



GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT

YEAR END REPORT



2024



Mission

Our mission is to mitigate the effects of emergencies, as we continue to improve and grow to meet the community's needs by actively engaging other emergency services, continued specialized training, and seeking additional opportunities to serve.

Vision

It is the vision of the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department to be recognized as the premier provider of rescue services in the region.

Message from the Chief

Interim Chief Kent Maricle

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department. This report highlights the achievements and dedication of the outstanding men and women who serve our department.

In 2024, we proudly celebrated 100 years of service to the community, a century marked by dedication, resilience, and progress. Our continued success is the result of the professionalism, pride, and commitment demonstrated by every member of the GBTFD.

This year, our department responded to 1,028 incidents, including fires, personal injury accidents, hazardous materials calls, water rescues, public assists, and more. In addition to emergency response, we placed a strong focus on public education, fire prevention, and regional collaboration. Through our Mutual Aid Agreement, we supported 25 neighboring departments, helping protect over 315,000 residents throughout Genesee County.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the future, including the anticipated opening of our new Fire Station #1 in 2026, located off Dort Highway. This modern facility will significantly enhance our emergency response capabilities and better serve the growing needs of our community.

We are grateful for the continued support of the residents and Township Board of Grand Blanc Township.



Kent Maricle
Interim Fire Chief

GBT Fire Department

The Fire Department operates with guidance given by the Township Board. It responds to all incidents in Grand Blanc Township. GBTFD provides fire services to Grand Blanc Township, Genesee County, and other communities in Michigan under the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System.

The Fire Chief reports to the Township Superintendent regarding employment and union issues, as well as general administrative functions. The Deputy Fire Chief oversees the Department's daily operations and is the incident commander at emergency scenes. The Captains oversee their assigned fire station's operations. Lieutenants provide leadership to the firefighting staff at incidents and in the fire station. Sergeants provide mentorship to newly hired firefighters and are the starting point of advancing into higher ranking positions. The Fire Marshal conducts firefighting functions, safety inspections at businesses and public education. Firefighters perform fire suppression and assist with fire safety education.

Our Fire Department is a combination department comprised of 6 full-time firefighters, 26 part-time firefighters, a full-time Deputy Chief, a full-time Fire Chief and a full-time Administrative Assistant.

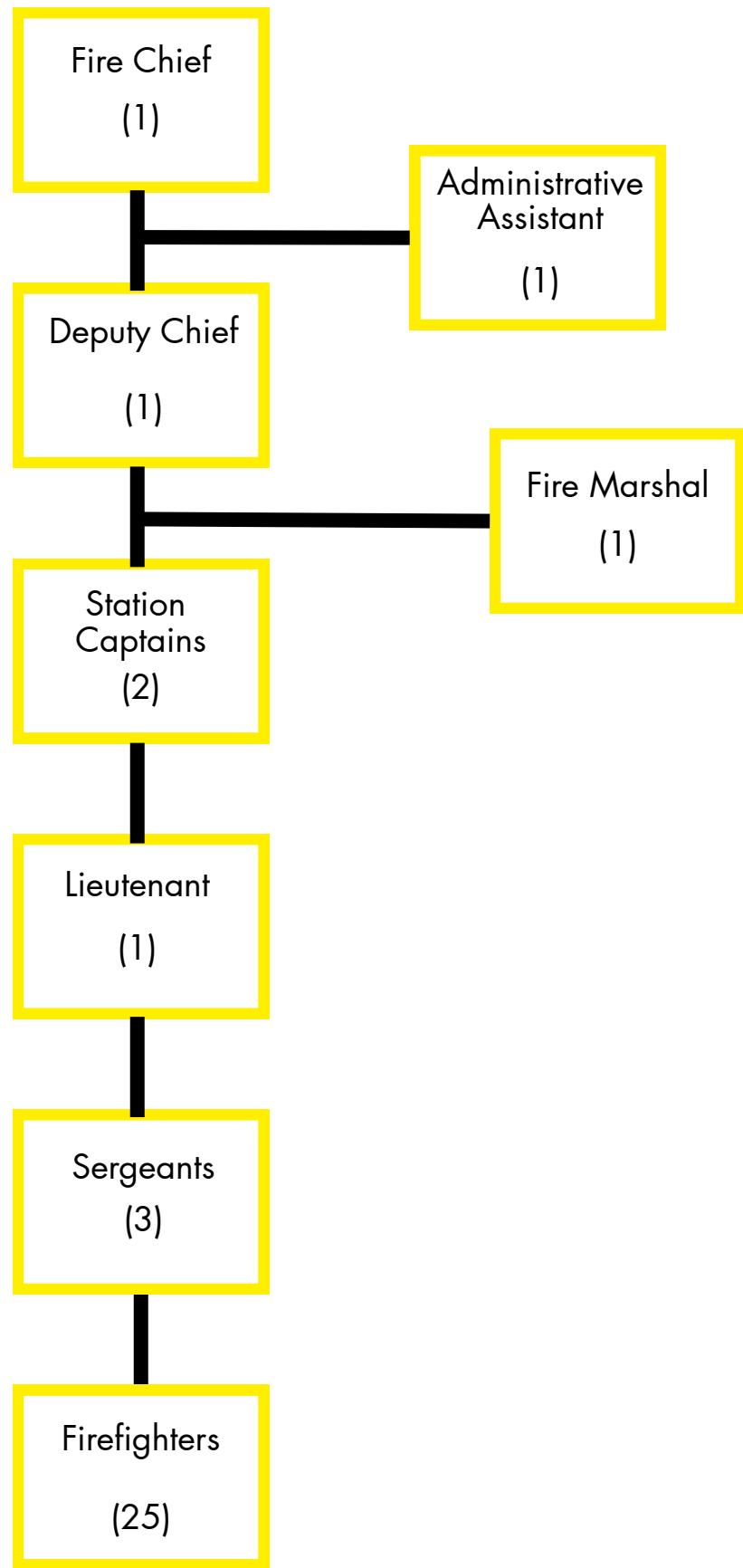
Firefighters take part in daily training sessions that prepare them for various incidents. Regular training sessions cover search and rescue, fire suppression, apparatus driving, apparatus operations and much more. Many of the firefighters take part in additional training that is offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and local colleges and universities.

Funding for the Fire Department comes through the Township Fire Millage, General Fund contributions from Grand Blanc Township, and various grants.

2024 Budget

\$2,101,474.00

Dept. Organization Chart



Fire Department Staff

Chief Robert H. Burdette



Chief Burdette has been a part of Grand Blanc Fire Department for 43 years.

He started as an on-call firefighter, became full-time and served in every role, becoming Chief in 2016.

Thank you for your dedication to the Grand Blanc community, Chief.

We wish you a happy retirement!

Interim Chief Kent Maricle



Interim Chief Maricle began his career in the fire service as an on-call firefighter. He completed his State of Michigan firefighter certification in 1986 and his Fire Officer certification in 2010. He became full time Deputy Chief in 2021.

In November 2024, he became the Interim Fire Chief. Interim Chief Maricle is also certified through the Michigan State Police in fire investigations and is a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Genesee County Fire Chiefs Association.

He has received certifications for Hazardous Material Technician, Urban Search and Rescue Technician, and Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting.

Fire Department Staff

Captain William Larsen



Captain Larsen completed his certification as a State of Michigan Firefighter level 2 in 1992. In 1998, he received his certification as an Emergency Medical Technician and in 1999 finished the Paramedic licensure.

He earned certification in performing rope, building collapse, trench, and confined space rescues. Captain Larsen continued his advancement in emergency medicine by obtaining his paramedic instructors permitted in 2003.

He is certified through the National Fire Protection Association as a Level II Inspector and Plan Examiner. Also, Captain Larsen received his Michigan certification for Company Officer in 2008.

Captain Bradley Hutchison



Captain Hutchison began his career working in the U.S. Air Force as a Crash-Fire Rescue Technician.

When he left the service, Captain Hutchison joined the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department as an on-call firefighter and received certification from the State of Michigan for firefighting in 1987. He also completed his certification for Emergency Medical Technician in 1991, his certification for level 3 Fire Officer in 2009, and confined space and rope rescue in 2010.

Fire Department Staff

Fire Marshal Christopher Keller



In 2006, Fire Marshal Keller was hired as a paid-on-call Firefighter with Grand Blanc Township Fire Department. In 2012, Fire Marshal Keller was hired as one of the first full-time firefighters, where he served as the Fire Inspector until being promoted to Fire Marshal and Lieutenant in 2020.

Fire Marshal Keller has received numerous certifications during his career and time with the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department. Fire Marshal Keller holds and maintains certifications for NFPA Fire Inspector 2, NFPA Plans Examiner, Fire Investigation through the Michigan State Police, and as an Emergency Medical Technician. In 2011, Fire Marshal Keller completed the Fire Officer certification through the State of Michigan for Fire Officer I, II, and III. In 2022, Fire Marshal Keller graduated from Eastern Michigan University's Fire Staff and Command Executive Leadership Program, Class 24.

Lieutenant Jeremy Oxford

Lieutenant Oxford joined the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department in May 2012.

In May 2020, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety Studies with a minor in Professional Communications. He is a proud graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Fire Staff and Command Executive Leadership Program, Class of 2018. In 2019, Lieutenant Oxford became a Fire Instructor I and formerly served as Secretary of the Genesee County Training Committee, coordinating and facilitating progressive training for the county.

In 2015, he completed his Fire Officer III certification. He conducts fire inspections and has maintained NFPA Inspector II and Plan Examiner certifications since 2013. He has been a licensed EMT since 2006 and has completed several advanced certifications in Incident Command Systems. He continues to dedicate his life and his career toward the community and fire services.



Fire Department Staff

Sergeant Adam Frank



Sergeant Frank began his career in the fire service in 1996 as an on-call firefighter for Grand Blanc Fire Department.

He completed the State of Michigan Firefighter Certifications and the Emergency Medical Technician licensure. He continued his education at Mott and Oakland Community College, where he completed Fire Officer III and technical rescue training.

Sergeant Frank was promoted to Sergeant in 2022. He became a full time Firefighter in 2024.

Sergeant Michael Hertzberg

Sergeant Hertzberg began his career in the fire service with Grand Blanc Fire Department in May, 2012 as a part-time on-call Firefighter.

In April, 2018 he was hired as a full time Firefighter with Grand Blanc Township Fire Department. Sergeant Hertzberg is a Proboard Certified Fire Inspector through the National Fire Protection Association and regularly performs pre-incident fire inspections in the community. He earned his Fire Officer I and II certifications in 2014. From 2014-2017, Sergeant Hertzberg served on the Genesee County Hazmat Team.

He continually seeks to further his education in the fire service and seeks to help develop and train the next generation of firefighters. He takes pride in serving the community that he has lived in since 2001.



Fire Department Staff

Sergeant Martin Sorensen



Sergeant Sorensen joined the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department as a paid on call firefighter in October 2015. In April 2016, he received his certification from the State of Michigan Fire I and II.

Sergeant Sorensen is part of the Department Mentorship Program that assists with training and guiding newly hired Firefighters. He is currently scheduled to complete Instructor I training in 2023 to better mentor new firefighters.

When he is not at the Department, he enjoys spending as much time as possible with his family.

Admin. Assistant Meghan Delano

Meghan provides administrative support for the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department. She is a Grand Blanc High School Alumna and studied at Siena Heights University from 2010 to 2014.

She began her career at Grand Blanc Township in 2015 as a part-time Administrative Assistant for the Township Supervisor. In 2016, she was hired full-time.

In 2020, Meghan specialized her administrative responsibilities and began working for the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department. During her time with the department, Meghan has been awarded and managed multiple grants, developed a scheduling and mentorship program, and executed successful community events.

Meghan continues to grow her knowledge of the fire service and assist in departmental growth.



Fire Department Staff

Name (*full time staff)	Rank	Years of Service
Robert Burdette*	Fire Chief	43
Kent Maricle*	Deputy Chief	37
Meghan Delano*	Admin. Assistant	9
William Larsen*	Captain: Station 1	34
Bradley Hutchison	Captain: Station 2	31
Christopher Keller*	Fire Marshal/Lieutenant	18
Jeremy Oxford*	Lieutenant	12
Adam Frank*	Sergeant	9
Michael Hertzberg*	Sergeant	12
Martin Sorensen	Sergeant	9
Ryan Brancheau	Firefighter	14
Michael Hocken	Firefighter	13
Jakob Sifferman	Firefighter	13
Adam Peterson	Firefighter	13
Javon Johnson	Firefighter	9
Patrick Popadich	Firefighter	8
Clint Wilson	Firefighter	7
Ryan Jeltema	Firefighter	7
David Bechtel	Firefighter	7
Alfred Perry	Firefighter	5
Frank Getz*	Firefighter	4
Sean Blakemore	Firefighter	2
Travis Struble	Firefighter	2
Jonah Tetmeyer	Firefighter	2
Lauren Simpson	Firefighter	2
Alexander Newton	Firefighter	1
Brent Connell	Firefighter	1
Bart Jones	Firefighter	1
John Doudna	Firefighter	1
Luke Larsen	Firefighter	1
Justin Crump	Firefighter	1
Brayden Moore	Firefighter	1
Luke Garnett	Firefighter	11 months
Kyle Price	Firefighter	2 months

Centennial Celebration

A Celebration Committee was formed to construct ways to celebrate Grand Blanc Fire serving the community for 100 years.

It was decided instead of packing celebration in to one day, the Department would be celebrated all year long. Thank you to all racers, residents, sponsors, and volunteers who made the 2024 Centennial 5K and October Celebration a success.



The Centennial 5K along with the October Celebration, brought together hundreds of residents, local businesses, and supporters to celebrate community pride, promote wellness, and raise \$5,000 for the CS Mott Childrens Injury Prevention Program.



We are grateful to our 28 local sponsors whose generosity helped cover event costs allowing our fundraising to solely contribute to The CS Mott Childrens Injury Prevention Program. Their contributions were critical in ensuring the success of both the 5K and the October Celebration. These events achieved both strong turnout and significant fundraising success.

Centennial Celebration Cont.

Firefighter For a Day 5K



The Firefighter for a Day 5K took place on International Firefighter Day. The race featured nearly 300 participants, with community members of all ages there to celebrate. The event had food trucks and an amazing volunteer crew, sponsors, and local partners. We were proud to be able to donate \$5,000 to the CS Mott Childrens Injury Prevention Program.



Centennial Celebration Cont.

October Celebration

Hundreds of residents attended the October Centennial Celebration at Bicentennial Park. There was food, a coloring contest, sign up for smoke alarm installations and an amazing display of our past and present firefighting gear.

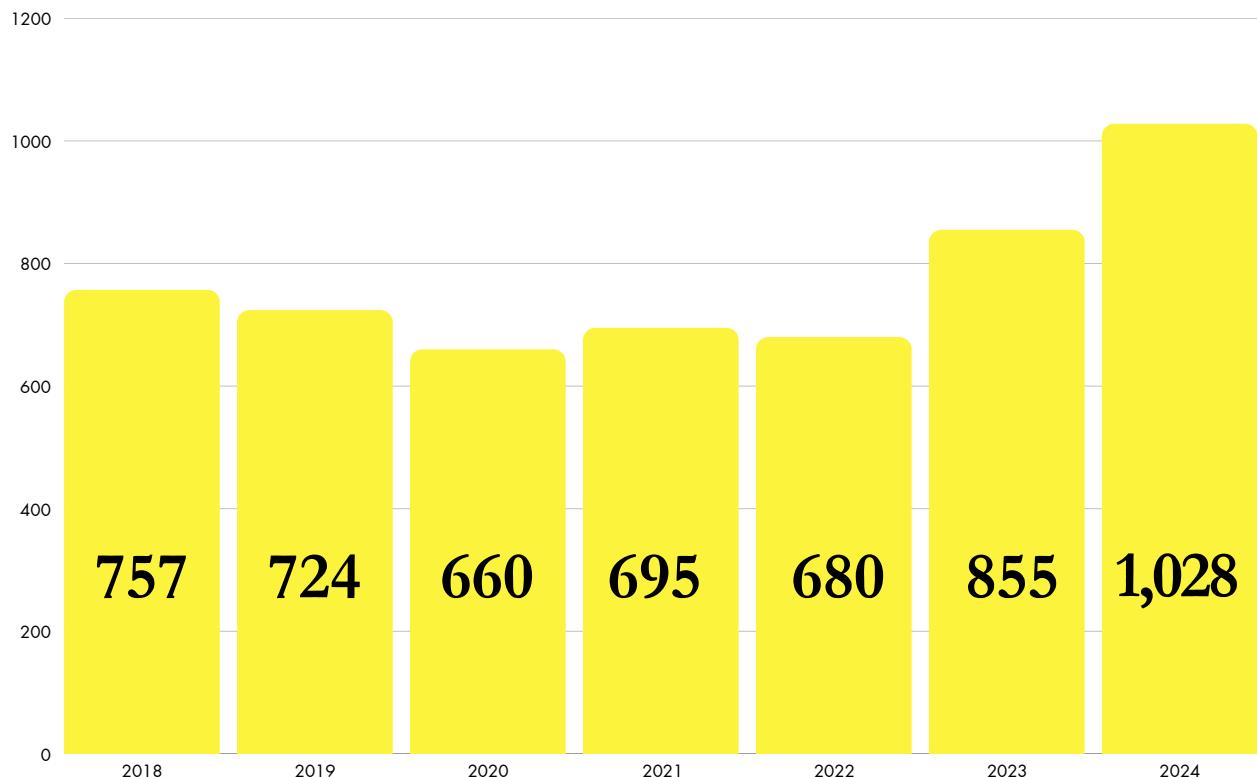
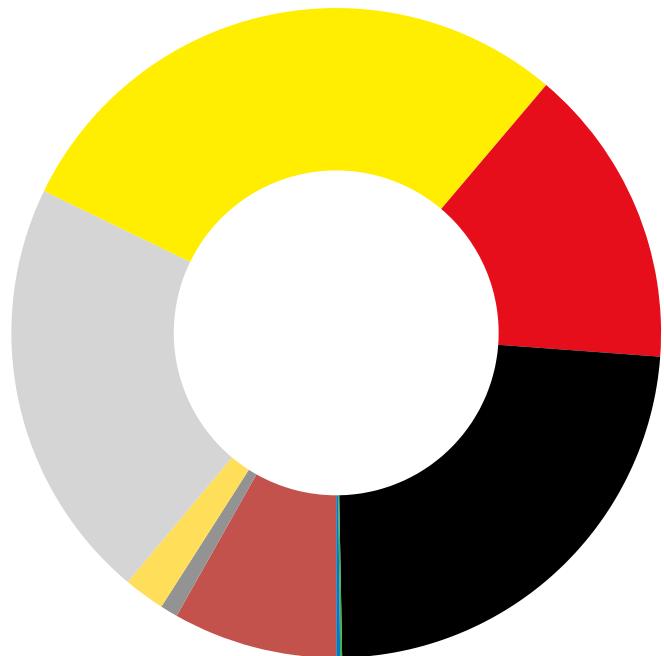


Incidents

Our Department responded to a total of 1,028 calls in 2024.

Incidents are sorted into eight categories using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). These categories provide standardization with reporting similar incidents for comparison with other fire departments at the county, state, and national levels.

Incident Type	# of Incidents	% of Incidents
Fires	84	8.17%
Overpressure/Explosion	9	0.88%
Rescue & EMS	21	2.04%
Hazardous -No Fire	217	21.11%
Service Call	298	28.99%
Good Intent Call	154	14.98%
False Alarm/Call	242	23.54%
Severe Weather/Disaster	1	0.10%
Special Incident	2	0.19%



The fire department's incident call volume has increased over the years. One reason this occurred is Police and EMS providers were responding to calls for lifting people who fell and were not injured (lift assist).

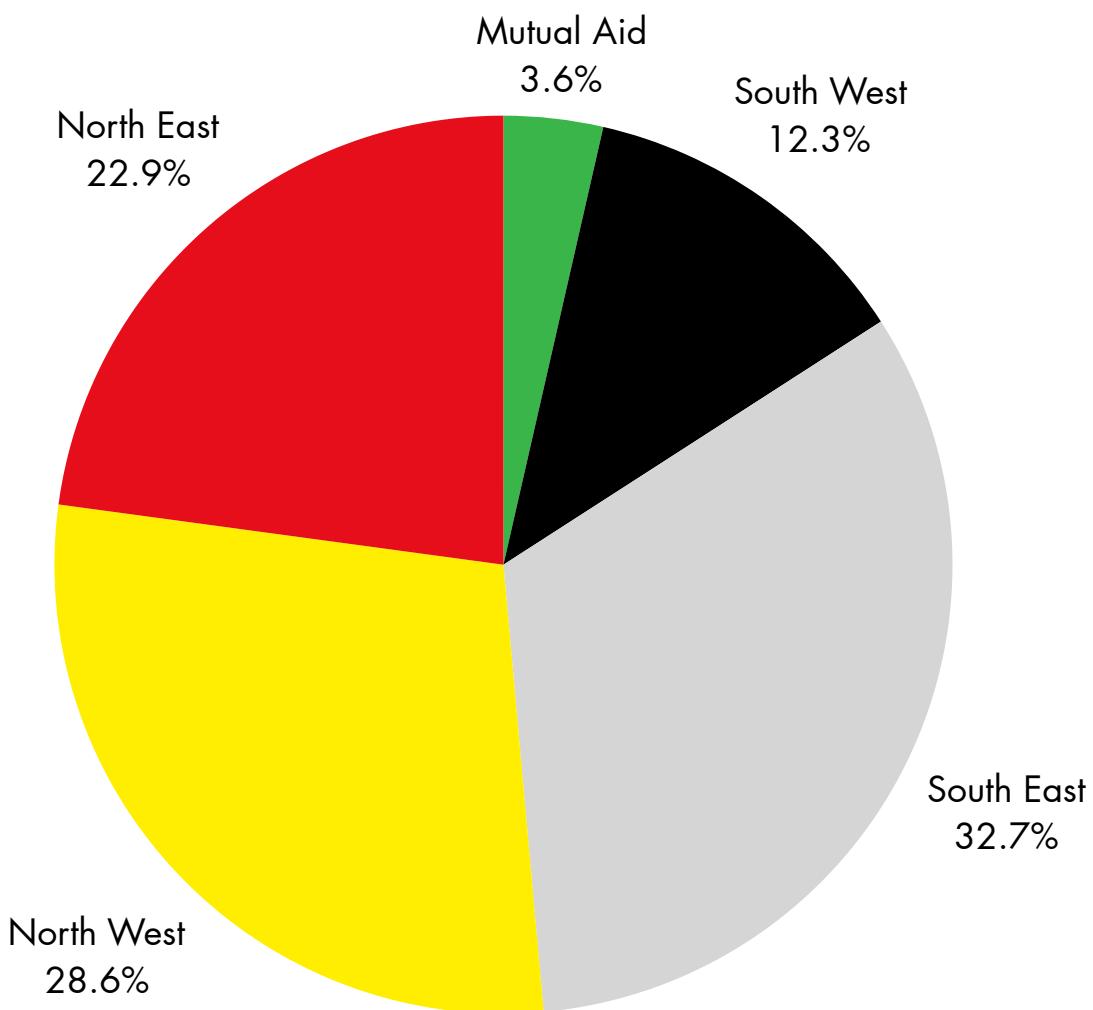
The Fire Department took on this role in 2023, increasing our calls.

Incidents Cont.

Incidents by Response Zones

Separating our response area into zones provides administration with key information in planning future operations of the department.

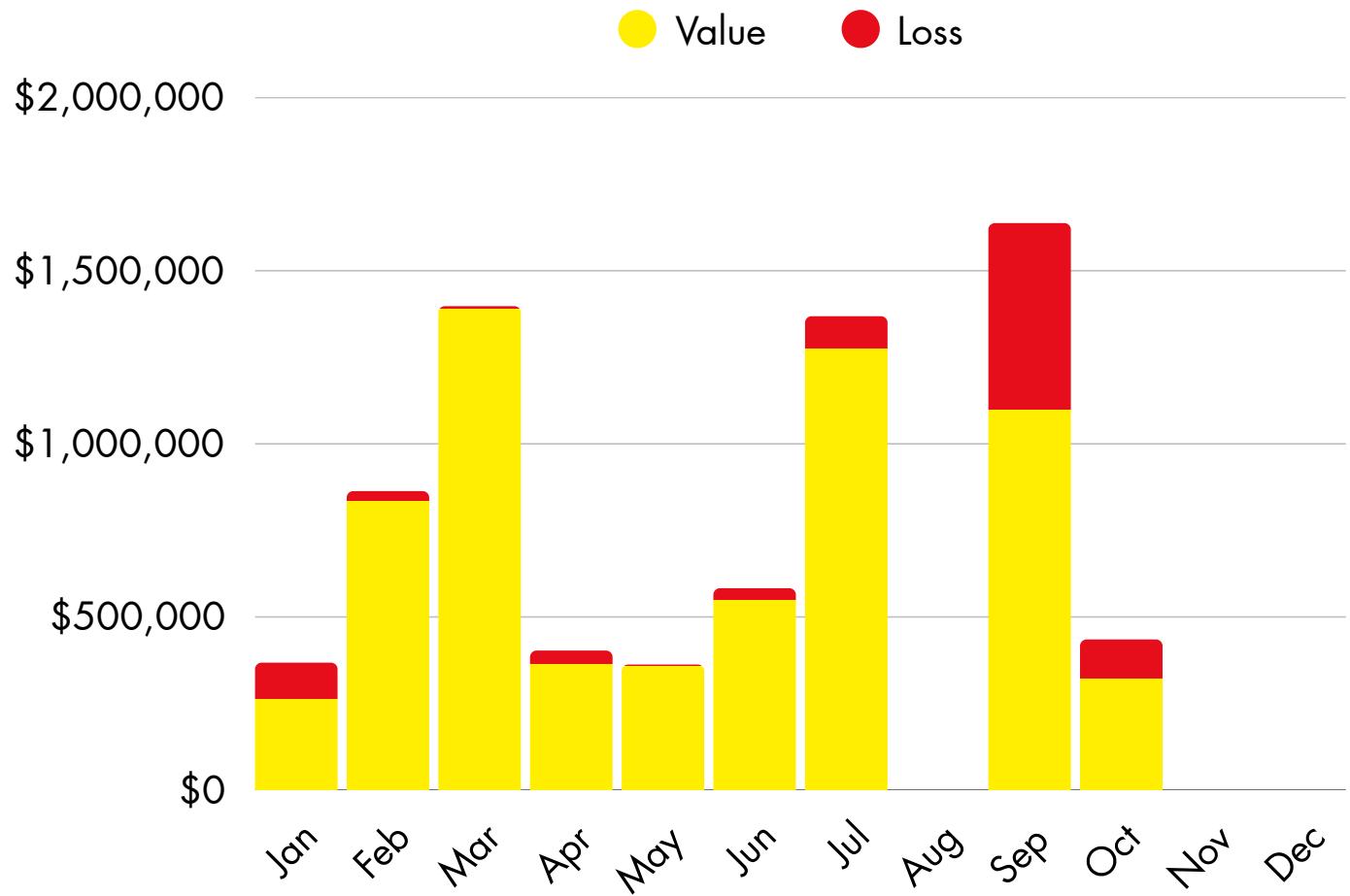
Grand Blanc Township is separated into four zones, with Grand Blanc and Perry roads dividing north and south, and Dort Highway, I-75, and Holly Road dividing east and west.



Incidents Cont.

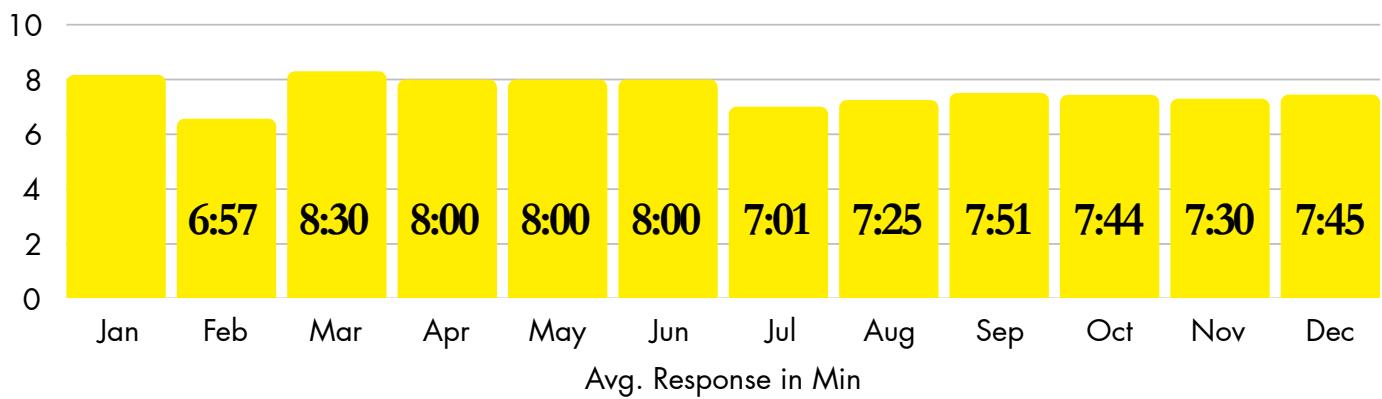
Property Loss

The values reported are the average for fires occurring inside structures. This report shows the Department's effectiveness at suppressing fires.



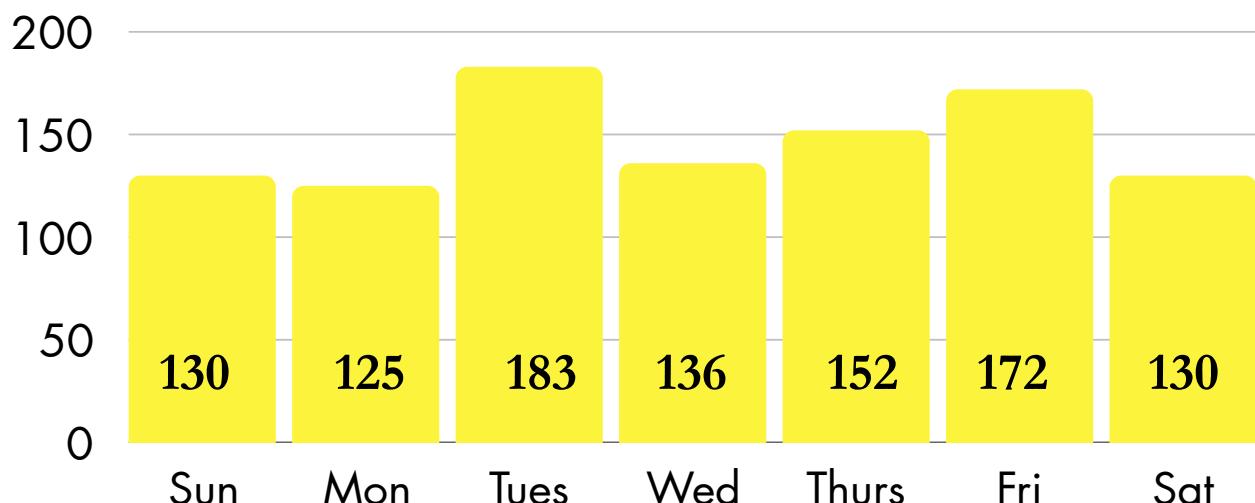
Apparatus Response Time

The firefighters have a goal to be enroute within two minutes of dispatch and on the scene within eight minutes for emergency calls.

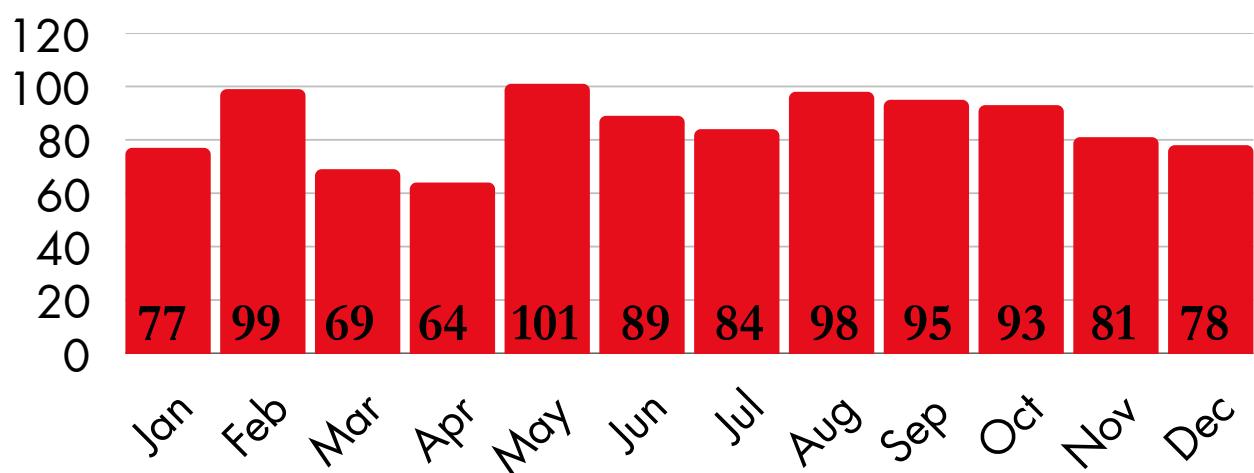


Incidents Cont.

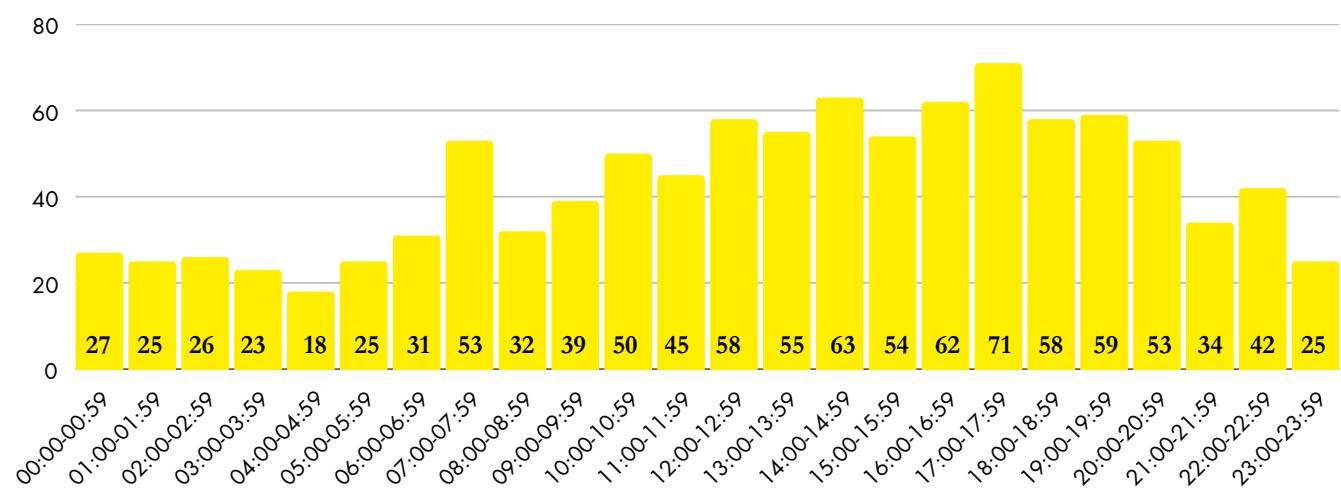
Incidents Per Day of Week



Incidents by Month



Incidents by Time of Day



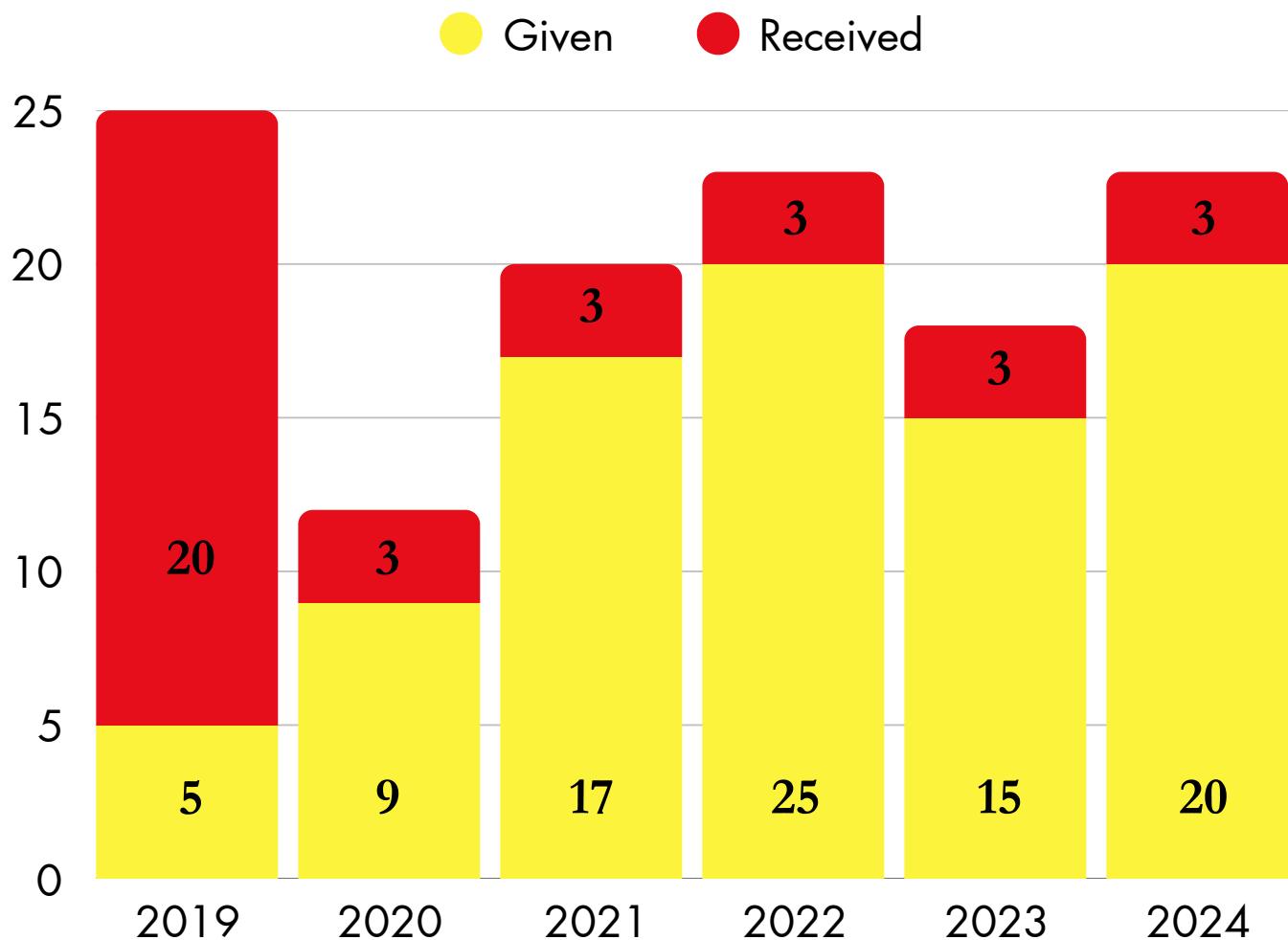
Mutual Aid

(help to/from neighboring departments)

Firefighting is very labor demanding and resource intensive. We are active members of the Genesee County mutual aid agreement and the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). These two agreements offer us the availability of additional resources for large incidents at no additional cost. Because of these two agreements, neighboring communities are welcome to ask for our assistance when they feel it's needed.

In 2024, Mutual aid for staff or apparatus was requested from:

Argentine	City of Flint	Holly
Burton	Flint Township	Mundy Township
Fenton	Genesee Township	



Fire Marshal Report

Lieutenant Christopher Keller, Fire Marshal

Fire Prevention

The Grand Blanc Township Fire Department's focus is on reducing fire and life safety risks in the community. One way we accomplish this is through community risk reduction which involves fire inspections, building plan review of construction, and by providing public education to our residents and business on how to prevent fires and what to do if a fire does occur.

Fire Inspections & Complaints

- Business occupancies were reorganized based on risk classification in alignment with **NFPA 1730 – Standard on Organization and Deployment of Fire Prevention Inspection and Code Enforcement, Plan Review, Investigation, and Public Education Operations.**
- **Low-Risk Occupancy:**
Includes storage facilities, mercantile establishments, and business offices.
- **Moderate-Risk Occupancy:**
Includes factories and industrial operations that do not contain hazardous materials beyond exempt amounts.
- **High-Risk Occupancy:**
Includes multiple-family dwellings, hotels, healthcare facilities, and assembly occupancies.
- Inspection frequencies were revised to align with the level of risk associated with each occupancy:
 - **Low-Risk Occupancy:**
Inspected every three years (triennially)
 - **Moderate-Risk Occupancy:**
Inspected every two years (biennially)
 - **High-Risk Occupancy:**
Inspected Annually
- Following the implementation of the updated risk-based occupancy classification and inspection schedule, the department recorded a **943% increase** in occupancy inspections performed.
- A total of **24** fire code violation complaints were reported during the period. All complaints were investigated and successfully resolved.

TOP 5 INSPECTION VIOLATIONS

1
153

Emergency Light
Malfunction

2
140

Failure to Service
Fire Extinguisher
Annually

3
104

Exit Sign
Malfunction

4
73

Extinguishers Not
Properly Mounted

5
55

Electrical Cover
Plates Not
Installed

Fire Marshal Report Cont.

Lieutenant Christopher Keller, Fire Marshal

New Construction



new acceptance tests of newly installed or reconfigured life safety systems were completed and approved.



new business occupancy inspections were conducted to ensure compliance prior to opening.



site plans were reviewed for fire safety and code adherence during development planning.



life safety systems plan reviews were completed to verify compliance with applicable codes and standards before installation.



Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Detector Instillation Program

The smoke alarms installed are provided through a partnership with MI Prevention, a statewide fire safety campaign aimed at reducing fire-related deaths, injuries, and property loss in Michigan initiated by the State of Michigan, Bureau of Fire Services. Last year, Michigan saw a **19% decrease in fire-related deaths** and a **9% decrease in total fires** compared to the previous six-year average. We are proud to be one of over 600 fire departments participating in the MI Prevention program.

202

Smoke Alarms/Carbon Monoxide Detectors Installed

1444

Batteries Replaced

67

Homes Visited

21

Fire Marshal Report Cont.

Lieutenant Christopher Keller, Fire Marshal

Public Education



800+

Students Reached

The Grand Blanc Township Fire Department participated in **69 community events** throughout the year. These included local festivals, neighborhood gatherings, school visits, and community open houses, reinforcing the department's commitment to public outreach and safety education.



69

Community Events



During the month of October, firefighters visited **five elementary schools**, reaching over **800 students** from kindergarten through second grade, teaching fire prevention and safety education.



5

Schools Visited

Training Report

Lieutenant Jeremy Oxford

In 2024, the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department had another demanding and productive year of training. Firefighters regularly honed their fundamental firefighting skills while also advancing their expertise in specialized rescue operations.



Hands On Training Topics



As part of its ongoing commitment to excellence, the department introduced a new ventilation training prop, allowing firefighters to simulate operations on various pitched roofing systems. This invaluable addition enhances their ability to navigate the challenges associated with roof ventilation in real-world scenarios.

Training Report Cont.

Lieutenant Jeremy Oxford

In a significant collaborative effort, three of the township's officers and instructors were invited to share their expertise in rooftop operations. The training, held at the Karl Richter Campus in the Village of Holly, brought together firefighters from 10 agencies across two counties for a full day of specialized instruction before the scheduled demolition of the structure.



Eight Grand Blanc Township firefighters attended the event, gaining hands-on experience in critical firefighting techniques, including building collapse response, firefighter bailouts, hose advancements, wall breaching, roof operations, and Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) operations. The joint training provided invaluable learning opportunities and fostered the exchange of knowledge and best practices between departments.



With over 100 firefighters in attendance, this large-scale training event reinforced the importance of inter-agency cooperation and continuous skill development. The Grand Blanc Township Fire Department remains dedicated to ensuring its personnel are prepared to meet the evolving challenges of emergency response with expertise and professionalism.



Vehicles and Equipment

Our Fleet is comprised of the following:

- 3 Primary Engines that carry up to 1,000 gallons of water and with high capacity pumping capability
- 2 Reserve Engines that carry up to 1,000 gallons of water and with high capacity pumping capability
- 1 100 foot Aerial Platform Truck that carries 500 gallons of water with a high capacity pumping capability
- 1 Ladder Truck that carries 500 gallons of water with a high capacity pumping capability
- Two UTVs to support grass or brush fires as well as the ability to move quickly during events or in small spaces
- 2 Chief Officer Cars
- 1 Pickup truck for supporting Fire Department operations



Fire Stations

Station 2 3313 E. Baldwin Road



Fire Station 2 continues to be staffed daily from 8 a.m. to midnight.

The renovations completed in 2023 contributed by ARPA funds have significantly enhanced safety and comfort for our crews.

In October, the entire community came together to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new DPS and Fire Station 1.

The existing Fire Department space on Saginaw Street was set up in just 60 days as a temporary base of operations and was never intended to serve as a permanent station.

Now, as daily progress becomes more visible, excitement is growing for a modern, safe, and forward-looking facility that will better serve the community.

Future Station 1 5272 S. Dort Highway

