

# *Charter Township Of Kalamazoo*



## **2023 Annual Fire Department Report**

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



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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## Fire Chief's Comments

2023 was a year which brought this department through significant and lasting changes. The start of 2023 began with much uncertainty of what this year would bring the department. In the face of a staffing shortage, hiring was completed with initial training and onboarding for nine Firefighter Equipment Operators (FF/EO) and two Battalion Chiefs bringing Full Time staff to 14 personnel. These staff additions allowed for the creation of a new model with an organizational shift away from the "live in" Residential Station Officer model to one placing a full time FF/EO at each staffed stations, along with a Chief on Duty 24-7 across the Township.

The consistent staffing created throughout this hiring process and the challenges we overcame through the last year, could not have been accomplished without the terrific support from our paid-on-call staff. All of our members who worked side by side with each other to keep every shift covered in 2023, even though we were oftentimes 50% below our authorized full-time staffing levels. Personnel repeatedly sacrificed hours with family and friends in order to stand ready to serve this community, as well as our department, in its time of need. A deep and heartfelt thank you goes to every member on our roster and their families by extension.

Kalamazoo Township continues to work with our neighbors in collaborative groups and remain active in associations at the local, county, regional, and state level with Fire Chiefs, Fire Inspectors, and Fire Investigators. We also have members on the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team and the Kalamazoo County Fire Investigation Response Team. These groups allow for the sharing of resources, ideas, and best practices between our communities, which reduces the cost of providing services, while providing the services the public requires.

As we look forward to 2024, we are excited to continue laying the foundation of this organization by focusing inward on our policies, procedures, and personnel to ensure that our investment into new staffing is deployed in the most appropriate way possible to meet the needs of our citizens and the greater community we are called to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jairus Baird".

Jairus Baird  
Fire Chief



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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 five command level personnel consisting of the fire chief, two battalion chiefs, fire marshal, and fire department maintenance supervisor. These members are assigned to shifts to ensure 24/7 coverage of a command officer available to respond to all scenes.

**Emergency Response** – The Fire Department Emergency Response section is managed by our Fire Department Management Team. The team 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 Fire Department responds to emergency calls for service such as medical and fire emergencies, as well as non-emergency calls for service like 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/equipment operator twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Emergency response to the Lakewood neighborhood is provided under written agreement and in conjunction with Comstock Township Fire Department, which operates and responds in the same manner as the Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department. Kalamazoo Township also contracts to provide all services for the City of Parchment and maintains their station and vehicles.

The Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department relies heavily on paid-on-call personnel for response to all calls for service. In 2023, we averaged approximately 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 (Firefighter/Equipment Operator), scheduled fire department training, and special activities such as station maintenance and public outreach events 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 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 Chiefs Association.

**Fire Department Training** – Our Fire Department Training section is managed by our command officers in cooperation with all officers of the organization. This team 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.



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## 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 maintenance of other small tools and equipment 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/Equipment Operator (24 hour)** – Station staffing is covered by our nine full time firefighter/equipment operators who work 24 hour shifts to keep our three staffed stations ready to respond when needed. These members are also responsible for the day to day upkeep of the stations while assisting with updates to keep our facilities in the best possible shape.

**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. Dexter Mitchell remained the Township Manager for 2023.

**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, responses, and budgeting. Township Supervisor Donald Martin remained the Fire Commissioner for 2023.



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## Fire Department Program Descriptions (continued)

**Fire 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. Ken Smeader remained the Fire Chaplain for 2023.





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## Emergency Response Analysis

In 2023 the Department responded to a total of 2,798 incidents. 2,070 being rescue related, and 728 being fire related.

### Calls by Station

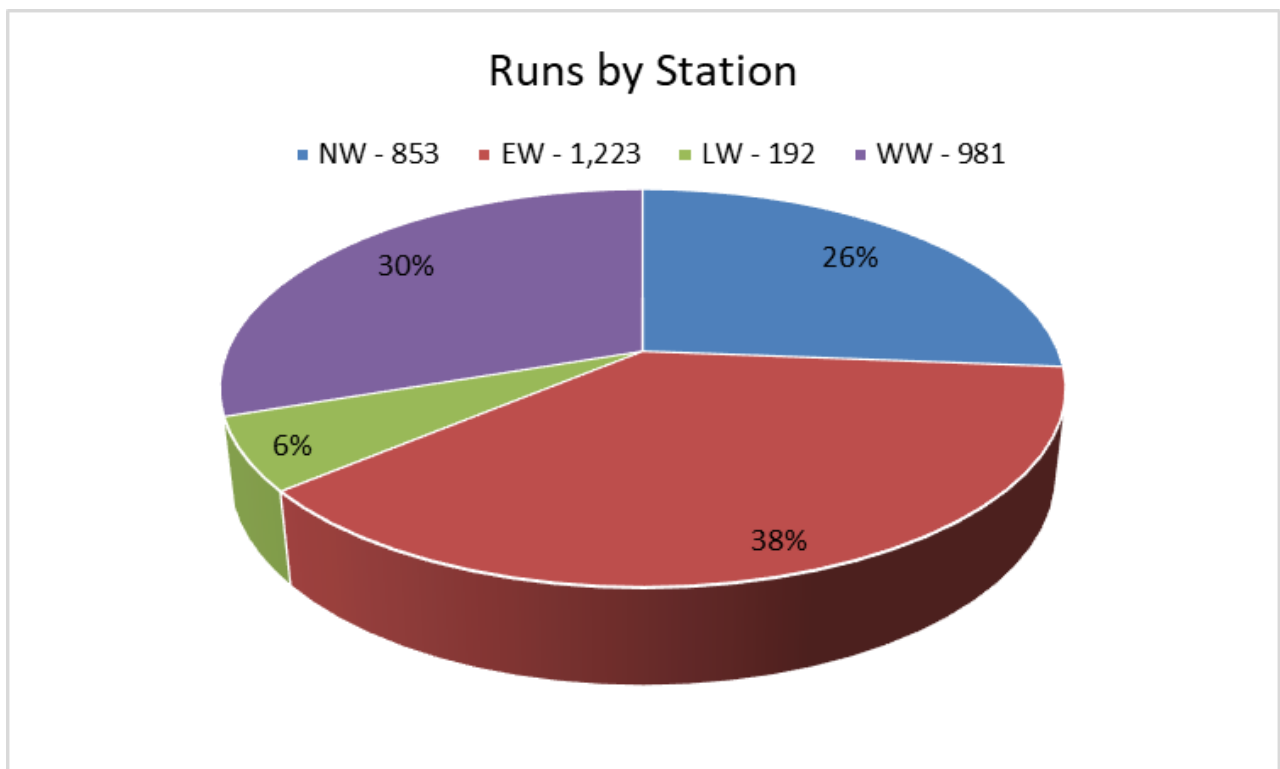
Station # 1= 853 / 593

Station # 3= 192 / 192

Station # 2= 1,223 / 1,067

Station # 4= 981 / 946

With Assists / Without Assists





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## Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

### Northwood

#### responding to:

Eastwood = 133  
Westwood = 106  
Lakewood = 21

### Eastwood

#### responding to:

Northwood = 53  
Westwood = 0  
Lakewood = 103

### Westwood

#### responding to:

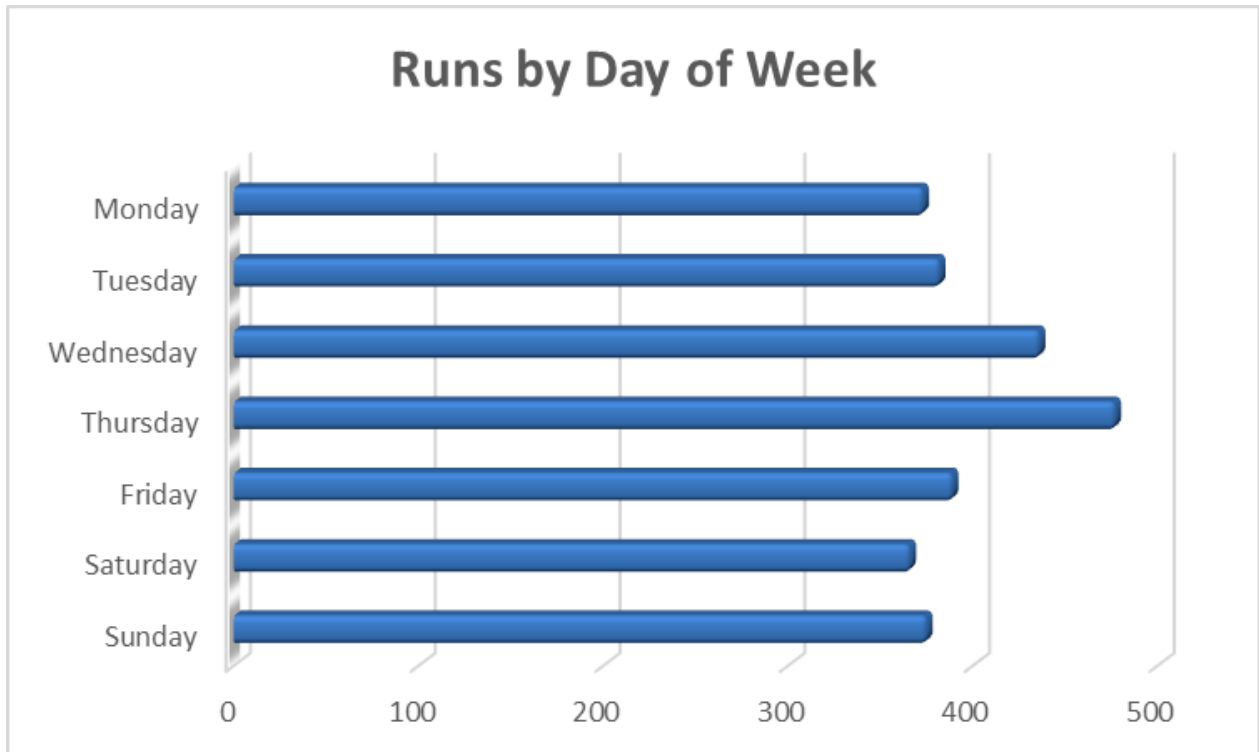
Northwood = 33  
Eastwood = 2  
Lakewood = 0

### Day of Week

Monday = 373  
Tuesday = 382  
Wednesday = 436  
Thursday = 477  
Friday = 389  
Saturday = 366  
Sunday = 375

### Time of Day

00:00 – 03:59 = 271  
04:00 – 07:59 = 294  
08:00 – 11:59 = 491  
12:00 – 15:59 = 583  
16:00 – 19:59 = 625  
20:00 – 23:59 = 533





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## Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

In the past 10 years, demands for service of the fire department have been ever increasing. We have seen a 55% increase in rescue, 63% increase in fire, and a 57% increase in total calls for service when compared to 2014.

	Calls for Service	Fire Related	Rescue Related	Assists Between Stations	Mutual Aid Given
<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
<b>2021</b>	2,671	576	2,095	391	354
<b>2022</b>	2,959	597	2,362	403	412
<b>2023</b>	2,798	728	2,070	451	356

	Total FF Responses	Average FF's per call
<b>2014</b>	11,414	6.4
<b>2015</b>	11,454	6.4
<b>2016</b>	11,366	5.9
<b>2017</b>	11,325	6.1
<b>2018</b>	12,745	6.1
<b>2019</b>	15,104	6.1
<b>2020</b>	16,094	6.6
<b>2021</b>	17,395	6.1
<b>2022</b>	17,021	5.4
<b>2023</b>	13,787	4.5



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## Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

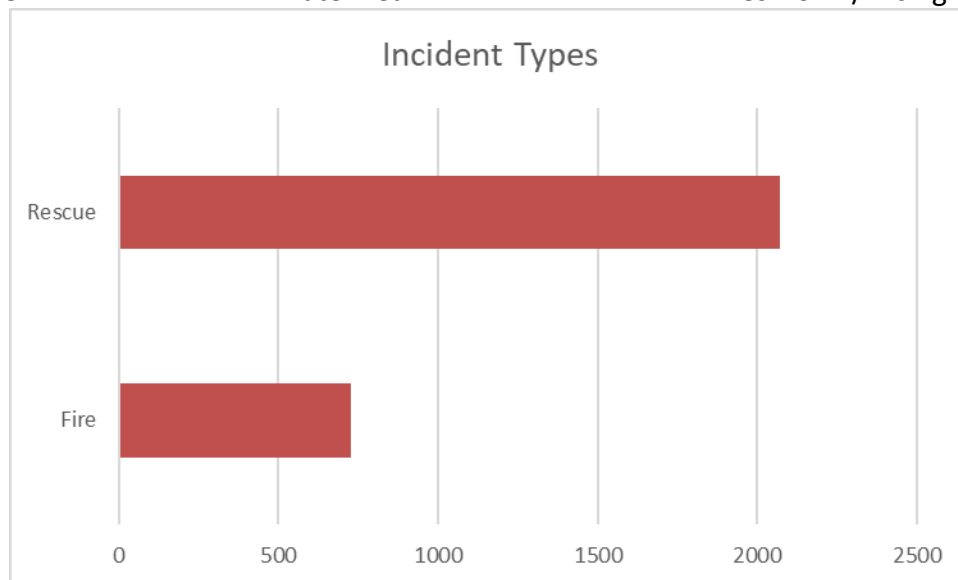
The following is a breakdown of the calls by type and frequency for 2023

### Rescues

Abdominal Pain = 15	Aid Given – Medicals = 23	Allergic Reaction/Stings = 13
Altered Mental Status = 172	Animal Bite = 2	Assault = 17
Assist Police = 8	Attempt Suicide = 0	Back Pain = 14
Breathing Problem = 370	Burns = 1	Cancelled en Route = 78
Carbon Monoxide Call = 34	Cardiac Arrest = 28	Chest Pain = 196
Choking = 5	Convulsions/Seizure = 118	Diabetic Problem = 12
EMS Alarm = 59	Extrication = 2	Eye Injury = 2
Fall = 164	Head Injury/Pain = 11	Heat Exhaustion = 1
Hemorrhage = 43	Hypothermia = 2	Lift Assist = 85
Motor Vehicle Accident = 134	Nothing Found/Arrival = 51	Overdose/Poisoning = 30
Pregnancy/OB = 19	Psychiatric Problems = 17	Sick Person = 72
Stab/Gunshot Wound = 7	Stroke = 49	Unconscious = 65
Unknown/Person Down = 140	Welfare Check = 11	

### Fires

Aid Given – Fires = 85	Aid Given – HazMat Team = 1	Aid Given – Move-Ups = 6
Burning Complaint = 76	Dumpster Fire = 12	Elevator Rescue = 0
Fire Alarm = 135	Forcible Entry = 7	Gas Leak = 49
Grass/Brush Fire = 12	HazMat Investigation = 1	High Angle Rescue = 0
Smoke Investigation = 66	Structure Fire = 30	Tree Down / Removal = 2
Vehicle Fire = 24	Water Leak = 4	Wires Down/Arcing = 221





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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 an immediate response in conjunction with these other agencies as follows:

Comstock Township runs all Priority 1 rescues 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, and an engine to all other structures on the west side of their Township.



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.



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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 356 times, and received aid 220 times as outlined below:

	Comstock		Oshtemo		KDPS		Parchment		Cooper		Alamo	
	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received
January	3	11	6	4	1	2	15	0	2	0	0	0
February	7	12	2	11	1	5	25	0	2	0	0	0
March	3	13	4	4	1	4	21	0	1	0	0	0
April	2	11	2	2	0	1	24	0	2	0	0	0
May	3	14	9	2	0	5	15	0	1	0	0	0
June	3	11	4	4	4	3	21	0	2	1	0	0
July	2	16	5	3	0	3	30	0	2	0	1	0
August	4	11	2	4	2	4	19	0	0	0	0	0
September	3	16	6	1	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	0
October	3	16	1	2	2	2	14	0	1	2	0	0
November	2	6	8	3	2	1	23	0	1	0	0	0
December	6	8	2	0	0	2	11	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	41	145	51	40	13	32	235	0	15	3	1	0



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## Fire Loss Summary

There were 46 responses in 2023 with an associated loss caused by smoke and/or fire damage. Those 46 “loss fires” totaled \$595,220 in lost property and contents, and are listed individually below:

Incident #	Date	Location	Fire Type	Est. Property Loss	Est. Content Loss	Total Est. Loss
66	1/10/23	2622 Riverview	Garage Fire	\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 5,500
67	1/10/23	2706 Ravine	Vehicle Fire	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
72	1/11/23	1242 Nassau	House Fire	\$ 30,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 35,000
105	1/16/23	1309 Pinehurst	Vehicle Fire	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
109	1/16/23	1429 Nassau	Bedroom Fire	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
181	1/26/23	2432 N Drake	Bathroom Fire	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
223	2/1/23	1235 Shakespeare	Semi-Truck Fire	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
264	2/7/23	609 Chicago	House Fire	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,000
272	2/8/23	2016 Sunnyside	Kitchen Fire	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
291	2/11/23	2901 Asbury	Bedroom Fire	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500
365	2/22/23	BL-94 & Olmstead	Semi-Truck Fire	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000
509	2/23/23	2026 Skyline	Generator Fire	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
570	2/24/23	1330 Calhoun	Kitchen Fire	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
615	3/1/23	1207 Jenks	Vehicle Fire	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000
635	3/4/23	1214 Barclay	House Fire	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 50,000
658	3/8/23	1236 Baker	Garage Fire	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 20,000
735	3/17/23	2900 Lake	Furnace Fire	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
846	4/4/23	2302 E Main	Vehicle Fire	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
853	4/5/23	1100 Nichols	Vehicle Fire	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000
894	4/11/23	1111 Olmstead	Vehicle Fire	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
924	4/13/23	1322 Baker	Bedroom Fire	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
970	4/20/23	1728 Kaywood	Vehicle Fire	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
1024	4/29/23	2018 Sunnyside	Attic Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
1028	4/29/23	2018 Sunnyside	Attic Fire	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 11,500
1195	5/24/23	Charles & The Dells	Vehicle Fire	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 7,000
1201	5/24/23	3304 Miami	Garage Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
1248	5/29/23	4301 W Main	Roof Fire	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
1357	6/10/23	525 N Arlington	Vehicle Fire	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000
1414	6/16/23	4335 Leisure Ln	Oxygen Hose/Concentrator	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1415	6/16/23	3247 Birch Ln	Mobile Home Fire	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
1476	6/22/23	1429 Olmstead	House Fire	\$ 55,200	\$ 20,000	\$ 75,200
1518	6/28/23	2220 Gull	Vehicle Fire	\$ 8,500	\$ -	\$ 8,500
1546	7/2/23	904 Washburn	Fence/Brush Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1588	7/6/23	1207 Warren	Trash Can Fire	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 400
1594	7/7/23	1523 Nazareth	Vehicle Fire	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
1741	7/26/23	3308 W Main	Vehicle Fire	\$ 21,000	\$ -	\$ 21,000
1918	8/18/23	2926 Ravine	Vehicle Fire	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
2072	9/6/23	3701 E Main	House Fire	\$ 15,300	\$ 5,000	\$ 20,300
2345	10/9/23	1928 Colgrove	Vehicle Fire	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
2354	10/11/23	1918 W Main	Vehicle Fire	\$ 2,700	\$ -	\$ 2,700
2394	10/17/23	3416 Winter Wheat	Mobile Home Fire	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000
2543	11/10/23	BL-131 & Douglas	Vehicle Fire	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
2602	11/17/23	3215 King Hwy	Vehicle Fire	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
2623	11/21/23	504 Keyes Dr.	Kitchen Fire	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,500
2684	11/29/23	3308 W Main	Stove Fire	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ 20
2774	12/13/23	2010 N Westnedge	House Fire	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000

\*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 1949

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







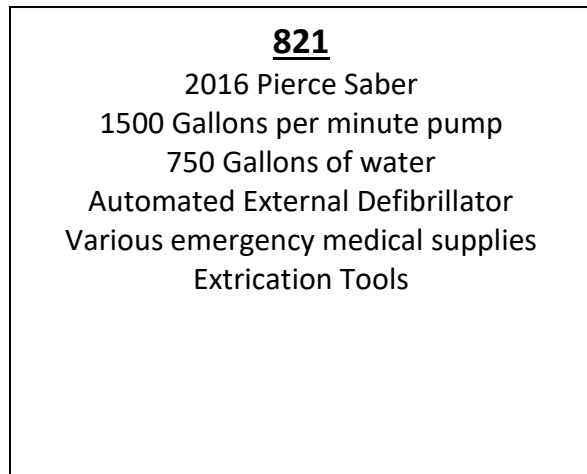
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## Station 1 (continued)



### 811

2011 Pierce Saber  
1500 Gallons 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 Gallons per minute pump  
750 Gallons of water  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies  
Extrication Tools



### 851

2022 Chevrolet 3500  
150 Gallons 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





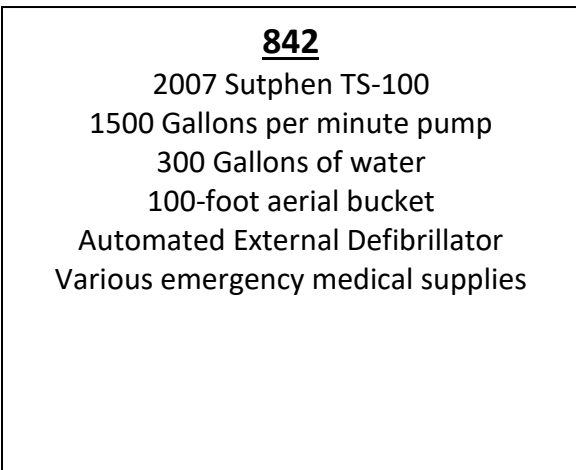
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## Station 2 (continued)



### 812

2015 Pierce Saber  
1500 Gallons 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 Gallons 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





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## Station 3 (Lakewood)



### Lakewood Fire Station

3100 Lake Street  
Built in 1950, Residence in 1967  
Houses Engine 813 and  
Air Trailer 880

### 813

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



### 880

2015 aluminum trailer  
Dual 4,000 pound axles with brakes  
Bauer Diesel Motor  
Bauer 6,000 PSI 13.1 CFM Air Compressor  
Four 6,000 PSI cascade tanks  
Dual SCBA fill station  
Remote fill capabilities with a 150 foot reel





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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

2023 Pierce Saber  
1500 Gallons per minute pump  
720 Gallons of water  
On board foam system with 30 gallons  
of Class A foam concentrate  
Extrication equipment  
Automated External Defibrillator  
Various emergency medical supplies



### 844

2009 Sutphen TS-100  
1500 Gallons 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





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## Apparatus Fleet Status

The average age of our fleet is under seven years old and we have some vehicles approaching their replacement dates; while our next large apparatus in need of purchase is more than 8 years away. We use replacement dates as outlined below 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	12	Northwood	2036	Foam System
821	Engine	2016	7	Northwood	2041	Vehicle Extrication
851	Rescue/Brush Unit	2022	1	Northwood	2032	Water tank & pump for grass fires
812	Engine	2015	8	Eastwood	2040	Foam System & Extrication
842	Platform Ladder	2007	16	Eastwood	2037	Ladder Truck
852	Rescue	2019	4	Eastwood	2029	
813	Engine	2007	16	Lakewood	2032	
814	Engine	2023	0	Westwood	2047	Foam System & Extrication
844	Platform Ladder	2009	14	Westwood	2039	Ladder Truck
854	Rescue	2019	4	Westwood	2029	
855	Fire Marshal	2023	0	Township	2031	Fire Investigation Equipment
856	Maintenance	2016	7	Township	2024	Snow plow
800	Command	2019	4	Township	2027	
801	Command	2021	2	Township	2029	
890	Fire Chief	2018	5	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.

**Ladder Truck Inspection and Testing** – Both ladder trucks were visually inspected and functionally tested. Cost of inspection: \$3,144

**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: \$2,412

**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: \$2,020

**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 2023, equipment was sent in as needed for inspection and maintenance, reducing the amount of fire protective clothing that needed to be replaced. Cost: \$3,385

**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus** – 43 units were inspected and flow tested with only minor repairs needed. Cost: \$2,803

**Fire Engine 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Inspections** – Outside company inspection of all fire apparatus required by ISO rating system. Cost: \$10,064





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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 projects completed in 2023

- Replace firefighter protective clothing (ballistic vests) - \$30,000
- Battery Electric Fans for Ventilation - \$25,050
- Sierra Wireless Upgrades for Vehicle Based Internet - \$10,800
- Fire Alarm System Replacement - Eastwood - \$14,900
- Northwood Garage Roof Replacement - \$6,750
- Fire Marshal Vehicle Replacement and upfitting - \$75,050
- Eastwood outfit residence for FF/EO living - \$9,400
- Outfitting vehicles for command responses - \$4,100



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## 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.



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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 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.

**Department Wide Training** consists of a 3-hour scheduled training every Tuesday. We offer a morning session and evening session to allow our paid-on-call personnel to attend the session that does not conflict with their full-time jobs. Training varies every week and covers all areas of the expected job functions. In 2023, our firefighters spent 2,250 hours performing proficiency training within our department. Firefighters also spent 206 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 2022, our firefighters spent 894 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 2023 there were four team members and one executive board member from the Township of Kalamazoo on the KCHMRT as outlined below:

- Fire Chief Jairus Baird – Executive Board Member
- Battalion Chief Chris Weidemann – Team Member
- Lieutenant George Tazelaar – Team Member
- Lieutenant Shawn Bickings – 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. Fire Marshal Todd Kowalski is a Senior Fire Investigator with KCFIRT.



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## Appendix

RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.	Award	RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.	Award
Lt.	Tim James	47		FF	Kent Tatroe	8	
Capt.	Randy Thompson	46		FF	Cody Switzer	8	
DC	Mike Weidemann	39		FF	Erik Brinkert	8	
AC	Dave Hoekstra	38		FF	Jeremie Bular	7	
FF	Mark Warnicke	37		FF	Edward Valadez	7	
FF	Joe Vanorder	35	Pin	FF	Logan Callen	7	
Capt.	Todd Kowalski	33		Chapl.	Ken Smeader	6	
FF	Jim Loedeman	32		FF	Brent Boswell	6	
AC	Todd Dunfield	31		FF	Joseph Coudron	6	
Capt.	Todd Martin	30	Pin	FF	Andrew McCann	6	
FF	Joe Landreville	29		FF	Travis Wendt	6	
Disp.	Teresa Weidemann	26		FF	DeMonte Spann	5	Pin
FF	Mike Hubbard	19		FF	Dillon Moe	5	Pin
FF	Dave Ives	19		FF	Brandon Bromley-Root	4	
FF	Dan Merchant	19		FF	Andrew Romstadt	4	
FF	Gabriel Podolsky	17		FF	Ben Barber	4	
Capt.	Chad Baker	17		FF	Elizabeth Kowalski	4	
Chief	Jairus Baird	15	Pin	FF	Alan Oxhandler	3	
BC	Chris Weidemann	15	Pin	FF	Anthony Lee-El	3	
FF	Shawn Gallagher	14		FF	Megan Martin	3	
FF	Paul Fox	14		FF	Brian Fulbright	2	
Lt.	Shawn Bickings	13		FF	Colin Fletter	2	
Lt.	George Tazelaar	12		FF	Jeff Cabello	2	
FF	Brian Tenbrink	12		FF	Shawn Wertz	2	
FF	Mike Rotgers	11		FF	Khaleb Cretsinger	1	
Disp.	Rachel Baird	10	Pin	FF	Shane Peterson	1	
FF	Tim Evans	9		FF	Kirsten Scheller	1	
FF	Anthony Tazelaar	8		FF	Nathan Browder	NEW	



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## Appendix (continued)

### Fire Department Organizational Chart

