

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

OBERLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF HANMER	4
Mission Statement.....	5
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - 2017	6
DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY - 2017	Error! Bookmark not defined.
PROPERTY SAVED VERSUS AT-RISK	7
Service Benchmarks	8
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	9
FIRE PREVENTION/PUBLIC EDUCATION	10
Public Education.....	10
Smoke Detector Awareness.....	10
Fire Prevention.....	11
Code Enforcement.....	11
TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS.....	12
SUPPORT SERVICES	14
Apparatus Maintenance	14
Vehicle Replacement	14
Vehicle Usage Information	15
Buildings and Grounds.....	16
ORGANIZATION.....	17
Employee/Department Highlights	17

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oberlin Fire Department, established in 1853, is the division of the City of Oberlin responsible for the provision of emergency response and services to a population of approximately 11,100 residents in Oberlin and surrounding New Russia Township. By contractual agreement, the City of Oberlin Fire Department provides limited fire protection and first responder emergency medical service for portions of New Russia Township.

In 2017, the fire department responded to 606 emergency calls compared to 595 incidents in 2016 and 633 incidents in 2015. Approximately 517 emergency calls occurred within our community, 63 in adjacent New Russia Township, and 25 mutual/automatic aid calls within Lorain County. To accomplish this mission, a staff of twenty-eight personnel is employed by the department to serve the community. This staff includes the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, two Battalion Chiefs, six Lieutenants, and seventeen firefighters. Fire personnel operate ten (10) fire/rescue apparatus, supplied with specialized equipment. The Department responds from one fire station facility located at Hamilton and Main Streets.

Our emergency response in 2017 included 50 fire incidents (7.74%), with 16 (32%) involving structure fires. The average time on spent on a fire incident was just under two hours (1:55) with an overall time on all calls of 0:29 minutes. The number of concurrent calls (multiple calls at the same time) handled by the Department included 38 occasions when we responded to multiple calls simultaneously.

Property loss due to fire was estimated to be \$163,379 while the total estimated value saved was \$3,685,586. Among these responses, there were three civilian injury, no fire fatalities and no injuries to fire personnel.

The ultimate goal of the fire department is to deliver the highest level of emergency service to the residents with the greatest margin of safety for firefighters in the most fiscally responsible way. During 2017, our average response time within the City from when the call was received until units were on scene was 5 minutes and 32 seconds; to New Russia Township, the overall average response time was 6 minutes and 24 seconds.

In 2016, the Oberlin Fire Department participated in a Public Protection Classification survey conducted by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), evaluates four primary categories of fire suppression — fire department, emergency communications, water supply, and community risk reduction. The FSRS includes standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Over the past 10 years, the Oberlin Fire Department has worked hard to make improvements in each of these categories. Our hard work and dedication has paid off with an improvement from an ISO Class 5 rating to an ISO Class 3 rating. This new rating went into effect on May 1, 2017.

The Oberlin Fire Department's goals for 2018 includes placing into service and new 3000 gallon Pumper/Tanker by mid-May and a new PUC Rescue Pumper by the end of October. Training and Education goals include the continuation of officer development, collaborative training with our mutual aid departments and local first responders and active participation in the county's Technical Rescue Response Teams.



MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF HANMER

On behalf of the Oberlin Fire Department, it is my privilege and honor to present the *2017 Annual Operating Report*.

The Oberlin Fire Department has always been a very proactive department and has never settled for the status quo. Over the past decade, our staff has been working diligently to make improvements in our Fire Prevention, Training, and Community Outreach programs which we are now seeing the benefits from our dedicated and hardworking staff. In 2016, our department was evaluated by ISO to determine our Public Protection Classification; we jumped from a Class 5 to a Class 3 rating! This rating puts our department in the top 9.5% of all departments nationwide and one of a few in Lorain County to achieve such a distinction. Our staff continues to seek ways to maintain and improve our ISO rating through advanced training and community outreach programs.

The success of these programs has resulted in a safer community with fewer false alarms and a reduced number of reported structure fires within our district. In 2017, the Oberlin Fire Department responded to only ten structure fire in our district; eight within the city and three in New Russia Township and provided Mutual Aid on twenty-five other occasions.

In order to provide superior service, the Oberlin Fire Department ordered two new trucks last year including a 3000 gallon Pumper/Tanker that was purchased by New Russia Township and a Rescue Pumper that the Oberlin College graciously provided a portion of the total cost. We are very grateful for their continued support over the years.

We will remain committed to provide the best service to our residents as delineated in our mission statement. Our devoted full-time and part-time personnel have enabled this department to meet our goals in 2017, and ultimately to perform its mission to the community. My sincere appreciation and thanks to each and every member of the department, their families for their sacrifices, and administrative staff for the dedication and performance of their duties.

The Department acknowledges the financial assistance and program support provided by the City Administration, City Council and our community. We will continue to seek grant opportunities in an effort to reduce impact on our community, to provide state-of-the-art services as approved by City Council, and to remain dedicated to setting standards for emergency service and refuse to be satisfied by the status quo.

Your Fire Department looks forward to serving you in the upcoming year.

Sincerely

Robert Hanmer
Fire Chief

OBERLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

"As members of the community, the Oberlin Fire Department is committed to protecting lives, property, and the environment by providing public education, fire suppression and life safety services to those we serve."

Our Values

We will remain accountable to ourselves and to those we serve by practicing the following P.R.I.D.E. Core Values:

PROFESSIONALISM

Providing a competent, knowledgeable staff to serve our community, while working as a team in our department and alongside other agencies.

RESPECT

Acting in a courteous, unbiased manner toward each other and those whom we serve, while recognizing and appreciating the diversity within our community and workforce.

INTEGRITY

Committing to the highest ethical and moral behavior, acting as responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us, and upholding our standards and values.

DEDICATION

Maintaining a high level of skill and knowledge in order to provide the highest quality of service.

EMPATHY

Providing compassionate and caring service for all.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - 2017

During 2017, the fire department concentrated on satisfying the objectives presented to the City Administration during budgetary presentations. This summary highlights activity within program areas identified herein.

Fire Prevention/Public Education: To achieve a higher level of community fire safety through engineering and code enforcement, change in public attitude and behavior toward fire, and determination of fire cause.

- Safety education visits to elementary grade students.
- Free smoke detectors and replacement batteries program for our residents.
- Training for area businesses in fire/life safety, fire extinguisher, evacuation procedures and disaster awareness.

Emergency Operations: To develop and maintain operational capabilities and facilitate an effective response in the event of an emergency.

- Participation in countywide operations including the Lorain County Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), central dispatch, county technical rescue/hazmat response, Incident Management Team and fire investigation.
- Modification of station staffing to coincide with expected peak activity and severe weather periods.
- Maintenance of the City's emergency notification systems and Emergency Operations Plan.
- Reduction in false fire alarms attributed to replacement of obsolete alarm systems.
- Updating communication equipment to assure interoperability

Buildings, Apparatus and Equipment: To maintain a fire department resource level capable of meeting the emergency response needs of the community.

- Development of facility operation and maintenance plan.
- Maintenance of new self-contained breathing equipment, necessary to meet current firefighter safety and operating standards; perform all regulatory-required vehicle and equipment testing with minimal problems.

Training & Safety: To provide for the professional development and safety of all fire department personnel.

- Continuation of in-house Fire/EMS training for personnel; coordinate firefighter training and certification programs through the Lorain County Fire Chiefs' Association.
- Provide Blue Card Command training for our Fire Officers and staff to ensure professional management of Incident Command.
- Re-accreditation as an EMS continuing education site by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, providing EMS training to all firefighters.
- Continue to assure operations, polices, and procedures are in compliance with NFPA 1500, Occupational Safety and Health Program through active involvement of a department safety committee.

PROPERTY SAVED VERSUS AT-RISK

TYPE	VALUE AT RISK	LOSS	PROPERTY/CONTENTS SAVED
Vehicle	\$167,830	\$3000	\$164,830
Property	\$3,681,135	\$160,379	\$3,520,756
TOTAL	\$3,848,965	\$163,379	\$3,685,586
Total Percent Saved			95.76%

Service Benchmarks

Fire-Emergency Response	
Number of Full Time Employees	5
Number of Part Time Employees	20
Average Response Time in Oberlin (minutes)	5:32
Average Response Time in New Russia Township (minutes)	6:24
Average Turnout Per Incident (All Call)	6

Emergency Medical Services	
Status: First Responder, ALS, Non-transporting Staff	
EMS First Responders	1
EMT Basic	16
EMT Paramedic	9

Fire Prevention/Public Education	
Fire Inspections	214
Number of Violations Found	130
Fire Investigations	8
Education Program Delivered	20
Education Program Attendees	832

Training	
Total Training Hours per Department	2,157
Average Training per Individual (hours)	86.28
Minimum training requirements: Firefighter 1, EMT- Basic, Hazmat Ops/Awareness, ICS 100 & 700	

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Oberlin Fire Department operates a first responder, non-transporting service to our community. This means that paramedics (with the assistance of EMTs) may perform advanced airway control, initiate intravenous (IV) access, administer medications, conduct cardiac monitoring and defibrillation, and other procedures in conjunction and coordination with Central Lorain County Ambulance District personnel before transport to a hospital for definitive care.

OFD personnel are required to be certified as Emergency Medical Technician - Basic by the State of Ohio. Eight have obtained paramedic certification with two more currently attending classes.

When an emergency medical call is received by the Lorain County 911 Communications Center, the dispatcher immediately initiates a dual response by fire and ambulance to all potential life-threatening incidents, such as cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, diabetic reactions, drowning, and trauma injuries. The dispatcher then provides instructions by phone to the caller to begin patient care. This means that the care provided to patients in Oberlin begins immediately and, with a rapid arrival of medical care, is continued until the patient is delivered to the appropriate hospital Emergency Department.

The cost of initial EMT certification/training continues to be supplemented through State EMS grants. Continuing education is provided in-house by state-certified EMS instructors with the Department certified as an EMS Continuing Education site by the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

Medical control is provided through Gilbert Palmer, MD, Mercy Regional.

EMS RESPONSES

		2017	2016	2015	2014
1	Rescue, EMS Incident, other	0	0	0	0
2	Medical Assist	82	103	75	78
3	EMS call, excluding MVC w/ Injury	43	42	44	27
4	Motor Vehicle Accident, w/ Injuries	16	50	40	27
5	Motor Vehicle Accident, w/ no Injuries	15	7	9	9
6	MVA vs Pedestrian	1	1	2	1
7	Lock-in	0	2	5	3
8	Extrication, rescue, other	0	0	1	2
9	Extrication of victim(s) from Vehicle	1	0	1	0
10	Recue victim from Elevator	15	12	6	10
11	Water & Ice related rescue	0	1	0	0
12	Swimming/recreational rescue	0	0	0	0
13	Watercraft rescue	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL	173	218	183	158

FIRE PREVENTION/PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public Education

According to the *National Fire Protection Association's* fire incident data for 2013, there were 1,240,000 fires reported in the United States, with 3,240 civilian deaths and 15,925 injuries, \$11.5 billion in property damage, along with 65,880 firefighter injuries and 97 firefighter deaths.

2013 United States Fire Loss Clock



We continue to offer three basic types of fire protection to the public:

1. Active protection - emergency response;
2. Proactive protection - programs of code enforcement and prevention services;
3. Personal protection - safety and survival information to help citizens protect themselves and to prevent incidents from occurring.

The emphasis of personal protection involves the development of a positive public attitude toward fire safety. It is a fact that the most cost-effective method to save lives and reduce property loss is through fire prevention and safety education.

In 2014, thirty-two public education presentations were conducted, reaching approximately 668 adults and 470 children. These programs included fire safety education, station tours, fire extinguisher

training, school disaster drill education, and tornado awareness.

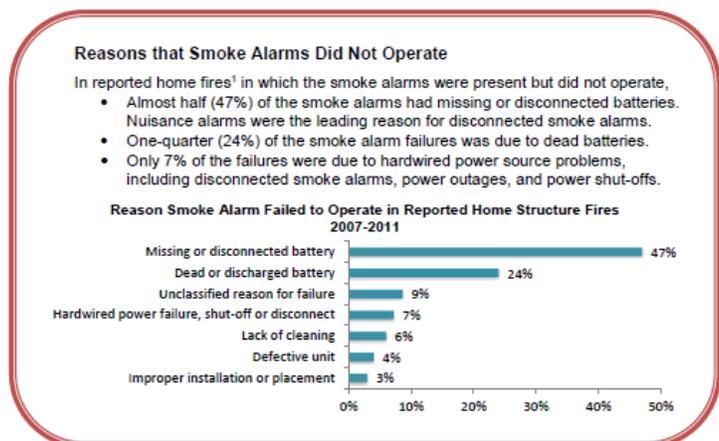
Smoke Detector Awareness

The most recent (2011) NFPA survey found that 96% of U.S. homes had at least one smoke alarm. However, 37% of reported home fire deaths occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Almost two-thirds of reported home fire deaths in 2007-2011 resulted from fire in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. In fires large enough to activate the alarm, hardwired smoke alarms operated 92% of the time, and battery-powered smoke alarms operated in 77%.

Most smoke alarm failures are the result of the batteries that are missing, disconnected or dead. People are most likely to remove or disconnect batteries due to nuisance activations.

Smoke alarms continue to contribute significantly to reductions in fire deaths. One reason that smoke detectors are so effective in saving lives is that most fatal fires occur at



night and detectors alert occupants early enough to escape from fire. The Fire Department continues its efforts to provide smoke alarms and has dispensed over 700 smoke detectors in our district.

Fire Prevention

Since the focal point of the department's efforts is to minimize fire losses in the community, fire prevention plays a crucial role in improving the safety and quality of life for our residents. In our mission statement, fire prevention is listed as the department's primary goal.

The Oberlin Fire Prevention Code includes the 2015 International Fire Code (effective 01/16/2015), the 2011 Ohio Fire Code, select NFPA standards, and several local ordinances. Delineating fire protection requirements and using the authority to mitigate code violations legally, the department continues its proactive approach toward fire safety. The department continues its policy of consultation to work mutually with businesses and residents and places increased emphasis on fixed fire protection systems that includes all equipment to:



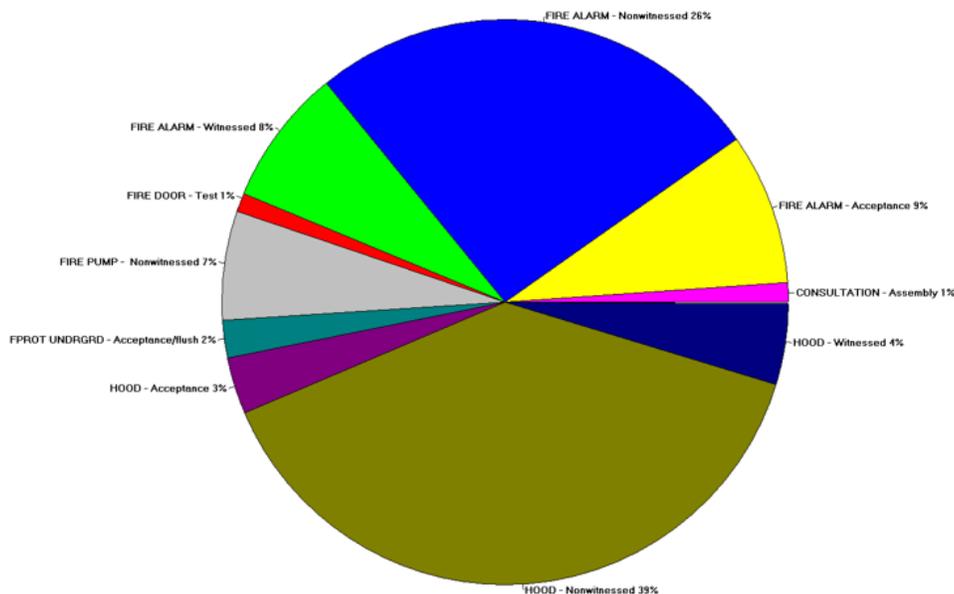
- Detect and annunciate a fire condition (alarm systems);
- Automatically suppress or extinguish a fire (automatic sprinkler systems);
- Communicate with or aid occupants who are evacuating a building;
- Assist firefighters in suppression activities.

For a fire protection system to operate properly, it must be designed, installed, and maintained properly. Therefore, a significant portion of our fire prevention duties includes system design, review and inspection; plan review and inspection; and system inspections, tests, and maintenance.

Code Enforcement

The department has revised its approach to violations discovered during inspections by issuing violation notices, incorporating reinspection and penalty fees, and, if not mitigated on a timely basis, a citation.

In 2017, regular inspections of business and multi-family occupancies identified a total of 130 code violations. The program continues to achieve a reasonable compliance rate. No appeals were filed and no citations to municipal court were issued. One case was turned over to the State Fire Marshal/OEPA and USEPA which are required to enforce code compliance requirements this year.



Fire inspectors witness acceptance testing for new installations of automatic sprinkler, fire alarm, and other protection systems. These tests are required before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department. Provisions of the City and state fire codes require that certain hazardous occupancies or operations obtain an annual fire code permit/approval before use. These include the use of combustible fibers, sale/use of LPG (propane), combustible/flammable liquids, and open burning.



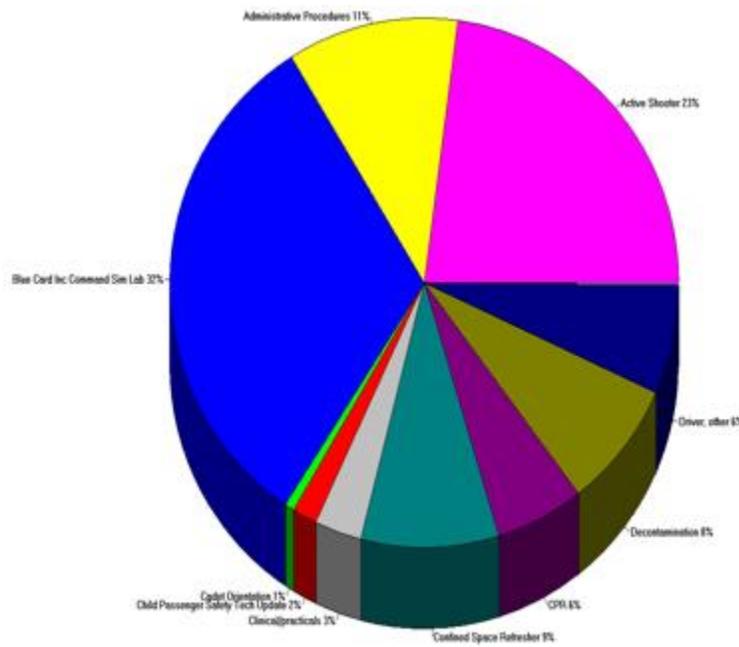
TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS

The Department continues to make training one of its top priorities throughout the year. Training consists of ongoing education to satisfy our many certification requirements, as well as new training to enhance the knowledge base of our personnel. These efforts lead to higher certifications and better service to citizens and visitors to our community.

Certification through the Ohio Department of Public Safety requires 136-hours for Firefighter 1 and 150-hours for EMT-Basic. Each firefighter must complete 54 hours of fire training and 40 hours of EMS training over a three year period for recertification. Paramedics must complete 90 hours to maintain competency.

Instructional drills and practical evolutions are scheduled twice monthly, directed at developing those skills necessary for the efficient team operation at emergency incidents. Firefighter competency is tested during combined firefighting evolutions that involve the use of multiple apparatus and firefighter teams.

In 2017, the Department participated in or conducted 2,157 staff hours of training through various training classes, including specific training in:



Program accomplishments:

- Fire officer certification: Fire Officer 1 (7); Fire Officer 2 (4); Fire Officer 3 (3); Fire Officer 4 (3)
- Advanced fire certification of personnel: Firefighter 1 (3); Firefighter 2 (22)
- Emergency Medical Technicians: EMT Basic (16); Paramedics (9)
- Fire Safety Inspectors (7)
- Fire Safety Inspector-Instructor (1)
- Blue Card Command (18)

Training Goals

Future training program goals include:

- Mandatory State continuing education requirements for fire, fire inspector, and EMT certifications.
- Fire Officer Accreditation through the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association
- Continue implementation of competency performance standards for all personnel.
- Continued professional development of firefighter and fire officer staff.
- Active Shooter and Mass Casualty training in coordination with the Oberlin Police Department, Oberlin College Safety and Security, and Central Lorain County Ambulance.
- Begin a collaborative training schedule with our Mutual Aid departments and local first responders



Active Shooter Training with Oberlin Police Department

SUPPORT SERVICES

Apparatus Maintenance

The fire department currently operates ten emergency response vehicles. These vehicles range in age from 3 to 20 years in age. When properly cared for, fire apparatus may yield many years of reliable service. Accordingly, a fire service organization is compelled to develop a need's assessment and an amortization schedule for their major equipment in anticipation of growth, service life, obsolescence, and maintenance costs.

The Department performs daily vehicle inspections and appearance maintenance by on-duty personnel. In-house repair, in conjunction with a good preventive maintenance program, keeps our emergency fleet operational at a significant dollar savings to the City. Outside agencies are contracted for repairs requiring special expertise, such as fire pumps and aerial ladder repair.

Annual testing and certification was conducted for:

- Fire pumps;
- Fire hose;
- Aerial ladder;
- Ground ladders;
- Breathing air apparatus;
- Breathing air compressor.



Vehicle Replacement

One of the most important capital assets of a municipal fire department is a fleet of reliable fire apparatus. Firefighters depend heavily on the performance capabilities of these vehicles when delivering emergency services to protect life, property and the environment. If these services are to be provided without interruption, fire apparatus must be maintained in superior operating condition and should be promptly replaced when adequate performance levels can no longer be assured.

It is generally accepted that fire apparatus, like all types of mechanical devices, have a finite life. Fire apparatus replacement intervals should be based on the estimated effects of variables such as age, use, mileage, quality of preventive maintenance, quality of driver training, manufacturer and component quality, maintenance cost, and the availability of parts.

The Fire Department's Apparatus Replacement Program was initially structured to improve the condition of the fleet during its first five years, and ensure the long-term reliability and serviceability of the fleet through regular apparatus replacement during later years with the ultimate goal of replacing:

- First-line engines - every 10 years
- Reserve engines - every 20 years
- Aerial apparatus - every 20 - 25 years
- Light duty/rescue vehicles - every 10 - 15 years.

An aggressive and structured apparatus replacement program ensures operational reliability without placing a sudden financial burden on the community. Downgrading apparatus to reserve service is a critical component of this program. Reserve engine (E41) continues to experience excessive repair problems, and is being replaced with a new Rescue Pumper by September 2018. T-48 was replaced in 2017, with previous unit moving to the City's Building and Grounds division.

Determining the number, type and capacity of fire apparatus is an important part of the replacement program. Factors such as a community's demographics, industrial and business complexes, anticipated construction projects, and expected services (rescue, hazmat) also help to identify equipment needs. Additional fire protection requirements are established by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) through their Property Protection Classification program.

ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each community, ISO analyzes the relevant data using a Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). Based on that analysis, a Public Protection Classification is assigned, from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. Oberlin is now a Class 3.

By classifying communities' ability to suppress fires, ISO helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. And by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services.

The major element in the FSRS include: Emergency Communications (10%), Fire Department (50%), Water Supply (40%) and Community Risk Reduction (5.5%). The Fire Department component (50 points) includes:

- Engine companies (6 points) – number of engines depends on the basic fire flow, the size of the area served, and the method of operation.
- Reserve pumpers and ladders (0.5 points each)
- Pump capacity (3 points)
- Ladder companies (4 points)
- Deployment analysis (10 points) – distance from fire station.
- Personnel (15 points) – on-duty staffing vs. on-call and off-duty
- Training (9 points) – certification and training of personnel.
- Operations (2 points) – standard operating procedures and incident management.

Vehicle Usage Information – 2015

UNIT#	YEAR	CONDITION	MAKE	REPLACEMENT COST	MILES	HRS	CALLS
40	2014	Excellent	Ford Explorer Fire Chief	\$40,000	22085	--	36
41	2001	Fair	ALF 2000 GPM Rescue/Pumper	\$693,545	37639	3586	41
42	2011	Excellent	Pierce 1500 GPM Rescue/Pumper	\$544,800	17264	2506	589
43	1998	Good	Pierce 100' Aerial Platform	\$1,500,000	14966	1726	50
44	2003	Fair	SVI Medium Rescue	\$300,000	13495	642	127
45	1997	Good	S&S/Freightliner Pumper/tanker	\$360,745	19287	1386	26
46	2009	Good	Ford Explorer Personnel vehicle	Note 1		–	10
47	1998	Good	Rescue Trailer	\$9,000	–	–	2
47B	2014	Excellent	FSI Rescue boat	\$6,000	–	–	1
48	2017	Excellent	Ford F-250 utility	\$45,000	2661	–	30
49	2007	Excellent	Ford F-550 Type 5	\$62,800	4406	–	28
			Totals	\$2,859,600			

Notes:(1) Vehicle replaced with unit 40 2014

Buildings and Grounds

The expanded fire station facility at South Main and Hamilton Streets continues to operate as designed and expected.

The design aligns the building into five functional areas:

- Apparatus parking
- Administrative offices
- Firefighters' residential quarters
- Training/emergency operations
- Support functions

The most unique space feature is the basement combined training/community room/emergency operations center room.

Maintenance of the larger facility with a small FD staff has become a challenge. We have been working with a web-based maintenance program, designed to direct and track the ongoing maintenance and repair of facility areas and equipment, work orders, repair contacts, and information guides/manuals.



ORGANIZATION

Administrative Staff

Robert M. Hanmer, Fire Chief
Susan J. Hiesser, Assistant Chief*
Bernadette O'Dor, Admin Assistant

Full-time Firefighters

Battalion Chief/EMT Orval Tingler
Battalion Chief/EMTP Michael Streator
Lieutenant/EMT Robert A. Schubert

A SHIFT

Battalion Chief/EMTP Michael Streator
Lieutenant/EMT Robert Schubert
Lieutenant/EMT Shawn Clawson
Lieutenant/EMTP Joe Smith

Firefighter /FR Steve Chapman
Firefighter/EMT Tom Boden
Firefighter/EMT Joe Musgrave
Firefighter/EMTP Josh Myers
Firefighter/EMTP Anthony Gallam
Firefighter/EMT Koty Brescan
Firefighter/EMT Mark Cipriano
Firefighter/EMTP Khalil Whitworth
Cadet Richard Kenney

Members Leaving Service in 2017:

Assistant Chief Susan Hiesser
Lieutenant Mark Rozmarynowycz
Firefighter/EMT Eric Deyarmin

Employee/Department Highlights

- *Assistant Chief Susan Hiesser retired on October 31, 2017*



Firefighter of the Year - 2017
Firefighter EMT-P Anthony Gallam