

2023

Annual Report

Atchison Fire Department



Contents

Mission & Vision Statements.....	1
Summary of Operations.....	2
Organizational Chart.....	3
Current Staffing Level & Shift Rotation	4
Fleet Inventory & Replacement.....	5
Statistics.....	6 - 9
Training & Public Education.....	10
Code Enforcement.....	11
Smoke Detector & Intern Programs.....	12
Accomplishments & Objectives.....	13
Summary.....	14

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 1600 calls for service per year

The Atchison Fire Department was established in the early 1880's, nearly 145 years old.

The Department is currently housed in a 5-bay station which was constructed in 1971. This

Single Station covers approximately 9.2 square miles of land and 1.9 square miles of water.

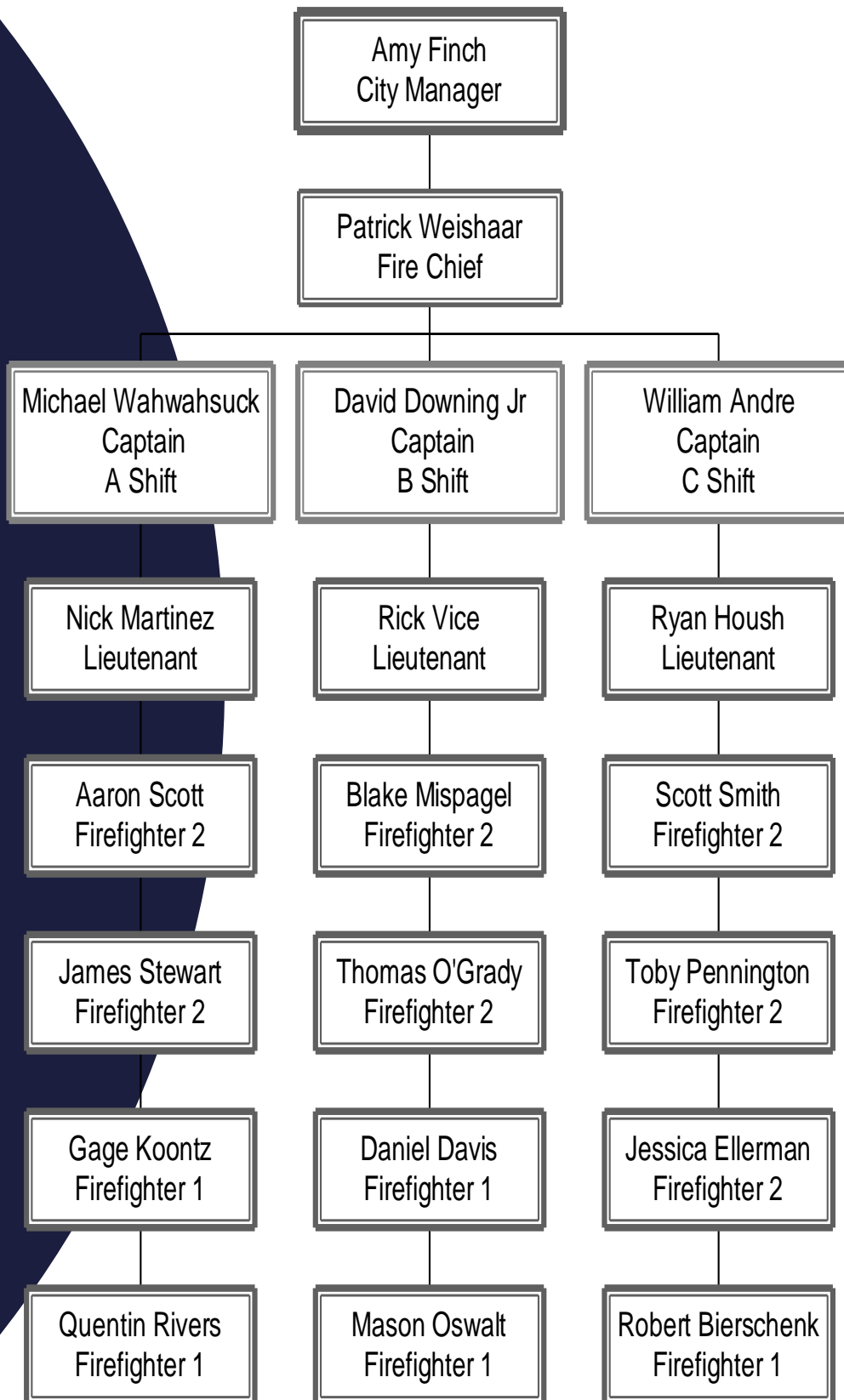
The Department is currently an ISO Class 3/10 rated city.

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 inspections for all citizens
- Fire Safety Training
- First Aid, CPR & AED Training



Organizational Chart



Current Staffing Level

- 12 Firefighters
- 3 Lieutenants
- 3 Captains
- 1 Fire Chief
- Average years' experience 10
- 12 Personnel are Firefighter II recognized or above
- 15 members are State & Nationally Certified as EMT/EMR
- 1 State Certified Fire Investigator
- 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.

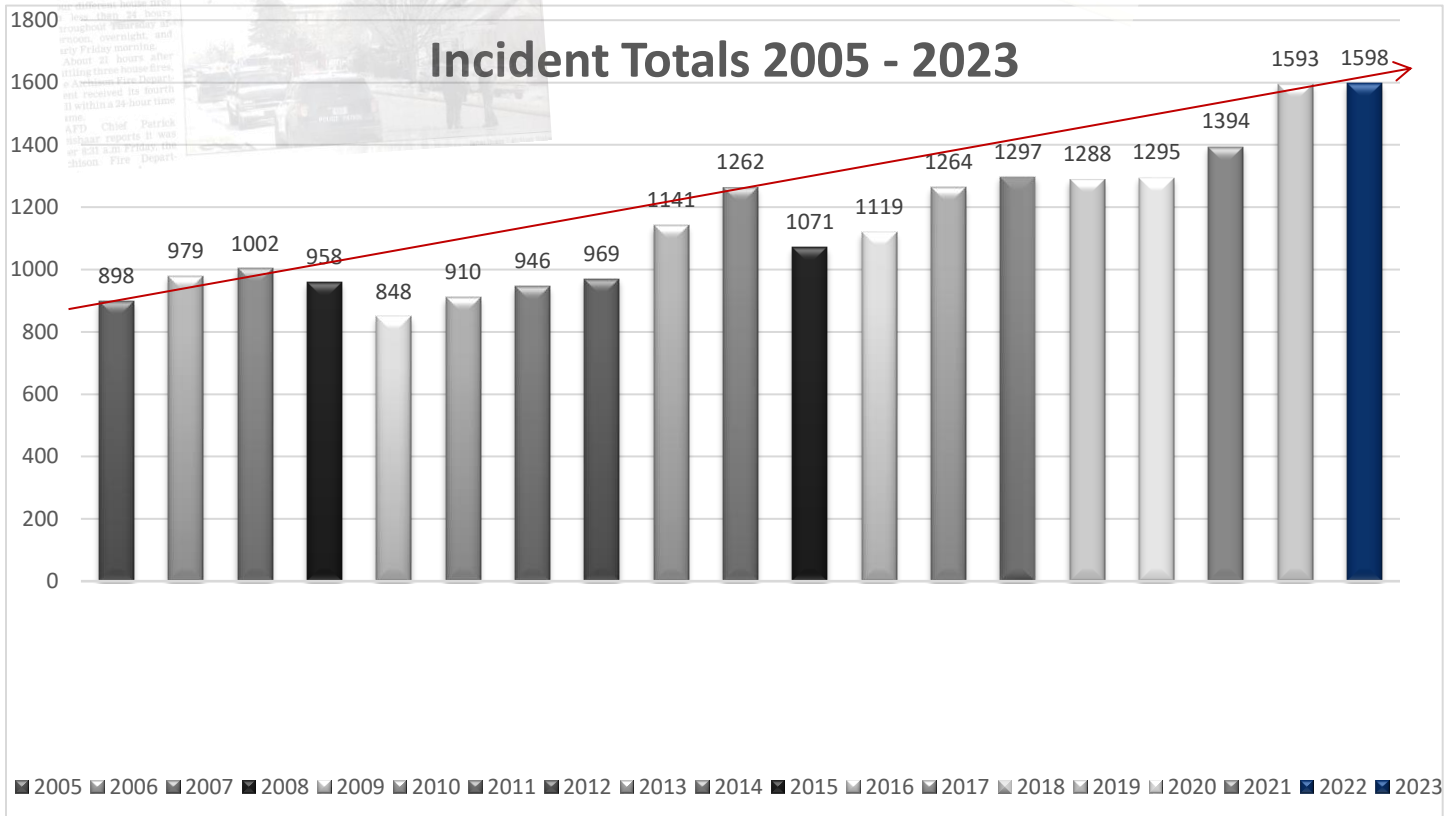
Taking these factors into account the City of Atchison's guideline for replacement of apparatus is as follows:

Date of Manufacture	Estimated Replacement
● 2011 Full Size Pumper.....	2031 – 2036
● 1992 Full Size Pumper.....	2012 – 2025
● 2005 Full Size Pumper.....	2025 – 2030
● 2002 Full Size Pumper.....	2022 – 2027
● 2014 101' Aerial Ladder Truck.....	2044 – 2049
● 2023 Mini Pumper.....	2043 - 2048
● 1998 Rescue Boat.....	2023 - 2025
● 2013 Pickup.....	2023 – 2030
● 2015 Chief Officers Vehicle.....	2025 – 2027

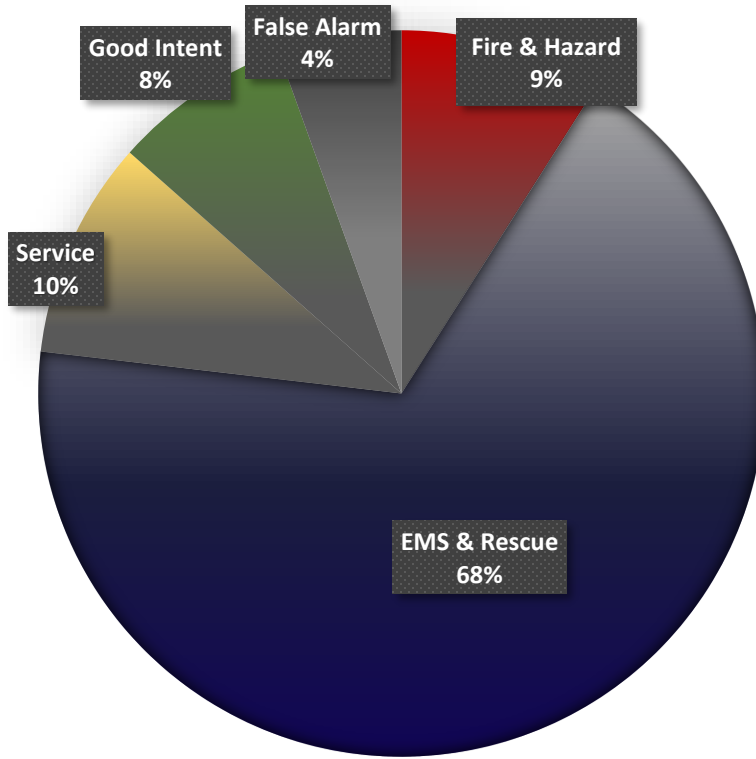
To maximize firefighter capabilities and minimize risk of injuries, it is important that fire apparatus be equipped with the latest safety features and operating capabilities. In the last 10 to 15 years, much progress has been made in upgrading functional capabilities and improving safety features of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

Incident Summary

Our call volume continues to grow each year across all types of incidents and 2023 was no exception. All incident types were similar to 2022 in type and frequency including structure and vehicle fires. Other areas we saw higher volume again were natural gas leaks and motor vehicle accidents. We have increased our training with Kansas Gas Service and worked with all pipeline operators in our area to analyze and prepare for the increase in these types of incidents. We're proud to say that we were not involved in any vehicle accidents as our driver/operator training proves to be successful as in years past. Our response time continues to improve as shown in the table below. We continue to be diligent in the incidents we respond to, adapting our training and response to new trends we see in the types of fires and accidents we encounter. We constantly analyze the data to stay ahead of any increases we see.



Incident by type



Fire & Hazard – 144

Building fires.....	25
Cooking fires.....	11
Rubbish trash or waste fires.....	8
Motor Vehicle or Equipment fires.....	11
Brush and/or Grass fires.....	8
Gasoline or flammable liquid spill.....	7
Gas Leak (natural gas or LPG)	38
Chemical spill or leak.....	2
Carbon Monoxide incident.....	1
Electrical wiring, short circuit.....	19
Overheated motor.....	4
Downed powerline.....	8
Lightning Strike.....	2

EMS & Rescue – 1,084

EMS calls	1,010
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	48
Lock-in.....	5
Water rescue.....	3
Extrication of victim.....	7
Aircraft standby.....	3
Rescue or EMS standby.....	8

False Alarm – 88

Malicious, mischievous false alarm.....	4
Alarm or Sprinkler activation due to malfunction.....	76
Sprinkler activation no fire unintentional.....	2
CO Detector Activation w/ no CO.....	6

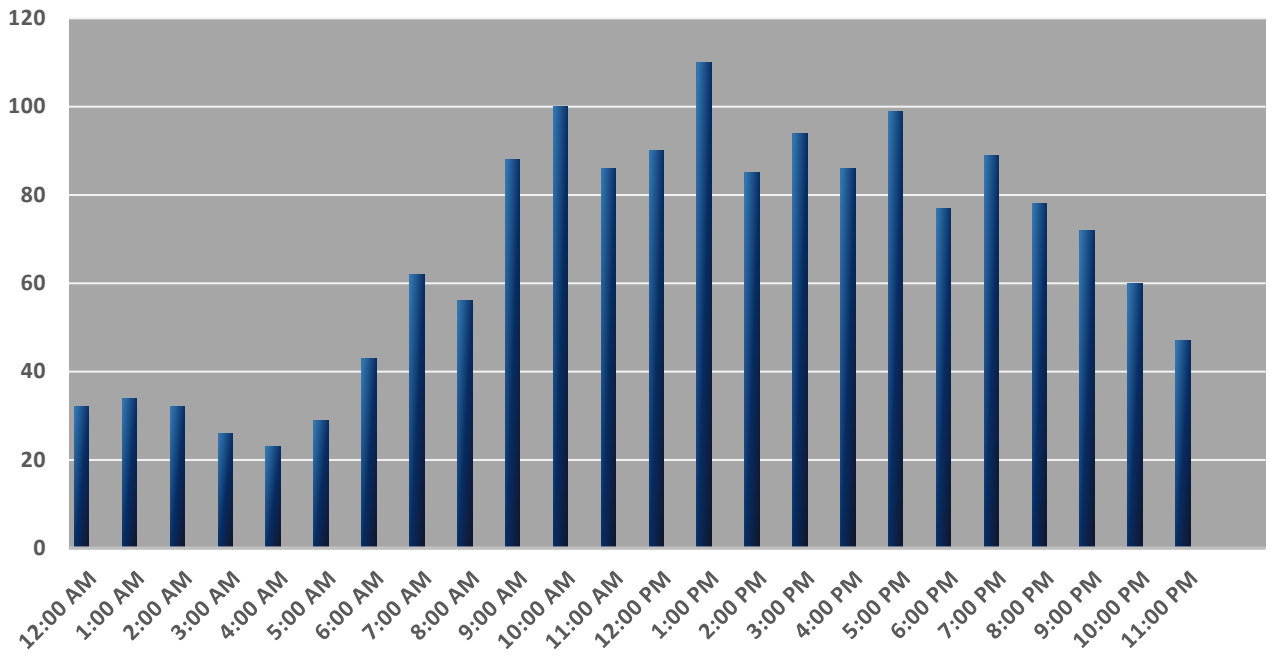
Good Intent – 127

Dispatched & cancelled enroute.....	51
No incident found on arrival.....	23
Authorized controlled burning.....	4
Smoke scare, odor of smoke.....	14
Hazmat investigation w/ no hazmat.....	35

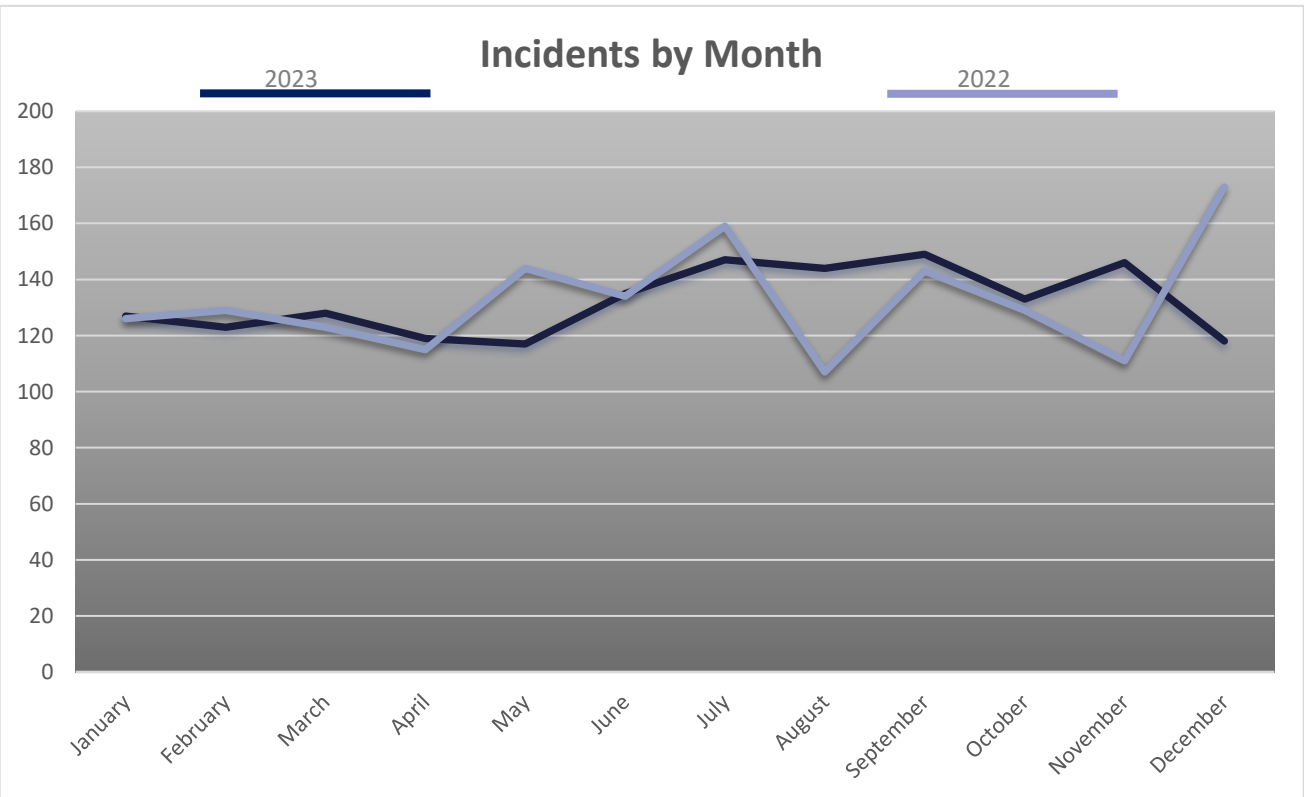
Service – 155

Lockout	10
Smoke or odor removal.....	5
Animal rescue.....	11
Assist Police.....	6
Public Service.....	34
Assist physically disabled.....	76
Unauthorized burning.....	13

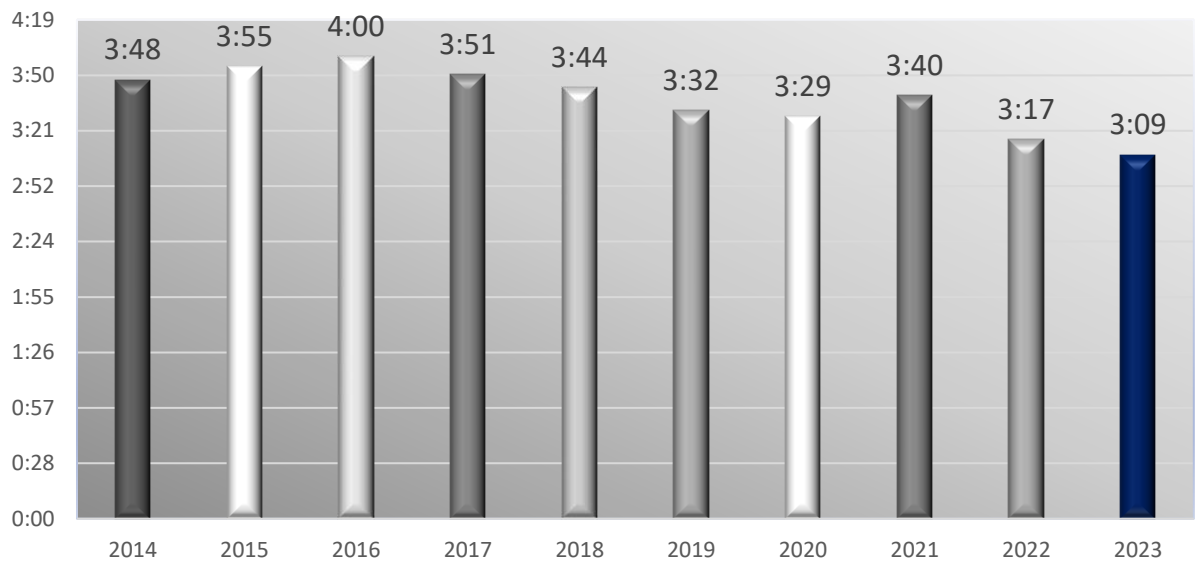
Incidents by Time of Day



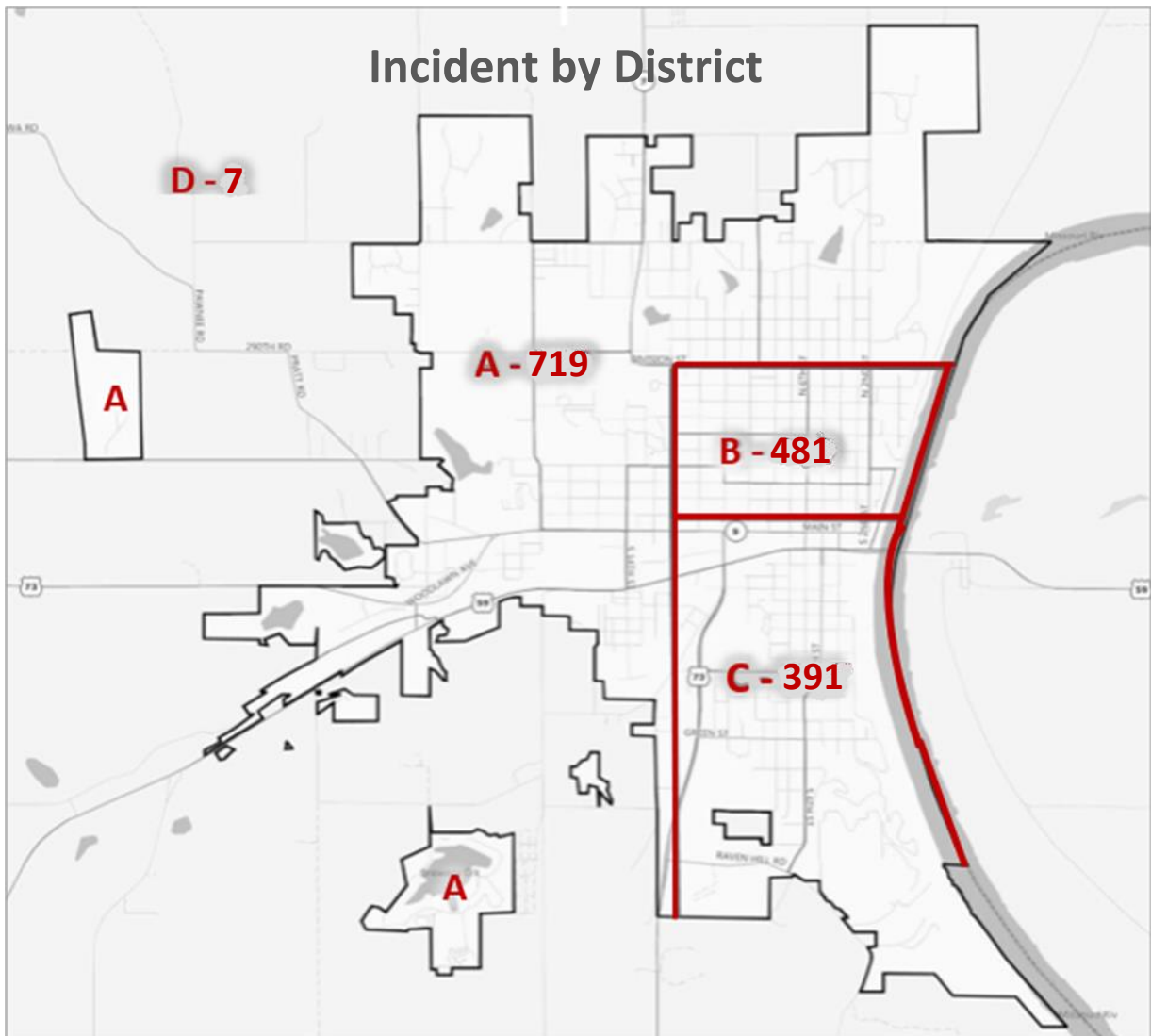
Incidents by Month



Average Response Time



Incident by District



Training Program

Over 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 is 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
- Specialized training is provided by Kansas University and Homeland Security (FEMA) for qualified individuals

Public Education Program

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

- 156 local 4th grade students participated in the 5-week Junior Fire Marshal program
- Several local schools and organizations participated in fire safety training, touring the fire department and the equipment we use.
- Approximately 3,500 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, First Aid, AED & CPR training was provided to local business & industrial employees and organizations.

Code Enforcement

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 follow and enforce.

- 2012 International Fire Code
- 2012 NFPA Life Safety Code
- All major occupancies except one and two-family dwellings are inspected
- This includes over 700 Occupancies within the City of Atchison
- Approximately 176 code violations were identified and corrected in 2023

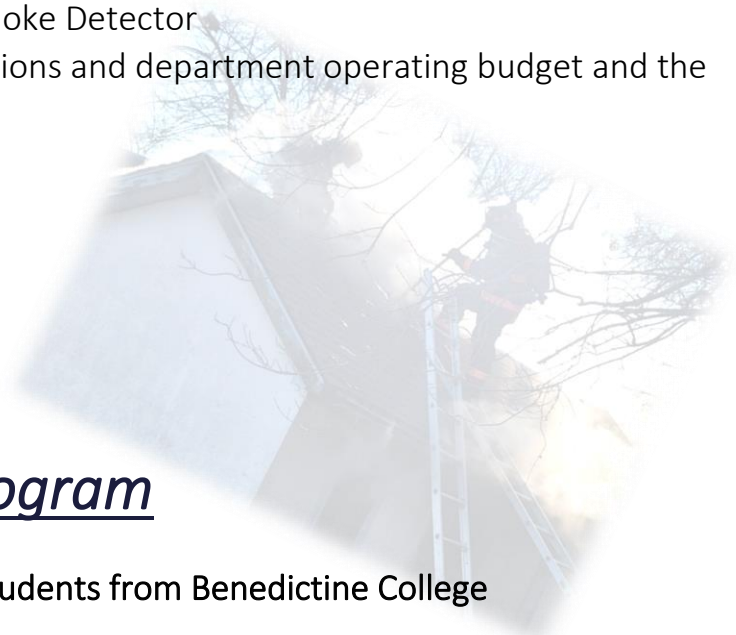
All occupancy changes & new occupancies require review by a licensed architect and review by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office in accordance with the Kansas State Statutes and City of Atchison ordinance.

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 2023

- ✓ Successfully responded to nearly 1600 calls for service
- ✓ Reported 0 vehicle accidents
- ✓ Our inspectors Identified and corrected 176 code violations
- ✓ Procured new Ford Mini Pumper fire truck and placed in service
- ✓ Nine personnel successfully completed Firefighter level 1 & 2 Testing
- ✓ Lieutenant John Rasmussen retired after a 25-year career
- ✓ Reported a 08 second decrease in our average response time
- ✓ Awarded grant funding from KS Governor's LSSE program for critical equipment
- ✓ Awarded grant funding from Kansas Pipeline Association for equipment
- ✓ Updated all Campus maps throughout the city to a modern format
- ✓ Promoted David Downing to Captain and Rick Vice & Rayn Housh to Lieutenant
- ✓ Blake Mispagel obtained a Hazardous Material Technician certification

Objectives for FY 2024

- Maintain commitment to excellence in fire suppression, training & prevention
- Begin replacement of crucial PPE starting with firefighting boots and helmets
- Certify all remaining personnel in Firefighter 1 & 2 and complete EMS Certifications
- Attempt to secure grant funding for the purchase of necessary, expensive equipment
- Replacement of all beds in the department's dormitory
- Provide the most cost-effective service possible to the community
- Recommend the City Commission adopt the updated 2018 International Fire Code
- Deploy a new training schedule to create uniformity across the department
- Deploy a new robust public education program to offer fire & life safety training
- Encourage all fire personnel to obtain more advanced, technical certifications
- Become more vigilant on maintaining our building & equipment by required maintenance
- Improve the City's ISO rating from 3/10 to 2/10

Summary

Once again, we are reporting the busiest year in the 144 of our existence. We proudly completed another successful year providing fire and life safety to the citizens of Atchison and the entire community. Although the year nearly mirrored 2022 in the amount of incidents we responded to, we saw a slight increase in the amount of structure fires. However, with this increase we saw a decrease in the number of structures that were lost to fire and a decrease in the dollar amount of loss caused by fire. We attribute this in part to a diligent fire prevention effort but also our quick response as noted once again in our improved response time. Our Improved training program has also proved beneficial in the rapid response and technique of our personnel.

Our Ride-Along and Intern program continued to be a success. BC Senior, Ecaterina Pelster joined us for her final semester in the fall. Upon her completion of hours at the fire department, responding to incidents, training and experiencing daily life at the fire station, she successfully completed class requirements and graduated at the end of the year. These programs are not only beneficial to local students but also our staff who spend time mentoring these students as they prepare for a possible future in emergency services.

Towards the end of the year, we were evaluated by ISO as part of their 5-year review. With improvements to equipment and training we will improve another our overall score, getting us as close to the best score possible. This will be beneficial to those in our area who are insured by companies who subscribe to the ISO fire protection rating.

As we head into 2024, we are confident in our firefighters who continue to improve daily. We will continue to serve our citizens with pride and integrity with the trust we have gained from our citizens from past, present and future hard work and professionalism.