



VAN WERT FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



REFLECTING ON OUR SERVICE FOR:

 **2023**

MISSION, VISION, CORE VALUES, & SLOGAN

Mission

“Van Wert Fire Department is dedicated to providing a professional emergency service for our community, protecting the lives and properties within it.”

Vision

Is to become a leader in northwest Ohio in responding to emergencies and, the prevention of future emergencies, through commitment and excellence.

Core Values

Professionalism: Appearance and behavior, respectful attitude, concern and compassion for people, training, preparedness, readiness and response

Integrity: Being loyal to the Department’s vision and mission, conducting ourselves with a high level of morality, conducting ourselves with the utmost honesty at all times, showing self-respect and respect for others, taking responsibility for our actions

Teamwork: We each bring our own skills and experience, recognize that we are better together, we support and depend on each other to achieve our goals

Compassion: Reconciling differences with an open mind, showing kindness and concern to our employees and citizens, being sympathetic and displaying empathy for others, giving consideration to all facts surrounding issues

Honor: Being respectful of others at all times, ensuring actions are done with the goal of the department having the highest level of reputation

Slogan

“Guarding My Every Neighbor”



2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in 1869, the Van Wert Fire Department has been serving the community for 154 years. With a dedicated crew of eighteen firefighter/EMTs and a consistent fire chief for nearly fifty years, the department currently operates with 18 on-duty firefighters, 10 reserves, all under the leadership of the Fire Chief. Remarkably, the department has maintained the same personnel levels for the past fifty years.

Serving a city population of 11,063 (US Census Bureau 2022), the department also contracts with Pleasant Township to extend fire and EMS services to 5.9 sections outside the city limits.

The response area covers 14 square miles, and the department acts as the sole full-time staffed Advanced Life Support Ambulance for the entire county, spanning 410 square miles.

Functioning as a suburban/rural all-hazard fire department, the Van Wert Fire Department extends professional services encompassing firefighting, specialized rescue (including hazardous materials response, high/low angle rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, structural collapse response, ice rescue, water rescue, grain bin rescue), mass casualty response, emergency medical services, fire prevention, and conducts annual fire safety inspections.

In 2023, the department responded to 2,121 calls for service, reflecting a decrease from 2022 . Operating under a mutual aid agreement with all county departments, the Van Wert Fire Department provided 96 calls for aid in 2022, receiving aid two times during the same period.



2023

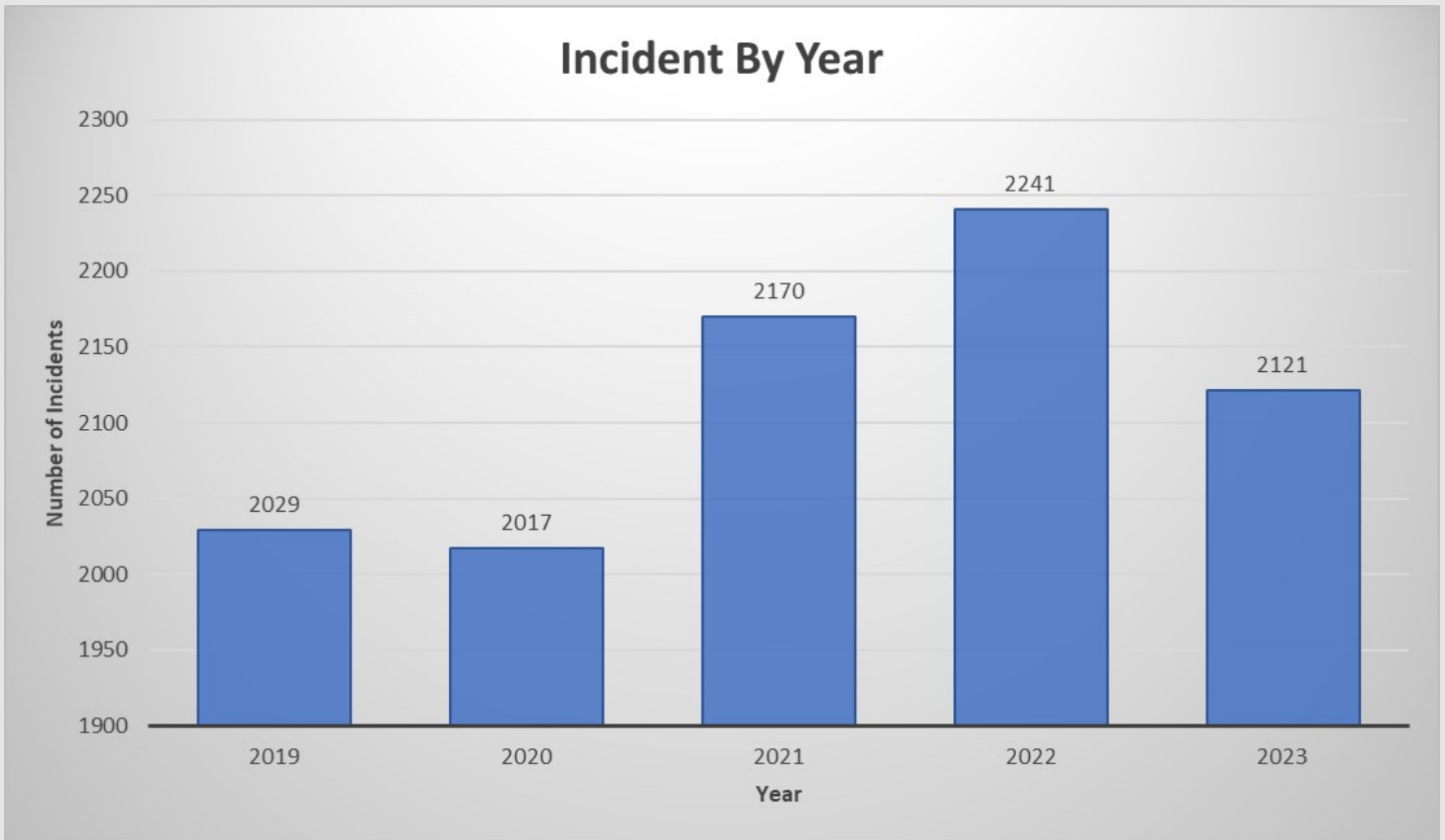
FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

The Van Wert Fire Department takes great pride in unveiling our 2023 Annual Report, a testament to our commitment to proactive engagement with the community and our valued customers. This comprehensive report offers an in-depth analysis of the department's activities throughout the preceding year, highlighting notable achievements. Serving the citizens of Van Wert and our neighboring communities is a tremendous honor for us. As we eagerly anticipate the future, we also cherish the opportunity to reflect on and learn from the rich experiences of the past.



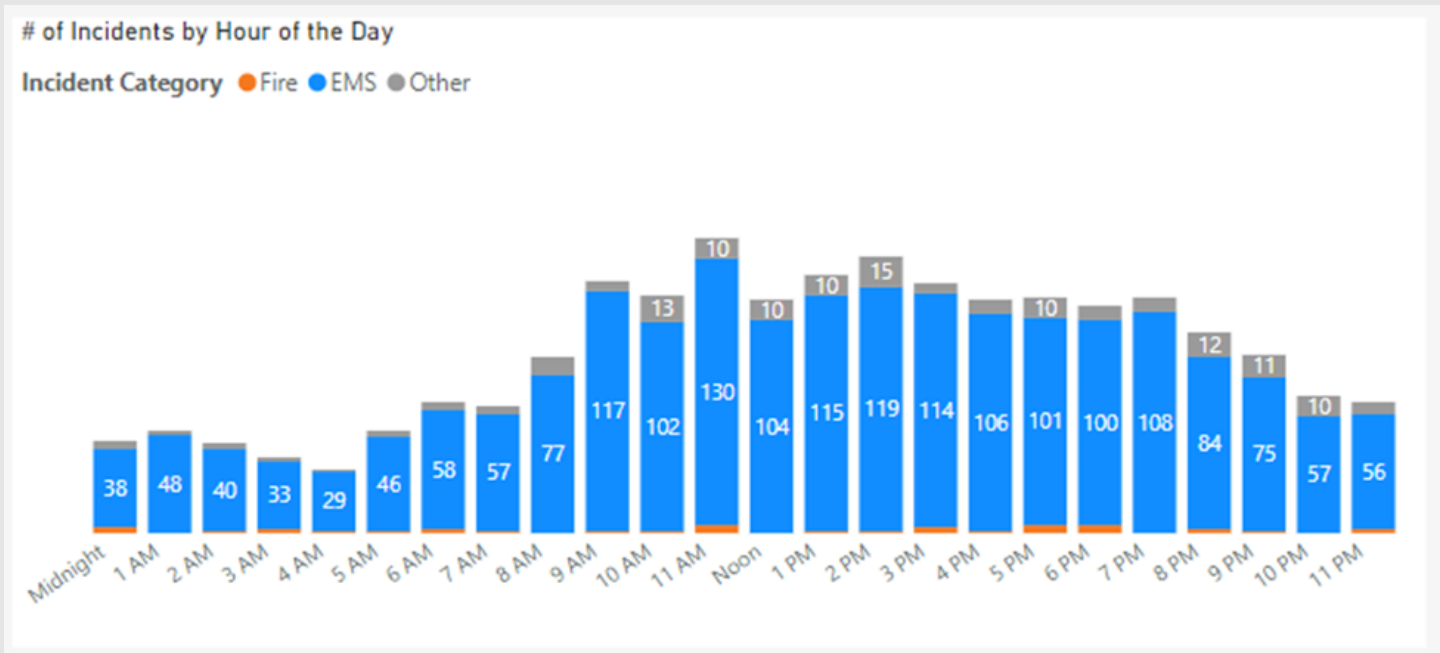
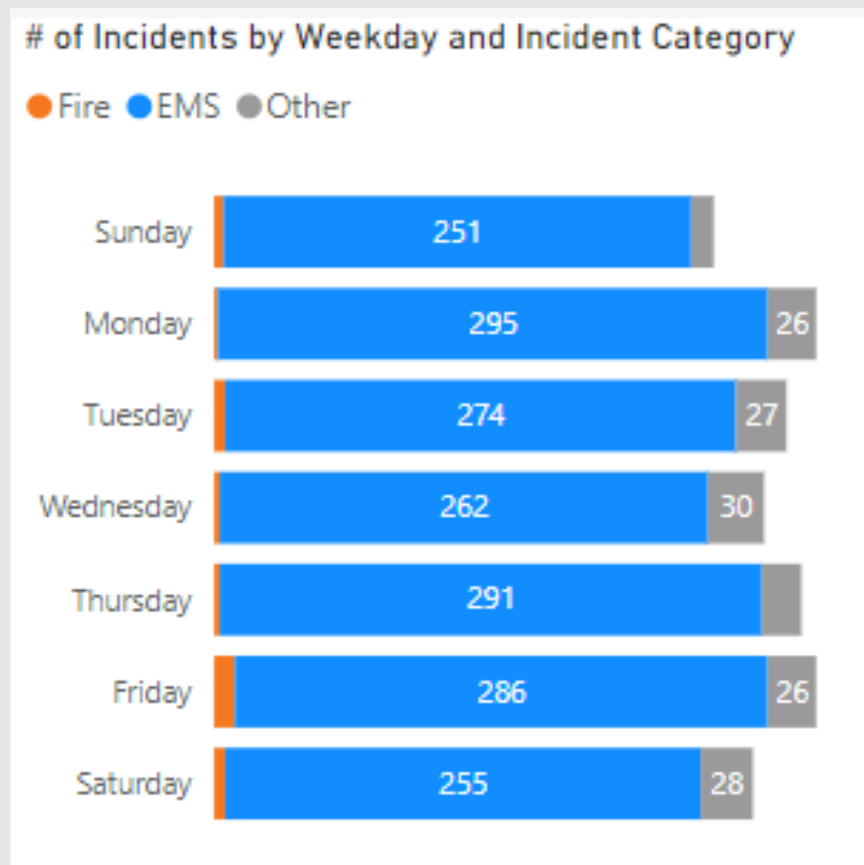
2023

CALLS FOR SERVICE



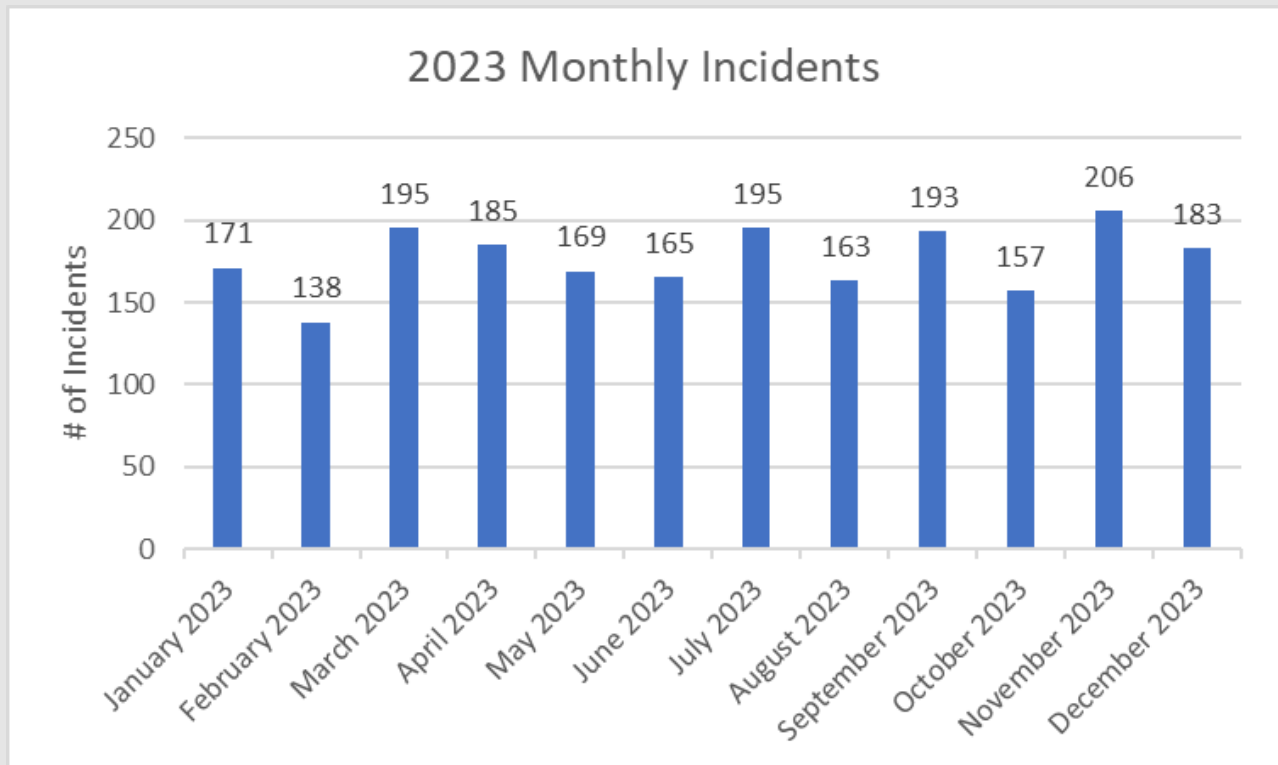
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CALLS FOR SERVICE

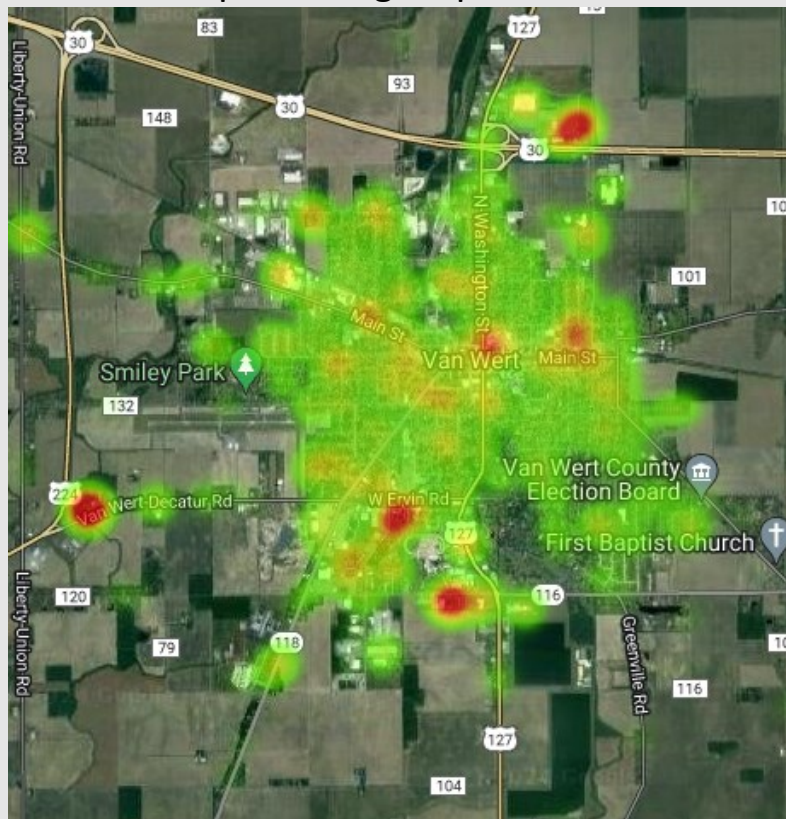


2023

CALLS FOR SERVICE



Heat Map showing responses in 2023



2023

INCIDENT TYPES



17 Structure Fires



55 Motor vehicle accident with injuries



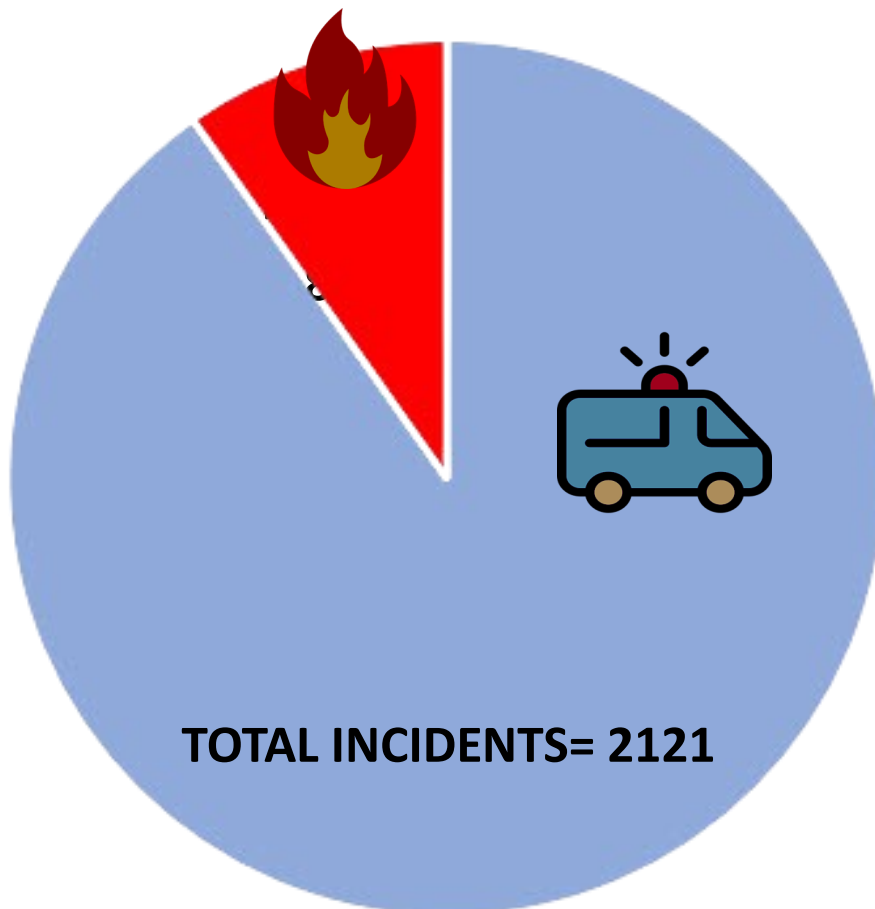
1914 Medical Calls (90.8% of calls)



109 False Alarms, False Call & Good Intent



46 Hazardous Conditions

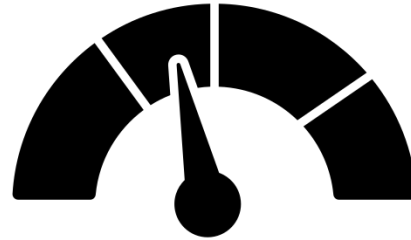


2023

INCIDENT STATISTICS

281

OVERLAPPING CALLS



13.25%

OVERLAPPING CALLS

6.14

Incidents per day

96

Aid Given



1:32

TURNOUT TIME EMS (TIME OF CALL UNTIL OUT OF STATION)

2

Aid Received

10,578

Incidents Last 5 Years



05:12

RESPONSE TIME TO SCENE
(All Calls Combined, in city)



2023

FIRE INCIDENTS

In the year 2023, the Van Wert Fire Department demonstrated unwavering commitment and efficiency in addressing fire incidents within our community. Responding to a total of 25 structure fires, our dedicated team successfully contained these incidents, mitigating potential devastation.

These efforts translated into a commendable achievement of saving an estimated \$677,770.00 worth of property, with property damages amounting to \$136,700. The pre-incident property values stood at \$814,470.00, emphasizing the significant impact our department had in preserving the community's assets.

Despite the challenges presented, our department prioritized public safety, resulting in one civilian injury and no reportable injuries to our brave firefighters. Our commitment to excellence is further underscored by our average turnout time (Dispatch to En-route for all incidents) of 2:54, showcasing our swift and decisive response to emergent and non-emergent situations.

For fire calls, our average response time (Dispatch to Arrival) was 7:16, encompassing both city and out-of-town Mutual aid responses. This comprehensive approach ensures that our community receives timely assistance, regardless of the location or nature of the incident.

Throughout the year, the Van Wert Fire Department handled a total of 207 fire calls, addressing diverse situations such as motor vehicle accidents with entrapment, rescues, gas leaks, and false alarms. Our adaptability and readiness to tackle various challenges demonstrate our commitment to serving the community beyond traditional fire incidents. As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, it is evident that the Van Wert Fire Department remains steadfast in its mission to protect lives and property. Our unwavering dedication, coupled with effective response strategies, positions us as a reliable force in safeguarding the well-being of our community.



2023

TRAINING

4019

Training Hours

212

Hours Per Employee

2123

Hours Physical Fitness

161

Technical Rescue Hours



2023 Highlights

Certified Fire Safety Inspector: Fraker, Gasser, A. King, Ricker, Schumm, and Smith

Fire Officer 2: Edelbrock

Fire Officer 4: Ankney

Juvenile Fire Setter: Gasser, A. King

Crash Course Heavy: Fraker

FDTN Fireground Survival/RIT: Merkle



2023

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Inspections Conducted: A total of 148 inspections were successfully completed by the Community Risk Reduction department in 2023

Violation Instances: During the inspection process, 171 violations were identified and documented for further action and resolution.

Average Inspection Time: The average time taken for each inspection was approximately 44 minutes and 45 seconds, reflecting thoroughness and efficiency in the evaluation process.

Conclusion: The fire department lieutenants effectively lead the Community Risk Reduction bureau, which falls under the authority of the Fire Chief. Despite the daily demands of emergency responses and other job requirements, our team has demonstrated dedication in conducting inspections and addressing violations promptly. This commitment is instrumental in identifying and addressing potential risks within 590-Occupancies, contributing to the overall safety of our community. Looking forward to 2024, our goals include completing inspections for 25% of our 590 occupancies and increasing our presence in community schools to enhance fire safety awareness among students and staff. This proactive approach aims to foster a culture of fire prevention and preparedness, ultimately reducing the likelihood of fire incidents and ensuring the safety of our community members.



2023

PERSONNEL

Chief:

Jon Jones

Shift 1

Captain Craig King

Lieutenant Nick Steyer

FF/Paramedic Doug Edelbrock

FF/Paramedic Zach Merkle

FF/Paramedic Ethan Fraker



Shift 2

Captain Brian Ankney

Lieutenant Rob Miller

FF/Paramedic Jeff Henderson

FF/Advanced Jeff Ricker

FF/Paramedic Kory Smith

Reserves

Brock Profit

Camden Miller

Alexander Greutman

Isaiah Webster

Nate Wiechart

Douglas John

Dalton Yenser

Shift 3

Captain Dave Cummings

Lieutenant Austin Miller

FF/Paramedic Ed Carter

FF/Advanced Gary Gasser

FF/Paramedic AJ King

FF/Paramedic Brett Schumm



2023

APPARATUS

The Van Wert Fire Department diligently maintains a diverse fleet of apparatus and equipment, ensuring readiness and reliability. Our inventory includes:

- 3 Engines Rescues (pumpers): These units are prepared to respond to fires with precision and power.
- 2 Ladders (aerials): Providing essential access and rescue capabilities.
- 1 Tanker: Critical for firefighting in areas without hydrant access.
- 3 Advanced Life Support Ambulances (medics): Equipped with advanced life-saving equipment for swift and effective patient care delivery.
- 1 Grass Engine: Tailored for combating field fires, essential for rural firefighting.
- 4 staff vehicles: Supporting the needs of our Chief, Officers, utility requirements, and educational outreach.
- 1 Boat: Essential for water-based rescue operations.
- 1 Hazmat/Confined Space Rescue Trailer: Equipped to handle hazardous materials incidents and confined space rescues.
- 1 ATV: Facilitating access to remote and challenging terrain.
- 1 Fire Prevention Trailer: Mobilizing educational efforts to promote fire safety and prevention.
-

The department maintains our fleet with annual services, along with personnel keeping the apparatus looking like new. Despite the challenges faced, our fleet maintains an average combined age of 16.4 years for our front-line apparatus. The department is currently awaiting the delivery of a new engine, scheduled for the second quarter of 2025, to replace E3. Additionally, plans are underway to order a new ambulance in 2024 from our local Ambulance company Braun, with an estimated delivery in 2026. These updates ensure our fleet remains modern and capable of meeting the evolving needs of our community. Each vehicle and piece of equipment plays a vital role in our mission to safeguard and serve the community. Here's a breakdown of our apparatus:

Apparatus	Type	Year
Engine 3	Rescue/Pumper	2001
Engine 4	Rescue/Pumper	2007
Engine 5	Rescue/Pumper	2017
Engine 6	Grass Truck	2001
Ladder 1	100' Aerial	2001
Ladder 2	75' Aerial	2005
Medic 8	ALS Ambulance	2008
Medic 7	ALS Ambulance	2018
Medic 9	ALS Ambulance	2019
Tanker 11	Tanker	2010
FP1	Fire Prevention Trailer	2007
SRT1	Special Response Trailer	1999
Car 1	Chief's Vehicle	2017
Car 2	Officer Chase Car	2014
Truck 14	Utility Truck	2016
Rescue 10	Polaris Ranger	2019



2023

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

Calls for Service:

Overview of the total number of emergency calls received throughout the year, including breakdowns by type and frequency.

Incident Types:

Analysis of the various types of incidents responded to by our department, such as fires, medical emergencies, rescues, and hazardous materials incidents.

Incident Statistics:

Detailed statistics on response times, incident durations, property damage, and any other relevant metrics pertaining to our emergency responses.

Fire Incidents:

Highlights of significant fire incidents, including structure fires, and any noteworthy rescue operations conducted by our firefighters.

Training:

Summary of the training programs and exercises conducted to ensure the ongoing professional development and readiness of our firefighting personnel.

Community Risk Reduction:

Overview of our community outreach efforts aimed at educating residents about fire safety, disaster preparedness, and community fire prevention.

Personnel:

Overview of the department's personnel, including the number of firefighters, officers, and reserve personnel

Apparatus:

Description of the department's firefighting apparatus, rescue vehicles, and specialized equipment, highlighting any new acquisitions or upgrades made during the year.

Respectively submitted by Chief Jon Jones and I would like to thank Captain King, Captain Cummings, Captain Ankney, Lieutenant Steyer, for their assistance with preparing this report.

This summary provides a snapshot of the Van Wert Fire Department's activities and achievements over the past year. For more detailed information, please contact Chief Jon Jones.



2023