

# *Charter Township Of Kalamazoo*



## **2020 Annual Fire Department Report**

1720 Riverview Drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004 (269) 381-8080



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Fire Chief's Comments

We proudly submit this 2020 annual report for the Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department. As you review the details within this report, I believe that you will continue to share with me great appreciation for the pride, professionalism, accomplishments and actions of the personnel that make up our team.

Looking back at the fire department response statistics for 2020, we finished the year with a total of 2,359 emergency responses. This total represents both the ebb and flow of calls for service as well as the inclusion of 206 calls for service due to the continued implementation of a contracted fire department management and response agreement with the City of Parchment.

In January of 2020, the Township of Kalamazoo developed a closer working relationship with the City of Parchment by entering into a two-year renewable contract. The agreement merged the personnel management, training and general operations of the two departments. This agreement allowed our emergency responders to better align training, response readiness and provide for a more effective resource for the residents of the City of Parchment and Kalamazoo Township.

We continue to actively participate in several collaborative efforts and organizations such as the fire chief associations of: Kalamazoo County, Western Michigan, and Michigan. We also participate with the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team and Kalamazoo County Fire Investigation Response Team. This concept allows for the sharing of information, ideas and resources between departments and communities to reduce the cost of providing services, while still providing a quality and reliable response to the needs of our citizens.

In 2020, fire department management, officers and responders continued to meet on a regular basis to assess our daily operations, emergency response capabilities and overall member wellness. One of the more noticeable accomplishments was the team effort needed to adapt fire department operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Through this process, many actions and initiatives were taken to strengthen the response capabilities of our department as well as provide for the safety and health of our emergency responders, their families and the residents of our community.

Community involvement remained a high priority with our fire department members. Unfortunately, it was severely limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our hope that we can reestablish our interactions with the public and continue to support the many school, sport and community events as we move into mid and late 2021.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fire Chief’s Comments .....	2
Table of Contents .....	3
Fire Department Program Descriptions .....	5
Fire Department Management .....	5
Emergency Response .....	5
Fire Prevention and Investigation .....	6
Fire Department Training .....	6
Fire Department Maintenance .....	7
Firefighter Utility Position .....	7
Township Manager.....	8
Fire Commissioner.....	8
Fire Chaplain.....	8
Emergency Response Analysis .....	9
Calls by Station .....	9
Assists between Stations and Time of Calls.....	10
Ten Year Comparison .....	11
Types of Calls .....	12
Initial Aid Summary .....	13
Mutual Aid Summary .....	14
Fire Loss Summary .....	15
Fire Department Apparatus and Facilities .....	16
Station 1 (Northwood) .....	16
Station 2 (Eastwood) .....	18
Station 3 (Lakewood) .....	20
Station 4 (Westwood) .....	21
Apparatus Fleet Status .....	23
Equipment Inspection, Testing and Maintenance .....	24
Capital Purchases .....	25
Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement .....	26
Training .....	27



# ***2020 ANNUAL REPORT***

---

Inter-Governmental Cooperation.....	28
Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team .....	28
Kalamazoo County Fire Investigator Response Team .....	28
Appendix.....	29
Years of Service .....	29
Organizational Chart .....	30



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Fire Department Program Descriptions

The fire department is managed by categorizing certain aspects of its operation into sections and assigning a point of contact that is responsible for the management of that section. All personnel assigned a section of responsibility coordinate the management of that program with the fire chief. Each section is identified below along with a description of its area of responsibility.

**Fire Department Management** – The Fire Department Management section is made up of our seven full-time fire department personnel and consists of the fire chief, deputy fire chief, two battalion chiefs, fire marshal, fire department maintenance supervisor and utility firefighter.

The management section is responsible for the annual budgeting of programs and resources by setting program priorities, department goals and the coordination of constructive efforts between the fire department management section and all fire department personnel.

**Emergency Response** – The Fire Department Emergency Response section is managed by our Fire Department Management team and is responsible for maintaining a cost effective, reliable and diverse quick-response network of trained personnel and strategically placed fire department vehicles and equipment. The Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department responds to all calls for service such as medical and fire emergencies, as well as non-emergency calls for service such as arcing electrical wires and carbon monoxide alarm activations. The Township of Kalamazoo maintains four fire stations (Northwood, Eastwood, Lakewood and Westwood) and staffs all stations with the exception of Lakewood with a minimum of one firefighter/driver twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Emergency response to the Lakewood neighborhood is provided under written agreement by the Comstock Township Fire Department, which operates and responds in the same manner as the Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department.

The Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department relies heavily on paid on call personnel for response to all calls for service. In 2020, we averaged about fifty paid on call personnel on the roster. The paid on call personnel are assigned to one of the staffed stations and follow a geographically assigned area for response purposes. The paid on call roster includes assigned duties to selected individuals that appoint them as officers, which is an essential function of personnel management and emergency scene command and control. This concept of paid on call firefighters has proven to be a cost-effective way to utilize only the necessary amount of personnel to handle the type and nature of emergency. The paid on call personnel receive township board approved hourly pay rates only for the emergency responses, scheduled on call time covering one of the staffed stations (fire apparatus driver), scheduled fire department training and special activities such as station maintenance that they attend.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Fire Department Program Descriptions (continued)

**Fire Prevention and Investigation** – The Fire Prevention and Investigation section is managed by our State of Michigan certified full-time fire marshal. The fire marshal is responsible for coordinating all fire prevention activities in the Township of Kalamazoo as well as coordinating all necessary fire investigations with the Township of Kalamazoo Police Department.

Our Fire Prevention and Investigation program includes new and existing facility fire safety inspections, public safety education programs, construction plan reviews, management of our Knox brand secure key access program for all apartments and non-residential facilities, fire ordinance compliance and the tracking and updating of hazardous materials used by facilities.

The fire marshal is also an active participant with the Juvenile Fire Setter Program and Fire Investigation Response Team, both programs organized as a collaborative effort with the Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association.

**Fire Department Training** – Our Fire Department Training section is managed by our assigned department training officer as an additional duty. The training officer is responsible for the planning, scheduling, documentation and coordination of the delivery of our fire department training program to all fire department members.

Our training program is designed to train and maintain a competent roster of emergency responders. Our training program covers a wide range of subjects relating to firefighting, medical emergencies, rescue, hazardous materials, firefighter safety and other response related topics. Our training schedule is driven by State of Michigan requirements as well as local response needs and hazards.

All of our personnel are required to obtain and maintain as a condition of employment, State of Michigan certification as a Medical First Responder and Firefighter I/II. All personnel are also required to maintain a current cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) certifications from a nationally recognized organization.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Fire Department Program Descriptions (continued)

**Fire Department Maintenance** – Our Fire Department Maintenance section is managed by our Emergency Vehicle Technician certified full-time fire department maintenance supervisor. Our fire department maintenance supervisor is responsible for the inspection, maintenance, testing and documentation of our fire department vehicle fleet and assigned equipment as well as general grounds maintenance at our fire stations.

Our fire department maintenance program is designed to maintain our assets in a ready and reliable configuration while minimizing the maintenance down time of our equipment. Our maintenance supervisor develops and executes a detailed annual proactive preventative maintenance and inspection schedule in an attempt to minimize the costly reactive maintenance mindset. Our maintenance program also ensures that all required third party safety inspections of our vehicles are scheduled and documented. As an associated tasking to the vehicle preventative maintenance program, our maintenance supervisor makes repairs to our vehicles in-house when possible, reducing the down time of the vehicles as well as reducing our overall maintenance budget by reducing costs associated with contracted maintenance.

In addition to vehicle maintenance, our maintenance supervisor also manages the inspection, maintenance and documentation of our powered equipment such as saws, generators and vehicle mounted equipment. As an additional duty, our maintenance supervisor is responsible for larger exterior maintenance projects at our fire stations such as snow plowing and parking lot maintenance.

**Firefighter Utility Position** – The Utility Firefighter position was added as a full-time position in 2019. The position was designed and implemented to provide assistance in many different areas within the fire department operations. Some of the main examples of work associated with this position are the covering open driver shifts at the fire stations, performing maintenance and inspections of vehicles, equipment and facilities and to respond to emergency calls for service.

This position has allowed for a more consistent staffing level and became an effective measure to allow for other fire department staff to better focus on their assigned duties. As the priorities and nature of work were established, this position became a more fluid and in-depth asset that worked to complete larger maintenance projects and assist with the logistical function within the fire department.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Fire Department Program Descriptions (continued)

***Township Manager*** – The Township Manager is a board-appointed position created to oversee the day to day operations of the Township. The Township Manager supervises all department heads and employees, acts as the chief administrative officer of the township, personnel director and purchasing agent. The Township Manager is also responsible for preparing and administering the annual budget. Township Manager Dexter Mitchell remained the Township Manager for 2020.

***Fire Commissioner*** – The Fire Commissioner is a township board member that is appointed by the township board. The Fire Commissioner acts as a liaison between the township board and the fire chief in regards to fire department operations, response and budgeting. Township Supervisor Donald Martin remained the Fire Commissioner for 2020.

***Fire Department Chaplain*** – The Fire Department Chaplain position was added in September of 2017. As with many other local police and fire organizations, the need to have a good working relationship with a chaplain *before* a time of need was identified. Working with the Missional Chaplains Program located in Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Township joined a program that provides an always available chaplain resource to many public safety agencies in Kalamazoo County. This resource provides for many aspects of employee assistance and support to include spiritual and personal counseling to department members and their families as requested. Fire Department Chaplain Ken Smeader remained the Fire Chaplain for 2020.





# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Emergency Response Analysis

In 2020 the Department responded to a total of 2,359 incidents. 1,891 being rescue related, and 468 being fire related.

### Calls by Station

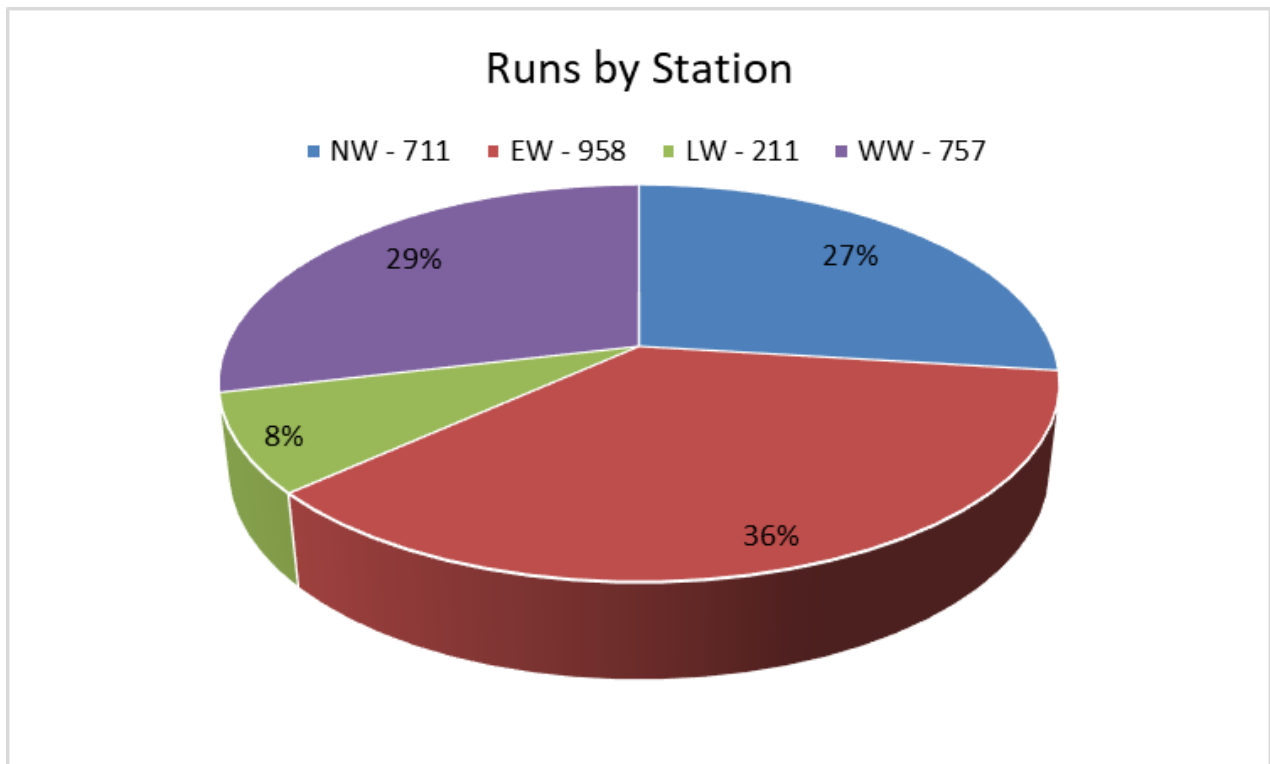
Station # 1= 711 / 542

Station # 3= 211 / 211

Station # 2= 958 / 877

Station # 4= 757 / 729

With Assists / Without Assists





# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

### Northwood

#### responding to:

Eastwood = 91  
Westwood = 66  
Lakewood = 12

### Eastwood

#### responding to:

Northwood = 27  
Westwood = 0  
Lakewood = 54

### Westwood

#### responding to:

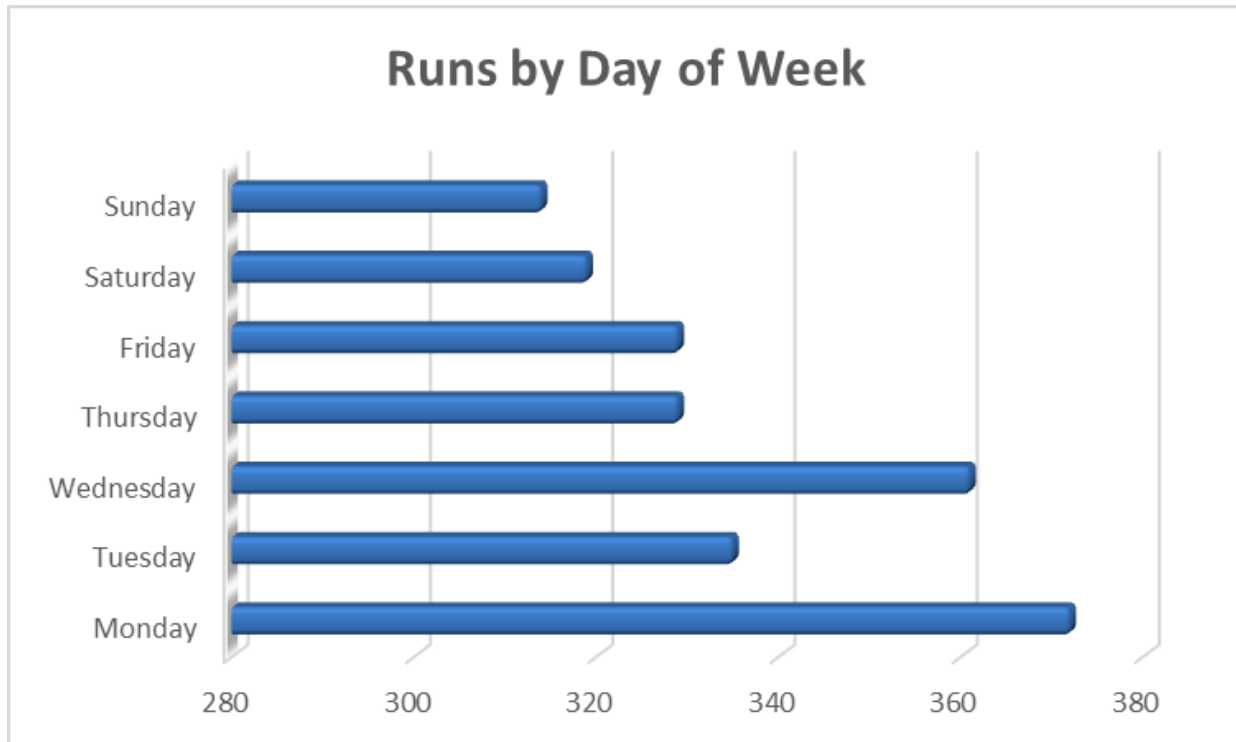
Northwood = 28  
Eastwood = 0  
Lakewood = 0

### Day of Week

Monday = 372  
Tuesday = 335  
Wednesday = 361  
Thursday = 329  
Friday = 329  
Saturday = 319  
Sunday = 314

### Time of Day

00:00 – 03:59 = 253  
04:00 – 07:59 = 212  
08:00 – 11:59 = 429  
12:00 – 15:59 = 539  
16:00 – 19:59 = 518  
20:00 – 23:59 = 408





# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

In the past 10 years, demands for service of the fire department have been increasing, with a 65% increase in rescue, 33% increase in fire and a 58% increase in total calls for service when compared to 2011.

	Calls for Service	Fire Related	Rescue Related	Assists Between Stations	Mutual Aid Given
<b>2011</b>	1,494	351	1,143	173	103
<b>2012</b>	1,681	444	1,237	151	126
<b>2013</b>	1,667	451	1,216	132	133
<b>2014</b>	1,777	447	1,330	186	106
<b>2015</b>	1,792	463	1,329	183	116
<b>2016</b>	1,899	306	1,593	180	128
<b>2017</b>	1,809	393	1,416	192	159
<b>2018</b>	2,029	412	1,617	228	158
<b>2019</b>	2,515	476	2,039	255	361
<b>2020</b>	2,359	468	1,891	278	362

	Total FF Responses	Average Cost Per Call	Average FF's per call
<b>2011</b>	9,513	\$111.04	6.4
<b>2012</b>	10,402	\$107.57	6.2
<b>2013</b>	10,494	\$109.31	6.3
<b>2014</b>	11,414	\$114.37	6.4
<b>2015</b>	11,454	\$114.37	6.4
<b>2016</b>	11,366	\$107.56	5.9
<b>2017</b>	11,325	\$112.30	6.1
<b>2018</b>	12,745	\$113.46	6.1
<b>2019</b>	15,104	\$113.46	6.1
<b>2020</b>	16,094	\$125.99	6.6



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

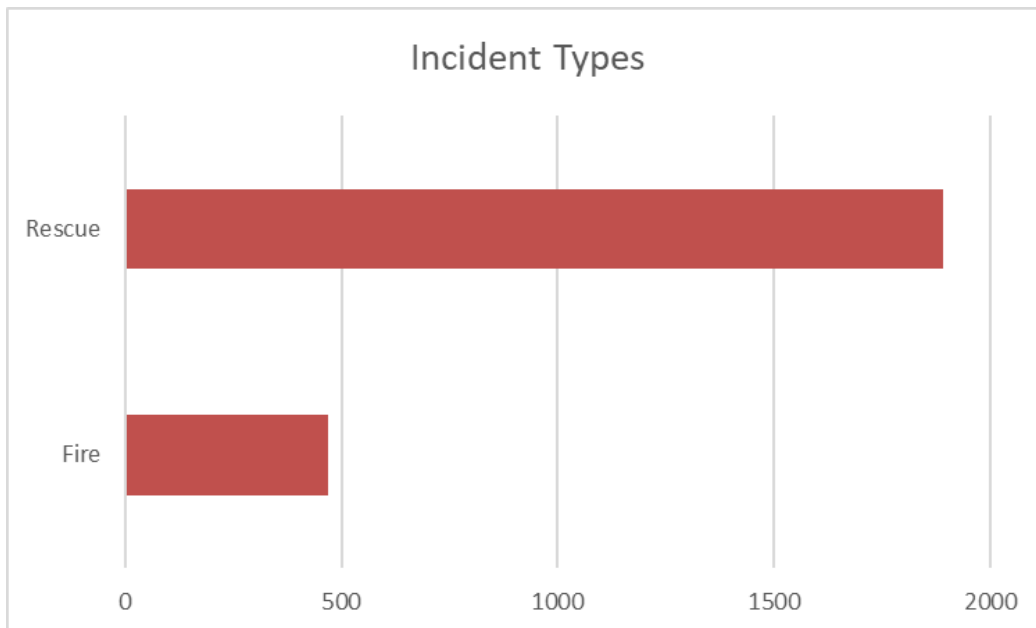
The following is a breakdown of the calls by type and frequency for 2020

### Rescues

Abdominal Pain = 22	Aid Given – Medicals = 25	Allergic Reaction/Stings = 12
Altered Mental Status = 140	Animal Bite = 5	Assault = 22
Assist Police = 3	Attempt Suicide = 13	Back Pain = 15
Breathing Problem = 360	Burns = 0	Cancelled en Route = 94
Carbon Monoxide Call = 16	Cardiac Arrest = 29	Chest Pain = 177
Choking = 6	Convulsions/Seizure = 102	Diabetic Problem = 32
EMS Alarm = 61	Eye Injury = 1	Fall = 148
Head Injury/Pain = 16	Heat Exhaustion = 0	Hemorrhage = 36
Lift Assist = 44	Motor Vehicle Accident = 133	Nothing Found/Arrival = 39
Overdose/Poisoning = 32	Pregnancy/OB = 6	Psychiatric Problems = 15
Sick Person = 88	Stab/Gunshot Wound = 10	Stroke = 42
Unconscious = 52	Unknown/Person Down = 86	Welfare Check = 9

### Fires

Aid Given – Fires = 114	Aid Given – Move-Ups = 17	Burning Complaint = 49
Dumpster Fire = 6	Elevator Rescue = 2	Fire Alarm = 91
Forcible Entry = 3	Gas Leak = 24	Grass/Brush Fire = 6
HazMat = 2	High Angle Rescue = 0	Smoke Investigation = 57
Structure Fire = 24	Vehicle Fire = 10	Water Leak = 3
Wires Down/Arcing = 60		





# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Initial Aid Summary

The Township of Kalamazoo has active Initial Aid agreements with the cities of Kalamazoo and Parchment as well as the townships of Oshtemo and Comstock to provide residents with higher levels of service than each municipality could provide on their own. These levels of service are provided automatically with the receipt of the alarm to provide for immediate response in conjunction with these other agencies as follows:

Comstock Township runs all emergency calls in the Lakewood area and provides an Engine on all calls of Smoke, Fire, or Smell of Gas inside of a structure in Eastwood's district. In return, Kalamazoo Township provides a ladder truck for Comstock's commercial and multi-story residential structures.



The City of Kalamazoo provides a Ladder Truck to Kalamazoo Township when there is Smoke, Fire, or Smell of Gas inside of a multi-story residential, or commercial structure. In return Kalamazoo Township provides an Engine for the Northwest section of the City of Kalamazoo, a ladder truck to certain structures in the Northeast corner of the City of Kalamazoo, and an Engine to cover City Station 45 on all second alarm fires in the City of Kalamazoo.

Oshtemo Township provides an Engine on all calls of Smoke, Fire, or Smell of Gas inside of a structure in Westwood's district. In return, Kalamazoo Township provides an Engine for the same calls in the Northeast section of Oshtemo's district.



The City of Parchment and Kalamazoo Township entered into an agreement in which Kalamazoo Township responds to all calls for service in the City of Parchment to assist with equipment and staffing. This agreement began in January of 2019.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Mutual Aid Summary

The Township of Kalamazoo also has Mutual Aid agreements with all municipalities in Kalamazoo County to provide assistance when requested, and in return those municipalities will provide assistance to the Township of Kalamazoo when requested. These requests are not automatic with the receipt of the alarm like Initial Aid; however, these requests are made at any point during the response to an incident, or while at an incident scene.

The following table is a combined list of Initial Aid and Mutual Aid responses between the Township of Kalamazoo and other municipalities. The Township gave aid a total of 362 times, and received aid 295 times as outlined below:

	Oshtemo		Comstock		KDPS		Cooper		Parchment	
	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received
January	4	3	6	24	0	3	1	0	16	0
February	3	1	5	31	1	2	0	1	16	0
March	3	1	3	17	1	0	2	0	17	0
April	4	2	5	11	3	3	1	0	18	0
May	4	1	7	21	4	1	1	0	18	0
June	5	0	6	13	9	1	0	0	24	0
July	3	2	5	24	1	1	3	0	25	0
August	4	4	1	17	2	3	5	0	19	0
September	8	3	7	20	2	1	1	0	17	0
October	10	2	6	28	3	0	1	0	10	1
November	5	2	1	24	0	1	0	0	15	1
December	5	1	5	22	1	2	1	0	8	0
Totals	58	22	57	252	27	18	16	1	203	2

\*In addition to the above chart, the Township of Kalamazoo also assisted Richland Township one time.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Fire Loss Summary

There were 26 responses in 2020 with an associated loss caused by smoke and/or fire damage. Those 26 “loss fires” totaled \$3,441,200 in lost property and contents, and are listed individually below:

Incident #	Date	Location	Fire Type	Est. Property Loss	Est. Content Loss	Total Est. Loss
290	2/15/20	2805 Lake	Structure Fire	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 300,000
302	2/17/20	3817 Phillips	Kitchen Fire	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 11,000
334	2/22/20	2903 Old Farm	Mattress Fire	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
471	3/15/20	1912 Mount Olivet	Porch Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
546	3/29/20	805 Edison	Vehicle Fire	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
773	5/3/20	Bixby & Junction	Vehicle Fire	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ 1,100
1163	6/28/20	2204 Ravine	Vehicle Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1259	7/14/20	418 Coolidge	Trash Can Fire	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
1276	7/16/20	333 Turwill	Vehicle Fire	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ 3,500
1358	7/26/20	2120 S Sprinkle	Vehicle Fire	\$ 1,200	\$ 250	\$ 1,450
1361	7/27/20	311 N Kendall	Vehicle Fire	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
1390	8/2/20	2300 N Burdick	Semi-Trailer Fire	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
1412	8/5/20	3004 S Kendall	Kitchen Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1446	8/9/20	1733 W Main	Kitchen Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1523	8/19/20	2424 Texel	Kitchen Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1630	9/1/20	236 W Dunkley	Vehicle Fire	\$ 3,000	\$ 500	\$ 3,500
1735	9/16/20	1451 Red Maple	Structure Fire	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 17,000
1769	9/20/20	101 Merriweather	Kitchen Fire	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
1779	9/21/20	1407 Texel	Garage Fire w/ Exposures	\$ 21,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 26,000
2032	10/27/20	901 Grand Pre	Structure Fire	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 60,000
2122	11/10/20	2513 Laredo	Leaves Fire w/ Vehicle Exposure	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
2154	11/14/20	2680 Orange Meadow	Kitchen Fire	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
2182	11/19/20	1809 Humphrey	Structure Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
2198	11/21/20	222 S Kendall	Kitchen Fire	\$ 500	\$ 50	\$ 550
2349	12/15/20	1521 Gull	Structure Fire	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
2367	12/18/20	2500 Nazareth	Kitchen Fire	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800

\*Property loss is generally considered loss to the structure or vehicle itself, while the content loss is the personal property contained within the structure or vehicle.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Station 1 (Northwood)

Northwood Fire Station

2617 North Burdick Street

Built in 1948

Houses Engine 811, Engine 821 and Rescue/Brush Truck 851







# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Station 1 (continued)



### 811

2011 Pierce Saber  
1500 Gallon per minute pump  
970 Gallons of water  
On board foam system with 30 gallons of  
Class B foam concentrate  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies

### 821

2016 Pierce Saber  
1500 Gallon per minute pump  
750 Gallons of water  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies  
Extrication Tools



### 851

2008 Ford F-350  
150 Gallon per minute pump  
200 Gallons of water  
Assorted nozzles and tools for brush fires  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies





# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Station 2 (Eastwood)

Eastwood Fire Station

2703 East Main Street

Built in 1940

Houses Engine 812, Ladder 842 and Rescue 852







# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Station 2 (continued)



### 812

2015 Pierce Saber  
1500 Gallon per minute pump  
720 Gallons of water  
On board foam system with 30 gallons of  
Class A foam concentrate  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies  
Extrication equipment

842  
2007 Sutphen TS-100  
1500 Gallon per minute pump  
300 Gallons of water  
100-foot aerial bucket  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical  
supplies



### 852

2019 Chevrolet Suburban  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Station 3 (Lakewood)

Lakewood Fire Station  
3100 Lake Street  
Built in 1950, Residence in 1967  
Houses Engine 813



**813**  
2007 Sutphen Shield  
1500 Gallon per minute pump  
1000 Gallons of water  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies





# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Station 4 (Westwood)

Westwood Fire Station  
1310 Nichols Road  
Built in 1967  
Houses Engine 814, Ladder 844, and Rescue 854





# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Station 4 (continued)

### 814

1998 Pierce Quantum  
1500 Gallon per minute pump  
880 Gallons of water  
Full complement of extrication tools  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies



### 844

2009 Sutphen TS-100  
1500 Gallon per minute pump  
300 Gallons of water  
100-foot aerial bucket  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies

### 854

2019 Chevrolet Suburban  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies





# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Apparatus Fleet Status

The average age of our fleet is now approaching eight years old and we have some vehicles which are approaching their replacement dates. We use a replacement date in line with current industry standards in order to plan for vehicle purchases and budget capital improvement funds more efficiently. These replacement dates are used to get the most value out of each piece of apparatus while also replacing them frequently enough to allow for safety and technological improvements to enhance the services we deliver.

- Rescues are replaced approximately every 10 years.
- Engines are replaced approximately every 25 years.
- Ladders are replaced approximately every 30 years.

The table below shows the current timeline of each vehicle, as well as necessary special equipment that must be factored into apparatus purchasing/replacement decisions in order to maintain our current level of service.

Unit	Type	Year	Age	Assigned Station	Projected Replacement	Special equipment
811	Engine	2011	9	Northwood	2037	Foam System
821	Engine	2016	4	Northwood	2041	Vehicle Extrication
851	Rescue/Brush Unit	2008	12	Northwood	2019	Water tank & pump for grass fires
812	Engine	2015	5	Eastwood	2040	Foam System & Extrication
842	Platform Ladder	2007	13	Eastwood	2037	Ladder Truck
852	Rescue	2019	1	Eastwood	2029	
813	Engine	2007	13	Lakewood	2032	
814	Engine	1998	22	Westwood	2023	Vehicle Extrication
844	Platform Ladder	2009	11	Westwood	2039	Ladder Truck
854	Rescue	2019	1	Westwood	2029	
855	Fire Marshal	2014	6	Township	2021	Fire Investigation Equipment
856	Maintenance	2016	4	Township	2023	Snow plow
800	Utility	2019	1	Township	2026	Snow plow
890	Fire Chief	2018	2	Township	2026	



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Equipment inspection, testing and maintenance

The annual fire department equipment inspection, testing and maintenance are an important function on both the liability and safety sides of our operation. While much of the inspection, testing and maintenance work is done by our trained and certified fire department personnel, some of the work must be done by contracting to an outside service provider.

The following list describes our larger inspection, testing and maintenance projects that must be performed and documented on an annual basis.

**Ground ladder testing** – All ground ladders carried on fire apparatus were visually inspected and weight tested with only minor repairs needed. Cost: \$2,400

**Ladder truck inspection and testing** – Both ladder trucks were visually inspected, and functionally tested. Cost of inspection: \$2,600

**Breathing air compressor** – A visual inspection was made of both the mobile and fixed location breathing air compressor systems. Quarterly air samples were taken and sent in for analysis. All test samples passed required quality standards. Cost: \$2,400

**Fire extinguisher inspections (facility and vehicle)** – Visual inspection and annual certification were completed on all fire department facility and vehicle mounted fire extinguishers with only a few minor repairs needed. Cost: \$1,000

**Fire protective coat and pant inspection/maintenance** – When our fire protective clothing develops rips, tears, signs of wear or holes, it must be sent to a certified company for inspection and repair. In 2020, equipment was sent in as needed for inspection and maintenance, reducing the amount of fire protective clothing that needed to be replaced. Cost: \$1,200

**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus** – 43 units were inspected and flow tested with only minor repairs needed. Cost: \$4,800





# ***2020 ANNUAL REPORT***

---

## **Capital Purchases**

Separate from our operational budget, our capital improvement budget helps us maintain our facilities and provide for equipment purchases that enhance our emergency response capability.

Through continued collaborative efforts with adjoining municipality's emergency responders, we make every attempt to not duplicate special equipment and services between organizations. This process has reduced our overall equipment purchase and maintenance costs.

Listed below are some of the projects completed in 2020

- Replace flat roof at Station 1 - \$43,000
- Station 2 Phase 1 design - \$19,500
- Light tower installation on Engine 821 - \$14,500
- Replace fire hose - 600' of 5" and 1000' of 1 ¾" - \$6,500
- Replace fire protective clothing - \$11,900
- Replace Hurst hydraulic rescue tools - \$6,500
- Purchase snow plow for maintenance vehicle - \$6,200



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement

**Inspections** consist of the physical inspection of commercial occupancies within the Township of Kalamazoo to enforce fire codes. The length of time spent on these inspections can vary widely depending on the size and hazards of the occupancy.

**Citations** are issued as an enforcement tool to ensure compliance with fire codes.

**Fire/EMS Calls** are responses by the fire marshal to emergencies when he is in the area during the time of dispatch, thus providing more rapid response to active emergencies.

**Investigations** are conducted on most fires, and all loss fires, in an attempt to determine cause and origin. Time spent on these investigations varies widely depending on the complexity of the investigation.

**Public Education** is time spent in the local schools teaching fire prevention to students throughout the community.

**Court Hours** are hours spent appearing in court for enforcement of citations, as a witness in arson prosecutions, and anytime subpoenaed as an expert witness.

**Burn Complaints** are responses to complaints about citizens not burning within the rules outlined in the Kalamazoo Township Burning Ordinance.

**Training Hours** are those hours spent in advancing education as well as mandatory required credits to maintain licensure as a fire inspector and fire investigator.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Training

There are three major categories of training within the department. They are initial employment training, department wide training and outside training. All training hours are paid at the current training rate approved by the township board.

**Initial employment training** consists of a 295-hour training academy which covers firefighting basics, hazardous material responses, and incident command. New employees must also obtain their Michigan license as a Medical First Responder which is a 100-hour training course. In 2020, the Department hired 6 new paid on call employees.

**Department wide training** consists of a 3-hour scheduled training every Tuesday in which there is a morning session and evening session to allow our paid on call personnel to attend the one session that does not conflict with their full-time jobs. Training varies every week and covers all areas of the expected job functions. In 2020, our firefighters spent 3,453 hours performing proficiency training within our department. Firefighters also spent 218 hours maintaining their EMS licenses through specific proficiency training offered by the department.

**Outside training** consists of any training in the region in which an employee attends with the approval of the department. Normally, if an employee receives outside training, all travel, tuition, lodging, and books are covered by the Township. In 2020, our firefighters spent 810 hours receiving advanced training outside of the department training program.



\*Pictured above is the Kalamazoo Regional Training Tower where department wide training is held several times throughout the year.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

---

## Inter-Governmental Cooperation

### Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team

The Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team (KCHMRT) is made up of various personnel from numerous fire departments within Kalamazoo County. Their major goal is to provide a level of service that no municipality could alone provide to its residents without a substantial financial commitment.

In 2020 there were five team members and one executive board member from the Township of Kalamazoo on the KCHMRT as outlined below:

- Fire Chief Dave Obreiter – Executive Board Member
- Lieutenant George Tazelaar – Team Member
- Lieutenant Chris Weidemann – Team Member
- Lieutenant Shawn Bickings – Team Member
- Firefighter Derek Bucknell – Team Member
- Firefighter Mike Miller – Team Member



These members have additional training above and beyond the requirements of the fire department which take place once a month with the rest of the KCHMRT.

### Kalamazoo County Fire Investigator Response Team

The Kalamazoo County Fire Investigator Response Team (KCFIRT) is a group of fire investigators throughout Kalamazoo County that through their combined efforts and schedules allow continuous availability of investigators to respond immediately upon request following a fire in order to determine the cause and origin. Township of Kalamazoo Fire Marshal Todd Kowalski is a Senior Fire Investigator with KCFIRT and Battalion Chief Matt Mulac is an Investigator with the team.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Appendix

RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.	RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.
Lt.	Tim James	44	Lt.	George Tazelaar	9
Capt.	Randy Thompson	43	FF	Brian Tenbrink	9
D/C	Mike Weidemann	36	FF	Mike Rotgers	8
A/C	Dave Hoekstra	35	Disp.	Rachel Baird	7
FF	Mark Warnicke	34	FF	Anthony Tazelaar	6
FF	Joe Vanorder	32	FF	Tim Evans	6
Chief	Dave Obreiter	31	FF	Kent Tatroe	5
Capt.	Todd Kowalski	30	FF	Cody Switzer	5
FF	Jim Loedeman	29	FF	Erik Brinkert	5
A/C	Todd Dunfield	28	FF	Jeremie Bular	4
Capt.	Todd Martin	27	FF	Edward Medina	4
FF	Joe Landreville	26	FF	Logan Callen	4
B/C	Matt Mulac	23	Chapl.	Ken Smeader	3
Disp.	Teresa Weidemann	23	FF	Brent Boswell	3
FF	Rick Trott	17	FF	Joseph Coudron	3
FF	Derek Bucknell	16	FF	Andrew McCann	3
FF	Mike Hubbart	16	FF	Travis Wendt	3
FF	Dave Ives	16	FF	Connor McCarthy	2
FF	Dan Merchant	16	FF	DeMonte Spann	2
FF	Al Garnaat	15	FF	Mike Miller	2
FF	Gabriel Podolsky	14	FF	Dillon Moe	2
FF	Justin Vanorder	14	FF	Andy Dickman	2
Capt.	Chad Baker	14	FF	Camron Boekhoven	2
B/C	Jairus Baird	12	FF	Jennifer Gonzalez	1
Lt.	Chris Weidemann	12	FF	Brandon Bromley-Root	1
FF	Shawn Gallagher	11	FF	Brad Juilen	1
FF	Paul Fox	11	FF	Andrew Romstadt	1
FF	Tom Baas	10	FF	Ben Barber	1
Lt.	Shawn Bickings	10	FF	Elizabeth Kowalski	1

\*We welcomed 5 personnel from the City of Parchment who joined the department at the start of 2020 and were assigned to Station 1 (Northwood):

Paul Fox, Shawn Bickings, Tim Evans, Andy Dickman, and Camron Boekhoven.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Appendix (continued) Fire Department Organizational Chart

