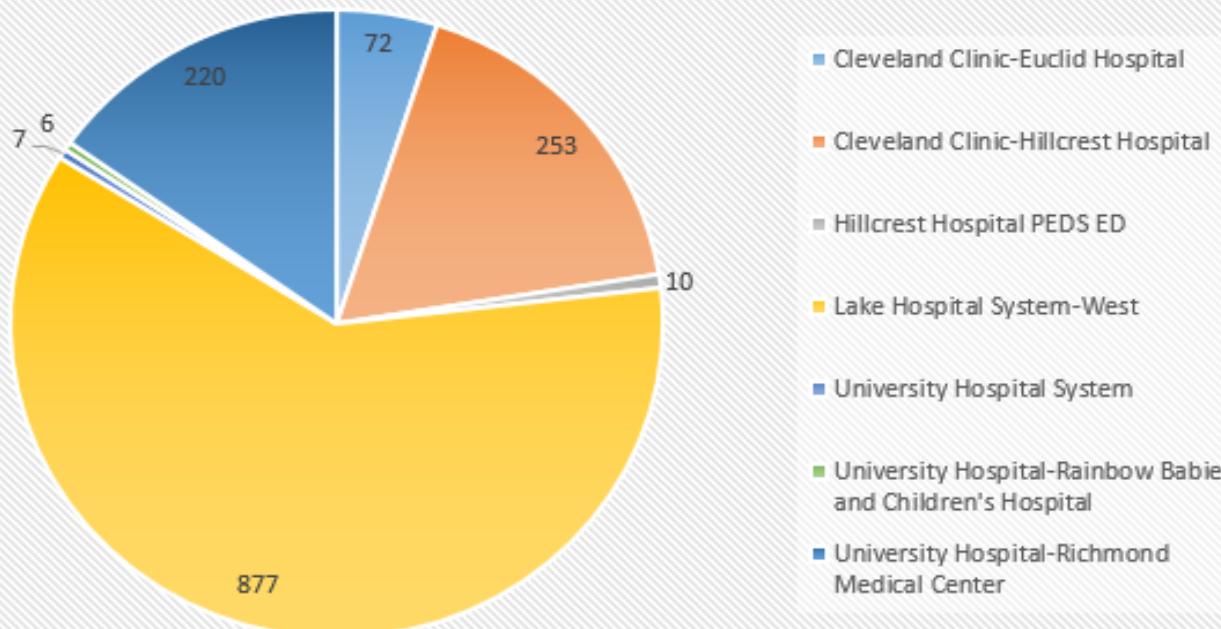
## Responses By Ward



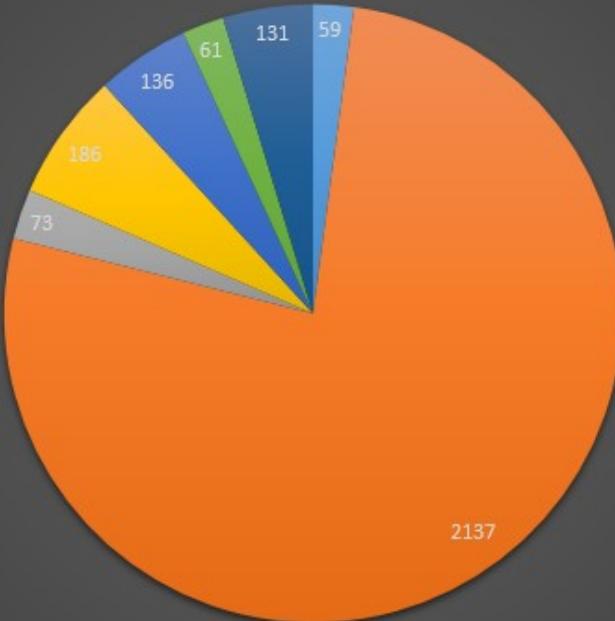
■ Aid to another City ■ Ward 1 ■ Ward 2 ■ Ward 3 ■ Ward 4

# Statistics

EMS Transport Destination



Response by Type



■ Fire   ■ EMS   ■ Assist Invalid   ■ Hazardous Condition   ■ Service Calls   ■ Cancelled Enroute   ■ False Alarms

# Fire Prevention Bureau



## Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Bureau has the distinct mission of making the City of Wickliffe a safer place for those who live, work, or visit our community. We accomplish our mission through education, fair and consistent enforcement of the Ohio Fire Code, Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe and applicable portions of the Ohio Building Code and by taking a proactive approach in determining, reducing and/or eliminating the broad scope of hazards that could potentially threaten our community.

## Public Education

A vital part of any effective fire prevention program is an active effort. The most cost-effective way to combat the fire problem is to prevent fires before they start, and the most cost-effective way to prevent fires from starting is to educate the public about fires.

Our belief is that fire safety education should start at an early age and continue throughout one's life. Content and delivery will change as the audience grows older and matures. Fire safety education is also interjected into our fire inspection program. One of the ways we reach our older audience is by interjecting fire safety into our inspections.

## Fire Inspections

Fire inspection and code enforcement is an important public safety function because unwanted fires kill and injure thousands annually. There is also a monetary impact when a business experiences an unwanted fire and is removed from the tax rolls while the damaged building is rebuilt or reconstructed.

Inspections not only serve as an important part of the overall fire prevention effort, they provide an opportunity for the inspector to make the importance of the inspection clear to the owners and occupants, secure proper maintenance of the building and its fire and life safety systems, and to identify areas where additional protection may be needed.

## Plan Reviews

The review of building plans and specifications provides the fire department with its best opportunity to make sure that the fire protection standards are met before construction is completed and the building is occupied.

Whenever possible, the Bureau of Fire Prevention participates in pre-construction meetings with other code officials, project architects, engineers and contractors.

The Bureau addresses questions relating to fire protection features in the planned building(s), the building code and fire prevention code requirements.

# Fire Prevention Bureau

Discussing the effect of construction on fire and life safety at these meetings can prevent misunderstandings and conflicts that may arise during construction or the final phase of construction. The Bureau can emphasize fire safety code requirements and coordinate responsibilities with other code enforcement officials. We believe design professionals and contractors benefit from this procedure as well since problems that would otherwise cost them time and money are eliminated prior to construction.

## **Permitting**

The purpose of the permitting process is twofold. First by requiring occupants and/or property owners to obtain permits, the Fire Prevention Bureau is afforded the opportunity to ensure that the activities and/or installations being proposed will meet the applicable code requirements. Secondly, and perhaps an even more basic reason for a permit, is to ensure that no hazardous situations develop within the jurisdiction of which the fire department is unaware.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Chris Grossman*

# Emergency Medical Services



The City of Wickliffe's Emergency Medical Services responded to a record number of incidents in 2021, responding to more than 2200 calls for EMS service. This number represents a more than 20% increase in requests for EMS services from 2020. These calls range from assistance after a fall with no injuries all the way to persons not breathing. Regardless of the nature of a call for help, all persons are afforded the same level of skill and professionalism. Our residents and guests are well cared for by highly skilled Paramedics, using top of the line equipment, under the direction of University Hospitals Lake Health Systems, through standardized written Protocols.

The number one cause of death in the US continues to be heart disease. Our Paramedics respond to a great deal of emergencies related to this health crisis. Issues with high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, cardiac dysrhythmias, heart attack, and even sudden cardiac arrest are common. When treating patients experiencing an acute cardiac event, EMS plays a crucial role in the "system of care." This system of care often starts with EMS as the first givers of care. Wickliffe EMS units are equipped with cardiac monitors capable of recognizing certain types of cardiac events and transmitting that information to the receiving hospital. This has greatly increased favorable outcomes for cardiac patients due to earlier notification of catheterization (CATH) labs. EMS will often bypass the Emergency room, under the physician's guidance, and go directly to the CATH lab for immediate intervention.

Although EMS is no stranger to the dangers of communicable diseases, 2021 was especially challenging dealing with COVID-19. Additional precautions were taken while responding to emergencies as well as changes to our "way of life" here at the fire station. Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) was worn while on calls and masks were worn around the fire station. Chief Powers, through his leadership and quick actions, was able to keep transmission at the fire station to a minimum, allowing us to remain healthy and able to respond to calls for help.

2021 has been a year of transition for our EMS crews as we fall under new medical direction from University Hospitals along with a transition to tablet based reporting. Sharing data with a receiving hospital is now in real time, saving precious seconds and decreasing the odds of miscommunication.

To our Mayor and City council, thank you for supporting our mission to deliver high quality fire and EMS care for our residents. To our Chief, thank you for your leadership and guidance, keeping us on the cutting edge of EMS care. To our residents, thank you for allowing us to serve you!

***Nick Mann***

Lieutenant

# Fire and EMS Training



## 2021 Training annual report:

2021 was a memorable training year for many reasons. Most notably, we returned to in person, hands-on training. Another major change that has been ongoing over the past few years is the retirements of several veteran Firefighter/Paramedics. In total, eight full time personnel have retired since 2019. That is a loss of 228 collective years of experience in just over 2 years! The good news is that we have replaced our retired members with very high quality, young firefighters who are eager to learn, and very committed.

## Career Employee Development:

A significant amount of time and energy has gone into developing our new career Firefighter/Paramedic's into the future leaders of the Department. However, because eight of the previous nine newly hired career Firefighter/Paramedics were previously part time employees with us, the process has been greatly streamlined. Typically, when a new firefighter is hired, the first few months of training are comprised of things like learning city streets as well as target hazard areas, equipment familiarization, and hospital protocol study. Promoting our part time fire fighters to full time allows us to focus on areas that require more responsibility and technical skill, like pump operations and aerial ladder placement for instance.

To aid in the development of these more advanced skills, the Department sent four of our newer members to State Fire School at Bowling Green University. The members took immersive, weeklong courses in fire pump operations (the science of getting water from a city main, out the end of a hose and onto the fire), and vehicle extrication, which is an art form unto itself, and constantly changing due to developments in EV technology.

## Officer Development:

We have continued our commitment to leadership continuity with ongoing Blue Card Command training. All Captains, Lieutenants, and OIC's have been formally trained in the disciplines of Initial Radio Reports (IRR's) and resource allocation at Type 4 and 5 Emergencies. Many senior Officers have completed multiple renewal cycles as well.

## New Protocols:

Our paramedics now operate under University Hospitals protocols. This was a major change, as we have operated under Lake Health protocols for decades. Our paramedics have spent months learning the new protocols and associated pharmacology.

# Fire and EMS Training

## Company Evolutions:

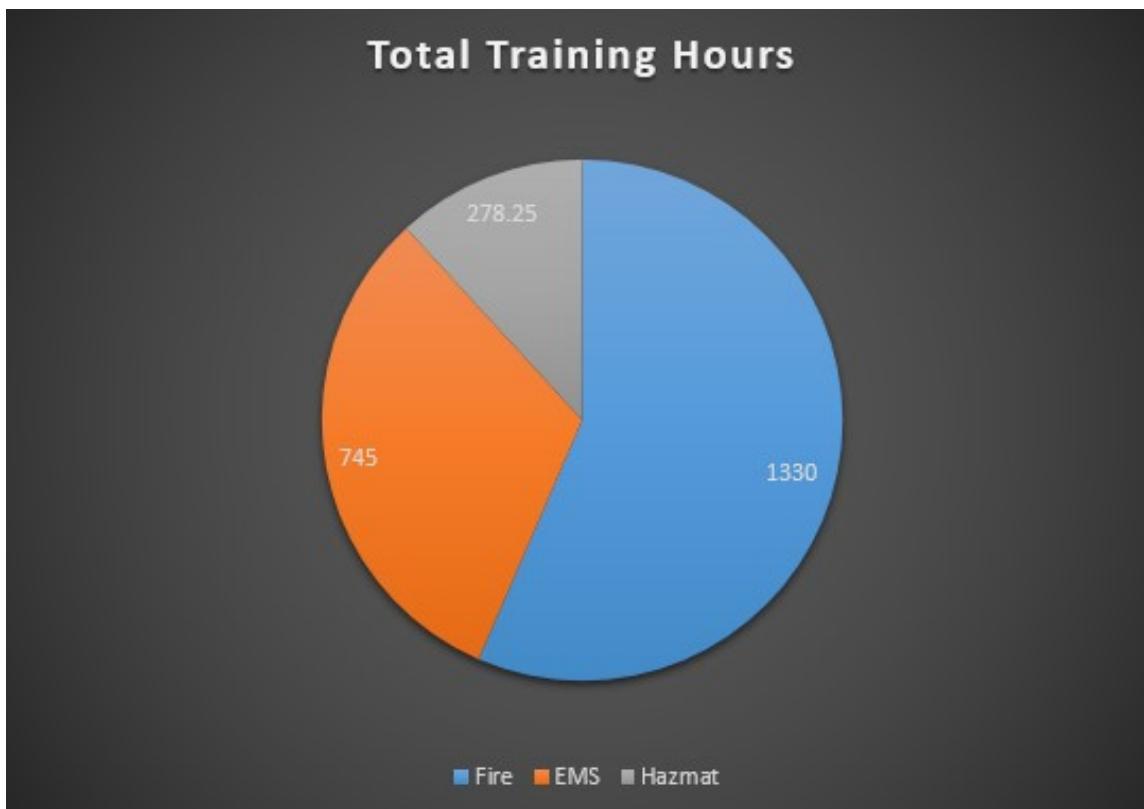
Company evolutions are the “bread and butter” of our training and consume the most hours. These drills provide the necessary opportunities to build confidence and competence among members, especially those with less experience. Most days when you drive by the fire station and see us training, these are the skills we are mastering. These are the skills taught in the Fire Academy and maintained throughout a career. Examples of annual/semi- annual company evolutions are: Sprinkler and Standpipe Operations, Flashover, Private Dwelling Tactics, Smoke Reading, Fire ground operations (positioning hoses and apparatus, assigning basic fire-ground orders, and incident mitigation), Search and rescue techniques, SCBA competencies (self contained breathing apparatus), managing and calling a MAYDAY, ladder placement, ropes and knots, fire fighting/rescue equipment, and company accountability and integrity.

The Wickliffe Fire Department trains hard provide our community with the services they deserve. Our training goals for 2022 will continue to focus on continual improvement, embracing new concepts, and mastering the basics.

Respectfully submitted,

*James Isom*

Captain



# Pre Incident Planning



*Pre-planning has been termed by some as “Knowing in advance what you are up against.” “If you know in advance what you are up against, it’s easier to defeat the enemy.” The enemy may not be a fire. It may be a chemical release, a winter storm, or a terrorist attack. To Plan is to be forewarned. To be forewarned is to be prepared. We must be prepared!*

*Similar to a military officer planning for battle, the emergency services officer must plan for battle. The fire officer must plan an offensive and defensive strategy just as a football coach plans a strategy. The ultimate goal is to have the fire-fighting team perform efficiently and effectively. (Jenaway, 1992).*

Unlike fire prevention or fire safety inspections, pre-incident planning assumes that an incident will occur.

National Fire Protection Association 1620 explains how the pre-incident plan assist during the incident:

1. The pre-incident plan should be the foundation for decision making during an emergency situation and provide important data that will assist the incident commander in developing appropriate strategies and tactics for managing the incident.
2. The pre-incident plan should help responding personnel identify critical factors that will affect the ultimate outcome of the incident, including personal safety.
3. The pre-incident plan should provide for available facility personnel to advise responding personnel of current conditions upon arrival.
4. The information contained in a pre incident plan should enable the incident commander to anticipate likely scenarios. A pre-incident plan should assist the incident commander in developing tactical options. Consulting the pre-incident plan throughout the incident should keep the incident commander aware of factors that might affect the success of the operation and the need for strategic or tactical adjustment.

Gathering the information for our pre-plans is time consuming and labor intensive. The value of our pre-incident planning information system simply cannot be overstated. The tablet based Streetwise system has rapidly become the industry standard in our immediate area allowing for a regional emergency preparedness approach. The community and our firefighters are absolutely safer when our fire department administration, city council, and mayor/safety director support such initiatives. Their continued support is both welcomed and appreciated.

**Sean O'Neill**

Lieutenant

# SCBA / Respiratory Testing



Breathing in toxic environments is a common occurrence in the fire service and we have to maintain and test our equipment regularly to help keep our firefighters safe. Upon employment, each Wickliffe firefighter is issued their own personal SCBA mask and it is tested for proper fit before they can operate in hazardous conditions. All firefighters are also issued a voice amplifier which attaches to their SCBA mask and enables clear communication when they are working in a dangerous environment and wearing their SCBA masks. Once employed, every firefighter is tested annually to ensure that their SCBA mask still fits properly. Our 25 SCBAs are tested annually by a third party as a part of our comprehensive SCBA maintenance program. Each unit is also checked daily by the individual to which it is assigned and a more detailed check of each unit is performed weekly.



As with any of our tools in the fire service, no tool is effective without proper training. All of our personnel are required to complete initial employment and annual competency training with our SCBAs. Additionally, our shift officers routinely complete shift level training to maintain a state of readiness. We train tirelessly beyond routine operations and focus on situations when things are going wrong. All employees can don their SCBA, facemask, fire resistant hood, fire gloves and helmet with no skin showing in under sixty seconds. Frankly, our ability to maintain and use our SCBA is a life or death proposition. The equipment that Wickliffe has provided to our firefighters and the maintenance programs in place have allowed our personnel to do their jobs in the safest possible way.

***Sean O'Neill***

Lieutenant

# Vehicle and Apparatus Maintenance



Throughout 2021, we experienced significant change in our fleet of emergency apparatus and support vehicles. Two pieces of emergency response apparatus were retired and replaced. One of our ambulances, a 2008 Ford F-450 Horton was in poor condition with over 56,000 miles on it. Although this mileage may not seem excessive, the vehicle needed an increase in repair hours and was no longer cost effective. This vehicle was replaced with a new International Horton ambulance listed in the chart on the next page as vehicle 1512. We also replaced our 1996 Sutphen Engine with a new 2021 Sutphen Engine. Throughout the last 25 years, this engine had been a workhorse for the department. Quickly realizing its dependability, it became a favorite of your Wickliffe Firefighters. This engine had served its time and was replaced with a new Sutphen Engine built much like the one it replaced. This engine was delivered in 2021, did not go into service until January of 2022, and is listed below as vehicle 1513.

Together with our Wickliffe Service Department mechanics, we maintain a robust maintenance program to promote the longevity and preserve the long term investment in this fleet. We simply could not keep two ambulances and two pieces of fire apparatus in-service at all times without the aid of our Wickliffe Service Department mechanics. The age of our fleet and long term replacement program is also pivotal in keeping these vehicles available for emergency response. Our City Administration has been committed to this necessity through their continuing approval of funding to repair and replace emergency vehicles and apparatus at appropriate intervals.

*J P Michalak*

Captain

# Vehicle and Apparatus Maintenance



Vehicle	Year	Condition	Make/Model	Mileage	Hours
1500	2015	Excellent	Chevy Tahoe	88357	
1511	2019	Excellent	Dodge Ram 1500	1185	
1512	2019	Excellent	International/Horton	2721	161
1513	2021	Excellent	Sutphen Engine	New 1/2022	
1514	2006	Good	Sutphen Engine	42762	5178
1517	2011	Good	Dodge Ram 2500	13908	
1519	1999	Fair	KME Ladder	15622	2957
1522	2018	Excellent	International/Horton	39229	3717
1521	2019	Excellent	GMC Silverado 1500	23828	
1531	2012	Good	Chevy Tahoe	50145	
1532	2012	Good	International/Horton	75358	7344
HM2	2005	Excellent	International/Hackney	9724	677

**Excellent Condition-** Low mileage, no body corrosion/rust, preventative maintenance needed only

**Good Condition-** Moderate mileage, minor body corrosion/rust, maintenance needed to maintain current condition

**Fair Condition-** High mileage, moderate body and frame corrosion/rust, maintenance needed to remain in-service

**Poor Condition-** High mileage, severe body and frame corrosion/rust, no longer able to be maintained as an emergency vehicle

# Vehicles



Engine 1513

2000 GPM Pumper

2021 Sutphen



Engine 1514

2000 GPM Pumper

2006 Sutphen



Truck 1519

75' Ladder

1999 KME

# Vehicles



Squad 1512  
EMS Ambulance  
2019 International/Horton



Squad 1522  
EMS Ambulance  
2018 International/Horton



Squad 1532  
EMS Ambulance  
2012 International/Horton

# Vehicles



Car 1500

Chief's Command Vehicle

2015 Chevrolet Tahoe



Car 1511

Command Vehicle

2019 Dodge Ram 1500



Car 1531

Fire Prevention

2012 Chevrolet Tahoe

# Vehicles



Pickup 1521

EMS/Utility Vehicle

2018 GMC Sierra



Truck 1517

Utility Vehicle

2011 Dodge Ram 2500



Haz Mat II

Hazardous Materials Truck

2005 International

# Vehicles / Support Apparatus



Trailer 1527

Emergency Support Vehicle

2009 Haulmark



Trailer 1537

Emergency Support Vehicle

2011 Haulmark



ATV 1

On/Off Road Utility Vehicle

2006 John Deere Gator

# Public Education



Wickliffe Fire Department's public education efforts focus on providing safety information to our citizens and guests. The Fire Department is well-known for our emergency work. Public Education is another aspect of our service that helps to enhance safety by promoting prevention.

COVID-19 has changed our world and the way we operate. Public Education has also been affected by this global pandemic. In 2020, we had to cancel, postpone, modify, or look for alternative ways to promote our mission. Thankfully, in 2021 we were able to get back into the community for education and events.

Use of the *Wickliffe Connection* has been essential to help us promote the Fire Department and draw attention to public education and safety awareness. Newspaper articles focusing on our Fire Department's Centennial Year were featured. In addition, as it was the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of September 11, a special article commemorating that event was written to coincide with the City's memorial service at Liberty Garden. Timely articles on Hypothermia and Winter Safety were also published. We look forward to future submissions.

Using social Media (Facebook), we are able to promote both the Fire Department and Public Safety. With COVID-19, it was challenging to stay current with information in these uncertain times. As data and information changed frequently, we provided links and information to help keep up with the changes thereby using our platform to promote safety initiatives and recommended health guidelines.

We give Fire Station tours on a sometimes scheduled, but usually impromptu basis. We were able to see some of those tour opportunities return.

May brought the return of Career Day at Wickliffe Middle School where our personnel were participants, interacting with students and staff.

In June, Safety Town students visited the Fire Department and were taught the principles of fire safety using videos, demonstrations, an interactive tour, and gifts to take home.

As we could not find a way to collect for MDA (Muscular Dystrophy) in-person while accounting for social distancing, masks, and the potential spread of COVID from personal contact, our annual "Fill the Boot" drive was again cancelled. We are hoping to see a return of this event, in some form in 2022.

Fire Personnel participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary September 11 Memorial Ceremony at Liberty Gardens. Never Forget.

## Public Education (Continued)

October's National Fire Prevention Week is our highest-profile event of the year. We were grateful to be back in the schools (Wickliffe Elementary, Mater Dei Academy, and All Saints School) teaching and interacting with students and staff.

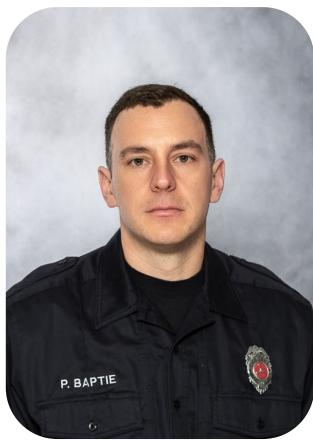
Wickliffe Public Library again hosted their fire safety day in October. Last year, Personnel visited the library and interacted with staff while the event was video-recorded and later shared via Facebook. This year it was in-person and the participants then stopped by the station afterward for a tour and to see the vehicles and firefighters.

In 2022 we will seek opportunities to enhance fire safety through public education. In the meantime, we'll continue to showcase our knowledge and talents to provide for the safety needs of the community. That's what we do every day.

*Anthony Zorko*

Lieutenant

# Hazardous Materials



Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) is one of the largest specialty responses in the City of Wickliffe as well as Lake County. With two major rail lines that have a significant number of trains going through our City each day, as well as truck traffic on both Interstate 90 and State Route 2, large quantities of chemicals are always present in our City. The amount of chemicals that move through our City, combined with the fact that Wickliffe has the second largest number of chemical facilities in Lake County, is cause for us to be prepared for any type of emergency involving chemicals. Speaking of chemical facilities, there are numerous EHS (Extremely Hazardous Substances) facilities located in the City of Wickliffe. These type of facilities have the potential to cause a hazardous situation based on the chemicals that they possess, and preparation is key to minimize any incident that may occur.

Wickliffe Fire Department members are responsible for handling chemical problems from as simple as fuel spills and natural gas leaks, to as complicated as a chemical plant fires, train accidents and even acts of terrorism. Continual training is the only way that we are able to stay proficient in handling these problems.

The Hazardous Intervention Team (HIT) trains year round with some of the latest and most technologically advanced equipment available. Every year we send Haz-Mat Technicians to the Ohio Hazardous Materials Teams Conference in Solon, Ohio. At this conference, speakers from across the nation provide presentations. These speakers have years of experience dealing with Hazardous materials and the information they possess is priceless. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the past two years due to the pandemic. On the bright side, we recently received word that the conference is back on this year, and we will be able to receive this great training again.

Performing all of these tasks makes it possible for us to be a Type I Hazardous materials team. Back in October of 2021, we renewed our status as a Type I team. This process is completed every three years and is evaluated by the state. A lot of time and preparation went into this process. With this classification, we can respond to any type of Hazardous materials incident within the state. We can then mitigate these incidents efficiently and effectively.

It is with the continued support from the City, that we are able to remain prepared to deal with the chemical emergencies that may pose a threat to our community.

***Paul Baptie***

Fire Fighter

# Fire Investigation



The Wickliffe Fire Department Fire Investigation Team consists of three fire investigators, two of which are also trained in Advanced Fire Investigation, and one who has basic fire investigation training. Regular training and field experience are required to maintain the knowledge and skill necessary to maintain certification through the office of the State Fire Marshal.

All members of the Wickliffe Fire Investigation team are members of the Western Lake County Fire Investigation unit ( WLCFIU ). Wickliffe FIU serves as a formal mutual aid model allowing neighboring communities to assist each other for large-scale incidents and difficult cases.

Regardless of the cause, all fire need to be investigated. Luckily, the majority of fires in Wickliffe and the surrounding communities are accidental. Sometimes fires are set on purpose. We call these fires arson.

There are six motive classifications that are associated with fire setters:

1. Vandalism
2. Excitement
3. Revenge
4. Crime Concealment
5. Profit
6. Extremism

Arson cases are tough to prove, and even more difficult to prosecute. Evidence of arson is nearly impossible to preserve. Not only will the fire likely destroy physical proof but the water and chemical foam used to put out the blaze can also destroy potential evidence. Fingerprints are blurred by soot. The arsonist flees before passersby even notice the flames. The blaze burns so quickly that pinpointing the exact spot where it started is nearly impossible. For arson investigators, gathering evidence and identifying a suspect is difficult. For prosecutors, piecing together the puzzle to file charges and win a conviction is even harder. Because of this, an arson investigator's most important witnesses are the firefighters that first arrive on the scene.

We are lucky to have an experienced team of members on the WLCFIU who are all happy to work together. Every member has a unique background and area of expertise. It all starts with education; then gaining valuable experience. We are grateful that the Wickliffe and the surrounding cities understand the need for this team, and continue to provide funding.

## *Mark Toth*

Fire Fighter

# Fire Hydrant Maintenance



With over 800 fire hydrants in the city of Wickliffe, the task of flushing, flow testing, and exercising all of them is very labor intensive. Every hydrant in the City is checked on a bi-annual basis for service. Once in the spring to remove any sediment, and again in the fall to ensure proper drainage to prevent freezing during the winter months. Firefighters remove and lubricate all hydrant caps to ensure a quicker removal in an emergent situation. In addition to the servicing, shift personal conduct flow testing. Testing twenty-five percent of the streets in the city each year, we calculate the amount of water any given hydrant can supply to fire apparatus for fire extinguishment. These calculations on flows also serve a purpose for the fire prevention bureau. Fire Prevention uses these flow calculations in an area to determine water flow for sprinkler systems, depending on the size of the building. All of these tasks are accomplished by "on duty" personnel during our regularly scheduled shift.

As the water liaison to Lake County Department of Utilities (LCDU), my responsibility is to report any fire hydrant malfunctions that may occur. These include; fire hydrants that are hard to open, won't shut off, leak, won't drain, or ones damaged by motor vehicles. Once reported to LCDU, crews are assigned to make repairs based on the severity of the malfunction. There were a number of such reports made to LCDU and all repairs were made in a timely manner. We would like to commend LCDU for their continued support in maintaining the fire hydrants of Wickliffe. You may have noticed a new style of cap added to the front side of some hydrants throughout the city. These new style caps are Storz fittings, and make connecting a hose quicker with a quarter turn. With hydrants replaced due to damage or city updates on streets, you will see more of these Storz connections in the future.

As mentioned earlier, the hydrants that do not drain properly are tracked and pumped out so to prevent freezing. The number of hydrants that need pumped out continues to decrease due to a comprehensive maintenance program and a great working relationship between the fire department and the LCDU.

We would like to thank all of the Wickliffe residents who keep the area around their fire hydrant free of tall grass in the warmer months and snow in the colder months. Your dedication to your own safety and the safety of your neighbors is greatly appreciated.

***Ken Stout***

Fire Fighter



IN RECOGNITION OF  
DEDICATED SERVICE  
TO  
WICKLIFFE FIRE  
DEPARTMENT



CHIEF DAVID MARINELLO 1946-1963	CAPTAIN MARTIN SLATTERY 1967-1993	CAPTAIN JERRY BLACKBURN 1979-2015	
CHIEF WALTER KNAPP 1946-1978	FIRE FIGHTER LAURENCE DIVOKY 1968-1993	FIRE FIGHTER THOMAS RAPINZ 1991-2019	
FIRE FIGHTER JOSEPH BOCHENEK 1956-1980	FIRE FIGHTER WILLIAM SMILEY 1965-1994	FIRE FIGHTER JAMES MROSKO 1986-2019	
ASSISTANT CHIEF MELVIN HOUSE, SR. 1956-1987	CHIEF DAVID GEOSANO 1980-1996	LIEUTENANT JOSEPH COOPER 1989-2019	
FIRE FIGHTER DENNIS LeBLANC 1968-1987	LIEUTENANT KENNETH SAMSA 1973-1999	FIRE FIGHTER JOHN CROW 1992-2020	
LIEUTENANT ARDEN LEMPONEN 1961-1990	FIRE FIGHTER HENRY KERSMAN 1971-1999	FIRE FIGHTER DAN BAUER 1991-2021	
FIRE FIGHTER ANTHONY DiMATTIA 1963-1990	ASSISTANT CHIEF THOMAS KOCAB 1969-1999	CAPTAIN DOUGLAS LEVIC 1990-2021	
FIRE FIGHTER GARY OSBORNE 1965-1990	SECRETARY MARY ANN BOOS 1971-1999	FIRE FIGHTER DENIS PAUS 1994-2021	
FIRE FIGHTER WALTER BOCHENEK 1967-1991	FIRE FIGHTER DUANE MARTUCCI 1970-2000		
FIRE FIGHTER EUGENE WOJCIECHOWSKI 1967-1992	FIRE FIGHTER RONALD NAGLIC 1973-2001		
LIEUTENANT GEORGE MROSKO 1965-1992	LIEUTENANT MARK NERONE 1979-2006		
CHIEF EDWARD BOCHENEK 1954-1992	CHIEF DANIEL HELSEL 1979-2009		