



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

# INTRODUCTION

## Office of the Chief



It's hard to believe 2022 is already over. This past year we saw a near-complete return to normal after two years affected by Covid, and the level of activity within the fire department rebounded as well. We accomplished a LOT over this past year, including some very significant achievements. This level of activity occurred despite not hiring a single new firefighter for the first year since 2015.

From a personnel standpoint, we saw one retirement and two resignations, all in the second half of the year. However, because we were fully staffed at the beginning of the year we were able to maintain sufficient staffing levels without overly taxing our budget. Seeing the need to create a new applicant pool, in the fall of 2022 we administered a written civil service test and physical agility test in order to address our personnel vacancies in 2023.

2022's accomplishments touched all the facets of fire department operations. Many of our fire stations underwent renovations, resulting in greatly improved facilities and work environments for our firefighters. The bunkrooms at Stations 2 & 3 were renovated, including asbestos abatement, repainting and new carpet. The exercise room at Station 3 received a complete overhaul, with donated materials from Lowe's and labor done by on-duty firefighters. We purchased gently-used but upgraded exercise machines from the University of Findlay, continuing our focus on firefighter fitness. In order to improve the long-term health of our firefighters, we implemented a night dispatch protocol and individual sleeping quarters for each station. Night Dispatch reduces the stress of harsh electronic tones by using a pre-emptive notification prior to the emergency tones, and only notifies the responding station rather than all stations. We also addressed some building concerns, replacing failing windows and doors at Station 4.

From a response standpoint, we put new Engine 2 in service and sold outdated and ineffective Ladder 4, which has been in service in some capacity since 1974. We also implemented a new response software on our mobile data terminals. This platform, called CrewForce, is a part of the overall Tyler Technologies/New World system implemented in 2019. We also dedicated some significant time to updating our building preplans, which provides vital information on specific addresses to our responding crews.

Finally, two long-term projects saw either conclusion or significant progress. Construction of the long-awaited STRICT Center—the multi-agency public safety training facility—began in the fall. This project has been in discussion since at least 2018, and involves many stakeholders. The anticipated end of construction is July of 2024. Also in 2022, for the first time ever, Findlay's "ISO rating" from the Insurance Services Office improved from a Class 3 to a Class 2. This measurement evaluates a city's ability to respond to a structure fire, and involves intense evaluation of the fire department, water distribution, and dispatch capabilities. The best score possible is a Class 1, and the improvement to a Class 2 was only possible after deliberate improvement in all three areas over the past 4-5 years. While this a city-wide evaluation, fire departments generally take the lead as their evaluation is the greatest determinant of the final score.

Our firefighters are proud to serve the citizens of Findlay, and personally I am very proud of our firefighters as well. They contributed significantly to all the accomplishments in 2022, and we would not have been nearly as successful without their buy-in and dedication. 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.gov](mailto:fireadmin@findlayohio.gov).

# KEY ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 2022 Achievements

- Sent 8 Firefighters to 6 weeks of intensive Certified Rescue Technician training, with the assistance of a \$44,000 FEMA grant through the AFG program.
- Sold Ladder 4 and purchased new Engine 2
- Began construction of the STRICT Center training facility
- Implemented Tyler Technology's Crewforce mobile platform, replacing the Fire Mobile program.
- Replaced crumbling glass block windows at Station 1 with cinder block.
- Began to integrate commercial occupancy data into the fire department's Pre-Plan Program.
- Implemented new uniform order system per the union contract, resulting in additional options for firefighters and additional accountability for uniform requests.
- Purchased 8 ballistic vests to combine with our Mass-Casualty trauma bags.
- Improved the City of Findlay ISO rating to a Class 2 for the first time ever.
- Renovated the workout room at Fire Station 3 with donated materials from Lowe's and our own in-house labor.
- Renovated bunkroom at Station 2 & 3, including asbestos abatement, repainting & new carpet.
- Implemented individual sleeping quarters at all 4 fire stations.
- Implemented "night dispatch" protocols in an effort to reduce stressors on firefighters from electronic tones.
- Implemented SOP review schedule and revision process.
- Replaced 6 failing windows and 1 door at Fire Station 4.



# BUDGET



**\$7,529,063**

## PERSONAL SERVICES

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

**\$415,561**

## OPERATIONS

This includes utilities, fuel, tools etc.

**26%**

## CITY BUDGET

Dedicated to the Fire Service.

**2022**

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Purchased new fire engine and placed in service at Fire Station 2.

Purchased two new pickup truck utility vehicles to replace Unit 21 & Unit 30.

Replaced 70 portable radios in the fire department.



# 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)

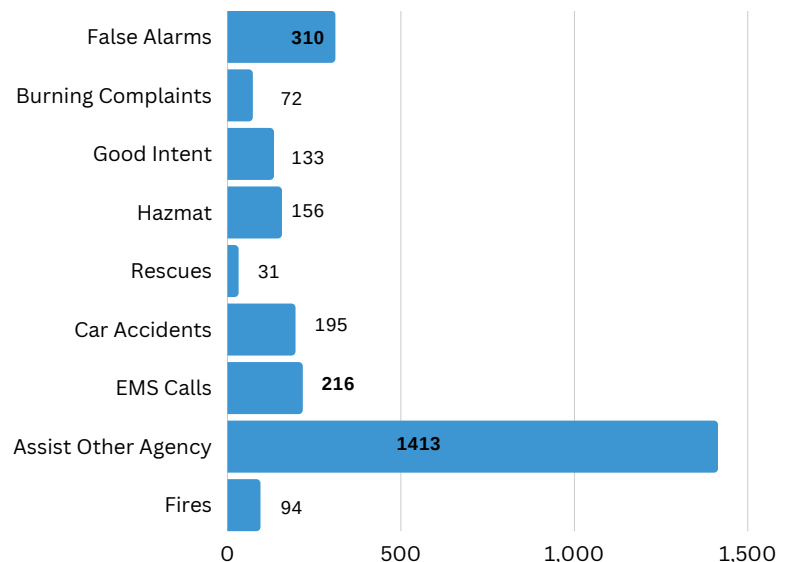
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### AVERAGE DAILY MANPOWER

Of suppression personnel.

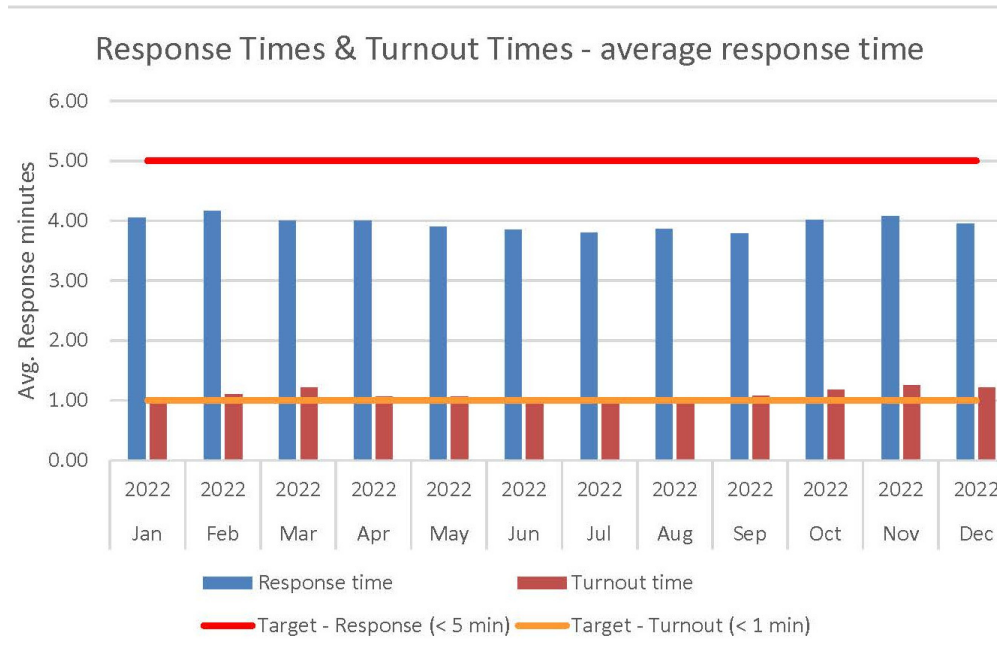
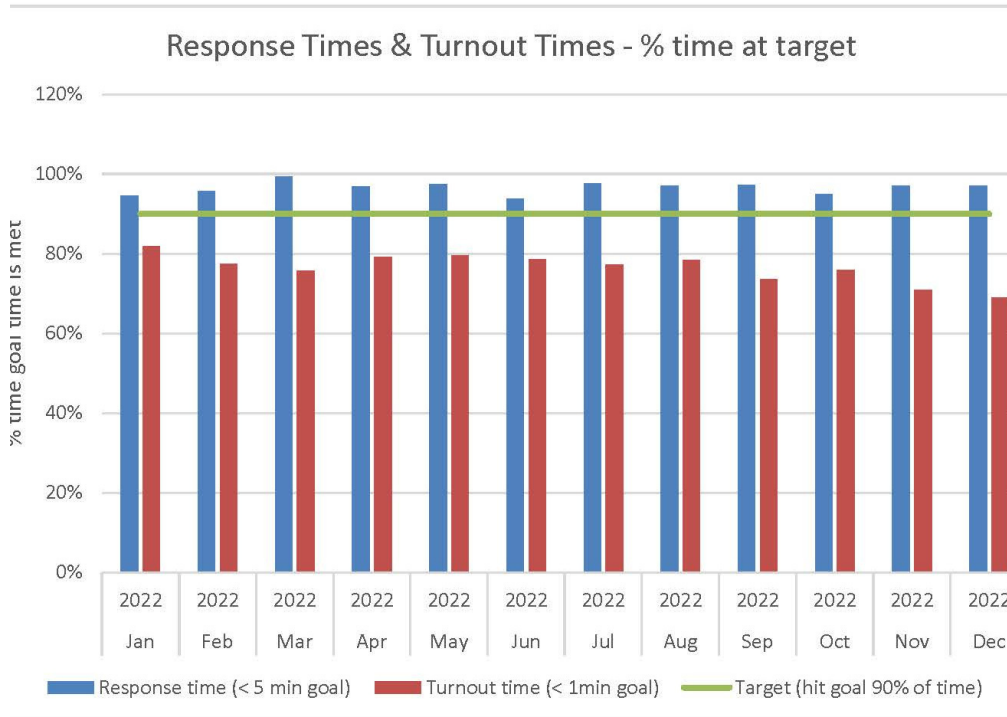
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### CALLS FOR SERVICE



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

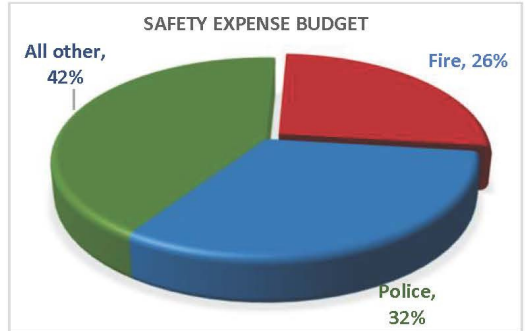
Our Key Performance Indicator Targets are to meet a 5 minute response time and a 70 second turnout time, 90% of the time.





BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 ACTUAL	2022 ORIG BUD	2022 PROJECTION	2023 REQUEST	\$ change 2023/2022 BUDGET	% change 2023/2022 BUDGET
Personal Services	\$ 7,124,285	\$ 7,222,075	\$ 7,865,522	\$ 7,589,951	\$ 8,347,186	\$ 481,664	6.35%
Other	\$ 337,996	\$ 1,226,052	\$ 442,491	\$ 1,188,984	\$ 516,759	\$ 74,268	6.25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,462,281</b>	<b>\$ 8,448,127</b>	<b>\$ 8,308,013</b>	<b>\$ 8,778,935</b>	<b>\$ 8,863,945</b>	<b>\$ 555,932</b>	<b>6.33%</b>

- BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**
- 4 new firefighters to start in January, 2023.
  - Hire additional candidates to fill 2023 vacancies.
  - 6% contractual wage increase.
  - Implementing a part-time fire department mechanic position.
  - Budgeted for 2 additional TRT members for CRT training.



STAFFING LEVEL	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total FT	65	65	65	65	65

- 2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS**
- Purchased new fire engine and placed in service at Fire Station 2.
  - Purchased two new pickup truck utility vehicles to replace Unit 21 & Unit 30.
  - Replaced all portable 70 portable radios in the fire department.

- 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS**
- CRT Training - sent 8 firefighters to 6 weeks of intensive Certified Rescue Technician training, with the assistance of a \$44,000 FEMA grant through the AFG program.
  - Placed new Engine 2 in service at the North Main Street Fire Station. Previous Engine 2 became Engine 5 and is our primary reserve engine.
  - Sold Ladder 4, which was ineffective and outdated.
  - Began construction of the STRICT Center training facility.
  - Hired 4 firefighters who will start on January 9, 2023, to fill current and future vacancies.
  - Implemented Tyler Technology's Crewforce mobile platform, replacing the Fire Mobile program.
  - Replaced crumbling glass block windows at Station 1 with cinder block.
  - Began to integrate commercial occupancy data into the fire department's Pre-Plan Program.
  - Implemented new uniform order system per the union contract, resulting in additional options for firefighters and additional accountability for uniform requests.
  - Purchased two replacement utility vehicles (pickup trucks) to replace current Unit 21 & Unit 30.
  - Purchased 8 ballistic vests to combine with our Mass-Casualty trauma bags.
  - Increased the City of Findlay ISO rating from a Class 3 to a Class 2, for the first time ever.
  - Completely renovated the workout room at Fire Station 3 with donated materials from Lowe's and our own in-house labor.

- 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS, CONT'D**
- Renovated bunkrooms at Station 2 & 3, including asbestos abatement, repainting & new carpet.
  - Implemented individual sleeping quarters at all 4 fire stations.
  - Implemented "night dispatch" protocols in an effort to reduce stressors on firefighters from electronic tones.
  - Implemented SOP review schedule and revision process.
  - Replaced all portable radios on the department with partial assistance of AFG grant funding.
  - Replaced 6 failing windows and 1 door at Fire Station 4

- 2023 OBJECTIVES**
- Replace Station 2's 1974 roof covering through the Capital Improvement plan.
  - Train all new hires to the Firefighter II and EMT-basic level through the Ohio Fire Academy.
  - Continue STRICT Center construction/fundraising.
  - Replace failing doors at fire station 3 from the operational budget.
  - Send 2 additional Technical Rescue firefighters through the Certified Rescue Tech training series.
  - Train 20-30 personnel to the Hazmat Technician level with county EMA funding the tuition cost.
  - Continue to import preplan data into the Tyler Tech fire record management system.

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS





# PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

Sparky visiting Mrs. Drakes 1st grade class. They were the winners of the Fire Safety Challenge and won a pizza party from Heavenly Pizza!



Firefighters help this little one and a group of children out of the smoke trailer. The children learned what to do if they see smoke in their home.

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



2022 was the fifth 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

## CREW SPOTLIGHT

On July 30th, the Findlay Engine 2 Crew - Capt. Clevidence with Firefighters Phil Hindall & Derek Ricker - responded to a call for a 4 year old who had fallen into a pool and was not breathing.

Findlay Police Officers arrived first and immediately brought the patient to the crew. At the time, the patient was pale, had no pulse and was not breathing. The Engine 2 crew immediately assessed the patient and initiated high-quality CPR with supplemental oxygen. After multiple rounds of CPR, a pulse was detected. A Hanco EMS crew arrived, and all the first responders together provided continued patient care en route to the hospital.





# 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 2022 training topics:**

- Pharmacology
- Altered Mental Status
- Patient Assessment
- Pediatric Airway
- Geriatrics
- Trauma Splinting
- Local Protocols
- Confined Space Awareness
- Documentation
- Squad Ops
- Hypothermia Drowning
- Electric Cars
- Crisis Awareness

# TRAINING

Our approach to formal training in 2022 was different than in previous years. Much of our time and effort went towards sending 8 firefighters and officers through a Certified Rescue Technician course (CRT), with the \$30,000 in tuition being paid for by a competitive grant award. The CRT course is comprised of 6 individual training classes covering specific technical rescue topics. These subjects are rope rescue, confined space rescue, auto extrication, trench rescue, swift water rescue and structural collapse, with each course approximately one week long.

This effort was by design. The future STRICT Center training facility will provide the capability to conduct technical rescue training locally, but we lacked the level of expertise required to teach these courses in-house. By sending members of our Technical Rescue Team (TRT) through the CRT course, we built the required experience to use these FFD members as instructors in the future. Through the investment in the TRT members, we will be able to increase the level of training for the rest of our department once the STRICT Center is complete.



**13,500+**

## **FIRE TRAINING HOURS**

Includes Formal and Informal Training hours.

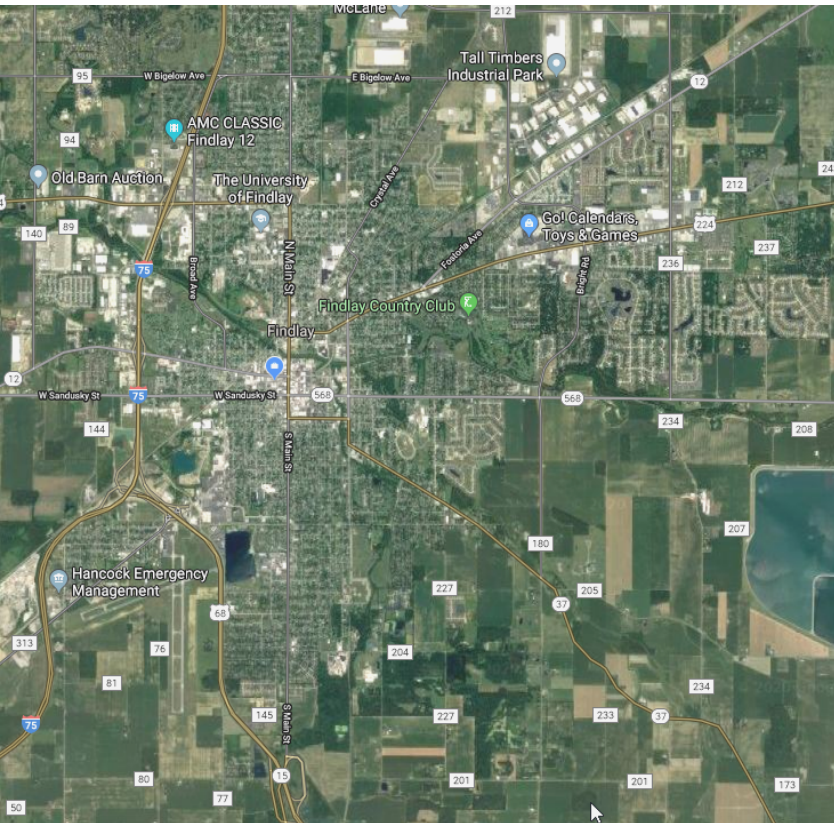
**1100+**

## **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.

**1000 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.

**4120+ 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 partnered with the Red Cross to start a new program for installation of Smoke Detectors in homes in Findlay. The Red Cross would provide the detectors and Firefighter crews will install. The program started in October 2022.

**57**

**SMOKE DETECTORS  
INSTALLED**

October - December 2022

**26**

**HOMES VISITED FOR SMOKE  
DETECTOR INSTALL**

October - December 2022





# OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

For the Findlay Fire Department, the overarching theme for 2023 will be about our people. While we have other objectives, such as building maintenance and training items, the majority of our year will be dedicated to personnel issues. We began 2023 with three vacant positions, and we have additional anticipated retirements throughout the year.

Filling vacant positions on our department is not easy due to the hiring process and training requirements. In order to establish a candidate list, applicants must pass a written Civil Service test and a fire department Physical Agility Test. These both take time to complete. When a new firefighter is hired, they usually complete a month of 40-hour weeks, in order to learn each run district and begin some essential training. This is followed by 10 weeks at the Ohio Fire Academy for Firefighter I & II certification. Later, if necessary, the recruits complete 6 weeks of EMT training.

We are well-positioned for the new year. Four new firefighters will begin their careers with us in January, followed quickly by two more in late February. We anticipate 4 retirements between February and May, with at least one more in late summer and additional employees who are retirement-eligible. In order to stay ahead of this, we have an additional two new firefighters with a start date in August, and finally two more starting in January of 2024. We will have hired a total of 10 recruits—more than 15% of our workforce—in the span of 12 months.

Hiring new firefighters is exciting—for them and us—but it also consumes time and resources. Pre-employment physicals, psychological exams, background checks and uniform and turnout gear sizing all must be done before they start, and that's just the preliminary requirements. Once they are here, the real work begins.

## **Training & Technology**

- Train all new hires to the Firefighter II and EMT-Basic level through the Ohio Fire Academy.
- Send 2 additional Technical Rescue firefighters through the Certified Rescue Tech training series.
- Train 20-30 personnel to the Hazmat Technician level with county EMA funding the tuition cost.

## **Equipment & Structures:**

- Complete and begin to utilize the STRICT Center.
- Replace 1974 roof covering at Station 2.
- Replace failing doors at Fire Station 3.