

Ross Township Fire Department



2021 Annual Report

Your Ross Township Fire Department... who we are and what we stand for

Our Mission

We are an organization of dedicated professionals whose Mission is to Save Lives, Protect Property, Protect the Environment, Provide the best possible service to the community, and to Treat People Nice.

Our Vision

The Ross Township Fire Department will be recognized as an agency that reflects best practices in delivering services to our community. We will demonstrate professionalism in all we do by pursuing and achieving our goals and continuous improvement in all duties and responsibilities, enhancing services our community trusts us to provide.

In honoring the community's trust, we will be well-trained and equipped to deliver quality departmental programs and services. We will foster improvement in infrastructure and asset protection, and resiliency by using strategies to support our delivery to the community. We will proactively engage with our community through outreach and community initiatives to support and educate those we serve.

We will invest in our greatest organizational asset through comprehensive workforce development initiatives and ensure that our department is appropriately staffed and professionally developed to accomplish our Mission.

Our community's expectations will be met or exceeded by holding one another accountable for carrying out our Mission, Living our values, and that this vision become reality.

Our Values

P – Professionalism, we will uphold a professional image by the way we look, act, and perform our Jobs.

R – Respect, we strive to promote diversity and treat each other and those we serve with integrity.

I – Integrity, we are accountable through our everyday actions and communications.

D – Dedication, we are committed to the Mission, our department, each other, and the community.

E – Excellence, we strive to achieve and maintain the highest service levels.

Our Motto

Be Professional, Be Adaptable, Be Nice

Chief's Message



I am pleased to present the Ross Township Fire Department's 2021 Annual Report. With more than 1500 calls for service, 2021 was the busiest year in our 100 year history. Recently, an alarming trend is the amount by which call volumes increase year to year. The amazing part is that we have continued to respond to these calls for help despite undergoing several staffing challenges.

While our primary focus is providing emergency services to the community, we also have worked on many proactive initiatives to serve and protect the community. These efforts include our Safe Seniors program. This program assists the community's elderly population in preparing for emergencies, as well as taking a proactive approach to safety and health before potential emergencies. The department also developed and implemented the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, which will help guide the department for the next five years.

Your Ross Township firefighters are in a unique position, and it is one they do not take lightly – often, the first time we meet, it is possible the worse day of your life. Your house caught fire, your loved one is suffering a medical emergency, you were involved in a serious traffic accident or any other number of tragedies. We have one chance to take care of you, and as our Mission indicated, we want to be the best. Because of the daily reality of our jobs, we value the positive, intentional, and proactive interactions we get to have with the community. One of our favorite programs that we have the privilege of doing is our annual fire prevention education program. During a week in September, our firefighters spent time with every school-age child at Elda Elementary and Ross Intermediate School. During Fire Prevention Week, more than 600 students were taught important fire and life safety lessons and messages like “stop, drop, and roll,” “stay low and crawl under smoke,” and the importance of wearing a seatbelt.

The Mission of the Ross Township Fire Department is to “save lives, protect property, protect the environment, provide the best possible service, and to treat people nice.” I am humbled to say that we proudly execute this Mission every day. I speak on behalf of our entire organization when I say that it is an honor to serve, protect, and partner with you!

Steve Miller, OFE
Fire Chief

Administration/Support Services

The Office of the Fire Chief and his supporting Command staff support the overall Mission of the RTFD by working diligently behind the scenes to accomplish the organization's administrative needs. As a priority, the department recognizes the need to be fiscally responsible with funds provided by our levies. In an attempt to offset capital improvement costs, the department has applied for and received several State and Federal Grants for equipment.



2021 Total Annual Fire Department Budget

- \$1,358,814.34

2021 Total Expenditures

- \$1,024,326.01

Personnel Expenditures (Wages, overtime, pension)

- \$843,984.06

Operations Expenditures (Electric, water, fuel, IT service)

- \$180,341.95

2021 Grant Funding

- \$41,385.32

2021 Capital Improvements

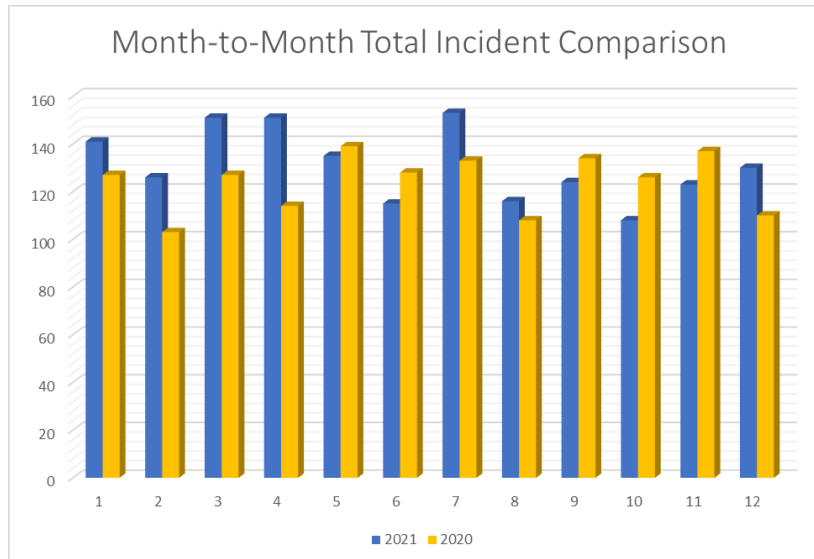
Placed New E-One Engines into service at both stations

Installed LED light in Station 102 apparatus bay

Motor Vehicle Crash equipment, Electric Extrication Tools, Thermal Image Cameras

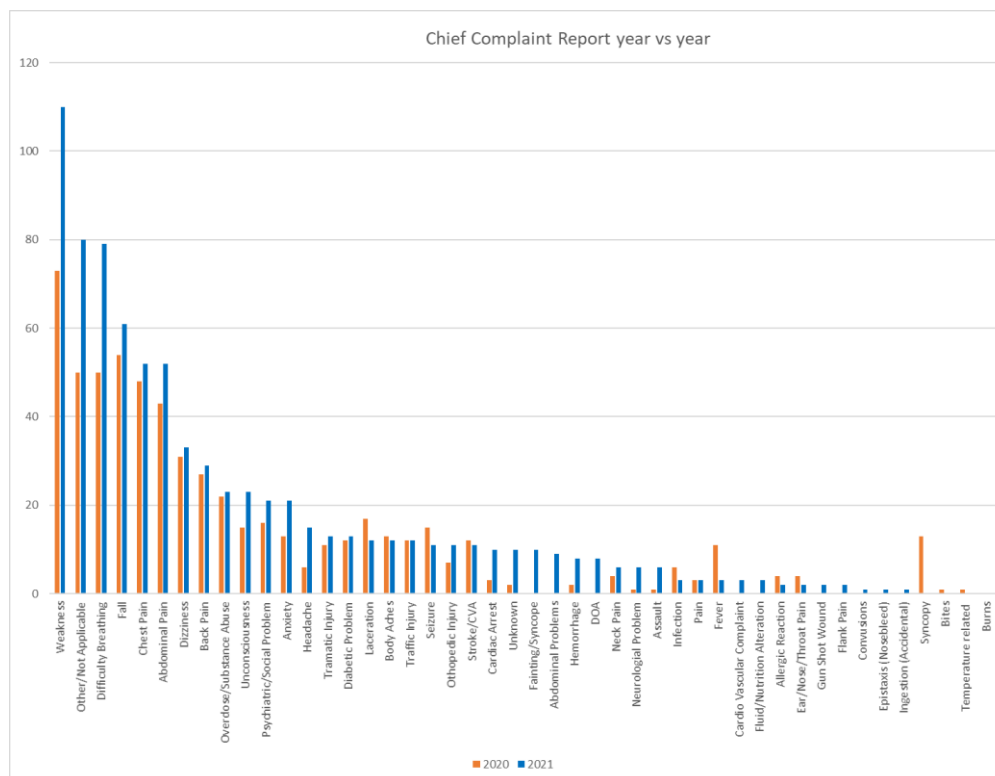
Operations/Suppression/EMS

2021 was a busy and exciting year for the RTFD. Emergencies responses continue to increase year after year. Some of this increase can be attributed to the current pandemic happening worldwide, although



the department has seen an increase in calls for service in almost all response categories. Throughout 2021 the department responded to 1553 calls for service. Calls for service increased 5% over 2020. Even more remarkable is calls for service have doubled in the last ten years; in 2011, the department responded to 746 calls for service. Even with this type of increase, the Ross Township Fire Department is committed to providing our community with the best possible service.

The department continues to see EMS activities at a more significant frequency than other incidents. In 2020, our paramedics responded to 833 medical emergencies, an increase of 11% over 2020 levels.

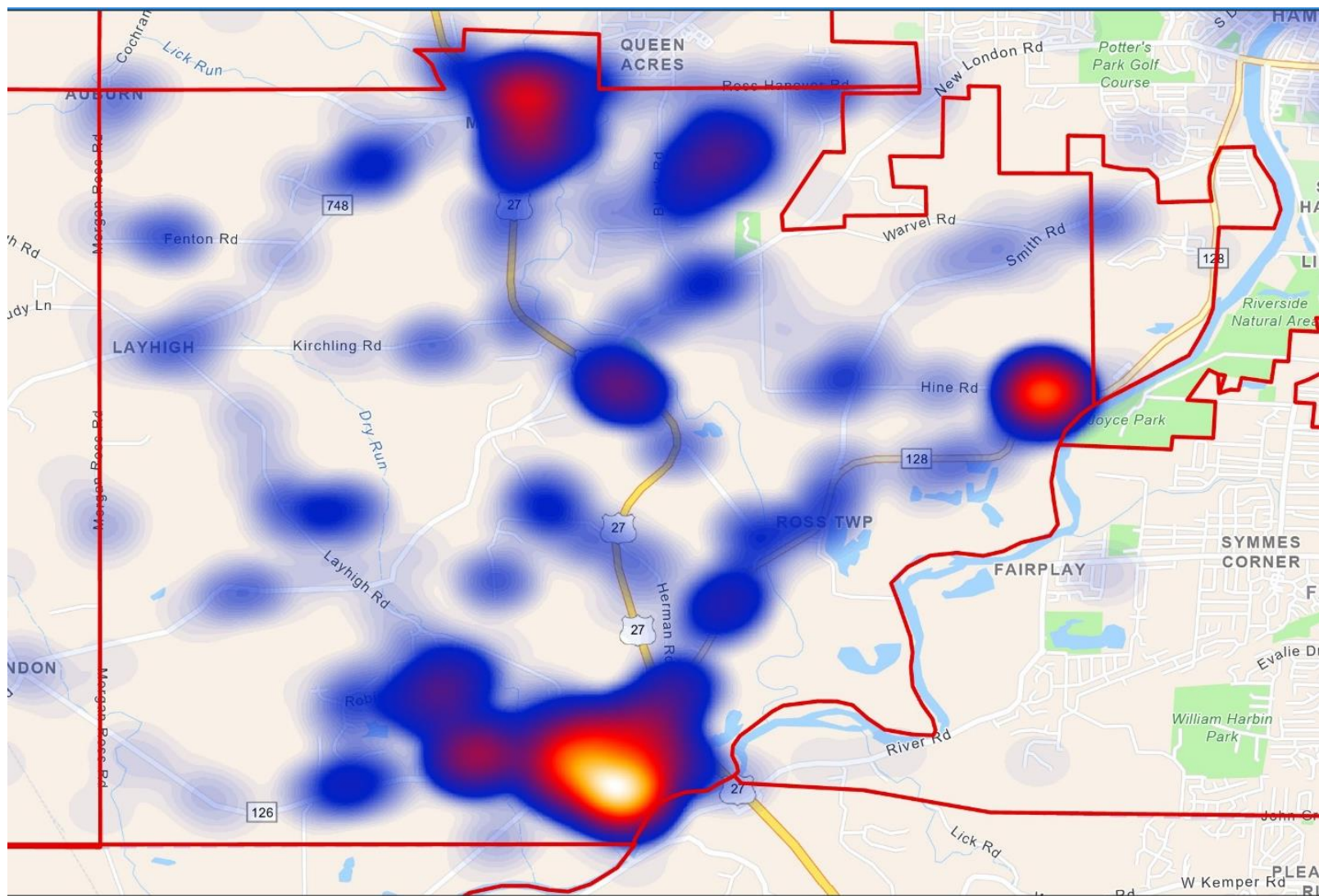


These medical emergency patients are provided with some of the most innovative prehospital medicine in the region. Our paramedics use advanced technology, medications, and advanced skills to offer the best emergency care to our patients.

Operations/Suppression/EMS.....(continued)

The Ross Township Fire department continues to provide the community with emergency services out of two strategically located fire stations near the neighborhoods generating the highest volumes of calls for service. These stations are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with highly trained professionals. The men and women who staff either firehouse continue to respond promptly to all emergencies. On average, our crews are on the way to an emergency in 92 seconds after receiving the call and arrive at the emergency location within 5 minutes of the initial 9-1-1 notification.

Heat Map or density of all emergency incidents within Ross Township



Operations/Suppression/EMS.....(continued)

The department responded to 58 structure fires throughout 2021. The majority of these calls (55) were to aid surrounding departments such as Morgan Township, Crosby Township in Hamilton County, and the City of Hamilton. Of the three structure fires that occurred in Ross Township and the Village of Millville, no one received any injuries, and the fires were brought under control quickly by responding fire crews saving 93% or \$356,310 of property.



2021 Major Incidents

January:

- A car driven off a bridge - one passenger rescued
- Butler County EMA support during mass vaccination

February:

- Smith Road Fire – Provided aid to St. Clair Township
- Wade Mill Road – Southwest RV fire, damage to 4 RV's
- Millville Ave Fire – 2-Alarm residential fire, City of Hamilton

March:

- Rocky hill Drive Fire – 2-acre woodland fire with multiple exposures
- Great Miami River - Crews rescue two persons from the river in Colerain Township
- Killen Power Plant Collapse - Personnel from RTFD assisted in the rescue operation

April:

- Baltimore Road Fire – Engine 101 first arriving crew at fire in Crosby Township

May:

- Great Miami River - Car in the river with the river rising, one person rescued

June:

- Ross Hanover Road Fire – Residential Fire with exposures
- Cincinnati Brookville Road Fire – Residential Fire
- Millville Oxford Road Fire – Engine 102 first arriving crew at fire in Hanover Township

Operations/Suppression/EMS.....(continued)

July:

- Campbell Lake Rescue – Crews assisted Harrison FD in the rescue of 2 people
- Bruce Drive Fire – Crews extinguished a residential fire caused by fireworks
- Hamilton Cleves Fire – 4-Alarm commercial fire in Whitewater Township
- Great Miami River Rescue – Crews rescue one person from the river in Whitewater Township
- Lakeside Drive Fire – 3 Alarm residential fire with Firefighter Mayday

September:

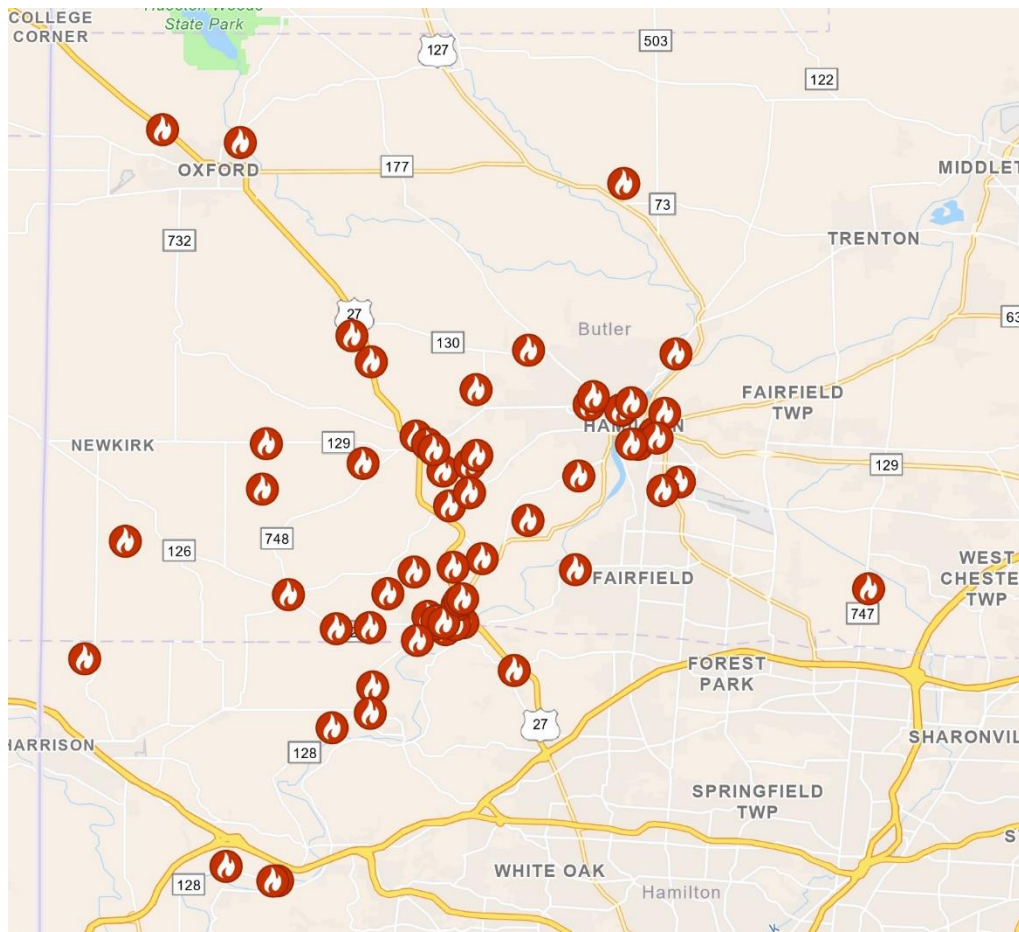
- Schuler Drive Fire – Residential fire
- Hurricane IDA – RTFD Personnel deploy to Louisiana for search and rescue operations

October:

- Millville Oxford Road Fire – 4 Alarm commercial fire in Hanover Township

November:

- North 9th Street Fire – 2 Alarm residential fire in The City of Hamilton
- State Line Road Fire – Residential fire in Morgan Township



RTFD Strategic Plan

This past year, the RTFD developed and adopted the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, a long-range plan for the delivery of emergency services. The Strategic Plan will act as a road map for the constantly evolving future. Below are some of the initiatives laid out within the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Initiative 1 – Exceptional, Innovative Service Delivery

In the last five years, the department has continued to see an increasing demand in calls for service, community outreach, and community risk reduction tasks. As the department adapts to the community's ever-changing needs, we must continue a holistic approach to be proactive, produce measurable results, and remain fiscally responsible.

Strategic Initiative 2 – Strong Adaptive Infrastructure

Our focus is to provide the necessary physical and technical infrastructure and services to support our strategic vision and operational readiness. This focus includes not only new stations, fleet, equipment, and technology for the anticipated growth during the coming years but also maintaining, remodeling, or replacing existing aging infrastructure.

Strategic Initiative 3 – Thriving Healthy

Our culture embraces the fire service traditions while positioning ourselves as leaders of progressive philosophies and tactics. We are continuing to evolve our culture within the fire service. Our goal is to direct that evolution over the coming years by defining and infusing our desires into everything we do, from hiring and promoting our personnel to the internal and external services we provide. We enjoy a loyal, professional, and highly trained membership that delivers quality services. In the coming years, we intend to strengthen our wellness initiatives to further reduce injuries and recovery time and provide more tools to our personnel to handle the job and life stresses, and improve overall mental wellness and job satisfaction. Leadership development and labor/management relations will be a priority.

Strategic Initiative 4 – Proactive, Strategic Communication

We desire a targeted, strategic approach to our methods of communication with our internal and external audience. We understand that it's not just the volume of the critical communication but also the quality and alignment with a clear purpose, such as safety themes, expanding knowledge, and supporting its Mission. Externally, we would like to be more proactive with media relations, be more in tune with our demographic's communications desires, and have a formal philosophy and strategy about how we market our organization. Internally, we want to increase the overall frequency and effectiveness of our communications.

Prevention/Education...an ounce of prevention

The Ross Township Fire Department's Prevention Division strives to improve the lives of Ross residents by preventing fires and reducing the impact in the event a fire does occur. How do we typically accomplish this?

- Inspections
- Responding to complaints regarding fire and life safety code violations
- Educational activities

One of the most rewarding and engaging ways we help prevent fires is to employ public education programs like Fire Safety Week. This program is extremely popular due to the positive, fun-filled experience in which students learn about fire and life safety. In 2021, the program was provided to approximately 625 Elda Elementary and Ross Intermediate School students.

Schools often contact us to schedule station tours in which the students see firsthand where firefighters live and work while on duty. We take every opportunity to give important fire and life safety tips. If your school, group, or organization is interested in scheduling a tour, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Fire Prevention Division at (513)863-3410.



Highlights for 2021

Our new E-one Engines were placed into service



Our personnel support the mission of the Butler County Health Department and Butler County EMA in the Distribution of the Covid-19 vaccination.

Dominic Bruno successfully obtained his Paramedic certification



Chief Miller received the Fellow Award



presented by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association

Welcoming new children this year

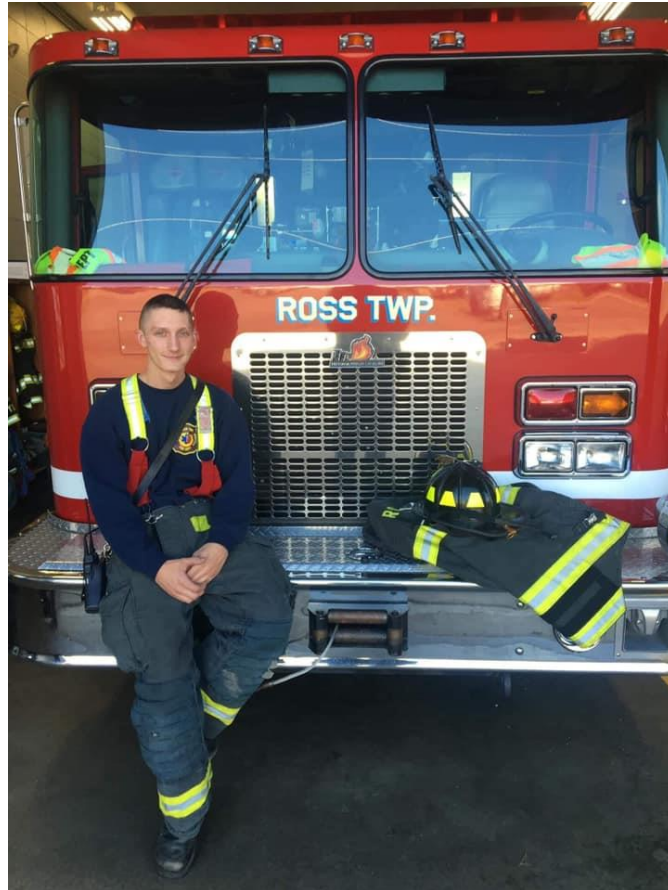
- Mike Allen
- Ryan Lucas
- Mike Brooks
- Buddy Jackson

Members receiving 5-year award for continuous service to the Ross Township Fire Department

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| - Lt. Rob Embry | - Lt. Scott Huston | - Eric Schaub |
| - Steve Fawns | - Mike Brooks | - Brandon Cable |
| - Paul Bromwell | - Evan Seeley | |

In Remembrance of our brother,

Brandon Sparks



"No Day shall erase you from the memory of time."

-Virgil