2022

Annual Report

Atchison Fire Department

Prepared by Fire Chief Patrick B Weishaar

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Atchison Fire Department is to minimize the loss of life and property resulting from fires, medical emergencies and other disasters.

We will accomplish this task through prevention, education, fire suppression, First Responder services and other related emergency and non-emergency activities. We will actively participate in our community, serve as role models, and strive to utilize resources effectively and efficiently to provide a product deemed excellent by our citizens.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to honor our community's trust, to continuously improve as a department, and to consistently meet or exceed the expectations of the community we serve. We will be a place of progressive leadership that utilizes diversity to be innovative and highly participative.

Summary of Operations

The Department currently averages nearly 1600 calls for service per year

The Atchison Fire Department was established in the early 1880's, over 140 years old.

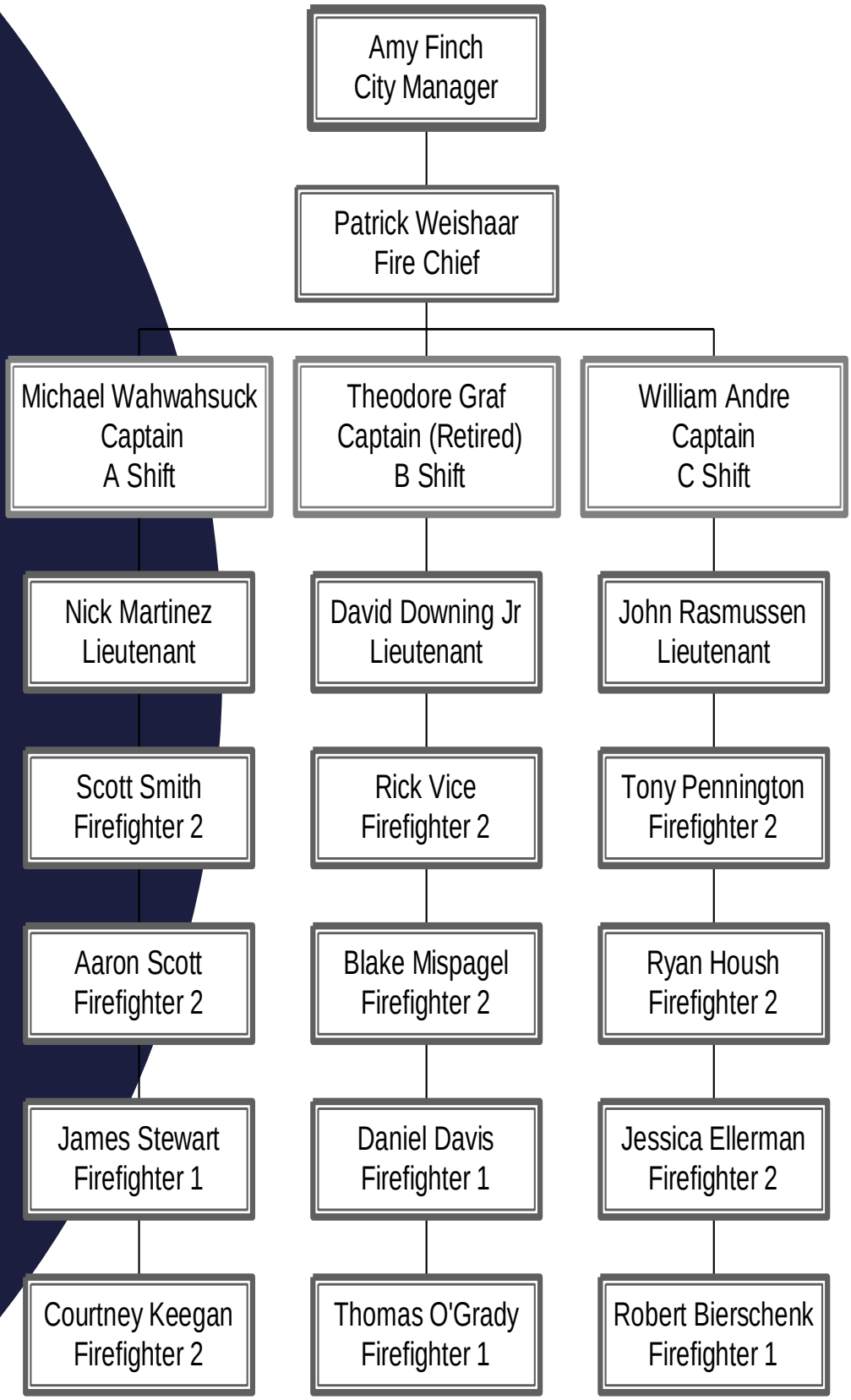
The Department is currently housed in a 5-bay station which was constructed in 1971. This Single Station covers approximately 8.47 square miles of land and 1.9 square miles of water.

The Department is currently an ISO Class 3/10 rated city.

Basic Services Provided:

- Fire Suppression
- First Responder Medical Response
- Hazmat Operations Response
- Confined Space & High Angle Rescue Operations
- Rescue Response
- Water Rescue Response
- Carbon Monoxide Emergencies
- Fire Prevention & Education Programs
- Building & Fire Code Enforcement
- Residential Unlock
- Standby functions for civic events
- In home safety audits for all citizens
- Child Safety Seat installation

Organizational Chart



Current Staffing Level

- 12 Firefighters
- 3 Lieutenants
- 3 Captains
- 1 Fire Chief
- Average years' experience 11
- 15 Personnel are Firefighter II recognized or above
- 16 members are State & Nationally Certified as EMT/EMR
- 2 State Certified Fire Investigators
- 1 State Certified Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialist
- 1 Scott© Certified Technician
- 3 Certified Hazmat Technicians

Shift Rotation

- Our department operates a 3-shift system, A, B & C. 6 personnel assigned per shift and maintaining a 5-man, OSHA minimum
- Chief Officer is assigned to 40-hour work week
- All personnel are subject to call-back requirements
- Shift personnel work a 24-hour shift schedule beginning at 7 A.M. and ending at 7 A.M. the following day
- The department is manned 24 hours a day, 365 days per year

Fleet Inventory

It is a generally accepted fact that fire apparatus, like all types of mechanical devices, have a finite life. How long that is depends on many factors. Some of those factors are operating hours, age, quality of the preventative maintenance program, quality of the driver training program, quality of the original builder and components, availability of parts as the apparatus gets older. Most would agree that age and the timeliness of maintenance are perhaps the most significant factors in determining how well a fire apparatus ages. Although we pride ourselves on the maintenance and condition of our apparatus and the life we can extend from these vehicles, it's necessary to replace them before they fall into a condition that would affect our response.

Taking these factors into account the City of Atchison's guideline for replacement of apparatus is as follows:

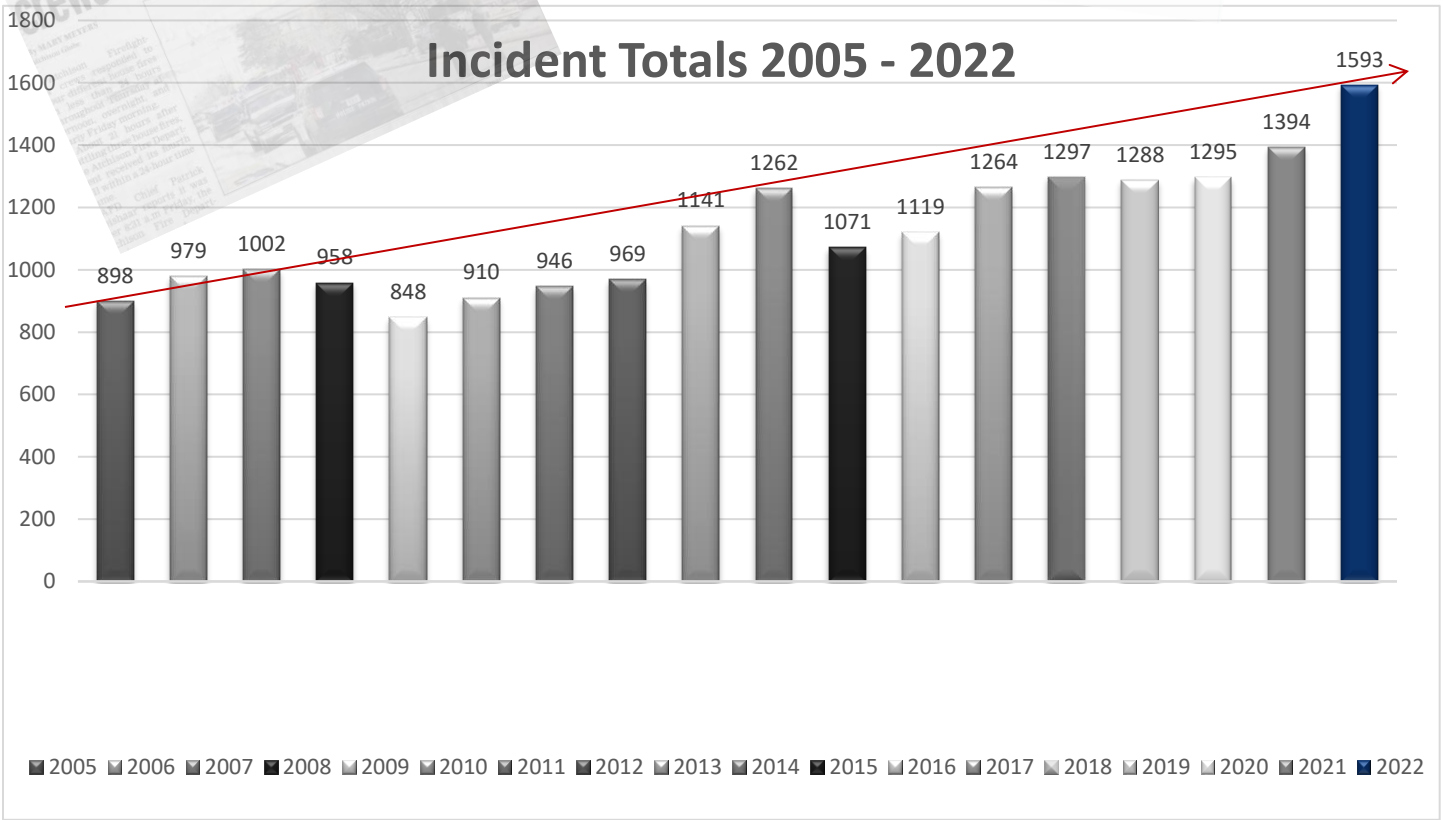
Date of Manufacture — Estimated Replacement

- 2011 Full Size Pumper……2031 – 2036
- 1992 Full Size Pumper……2012 – 2017
- 2005 Full Size Pumper……2025 – 2030
- 2002 Full Size Pumper……2022 – 2027
- 2014 101' Aerial Ladder Truck……2044 – 2049
- 2008 Hazmat Support Trailer……. Service life is based on separate factors
- 1998 Rescue Boat……2023 - 2028
- 2013 Pickup……2023 – 2025
- 2015 Chief Officers Vehicle……2025 – 2027

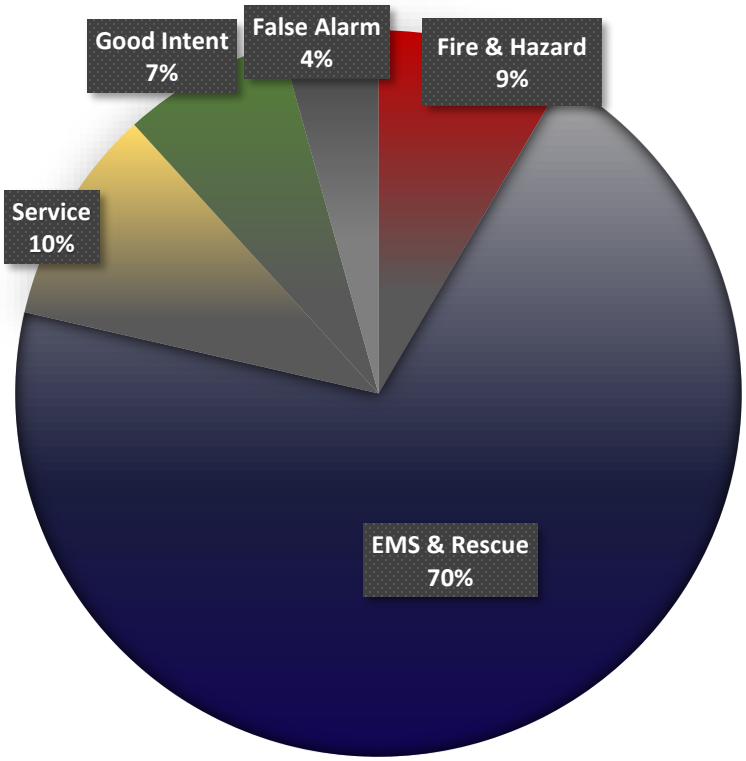
To maximize firefighter capabilities and minimize risk of injuries, it is important that fire apparatus be equipped with the latest safety features and operating capabilities. In the last 10 to 15 years, much progress has been made in upgrading functional capabilities and improving safety features of fire apparatus.

Incident Summary

Another record setting year in total amount of calls, total fires and structure fires including 4 structure fires in one 24-hour period. As Covid presented a challenge the past 2 years with our operation, this year we felt the effect in-house, with a majority contracting the virus, some multiple times. This along with 2 injuries and 2 personnel taking maternity leave, made it our most challenging year in decades, covering open shifts and rallying personnel to respond off duty to larger fire incidents for additional support. This challenge was met with an outstanding response from our personnel. Along with an increase of structure fires, we also saw an increase across all incident types including motor vehicle fires & accidents, gas and CO leaks and other hazardous conditions. We also saw an increase in lift assists and nursing home calls with our elderly population which prompted an investigation by the Fire Chief, working with the Department of Aging to identify a growing trend and searching for a solution. With all the hardships that were faced, we successfully improved our average response time from 3:40 to 3:17, well below the national average and NFPA standard, 5:20. We also reported no vehicle or equipment accidents which is a stellar achievement considering the number of incidents responded to with a faster response time.



2021 Incident by type



Fire & Hazard – 135

Building fires.....24
Cooking fires confined to container.....15
Rubbish trash or waste fires.....10
Motor Vehicle or Equipment fires.....9
Brush and/or Grass fires.....9
Gasoline or flammable liquid spill.....6
Gas Leak (natural gas or LPG) 21
Chemical spill or leak.....8
Carbon Monoxide incident.....10
Electrical wiring, short circuit.....16
Overheated motor.....2
Downed powerline.....2
Lightning Strike.....1

EMS & Rescue – 1,117

EMS calls 1022
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....37
Lock-in.....1
Water rescue.....1
Extrication of victim.....6
Aircraft standby.....1
Rescue or EMS standby.....49

False Alarm – 69

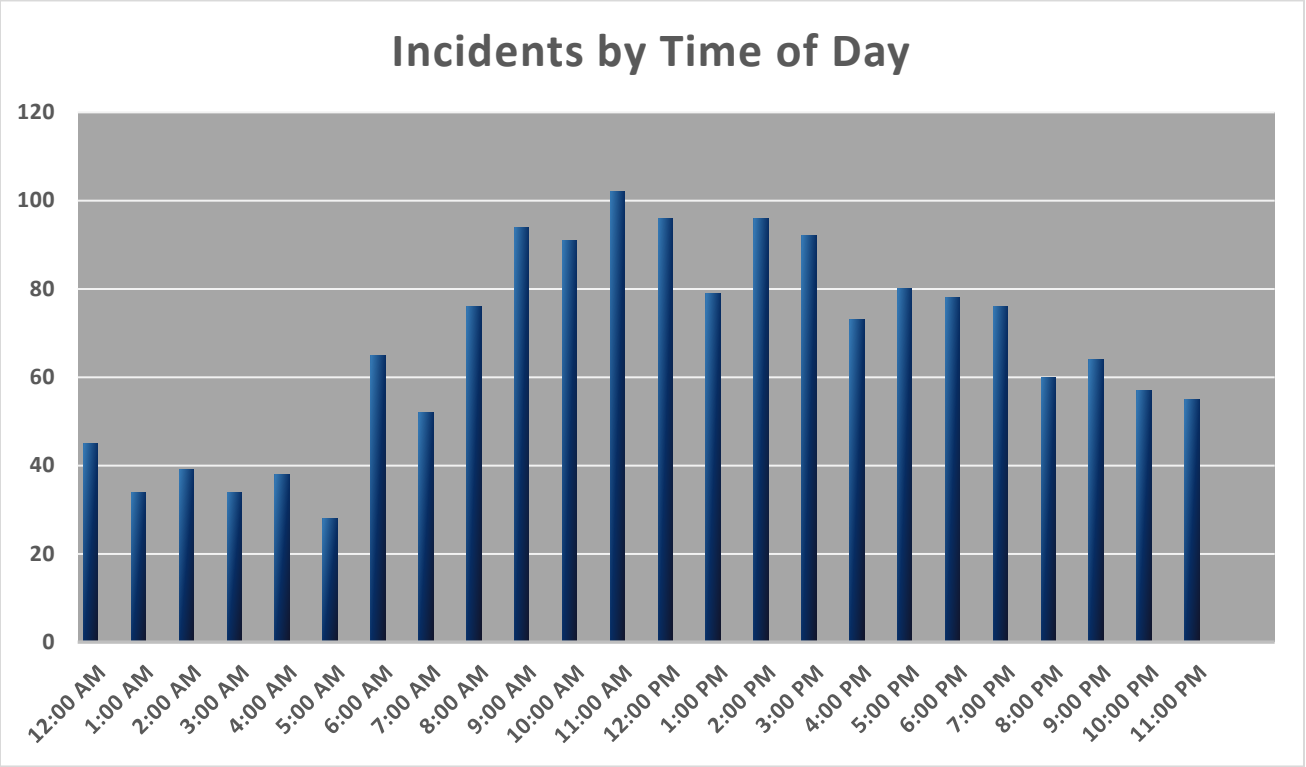
Malicious, mischievous false alarm.....10
Alarm or Sprinkler activation due to malfunction.....57
Sprinkler activation no fire unintentional.....2

Good Intent – 118

Dispatched & cancelled enroute.....39
No incident found on arrival.....23
Authorized controlled burning.....5
Smoke scare, odor of smoke.....16
Hazmat investigation w/ no hazmat.....35

Service – 154

Lockout 12
Smoke or odor removal.....1
Animal rescue.....2
Assist Police.....14
Public Service.....32
Assist physically disabled.....74
Unauthorized burning.....19


Incidents by Time of Day
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
12:00 AM
1:00 AM
2:00 AM
3:00 AM
4:00 AM
5:00 AM
6:00 AM
7:00 AM
8:00 AM
9:00 AM
10:00 AM
11:00 AM
12:00 PM
1:00 PM
2:00 PM
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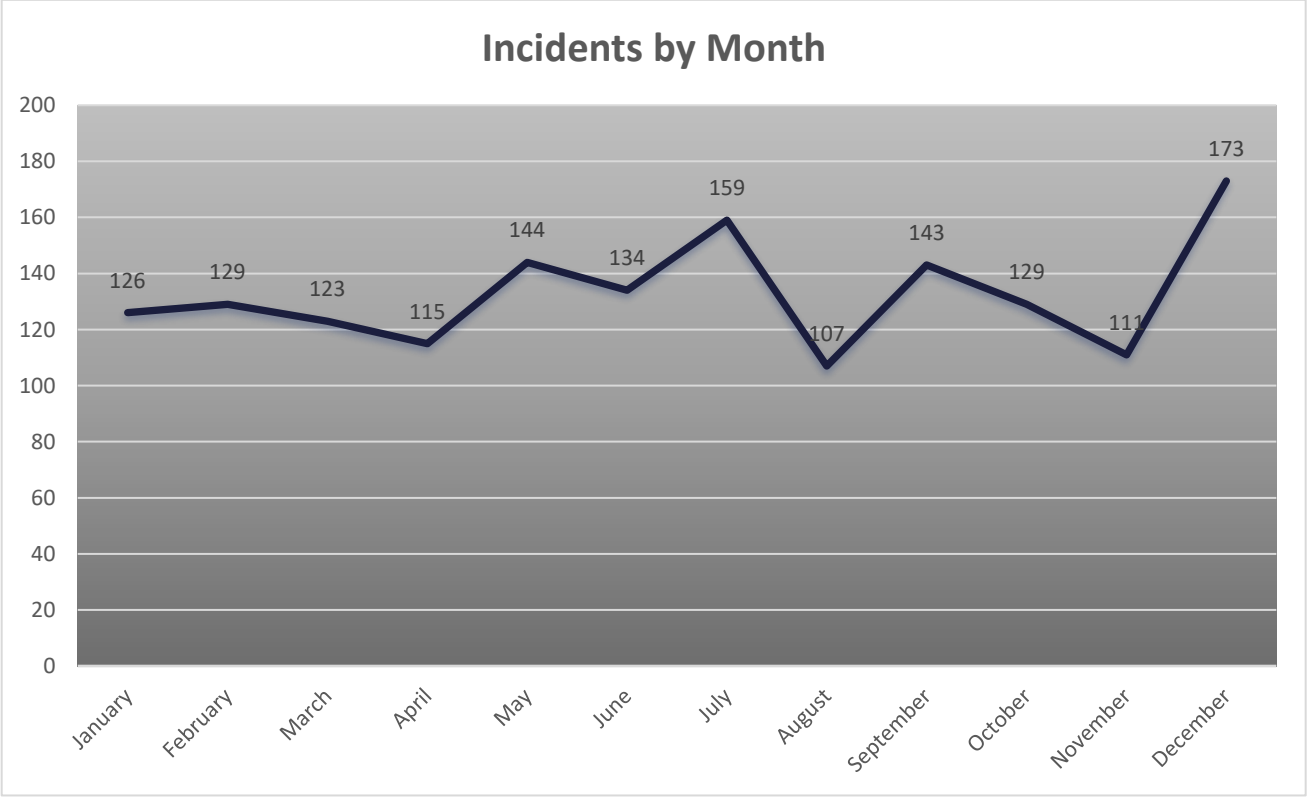
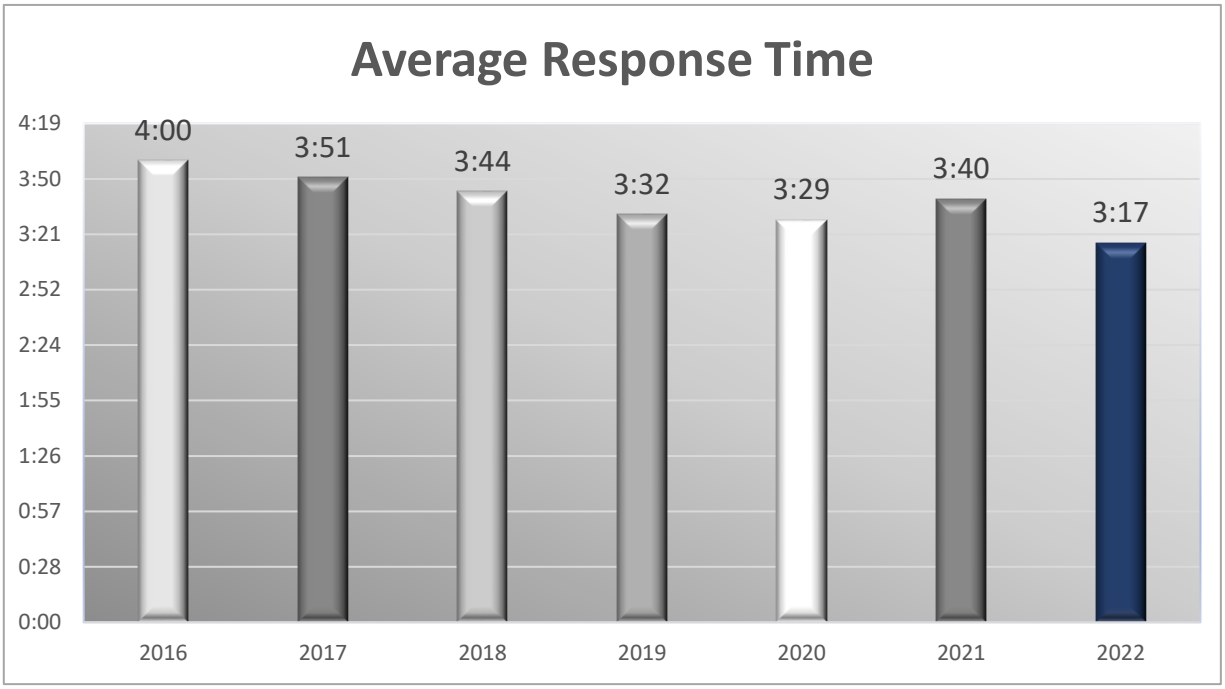
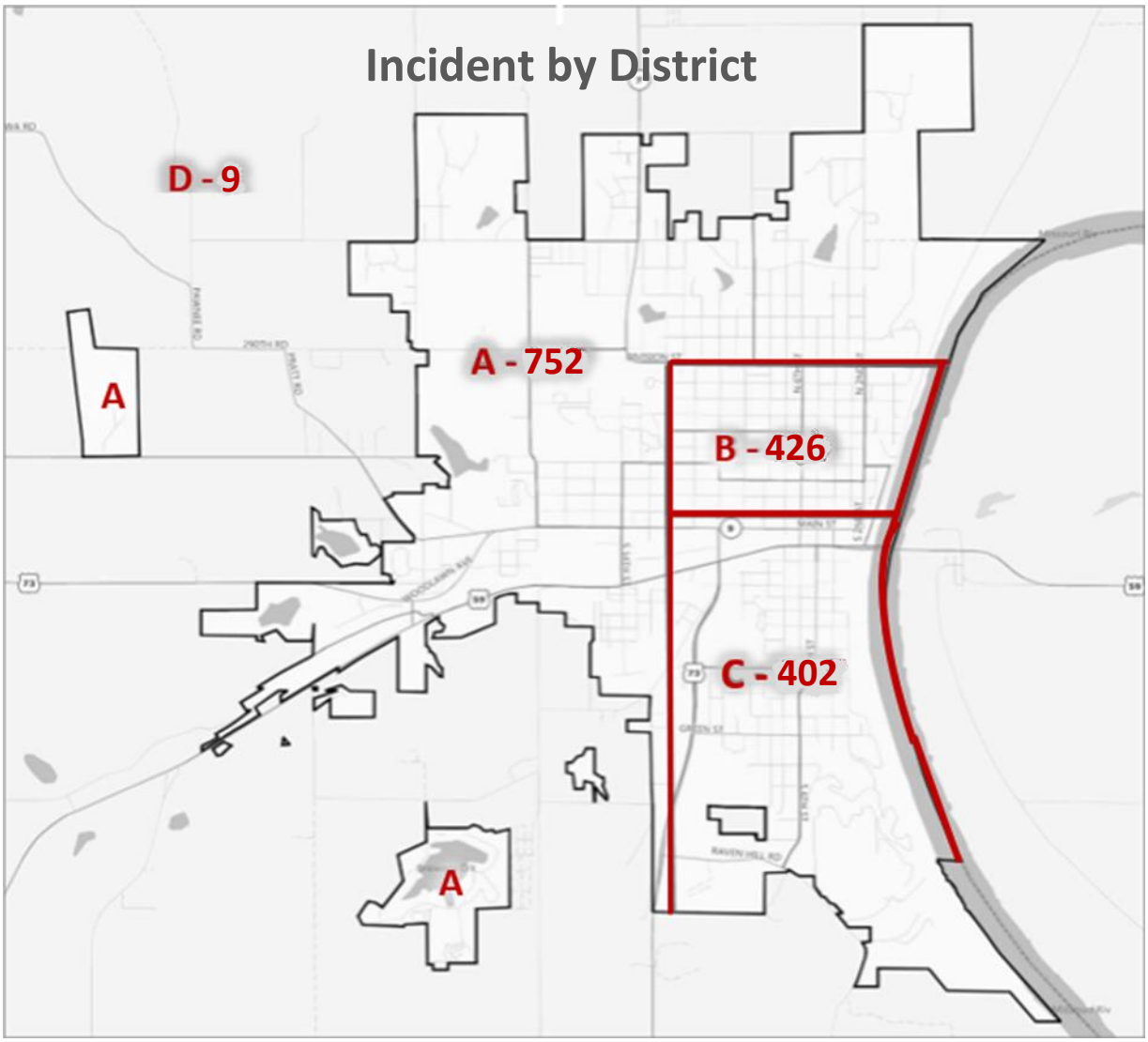
8:00 PM
9:00 PM
10:00 PM
11:00 PM


Incidents by Month
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
126
129
123
115
144
134
159
107
143
129
111
173
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December


Average Response Time
4:19
3:50
3:21
2:52
2:24
1:55
1:26
0:57
0:28
0:00
4:00
3:51
3:44
3:32
3:29
3:40
3:17
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022


Incident by District
D - 9
A
A - 752
B - 426
C - 402
A

Training Program

Approximately 900 hours of training was provided to employees covering a variety of subjects

- Each Firefighter receives an average of 230 hours of training to meet the ISO requirement
- EMT and EMR recertification required by the Kansas and National Board of EMS
- Emergency Vehicle Operation training are mandatory for all driver/operators
- 20 hours of recertification training conducted annually for Fire Investigators
- Specialized training is available on a case-by-case basis and is funded through the departments training budget

Public Education Program

Public Education and training provide to local schools, business, and industry

- 120 local 4th grade students participated in the 5-week Junior Fire Marshal program
- With all Covid restrictions lifted, we opened our doors to school and civic group tours
- Approximately 3,000 publications, furnished by the National Fire Safety Council and paid for by local donations were distributed to students and citizens of the community
- Fire Extinguisher training was again provided to local business & industrial employees

Code Enforcement

We were also able to return to our on-site inspection program. We remain diligent in our code enforcement duties inspecting all occupancies in our jurisdiction. The following are the code enforcement codes adopted by the City of Atchison that we enforce.

- 2012 International Fire Code
- 2012 NFPA Life Safety Code
- All major occupancies except single and two-family dwellings are inspected using Kansas State Fire Marshal checklist as a minimum
- Over 600 Occupancies are inspected annually
- Approximately 175 code violations were identified and corrected

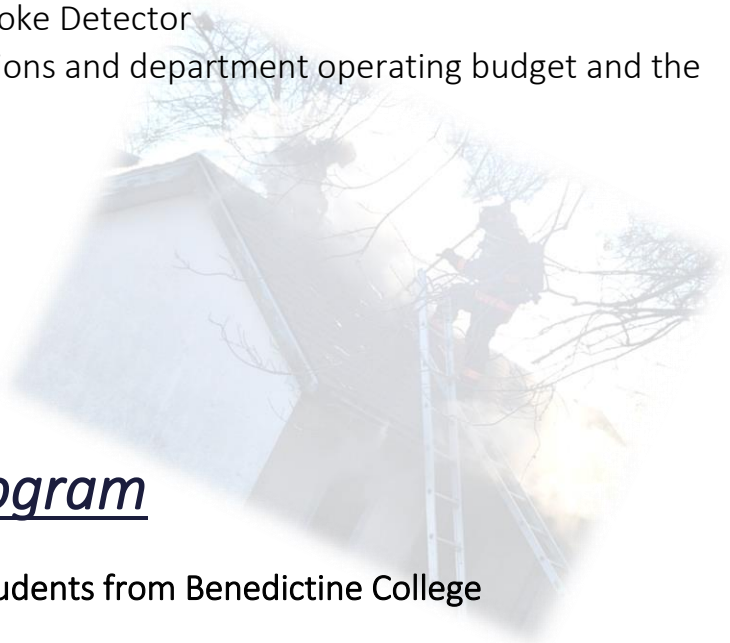
All occupancy changes & new occupancies require review by licensed architect and review by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office in accordance with Kansas State Statues.

Inspections in cooperation with the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office

- Educational Occupancies
- Detention Occupancies
- Assembly Occupancies
- Health Care Facilities
- Board & Care Facilities
- Day Care Occupancies
- Flammable Liquid/Gas Storage & Distribution

Smoke Detector Placement Program

- Provisions of the State of Kansas Smoke Detector Act require homeowners and landlords to provide smoke detectors on every level of single and two-family dwellings
- Department personnel check for compliance of the act on all non-medical emergency incidents
- If residence is non-compliant, homeowners are provided smoke detectors at no cost
- If rental property landlords are notified and required to become compliant with the act
- In cooperation with the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, we now also offer a combination Carbon Monoxide / Smoke Detector
- Programs are funded through donations and department operating budget and the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office



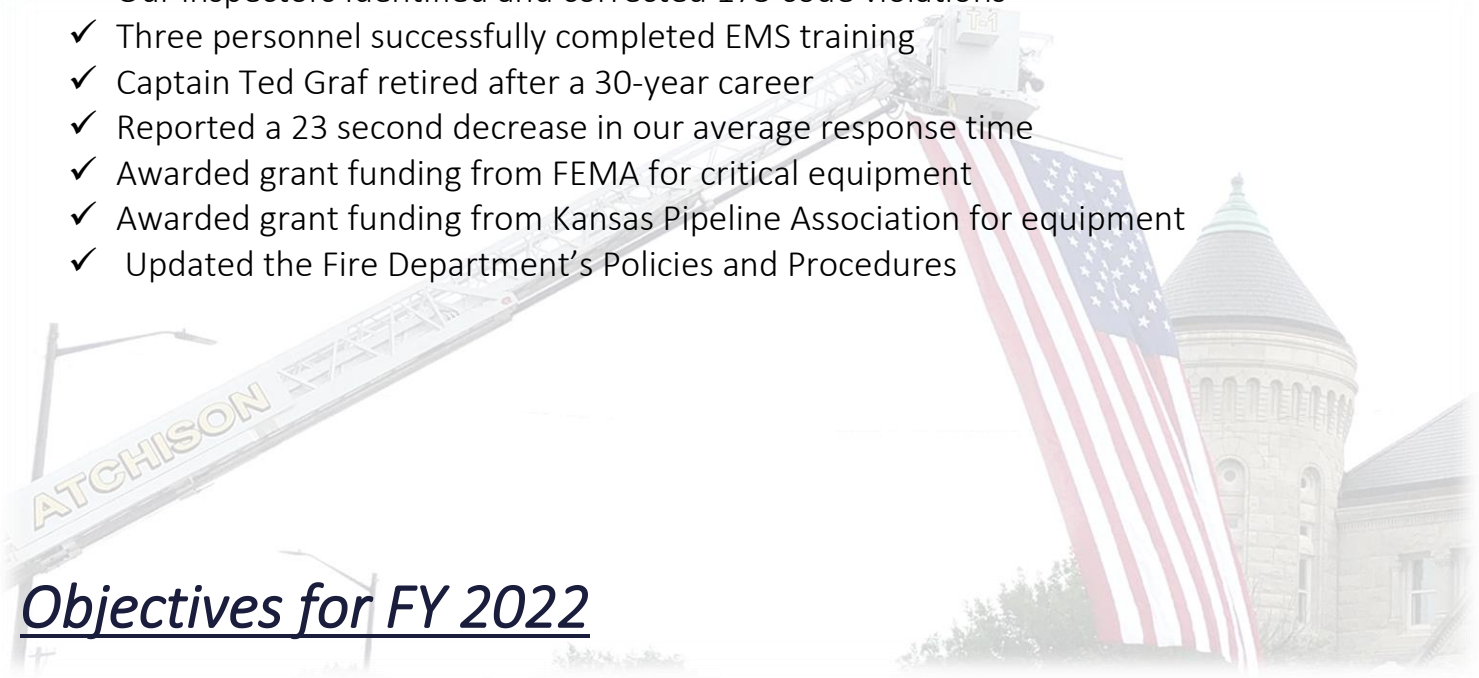
Intern and Ride Along Program

Our robust intern program incorporates students from Benedictine College

- Our Intern program serves area high school and college students with the ability to participate in station duties, training, and minor incidents we respond to
- This Program earns local student's semester class credits while participating
- Since its inception, we've accommodated several high school seniors and multiple college seniors.
- Our 'Ride-a-long' program gives individuals the experience of responding with us to medical calls and other minor incidents.
- Both programs have proven to be beneficial to both our staff and the participating students.

Accomplishments for FY 2022

- ✓ Successfully responded to nearly 1600 calls for service
- ✓ Reported no vehicle accidents
- ✓ Our inspectors Identified and corrected 175 code violations
- ✓ Three personnel successfully completed EMS training
- ✓ Captain Ted Graf retired after a 30-year career
- ✓ Reported a 23 second decrease in our average response time
- ✓ Awarded grant funding from FEMA for critical equipment
- ✓ Awarded grant funding from Kansas Pipeline Association for equipment
- ✓ Updated the Fire Department's Policies and Procedures



Objectives for FY 2022

- ☐ Maintain commitment to excellence in fire suppression, training & prevention
- ☐ Promote a new Captain to replace the vacancy created by a retirement
- ☐ Certify all personnel in Firefighter 1 & 2 and complete EMS Certifications
- ☐ Attempt to secure grant funding for the purchase of necessary, expensive equipment
- ☐ Procure a new, mini pumper fire truck
- ☐ Provide the most cost-effective service possible to the community
- ☐ Recommend the City Commission adopt the updated International Fire Code
- ☐ Deploy a new training schedule to create uniformity across the department
- ☐ Certify members of the department in Child Passenger Safety Technician
- ☐ Begin a program to offer our community child safety seat installation

Summary

With COVID appearing to be in the rearview mirror, this year we felt the effect in-house, with many of our personnel contracting the virus, some multiple times. This coupled with 2 injuries and 2 personnel on maternity leave, made it our most challenging year in decades, covering open shifts and rallying personnel to respond off duty to larger fire incidents for additional support. This challenge was met with an outstanding response from our personnel, giving up days off and trading shifts to ensure the department was always covered. With this unprecedented amount of injury and illness it was a burden to our overtime budget however, with creative scheduling, and the Fire Chief covering open shifts while maintaining the 40-hour week administrative position, we were able to save the department over 500 hours of overtime.

As COVID restrictions were lifted from all business occupancies, our code enforcement was finally back to full force. We were successful in identifying and correcting over 175 code violations and our in-home safety audit program was also successful in aiding the community to help identify potential hazards in the homes we inspected.

With a more comprehensive and organized maintenance program we were able to stay on top of routine cleaning and maintenance to prolong the use of our apparatus and equipment. This includes the fire station building itself. We identified several electrical hazards and plumbing deficiencies and corrected them. We also combined our air compressors to one unit, retiring the old system and rerouting airlines to the newer, more efficient compressor.

As we enter 2023, we are focused on training our newer members, cultivating the ambitions of our experienced members, and preparing them all for the next generation of public servants, leaders and emergency responders.