

Charter Township Of Kalamazoo



2021 Annual Fire Department Report

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



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Fire Chief's Comments

We proudly submit this 2021 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 2021, we finished the year with a total of 2,671 emergency responses. This total represents both the ebb and flow of calls for service as well as the inclusion of 209 calls for service due to the continued implementation of a contracted fire department management and response agreement with the City of Parchment.

In December of 2021, the Township of Kalamazoo continued a joint working relationship with the City of Parchment by renewing a two-year contract for emergency response and fire department management. The agreement continued the merger of personnel management, training and general operations of the two departments. This agreement continues to allow our emergency responders to better align training, response readiness and provide for a more effective resource for the residents of the City of Parchment and Kalamazoo Township.

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

In 2021, fire department management, officers and responders continued to meet on a regular basis to assess our daily operations, emergency response capabilities and overall member wellness. One of the more noticeable accomplishments was the continued team effort needed to adapt fire department operations during the second year of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Through this process, many ever changing actions and initiatives were taken to strengthen the response capabilities of our department as well as provide for the safety and health of our emergency responders, their families and the residents of our community.

Community involvement remained a high priority with our fire department members. Unfortunately, it continued to be limited due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It is our hope that we can safely reconnect socially within the department as well as reengage with the public. We look forward to returning to an increased level of support and education with the many school, sport and community events that we have missed over the past two years.



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

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 2021, 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



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Fire Department Program Descriptions (continued)

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.

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.



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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 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, and expanded to two positions in early 2021. 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, these positions 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.



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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 2021.

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 2021.

Fire Department Chaplain – The Fire Department Chaplain position was added in September of 2017. As with many other local police and fire organizations, the need to have a good working relationship with a chaplain *before* a time of need was identified. Working with the Missional Chaplains Program located in Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Township joined a program that provides an always available chaplain resource to many public safety agencies in Kalamazoo County. This resource provides for many aspects of employee assistance and support to include spiritual and personal counseling to department members and their families as requested. Fire Department Chaplain Ken Smeader remained the Fire Chaplain for 2021.



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Emergency Response Analysis

In 2021 the Department responded to a total of 2,671 incidents. 2,095 being rescue related, and 576 being fire related.

Calls by Station

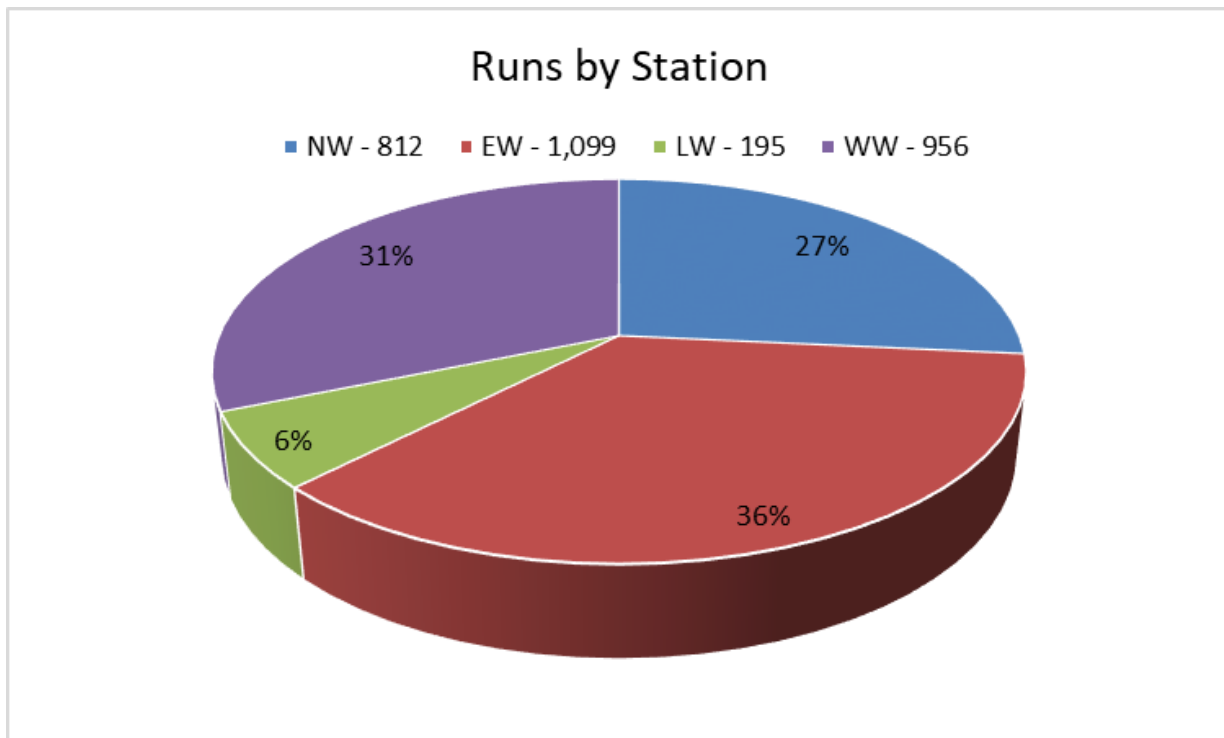
Station # 1= 812 / 579

Station # 3= 195 / 195

Station # 2= 1,099 / 984

Station # 4= 956 / 913

With Assists / Without Assists





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Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

Northwood

responding to:

Eastwood = 91
Westwood = 133
Lakewood = 9

Eastwood

responding to:

Northwood = 42
Westwood = 0
Lakewood = 73

Westwood

responding to:

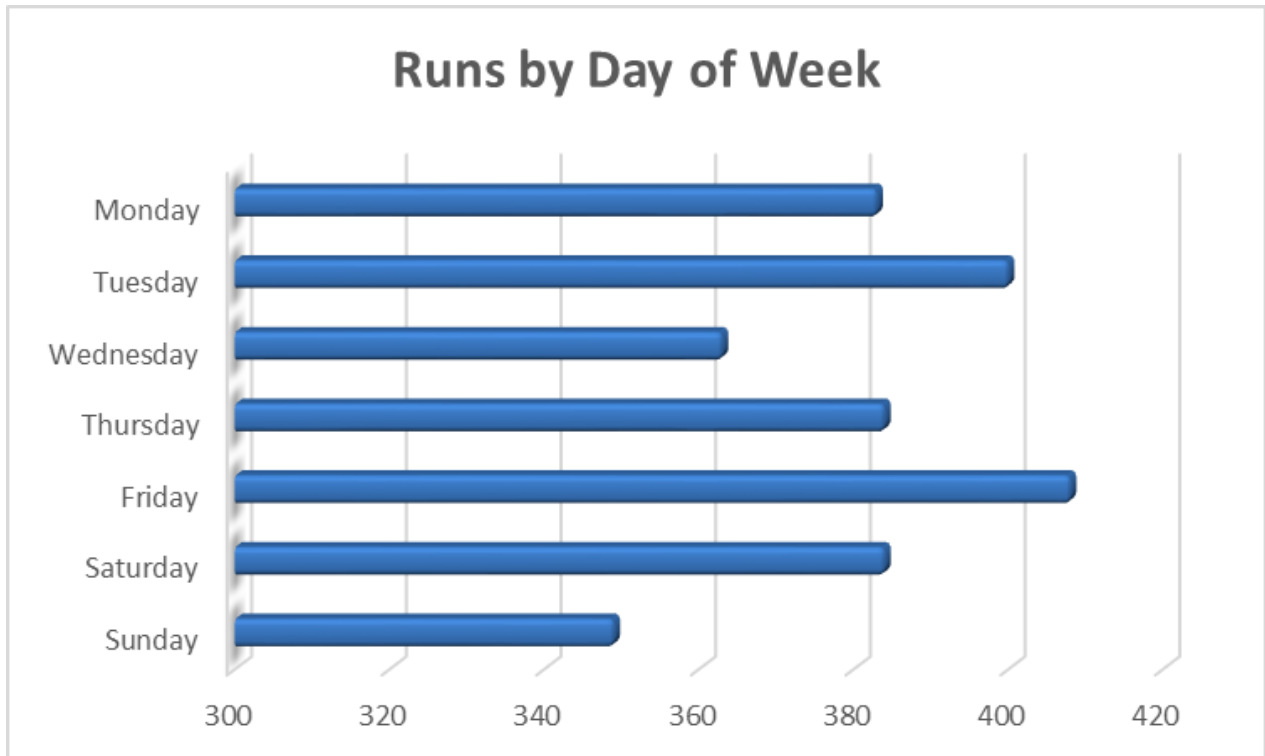
Northwood = 42
Eastwood = 0
Lakewood = 1

Day of Week

Monday = 383
Tuesday = 400
Wednesday = 363
Thursday = 384
Friday = 408
Saturday = 384
Sunday = 349

Time of Day

00:00 – 03:59 = 264
04:00 – 07:59 = 274
08:00 – 11:59 = 494
12:00 – 15:59 = 645
16:00 – 19:59 = 552
20:00 – 23:59 = 442





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Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

In the past 10 years, demands for service of the fire department have been ever increasing, with a 69% increase in rescue, 30% increase in fire and a 59% increase in total calls for service when compared to 2012.

	Calls for Service	Fire Related	Rescue Related	Assists Between Stations	Mutual Aid Given
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
2020	2,359	468	1,891	278	362
2021	2,671	576	2,095	391	354

	Total FF Responses	Average Cost Per Call	Average FF's per call
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	\$113.46	6.1
2020	16,094	\$125.99	6.6
2021	17,395	\$116.45	6.1



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Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

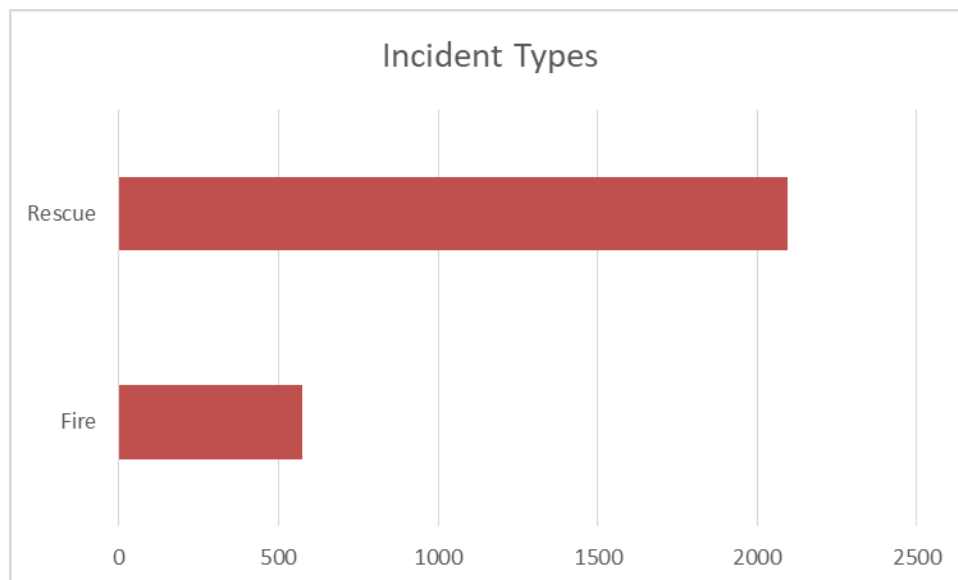
The following is a breakdown of the calls by type and frequency for 2021

Rescues

Abdominal Pain = 28	Aid Given – Medicals = 22	Allergic Reaction/Stings = 20
Altered Mental Status = 125	Animal Bite = 1	Assault = 14
Assist Police = 7	Attempt Suicide = 5	Back Pain = 14
Breathing Problem = 382	Burns = 3	Cancelled en Route = 88
Carbon Monoxide Call = 27	Cardiac Arrest = 24	Chest Pain = 177
Choking = 9	Convulsions/Seizure = 83	Diabetic Problem = 44
EMS Alarm = 96	Extrication = 6	Eye Injury = 4
Fall = 174	Head Injury/Pain = 14	Heat Exhaustion = 2
Hemorrhage = 39	Lift Assist = 88	Motor Vehicle Accident = 151
Nothing Found/Arrival = 36	Overdose/Poisoning = 50	Pregnancy/OB = 12
Psychiatric Problems = 24	Sick Person = 79	Stab/Gunshot Wound = 8
Stroke = 45	Unconscious = 75	Unknown/Person Down = 110
Water Rescue/Drowning = 1	Welfare Check = 8	

Fires

Aid Given – Fires = 109	Aid Given – HazMat Team = 1	Aid Given – Move-Ups = 14
Burning Complaint = 56	Dumpster Fire = 10	Elevator Rescue = 1
Fire Alarm = 89	Forcible Entry = 9	Gas Leak = 46
Grass/Brush Fire = 2	HazMat Investigation = 2	High Angle Rescue = 0
Smoke Investigation = 62	Structure Fire = 26	Vehicle Fire = 15
Water Leak = 7	Wires Down/Arcing = 127	





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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 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.



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 240 times as outlined below:

	Comstock		Oshtemo		KDPS		Parchment		Cooper	
	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received
January	2	10	4	1	0	1	20	0	4	0
February	5	13	4	0	3	3	16	0	0	1
March	1	7	2	3	2	1	23	0	2	1
April	3	13	4	0	1	1	17	0	1	0
May	4	20	7	6	2	3	10	0	1	2
June	1	10	5	1	2	3	17	0	4	0
July	5	23	3	3	2	5	17	0	1	1
August	3	12	6	4	6	2	11	0	2	0
September	0	12	10	4	1	2	15	0	0	0
October	2	14	4	4	3	2	19	0	0	0
November	4	18	6	3	3	1	24	0	2	0
December	7	20	3	4	2	6	20	0	1	0
Totals	37	172	58	33	27	30	209	0	18	5

*In addition to the above chart, the Township of Kalamazoo also assisted Richland Township three times, Texas Township twice, and personnel responded with the HazMat Team twice.



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Fire Loss Summary

There were 30 responses in 2021 with an associated loss caused by smoke and/or fire damage. Those 30 “loss fires” totaled \$485,500 in lost property and contents, and are listed individually below:

Incident #	Date	Location	Fire Type	Est. Property Loss	Est. Content Loss	Total Est. Loss
118	1/21/21	328 N Sage	Attic Fire	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
126	1/23/21	514 Chicago	Attic Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ 100	\$ 1,100
160	1/27/21	822 Avondale	Dryer Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,500
370	2/26/21	2424 Texel	Apartment Fire	\$ 50,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 95,000
408	3/4/21	3310 Old Farm	Mobile Home Fire	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 45,000
421	3/6/21	2605 Douglas	Vehicle Fire	\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 5,500
423	3/7/21	BL-131 & Ravine	Vehicle Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
518	3/20/21	3634 E Main	Tent Fire	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 200
540	3/23/21	393 Lake Forest	Attic Fire	\$ 26,000	\$ -	\$ 26,000
651	4/8/21	3407 Enterprise	Structure Fire	\$ 38,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 43,000
802	4/30/21	1519 Colgrove	Vehicle Fire	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
828	5/5/21	1312 Climax	Kitchen Fire	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
868	5/11/21	708 Fenimore	Vehicle Fire	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750
900	5/14/21	4301 W Main	Structure Fire	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000
968	5/23/21	520 Fenimore	Kitchen Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
1039	5/31/21	1012 Cooper	Kitchen Fire	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 9,000
1070	6/6/21	3302 N Westnedge	Structure Fire	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
1130	6/14/21	1722 W Main	Structure Fire	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
1240	6/28/21	3725 Olney	Vehicle Fire	\$ 2,800	\$ -	\$ 2,800
1359	7/13/21	2006 Alamo	Freezer Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1374	7/15/21	2218 Cumberland	Kitchen Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
1394	7/16/21	1115 Riverside	Vehicle Fire	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
1395	7/17/21	3304 Canterburty	Electric Fire	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300
1396	7/17/21	1928 Colgrove	Apartment Fire	\$ 125,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 155,000
1404	7/18/21	945 McCormick	Structure Fire	\$ 20,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 28,000
1529	8/4/21	E Michigan & Lincoln	Vehicle Fire	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,500
1802	9/5/21	3324 Olney	Structure Fire	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
2453	11/24/21	1521 Gull	Vehicle Fire	\$ 750	\$ 200	\$ 950
2466	11/25/21	600 Edison	Dumpster Fire	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 200
2663	12/18/21	1521 Gull	Vehicle Fire	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500

*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





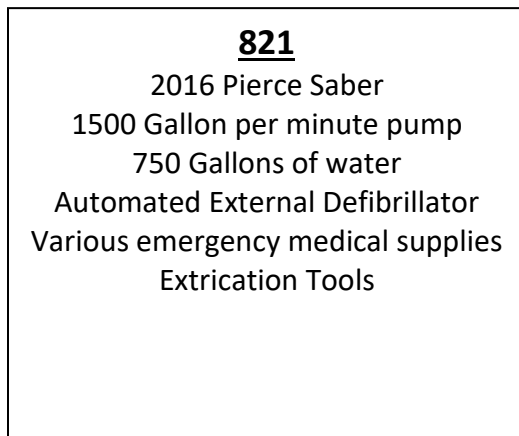
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Station 1 (continued)



811

2011 Pierce 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





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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

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



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

2019 Chevrolet Suburban
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies





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Apparatus Fleet Status

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

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

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

Unit	Type	Year	Age	Assigned Station	Projected Replacement	Special equipment
811	Engine	2011	10	Northwood	2036	Foam System
821	Engine	2016	5	Northwood	2041	Vehicle Extrication
851	Rescue/Brush Unit	2008	13	Northwood	2022	Water tank & pump for grass fires
812	Engine	2015	6	Eastwood	2040	Foam System & Extrication
842	Platform Ladder	2007	14	Eastwood	2037	Ladder Truck
852	Rescue	2019	2	Eastwood	2029	
813	Engine	2007	14	Lakewood	2032	
814	Engine	1998	23	Westwood	2022	Vehicle Extrication
844	Platform Ladder	2009	12	Westwood	2039	Ladder Truck
854	Rescue	2019	2	Westwood	2029	
855	Fire Marshal	2014	7	Township	2023	Fire Investigation Equipment
856	Maintenance	2016	5	Township	2024	Snow plow
800	Utility	2019	2	Township	2027	Snow plow
801	Utility	2021	0	Township	2029	
890	Fire Chief	2018	3	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: \$1,950

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

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

Fire extinguisher inspections (facility and vehicle) – Visual inspection and annual certification were completed on all fire department facility and vehicle mounted fire extinguishers with only a few minor repairs needed. Cost: \$1,450

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 2021, equipment was sent in as needed for inspection and maintenance, reducing the amount of fire protective clothing that needed to be replaced. Cost: \$2,400

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus – 43 units were inspected and flow tested with only minor repairs needed. Cost: \$4,200

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus cylinder hydrostatic testing – 86 units were visually and then hydrostatically tested. Cost: \$5,900



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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 2021

- Replace tile floor at Northwood and Westwood - \$15,200
- Purchase Maintenance Vehicle - \$47,300
- Replace 17 AED's - \$13,200
- Replace fire hose – 400' of 2 ½" and 600' of 1 ¾" - \$4,287
- Replace fire protective clothing - \$31,200
- Purchase 2022 Fire Engine - \$601,500
- Parking lot maintenance - \$10,850



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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. In 2021, the Department hired 9 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 2021, our firefighters spent 3,624 hours performing proficiency training within our department. Firefighters also spent 188 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 2021, our firefighters spent 436 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 2021 there were five team members and one executive board member from the Township of Kalamazoo on the KCHMRT as outlined below:

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



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

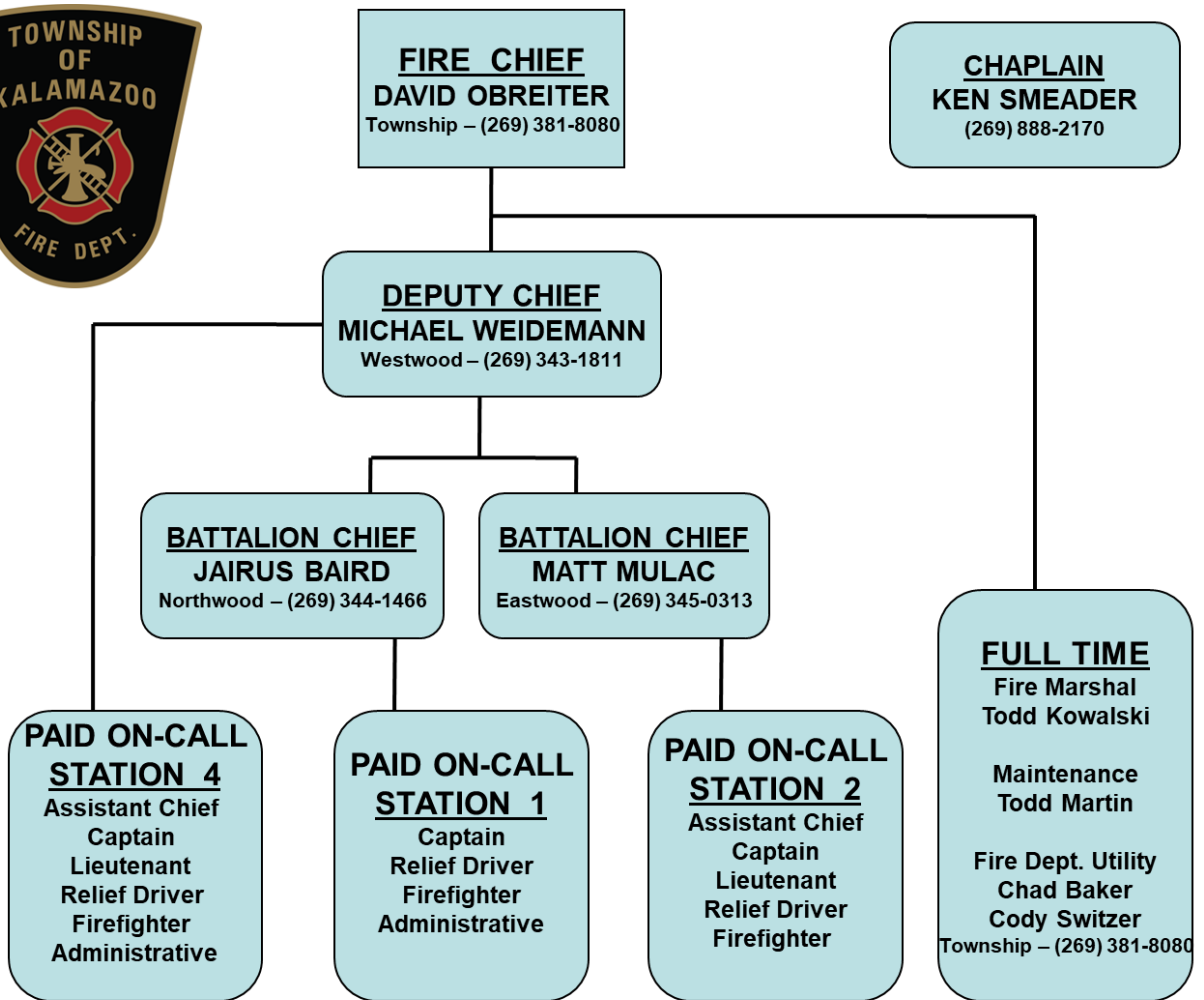
RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.	RANK	NAME	Yrs. Of Serv.
Lt.	Tim James	45	FF	Tim Evans	7
Capt.	Randy Thompson	44	FF	Kent Tatroe	6
D/C	Mike Weidemann	37	FF	Cody Switzer	6
A/C	Dave Hoekstra	36	FF	Erik Brinkert	6
FF	Mark Warnicke	35	FF	Jeremie Bular	5
FF	Joe Vanorder	33	FF	Edward Medina	5
Chief	Dave Obreiter	32	FF	Logan Callen	5
Capt.	Todd Kowalski	31	Chapl.	Ken Smeader	4
FF	Jim Loedeman	30	FF	Brent Boswell	4
A/C	Todd Dunfield	29	FF	Joseph Coudron	4
Capt.	Todd Martin	28	FF	Andrew McCann	4
FF	Joe Landreville	27	FF	Travis Wendt	4
B/C	Matt Mulac	24	FF	DeMonte Spann	3
Disp.	Teresa Weidemann	24	FF	Dillon Moe	3
FF	Rick Trott	18	FF	Jennifer Gonzalez	2
FF	Derek Bucknell	17	FF	Brandon Bromley-Root	2
FF	Mike Hubbart	17	FF	Brad Juilen	2
FF	Dave Ives	17	FF	Andrew Romstadt	2
FF	Dan Merchant	17	FF	Ben Barber	2
FF	Gabriel Podolsky	15	FF	Elizabeth Kowalski	2
Capt.	Chad Baker	15	FF	Alan Oxhandler	1
B/C	Jairus Baird	13	FF	Anthony Lee-El	1
Lt.	Chris Weidemann	13	FF	Dakota Northup	1
FF	Shawn Gallagher	12	FF	Megan Martin	1
FF	Paul Fox	12	FF	Mitchell Seiler	1
FF	Tom Baas	11	FF	Brandon Eagle	New
Lt.	Shawn Bickings	11	FF	Brian Fulbright	New
Lt.	George Tazelaar	10	FF	Colin Fletter	New
FF	Brian Tenbrink	10	FF	Jeff Cabello	New
FF	Mike Rotgers	9	FF	Kevin Miller	New
Disp.	Rachel Baird	8	FF	Kevin Sampson	New
FF	Anthony Tazelaar	7	FF	Shawn Wertz	New



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Appendix (continued)

Fire Department Organizational Chart



Updated 9-1-2021