

ANNUAL REPORT



2023

Proudly Serving Since 1898

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



It is with great pride that I present the Wauwatosa Fire Department (WFD) Annual Report for 2023. Every day our dedicated group of employees including firefighters, paramedics, and support staff work tirelessly to deliver highly skilled and compassionate service. Our mission as a department is to make Wauwatosa a safer place to work, live, and play by providing top-notch fire suppression, emergency medical services, and community risk reduction programs.

2023 presented our department with unique opportunities to deliver these programs including responding to nearly 10,000 calls for service. We partnered with the Milwaukee Fire Department to staff a vacant fire station on our southeast border to improve service to both cities. This transition didn't occur without a few bumps along the way but it has proven to be a model for local collaboration and resource sharing.

In conjunction with the Wauwatosa Health Department and Police Department, we were able to hire our first social worker. This position was created to expand our ability to treat and assist our customers by providing a link to resources for issues such as mental health, substance abuse, and challenges with aging at home.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, I want to thank the remarkable individuals who make up the Wauwatosa Fire Department. Your dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to customer service are the cornerstones of our success. I am filled with optimism for the future of our department and seeing what we accomplish in 2024.

Respectfully,

Fire Chief Jim Case



Police Chief James MacGillis and
Fire Chief Jim Case with Jordan

Mission Statement

The Wauwatosa Fire Department is dedicated to providing the highest quality customer service. We will protect lives and property through fire protection, emergency medical services, rescue, education, and disaster management. We will treat our customers with compassion and respect and we will strive for excellence in everything we do.

Vision Statement

The Wauwatosa Fire Department is an all hazards public safety organization that exists to keep the community of Wauwatosa safe. We will maintain a high level of preparedness through intense training, strong leadership, and proven strategies applied by high quality personnel. We value a philosophy of lifelong learning and we will embrace best practices.

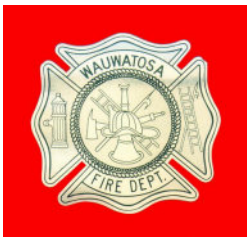
Core Values

Integrity * Respect * Honor * Courage * Commitment

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



**Office Manager
Amy Rummel**



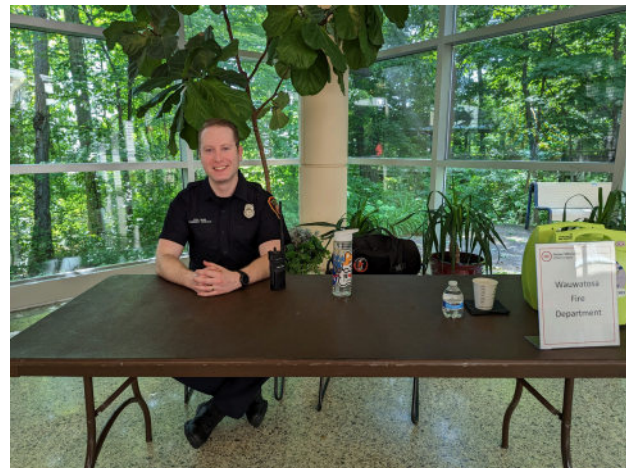
**Office Assistant/Community
Outreach Specialist Cody Xiong**

The Wauwatosa Fire Department administrative support staff plays a crucial role in the smooth operation of the fire department. The support staff consists of Office Manager Amy Rummel and Office Assistant/Community Outreach Specialist Cody Xiong.

Office Manager Amy Rummel is responsible overseeing the everyday operations of the front office. She handles various tasks like maintaining personnel records, managing the department finances and creating the annual budget. She also has a large role in the department recruiting process, payroll, and helps support with other human resource functions.



Office Assistant/Community Outreach Specialist Cody Xiong is responsible for directing inquiries to appropriate personnel or departments, maintaining records, and coordinating schedules, as well as, engaging in community outreach efforts. He organizes public events, education programs and fire prevention campaigns.

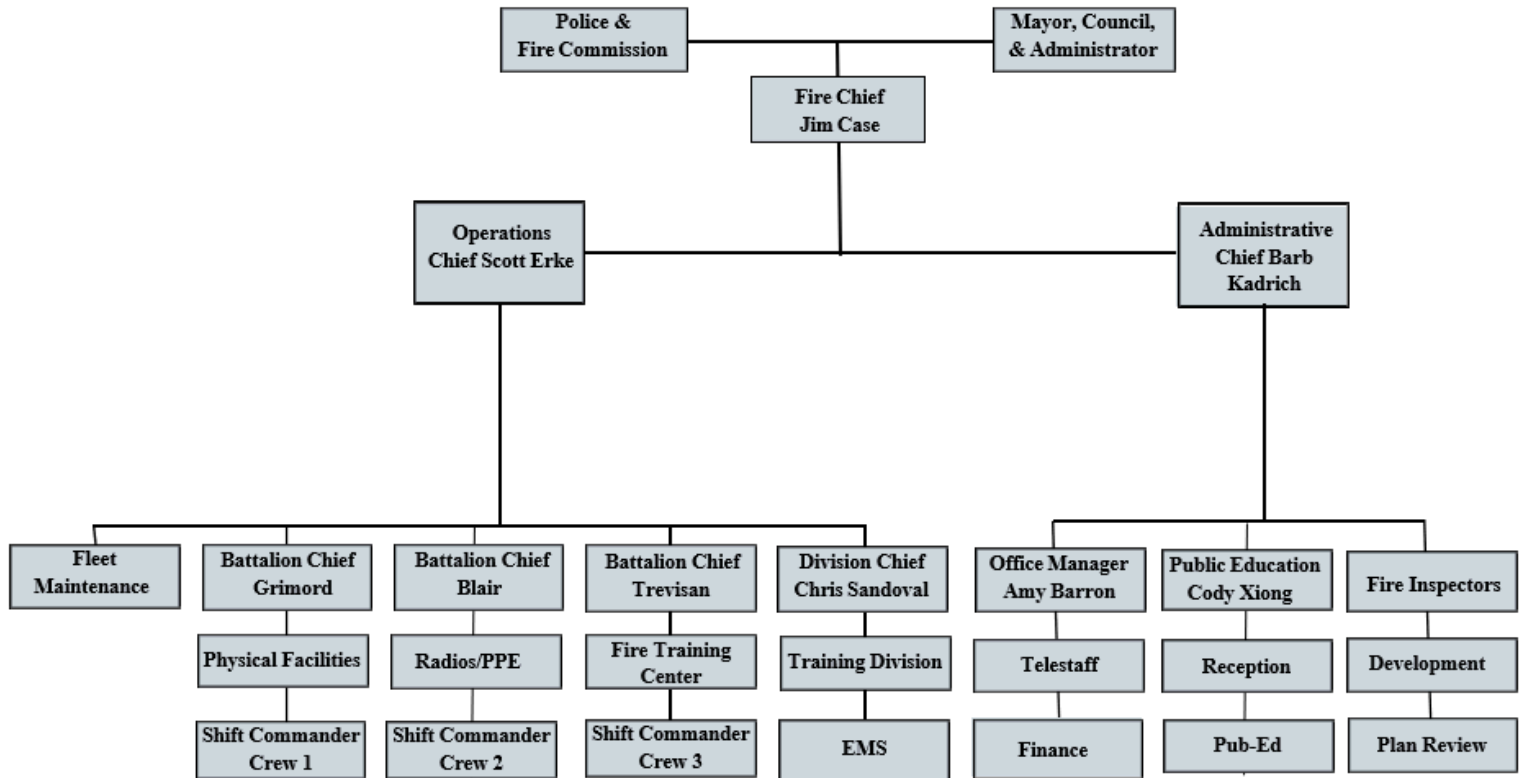


BUDGET

Fire Dept #220					
Expenditures					
	2022				2023 / 2022
2021 Actual	Adopted Budget	2022 Revised	Name	2023 Budget	% of Change
9,130,422	9,225,162	9,225,162	Wages	9,647,968	4.6%
323,333	321,300	321,300	Overtime	470,454	46.4%
4,035,866	4,150,741	4,150,741	Benefits	4,384,931	5.6%
6,250	6,250	6,250	Other Compensation	5,650	-9.6%
239,844	257,775	314,789	Operating Expenses	310,520	20.5%
7,559	7,000	10,000	Commodities	8,000	14.3%
204,883	202,005	231,903	Services	206,405	2.2%
188,933	167,400	182,400	Utilities	186,900	11.6%
25,581	26,827	26,827	Fixed Charges	27,980	4.3%
382,221	464,565	492,565	Internal Charges	506,512	9.0%
327	2,500	11,500	Other Expenses	-	-100.0%
57,934	-	88,053	Capital Outlay	-	0.0%
14,603,154	14,831,525	15,061,489	TOTAL	15,755,319	6.2%
Revenues					
	2022				
2021 Actual	Adopted Budget	2022 Revised	Name	2023 Budget	% of Change
-20,478	242,000	269,478	InterGov Revenue	250,000	3.31%
173,504	190,000	190,000	Licenses and Permits	190,000	0.00%
1,544,217	1,430,000	1,430,000	Public Charges	1,705,000	19.23%
1,610,593	1,357,937	1,357,937	InterGov Charges	1,452,685	6.98%
38,620	33,274	35,024	Miscellaneous	33,274	0.0%
3,346,456	3,253,211	3,282,439	TOTAL	3,630,959	11.6%
Net Cost					
11,256,698	11,578,314	11,779,050	TOTAL	12,124,360	4.7%

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Wauwatosa Fire Department 2023 Organizational Chart



Fire				
Position Description	2022 FTE	2023 Base Positions	2023 FTE	2022-23 Change
Assistant Chief	2.00	2	2.00	-
Battalion Chief	1.00	0	-	(1.00)
Code Specialist	2.58	3	2.58	0.00
Deputy Chief	3.00	4	4.00	1.00
Fire Captain	7.00	7	7.00	0.00
Fire Chief	1.00	1	1.00	-
Fire Lieutenant	12.00	12	12.00	0.00
Fire Equipment Mechanic	1.00	1	1.00	-
Firefighter	56.00	57	57.00	1.00
Management Analyst	1.00	1	1.00	-
Motor Pump Operator	15.00	15	15.00	0.00
Office Assistant	1.00	1	1.00	-
TOTAL	102.56	104.00	103.58	1.02

OPERATIONS



Assistant Chief Scott Erke

The operations division, overseen by Assistant Chief Scott Erke, is dedicated to the frontline emergency response functions within our department. The operations division is dedicated to excellence in emergency response. Through rigorous training, collaboration, and a commitment to innovation they are ready to protect and serve our community in times of crisis.

Some key aspects of the Wauwatosa Fire Department Operations Division are:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Suppression
- Disaster Mitigation
- Rescue Activities
- Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's)
- Shared Services
- Training
- Fleet Maintenance



In close collaboration with Assistant Chief Erke are three Battalion Chiefs. The Battalion Chiefs are responsible for managing their respective crews and overseeing day-to-day operations, ensuring the efficiency of our emergency response efforts.



Jeremy Blair, Crew 2



Lance Grimord, Crew 1



Kurt Trevisan, Crew 3

STATION 55

On January 23, 2023 at 8:00 A.M. WFD Engine 51 was transferred from Station 51 (1601 Underwood Ave) to Milwaukee Fire Department Station 35 (100 N. 64th St). The idea for this temporary pilot program came out of an informal discussion between WFD Fire Chief Case and MFD Chief Lipski. Both departments were looking for ways to transfer units and improve response times and this seemed like a great opportunity to test the system.

“As our requests for service continue to increase, we need to find creative ways to meet those demands with reduced resources and limited budgets” said WFD Fire Chief Jim Case.

MFD Station 35 is located just outside the city limits of Wauwatosa and provided us with better access to southeast portions of our city. After some hard work by staff on both sides of equation, WFD E51 was renamed Engine 55 and now operates 24/7/365 out of the MFD station. This move also allowed MFD to reopen and staff a previously closed fire station.

In 2023, this newly created engine company responded to over 2,000 calls for service including numerous building fires. We continue to monitor the data to make sure this program benefits both communities before deciding if this will be long-term move. Based on the information gained in 2023, we will continue this program again in 2024.



2023 INCIDENT TOTALS

Fire calls include building fire, car fires, and trash fires.

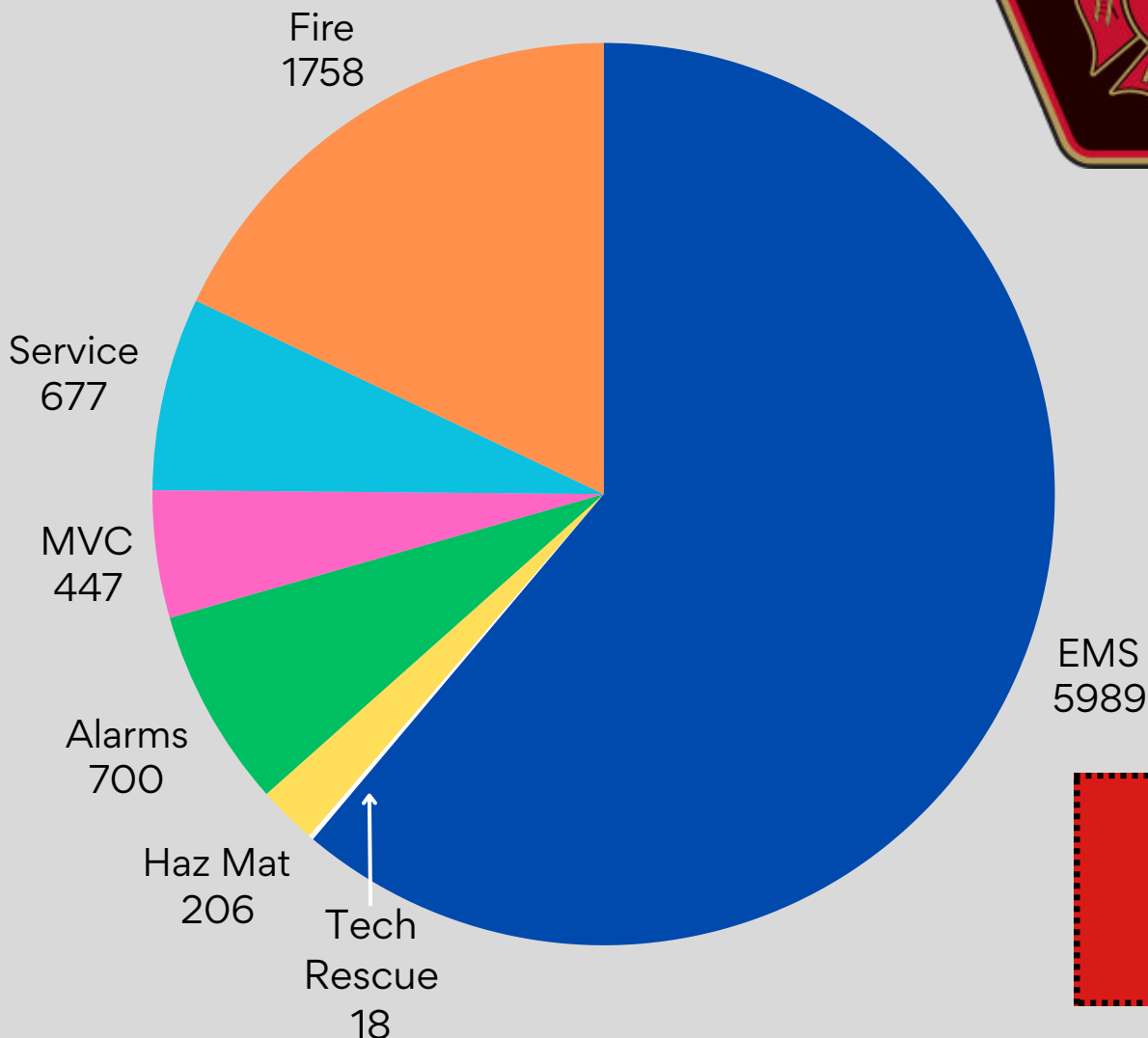
HazMat calls include gas leaks, wires down, carbon monoxide, and infectious disease

MVC - motor vehicle crashes

Service calls include lift assists, mutual aid, and home lock outs

EMS calls include all basic and advanced life support responses

Tech Rescue - Technical Rescue

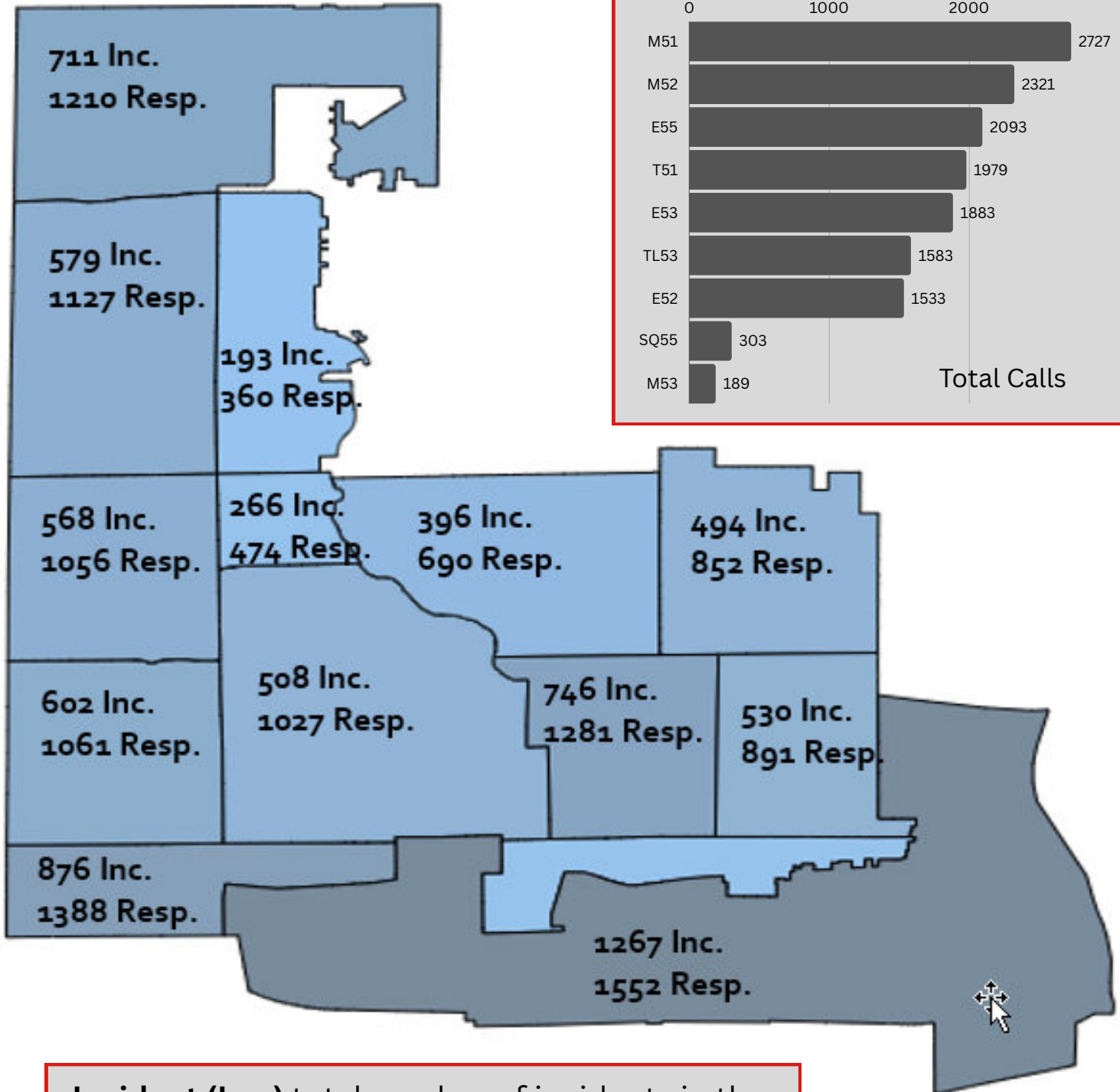


Total
9795

62% EMS Calls

18% Fire Calls

DISTRICT INCIDENT MAP UNIT TOTALS

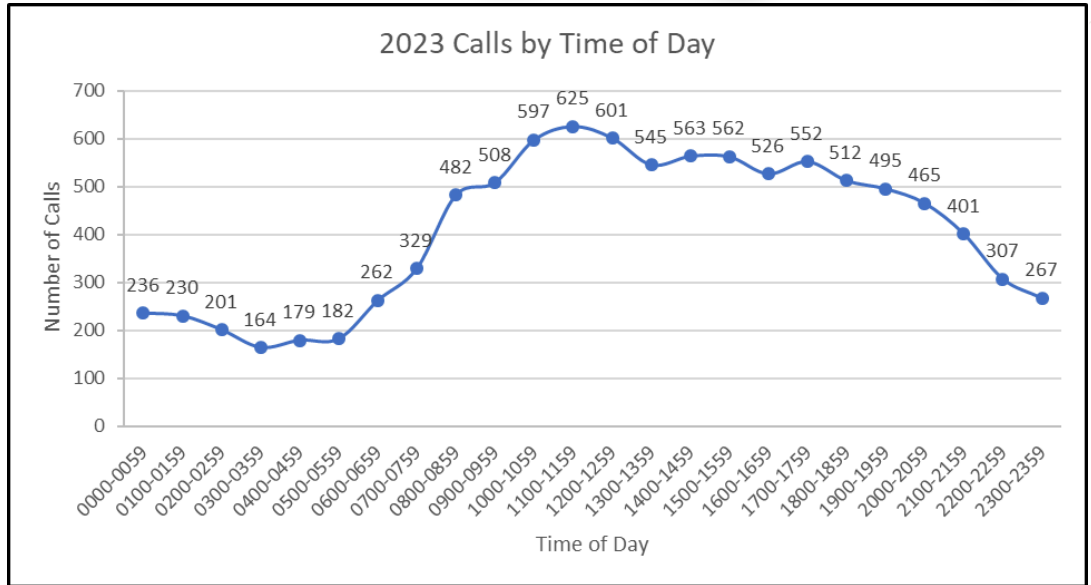


Incident (Inc.) total number of incidents in the district.

Response (Resp.) total number of unit response in the district.

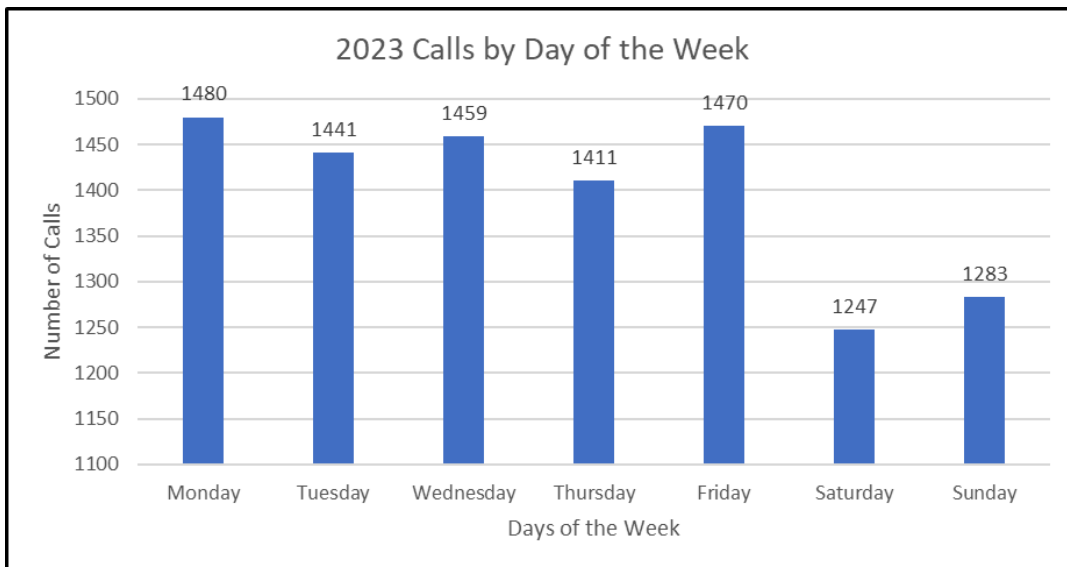
2023 CALL STATISTICS

**11 am
Busiest
Hour**



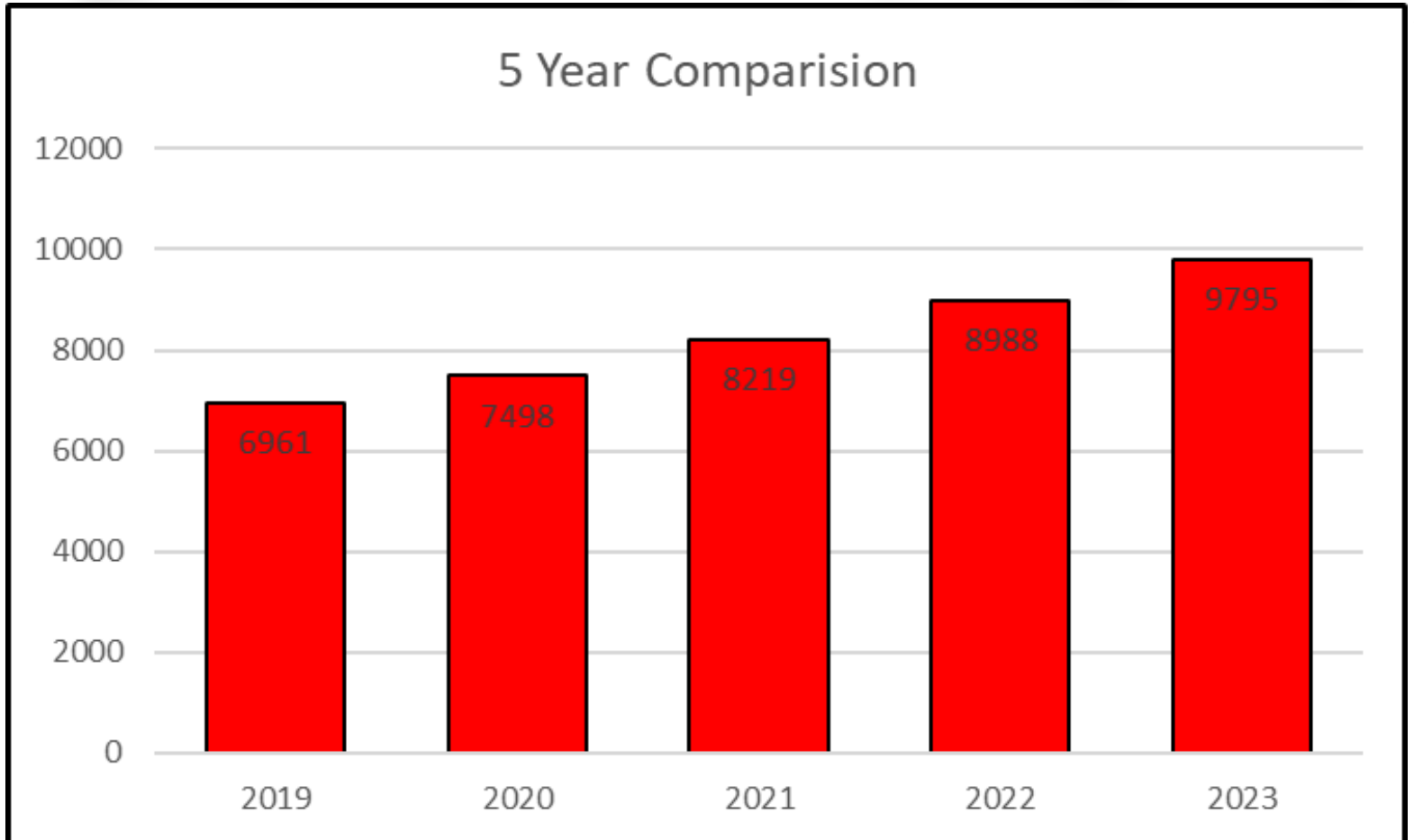
Station Call Totals	
Station	Calls
Station 51	5371
Station 52	3832
Station 53	3869
Station 55	2007

Crew Totals	
Crew 1	5070
Crew 2	4923
Crew 3	5086



**Monday
Busiest
Hour**

2023 CALL STATISTICS



41 % Increase Over 5 Years

SIGNIFICANT CALLS



Basement Fire: On March 5, 2023, at 1829 hours, the department responded to a structure fire at 635 North 78th Street. Upon arrival on scene there was smoke showing from the front door of a 2 story, single family residential building. The home occupant was out of the building and told fire crews that the fire was in the basement. Smoke filled the basement from ceiling to the floor upon entry. A hose line was stretched to the back door and advanced to the basement extinguishing the fire. A fire investigation determined the cause of the fire was most likely electrical in nature.



Assault with Weapon: On March 18, 2023, at 0353 hours, the department responded to a medical full assignment at 1025 West Laurel Court for a report of a vehicle that struck a house and unknown patients with gunshot wounds. Truck 51 arrived on scene and found an SUV in the front yard of a home with the engine running. Police officers were reporting two victims. T51 secured the vehicle and turned off the ignition. The structure of the home had moderate damage. Patient 1 was involved in the accident and had no obvious injuries. Patient 2 had an accidental self inflicted gunshot wound to the right thigh. Patient 2 was transported to the hospital.



SIGNIFICANT CALLS



Motor Vehicle Crash: On May 20, 2023, at 1321 hours, the department responded to the report of a subject struck by a vehicle at a car wash at 7240 West North Avenue. Subject was struck by a vehicle that reportedly had lost control and struck the building. The subject was pinned to the garage wall and suffered substantial leg injury. Patient care was provided and the patient was transported to the hospital.

Assist Police with a Suicidal Female: On July 13, 2023, at 1556 hours, the department responded to the report of a female subject threatening to jump off the third story of the mall parking garage located at 10600 West North Avenue. When arriving on scene, the female was sitting on the edge of the third floor. As police approached the patient went over the edge and was hanging by her arms. Police were able to hold her arms but unable to pull her back over. Fire department members were able to pull her back over using a ladder and haul system. The Patient was treated and transported to the hospital.



SIGNIFICANT CALLS



Shared Services Structure Fire: On July 22, 2023, at 0118 hours, the department was dispatched to a structure fire at 9724 West Melvina Road assist Milwaukee. Engine 52 on scene confirmed a working fire in a single family home, first floor, and attic fully involved. E52 entered the home for interior fire attack. At the same time the first floor window shattered and flames were rolling up the side of the building. Fire had burnt through the knee wall and through the roof. E52 knocked fire down. No occupants were found on scene after three searches.

Vehicle Extrication: On December 6, 2023, at 0801 hours, the department was dispatched for an auto extrication on US Highway 45. A pick up truck rear ended a box truck and the pick up truck was pinned underneath the box truck. Firefighters attempted to force the driver door open but was unsuccessful. The male driver was alert and squatting on the center console not complaining of any injuries. Extrication tools were used to remove the door. Patient was treated and transported to the hospital.





Shared Services

The Milwaukee County Suburban and City Fire Departments are now operating under a “shared service” protocol, marking the collaborative approach to better serve our communities.

Under this initiative, first responders will be dispatched based on proximity rather than municipal borders. This strategic shift ensures that the nearest available resources can respond promptly to emergency calls, emphasizing the critical importance of timely assistance in life-threatening situations. The focus is on providing swift and effective aid to those in need, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

Our shared services protocol is founded on the principle that when seconds matter, collaboration and proximity are key factors in delivering the highest standard of care. We believe that this approach will significantly improve our overall response times and contribute to the safety and well-being of the residents we serve.

This collaborative effort reflects the commitment of Milwaukee-area fire chiefs to prioritize the needs of our communities above all else. By working together seamlessly, we strengthen our collective ability to address emergencies swiftly and efficiently.

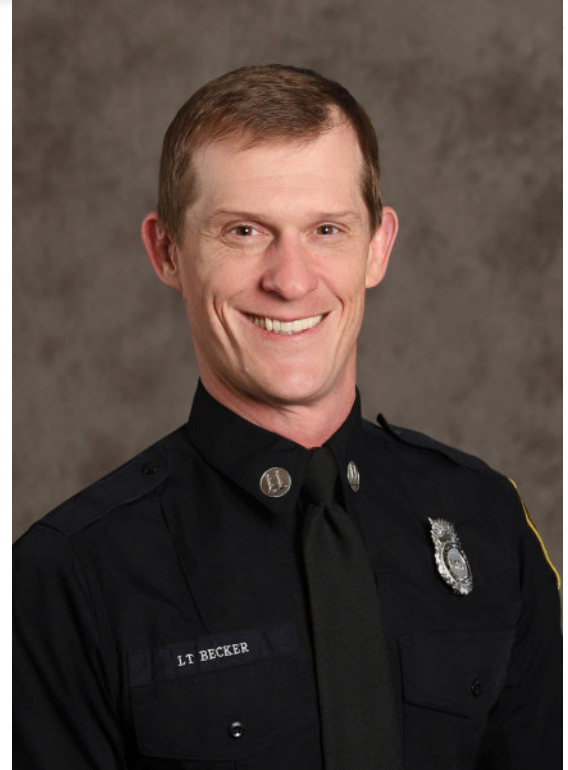


TRAINING DIVISION

Under the leadership of Assistant Chief Scott Erke, the Training Division comprises two distinct components: EMS Training overseen by Battalion Chief Chris Sandoval and Fire Training managed by Training Officer, Captain Ryan Becker. Throughout the year, the department conducts a diverse range of training sessions, incorporating classroom instruction, online modules, and hands-on exercises, often referred to as H.O.T. training.

The Wauwatosa Fire Department is fortunate enough to have a Fire Training Center (FTC) located on the Department of Public Works grounds. Within the FTC, we have a 5-story tower that facilitates live fire training, providing the opportunity practical experience. Additionally, we have creative repurposed several “conex” boxes, assembled into a 2-story complex, to simulate residential structures for training scenarios. Our FTC also includes a pole barn, used for various different exercises such as forcible entry training and window bailouts. There is a dedicated workout area utilized by our recruits during their academy training. Moreover, the FTC is spacious enough to accommodate junkyard vehicles, enabling us to conduct extrication training sessions.

*228 Firefighting
Training Hours
Required
Annually*



Training Officer Captain Ryan Becker



JFTA



*Recruit
Class 16-523
May 4 - June 23,
2023*



Wauwatosa Fire Department, typically, hosts one recruit academy annually. We refer to this as the JFTA, which stands for Joint Fire Training Academy. In 2023, the JFTA consisted of the following fire departments: Wauwatosa, West Allis, North Shore, St. Francis, and Milwaukee County Airport. The academy will last between 5-7 weeks, and during this time it is all hands on training, including live fire training. Upon graduation of the academy the recruits are then assigned to a station and crew. The recruits are then probationary firefighters for a period of one year. During their probationary period, they are issued “cycle assignments”; trainings/SOG’s/policies that they are required to complete and study. Every 3 months they are issued a written exam that will cover that assigned material. At 6 months they will also complete a “practical test” at the FTC. Once all the probationary firefighters are approaching the one year mark, all the JFTA departments return to the FTC and perform a “year on” practical test.

In 2023, The Wauwatosa Fire Department had 6 new recruits as part of the JFTA.

EMS DIVISION

The Wauwatosa Fire Department Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is overseen by Battalion Chief Christopher Sandoval. EMS is tasked with providing the highest standard of pre-hospital medical care in a rapid manner to all calls for service. The medical care delivered by WFD providers covers a wide range of care that includes simple assistance to cardiac resuscitation and all levels in between. Whatever level of medical care or assistance is required by our citizens and visitors, WFD paramedics and EMTs provide that care with both the utmost skill and respect for those we serve, without fail, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Battalion Chief Christopher Sandoval

WFD EMS operates out of 4 stations located in the City of Wauwatosa. Two additional ALS/BLS ambulances are in service staffed by two paramedics at all times. In addition to transport ambulances, all WFD fire apparatus are equipped to respond to medical emergencies independently or to assist the ALS or BLS ambulance with high acuity patients. The Wauwatosa Fire Department is dispatched by Wauwatosa Police Communications Center which utilizes Emergency Medical Dispatching to dispatch the closest and most appropriate EMS units while providing critical pre-arrival instructions to 911 callers.

WFD EMS also operates in partnership with the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) EMS Division and functions under the adopted county-wide EMS standards of care. This system allows for inter-agency cooperation and seamless care from community to community for those accessing the EMS system. WFD and MC OEM-EMS likewise partner to provide the required continuing education and certification maintenance to all EMS providers. WFD paramedics and EMTs operate under medical direction from the Medical College of Wisconsin supported by the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) EMS Division.

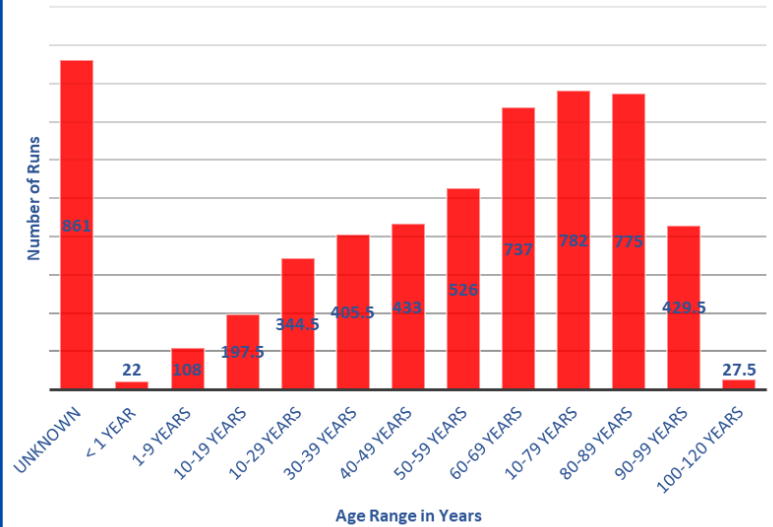


EMS CALL STATISTICS

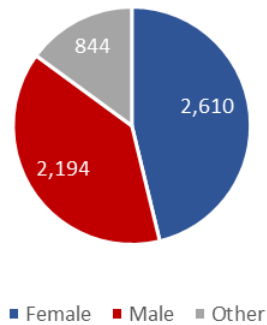
Common Types of EMS Calls

Breathing Problem	796
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	512
Falls	485
Sick Person	450
Traffic/Transportation Incident	368
Unconscious/Fainting/Near-Fainting	317
Unknown Problem/Person Down	250
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion	174
Medical Evaluation/Blood Draw/UA	168
Convulsions/Seizure	161
Hemorrhage/Laceration	155
Diabetic Problem	143
Stroke/CVA	118

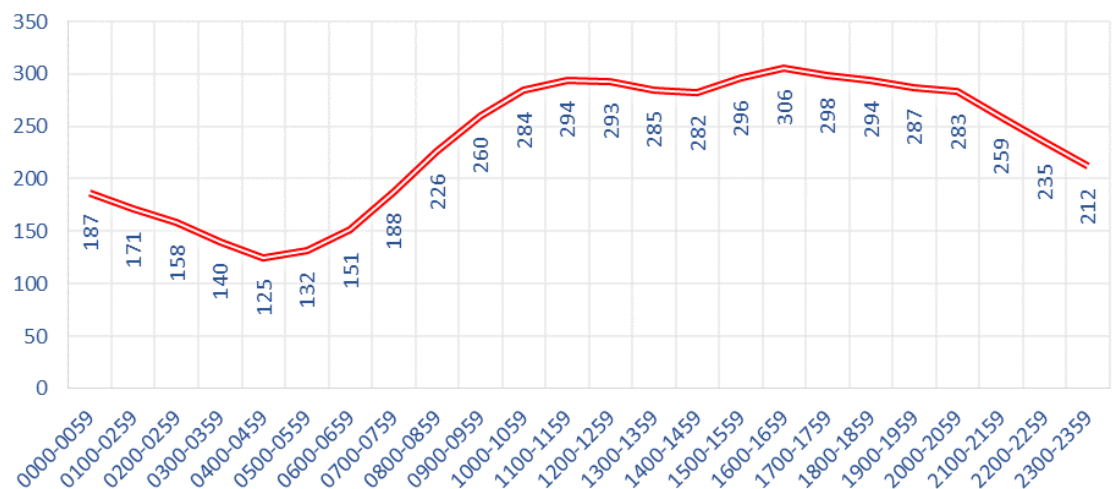
EMS Calls by Age



EMS Calls by Gender



EMS CALLS BY HOUR OF THE DAY



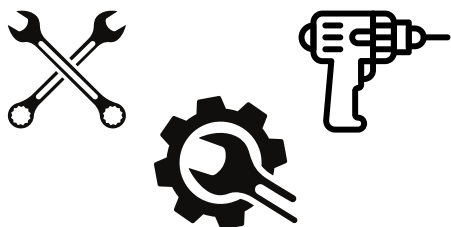
FLEET MAINTENANCE



Fire Mechanic Derek Kreuser

The Fleet Maintenance Division faced many challenges in 2023. In March, the fire mechanic left to pursue other opportunities. The search began to hire a new mechanic. The current job market made things difficult and we were without a fire mechanic for 6 months. During those 6 months Assistant Chief Scott Erke worked diligently to keep our apparatus on the road. Most repairs were outsourced but we also received help from Milwaukee Fire Department.

Finally, the search was over and we were able to hire a new Fire Mechanic. Derek Kreuser brings a wealth of expertise to our department. His professional career as a diesel mechanic spans back to 2010. Before joining our team, he attended Universal Technical Institute. He honed his skills working at Reliant Fire Apparatus, Inc. and holds a title of Pierce Master Technician. In addition to his mastery of Pierce Apparatus, he is certified in Waterous Pump and Genesis Extrication Tool.



Derek has been hard at work cleaning and organizing the shop area. He has invested in some updated tools so he can work more efficiently. A new preventative maintenance schedule for the fleet has been created, as well as, engaging with many new vendors. Upon his hiring, Office Manager Amy Rummel and Fire Mechanic Kreuser went right to work implementing a new asset management system complete with work order requests. The new system will be completed in 2024.



In 2023 expenses for vehicle maintenance were high. We experienced two critical engine failures and both apparatus needed new engines costing over \$40,000 each. On November 25, 2023, Tower Ladder 53 was driving north on Mayfair Road with its lights and sirens activated when a car pulled out in front causing an accident. All four firefighters were uninjured and able to provide emergency medical services to the driver of the car. The ladder truck incurred significant damages estimated at \$195,000.

NEW APPARATUS



Med 51 was built in 2023 by Horton Emergency Vehicles. The chassis is a medium duty International CV 4x2 with liquid springs to assist in providing a smooth ride for the patients during transport to the hospital. This Paramedic ambulance is equipped to treat and transport patients to the hospital. In addition to extensive life-saving medical equipment, this ambulance also is equipped with firefighting equipment.



The function of Battalion 5 is to serve as the Battalion Chief on duty and respond to major incidents in and out of the city. This vehicle is a command center on wheels when significant incidents occur. It is a 2023 Chevy Tahoe with extensive radio communications equipment capabilities, a computer for mapping and messaging, rescue task force equipment, meters for hazardous situations and a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for fire scenes.

NEW EQUIPMENT



UTV 56 is a 2023 Polaris Ranger equipped with four-wheel drive, a winch, a cot, and medical equipment that was fully funded with grant money. The unit is available and appropriate for a wide variety of emergent and non-emergency uses, which may include, but are not limited to:

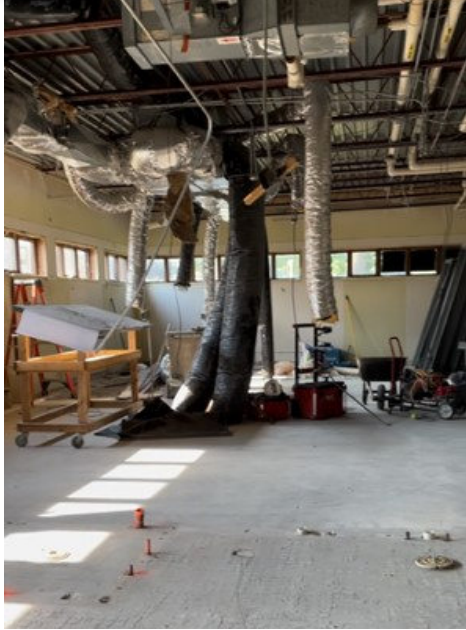
1. Off-road access and transportation of medical patients.
2. Transporting fire personnel and equipment to areas inaccessible by other fire apparatus
3. Supporting special events in the community



In 2023, WFD invested heavily in modernizing our ballistic protection for each firefighter and the medical equipment to save lives in the event of active shooter and active threat situations. The Rescue Task Force (RTF) concept consists of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Law Enforcement personnel who work together to provide medical care to victims and extract them from dangerous situations.

Part of the funds went to upgrading ballistic vests and helmets for all on-duty WFD personnel, similar to the protective equipment worn by law enforcement personnel. Another part of the fund went to improving the medical equipment in the aid bags and the evacuation tool to remove conscious and unconscious victims from hazardous areas. Overall, WFD personnel have far more capabilities to aid victims and more protection during threatening situations that happen all too often in our country.

REMODEL PROJECT



WFD received funding from the city for a remodel project at Stations 52 and 53. The majority of this renovation was paid for with ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) COVID funds. This project specifically targeted the main sleeping areas of both Stations 52 and 53, alongside the upgrading the bathrooms at Station 53. The objective was to improve the living conditions for the firefighters, ultimately promoting better physical and mental health.

Our main sleeping areas at these two stations consisted of one large dorm room with partial walls for the firefighters to sleep. During the COVID pandemic, we quickly realized the risk increased within the sleeping area. This remodel was to change the room design from one large room to individual sleeping rooms. The risk of infection and disease spread is significantly lower with this approach.



Sleep deprivation has been a longstanding concern among firefighters. This renovation addresses that issue, by creating a more conducive sleep environment by minimizing noise between emergency calls. Additionally, it offers a mental health benefit to our responders. Each member has their own space to sleep, decompress, study or talk to family while they are working their shift. Our firefighters spend 24-hour shifts doing a multitude of tasks. WFD now has individual sleeping rooms at all three of our stations.



The Station 53 remodeled also consisted of revamping the large men's bathroom and single person bathroom into five single unisex bathrooms. This is the trend in many fire departments. As you can imagine, firefighters live in the station for their shift and have need for showers due to the nature of emergency calls. Whether exposed to blood and germs on a medical call or smoke and soot from a fire call, the best thing firefighters can do for their own health and safety is take a shower as soon as possible.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



Assistant Chief Barbara Kadrach

The Community Risk Reduction Bureau, overseen by Assistant Chief Barbara Kadrach, has had a productive year. As Wauwatosa continues to experience ongoing development our Fire Inspectors are kept very busy with plan reviews and frequent site visits, ensuring compliance with fire codes. Prior to occupancy, inspectors also conduct an inspection to verify the proper functioning of all fire protection systems.



**Code Specialist
Daniel Schmocker**

Wauwatosa Fire Department's number one goal is to prevent an emergency. We do our best to educate the community to help them prevent the need to call for an emergency. However, we are always ready to respond with our highly trained firefighters and paramedics to help you when you call on us.



The Medical College of Wisconsin is building a cancer research building that will be the only one in Wisconsin. Total square footage will be 154,497 with 6 floors. Primary function research, labs, and office space. Two new skywalks will be built connecting this building. Completion in 2025

In addition to new development, our Fire Inspectors conduct routine inspections of every commercial property in Wauwatosa. to make sure the fire safety standards are being maintained. Annual inspections of apartment complexes are also completed by our fire crews.



**Code Specialist
Doug Spankowski**

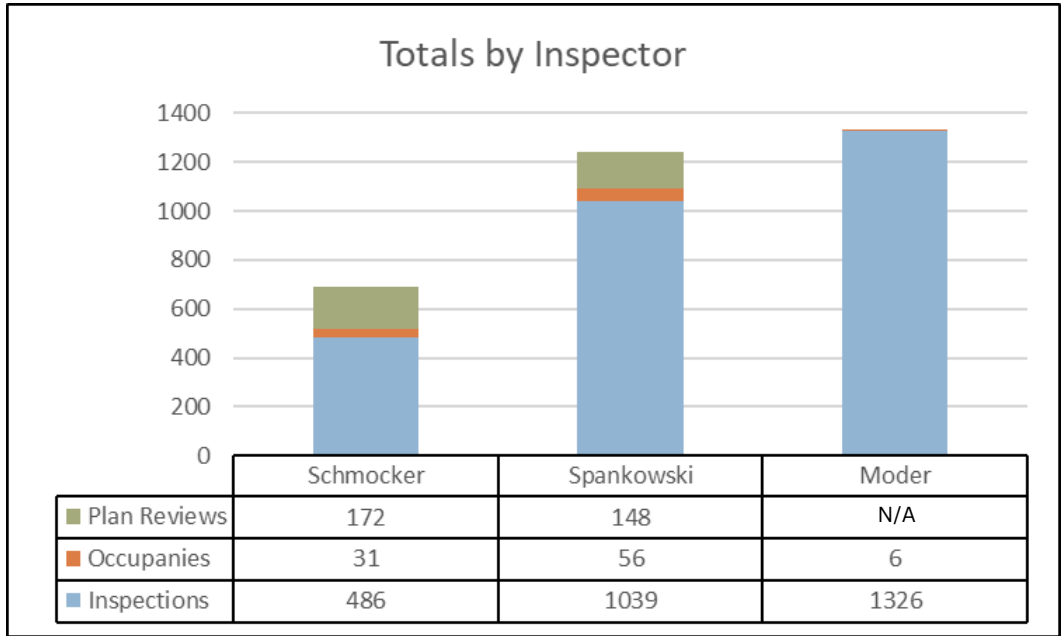


2929 North Mayfair Road Luxury Apartment Building - 5 Stories, 258 Units, enclosed parking and amenities



**Part Time Fire Inspector
Thomas Moder**

CRR STATISTICS

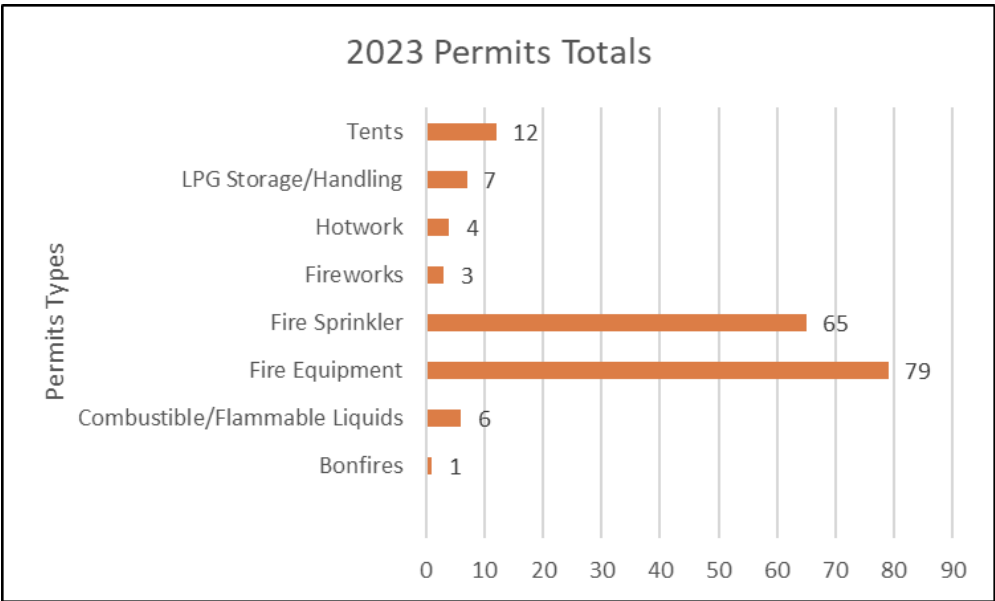
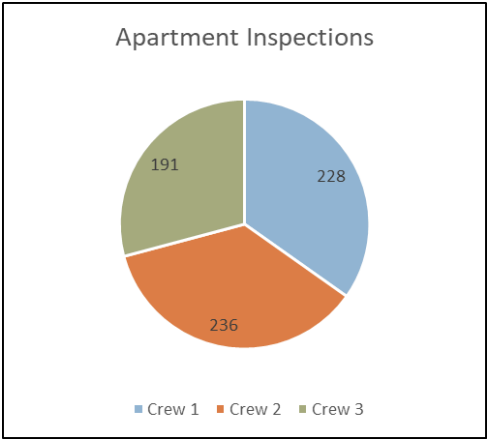


1372
Violations
Corrected

75 Pre-Plans Completed
6 Fire Investigations



177
Total
Permits



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We completed an internal analysis and decided to focus our programs on the greatest risk reduction impact to the community. At our current staff level and with the resources we have available, this meant changing the current programs offered.

The Wauwatosa Fire Department is still committed to engaging our community through a diverse array outreach programs. The following topics were discussed with many groups throughout the year, from senior citizen groups to pre-school children.

- Hands-Only CPR
- Fire Safety
- Fall Prevention
- Narcan Kits
- Fire Drills
- Smoke & CO Detector Installations
- Key-Safe Installations
- Special Events

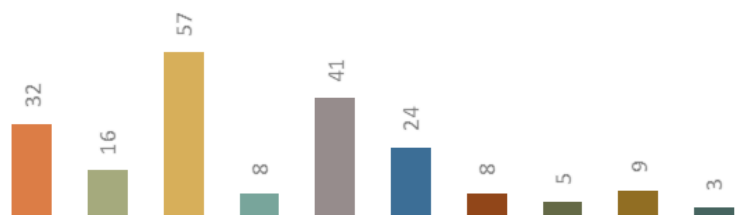


*147 Citizens
CPR Trained*



COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ■ Community Outreach Activity | ■ Block Parties |
| ■ Fire Safety Presentations | ■ Station Tours |
| ■ School Presentations | ■ Car Seat Install/Checks |
| ■ Miscellaneous PR Event | ■ Smoke Detector Installations |
| ■ Key Safe Installations | ■ CPR class (Includes Hands-Only CPR) |
| ■ Fire Drill Observed | |



16539 Pulse Point Users

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK COOKOUT

The Community Risk Reduction Bureau hosted a cookout for all City of Wauwatosa employees at Station 51 on October 9, 2023, during Fire Prevention Week. We had about 100 co-workers join us to enjoy burgers, brats, hotdogs, pasta salads, potato salads and more. Our fire inspectors tended to the grills, while the rest of us set up tables in the apparatus bay and had handouts on fire prevention topics, including carbon monoxide safety, exit drills, hands-only CPR and more.



For many of us, this was the first time meeting our fellow employees from different departments within the City. The departments represented were; police, dispatch, finance, administration, forestry, water, engineering, library, health, assessors, human resources, communications, public works, facilities, clerks, and fire. The cookout was made possible through Invest In People and donations. The star guest of the day was Jordan, the Facility dog who helps Fire and Police decrease stress from the events of their job. Jordan made sure no crumbs were left on the ground.



PEER SUPPORT

Traditionally, medical and physical fitness have been prioritized above emotional or behavioral health in the Fire Service. However, it is clear from the aftermath of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and other disasters that these priorities are now changing. With each passing year, research shows that fire personnel who balance physical, behavioral and emotional fitness have the best outcomes, whether one is looking at adjustment to becoming a fire fighter, ratings of career satisfaction, family well-being, or adjustment to retirement.

The stresses faced by fire service members throughout the course of their careers, incidents involving children, violence, inherent dangers of firefighting and other potentially traumatic events, can have a cumulative impact on mental health and well-being. Peer support programs have demonstrated to be an effective method for providing support to occupational groups, including fire fighters.



Part of the peer support program is the city's new facility dog, Jordan. Jordan is a three-year-old Labrador and her primary role is to provide emotional support to First Responders. She was donated to the city by Partners with Paws, an organization dedicated to raising and training service and facility dogs to assist individuals and improve their quality of life. Jordan spends her evenings with her primary handler Social Worker Kendall Wolter and most of her days at the Police and Fire Departments to help support them through difficulty, reduce stress, and provide a calming presence. We're so grateful to have her around.



Wauwatosa Fire Department is at the forefront of addressing Mental Health, PTSD, and Responder Safety. Our Peer Support Team is composed of professionally trained and certified specialists that are ready to help. We take mental health and the safety of our responders seriously. Our program is designed to help both our firefighters and their families through the challenges that life puts in front of them.

The Wauwatosa Fire Department has a few members trained for peer support. They have a support hotline and there is also a list of vetted Professional Therapists/Counselors/Social Workers that have been trained specifically for first responders to meet the needs of our members and their families.



***Mental
Health
Matters***



INTERN PROGRAM

During the 2023 year WFD had 11 Interns throughout the year. The Intern program has proven to be very beneficial to both the Interns and the department itself. The Interns are required to do one 8 hour shift every week (typically Mon-Fri). During this time they will be assigned to a station/apparatus and perform all the normal station duties, trainings and ride-a-long on the emergency calls. The department also sponsors the Interns to attend classes related to Fire/EMS at the technical colleges. Several Interns have been hired on full-time once they have obtained the certifications required and successfully made it through the interviews/evaluation process.



WELCOME



Tyler Wendt



Jennifer Feldmann



Erix Just-Perez



Matthew Rick



Edward Nevins V



Jackson Davis



Colten Brode



Christopher Riemer



Tyler Larsen

PROMOTIONS AND NEW HIRES

Promotions!

HEO Zachary Ruggirello - January 5, 2023

Battalion Chief Kurt Trevisan - March 20, 2023

Training Captain Ryan Becker - April 6, 2023

Lieutenant Gage Berg - August 8, 2023



New Hires

Firefighter Ryan Boehm - May 9, 2023

Firefighter Anthony Harmon - May 9, 2023

Firefighter Rachel Roth - May 9, 2023

Firefighter Zachary Thomas - May 9, 2023

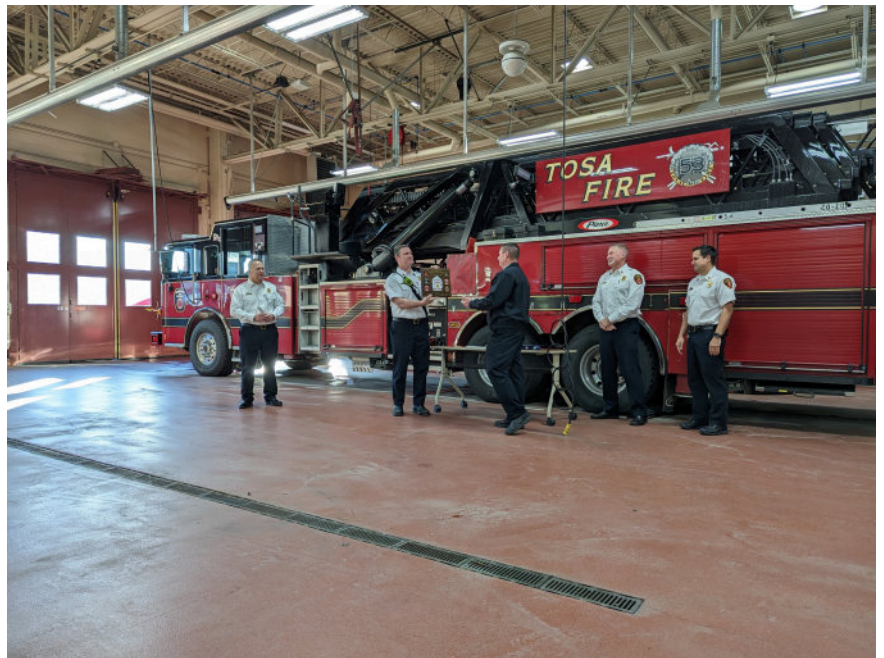
Firefighter Michael Timm - May 9, 2023

Firefighter Casey Zahorik - May 9, 2023

Fire Mechanic Derek Kreuser - September 5, 2023

RETIREMENTS

HEO Nichols Beaumont- September 20, 1999 thru January 5, 2023
Battalion Chief Robert Randow - May 29, 1990 thru February 2, 2023
Battalion Chief Stacey Lueptow - March 9, 1998 thru March 20, 2023
Firefighter John Doornek - April 24, 2006 thru September 5, 2023



Thank You For Your Service

