



**Jerome Fire Department**  
**P.O. Box 1025 Jerome, AZ 86331**  
**Tel. (928) 649-3034 Fax (928) 649-3039**  
 e-mail: blair@jeromefire.us

<b>Spring Semester 2023</b>		<b>Fall Semester 2023</b>
Education is in addition to in house training		
<b>Class</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Personnel</b>
<b>YCC EMT Training</b>		
<b>YCC Fire Education</b>	Hernandez, Whiting,	
<b>Fire Behavior</b>	Hernandez	
<b>Fire Investigation</b>	Hernandez, Whiting	
<b>Initial Attack</b>	Hernandez	
<b>Fire Prevention</b>	Hernandez	
<b>Department Co. Officer</b>	Hernandez	
<b>EMT Refresher</b>	Whiting, Muma, Stans, Hutchinson, Hembrough	Blair, Doss, Lee, San Felice
<b>Wildland Fire Training</b>	Whiting, Stabb, Peterson, Krpmotich	
<b>Wildland Refresher</b>	Hernandez, Whiting	
<b>Hazmat</b>		
<b>Rope Rescue Reed</b>		
<b>Rope Rescue Ops</b>		Krpmotich, Blair, Muma, Whiting, Hernandez, Lee, Supple
<b>Rope Rescue Tech</b>		Krpmotich, Blair, Muma, Whiting, Hernandez, Lee, Supple
<b>Swiftwater Training Tech</b>	Muma, Whiting, Supple, Lee	Muma, Whiting, Lee, Supple
<b>Swiftwater Training Ops</b>	Blair, Stans, Muma, Whiting, Supple, Lee, Peterson, Irwin Hernandez, Krpmotich	
<b>YCC Fire Academy</b>		
<b>AZ State Fire School</b>		
<b>Drone Pilot</b>	Supple	
<b>NFPA Live Fire Instructor</b>	Whiting	

### **Additional Training**

Jerome Fire hosted Ropes Operations and Tech courses in March and November. Allen Muma is our lead instructor with help from Chief Blair and Kerry Lee. This class is offered as free training to all Jerome Fire Department personnel, with a fee of \$300 being charged to other participating agencies, this included both Tech and Ops certifications. Jerome Fire Department now has 18 certified rope personnel. The fire department also host a rope drill every 4th Saturday of the month free to all agencies.

We are fortunate to have the continued help and support from EMT and Jerome Police Chief Allen Muma. Allen was recognized by Jerome FD as someone who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. Allen provides most of our EMS trainings, these trainings include Stop the Bleed, NARCAN administration and draw up Epinephrine injections.

He also heads up our Rope Ops & Tech training. Allen donates any tuition paid by other agencies for the rope training back to the Jerome FD Auxiliary for the purchase of new rope, hardware, etc.

All Jerome FD personnel have access to this important training, free of charge to them or the department. Thanks Allen. Allen has been acting as Assistant Fire Chief since September 2019 and was appointed to Assistant Chief in March 2020

Education is one of the most valuable line items in the fire department budget. Without trained personnel we would not be able to maintain the professional service that the fire department is expected to provide for the Town of Jerome.

We also provide a wide variety of scenario-based training, as well as classroom training every Thursday at 5 PM available to all our personnel. In addition to a fourth Saturday rope and work session every second Saturday.

Carl Whiting was hired on the fire department in September of 2020 as a duty officer and has since been promoted to battalion chief this year. He has been in the fire department service for 18 years and is very knowledgeable in emergency situations. He is a valued asset providing wildland training and able to certify personnel for wildland related certifications.

### **Prevention Program**

The prevention program has come a long way since I started as Chief (we were using the 1991 IFC in 2008), with the adoption of new fire codes and ordinances. Jerome Town Council and Jerome Fire Department adopted the 2018 version of the fire code in 2022. The adoption of more current standards and laws will help Jerome keep up with the State of Arizona's minimum standards. These minimum standards keep the Town of Jerome from falling behind on more recent fire codes for any new construction projects and existing buildings requirements.

The Jerome Fire Department was once again recognized as a Firewise Community! Jerome joins many communities throughout the United States that have earned the Firewise USA Designation. Each year we hold a Community Awareness Day so that we may continue with education and our outreach efforts. This year it was hosted in September along with our community picnic. Due to a successful turnout and comments from attendees we will keep this trend going forward.

The Fire Department has burned at the slash pile 4 times within the last year. In addition to the fires at the burn pile, the Fire Department has also issued 4 burn permits and burned in place 0 times this year. There was a total of 437 loads of brush going to the burn pile. Because of the drought conditions last summer, the Fire Department had to close the burn pile down for approximately 1 month, as it became too full to receive any more fuel.

The Fire Department has done a lot of fuel abatement this year removing brush from the Gulch area, Giroux Street, Douglas Road, Clark Street, Dundee, County Road, Highway 89A and other residential properties. We have made these great strides with help from the Firewise crew. The Adult Probation Department also worked for a total of 266 hours with 28 personnel for the year.

## Burn Pile Log for December 2023

Date	Address	Adult Prob.	# Crew Firewise	FW Hrs.	Firewise Total Hrs.	# Loads	# crew	# Hrs.	JC Total Hrs.
12/5/2023	Clark St		2	5.5	11	3			0
12/6/2023	Clark St		1	6	6	4			0
12/7/2023	School ST, 89A,Hull Ave		2	7.5	15	4			0
12/8/2023	Clark St		4	3	12	4			0
12/11/2023	Hampshire/Main		1	7	7	4			0
12/12/2023	4 <sup>th</sup> St, Hampshire		1	8	8	3			0
12/13/2023	Hampshire ,Giroux		1	7	7	2			0
12/14/2023	101 County RD				0	1	1	1	1
12/14/2023	Douglas Rd		1	6	6	6			0
12/15/2023	880 Hampshire				0	2	2	2	4
12/15/2023	321 Remington Way				0	2	2	4	8
12/15/2023	Douglas		1	6	6	6			0
12/16/2023	Unknown				0	1	3	1	3
12/18/2023	880 Hampshire				0	2	2	4	8
12/18/2023	Hull, Douglas		2	7	14	5			0
12/19/2023	School, Main		2	7	14	6			0
12/21/2023	Douglas		1	5	5	6			0
12/24/2023	Douglas		1	5	5	6			0
12/26/2023	Douglas		2	6	12	10			0
12/27/2023	218 5 <sup>th</sup> St				0	2	2	4	8
12/27/2023	Douglas		2	7	14	12			0
12/28/2023	880 Hampshire				0	2	2	4	8
12/28/2023	Douglas		3	7	21	12			0
12/29/2023	105 Third St				0	2	1	4	4
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	27	100	<b>163</b>	104	15	24	<b>44</b>
	<b>Jerome Citizen Hours-</b>	<b>Adult Prob.</b>	<b>Firewise</b>	<b>FW Hrs.</b>	<b>Firewise Total Hrs.</b>	<b># Loads</b>	<b># Crew</b>	<b># Hrs.</b>	<b>JC Total Hrs.</b>

### Grants

We have received a grant for \$120,000, This grant is for Incident Management software as well as laptops. We are currently aiming towards 3AM Innovations and are awaiting finalizations. The software is about \$30,000 and we will be able to purchase the remaining needed hardware such as Laptops, Phones and Vehicle Integration.

We received a grant from Northern Arizona Emergency Medical Services. NAEMS receives funding from the Arizona Department of Health Services that provides grants for education, equipment, and supplies. This year

we received \$3,020.00. We will be resubmitting another grant this year. NAEMS operates with a board of directors and a steering committee.

JFD has received another hazardous fuel grant from the state through PAWUIC as well as Title III Money. The Grant is for 20 acres and will be around the sewage treatment plant and other adjoining drainages. We have until June 30, 2025 to complete the work. They're hoping to get some of these projects done with the 2 new fuel abatement personnel that was budgeted for. So far, we have only been able to hire 1 of the personnel needed for this and other projects. These grants help supplement their wages.

The Fire Department continues looking for and writing grants to increase our ability to better serve the town of Jerome and its visitors. These grants help the fire department equip and protect our Firefighters when they respond to the numerous calls that we get throughout each year. These grants could not have been possible without the town's participation in matching funds, along with the auxiliary's help as well. This is truly a team effort, and we are grateful.

### **Firefighter Wellness**

The job of Firefighter/EMT can be stressful. Our men and women can be subjected to death, traumatic injuries, motor vehicle rollovers, motorcycles over the edge, gunshot wounds, etc. This past year Jerome has lost many longtime residents and friends. Jerome FD in conjunction with Spectrum Health Services, offers free Mental Health Awareness training to personnel. This training is very valuable, and we are grateful to be able to provide these services.

### **Inter-Agency Agreements**

We currently have IGAs with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire, Yavapai County, The Training Center, Verde Valley Medical Center, Cottonwood Fire, Verde Valley Fire District, Copper Canyon Fire District, Sedona Fire District, Verde Valley Ambulance and The Prescott National Forest.

### **Budget**

For the fiscal year of 23-24, the Town Manager's budget, with Council approval, allotted the Fire Department \$543,360.00 We are halfway through our current budget year for FY 23-24, and we have only spent \$136,949.34 so far. This budget includes the volunteer per call, wildland personnel wages and Fuels crew wages and all other line items.

The FD budget is broken down into different line items with each one having a running list of all expenditures. Copies of each purchase receives a purchase order. Every purchase order is retained in the department files and a copy goes to Town Hall.

This running expenditure list allows the staff to see how much of the budget has been spent, as well as the remaining budgeted totals.

The Fire Department will begin the budget process for fiscal year 24-25 in January and should have the first draft for the Town Manager by the First of February.

The Jerome Fire Department has a vast amount of equipment that we keep a close inventory on, with maintenance schedules to ensure that equipment is always in good operational condition and ready to be utilized in the event of an emergency, as well as keeping in good standings with NFPA and ISO standards.

The Fire Department and its personnel clean and maintain the building, the apparatus, equipment, and the property to help keep costs down and reduce the need for additional monies from the town budget.

We have teamed up with Recovery USA to help with our Motor Vehicle Accident incident expenses. These fees are paid by the vehicle drivers' insurance company. In 2023 we have recouped \$891 from insurance companies 6 claims, with 4 claims pending in the amount of \$2,556.00. The only time we submit for billing on an MVA is when we feel we have a chance to recover some monies and the insured is not a citizen of the Town of Jerome.

The Fire Department Auxiliary has done very well this year, through donations, retail sales and our annual Halloween Dance. Helping the Fire Department purchase items not budgeted for such as station supplies, uniforms for the personnel, disaster supplies and numerous other projects.

The fire department is very grateful when we receive any donation, without these donations from the community it would be difficult for us to purchase the necessary equipment needed.

## **Department Affairs and On-going Projects**

Jerome Fire has completed our new wildland truck. It has now been out on a prescription burn in Prescott national forest and has assisted with the Maid Fire in the Flagstaff area.



The Fire Department has maintained an ISO rating of a 4. Our scheduled reinspection occurred last February. This involved flowing hydrants, fire hose testing, response times, pump testing, rate on our communication center, water system, training records, and organizing all our data. We will be informed of the results hopefully within the next few months. The meeting on the 17th of February 2022 went very well, the representative from ISO was very impressed with our thoroughness of our report.

Jerome Fire and our Engine Boss Carl Whiting were requested for 3 different assignments this year. We invoiced \$ 105,965.30 and have received all payments with the fire department netting \$48,098.03 after expenses. This has been a great help in meeting the Fire Department revenue budget of \$114,500.00.

This year Jerome Fire was able to assist Prescott National Forest with two prescribed burns, assisting with these prescribed fires our Wildland firefighters get extra training and experience. We appreciate all that our wildland crew does to keep themselves and others safe when fighting wildland fires.

For JFD The months of September and October are very busy for the Fire Department. Labor Day weekend, the Volkswagen club, our Fire Department town picnic, and our Halloween dance.

It is nice to have some personnel to help with the workload and this will allow me to take some time off. With the Fire Departments call volume being over 520 calls, 88 Meetings a year and me being on duty 24 hours a day 365 days a year for the last 16 years.

I now have Rick doing NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) to keep the Fire Department eligible for government grants.

Carl attends Yavapai Firewise community (PAWUIC) meetings to keep the Fire Department eligible for fuel abatement money and to keep our Firewise status. He is also attending the Verde Valley Fire Chief's Safety committee, Verde Valley training Committee, Verde Valley Life and Safety public Education group, Arizona State wildland qualifications committee.

As Fire Chief, my crew and I work closely with the public works department. We assist with many different projects that may include the repair of water and sewer leaks, cleaning out storm drains. We worked with the town crew this year to repair the cantilevered sidewalk.

Rick and I also work closely with the Building Department and Zoning Administrator doing 89 business license inspections and covering for the building inspector. I also did 4 building inspections when the building inspector was unavailable this year. This past year I assisted the town crew with the flushing of numerous sewer manholes.

The Fire Department annually tests all fire hydrants and hose, keeping accurate records of their flow pressures and status.

We also schedule annual maintenance on all vehicles, extrication equipment, air packs, SCBA compressor, turnout inspections, Ladders and Biannually rotates all the batteries in all the small equipment. Flashlights, medical equipment, radios and too many things to list

This year the Fire Department self-dispatched to over 350 calls. If it is not a 911 call and someone calls the Fire Department or Chief Blair direct and if we do not need additional resources, The Fire Department just takes care of it. Only running one call through Cottonwood alarm cost the Town of Jerome about \$60.00 a call for dispatch. By being self-dispatched, it has saved the town \$21,000.00 this year.

### Community Outreach

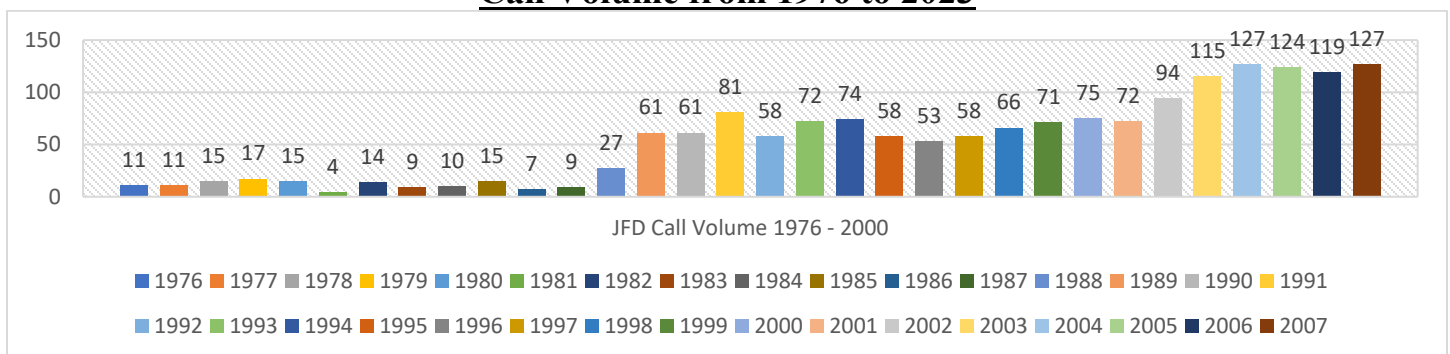
Our Fire Station is used by several groups throughout the year. This year our fire station served as a meeting place for Yavapai County Probation, the Jerome Chamber of Commerce, the Yavapai County Fire Chiefs association and 2 NA groups.

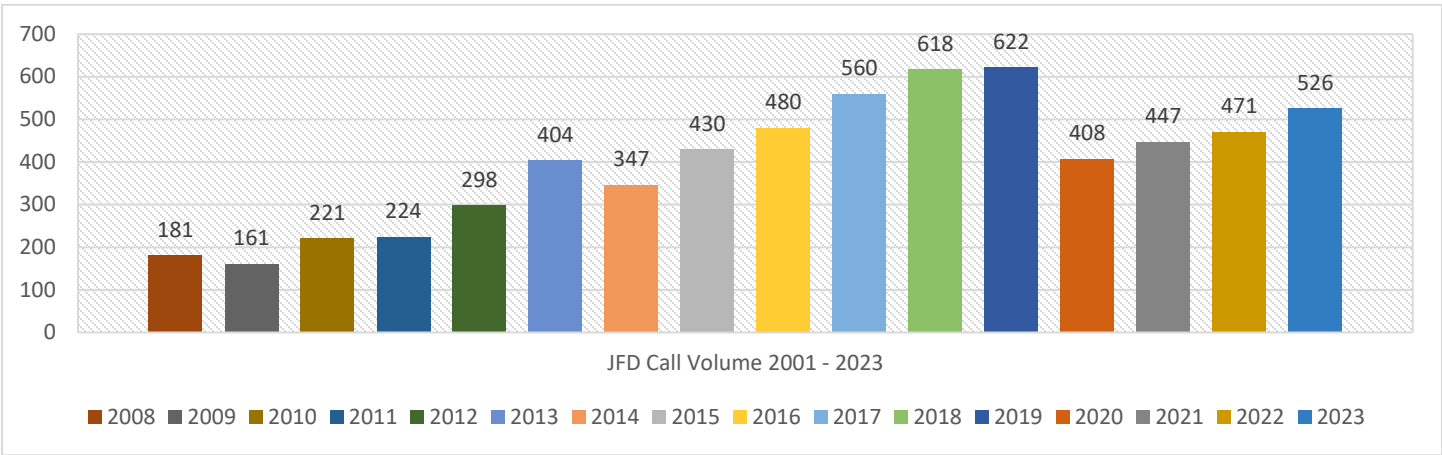
### Call Volume

Upon researching the number of calls our department has had over the years and the great increase in volume, we found that the increase was quite significant. The yearly numbers show that our department, though volunteer, is quite busy compared to paid departments in our area. The number of personnel on our roster and the number of personnel responding has not really increased, but our call volume has. Below is a list of calls per year from 1976 through 2023. Based on the numbers below, it appears that the Jerome Fire Department did not take on EMS until the late 80s.

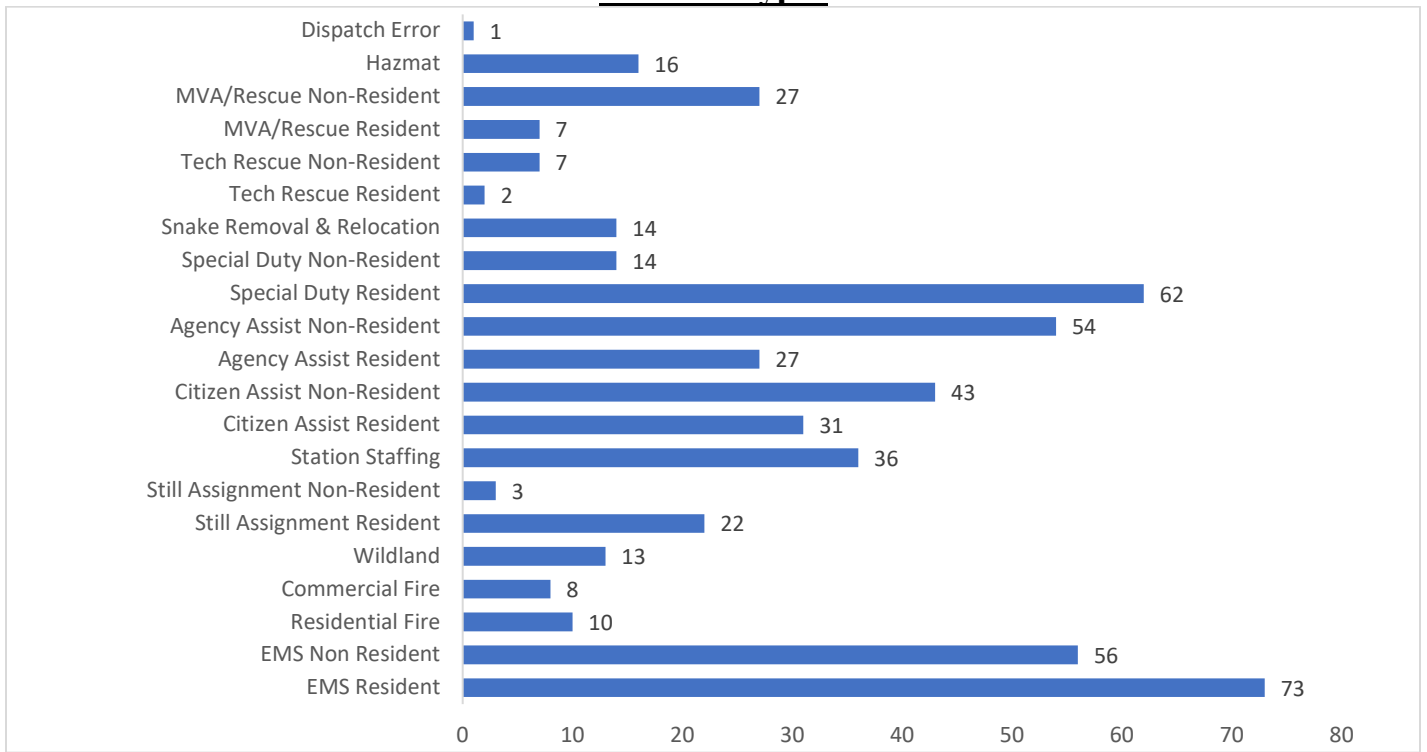
### December 2023 Calls

### Call Volume from 1976 to 2023

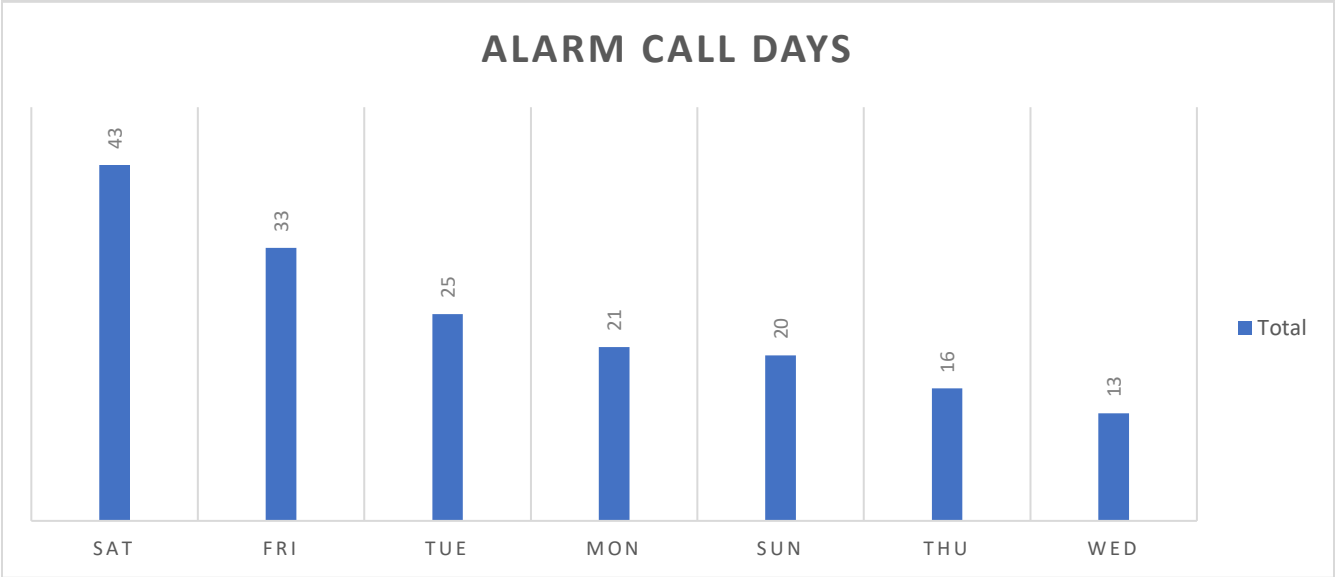
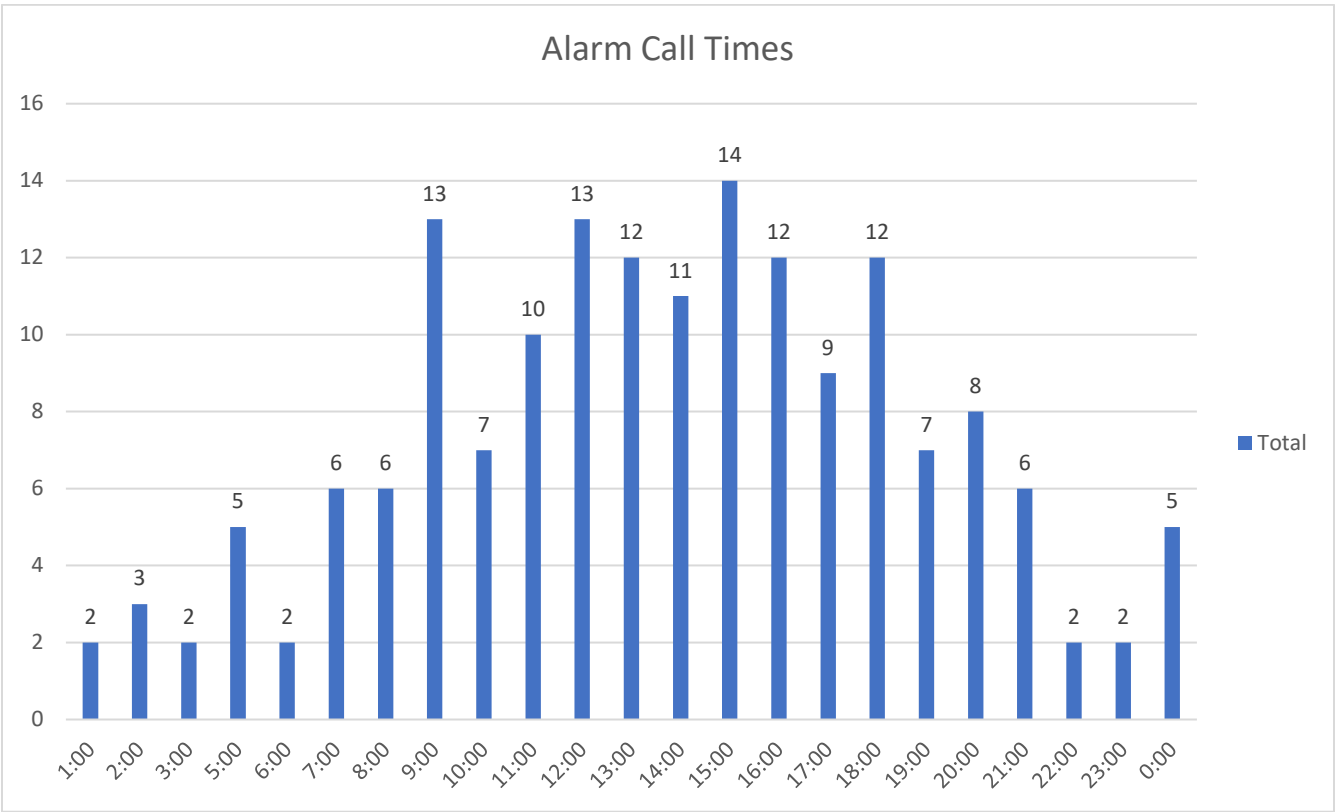




### All Call Types







In addition to the calls, we run on, each call has an activity sheet filled out, a 2-to-10-page written report depending upon the nature of the call, they get logged in on 3 separate spreadsheets and a report sent to DHS. The Fire Department also fills out an activity sheet for each training, work session, rope drill and meeting which also get logged in on three different spreadsheets.

### **Volunteer Personnel**

The official name for our department is the Jerome Volunteer Fire Department, although we are a combination department, consisting of volunteers and paid staff. Paid staff include the Fire Chief and 2 Duty Officers. The

remainder of the personnel is paid-on-call. Paid-on-call members of the Fire Department receive a flat \$15 when they respond to a call, regardless of the amount of time required to complete the assignment. Our recruit members are paid \$7.50 per training and call attendance. Our Associate Member program allows a Firefighter or EMT to come train with us and staff when they are available at no cost to the Fire Department.

Members of the Jerome Volunteer Fire Department responded to over 520 calls for service this year, 221 of which were outside of normal working hours. In addition to the calls, 84 meetings, training sessions and work session were attended after work hrs. For a total of 303 incidents or events after normal working hours.

We now have three additional personnel excluding the chief. One of them being a fuels crew member who, just started the 1st of November, Eric Jackson. A normal week is 40 hrs. per week with 2 days off for weekends, which is 2080 hours a year, minus an additional 13-8hrs paid holiday and whatever PTO personnel have. The Fire Department staffs 24/7 with a total of 9605 hours needed a year per person to meet 24/7 staffing.

In 2023 the total amount paid to the Volunteer Firefighters was \$20,460.00. Budgeted was \$35,000. This amount represents payment for participation in 614 different events including Calls, trainings, drills, and meetings and includes \$6,263.00 for pure volunteers and \$14,198.00 for town employees volunteering in their time off hours.

The Town is very fortunate to receive the generous services of these volunteers. It would be an impossible financial burden for the town to match the salaries paid for comparable work in the surrounding towns of the Verde Valley.

The paid-on-call personnel are, by far, the heart of the Jerome Volunteer Fire Department. Being a paid-on-call member of the Fire Department means that you carry a pager and/or a radio, and when a call comes in you drop whatever you are doing and respond to the fire station, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, if you are available. Calls range from simple EMS to heart problems, rescue assignments with extrication, to commercial, residential, Wildland working fires.

When these calls come in, members of the Fire Department leave their families and businesses and respond to assist their community. Most do not do this for the pay, obviously. Some do it because they care about their community. Others do it because they want to help people. And others even do it to further their education and careers with other departments. But we all do it because of the camaraderie and the fact that we know that we are members of the last Volunteer Fire Department in the Verde Valley.

Although it is economical for the town to try to maintain a volunteer agency with four full- time employees, it is very challenging to maintain the highest standards of administration and operations. There is a large amount of paperwork including tracking budgets, equipment, apparatus, personnel, hydrants, station maintenance and the 161 businesses that need to be inspected yearly in accordance with adopted Town codes.

The town budgets about \$543,360.00 for wages, salaries, fuel abatement wages, wildland personnel wages, workmen's comp, and all other benefits for 26 Fire Department personnel. I would like to express my gratitude to those who make it possible to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to calls for help in and around Jerome.

We assist other agencies with many automatic aid calls. Our personnel, though volunteers, have the same certifications as any other paid personnel in the fire service. Many of our volunteers have been hired by other agencies and still provide volunteer service to the town. Time after time, I hear from the other Chiefs, officers, and crews on scene how happy they are to see us when we respond.

We are a small group of people that make up one of the best equipped, best trained, fastest responding fire departments in the State of Arizona.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Meetings Members Officers</b>	<b>Total Calls and Meetings 614</b>	<b>Total JFD Calls 355</b>	<b>Total Alarm Calls 171</b>	<b>Since</b>
Fire Chief – FF1&2,EMT, TRT,WLFF2, Swift water OPS	Rusty Blair	81	491	267	143	01/98
Assistant Fire Chief – TRT Tech Instructor -EMT, Swift water tech	Allen Muma	54	179	53	72	07/15
EMS Captain - EMT – TRT	Burt Doss	41	59	6	12	07/96
Battalion Chief – FF1&2, EMT, TRT TECH, HZMT, ENGB. TFLD, ICT4 Instructor1&2, Swift water Tech, Live Fire Instructor	Carl Whiting	69	276	131	76	8/20
Captain – FF1&2, TRT TECH	Jay Kinsella	0	1	0	1	08/12
Captain-FF1&2, EMT, TRT TECH, WLFF2, Swift water OPS	Rick Hernandez	71	422	207	144	1/10
Captain -FF1&2, TRT Tech	Jacob Giles	36	69	9	24	4/20
Captain-TRT TECH, EMT, Swift water Tech	Kerry Lee	65	235	57	113	02/13
FF1&2,EMT	Sean Bauer	0	13	9	4	10/16
WLFF1, FF1, TRT TECH	Eric Jackson	8	51	31	12	11/23
EMT, TRT Tech	Brigham Peterson	44	101	35	22	2/23
FF1&2 – EMT, TRT TECH	Lee Ondovchak	18	29	6	5	1/18
EMT	Sierra Hutchinson	30	57	13	14	11/22
TRT Tech, EMT, Swift water OPS	Marty Stan	29	54	15	10	5/15
TRT Tech, EMT, Swift water OPS	Lana Stan	23	39	10	6	7/17
First responder CPR	Chad Hembrough	27	45	7	11	8/20
TRT,EMT	Rusty San Felice	41	111	25	45	7/19
TRT TECH, WLFF2,	Zech MacGregor	14	34	3	17	6/23
TRT TECH, WLFF2,	Scott Staab	32	70	10	28	5/22
TRT TECH, WLFF2, Swift water OPS	John Krmpotich	54	233	58	121	5/22
TRT TECH, Swift water Tech	Jason Supple	38	87	23	26	7/17

## Recruits

First responder CPR	Will Blodgett	20	43	10	13	11/22
	John Moser	3	16	4	9	1/23
	Chuck Romburger	24	40	6	10	4/23
	Mimi Romburger	4	7	2	1	11/23

Thanks for your continuing support.  
Fire Chief Blair  
Jerome Volunteer Fire Department