

Charter Township Of Kalamazoo



2017 Annual Fire Department Report

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



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Fire Chief's Comments

We proudly submit this 2017 annual report for the Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department. As you review the details within this report, I believe that you will share with me great appreciation for the pride, professionalism, accomplishments and actions of the men and women that make up our team.

Looking back at the fire department response statistics for 2017, we finished the year with a slightly lower overall number of responses as compared to last year. This reduction in the number of responses can be attributed to updated medical emergency priority protocols in use by dispatchers as well as the ever present ebb and flow of calls for service that are associated with this type of business.

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 2017, fire department management and officers continued to meet on a regular basis to assess our 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. Two items of interest that were a direct result of this team effort were the addition of hydraulic rescue tools (Jaws of Life) at the Northwood and Eastwood fire stations and the implementation of a fire department chaplain program.

Community involvement remains 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 and 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. In addition to the list of personnel, you will find a listing of awards that were presented to our members through our firefighter recognition program. The awards were presented at a regular township board meeting and televised by Public Media Network. The list of awards recognizes the actions above and beyond the general actions expected of our personnel.



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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 six full-time fire department personnel and consists of the fire chief, deputy fire chief, two battalion chiefs, fire marshal and fire department maintenance supervisor.

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 2017, 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.



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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 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.

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.



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Fire Department Program Descriptions (continued)

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.

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. This position was created in the fall of 2016 by the township board. Township Manager Dexter Mitchell remained the Township Manager for 2017.

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 2017.

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 was appointed to the position in September of 2017.



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Emergency Response Analysis

In 2017 the Department responded to a total of 1,809 incidents. 1,416 being rescue related, and 393 being fire related.

Calls by Station

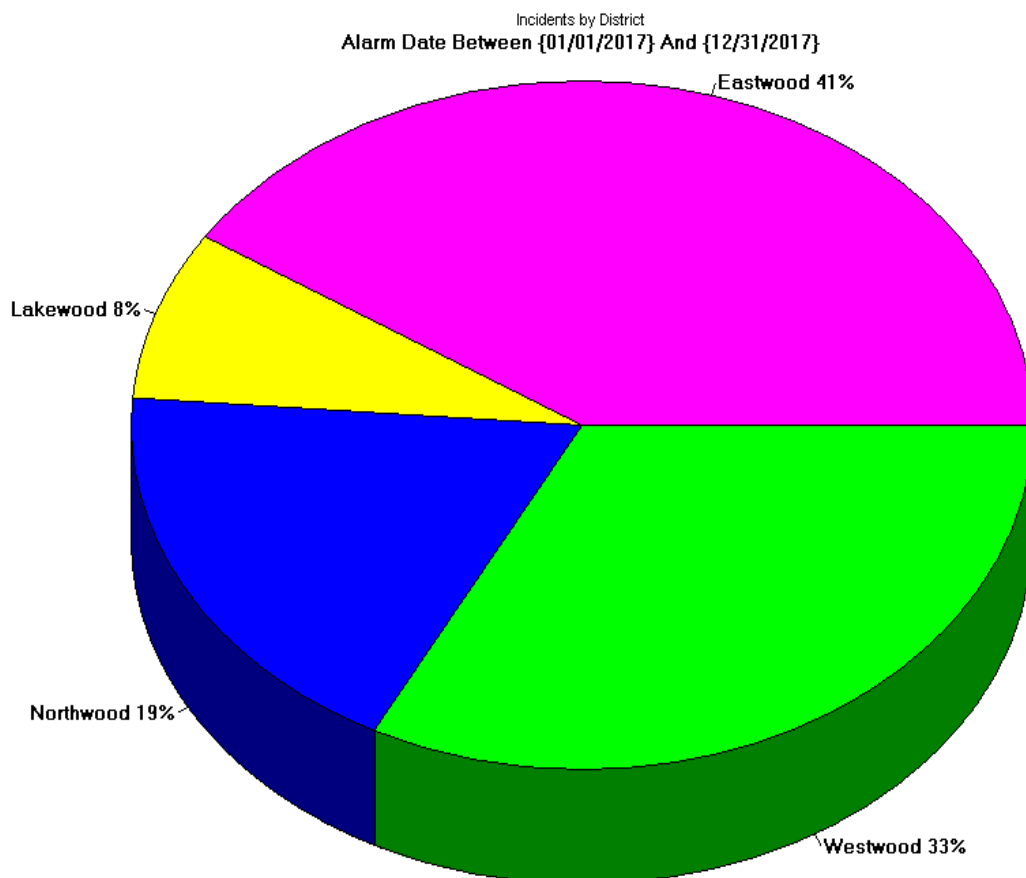
Station # 1= 410 / 282

Station # 3= 145 / 145

Station # 2= 771 / 737

Station # 4= 675 / 645

With Assists / Without Assists





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Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

Northwood

responding to:

Eastwood = 75
Westwood = 48
Lakewood = 5

Eastwood

responding to:

Northwood = 17
Westwood = 0
Lakewood = 17

Westwood

responding to:

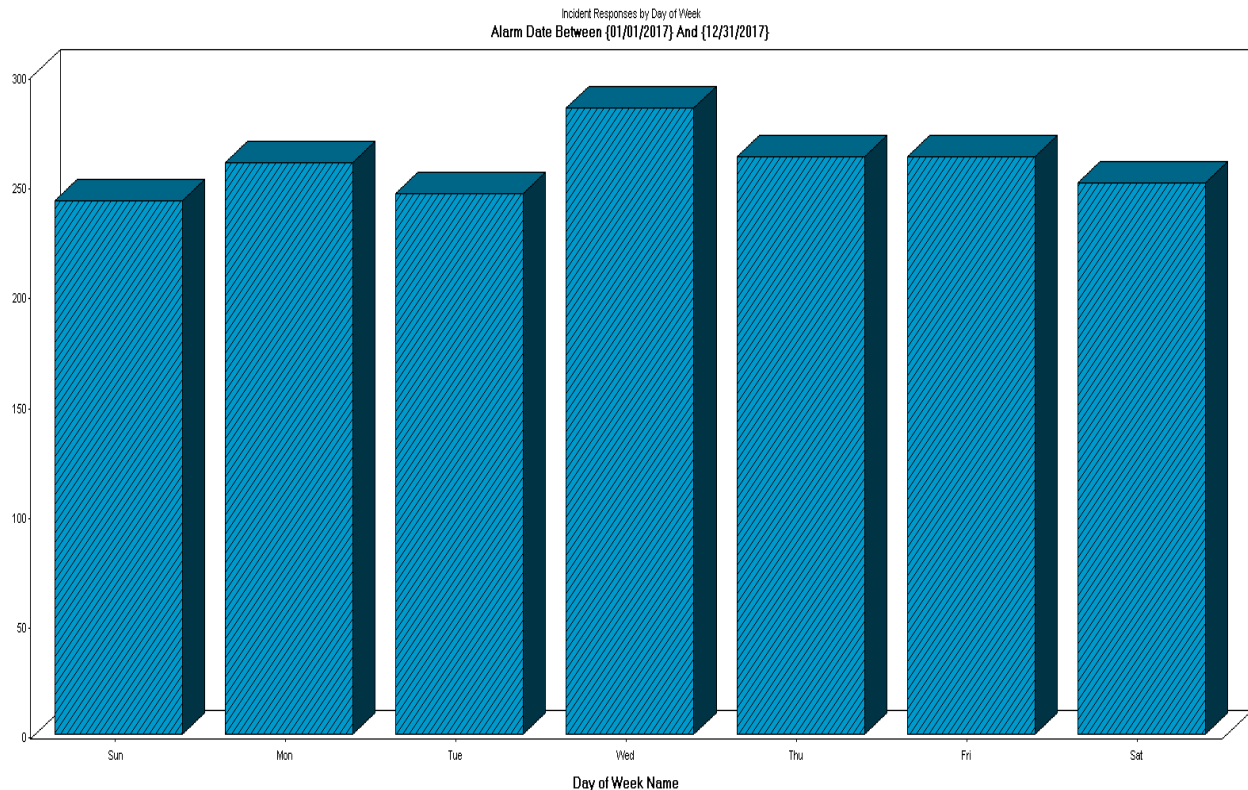
Northwood = 26
Eastwood = 3
Lakewood = 1

Day of Week

Monday = 260
Tuesday = 246
Wednesday = 285
Thursday = 261
Friday = 263
Saturday = 251
Sunday = 243

Time of Day

00:00 – 03:59 = 166
04:00 – 07:59 = 174
08:00 – 11:59 = 344
12:00 – 15:59 = 421
16:00 – 19:59 = 415
20:00 – 23:59 = 289





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Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

In the past 10 years, demands for service of the fire department have been increasing on average, with 2017 showing an 11% decline in rescue related calls and 18% increase in fire related calls when compared to 2016's record year.

10 Year Comparison of Annual Report Data					
	Calls for Service	Fire Related	Rescue Related	Assists Between Stations	Mutual Aid Given
2008	1,582	397	1,185	163	110
2009	1,517	410	1,107	192	125
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

	Total FF Responses	Average Cost Per Call	Average FF's per call
2008	13,328	\$141.46	8.4
2009	12,008	\$137.07	7.9
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



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Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

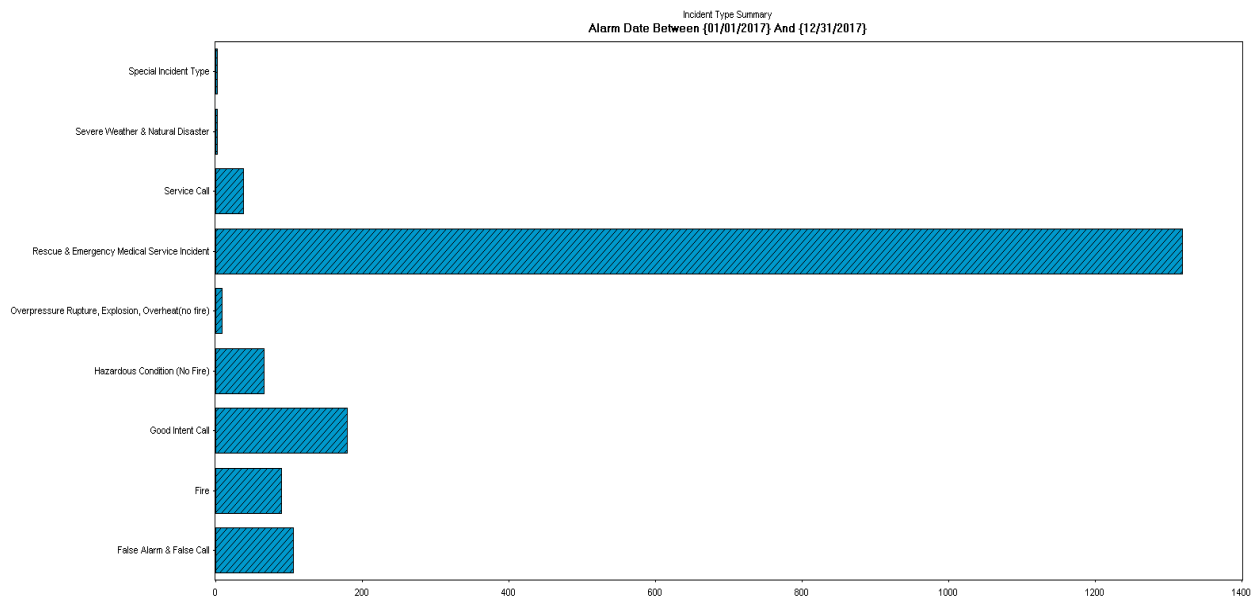
The following is a breakdown of the calls by type and frequency for 2017.

Rescues

Abdominal Pain = 8	Allergic Reaction = 14	Altered Mental Status = 5
Animal Bite = 2	Assault = 13	Assist Police = 11
Attempt Suicide = 1	Back Pain = 12	Burns = 0
Cancelled en Route = 61	Carbon Monoxide Call = 6	Cardiac Arrest = 7
Chest Pain = 129	Choking = 4	Diabetic Problems = 41
EMS Alarm = 33	Fall = 148	Head Injury/Pain = 6
Heat Exhaustion = 1	Ingestion/Poisoning = 18	Laceration/Hemorrhage = 24
Lift Assist = 6	Man Down = 204	Personal Injury Accident = 74
Pregnancy/OB = 11	Psychiatric Problems = 6	Seizure = 91
Sick Person = 136	Stab/Gunshot = 1	Stroke = 32
Trouble Breathing = 244	Unconscious = 66	Water Rescue/Drowning = 1

Fires

Aid Given – Fires = 127	Aid Given – HazMat = 1	Aid Given – Medicals = 18
Aid Given – Move-Ups = 11	Burning Complaint = 16	Dumpster Fire = 7
Fire Alarm = 72	Gas Leak = 27	Grass/Brush Fire = 11
HazMat Investigation = 0	Smoke Investigation = 45	Structure Fire = 22
Vehicle Fire = 8	Wires Down/Arcing = 28	





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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 high-hazard 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 provides an engine and manpower to back fill a Kalamazoo Township Station during fire incidents where the stations would otherwise be unstaffed. In return, Kalamazoo Township provides The City of Parchment with an Engine on all calls of Smoke, Fire, or Smell of Gas inside of a structure.



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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 159 times, and received aid 256 times as outlined below:

	Oshtemo		Comstock		KDPS		Cooper		Parchment	
	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received
January	4	7	3	24	2	5	0	0	1	0
February	2	0	3	22	0	2	0	1	0	1
March	3	1	5	24	2	1	4	1	1	1
April	3	1	7	15	0	0	2	0	1	0
May	4	0	4	15	2	1	1	0	0	1
June	8	5	6	12	0	1	2	0	2	0
July	6	0	10	17	4	1	3	0	0	0
August	1	0	3	15	0	1	0	0	0	0
September	8	1	5	14	1	0	0	1	1	3
October	5	1	7	17	1	2	2	0	1	0
November	5	2	9	21	1	2	0	0	0	0
December	3	1	6	13	0	0	1	1	3	1

*In addition to the above chart, the Township of Kalamazoo received assistance from Texas Township Fire once, and our HazMat Team members responded with the Kalamazoo County HazMat Team once.



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Fire Loss Summary

There were 23 responses in 2017 with an associated loss caused by smoke and/or fire damage. Those 23 "loss fires" totaled \$369,800 in lost property and contents, and are listed individually below:

Incident #	Date	Location	Fire Type	Est. Property Loss	Est. Content Loss	Total Est. Loss
19	1/5/17	1014 Milla	Vehicle Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,500
37	1/18/17	2025 Sunnyside	Structure Fire	\$ 51,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 61,000
79	1/25/17	2106 Sunnyside C-18	Kitchen Fire	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
122	1/26/17	312 N Sage #202	Kitchen Fire	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 1,200
132	1/30/17	2432 N Drake	Kitchen Fire	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 50
231	2/17/17	1423 Nazareth	Structure Fire	\$ 42,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 50,000
235	2/4/17	1902 Colgrove	Kitchen Fire	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300
308	3/5/17	3020 N Pitcher	Garage Fire	\$ 18,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 33,000
539	4/16/17	1201 Healy	Structure Fire	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 20,000
554	4/15/17	4971 Sweet Cherry Ln	Deck Fire with extension	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
711	5/24/17	1912 Colgrove #109	Kitchen Fire	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ 50
823	6/28/17	2512 Tamarack	Boat Fire	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
989	7/22/17	1521 Gull	Kitchen Fire	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
1202	8/21/17	2112 Sunnyside b-15	Deck Fire with extension	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
1206	8/23/17	1112 Lum	Kitchen Fire	\$ 500	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,500
1252	9/23/17	3304 Sunnyside	Structure Fire	\$ 60,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 90,000
1355	10/14/17	309 Lake Forest	Kitchen Fire	\$ 12,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 14,500
1405	10/3/17	Ravine & Nichols	Vehicle Fire	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 1,200
1610	11/29/17	2028 Colgrove	Vehicle Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1627	12/7/17	2101 N Pitcher	Structure Fire	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000
1647	12/11/17	3526 Stewart	Structure Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,500
1658	12/5/17	714 Ashley	Kitchen Fire	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
1761	12/24/17	2341 Lake	Structure Fire	\$ 9,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 11,000

*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.



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Station 1 (Northwood)

Northwood Fire Station

2617 North Burdick Street

Built in 1948

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





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Station 1 (continued)



811

2011 Pierce Contender
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





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Station 2 (Eastwood)

Eastwood Fire Station

2703 East Main Street

Built in 1940

Houses Engine 812, Ladder 842 and Rescue 852





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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

2007 Ford Expedition EL
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies



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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



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Station 4 (Westwood)

Westwood Fire Station

1310 Nichols Road

Built in 1967

Houses Engine 814, Ladder 844, and Rescue 854





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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

2007 Ford Expedition EL
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies





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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	6	Northwood	2037	Foam System
821	Engine	2016	1	Northwood	2041	Vehicle Extrication
851	Rescue/Brush Unit	2008	9	Northwood	2019	Water tank & pump for grass fires
812	Engine	2015	2	Eastwood	2040	Foam System & Extrication
842	Platform Ladder	2007	10	Eastwood	2037	Ladder Truck
852	Rescue	2007	10	Eastwood	2018	
813	Engine	2007	10	Lakewood	2032	
814	Engine	1998	19	Westwood	2023	Vehicle Extrication
844	Platform Ladder	2009	8	Westwood	2039	Ladder Truck
854	Rescue	2007	10	Westwood	2018	
855	Fire Marshal	2014	3	Township	2020	Fire Investigation Equipment
856	Maintenance	2016	1	Township	2022	Snow plow
890	Fire Chief	2018	0	Township	2026	



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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: \$2,100

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: \$3,500

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 2017, equipment was sent in as needed for inspection and maintenance, reducing the amount of fire protective clothing that needed to be replaced. Cost: \$2,300

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus – 43 units were inspected and flow tested with only minor repairs needed. Cost: \$2,000

Hydraulic rescue tool inspection and pressure testing – All hydraulic rescue pump and tool units were inspected and flow tested by a certified contractor. All units passed with only minor repairs needed. Cost: \$1,600



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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 capital projects completed in 2017

-Payment 2 of 3 for Engine 821	\$70,000
-Payment 3 of 3 for Engine 812	\$70,000
-Replace 1,200 feet of fire hose (5")	\$6,500
-Replace 1,750 feet of fire hose (1 ¾" and 2 ½")	\$4,245
-Replace 3 sets of fire bunkers	\$5,000
-Replace fire helmets, boots and gloves	\$5,260
-Replace fire chief vehicle	\$35,900
-Replace fire pagers (\$28,300 grant)	\$31,400
-Replace 30 portable fire radios	\$18,235
-Purchase Hurst rescue tool hydraulic pump	\$8,200
-Purchase Hurst rescue cutter and spreader units	\$8,800
-Purchase Hurst rescue hydraulic hoses and couplings	\$4,000
-Replace flat roof on Westwood station	\$57,150
-Purchase rapid intervention crew air pack for 821	\$3,900
-Parking lot maintenance for Northwood and Westwood	\$5,600
-Replace furnace and water heater at Northwood	\$4,700



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Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement

Fire Marshal's Summary 2017									
Inspections	Inspection Follow Up's	Citations	Fire/EMS Calls	Investigations	Investigation Follow Up's	Public Education Hours	Court Hours	Burn Complaints	Training
126	44	71	258	16	2	0	6	22	131

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.



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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 250 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 an 80 hour training course. In 2017 the Department hired 10 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 2017, our firefighters spent 2,883 hours performing proficiency training within our department. Firefighters also spent 152 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 2017, our firefighters spent 1,350 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.



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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 2017 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 Dave Weal – 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.



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Appendix

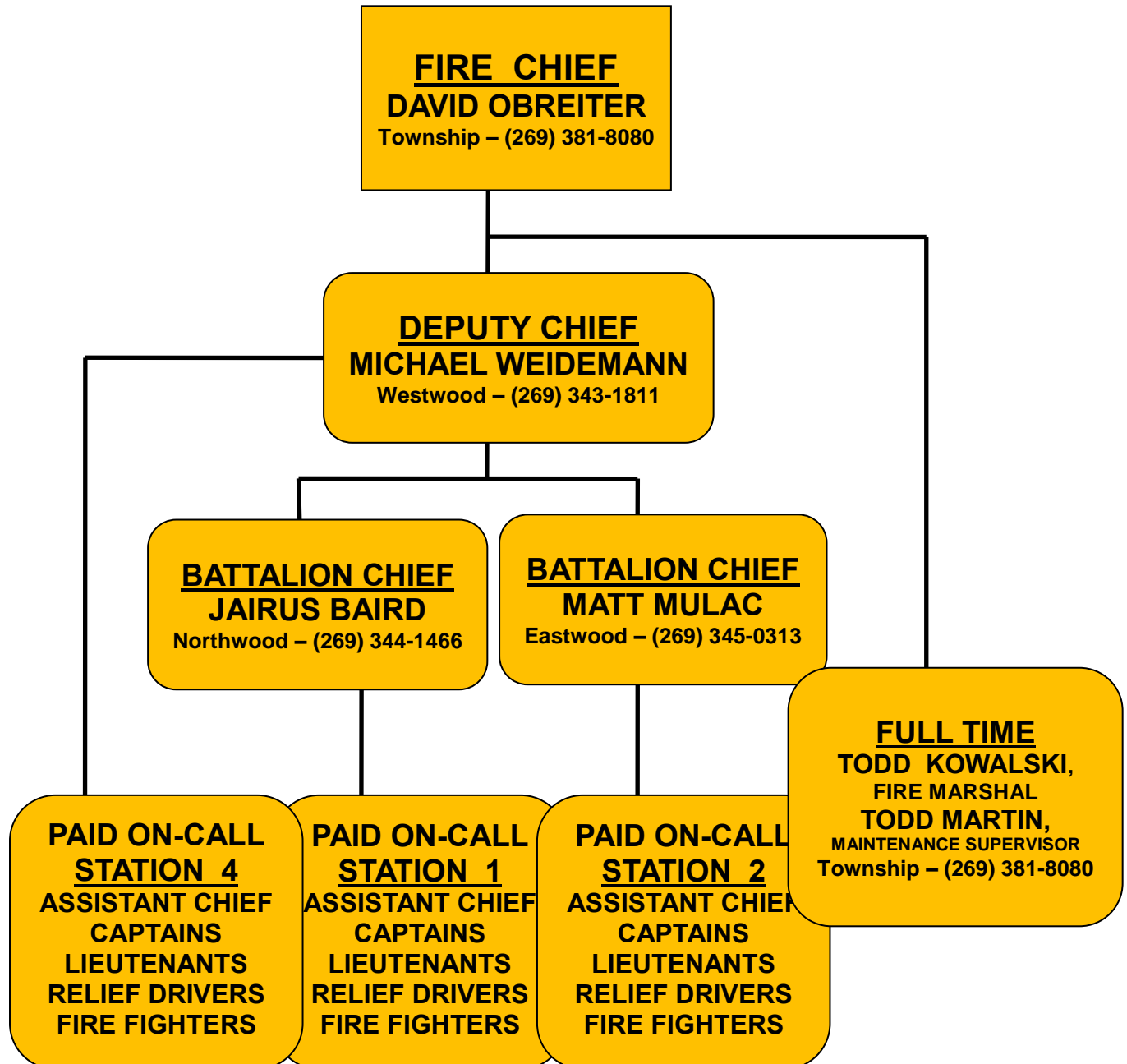
Township of Kalamazoo Fire Dept. 2017 Years of service							
RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.	Award	RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.	Award
Lt.	Tim James	41		FF	Shawn Gallagher	8	
Capt.	Randy Thompson	40	Pin	FF	Tom Baas	7	
D/C	Mike Weidemann	33		Lt.	George Tazelaar	6	
A/C	Dave Hoekstra	32		FF	Brian Tenbrink	6	
FF	Mark Warnicke	31		FF	Mike Rotgers	5	Pin
FF	Joe Vanorder	29		Disp.	Rachel Baird	4	
Chief	Dave Obreiter	28		FF	Anthony Tazelaar	3	
Capt.	Todd Kowalski	27		FF	Tyler Vaughn	3	
FF	Jim Loedeman	26		FF	Kent Tatro	2	
A/C	Todd Dunfield	25	Pin/Watch	FF	Jason Baker	2	
Capt.	Todd Martin	24		FF	Julie VanGemert	2	
Capt.	Joe Landreville	23		FF	Cody Switzer	2	
B/C	Matt Mulac	20	Pin	FF	Erik Brinkert	2	
Lt.	Tom Sutton	20	Pin	FF	Jeremie Bular	1	
Disp.	Teresa Weidemann	20	Pin	FF	Paige Duncan	1	
FF	Jim Varda	20	Pin	FF	Edward Medina	1	
FF	Rick Trott	14		FF	Chris Glasser	1	
FF	Dave Weal	14		FF	Michael Weidemann	1	
FF	Derek Bucknell	13		FF	Logan Callen	1	
FF	Mike Hubbart	13		FF	Leonard Bellows	New	
FF	Dave Ives	13		FF	Jeffery Birman	New	
Lt.	Troy Cox	12		FF	Brent Boswell	New	
FF	Al Garnaat	12		FF	Joseph Coudron	New	
FF	Gabriel Podolsky	11		FF	Scott Dovey	New	
FF	Justin Vanorder	11		FF	Andrew McCann	New	
Capt.	Chad Baker	11		FF	Tishombe Palm	New	
B/C	Jairus Baird	9		FF	Zachery Tazelaar	New	
FF	Chris Weidemann	9		FF	Travis Wendt	New	



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Appendix (continued)

Fire Department Organizational Chart





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Appendix (continued)

2017 Fire Department Awards

Firefighter of the Year (2016)

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 Lieutenant George Tazelaar

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 Assistant Chief Todd Dunfield

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 2017.

THOMAS BAAS	1	JOE LANDREVILLE	1	KENT TATROE	1	TYLER VAUGHN	1
JAIRUS BAIRD	1	TODD MARTIN	5	ANTHONY TAZELAAR	1	MARK WARNICKE	1
ERIK BRINKERT	1	MATT MULAC	1	GEORGE TAZELAAR	1	DAVE WEAL	3
DEREK BUCKNELL	1	DAVE OBREITER	2	BRIAN TENBRINK	1	CHRIS WEIDEMANN	3
LOGAN CALLEN	4	GABRIEL PODOLSKY	2	JULIE VANGEMERT	1	FF MIKE WEIDEMANN	2
DAVE HOEKSTRA	2	MIKE ROTGERS	4	JUSTIN VANORDER	2	DC MIKE WEIDEMANN	4
TIM JAMES	2	CODY SWITZER	1	JOE VANORDER	1	TERESA WEIDEMANN	3
TODD KOWALSKI	4						

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