



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION

Office of the Chief



It's difficult to describe the year 2021 for the Findlay Fire Department. My overall impression is one of maintaining the status quo for our core services despite another Covid year, but we actually achieved quite a lot. The Covid pandemic continued to be the overarching theme of the year, receding into the background in the summer, then coming back with a vengeance with the emergence of the Delta and Omicron variants in the fall and winter. This caused a variety of changes in fire department protocols, but the dedication of our firefighters to the citizens of Findlay remained constant.

From a personnel standpoint, in 2021 we hired four firefighters to replace retirements. This influx of new employees continues the trend of the last six years, which has seen a steady stream of employees reaching retirement age. Out of 65 total employees, 25 of them have been hired since 2016. Firefighter Eric Wilkins was moved into a vacant fire prevention position, where he is primarily responsible for fire inspections of existing businesses. Firefighter Chris Saldana was promoted to Captain, bringing his 16 years of experience to the company officer position. Three firefighters completed their two-year probationary period, culminating in passing their probationary firefighter test through the Findlay City Service Office.

Our community engagement efforts continued despite the pandemic. Camp 911 was a success with an in-person camp returning after 2020's virtual camp. The Findlay Fire Department, along with other public safety agencies, hosted nearly 200 children for four days of safety lessons. We also worked with Findlay City Schools to implement Sensory Boxes on all our fire engines, which contain items that assist with special care medical calls, including autistic patients.

The focus on training continued as well. Three firefighters completed basic EMT school, nine employees attended State Fire School at BGSU, and four members of our Technical Rescue Team completed a challenging swift water rescue course in South Bend, Indiana. This was all in addition to the basic firefighter training at the Ohio Fire Academy for our new employees.

We were also able to address equipment and investment needs. By coupling grant money with local Capital Improvement funds, we replaced all of our portable radios, a large project that had been in the works for years. Due to better than anticipated revenue, we were also able to move up the planned 2022 purchase of a fire engine, allocating \$600,000 from the city's Capital Improvement fund to place the order. This new pumper truck will go into service in the spring of 2022 at Fire Station 2 on North Main Street. Smaller projects included installation of electronic display boards at three fire stations, and the replacement of 9 failing windows at Fire Station 4.

Fundraising efforts to construct the STRICT Center training facility continued, reaching two key milestones. Through various donations we passed the \$700,000 threshold, established as a benchmark to move forward with Phase I. This phase is for construction of the non-burn training building, which is key to allow for year-round hands on training. Phase II, which is the burn building portion of the facility, is also going to continue simultaneously, as Hancock Regional Planning received notice of a \$755,000 grant award for this purpose. This structure is vital to the STRICT Center, as it will allow for live-fire training for firefighters across the region. We are hopeful to break ground on both phases in 2022.

Our firefighters are proud to serve the citizens of Findlay, and we are proud of our city. In the following pages you'll find a summary of our activities from last year, and a general overview of fire department operations. Please look it over, and if you have any questions please contact us in the Fire Administration Office at 419-424-7129 or email fireadmin@findlayohio.com.

KEY ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2021 we saw many achievements.

- Scheduled to replace 9 failing windows at Station 4.
- Partnered with Findlay City Schools to implement Sensory Boxes on all trucks to help during special care calls involving those with autism.
- Hired four new firefighters to replace retirements.
- Implemented an All Station Paging option through the phone system, and implemented monthly testing of Paging & VHF backup radio system.
- Promoted firefighter Chris Saldana to Captain.
- Camp 911 - In person - 200 students in Hancock County attended.
- Mental Health Training
- Installed an electronic Display Board at Fire Stations 2, 3, and 4 showing apparatus locations, active calls and on duty personnel (Tyler software)
- Eric Wilkins moved to the open Fire Prevention role.
- Five firefighters attended State Fire School (BGSU), 2 Captains attended Fire Officer I Courses (BGSU), 2 firefighters attended - Fire Safety Inspector Courses (BGSU)
- Sent additional TRT members to the Indiana River Rescue School for training in swift water rescue techniques.



BUDGET



\$7,376,110

PERSONAL SERVICES

This includes wages, overtime, pension, healthcare, etc.

\$391,371

OPERATIONS

This includes utilities, fuel, tools etc.

26%

CITY BUDGET

Dedicated to the Fire Service.

2021

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Replaced all handheld radios with VHF radios with assistance from \$85,000 FEMA grant through AFG.

Purchased new pumper Firetruck - to be delivered early 2022.

Continued fundraising efforts for the STRICT Center, bringing our current total to approximately \$725,000.

Hancock Regional Planning Commission received notice of \$705,000 grant to fully fund Phase II of STRICT CENTER.

**All improvements funded from operational budget*

STAFFING



STAFFING

65 SWORN PERSONNEL

Includes: 61 Suppression Personnel - Firefighters, Captains & Battalion Chiefs, 2 - Fire Prevention personnel, 1 - Assistant Chief, 1 - Fire Chief + 1 - Administrative Assistant (not sworn)

15

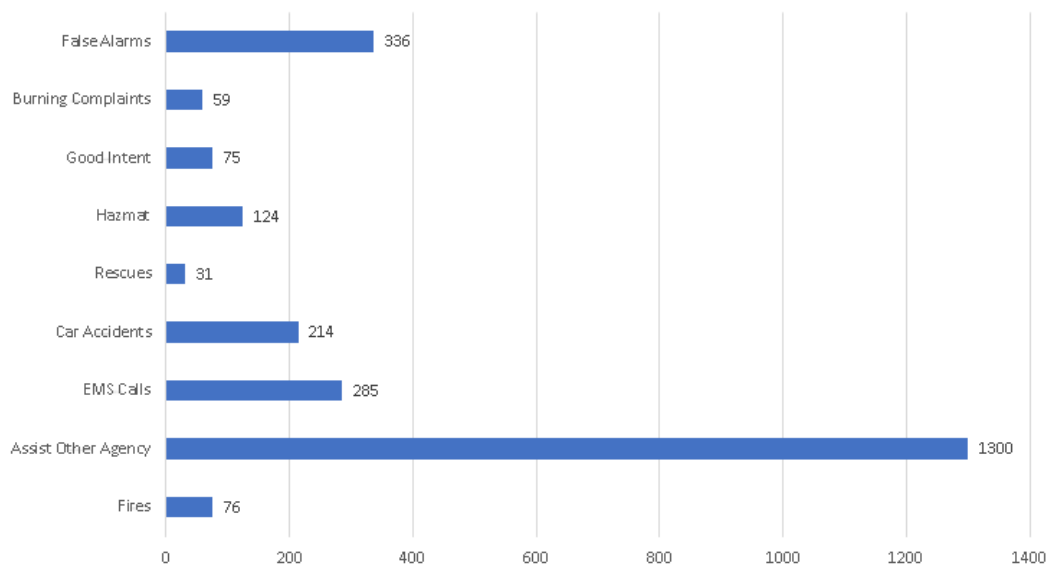
AVERAGE DAILY MANPOWER

Of suppression personnel.

2500

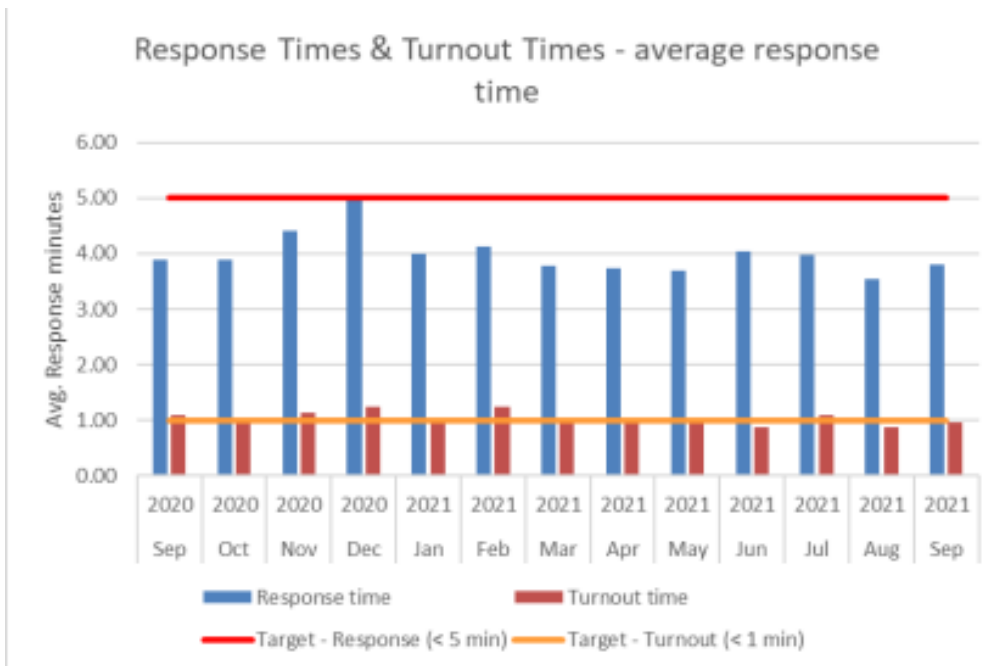
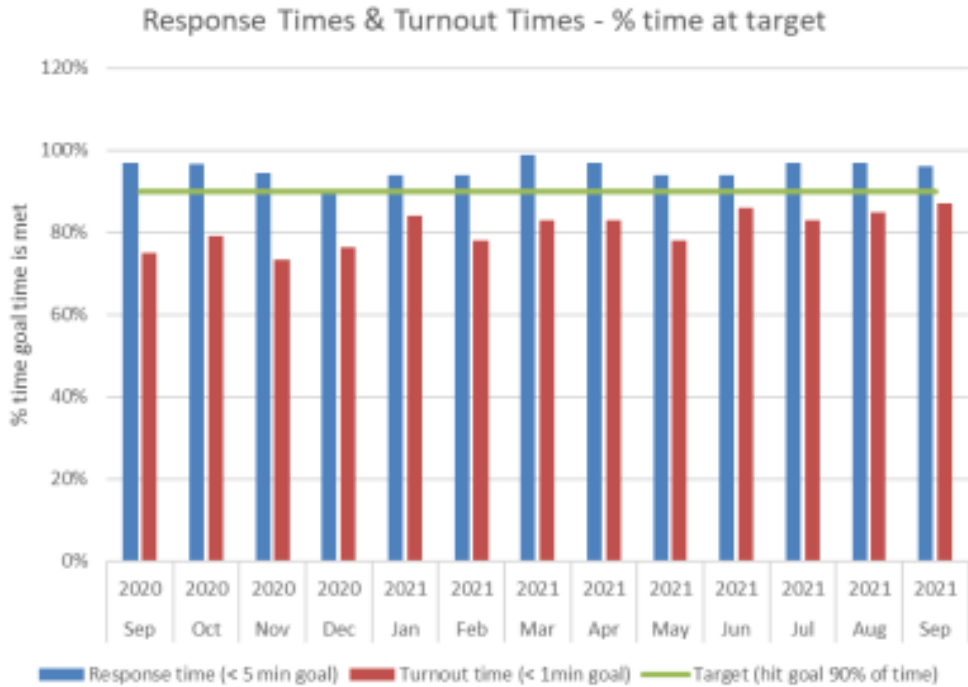
CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls of Service by Type



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

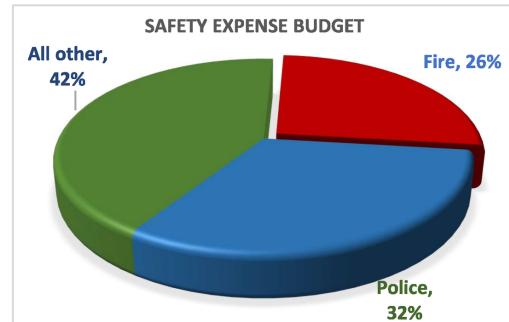
Our Key Performance Indicator Targets are to meet a 5 minute response time and a 70 second turnout time, 90% of the time.



FINANCIAL DIVISION	BUDGET	2019 actual	2020 actual	2021 projection	Original 2021 request	2022 request	\$ change from 2021 request to 2022 request	% change from 2021 request to 2022 request
	Personal Services	\$ 6,914,413	\$ 7,124,285	\$ 7,376,110	\$ 7,453,213	\$ 7,865,522	\$ 412,309	5.53%
	Other	\$ 353,761	\$ 334,996	\$ 391,371	\$ 409,516	\$ 442,491	\$ 32,975	8.05%
	TOTAL	\$ 7,268,174	\$ 7,459,282	\$ 7,767,481	\$ 7,862,729	\$ 8,308,013	\$ 445,284	5.66%

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Hire two firefighters to replace known 2022 retirements.
- CRT Training - 6 weeks, 8 firefighters.
- 4.55% contractual wage increase.
- Replace glass blocks rear of Station 1



STAFFING LEVEL	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total FT	64	65	65	65	65

2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Replaced all handheld radios with VHF radios, with assistance from an \$85,000 FEMA grant through AFG.
- Purchase of new pumper Firetruck - to be delivered early 2022.
- Continued fundraising efforts for the STRICT Center, bringing our current total to approximately \$725,000.
- Hancock Regional Planning Commission received notice of a \$755,000 grant to fully fund Phase II (Burn Building) of the STRICT Center training facility. This grant is to be executed late 2021 or early 2022.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Scheduled to replace 9 failing windows at Station 4.
- Replaced all apparatus bay lighting with LED at Station 1.
- Partnered with Findlay City Schools to implement Sensory Boxes on all trucks to help during special care calls involving those with autism.
- Implemented an All Station Paging option through the phone system, and implemented monthly testing of Paging & VHF backup radio system.
- Camp 911 - In person - 200 students in Hancock County.
- Mental Health Training
- Hired four new firefighters to replace retirements.
- Three additional firefighters completed EMT training.
- Promoted firefighter Chris Saldana to Captain.
- Three probationary firefighters moved to permanent.
- Installed electronic Display Boards at Fire Stations 2, 3 & 4 showing apparatus locations, active calls and on duty personnel (Tyler software).
- Purchased additional module in PS Trax software to track safety gear for firefighters.
- Eric Wilkins moved to the open Fire Prevention position.
- Five firefighters attended State Fire School (BGSU), 2 Captains attended Fire Officer I Courses (BGSU), 2 firefighters attended - Fire Safety Inspector Courses (BGSU)
- Sent additional TRT members to the Indiana River Rescue School for training in swift water rescue techniques.

2022 OBJECTIVES

- CRT Training - send 8 firefighters to 6 weeks of intensive Certified Rescue Technician training, with the assistance of a \$44,000 FEMA grant through the AFG program.
- Place new fire truck in service, and sell outdated and ineffective Ladder 4.
- Complete STRICT Center funding and begin construction.
- Hire 2-3 new firefighters to fill upcoming retirements.
- Implement Tyler Technology's Crewforce mobile platform to replace the Fire Mobile program.
- Replace broken glass block windows at Station 1.
- Fully integrate all Findlay commercial occupancies into the fire department's Pre-Plan Program.
- Implement new uniform order system per the union contract.
- Purchase and install a new SCBA cylinder cascade fill station at Station 4.
- Purchase a replacement utility vehicle (pickup truck) to replace current 2004 model at Station 2, pending availability.
- Purchase ballistic vests and helmets to combine with our Mass-Casualty trauma bags.
- Continue efforts to increase the ISO rating of the City of Findlay.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS



PUBLIC RELATIONS

The department continues to promote positive public relations with the residents of not only Findlay, but Hancock County as well.

Firefighters and Police Officers joined together to play kickball with the local kids at the YMCA day camp.



Sparky visiting Mrs. La Fountain's 5th grade class at Wilson Vance. They were the winners of the Fire Safety Challenge and won a pizza party from Heavenly Pizza!

Firefighters met with a group for a truck visit. Here they demonstrated what they look like and sound like when they are all geared up to fight a fire.



PUBLIC RELATIONS



2021 was the fourth year for Camp 911. The Fire Department teamed up with the Findlay Police Department, Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Hanco EMS, Hancock Public Health and City of Findlay Recreation to bring the safety camp to 200 children in Hancock County and the City of Findlay.

CAMP
9-1-1

ABOVE & BEYOND

In June, Firefighters Fazzio and Martien responded to an accident. One of the drivers involved happened to be a volunteer for 50 North and was on his route to deliver meals to seniors in the community. His car was disabled, but he was ok. These two Firefighters decided to finish his route for him. Not only did they help the driver, but they insured seniors in the community had a meal that day.



TRAINING

Each month there is an effort to provide one formal training class in any number of fire/rescue topics, in addition to one formal EMS class. There are numerous company or shift-based training sessions that are assigned. On top of this there is additional mandatory street school training, pre-plan scenarios and Standard Operating Procedures review.

Standard Operating Procedures are defined processes that our department adhere to. These practices are created through national standards and years of experience. They ensure that a task is done the same by two different people. This reduces risks to firefighters and creates consistency in day to day operations and emergency response.

Each new recruit is required to complete 40 hours of emergency driver / operator training, which is part of the Firefighter I & II class while at the Ohio Fire Academy, and at least 12 driving hours in a non-emergency setting once they are assigned to a shift.



Sample list of 2021 training topics:

- Medical, Legal & Ethical Issues
- Pediatric Trauma
- Medical & Trauma Assessments
- Behavioral Emergencies
- Squad Familiarization
- Pediatric Emergencies
- Lifting & Moving Patients
- Securing a Drug Scene
- Calling the MayDay
- Confined Space Awareness
- Multi-Company & Tandem Pumping
- Cancer Prevention
- Mental Wellness

TRAINING

The Covid Pandemic put a strain on our in-person training. By adapting to the changing health department guidelines, we were able to complete our training in a safe environment.

2021 Training Achievements Included:

- 5 firefighters attended State Fire School at BGSU
- 3 Firefighters completed EMT school
- 3 New Firefighter completed the Fire Academy achieving their Firefighter I & II certifications
- 2 Captains attended Fire Officer I Courses
- 2 Firefighters attended Fire Safety Inspection Courses



13,500+

FIRE TRAINING HOURS

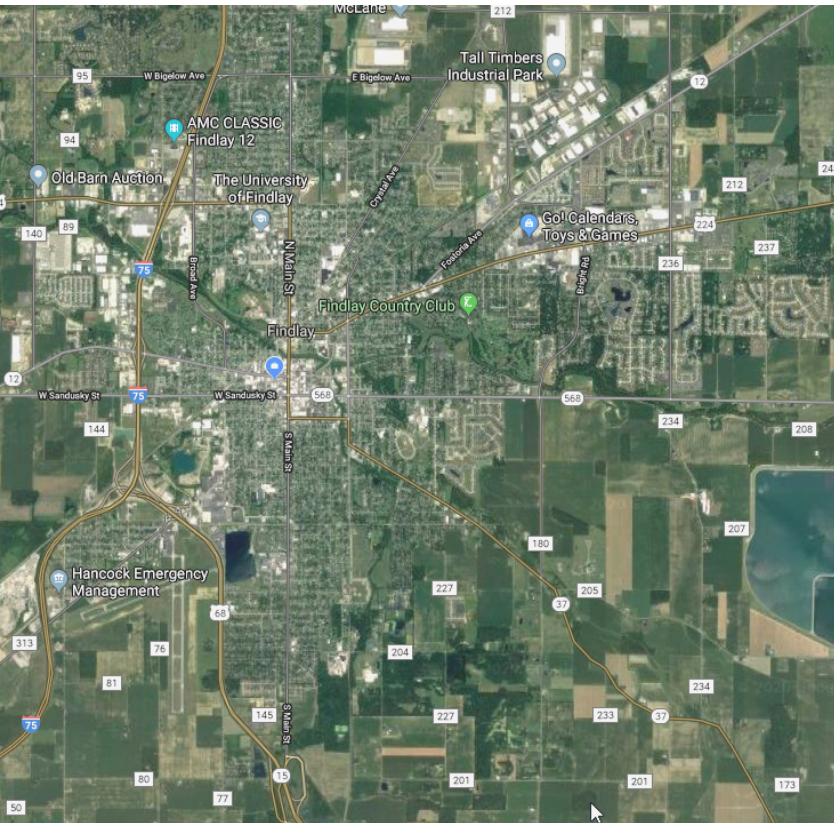
Includes Formal and Informal Training hours.

2000+

EMS TRAINING HOURS

Formal Hours received through Hanco, In-house instructors and online through 24/7.

FIRE PREVENTION



In an effort to identify risks to the community, the department has identified High Hazard Occupancies throughout the city. High Hazard Occupancies are defined as a structure of multiple heights, a certain structures size, and chemical storage types by the NFPA. These could include schools, hospitals, warehouses, etc.

Pre-incident plans help firefighters during an emergency response to commercial structures and high-hazard occupancies. These pre-plans include identifying means of egress, utility and alarm panel locations, on-site hazards, structural issues and keyholder contact information. Fire department personnel develop or update pre-plans through physical site visits or by contacting owners to obtain current information.

Reasons for Pre-Plans:

- Prevent loss of life
- Prevent / reduce exposures to firefighters
- Prevent / reduce loss of property
- Decrease response times



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



The Fire Prevention Bureau consists of two firefighters who are certified as Fire Investigators and Fire Safety Inspectors. This team focuses on code enforcement, public fire and life safety education, fire investigations, building inspections and plan review.

The team also participates as a member of the Planning Commission and the Crime Prevention Association. They also conduct educational programs such as live fire extinguisher training and life safety education classes.

525+ PEOPLE
WENT THROUGH FIRE
EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

From University Students to Senior care agencies.

All took a course to learn how to use a fire extinguisher correctly to save lives and property.

2526 PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED IN
SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

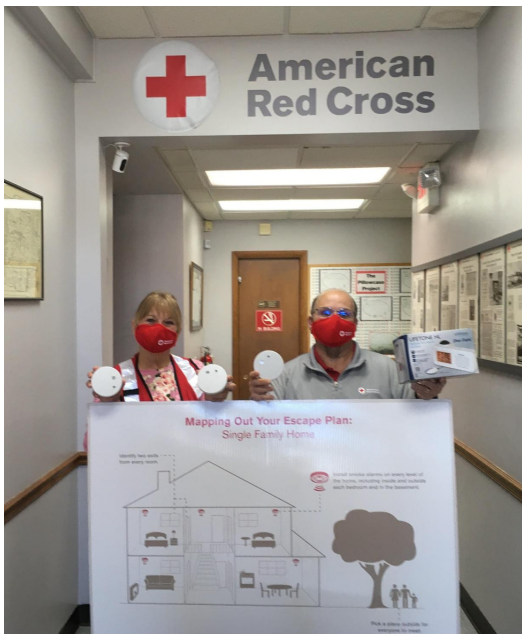
From school groups to non-profit organizations. All listened to various, fine tuned topics regarding fire safety protocols.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU - FIRE SAFETY WEEK



The Fire Prevention Bureau worked hard this year to promote the importance of smoke detectors. Through the Fire Prevention week and beyond, the Bureau worked on a public campaign to build awareness. Facebook posts were made with smoke detectors from local business and firefighters. A billboard was up for the week and a notice in water bills went out to the community.

Eric Wilkins prepared a video for Findlay City Schools to educate students on smoke detectors and fire escape plans. He challenged the kids to go through the lesson with their parents. A visit from Sparky and a pizza party was promised to the winning class who turned in the challenge forms signed by their family.



OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

For 2022, we are hoping to return to a more normal routine. The Covid pandemic caused us to pause training sessions and scheduled activities for a part of the last year, and we look forward to better days. While the SARS-CoV-2 virus will be with us for the foreseeable future, we now know how to reduce our exposure risk during normal activities.

We have numerous goals for 2022 related to personnel, training and equipment.

Personnel & Administration:

- Hire 3 new firefighters. These are planned for 2022 in order to replace upcoming retirements.
- Implement new uniform order system per the union contract.
- Fully integrate all Findlay commercial occupancies into the fire department's Pre-Plan Program.
- Continue efforts to increase the ISO rating of the City of Findlay.

Equipment & Structures:

- Place new fire truck in service, and sell outdated Ladder 4.
- Complete STRICT Center funding and begin construction.
- Replace broken glass block windows at Station 1.
- Purchase and install a new SCBA cylinder cascade fill station at Station 4.
- Purchase a replacement utility vehicle (pickup truck) to replace current 2004 model at Station 2, pending availability.
- Purchase ballistic vests and helmets to combine with our Mass-Casualty trauma bags.

Training & Technology

- CRT Training - send 8 firefighters to 6 weeks of intensive Certified Rescue Technician training, with the assistance of a \$44,000 FEMA grant through the AFG program.
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- Complete Firefighter II training for new firefighters
- Implement Tyler Technology's Crewforce mobile platform to replace the Fire Mobile program.