

Wausau Fire Department

2022 Annual Report



City of Wausau
Katie Rosenberg, Mayor
Becky McElhaney, Council President

Wausau City Council

CAROL LUKENS

First Aldermanic District

MICHAEL MARTENS

Second Aldermanic District

TOM KILIAN

Third Aldermanic District

DOUG DINY

Fourth Aldermanic District

GARY GISSELMAN

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BECKY MCELHANEY

Sixth Aldermanic District



LISA RASMUSSEN

Seventh Aldermanic District

SARAH WATSON

Eighth Aldermanic District

DAWN HERBST

Ninth Aldermanic District

LOU LARSON

Tenth Aldermanic District

CHAD HENKE

Eleventh Aldermanic District

WAUSAU POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

William Harris, Chair (4/26)

Cheryl Bahr, Commissioner (4/23)

William Graef, Commissioner (4/24)

Michael Loy, Commissioner (4/25)

Kathy Strasser, Commissioner (4/27)



**WAUSAU FIRE FIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION
LOCAL 415**

Adam Rahn, President

Maxxwel Nowitzke, Vice-President

Cody Wiesman, Secretary/Treasurer

Shahn Kariger, Member at Large

Wausau Fire Department Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Wausau Fire Department to provide rapid, professional, emergency services to protect and enhance our community.

Wausau Fire Department Vision Statement

Excellence in service to our community through best practices, innovation, and a positive attitude, the Wausau Fire Department strives to operate under these guiding principles:

- ❖ *Our philosophy is excellence in every aspect of our work. We strive to be a positive role model and leader in the fire service as well as maintaining community involvement.*
- ❖ *Our employees are inspired to cultivate a lasting and rewarding career. This is accomplished through recognition of outstanding contributions made by employees. In addition, every employee has the opportunity to develop and thrive professionally and personally.*
- ❖ *Community partnerships are vital to short and long term success. We will nurture and develop constructive relationships with business owners, residents, and officials, as well as our public safety partners.*
- ❖ *Every day, and at every opportunity, we will be THE positive influence in the lives of others.*
- ❖ *We are a highly effective, efficient, and adaptive organization. We are responsible, make a difference, and will contribute our efforts toward building a sustainable community.*
- ❖ *We will serve our community with pride, which is reflected in our high quality service and commitment to excellence.*

Wausau Fire Department Values

- Professionalism – We choose to take pride in our work, communicate effectively, project a positive image, and deliver service at the highest standards every time, in every situation.
- Accountability – We accept responsibility and take ownership of our actions.
- Integrity – We act ethically, honestly and lead by having our actions reflect our word.
- Respect – We choose to treat everyone the way we would like to be treated.
- Compassion – We recognize individuals stricken by misfortune and take actions to alleviate their pain as we serve them with kindness and understanding.





Wausau Fire Department

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

POPULATION	AREA SERVED	CALL VOLUME	UNIT RESPONSES	FIRE STATIONS	TOTAL PERSONNEL
39,994	19.22 Sq. Miles	6,686	9,518	3	57 Ops / 8 Admin

STRUCTURE FIRES 52	MEDICAL/1ST RESPONDER 6,053	COMMUNITY IMPACT 3,354 Adults & 6,753 Children	BUSIEST STATION Station 1 – 2,688 Calls
VEHICLE FIRES 11	TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS 139	TOTAL INCIDENT HOURS 5,199:22:31 Hours	BUSIEST CREW B Crew – 2,248 Calls
BRUSH/GRASS FIRES 12	EXTRICATIONS 6	TRAINING HOURS 15,239.15 Hours	BUSIEST UNIT Med 1 – 1,755 Calls
FIRE ALARM ACTIVATIONS 223	HAZMAT SPILLS/LEAKS 28	#1 MEDICAL DISPATCH Falls - 823	BUSIEST MONTH Dec – 612 Calls
ELECTRICAL CALLS 21	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE 125	MUTUAL/AUTO AID GIVEN 279	BUSIEST DAY Tuesday – 1,002 Calls
UNIT TURNOUT TIME PERFORMANCE (STATION NOTIFICATION – UNIT ENROUTE) 2 Minutes 10 Seconds / 90% OF THE TIME	UNIT TRAVEL TIME PERFORMANCE (UNIT ENROUTE – UNIT ARRIVAL) 6 Minutes 30 Seconds / 90% OF THE TIME	MUTUAL AID RECEIVED 5	BUSIEST TIME 11 AM – 393 Calls
SAVE CALCULATION (WHAT IS AT RISK – WHAT IS LOST – WHAT IS SAVED) \$29,816,625 – \$579,875 = \$29,155,950	PERFORMANCE CALCULATION (SAVED / RISK / SAVE PERCENTAGE) \$29,155,950 / \$29,816,625 = 97%		

MISSION

It is the mission of the Wausau Fire Department to provide rapid, professional, emergency services to protect and enhance our community.

CORE VALUES

Professionalism - We choose to take pride in our work, communicate effectively, project a positive image, and deliver service at the highest standards every time, in every situation.

Accountability - We accept responsibility and take ownership for our actions.

Integrity - We act ethically, honestly, and lead by example by having our actions reflect our word.

Respect - We choose to treat everyone the way we would like to be treated.

Compassion - We recognize individuals stricken by misfortune and take action to alleviate their pain as we serve them with kindness and understanding.



2022 Fire Chief Report



Wausau Fire Department
606 East Thomas Street
Wausau, WI 54403
Telephone (715) 261-7900
Fax (715) 261-7910



Katie Rosenberg, Mayor

Robert Barteck, Fire Chief

We are proud to present the 2022 annual report of the operations and activities of the Wausau Fire Department. 2022 was a challenging and rewarding year for our organization.

2022 was the busiest year in the department's 153-year history, with 6,686 calls for service. This report provides insight into many data points we monitor. EMS remains the bulk of the department's workload with 90% of the call volume, EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson provides some interesting insights into the data in his portion of this report. The department also had an uptick in structure fires last year, which Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp lays out in the operations data. Training Division Chief Dave Briggs continues to pioneer new ways to improve our training and preparedness and details many successes in his portion of this report. Under the leadership of Fire Marshal Brian Stahl, the Prevention Division continues to work collaboratively with community business leaders to ensure code compliance.

By far, the biggest story for 2022 was the addition of 12 new firefighter/paramedic positions created by the Wausau Common Council. In January, the Common council directed me to apply for funding for nine positions through the FEMA Staffing for Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. The remaining three positions will be funded with ARPA dollars for 2023 and 2024. In late September, we received the news that we were selected to receive \$3.1 million in SAFER Grant funds to fully pay for nine firefighter/paramedic positions for the first three years (2023, 2024, & 2025). The FY 2022 SAFER Grant was highly competitive, with only 7.5% of applications awarded.

Working with the Human Resources Department, we had already begun recruitment and moved straight into interviews and hiring the additional firefighters. By late December, we had on-boarded three new firefighter/paramedic positions and had recruited nine more that would start in early February. However, this still left a few positions open due to attrition that will be recruited once the nine new firefighters are on-board. Recruitment of quality candidates remains challenging, but we are finding excellent candidates.

Our aging infrastructure of Central and Station Three remains a hindrance to our daily operations. To try to encompass the problem fully Five Bugles Design completed a Facilities Assessment of Central. The report found that Central has failing electrical systems, failing HVAC systems, plumbing problems, lacks proper privacy and bathrooms for female firefighters, lacks proper administrative and training space, and a litany of other problems. In 2020 the city invested \$120,000 into the station made the men's locker room toilets and showers operational again, and added a small office space for firefighters to write reports in. In 2023 I will bring the topic to the Public Health and Safety Committee to restart the conversation about the future of Central.

Station Three is in better condition and needs annual maintenance to keep the station in good working order. The Council approved \$75,000 to refurbish the apparatus bays in 2022. The spalling concrete around the floor drains will be removed and repaired. The floor will then get epoxy coated, new turn-out gear lockers, fresh paint, and added plumbing for an eventual turn-out gear washer/extractor. This will make that space like new.

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Katie Rosenberg, Mayor

Robert Barteck, Fire Chief

An emerging strain on our resources is coming from surrounding rural EMS systems requesting help. For many years we have contracted to supply EMS coverage to the Village of Maine and the Townships of Hewitt, Wausau, Texas, and Berlin. We have also had contracts for intercepts with rural EMS providers as far west as Owen-Withee and as far east as Wittenberg and all in between. These intercept contracts allow a rural EMS provider to call us while they are enroute to a Wausau hospital, and our paramedics will meet them along the highway corridor, hop in their rig and deliver paramedic-level care the remainder of the drive to the hospital. In 2022 we saw a slight uptick in these numbers. The emerging request for our resources has been when a rural EMS provider cannot staff an ambulance and requests us to respond to their jurisdiction to mitigate the call. This pulls a Wausau ambulance into a rural community to meet the need. While this is rare, it is worth noting and monitoring. This is indicative of what is occurring with EMS systems across Wisconsin. Many communities that rely on volunteer EMTs to staff ambulances are battling recruitment and retention and are becoming more strained. This pushes the workload to neighboring jurisdictions with more resources, like ours. More to come on this topic in 2023. M

In December 2022, we were excited to submit our application for Accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). Preparing the application documentation was a massive effort, and we have already made several changes in policy and operations to meet their stringent guidelines. We anticipate an on-site visit from the CAAS commission in the spring of 2023.

The Wausau Fire Department's continual climb in organizational excellence is not easy. Despite the hurdles in our path with the high call volume, recruitment, and aging infrastructure, the men and women of this department remain steadfast in their commitment to selfless service and stand ready to meet the community's needs.

In closing, I want to thank the Wausau community for supporting our organization. Every day we received thank you notes, baked goods, and other expressions of appreciation for our organization. This means a great deal to our staff and motivates us to continue our organizational mission.

Thank you,

Robert Barteck, Fire Chief

2022 Deputy Chief's Operations Report

Personnel:

In 2022 the Wausau Fire Department has seen a lot of changes in personnel with promotions, retirements, and new hires.

Retirements

Engineer Mark Tautges	03/03/2022
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Promotions

Engineer Jared Koss	03/04/2022
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New Hires

Firefighter/Paramedic Mark Punzenberger	01/04/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Timothy Strege	01/10/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic John Williams	01/10/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Hunter Herold	01/10/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Brooke Johnson	01/10/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Marissa Wilson	05/09/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Stephen Annen	05/09/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Matthew Riley	05/09/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Matthew Hieronimus	07/18/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Jerod Blomberg	09/12/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Autumm Oertel	11/28/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Jake Nelson	11/28/2022
Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Stoinski	11/28/2022

Years of Service Milestones

Engineer Kurt Riel	25 Years
Engineer Shawn Gehring	15 Years
Lieutenant Matt Brockman	10 Years

2022 Deputy Chief's Operations Report

Fleet:

In 2022 we seen the arrival of Ladder 2 serving the west side out of station 2. This quint ladder truck took the place of E-2 and gives us the versatility of having a truck that serves as an engine as well as having a 75-foot ladder on the west side. This is very important with the industrial park and the time it takes to get Truck 1 from central station to a scene when there is the need for a ladder truck. . The new design and configuration of this ladder truck helps with maneuverability on city streets as well as deployment of tools and handlines on fire scenes. Like Engine 1 and Engine 3, it is equipped with many more safety features for the safety of our personnel as well as meeting national standards. Some of these features are brighter LED lighting and reflective markings for visibility. Integrated air bags, ergonomics, and cameras. The ladder and master stream on this ladder truck can be operated with a remote control giving the operator a huge advantage for set up and placement. All three of these rigs are much needed in the aspect of meeting NFPA guidelines as well as maintaining our ISO 2 rating and working towards our goal of an ISO 1 rating. A new command car was ordered and being outfitted to replace the old command car that our battalion chiefs respond in. This is expected to go into service early 2023. It will be a Chevy pick up truck instead of an SUV helping the battalion chiefs to carry the proper equipment as well as running emergency scenes in a more efficient way.

Buildings and Grounds:

Spring and fall maintenance were done on all three stations on the heating and cooling systems as well as all three generators under the supervision of Leo Gau, this includes the much-needed window cleaning of all city buildings. The windows were tinted at central fire station on the south side of the building giving us the ability to control the heating and cooling in the offices throughout the year. Heating a cooling is still a challenge at this station but this assisted with a little relief to the air conditioning running in the winter when the sun is shining into the windows.

Charitable foundation:

The charitable foundation hosted its annual golf out in conjunction with NorthStar restoration at Greenwood Hills. All proceeds raised go back into the community to people and families in need of help that our responders see daily. The foundation also sent another family who lost someone in the line of duty on a dream vacation to Alaska. With help from the on-duty crews the charitable foundation delivered gifts on Christmas and food on Thanksgiving day to families in need.

Station Information

Central Fire Station

2,688 Incidents

Central Fire Station is located at 606 E. Thomas Street, Wausau, WI. It houses Car 1 (Chief's vehicle), Car 2 (Incident Command), Car 6 (Deputy Chief's vehicle), Truck 1, Engine 1, Med 1, Rescue 1, Med 4, Med 5, Car 5, three Inspection vehicles, Utility 1, Water Rescue Boat, Airboat, and Inflatable Rapid Deployment Craft.



Of the 19 line crew on each of our 3 crews, 10 of those are stationed at Central Fire. This includes, one Battalion Chief, one Lieutenant, 2 Engineers, and six Firefighter/Paramedics.

Wausau Fire's Administrative staff is also stationed at Central Fire and includes the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Training Division Chief, EMS Division Chief, Lieutenant of Inspections, Firefighter/Inspector and one Administrative Assistant.

Station Information

Station 2

2,002 Incidents

Station 2 is located at 3017 Seymour Lane, Wausau, WI. It houses Ladder 2, Med 2, Engine 2, and the Hazardous Materials Truck and Trailer.



Of the 19 line crew on each of our 3 crews, 5 of those are stationed at Station 2. This includes one Lieutenant, one Engineer, and three Firefighter/Paramedics.

Station 3

1,996 Incidents

Station 3 is located at 800 E. Bridge Street, Wausau, WI. It houses Engine 3, and Med 3.



Of the 19 line crew on each of our 3 crews, 4 of those are stationed at Station 3. This includes one Lieutenant, one Engineer, and two Firefighter/Paramedics.

2022 Training Division Chief's Report

Training Division Overview

"Training prepares you for the expected, education trains you for the unexpected." -Thomas Ricks-

Training and education contribute to personal and professional growth. It is an essential building block to be an organization that is not only capable, but highly progressive in the pursuit of operational excellence. Our 2022 training plan was created and implemented to prepare our members to respond to any request for service. As an organization, we strive to improve our proficiency in basic fire and rescue skills. However, we know that if we are not learning what is new, improved, or changing, we face falling behind.

The following report will describe the lessons learned by our members throughout 2022. None of this would be possible without an organizational culture that supports knowledge, skills, abilities, and the efforts of each of our firefighters.

Thank you.

TDC Dave Briggs

Annual Fire & Rescue Training

Each year we cover various topics in fire suppression, rescue, and specialized rescue. Some of the most notable training from 2022 included training on the new Ladder 2 that was delivered on July 12th, firefighter escape/survival training, and specialized rescue such as vehicle extrication and ice rescue.

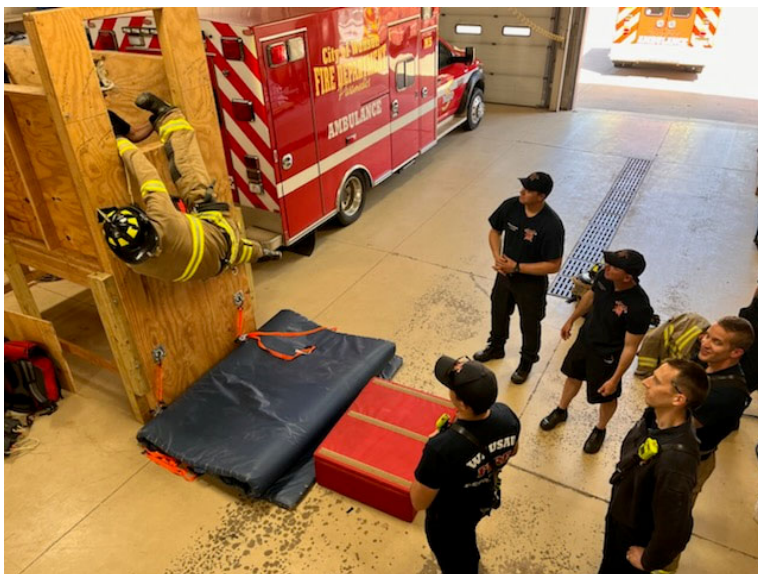
The delivery of Ladder 2 was a game changer for the City of Wausau. Prior to this delivery, the city was used to deploying a slow and heavy 100' platform-type aerial apparatus that took minutes to position and setup. While the 100' aerial is slower, it still serves a purpose. Following factory authorized and internal training on the deployment of Ladder 2, we can position and setup the apparatus in less than 1 minute. This apparatus allows for greater maneuverability, improved handling while driving through the city, and a smaller footprint to position and send the aerial to an objective. It is a capability never seen before in the City of Wausau.

Firefighter escape/survival training didn't start out as many members expected this year. While we have had "bailout" kits on our rapid intervention bags for some time, we had to replace the kits this year due to age and condition. In preparing to refresh on the kits, it was decided to train all members beyond "what we were used to." A curriculum was written and presented to every member in the organization on what these kits were intended for, how to deploy them, and how to assist in the rescue of a victim with them. The training was so well received and regarded that some members utilized their own money to purchase kits to carry in their own personal protective equipment (PPE)! Our other kits, purchased by the department, were put into service in more deployable positions for the safety of our members.

Specialized rescue training included various disciplines such as rope rescue, confined space, vehicle extrication, ice rescue, and others. Each year we train on different aspects of each of these specialties. Through our community risk assessment, we determine what and where our hazards are to focus our educational efforts to address the needs.

The following images speak volumes as opposed to writing lengthy explanations on each training conducted throughout the year. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Wausau Fire Department Training Division.

2022 Training Division Chief's Report



Firefighter Escape/Survival Training



Rapid Intervention Crew Training



Training on the New Ladder 2



Search and Rescue Training



Hoses and Streams Training



State Certified Pump Operations Practice

2022 Training Division Chief's Report



Vehicle Extrication Training



Ice Rescue Training

External Training and Education

“It’s Your Ship”

In January, four members attended a leadership lecture session in Appleton, hosted by the Appleton Fire Department and the Fox Valley Training Officer’s Association. Captain D. Michael Abrashoff presented on leading through difficult times even when you are assigned “the worst ship in the Navy.”

This session provided actionable steps and concepts to utilize in fostering an exceptional work culture to drive positive performance and avoid “the way we have always done it.” Captain Abrashoff focused on identifying and isolating the root cause of an issue instead of attaching a problem to a person. This allows for an objective approach and guides the leader to work towards solutions. The Wausau Fire Department was able to send a Deputy Chief, Division Chief, a Lieutenant, and a Firefighter/Paramedic. By sending members of various ranks/positions, we maintained our stance on the importance of developing leadership in all levels of an organization.



2022 Training Division Chief's Report

FDIC

Training Division Chief Briggs attended the Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC), the largest firefighter training conference in the world. This conference, based in Indiana, is host to world renowned speakers and classes and allows the opportunity to experience new and emerging technologies to improve our response capabilities.

TDC Briggs selected hands-on training and lectures to attend that fit the organizational needs of the Wausau Fire Department. After returning from the conference, TDC Briggs condensed the most crucial information and presented it to each of our three crews. In the weeks after returning to work, the hands-on concepts were also taught to the crews during scenario-based drills.



Victim Rescue in Champaign, IL (FDIC)



FDIC Conference Opening Ceremony

Confined Space Rescue

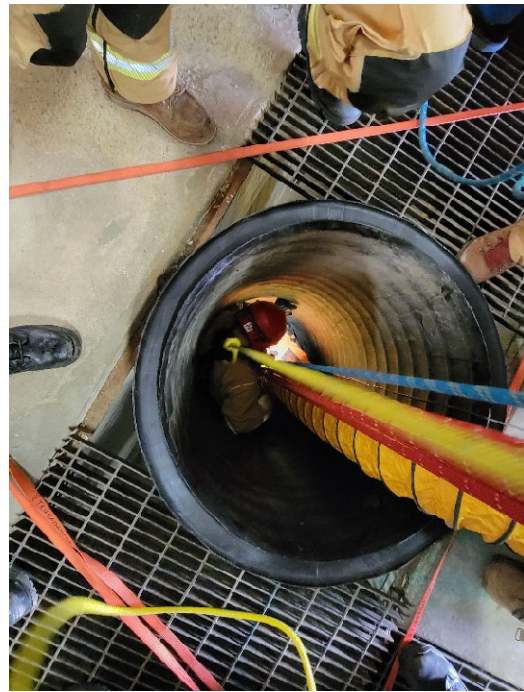
Through the Wisconsin Emergency Management office and the Wisconsin Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant, thirteen Wausau Firefighters and two Wausau Public Works employees completed Confined Space Entry and Rescue Technician training. This course taught members how to identify confined spaces, assess the dangers and hazards associated with them, and create an action plan to mitigate a situation.

Our members took the lessons learned and continued to improve their competency by sharing their new knowledge and skill with the rest of the department. In the following weeks, crews spent considerable time practicing entries and simulated rescues.

2022 Training Division Chief's Report



Confined Space Rescue Technician Training



Haz-Mat Refresher

To continue to broaden our educational horizons and increase our response capabilities, instructors from the Wisconsin Regional Emergency All-Climate Training Center (REACT) came to Wausau and conducted a Hazardous Materials Technician refresher for all our members. In addition to refreshing through scenario-based learning, they also taught our members how to address propane emergencies. Although there is not a great deal of homes in the City of Wausau heated with propane, there are some. Also, many businesses utilizing propane are based in the city. The training included transferring propane between tanks, offloading propane, and dispersing propane by utilizing a “flare” technique as seen in the following images.



“Flaring” of propane gas

2022 Training Division Chief's Report

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Seminar

Lt. Bauknecht and TDC Briggs attended a session with Mike Gagliano that addressed fire-service culture, "This House Rocks," and the tactical side of fire suppression entitled "The Art of Go/No-Go." Throughout this eight-hour day, Captain Gagliano provided insight into concepts that can build a positive work culture regardless of your environment. He was stationed in a firehouse in Seattle that became nationally known as the "cancer house" but was still able to function and build a strong organizational culture. His lessons were conveyed in a manner that can be adapted to any organization such as ours.

Captain Gagliano's second session, "The Art of Go/No-Go" taught us to make nearly immediate decisions to function on emergency scenes regardless of the emergency faced. This lesson utilized various scene photos and scenarios to build a muscle memory for incident commanders in their initial on-scene actions.

These concepts were brought back to WFD and implemented among crew, and departmental training sessions. The initial impressions and feedback have been positive. Captain Gagliano, and his wife, Anne, will be coming to Wausau in February through a partnership with NTC to bring a more worldly view to the Central Wisconsin area.

Anne is joining Mike to present on "The Challenges of the Firefighter Marriage." This session aims to build the relationship between a responder and their significant other. Mental health and relationship building contributes greatly to our ability to respond to adverse scenes and process them constructively.



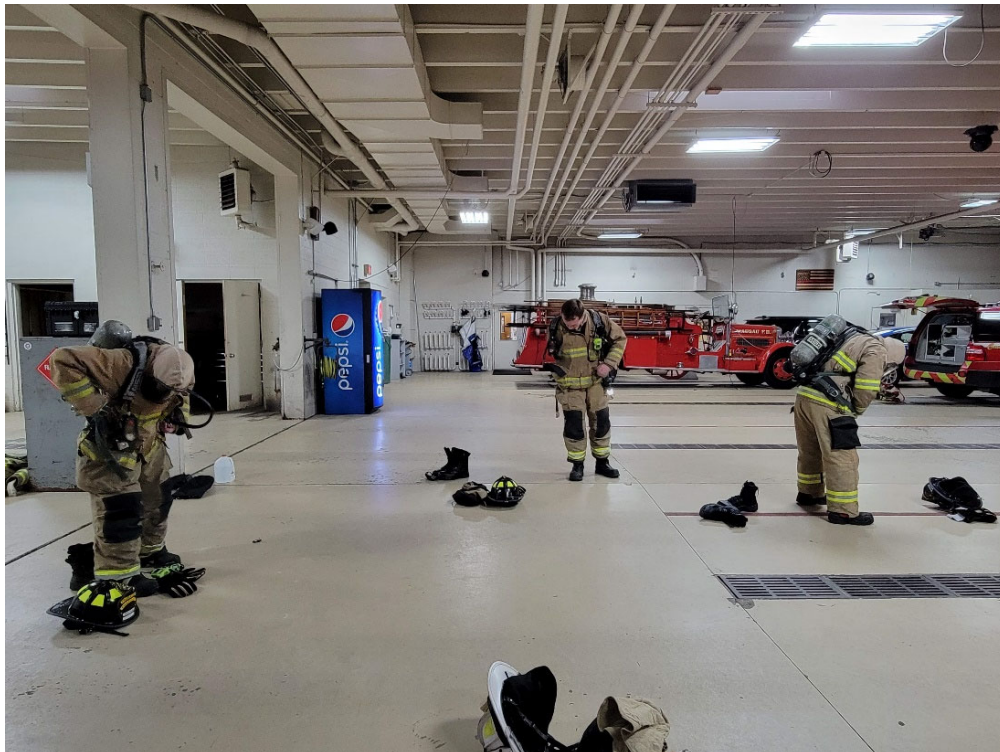
Members from Beaver Dam FD and Wausau FD
with Captain Mike Gagliano, Seattle FD (Ret)

2022 Training Division Chief's Report

Recruit Academy

The Wausau Fire Department recruit academy has been a staple of our organization's initial training for new hires over the years. 2022 was host to monumental changes in our academy. Due to record-breaking hiring, and small-batch processes, the Wausau Fire Department members and the TDC conducted five separate recruit academies.

Each academy is slightly different from the ones prior in how the format is run. The content itself is standardized such as personal protective equipment, forcible entry, ground ladders, hoses and streams, etc. However, the delivery overall is subject to change based on the needs of the new hire(s). Our fifth academy in 2022 included a longer lecture component discussing what it means to be hired with the Wausau Fire Department, the pride we take in serving the community, and the values we possess and intend to foster in each new member. This lecture included some of our newest hires sharing a candid discussion on what it means to them to serve our community. We have found this change to yield extremely positive results with our newest members.



Our newest recruits practicing "turnout drills."

2022 Training Division Chief's Report

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

An ancillary responsibility of the Training Division is to purchase, maintain, and monitor the condition of all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). One major accomplishment of 2022 was completing PPE repairs that had not been completed for some time prior. Every member is not only in compliant equipment, but it is now in good repair and fully functional. This task takes a significant amount of time and a fair amount of funding to meet national standards.

A significant change with our PPE began with the phasing in of firefighter escape/survival belts being integrated into all new hire's PPE and the phasing in of the same belts for our current members. This change followed the training session on the implementation of our new escape kits.

Conclusion

Our organizational excellence in the service we provide is solely based on the quality of our members and the effort they put into our profession. Each of the prior mentioned trainings, drills, conferences, and classes contributes to a well-rounded and prepared fire department response force. Without the Wausau Firefighters, the individuals themselves, and their ability to work together, we would not be able to serve the community at such an exceptional level.

Type of Training	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	7,424.37
Driver/Operator Training	930.25
Facilities Training	139.25
Hazardous Materials Training	667.00
Misc Training	79.83
Officer Training	1,033.55
Specialty Training	1584.50
Total	11,858.75

Training Categories:

Company Training – General firefighting training

Officer Training – Included leadership, management, supervision, and tactical considerations

Driver/Operator Training – Operation of fire apparatus

Hazardous Materials Training – How to mitigate the leak or spill of hazardous substances

Specialty Training – Rope, confined space, trench, collapse, ice, water, and other special rescues.

Facilities Training – Training at a live-burn facility (may include off-duty time)

Misc Training – Any other training category such as software, administrative, etc.

Type of Training	# of Hours -YTD
Admin Training	136.75
EMS Training	2,528.15
Fire Instructor Training	601.00
Fire Prevention Training	0
Investigation Training	115
Total	3,380.40

2022 Fire Prevention/Inspection Report

The Fire Prevention division is responsible for many services pertaining to Fire Department functions and obligations. The predominate obligation is performing annual and biannual inspections for all businesses within the City of Wausau limits.

Inspections: The Prevention Division completed a total of 3379 inspections for 2022. Of those inspections, 401 businesses had a violation documented during the initial inspection. This number also includes 34 Consultation inspections. Consultation Inspections consist of new construction and remodeling projects within the City of Wausau. This year, we have a total of 31 outstanding violations that carried over from 2022. These re-inspections will be followed up with throughout the month of January 2023. This scenario happens when the initial inspections are performed in the month of December and a violation correction order is given for 30 days from the notice.

We did have a contract with the Town of Wausau where we would also do their biannual inspections. The spring round of inspections were completed over the course of two days. This contract has since been discontinued due to an increase in workload within our own jurisdiction and the random scheduling for inspections in the Township that pose an unreliability throughout the calendar year.

Technology and Software: Our APX software for inspections and pre-plans is continually being upgraded with information that is pertinent for successful responses. We are also looking at furthering the capabilities of this software to encompass our fire investigation data and reporting. This addition would help us track our fire response and investigation to differentiate between properties we inspect versus uninspected properties. This data would be helpful in furthering our initiative with Community Risk Reduction.

Since the Wausau Fire Department entered into an agreement with The Compliance Engine (TCE) in 2021, we have continually improved the content being added and removed from the website. TCE is a proactive compliance solution application and service which will help Inspectors reduce time spent in administering fire code requirements. This will increase our ability to enforce and verify compliant fire protection systems and strengthen the protection for citizens and visitors. The Prevention Division received and reviewed 1,052 compliant inspection and repair reports and 115 deficient systems during 2022. This number is up from the 2021 numbers of 713 compliant systems and 63 deficient. The reason for the increase is simply due to an effort in updating profile information, then collecting and reviewing the appropriate information which leads to a higher number of properties being compliant. This will also give us an encompassing and accurate count of deficiencies. We then follow-up regularly to gain a greater level of compliance when deficiencies are found. We now have learned that with these deficiency numbers, that most were long term issues that were historically going unnoticed. We now can follow-up and have these issues corrected.

Investigations: The Prevention Division performed a total of 8 formal Fire Investigations for 2022. Although the Fire Department responded to a much larger number of fires, only 8 required a formal investigation. The state requirement for any municipal Fire Department is that every reported fire is investigated. The non-formally investigated fires are completed by the line crews while still on scene. These are typically the “room and contents” fires that are either admitted to by the owners or obvious in nature. They are fires pertaining to garbage cans, dumpsters, cooking/kitchen, chimneys or fires where the owner already knows what occurred prior to the fire department being called.

2022 Fire Prevention/Inspection Report

Education: Fire Fighter Inspector Brad Ludwig attended and passed the “Fire Arson Origin & Cause Investigation” program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland in May of 2022. He has now successfully received his International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Fire Investigation Technician (FIT) certification. Lieutenant Shahn Kariger attended and passed the “Fire Investigation: Electrical Systems” program at the National Fire Academy in January of 2022. These two programs are intricate for a productive and successful Fire investigation.

Public Outreach: The Prevention Division performed 15 Smoke and CO detector installs for 2022. Reaching a total of 26 people. This “install” program is a collaboration between The Wausau Fire Department, The American Red Cross and the City of Wausau’s Community Development. Each household has the detectors installed by the Prevention Division for them and they receive a 20-minute fire safety talk and Safety inspection of their homes.

In a typical year the Prevention Division would also perform “meet and greets” with multiple community organizations. These organizations include the United Way, Neighbor to Neighbor, Noon Optimists and elderly communities throughout the City of Wausau. These meetings consist of discussions ranging from Fire Safety & Prevention to day-to-day Fire Department operations. This program was expanded in 2022 to include our new refugee population. This program is performed with the help of the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) and translators.

Problem properties: The Prevention Division is also on joint task force within the City of Wausau that presents Problem Properties to the committee for remediation. We discussed a total of 39 properties within the City for 2022. Typically, these properties deal with problem landlords, delinquent taxes and blight or dilapidated buildings.

Continuing Education: The prevention Division attended two International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) conferences in 2022. These two conferences will help us meet the “tested” criteria needed to maintain our FIT certifications with the IAAI. We also attended one Wisconsin State Fire Inspector (WSFIA) Area 9 meeting where we received new and up-to-date training on fire suppression hood systems for cooking.

School Programs: While working in conjunction with the Wausau School District it was determined that we would not be going into the schools again for 2022. An instructional learning plan was developed that could be shared with each school by way of a flash drive. These lessons were a combination of Websites and Videos that pertain to Fire Safety. A syllabus was developed for grades 1, 3 and 5 correlating between the lesson plans and the applicable age groups. We did perform and review a total of 11 fire drills for the school system throughout 2022. We witness the drills first, noting any ways for improvement and then perform a small critique with the principal and staff on ways to improve this process. This process could include input about the time it takes to evacuate, accountability of staff and students, and ease of egress pathways.



2022 EMS Division Chief's Report

In 2022, the Wausau Fire Department responded to 6,686 medical calls, a department record high. Despite the challenges of staffing shortfalls and increased demand for prehospital emergency medical calls, the Wausau Fire Department met those challenges head-on. Without the dedicated EMTs and Paramedics who fulfilled their sworn job duties, the Wausau Fire Department would not have been able to answer all the calls for help that poured in daily.

Thank you,

Jared Thompson, EMS DC

Revenue

For the 2022 calendar year, the Wausau Fire Department, with the assistance of LifeQuest, billed a total of \$5,033,738.00 in EMS services. The total revenue collected was \$1,811,340.00.

The City of Wausau faces many challenges in EMS revenue collection. 25% of the patients that the Wausau Fire Department transported were billed to Medicaid, and 54.4% were billed to Medicare. These state and federal programs only reimburse EMS agencies a fixed amount, leaving agencies with a substantial deficit to offset.

The City of Wausau looks forward to the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program in 2023. The GEMT program provides supplemental payments to publicly owned or operated qualified GEMT providers. The supplemental payments cover the funding gap between a provider's actual costs per GEMT transport and the allowable amount received from Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) and any other sources of reimbursement.

EMS Funding and Grants

2022 was a significant year for the Wausau Fire Department regarding funding and grants. One substantial grant awarded to the Wausau Fire Department was a portion of the EMS Flex Grant. This grant provides one-time funding to emergency medical services in Wisconsin to help stabilize EMS providers during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the continuation of adequate emergency medical response across the state. The Wausau Fire Department received \$146,725.00. Portions of this grant will go towards purchasing a new ambulance, mechanical cot, EMS personal protective equipment, and EMS supplies. Another additional funding came when Governor Tony Evers announced on February 15, 2022, that the EMS Funding Assistance Program (FAP) for the SFY 2023 year will be raised from the yearly 2-million-dollar state budget amount to a 10-million-dollar state budget amount. The Wausau Fire Department received a one-time payment of \$30,000.00 that helped in the purchase of training aids, EMS supplies, and education.

Intercepts

The Wausau Fire Department has several EMS intercepts agreements with area fire and EMS departments that request the assistance of our paramedics for patients that need advanced life support interventions. Primarily, the paramedics from Station 2 respond to those requests for service. In 2022, the Wausau Fire Department fulfilled 60 paramedic intercepts.

2022 EMS Division Chief's Report

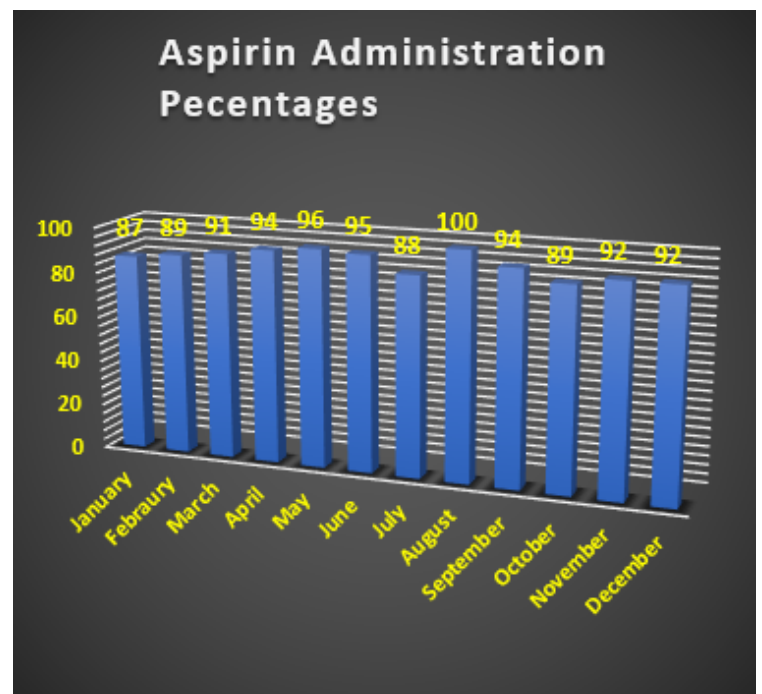
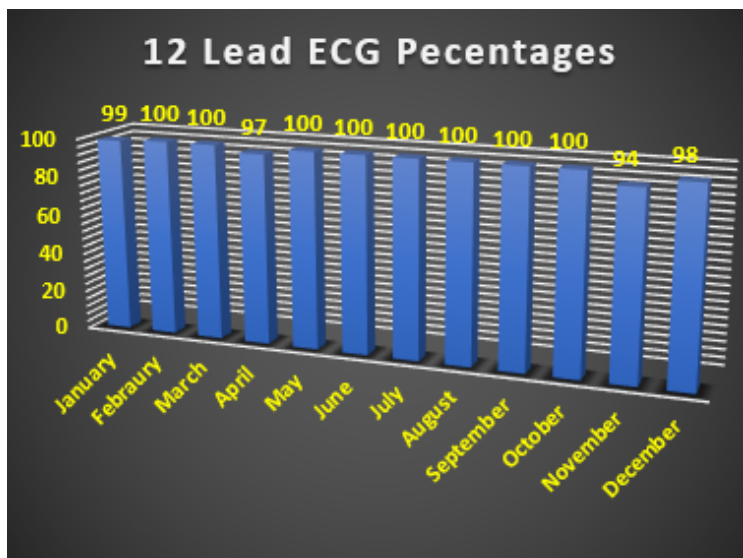
Wausau Fire Department's Cardiac Care

Every month, the Wausau Fire Department's EMS Division tracks the time it takes our paramedics to obtain a 12 Lead ECG and administer Aspirin for patients with an initial complaint of non-traumatic chest pain/acute coronary symptoms. The goal set by the EMS Division is to obtain these 12 lead ECGs within 10 minutes of making patient contact 90% of the time and administer Aspirin within 5 minutes of making patient contact 90% of the time. Portions of this goal were adopted from the American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline program.

The city of Wausau Fire Department is a part of an elite group of prehospital providers recognized by the American Heart Association for our commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care by ensuring that every STEMI patient receives treatment according to nationally accepted evidence-based guidelines and recommendations, and standards.

Our department members deserve credit for their intense work in the field as they rapidly assess and render advanced life support care to patients suffering a cardiac event.

Mindy Walker is always instrumental in importing our data into our Mission: Lifeline application. Through our EMS reporting platform, she built data reports that captured information such as 12 Lead ECG performance and Aspirin Administration from all patients with a chief complaint of chest pain. Mindy can then import data from Aspirus Wausau Hospital's cardiac catheterization lab, which is also required to complete the application.



2022 EMS Division Chief's Report

In 2022 the City of Wausau achieved the Mission: Lifeline Silver Plus Ward for the vital cardiac care we deliver to the Wausau area



2022 Mission: Lifeline® EMS Recognition

The American Heart Association proudly recognizes

City of Wausau Fire Department
Wausau, WI

Mission: Lifeline® - EMS - SILVER PLUS

Achievement Award - EMS Agency

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recognizes this EMS provider organization for demonstrating continued success in using the **Mission Lifeline®** program. Thank you for applying the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes in the community you serve.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy A. Brown".

Nancy Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald M. Lloyd-Jones".

Donald M. Lloyd-Jones, MD, ScM, FAHA
President
American Heart Association

*For more information, please visit [Heart.org/MissionLifeline](https://heart.org/MissionLifeline)



2022 EMS Division Chief's Report

Stroke Care

The Wausau Fire Department voluntarily participates in the Coverdell Stroke Program. The Coverdell Stroke Program is named after the late U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell, who died in July 2000 due to a stroke. In 2021, Wisconsin was one of 13 states to receive funding in the latest iteration of the Coverdell grant program, extending Wisconsin's ongoing participation in Coverdell since 2012. This program analyzes specific data recorded during the care and transport of a patient suffering an acute stroke. The Coverdell Program sends quarterly report cards highlighting our overall performance. In this report, we are highlighting our department's total on-scene time and documentation of a last known well time. The Coverdell Program's goal for on-scene times is less than 15 minutes, and documentation of a last well-known time is 60% of patient encounters. Limiting on scene time is critical because the sooner the stroke patient receives definitive care, the less injury to the brain occurs. The last known well time is also important to ascertain because some of the definitive care a stroke patient is eligible to receive is time sensitive. This report reflects quarters one, two, and three, as quarter four's data has yet to be published from the Coverdell Stroke Program. The Wausau Fire Department is proud to report that we have exceeded the Coverdell Stroke Program's 60% goal thus far for quarters one, two, and three of 2022.



2022 EMS Division Chief's Report

Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS)

The Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) program extends the medical and rescue capabilities of the Wausau Fire Department into the hostile and adverse environments inherent in law enforcement operations. This provides the ability to provide immediate medical aid to officers and others under conditions where the standard EMS response model is not feasible or would delay medical care. In addition, TEMS personnel train their law enforcement team members to enhance their ability to render aid and assist in multi-casualty incidents if necessary.

Over the last couple of years, an increasing number of events have highlighted the need for the ability to provide care in environments involving active or evolving threats, as well as in the austere environmental conditions encountered in civil disturbances and remote operations.

Partnering with our local law enforcement agencies, the Wausau Fire Department TEMS personnel are notable in working directly in the operational environment compared to other models that often place medical assets outside the perimeter of operations. Utilizing the advantages and benefits of that model, 2022 saw the expansion of the TEMS program to include attaching additional personnel to the Marathon County Sheriff's Mobile Field Force TEAM (MFFT) and Dive Team.

TEMS personnel responded eight times throughout the year, providing medical planning and support for high-risk law enforcement incidents in and around Marathon County. In addition, they participated in hundreds of hours of combined training with law enforcement teams and in specialized medical and rescue training.

Team members were also able to participate in training sponsored by the state that brought in Sean McKay of Element Rescue, one of the pioneers and nation's leading experts in Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) and TEMS operations. Providers from around the State were joined by Wausau Fire Department TEMS personnel and trained together in an intense 32-hour program focused on casualty management utilizing the same principles and tactics developed for top-tier medical providers in the military and specialized law enforcement units.

In 2023, the goal will be to continue advancing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the department's TEMS personnel to strengthen their capabilities in working with law enforcement and enhancing public safety.



2022 EMS Division Chief's Report



Challenges

The Wausau Fire Department's most utilized request for ambulance service in 2022 was for falls. Many of these patients encounters only required assisting the patient up off the floor with no associated injuries. The total number of calls that only required lifting assistance, whether it was off the floor, toilet, or chair, was 379. Most of the time, these patients did not sustain injuries and refused or did not require transport to the hospital.

Currently, the Wausau Fire Department and other area departments are collaboratively working with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ARDC) of Marathon County to assist in extending their services to these patients. Wausau Fire Paramedics offer patients who have fallen or require lifting assistance a referral to the ARDC, who can follow up after the incident and provide services to prevent further falls or lift assists.

Conclusion

The EMS Division of the Wausau Fire Department looks forward to continuing to advance its clinical practices throughout 2023. As the EMS industry continues to change and evolve, the Wausau Fire Department will be right there, always looking to improve and streamline the care delivered to the Wausau area.

2022 EMS Division Chief's Report

Type of Training	# of Hours -YTD
ARV – Other	9.5
ARV – Oxygenation	63
ARV – Simulated Intubation	147.9
ARV – Ventilation	92.75
CARDIO – Acute Coronary Syndrome	26
CARDIO – Cardiac Arrest	289.25
CARDIO – Congestive Heart Failure	4.5
CARDIO – Other	22
CARDIO – Stroke	1
CCP – Cardiovascular System	10
CCP – Diagnostics: Lab Interpretation, Radiology	6
CCP – Other	2
CCP – Pharmacology	10
CCP – Respiratory	4
CCP – Vascular Access, Fluid & Blood Admin	6
Protocol Study/Review	4.75
ACLS	4
CPR Refresher	220
EMS Instructor	78.5
PHTLS	8
TEMS Training	314.5
MED – Neurological Emergencies/Seizures	9
MED – OB Emergencies	55
MED – Other	108.25
MED – Toxicological Emergencies/Opioids	11.5
OPS – Ambulance Safety	6
OPS – Crew Resource Management	6
OPS – Documentation/HIPAA/Compliance	106.5
OPS – Other	74.5
OPS – Pediatric Transport	76.5
PED – Handtevy	72
PED – Neonatology	104.5
TRAUMA – Hemorrhage Control	2
TRAUMA – Other	130.25
All Other EMS Training	442.50
TOTAL	2,528.15

ARV = Airway, Respiration and Ventilation
 CARDIO = Cardiovascular
 CCP = Critical Care Paramedic
 ACLS = Advanced Cardiac Life Support
 PALS = Pediatric Advanced Life Support
 PHTLS = Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support

TEMS = Tactical EMS
 MCI = Mass Casualty Incident
 MED = Medical
 OPS = Operations
 PED = Pediatrics
 TRAUMA = Trauma

Financial Report 2022

2022 Actual Budget

Organization	Personnel	Operating	Total
Administration	\$ 749,164.30	\$ 257,777.03	\$ 1,006,941.33
Maintenance	\$ 25,575.40	\$ 375,848.98	\$ 401,424.38
Inspection	\$ 345,992.39	\$ 6,159.32	\$ 352,151.71
Firefighting	\$ 2,784,875.68	\$ 61,546.07	\$ 2,846,421.75
Ambulance	\$ 3,159,540.98	\$ 305,008.29	\$ 3,464,549.27
Training	\$ 126,583.49	\$ 11,776.77	\$ 138,360.26
Capital (240)	\$ 0.00	\$ 45,593.55	\$ 45,593.55
Capital (150)	\$ 0.00	\$ 38,584.00	\$ 38,584.00
Total	\$ 7,191,732.24	\$ 1,102,294.01	\$ 8,294,026.25

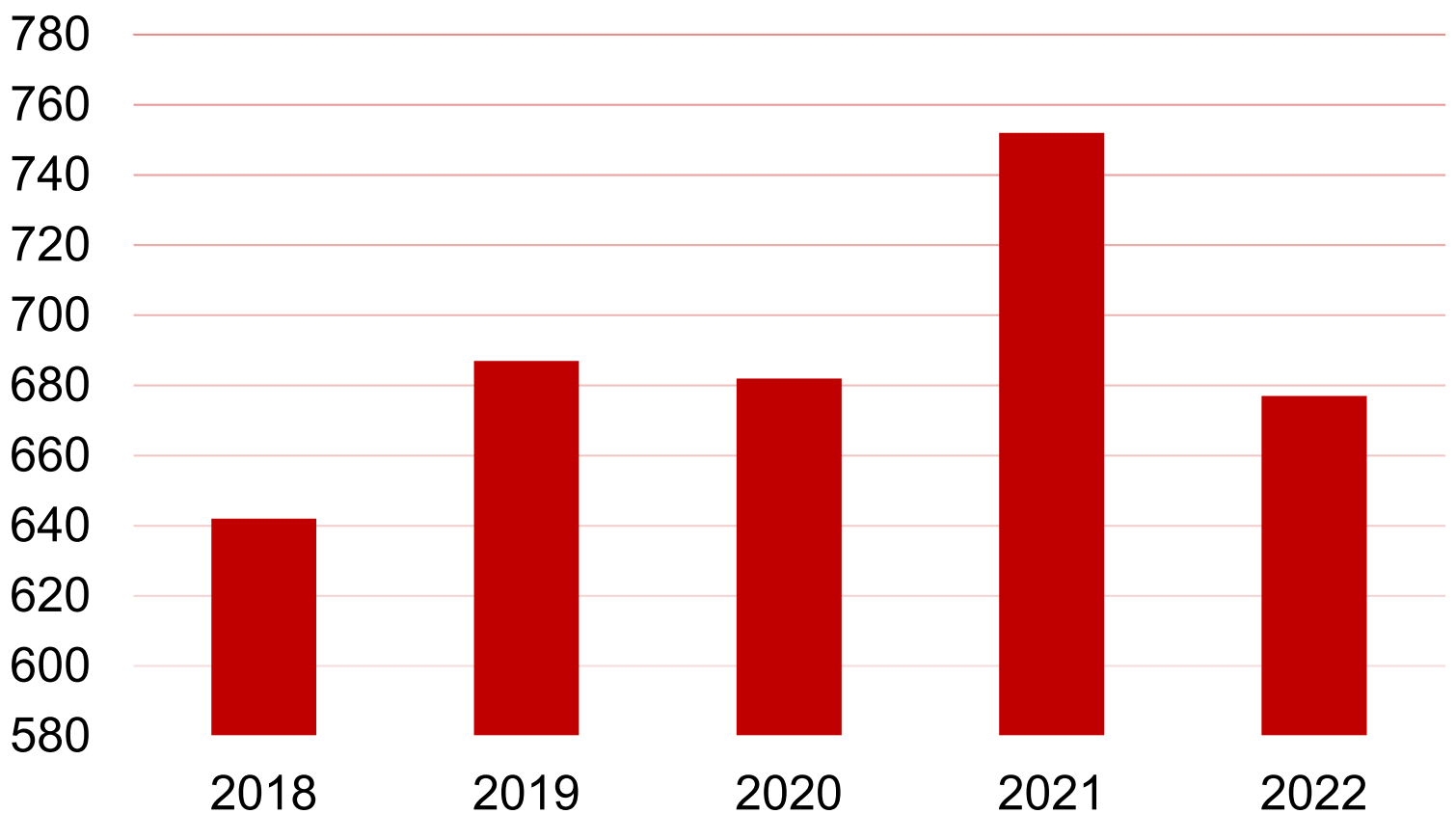
2022 Revenues Collected

Administration	\$ 137,664.69
Ambulance	\$ 1,896,533.44
Unaudited Balance as of 12/31/21	\$ 2,034,198.13



Yearly Fire Response Comparison Chart 2018-2022

Year	Total
2018	642
2019	687
2020	682
2021	752
2022	677



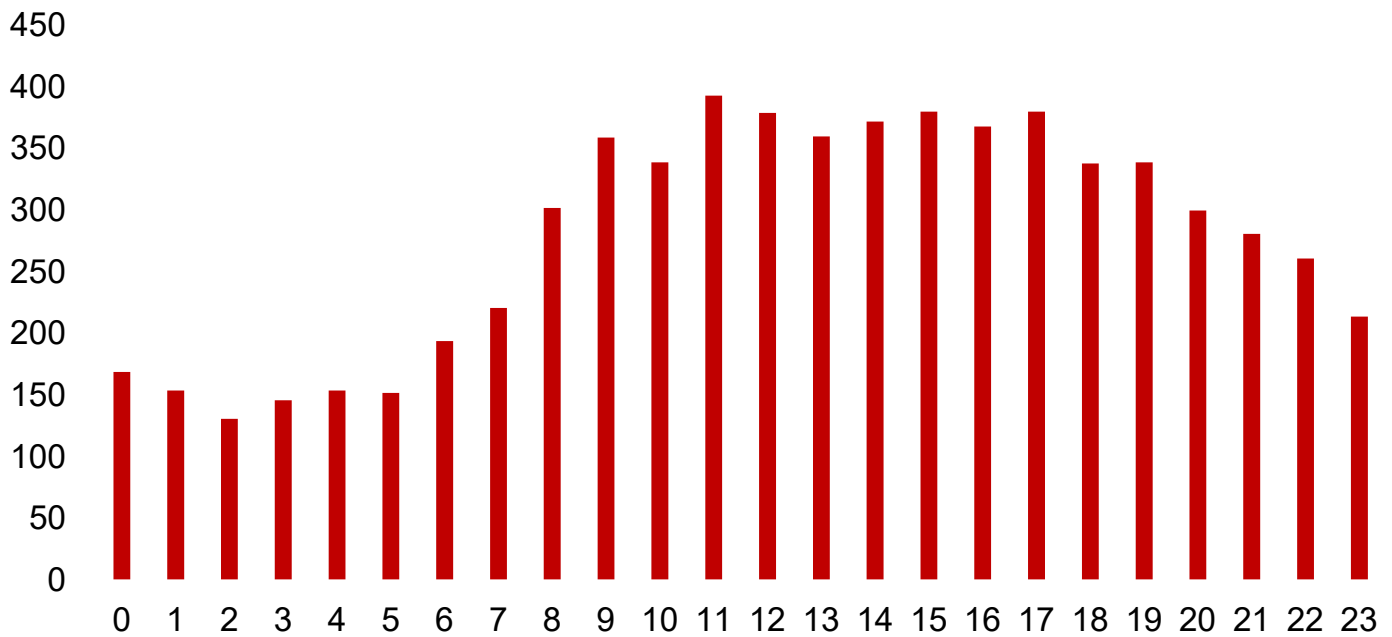
Summary by Incident Type

Calls By Incident Type

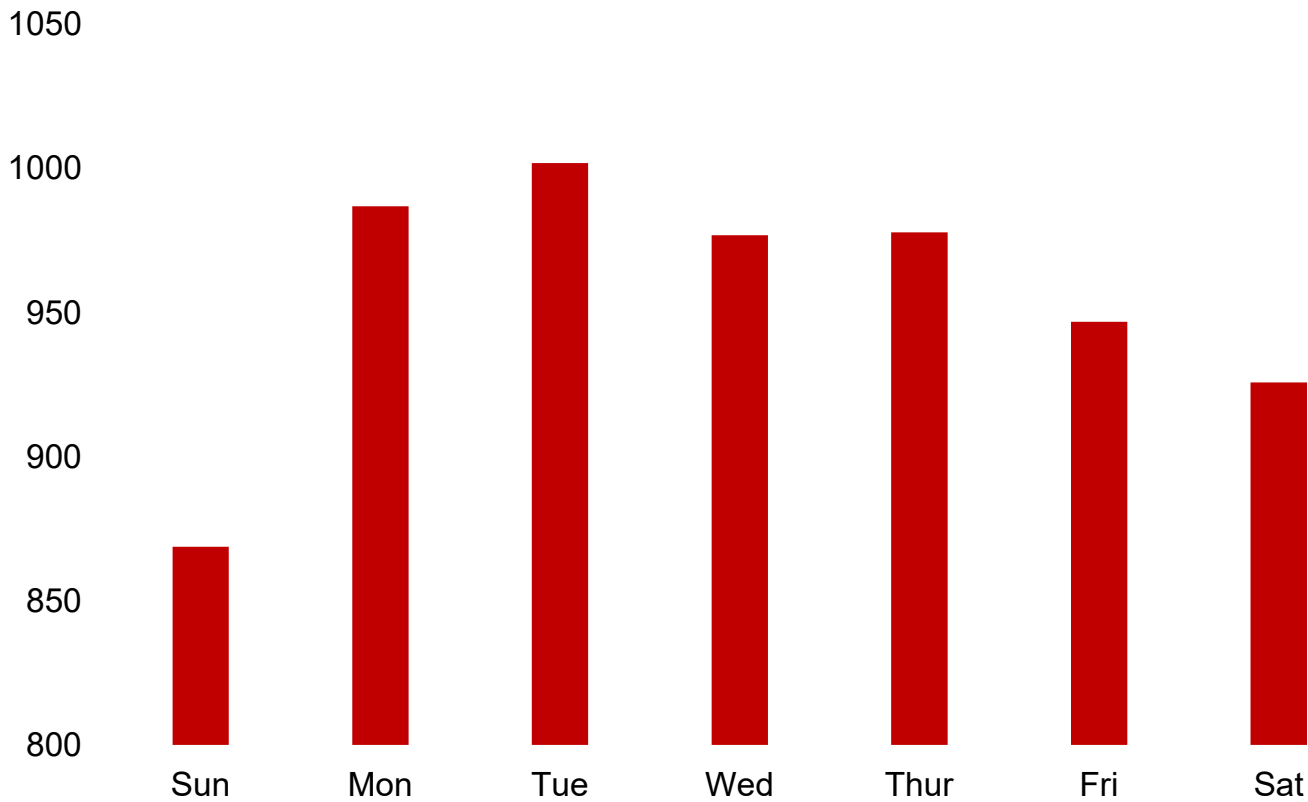
	Frequency	Percent Of Total Calls	Mutual Aid None	Mutual Aid Given	Mutual Aid Received	Other Aid Given	Invalid Aid Flag	Exposures	Total Incidents
FIRES									
Structure Fires (110-118, 120-123)	37	0.58 %	36	10	1	0	0	0	47
Vehicle Fires (130-138)	11	0.17 %	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Other Fires (100, 140-173)	17	0.27 %	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
Total Fires	65	1.01 %	64	10	1	0	0	0	75
Pressure Ruptures, Explosion, Overheat (200-251)	2	0.03 %	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
RESCUE CALLS									
Emergency Medical Treatment (300-	5,562	86.80 %	5,557	249	4	1	0	0	5,811
All Others (331-381)	32	0.50 %	32	2	0	0	0	0	34
Total Rescue Calls	5,594	87.30 %	5,589	251	4	1	0	0	5,845
Hazardous Condition Calls (400-482)	80	1.25 %	80	0	0	0	0	0	80
Service Calls (500-571)	189	2.95 %	189	2	0	0	0	0	191
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	242	3.78 %	242	14	0	0	0	0	256
Severe Weather or Natural Disaster Calls (800-815)	1	0.02 %	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Special Incident Calls (900-911)	13	0.20 %	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
Unknown Incident Type (UUU)	0	0.00 %	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FALSE CALLS									
Malicious Calls (710-715, 751)	9	0.14 %	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Other False Calls (700, 721-746)	213	3.32 %	213	1	0	0	0	0	214
Total False Calls	222	3.46 %	222	1	0	0	0	0	223
TOTAL CALLS	6,408	100.00 %	6,402	278	5	1	0	0	6,686

Total Incidents With Exposure Fires	0	Total Fire Dollar Loss	\$ 705,875.00
Total Exposure Fires	0	Total Dollar Loss	\$ 705,875.00
Casualty Summary	Civilian	Fire Service	
Fire Related Injuries	2	0	
Non-Fire Injuries	0	0	
Fire Related Deaths	0	0	
Non-Fire Deaths	0	0	

Incidents by Hour of Day



Incidents by Day of Week



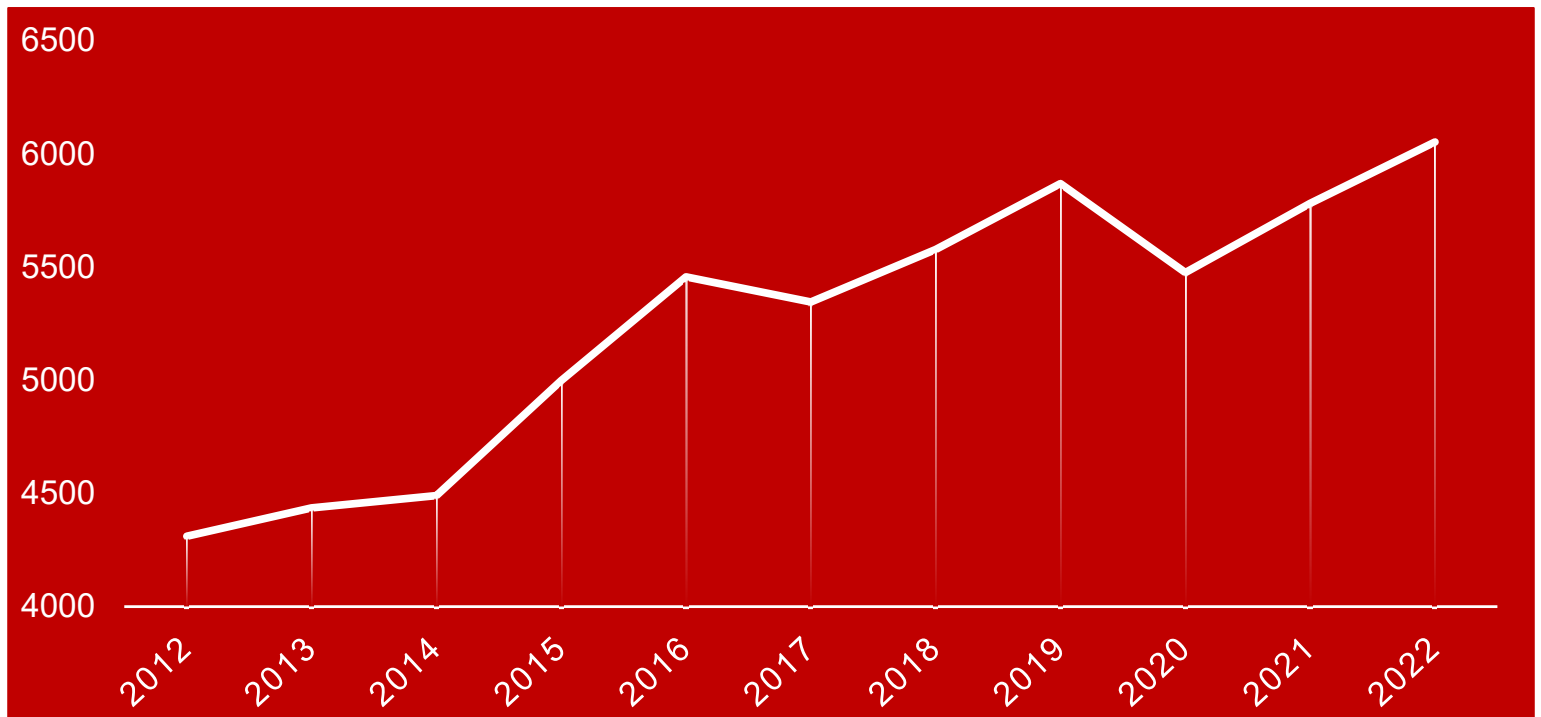


Contracted Response Territory and Population

City of Wausau	19.2 square miles	39,994
Town of Berlin	34.7 square miles	945
Town of Hewitt	43.4 square miles	606
Village of Maine	43.8 square miles	2,337
Town of Texas	45.1 square miles	1,615
Town of Wausau	32.2 square miles	2,229

Patient Care Reports 2018 - 2022 (by month)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Tot	% of Chg
2018	441	474	463	438	517	456	445	456	439	469	443	537	5,578	+4.34%
2019	484	449	524	514	464	457	546	469	496	479	480	507	5,869	+5.22%
2020	468	451	433	330	409	463	483	454	473	539	466	507	5,476	-6.69%
2021	453	404	439	443	487	526	496	515	484	495	515	525	5,782	+5.59%
2022	543	464	487	448	526	512	481	539	478	500	524	551	6,053	+4.69%



Township Ambulance Responses 2019 through 2022

Township	2019	2020	2021	2022
City of Abbotsford				2
City of Merrill			2	2
City of Mosinee			3	
City of Schofield			1	2
Clark County			1	1
Other/Interfacility	15	30	1	
Intercept	5	22	50	
Town of Berlin	17	29	27	28
Town of Bevent				1
Town of Bern				1
Town of Cassel			10	3
Town of Elderon			1	1
Town of Emmet			3	
Town of Franzen				1
Town of Hamburg				6
Town of Halsey				1
Town of Harrison				1
Town of Hewitt	33	16	14	25
Town of Johnson				1
Town of Marathon			1	3
Town of Mosinee			2	
Town of Rib Falls			7	5
Town of Rib Mountain			3	6
Town of Rietbrock			2	1
Town of Stettin	1	3	5	2
Town of Texas	55	54	79	62
Town of Wausau	59	77	89	113
Town of Wien			4	3
Village of Athens			1	5
Village of Edgar			5	1
Village of Kronenwetter			1	
Village of Maine	115	80	109	102
Village of Marathon City			16	2
Village of Rothschild			1	2
Village of Stratford			1	1
Village of Weston	13	9	12	12
Wittenberg				1
Wood County				1
Total	313	320	451	398

Contact Information



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