

Charter Township Of Kalamazoo



2019 Annual Fire Department Report

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



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Fire Chief's Comments

We proudly submit this 2019 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 2019, we finished the year with a new record of 2,515 emergency responses. This increase represents both the ebb and flow of calls for service as well as the inclusion of 177 calls for service due to the implementation of a contracted fire department management and response agreement with the City of Parchment.

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 2019, 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. Through this process, many actions and initiatives were taken to strengthen the response capabilities of our department as well as to provide for the needs of our emergency responders. A few of the more noticeable accomplishments included the continuation of our chaplain program, expanded employee assistance program options and the promotion of our part-time fire department utility position to a full-time status.

Community involvement remained a high priority with our fire department members, as witnessed by our member's voluntary participation supporting larger events such as the Westwood Ice Cream Social and the Great Lakes Burn Camp. The voluntary participation by our members as represented by the firefighter's association at each of the fire stations is a direct reflection of their desire to serve our community above and beyond their roles as an emergency responder.

In the appendix section of this report, you will find a roster of our assigned personnel as well as the years of service and experience that they provide our community. The diligent and dedicated investment of time and effort by our team members directly represents both the past as well as the future successes of our organization.



2019 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



2019 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
Fire Department Awards	31



2019 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 2019, 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.



2019 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.



2019 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.



2019 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 2019.

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 2019.

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 Commissioner for 2019.



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Emergency Response Analysis

In 2019 the Department responded to a total of 2,515 incidents. 2,039 being rescue related, and 476 being fire related.

Calls by Station

Station # 1= 618 / 482

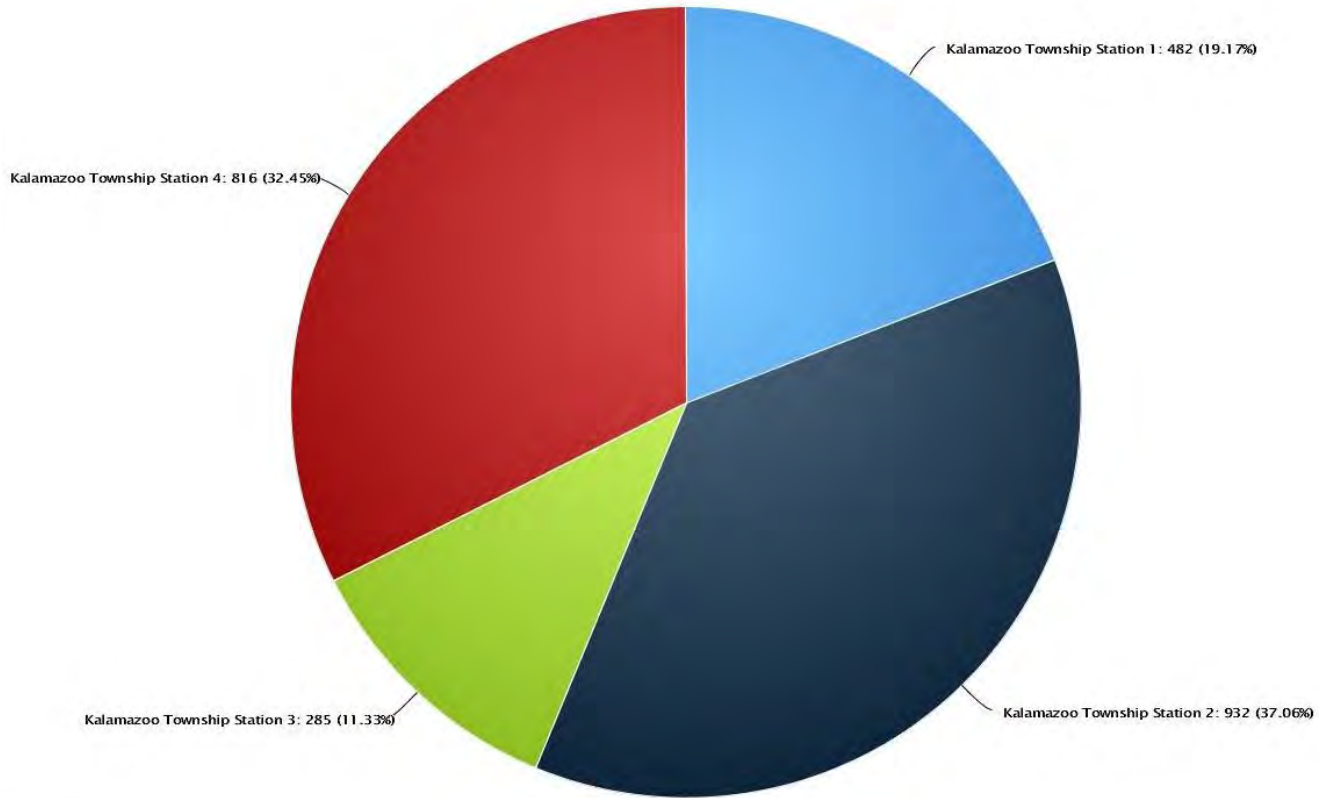
Station # 3= 285 / 285

Station # 2= 1,022 / 932

Station # 4= 845 / 816

With Assists / Without Assists

2019 Annual Report Calls by Station



020 11:10:56 PM



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

Northwood

responding to:

Eastwood = 61
Westwood = 64
Lakewood = 11

Eastwood

responding to:

Northwood = 36
Westwood = 1
Lakewood = 53

Westwood

responding to:

Northwood = 29
Eastwood = 0
Lakewood = 0

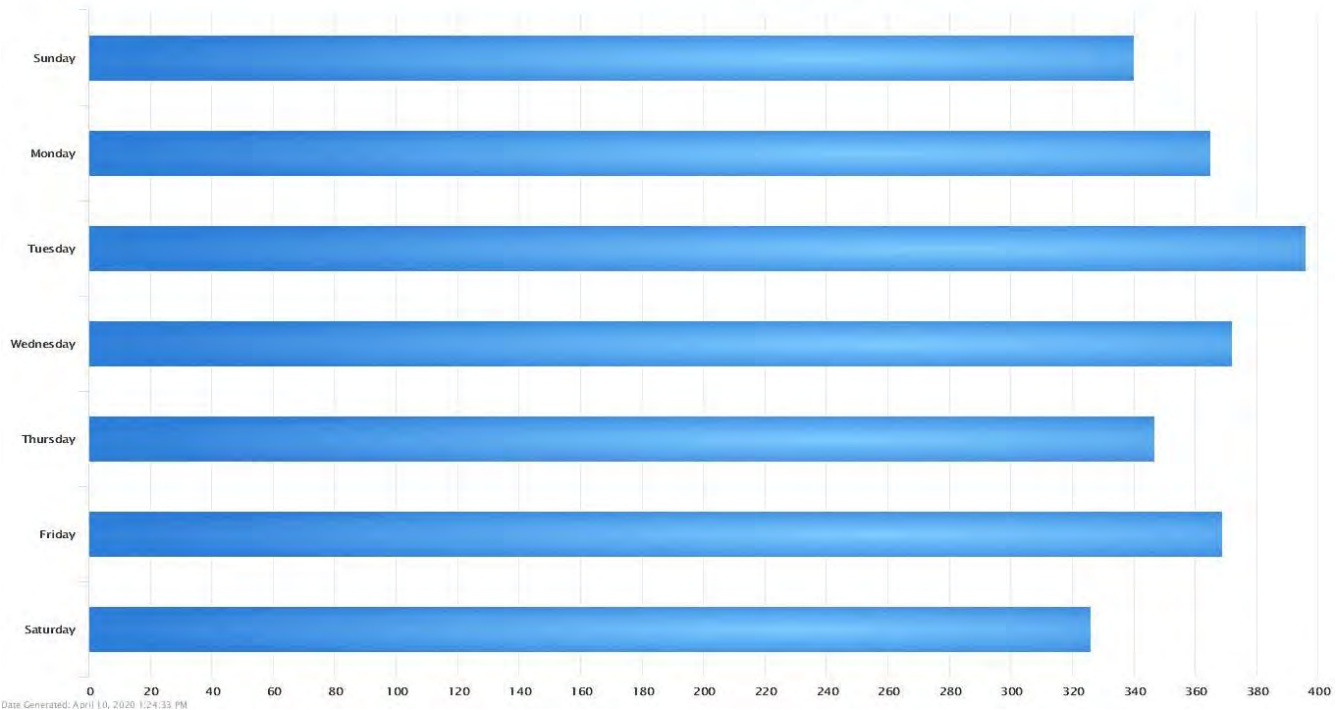
Day of Week

Monday = 365
Tuesday = 396
Wednesday = 372
Thursday = 347
Friday = 369
Saturday = 326
Sunday = 340

Time of Day

00:00 – 03:59 = 243
04:00 – 07:59 = 249
08:00 – 11:59 = 498
12:00 – 15:59 = 526
16:00 – 19:59 = 552
20:00 – 23:59 = 447

2019 Annual Report Calls by Day of Week



Date Generated: April 10, 2020 1:24:33 PM



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

In the past 10 years, demands for service of the fire department have been increasing on average, with 2019 showing a 26% increase in rescue, 15% increase in fire and a 24% increase in total calls for service when compared to the previous year.

	Calls for Service	Fire Related	Rescue Related	Assists Between Stations	Mutual Aid Given
2010	1,504	339	1,165	151	112
2011	1,494	351	1,143	173	103
2012	1,681	444	1,237	151	126
2013	1,667	451	1,216	132	133
2014	1,777	447	1,330	186	106
2015	1,792	463	1,329	183	116
2016	1,899	306	1,593	180	128
2017	1,809	393	1,416	192	159
2018	2,029	412	1,617	228	158
2019	2,515	476	2,039	255	361

	Total FF Responses	Average Cost Per Call	Average FF's per call
2010	10,540	\$121.45	7.0
2011	9,513	\$111.04	6.4
2012	10,402	\$107.57	6.2
2013	10,494	\$109.31	6.3
2014	11,414	\$114.37	6.4
2015	11,454	\$114.37	6.4
2016	11,366	\$107.56	5.9
2017	11,325	\$112.30	6.1
2018	12,745	\$113.46	6.1
2019	15,104	\$114.62	6.1



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

The following is a breakdown of the calls by type and frequency for 2019

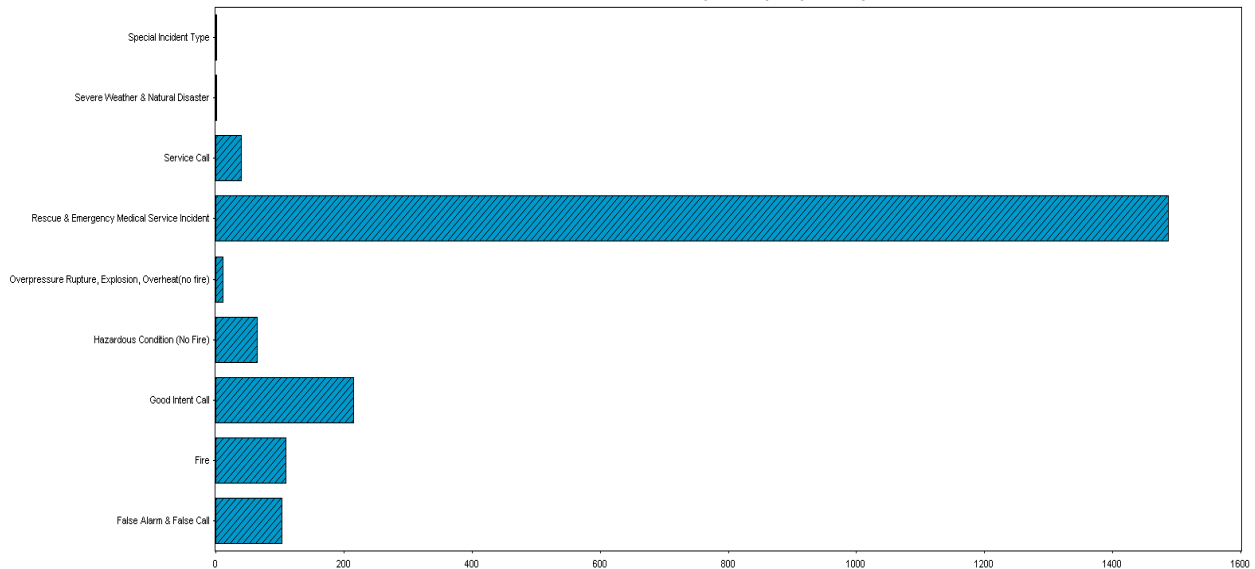
Rescues

Abdominal Pain = 27	Aid Given – Medicals = 165	Allergic Reaction/Stings = 16
Altered Mental Status = 67	Animal Bite = 1	Assault = 16
Assist Police = 18	Attempt Suicide = 10	Back Pain = 10
Breathing Problem = 350	Burns = 0	Cancelled en Route = 126
Carbon Monoxide Call = 18	Cardiac Arrest = 10	Chest Pain = 208
Choking = 6	Convulsions/Seizure = 140	Diabetic Problem = 23
EMS Alarm = 66	Eye Injury = 1	Fall = 157
Head Injury/Pain = 9	Heat Exhaustion = 2	Hemorrhage = 28
Lift Assist = 38	Motor Vehicle Accident = 125	Nothing Found/Arrival = 14
Overdose/Poisoning = 25	Pregnancy/OB = 7	Psychiatric Problems = 16
Sick Person = 97	Stab/Gunshot Wound = 2	Stroke = 50
Unconscious = 56	Unknown/Person Down = 117	Welfare Check = 18

Fires

Aid Given – Fires = 175	Aid Given – Move-Ups = 17	Burning Complaint = 33
Dumpster Fire = 7	Elevator Rescue = 1	Fire Alarm = 67
Forcible Entry = 4	Gas Leak = 21	Grass/Brush Fire = 3
HazMat = 1	High Angle Rescue = 1	Smoke Investigation = 45
Structure Fire = 21	Vehicle Fire = 10	Water Rescue/Drowning = 0
Wires Down/Arcing = 70		

Incident Type Summary
Alarm Date Between {01/01/2018} And {12/31/2018}





2019 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 manpower. This agreement began in January of 2019.



2019 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 361 times, and received aid 349 times as outlined below:

	Oshtemo		Comstock		KDPS		Cooper		Parchment	
	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received
January	5	3	10	18	1	0	3	0	14	1
February	2	2	7	16	2	4	0	0	17	0
March	4	2	2	25	7	0	0	1	14	0
April	3	4	8	27	3	2	2	0	13	0
May	6	4	4	26	5	2	2	0	19	0
June	6	2	8	26	0	2	2	0	9	0
July	2	3	10	36	4	2	0	1	17	0
August	1	6	7	25	4	3	1	1	13	0
September	2	1	9	21	1	0	0	0	13	0
October	2	2	8	30	3	2	1	0	16	0
November	2	1	13	25	1	1	0	0	10	0
December	3	1	12	21	2	0	0	0	22	0
Totals	38	31	98	296	33	18	11	3	177	1

*In addition to the above chart, the Township of Kalamazoo also assisted Richland Township two times, Texas Township one time, and Alamo Township one time.



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Fire Loss Summary

There were 29 responses in 2019 with an associated loss caused by smoke and/or fire damage. Those 29 “loss fires” totaled \$760,625 in lost property and contents, and are listed individually below:

Incident #	Date	Location	Fire Type	Est. Property Loss	Est. Content Loss	Total Est. Loss
28	1/4/19	909 Campbell	Kitchen Fire	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
113	1/19/19	1924 Mount Olivet	Structure Fire	\$ 37,750	\$ 30,000	\$ 67,750
143	1/22/19	1825 Junction	Chicken Coop Fire	\$ 100	\$ 25	\$ 125
149	1/24/19	4020 Grand Prairie	Structure Fire	\$ 31,550	\$ 20,000	\$ 51,550
225	2/3/19	1804 Upland	Living Room Fire	\$ 500	\$ 100	\$ 600
305	2/14/19	927 Foster	Vehicle Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
382	2/27/19	328 N Sage #202	Apartment Fire	\$ 40,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 49,000
489	3/15/19	4631 Winding Way	Bedroom Fire	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
522	3/21/19	3520 N Drake A-209	Microwave Fire	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 400
571	3/29/19	Arthur Ave	Motorcycle Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
693	4/15/19	3111 Carleton	Structure Fire	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 25,000
696	4/15/19	2405 E Main	Kitchen Fire	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ 700
720	4/18/19	1409 Upland	Structure Fire	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 16,000
737	4/22/19	126 N Berkley	Trash Can with Exposure	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
758	4/25/19	1201 Nichols	Structure Fire	\$ 15,000	\$ 200	\$ 15,200
835	5/6/19	3312 Iroquois	Closet Fire	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 400
1047	6/1/19	205 S Kendall	Apartment Fire	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,500
1100	6/8/19	1928 Gull	Dumpster Fire with Exposure	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800
1200	6/22/19	1722 W Main	Vehicle Fire	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
1248	6/30/19	1928 Colgrove	Vehicle Fire with Exposure	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1271	7/1/19	2930 W Main	Vehicle Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
1339	7/8/19	122 S Cherry Hill	Structure Fire	\$ 300,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 450,000
1435	7/20/19	415 N Arlington	Vehicle Fire	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
1498	7/30/19	627 Washburn	Structure Fire	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 7,000
1669	8/22/19	1718 Huntington	Vehicle Fire	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
1737	8/31/19	3427 Grace	Structure Fire	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000
1903	9/23/19	1680 Orange Meadow	Garage Fire	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000
2008	10/7/19	304 N Sage #101	Dryer Fire	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
2424	12/15/19	1826 Sunnyside	Bedroom Fire	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000

*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.



2019 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





2019 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



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 2 (Eastwood)

Eastwood Fire Station

2703 East Main Street

Built in 1940

Houses Engine 812, Ladder 842 and Rescue 852





2019 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



2019 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



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 4 (Westwood)

Westwood Fire Station

1310 Nichols Road

Built in 1967

Houses Engine 814, Ladder 844, and Rescue 854





2019 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





2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Apparatus Fleet Status

The average age of our fleet is now approaching seven 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	8	Northwood	2037	Foam System
821	Engine	2016	3	Northwood	2041	Vehicle Extrication
851	Rescue/Brush Unit	2008	11	Northwood	2019	Water tank & pump for grass fires
812	Engine	2015	4	Eastwood	2040	Foam System & Extrication
842	Platform Ladder	2007	12	Eastwood	2037	Ladder Truck
852	Rescue	2019	0	Eastwood	2029	
813	Engine	2007	12	Lakewood	2032	
814	Engine	1998	21	Westwood	2023	Vehicle Extrication
844	Platform Ladder	2009	10	Westwood	2039	Ladder Truck
854	Rescue	2019	0	Westwood	2029	
855	Fire Marshal	2014	5	Township	2020	Fire Investigation Equipment
856	Maintenance	2016	3	Township	2022	Snow plow
800	Utility	2019	0	Township	2019	
890	Fire Chief	2018	1	Township	2026	



2019 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: \$2,800

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: \$2,300

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: \$900

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 2019, equipment was sent in as needed for inspection and maintenance, reducing the amount of fire protective clothing that needed to be replaced. Cost: \$1,400

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus – 43 units were inspected and flow tested with only minor repairs needed. Cost: \$2,500



2019 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 2019

- Replace Breathing Air Compressor – FEMA grant - \$24,900
- Replace utility vehicle (John Deere Gator) - \$10,021
- Purchase 2019 Chevrolet 2500 HD (Maintenance Vehicle) - \$45,500
- Purchase fire gear washer/extractor - \$9,992
- Purchase self-contained breathing apparatus - \$5,800
- Purchase firefighting tools and nozzles – FEMA grant - \$14,800
- Replace fire hose – 700' of 5" and 1150' of 1 ¾" - \$7,400
- Replace 9 sets of fire protective clothing - \$21,700
- Replace 5 thermal imaging cameras – FEMA grant - \$42,000



2019 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.



2019 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 2019 the Department hired 8 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 2019, our firefighters spent 2,934 hours performing proficiency training within our department. Firefighters also spent 109 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 2019, our firefighters spent 2,261 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.



2019 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 2019 there were four 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
- Firefighter Derek Bucknell – Team Member
- Firefighter Chris Weidemann – 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.



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Appendix

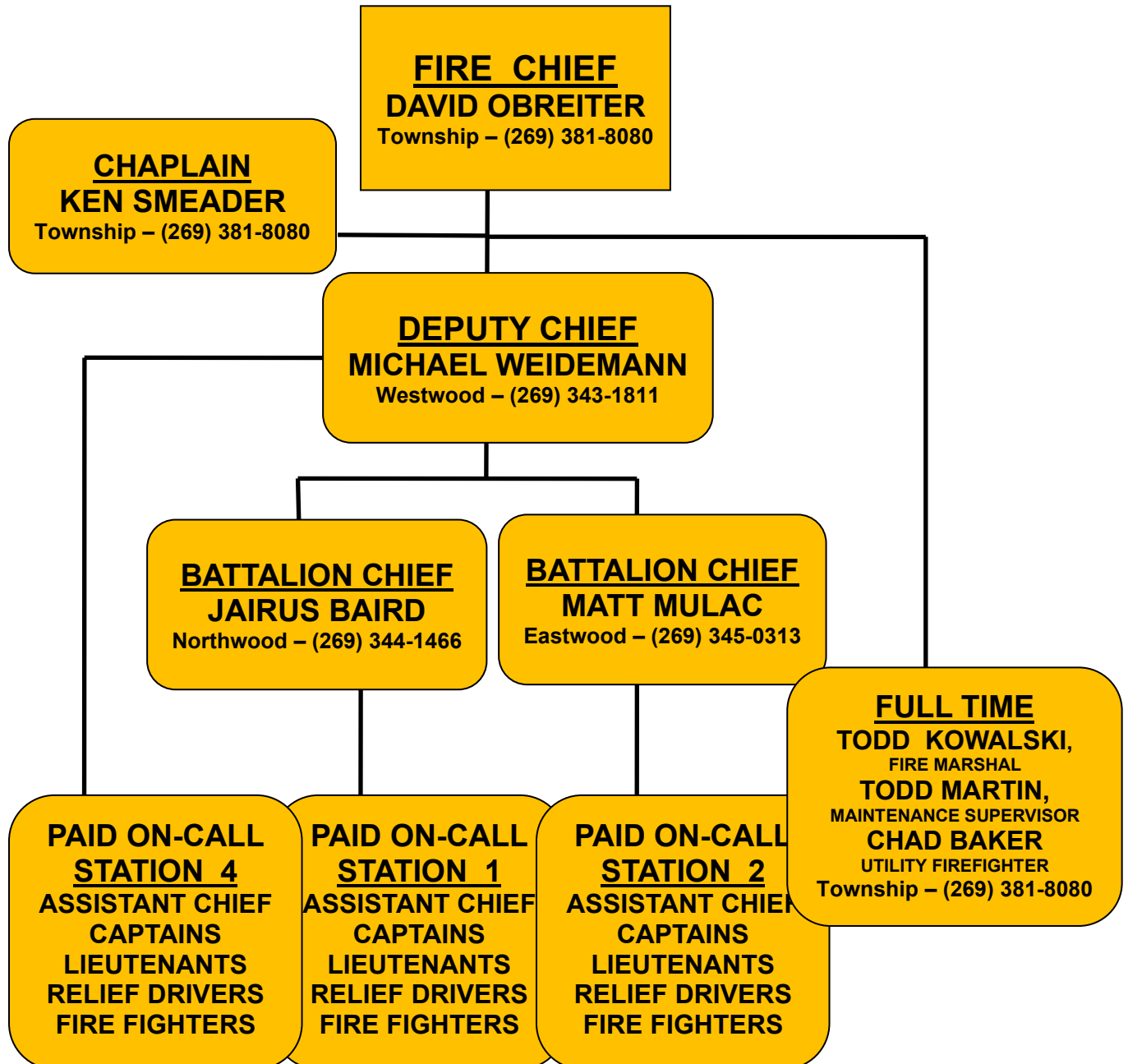
RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.	RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.
Lt.	Tim James	43	Lt.	George Tazelaar	8
Capt.	Randy Thompson	42	FF	Brian Tenbrink	8
D/C	Mike Weidemann	35	FF	Mike Rotgers	7
A/C	Dave Hoekstra	34	Disp.	Rachel Baird	6
FF	Mark Warnicke	33	FF	Anthony Tazelaar	5
FF	Joe Vanorder	31	FF	Kent Tatroe	4
Chief	Dave Obreiter	30	FF	Cody Switzer	4
Capt.	Todd Kowalski	29	FF	Erik Brinkert	4
FF	Jim Loedeman	28	FF	Jeremie Bular	3
A/C	Todd Dunfield	27	FF	Edward Medina	3
Capt.	Todd Martin	26	FF	Logan Callen	3
FF	Joe Landreville	25	Chapl.	Ken Smeader	2
B/C	Matt Mulac	22	FF	Brent Boswell	2
Lt.	Tom Sutton	22	FF	Joseph Coudron	2
Disp.	Teresa Weidemann	22	FF	Andrew McCann	2
FF	Rick Trott	16	FF	Travis Wendt	2
FF	Derek Bucknell	15	FF	Connor McCarthy	1
FF	Mike Hubbart	15	FF	DeMonte Spann	1
FF	Dave Ives	15	FF	Mike Miller	1
FF	Dan Merchant	15	FF	Malcolm Jones	1
Lt.	Troy Cox	14	FF	Dillon Moe	1
FF	Al Garnaat	14	FF	Jennifer Gonzalez	NEW
FF	Gabriel Podolsky	13	FF	Brandon Bromley-Root	NEW
FF	Justin Vanorder	13	FF	Brad Juilen	NEW
Capt.	Chad Baker	13	FF	Andrew Romstadt	NEW
B/C	Jairus Baird	11	FF	Ben Barber	NEW
FF	Chris Weidemann	11	FF	Javi Hinojosa	NEW
FF	Shawn Gallagher	10	FF	Jordyn Pillars	NEW
FF	Tom Baas	9	FF	Elizabeth Kowalski	NEW



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Appendix (continued)

Fire Department Organizational Chart





2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Appendix (continued)

2018 Fire Department Awards presented in March of 2019

Firefighter of the Year (2018)

The Fire Fighter of the Year award is presented to a member of the fire department that has been selected from nominations by their peers. The recipient of this award is selected based on their overall outstanding performance as a fire fighter, performance above and beyond that normally expected of a fire fighter, community service and an overall commitment to improving the fire service.

-Awarded to Firefighter Chris Weidemann

25 Year Service Award

The 25 Year Service Award is presented as a “milestone” in one’s career. It signifies commitment, sacrifice and dedication. It shows an overall individual decision to make a positive impact on an organization. Less than ten percent of our members achieve this accomplishment.

-Awarded to Captain Todd Martin

Citation for Lifesaving

The Citation for Lifesaving is awarded for the saving of a life through various actions, such as the direct application of first aid. The following members were awarded the Citation for Lifesaving for responses during 2018.

ERIK BRINKERT	1	TODD MARTIN	1	GEORGE TAZELAAR	1
JEREMIE BULAR	1	CONNOR MCCARTHY	1	BRIAN TENBRINK	1
LOGAN CALLEN	1	DAN MERCHANT	1	RANDY THOMPSON	1
JOE COUDRON	1	DILLON MOE	1	RICK TROTT	2
AL GARNAAT	1	MATT MULAC	2	CHRIS WEIDEMANN	1
CHRIS GLASSER	1	MIKE ROTGERS	1	MIKE WEIDEMANN	1
TIM JAMES	1	DEMONTE SPANN	1	TERESA WEIDEMANN	1
TODD KOWALSKI	1	CODY SWITZER	1	TRAVIS WENDT	1
JOE LANDREVILLE	1	ANTHONY TAZELAAR	1		

* The number after the name indicates the number of awards that they received.