

# Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

## July 2022



(Our new Sutphen 75' Ladder – Ladder 2)

## **Fire Chief Report by Chief Robert Barteck**

July marks the completion of a three-plus-year project to update and “right size” our fleet of vehicles. The conclusion of this project was marked when new ladder Two went into service on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The project is a bit complex to explain, but I will do my best.

As the Deputy Chief, I started this process with now retired fleet supervisor Mark Hanson. The fire department is second only to the DPW in the annual costs of vehicles, and we needed to find a way to cut costs. We were plagued with breakdowns and problems related to the aging fleet and needed to replace multiple large pieces of apparatus in a fiscally responsible manner. At that time, we had three front line engines, one front line ladder, one reserve engine, and one reserve ladder. The highest priority was the replacement of two of the engines. In January 2020, we ordered twin engines placed into service in May of 2021 as Engine One and Two.

After an internal study by our ladder truck replacement committee, we determined that we could replace the 1984 Truck Two with a new quint-style ladder truck and place it into Engine Two’s position. (Quint refers to a combination ladder truck and engine.) This cut the reserve ladder truck from the fleet of large apparatus. Cutting our large fleet from six to five fire suppression apparatus. Eliminating the reserve ladder truck will save costly maintenance of an aging piece of apparatus and unwarranted retirement of the current ladder truck to reserve status. We believe this is a more innovative approach to managing the fire department fleet and will allow us to reduce overall expenditures long-term for fire apparatus. The actual cost savings will be better known as we compare future years to past year’s expenditures.

The best part of this plan is that in three years, we were able to replace four pieces of apparatus past their life expectancy with three new heavy-duty trucks that will serve this city for many years.

Other good news in July was the announcement from the State of Wisconsin of the EMS Flex Grant. If awarded this ARPA-funded State Grant, we can purchase a new ambulance, upgrade equipment, acquire needed medical supplies, and get help covering overtime for critically low staffing levels. We requested a maximum of \$305,000 in grant funds. We expect the grant announcements in mid-August.

Still no news of the FEMA SAFER staffing grant we submitted in January. All SAFER grant awards and denials are expected by the end of September.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this report.

Thank you,  
Robert Barteck – Fire Chief

## EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

Over a year ago, Chief Barteck tasked the EMS Division to work toward becoming accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). The EMS Division has slowly been chipping away at this in-depth accreditation application process.

CAAS was established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation system. Based initially on the efforts of the American Ambulance Association, the independent Commission established a comprehensive series of standards for the ambulance service industry.

Accreditation signifies that your service has met the **"gold standard"** determined by the ambulance industry to be essential in a modern emergency medical services provider. These standards often exceed those established by state or local regulations. The CAAS standards are designed to help increase operational efficiency and decrease risk and liability across the entire spectrum of the organization.

The process includes a comprehensive self-assessment and an independent external review of the EMS organization. This independent process provides verification to your Board of Directors, city council, the medical community, and others that quality care is provided to the community.

There are numerous category standards that Wausau Fire EMS had to provide and demonstrate compliance to such as:

- Organization
- Inter-Agency Relations
- Management
- Financial Management
- Community Relations and Public Affairs
- Human Resources
- Clinical Standards
- Safe Operations and Managing Risks
- Equipment and Facilities
- Communications Center



Wausau Fire Department is aimed at becoming the third ambulance system to be CAAS Accredited in Wisconsin. The EMS Division plans on sending in our robust application in mid-August.

### COVID-19 Update

In July, Wausau EMS transported only two confirmed COVID-19 positive patients. Our crews are still practicing strong personal protective measures to protect not only themselves but their co-workers, other patients, and family members.

### Wausau Hmong Festival 2022

The Fire Chief and EMS Division Chief along with the Greenheck Corporation Emergency Medical Responders provided First Aid coverage for the Wausau Hmong Festival that took place July 30 and 31. This was an opportunity to connect with the Hmong community as well as thousands of visitors to the area as well as Wausau residents. Large events like this require the EMS Division to provide the State of Wisconsin with an in-depth Special Events Plan to the Department of Health Services (DHS).



## Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs – YTD
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	1
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	1
City of Wausau	444	92.31%	3,247
Clark County	1	0.21%	1
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Berlin	1	0.21%	12
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	1
Town of Bern	2	0.42%	2
Town of Cassel	1	0.21%	3
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	1
Town of Hamburg	1	0.21%	3
Town of Hewitt	0	0.00%	13
Town of Marathon	0	0.00%	2
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	2
Town of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	6
Town of Rietbrock	1	0.21%	1
Town of Stettin	1	0.21%	1
Town of Texas	6	1.25%	44
Town of Wausau	10	2.08%	59
Town of Wien	1	0.21%	3
Village of Athens	1	0.21%	2
Village of Edgar	1	0.21%	1
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	4	0.83%	45
Village of Marathon City	0	0.00%	1
Village of Rothschild	1	0.21%	2
Village of Stratford	1	0.21%	1
Village of Weston	4	0.83%	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,461</b>

## Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

July was an exciting month! We welcomed a new firefighter, trained on new vehicles, pulled hoses, operated boats, and built our knowledge, skills, and abilities in several other fire-service and servant-driven initiatives.



Each month's training consists of classroom content and practical application of skills. July's classroom sessions included leadership training "From the Army's Perspective" as found on a series of extremely well put-together YouTube videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EF14k7AdLZk&t=326s>

Members also viewed a Line-Of-Duty Death case study of Captain Herbie Johnson of the Chicago Fire Department. While these case studies are somber at best, they provide invaluable insight into what lead to a firefighter's death in the hopes that we value the lessons learned to prevent the same tragedy from befalling another. The link to this is found here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdwSXzst\\_lw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdwSXzst_lw)

### Ladder 2 Training

As part of our acceptance process with any new piece of equipment, we train on its capabilities, functions, limitations, and use. Ladder 2 is a state-of-the-art aerial that is unique to our fleet. This 75' mid-mount aerial has different abilities than our 100' aerial tower. Set-up uses two shorter jacks to stabilize it, making it far quicker to put in use. The ladder design with four-sections allows it to be set-up closer to structures that are closer to the road, stabilized on a smaller footprint, and flow water through the ladder in less time. Each of our operators was given factory representative training and additional time to put it through its paces before it went into service.



Above: Members participated in factory representative training on the new aerial.

## Recruit Training

Each recruit goes through a formal “academy” in which we introduce them to the intricacies of the Wausau Fire Department and our service to the City of Wausau. Following the initial academy, each recruit completes a 10-day field training session in which they rotate on the ambulance and fire apparatus with crew members to ensure they are minimally proficient before counting as functional staffing. While this initial time is brief, the amount and extent of initial content is exhausting to complete. Each member continues to gain knowledge, skills, and abilities for the rest of their career.



Above: Recruits undergo numerous skills in the initial weeks and months.

## Hazardous Materials Vehicle Training

Over the past month, our haz-mat team coordinators and members have been switching out of our dated vehicle into our “new” one purchased through state bid from the City of Madison. While this vehicle is used, it is in far more functional shape than the one it replaced. Members who are not expected to drive the vehicle were taken through it to familiarize themselves with the location of equipment, the computer system, the generator, and other unique and new-to-us features.



Above: The new Hazardous Materials Response vehicle is being driven on a closed course to ensure members have drive-time while performing various maneuvers before it is placed in service for the community and region.

## Master Stream Training

Rarely do we have fires that grow in scale and complexity that we need to deploy large volumes of water; however, the possibility exists. Each year, we cover training content that is routine, likely, and even unlikely to be needed. By training and refreshing on any possible scenario, we maintain our preparedness. Deploying master streams such as the one below is a seldom task in the City of Wausau due to our rapid response times and our skilled members. The hose in the picture is 5" in diameter and each 1' of it holds approximately 1 gallon of water. This means these lines are difficult to move once charged with water. We must set them up in the right place, at the right time, the first time.



Above: Members supplied and flowed a portable "Master Stream."

## Airboat Training

Our select members designated as "airboat" operators must undergo periodic training to maintain proficiency with our AirRanger airboat. This apparatus is capable of water, land, and ice navigation. However, each different terrain requires different operator techniques. Due to the uniqueness of the airboat and its capabilities, we must ensure our members are given the time and direction to maintain and build their skills.



Above: Dylan and Shane operating the AirRanger.



## Wisconsin State Committees

The Wisconsin Technical College committee on fire officer training continued to meet in July and completed our fire officer curriculum revision and preparation for upcoming classes. Our next step is to revise the accompanying course materials such as guides, manuals, quizzes, and tests. The goal is to roll-out this new content by the end of 2022.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	404.25	48.49%	4,568.82
Driver/Operator Training	238.25	28.58%	426
Facilities Training	0	0.00%	48.5
Hazardous Materials Training	23	2.76%	466.25
Misc Training	0	0.00%	52.33
Officer Training	62.25	7.47%	615.05
Specialty Training	106	12.71%	1,063.75
Total	833.75	100.00%	7,240.70

### 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	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Admin Training	0	0.00%	87.5
EMS Training	132.5	83.86%	1,495.5
Fire Instructor Training	25.5	16.14%	437
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	0
Investigation Training	0	0.00%	95
Total	158	100.00%	2,115

## Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

**Inspections:** Within the City of Wausau for the month of July, we performed 74 total inspections. Of those 38 were re-inspections. We had 15 properties that had Fire Code Violations. These properties will require follow up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 3 consultation inspections for the month of July that were either remodel projects or new construction.

**Investigations:** The prevention Division conducted no Fire Investigations for the month of July. Although, we did respond to four recreational fire complaints. These usually entail a complaint about either location of the fire pit or materials being burnt.

**Public Outreach:** The Youth Fire Setting Intervention and Prevention program has been proceeding well. We received an “intake” notification from the Marathon Co Social Services in June. We have conducted two classes in July and are in the process of scheduling the third and final class for early August.

**Education:** At this time, we have registered for the Fall IAAI Conference to be held on Sept 20-22 in Eau Claire Wisconsin. This will be a three-day conference that provides education in Fire and Arson Investigation.

# BBQ SAFETY TIPS

- Keep your grill at least 10 feet away from your house.
- Clean your grill regularly.
- Check for gas leaks.
- Keep decorations away from your grill.
- Keep a spray bottle of water handy.
- Learn how to properly use a fire extinguisher.



## Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Monthly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	33	1,806
Re-inspections	38	210
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	4	28
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2,044</b>
Fire Investigations	0	5
<b>Inspection Department Activities</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Public Engagement Activities	14	68

# Fire Operations Division by Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp

## Significant calls:

Wausau Fire responded to 5 significant calls in July. One structure fire, one cooking fire, one dumpster fire, and one outside equipment fire. One water rescue which was at request of PD for a fleeing person who was swimming to get away.

## Recruitment and Retention:

Firefighter Matthew Hieronimus started academy on July 18<sup>th</sup> where he worked two weeks on days and started as the third on the ambulance July 31<sup>st</sup>, after ten days of riding in the 3<sup>rd</sup> position he will count as staffing starting September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Incoming candidates are still in the process of getting all credentials needed, Jared Blomberg is the closest to getting all he needs to transfer credentials from the State of California and we hope to have him onboard in August. Another candidate was put on the eligibility list but waiting to get their paramedic license. I am continuing to schedule recruitment meetings and reaching out to gain interest in becoming a firefighter/paramedic daily. I would like to thank some members of other city departments and alderpersons for some of their recent help in recruiting and sending some people our way!

## Fleet:

Division Chief Briggs and I went to Custom Fire on July 12<sup>th</sup> to help finalize compartments and some other details such as radio mounts and spent the day there before driving it back home to Wausau that evening. Training was conducted on all three crews the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> by a Sutphen rep and a ceremony was held for it on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> when it went in service and went on it's first call.

## Buildings and Grounds:

No changes.

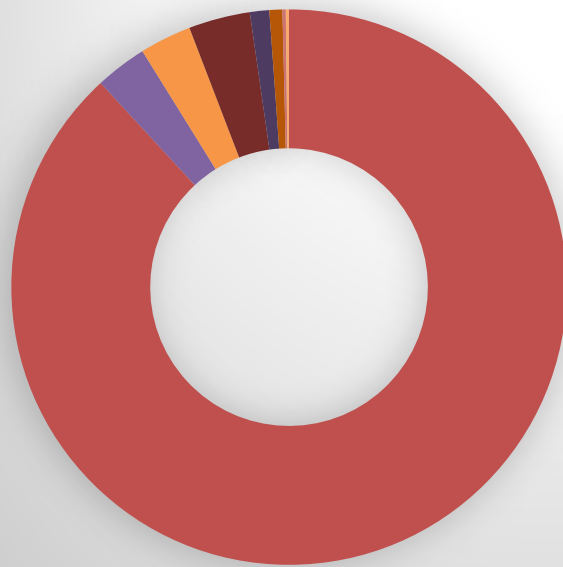
## Overtime and Scheduling:

While there is still enough overtime to go around we have seen a little relief with some employees coming back from FMLA and from light duty to full duty. It also has helped to get the new hires off of training and counting towards staffing.

Like always if you have any questions about operations please don't hesitate to call or come in and see me.

## Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
7/3/2022	510 Sherman Street	City of Wausau	F22001148	Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire
7/10/2022	1703 South 3rd Avenue	City of Wausau	F22001187	Cooking fire, confined to container
7/12/2022	North 3rd Avenue	City of Wausau	F22001197	Outside equipment fire
7/19/2022	2102 North 2nd Street	City of Wausau	F22001234	Building fire



- Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident (468)
- False Alarm & False Call (16)
- Good Intent Call (16)
- Service Call (19)
- Hazardous Condition (No Fire) (6)
- Fire (4)
- Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire) (1)
- Special Incident Type (0)
- Severe Weather & Natural Disaster (1)

**Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):**

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	2
City Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	1
City Of Schofield	0	0.00%	4
City Of Wausau	495	93.22%	3,611
Clark County	1	0.19%	1
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Berlin	1	0.19%	12
Town of Bern	2	0.38%	2
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Cassel	1	0.19%	3
Town Of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Hamburg	1	0.19%	3
Town Of Hewitt	0	0.00%	13
Town Of Marathon	0	0.00%	2
Town Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	2
Town Of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	8
Town Of Rietbrock	1	0.19%	1
Town Of Stettin	1	0.19%	1
Town Of Texas	5	0.94%	43
Town Of Wausau	10	1.88%	58
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Wien	1	0.19%	3
Village Of Athens	1	0.19%	2
Village Of Brokaw	1	0.19%	5
Village Of Edgar	1	0.19%	1
Village Of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0

Village Of Maine	3	0.56%	41
Village Of Marathon City	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Rothschild	1	0.19%	2
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Weston	4	0.75%	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,831</b>

## **Activity/Incident Hours Committed**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Time Committed</b>
NFIRS Incidents	127:49:29 Hours
EMS Incidents	733:48:39 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	960 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	991.75 Hours

## **Aid Responses:**

<b>Type of Aid</b>	<b># of Runs</b>
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	9
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	0
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	12
Automatic Aid Given – Fire	0
Mutual Aid Received – EMS	0
Mutual Aid Received – Fire	0
Automatic Aid Received – EMS	0
Automatic Aid Received – Fire	0
Other Aid Given – EMS	0
Request for EMS from Other Agencies to the City of Wausau (not Aid)	0
Total Non-Aid Incidents (outside City with no other agency response)	15