



# Sheboygan Fire Department Annual Report

2024

SINCE 1888







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# ABOUT US



## OUR MISSION

The Sheboygan Fire Department is dedicated to serving all who live, visit, work, and invest in the City of Sheboygan through excellence in fire protection, rescue, emergency, and non-emergency medical services, code enforcement, and education, at the highest professional level in a compassionate, ethical, and cost-effective manner.

## OVERSIGHT

Mayor Ryan Sorenson  
City Administrator Casey Bradley  
Common Council

Board of Police & Fire  
Commissioners:

- President Larry Samet
- Secretary Gerald Jones
- Commissioner Kristin Blanchard Stearns
- Commissioner Corrado Cirillo
- Commissioner Ann Steenwyk

## OUR SERVICES

- Fire Suppression
- Rope Rescue
- Excavation Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Water/Ice Rescue
- Auto and Industrial Extrication
- Emergency Management
- Advanced Life Support Response
- Fire Safety Building Inspections
- Smoke Alarm Installations
- Code Enforcement
- Building Plan Review
- Fire Safety Training
- Medical Transports
- Public Service/Assistance
- Haz. Mat. Response
- Fire Safety Education
- Special Event Standby
- Fall Prevention Referrals





**STATION 3  
HEADQUARTERS**  
1326 N 25 St  
Built 1971



**STATION 4**  
2622 N 15 St  
Built 1990



**STATION 1**  
833 New York Ave  
Built 1907



**STATION 2**  
2413 S 18 St  
Built 1979



**STATION 5**  
4504 S 18 St  
Built 2005



# PERSONNEL

## FIRE-MEDIC STUDENTS

As Fire Departments across the state adapt to smaller applicant pools, recruitment efforts have become more strategic. In 2023, the Police & Fire Commission supported Chief Montellano in his request to update hiring requirements allowing new hires to earn required medical certifications as a condition of an adjusted probationary period. This comes as a great benefit to the department, as new medics are able to orient themselves with department operations early on. In 2024, Chad Halbach became the department's first member to complete paramedic school earning his NREMT-Paramedic license under this new hiring criteria. This was a significant and proud milestone for our department. Fire-medic students Julie Roller, Justin Vorpapel and James Annelin are currently in the process of completing their paramedic coursework.

Left to right: Asst. Chief Lubbert, City Administrator Bradley, Mayor Sorenson, Chief Montellano, FF/P Olson, FF/P Truckey, FF/P Halbach, Asst. Chief Salzman.





## NEW HIRES



**Chad Halbach**  
**January 2024**



**Blake Sinotte**  
**January 2024**



**Ameer Zanon**  
**January 2024**



**Julie Roller**  
**July 2024**



**Justin Vorpapel**  
**July 2024**



**James Truckey**  
**July 2024**



**Aaron Olson**  
**July 2024**



**James Annelin**  
**August 2024**

## PROMOTIONS



**Joel Johnsrud**  
**Captain**



**Jeffrey Granke**  
**Captain**

**Thank you Jeanne Kliejunas**  
**for your dedication to the Board of**  
**Police & Fire Commissioners!**  
*Board member 2014-2024*

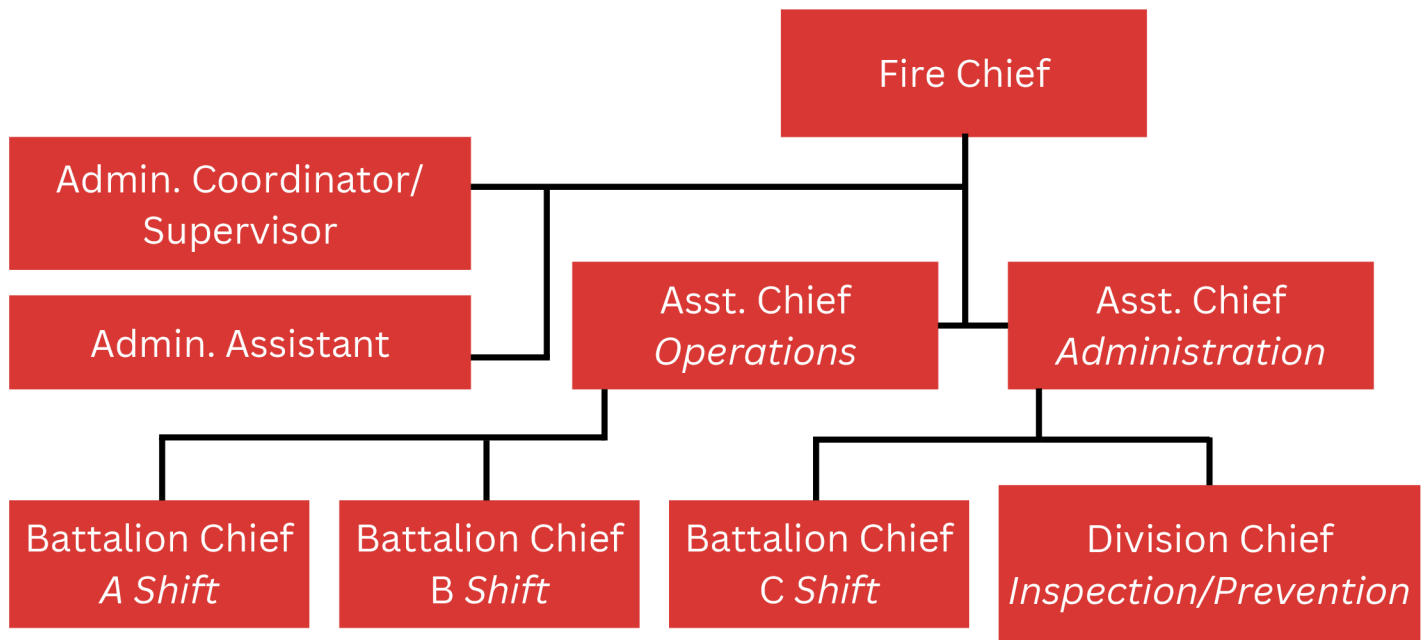


Pictured on right: Chief Montellano, Commissioner  
Kliejunas, Police Chief Domagalski



# TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

## *Administrative Staff*



*Split across three shifts. Each working 24-hours.*

Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5
1 Captain	1 Captain	2 Captains	1 Captain	1 Captain
2 Lieutenants	2 Lieutenants	1 Lieutenant	2 Lieutenants	2 Lieutenants
3 Fire Equip. Operators	3 Fire Equip. Operators	3 Fire Equip. Operators	3 Fire Equip. Operators	3 Fire Equip. Operators
9 Firefighter/ Paramedics	9 Firefighter/ Paramedics	9 Firefighter/ Paramedics	9 Firefighter/ Paramedics	9 Firefighter/ Paramedics

# HIGHLIGHTS

## POWERBOAT RACE SUPPORT

For the second year in a row, the City of Sheboygan was selected as a location for August powerboat racing, an event which drew about 45,000 spectators in 2023. With specialized training and experience fire department personnel coordinates the City's emergency management response working collaboratively with other city departments and local agencies to maximize the ability to efficiently respond to incidents during the event. This requires months of planning, and dedication throughout the City, especially the weekend of the event. As the department's mission statement goes, its "dedicated to serving all who live, visit, work, and invest in the City of Sheboygan."

## FIGHT FOR AIR CLIMB

On March 9, a team including six department members competed in the American Lung Association Fight for Air Climb. The Sheboygan Fire Department team took first place in the Anthem Firefighter Challenge climbing over 1,500 steps in full turnout gear. The department recognizes these crew members for their dedication to wellness both inside and outside of the workplace!

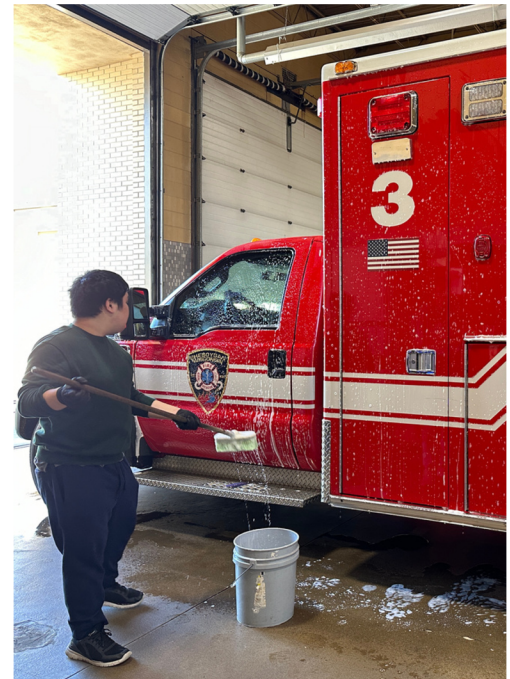
Left to right: Lt. Cherek, FF/P Nett, FF/P Boyle, FF/P A. Schmitt, FEO Shaw, Town of Sheboygan FF Hasenstein



## ASPIRE PROGRAM

The department began partnering with ASPIRE (Achieve Self-Determination, Practice Independence, Respect Everyone) in the fall, which is a life-skills program for students in special education aged 18 and older.

The department and ASPIRE's program leader, Brett Meulbroek, identified specific tasks that the students could perform to support the department while practicing life skills. Once a week students and a teacher visit the department helping out around the firehouse. We appreciate their contributions!



## CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

Father Leo Gavrilos stepped down from his role as chaplain in September. We thank him for his support and dedication to the department since he began as the department's first chaplain in May 2022.

In December, Rev. Dr. Julie Mavity Maddalena joined as the new SFD chaplain. Chaplain Julie also serves as chaplain and Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Lakeland University.

The department is pleased to offer a chaplaincy program and is grateful for these incredible individuals who selflessly provide support to our crews when needed, or just for a visit! Chaplain Julie will be working in collaboration with the department's peer support team as well.

*"With my background in EMS, I especially value trauma-informed care... I'm here to offer non-judgmental emotional and spiritual support, however it's most helpful to you."*

**- Rev. Dr. Julie Mavity Maddalena**





# INCIDENTS



**70%**

OF CALLS ARE OVERLAPPING

**7%**

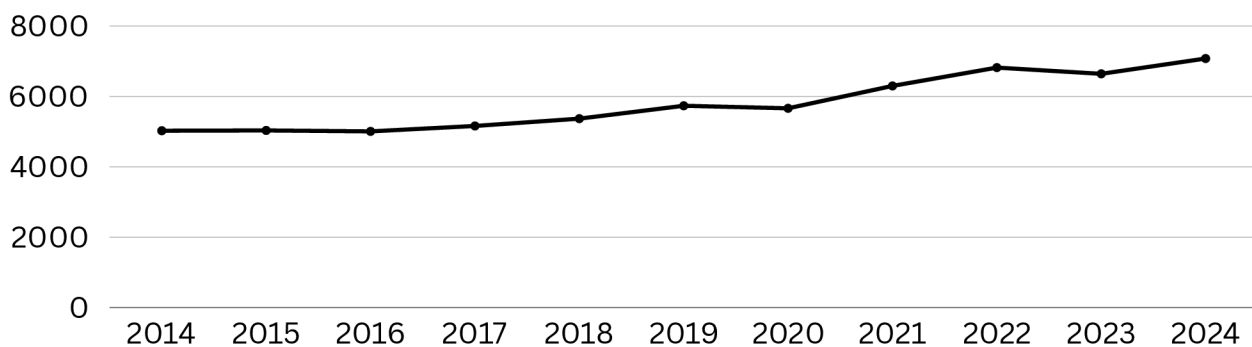
MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR (63%)



# RESPONSE STATISTICS

## RECORD HIGH CALL VOLUME

Since 2014, the SFD has seen a **40.8% increase in total call volume** going from 5,026 calls in 2014 to a new record high of 7,078 in 2024. Over the past five years, call volume has increased 25% with 5,663 in 2020 and 7,078 in 2024.



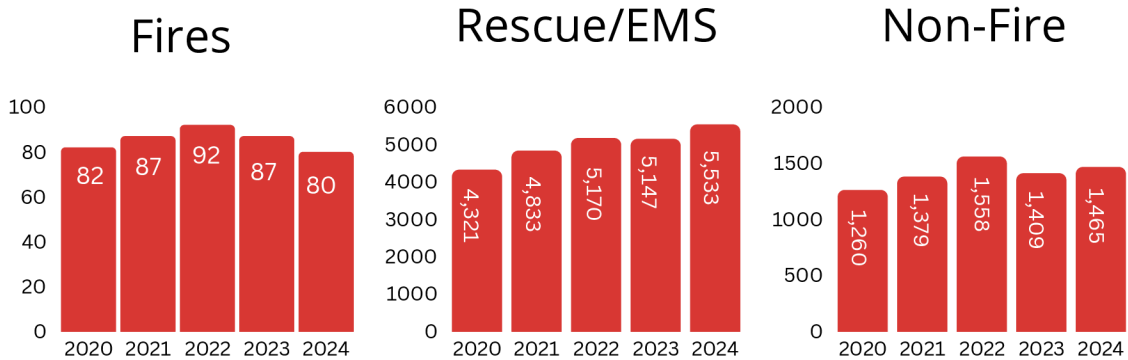
YEAR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CALLS	5,026	5,034	5,007	5,161	5,369	5,735	5,663	6,299	6,820	6,643	7,078
STAFF	74	71	74	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	78

## IMPACT ON STAFFING

This year, staffing increased from 75 to 78 when council approved the addition of 3 firefighter/paramedics to the table of organization. Call volume today is more than 2,000 calls higher than 10 years ago. This large increase in call volume and little change in staffing places a heavier workload on each member of our department. However, calls are just one facet of the firefighter/paramedic's day: Conducting fire inspections, public education programming, training, and station housekeeping also require significant portions of time.

The department remains resilient– maintaining excellent service by adding a fourth front-line ambulance. As call volume increases, and the city grows, administrative staff will re-assess staffing needs to continue providing the high level of fire and EMS response the community deserves.

## RESPONSE STATS (CONT.)



INCIDENT COUNT PER STATION	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
STATION 1	1,620	1,809	2,003	2,032	2,161
STATION 2	1,016	1,239	1,229	1,169	1,209
STATION 3	1,400	1,459	1,677	1,652	1,824
STATION 4	1,026	1,163	1,171	1,086	1,000
STATION 5	533	594	609	556	640
MUTUAL AID GIVEN	N/A	N/A	131	85	76
MUTUAL AID RECEIVED	N/A	N/A	54	56	22
FIRE LOSS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	67	54	61	60	67
PRE-INCIDENT VALUE	\$70,450,745	\$95,389,290	\$163,942,270	\$59,645,278	\$71,492,085
PROPERTY LOSS	\$458,010	\$538,550	\$887,790	\$745,460	\$322,395
CONTENT LOSS	\$148,850	\$546,617	\$1,115,910	\$205,730	\$87,070
TOTAL LOSS	\$606,860	\$1,085,167	\$2,003,700	\$951,190	\$409,465
AVERAGE LOSS	\$9,057	\$20,095.69	\$32,848	\$15,853	\$6,111
PROPERTY SAVED	\$69,843,885	\$94,304,123	\$161,938,570	\$58,694,088	\$71,082,620
WORKLOAD	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
INSPECTIONS	2,179	2,267	2,742	2,556	2,358
SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMS (STUDENTS)	3,116	3,148	3,122	3,118	3,090
PUBLIC EVENTS	55	56	76	105	112
STATION TOURS	5	9	16	16	42
INSTALLED SMOKE ALARMS	90	82	94	79	96
INVESTIGATIONS	88	84	89	78	75

# FIRE PREVENTION



**3,090**

**STUDENTS AT SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMS**

**112**

**PUBLIC EVENTS**



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

## FIRE INSPECTIONS

The Fire Prevention Bureau oversees annual fire safety inspections conducted on specific properties within the City. These properties include three or more family residential units, commercial/business, and mixed-use occupancies. 2,358 inspections were conducted in 2024 helping to ensure that buildings are safe and code compliant.

Conducting these inspections also allows crews to become familiar with properties in the event of an incident. This year, the SFD switched to a new Records Management System, First Due, which has drastically expanded our pre-incident planning of occupancies.

The photo to the right is an example of what crews can access on this new system before entering a building. The icons represent important features, such as locations of stairs, emergency exits, gas shutoffs, alarm/sprinkler systems, etc. This greatly aids in more efficient and effective response to keeping the community and our crews safe in case of emergency.



## **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK (OCTOBER 6-12)**

Mayor Ryan Sorenson awarded this proclamation to the SFD in observance of National Fire Prevention Week to remind citizens of the importance of fire safety awareness, prevention practices, and preparedness in our homes and communities.



## SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMS

This year's school programming reached 3,090 students ranging from kindergarteners to fourth graders. This includes Sheboygan Area School District, parochial school, and homeschool students. Students met firefighters and learned about their gear and equipment, how to “stop, drop and roll”, plan home exit drills, prevent common home fire hazards, and how to escape a full-size simulated house on wheels. New this year, 4th grade students learned how to use our 911 dialing simulator, which enables them to call 911 on a smartphone and talk to a dispatcher, similar to what would happen if they called 911 in an emergency.



Sheboygan Christian School annual programming.

## CITIZEN'S FIRE ACADEMY

Nine citizens learned what it takes to become a firefighter/paramedic during the SFD's seven-week program of the Citizen's Fire Academy. Participants experienced hands-on training, as well as classroom instruction. EMS, fire prevention, tech rescue, search and rescue, and fire ops are the topics covered. Participants included high school students (at least 16 years old), City employees, and a member of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners.

*"I really enjoyed this academy and all the instructors did a great job teaching, demonstrating and putting together a great class."*

**-CFA Participant 2024**



## 2024 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 4K Head Start Visit
- 5 Star Explorers Tour
- 9/11 Memorial Float
- Citizens Fire Academy
- Coast Guard Water Safety Day
- Cooper Elementary Fall Festival
- Dominion of Terror - Kids Matinee
- ELC Fun Day
- Family Connections Open House
- Family Resource Night
- Festival Foods Fall Festival
- Grant Elementary Community Resource Fair
- Happily Haunted Gardens
- Head Start End-of-Year Celebration
- Here We Grow Fire Truck Visit
- Home Fire Safety Education
- IMPACT Visit
- John Michael Kohler Arts Employee Fair
- KinderCare Daycare Visit
- Longfellow Elementary Books and Bonfires
- Morningside Health Visit
- National Night Out Sheboygan
- Pathways to Your Future
- RCS Visit
- REACH-A-Child
- Rockets for Schools
- SBG Toy Drive
- South High School Culinary class
- Terror in April - Kids Matinee
- Touch-A-Truck
- Trunk or Treat
- Tunnel to Towers Run/Walk
- Warriner High School Fire Investigation class
- WHBL visit from Ben Olson
- WHBL monthly radio show
- Wilson Elementary Fall Festival
- YMCA Healthy Kids Day

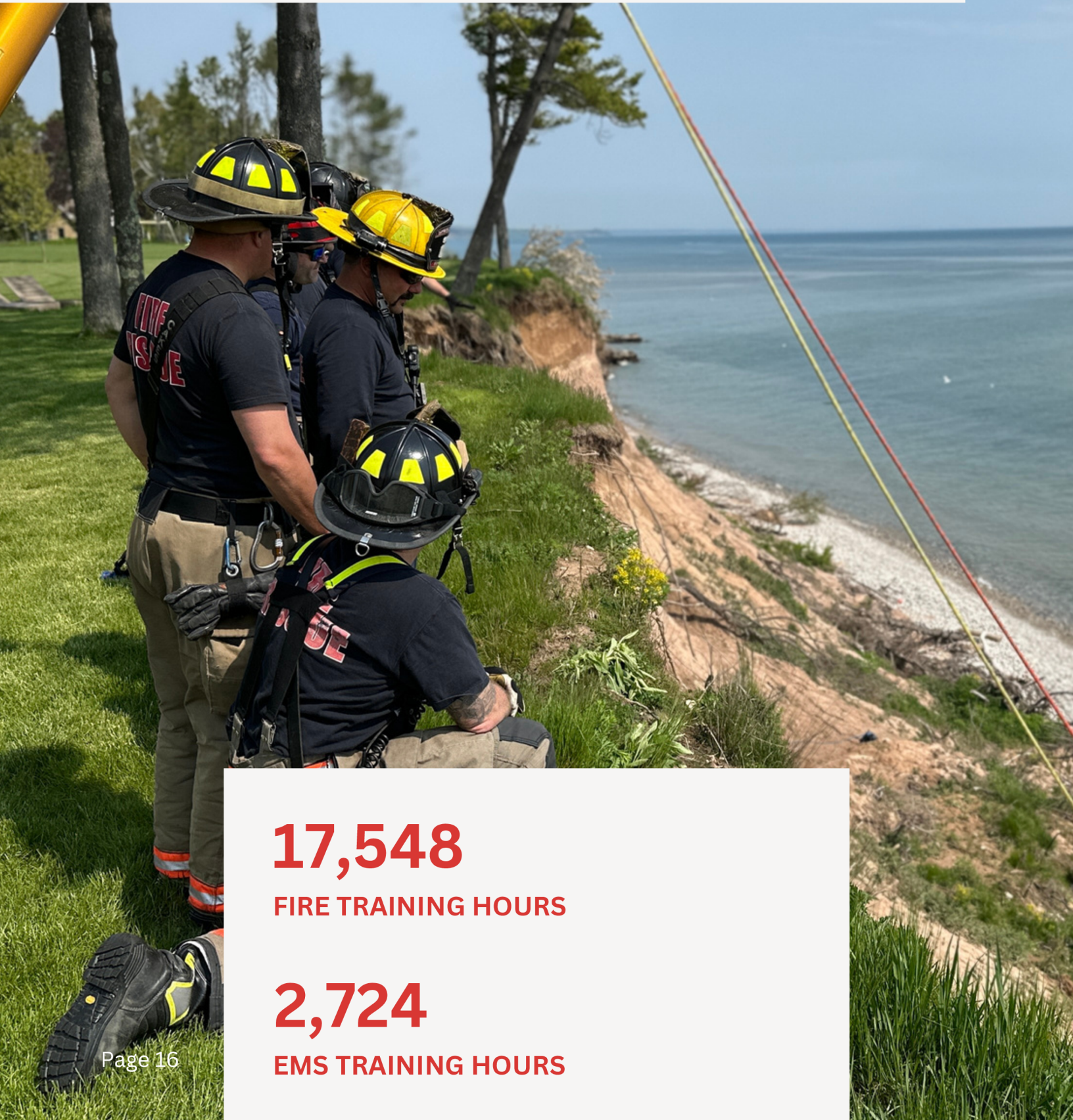


### Did You Know?

30 years ago, people had 17 minutes to escape a house fire. Today, that's down to 3 minutes. This is due to a combination of current construction techniques vs legacy construction techniques and the change of composition of furnishings and products within our homes.



# TRAINING



**17,548**

FIRE TRAINING HOURS

**2,724**

EMS TRAINING HOURS



# ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH

Training has become increasingly important to ensure an efficient and competent response to fires. Fire departments have become a catchall for public safety, not just fighting fires. Service is delivered in a wide range of disciplines to include confined space rescue, rope rescue, trench rescue, hazmat, structural collapse, etc. Since these incident types are high-risk/low-frequency, training is integral to effective response. A few of these special training operations are detailed below.

## ROPE SKILLS

The use of ropes is a fundamental firefighter skill. It is used for basic tasks such as lifting equipment or hoses to an upper floor, or maintaining orientation during a “blind search” to quickly exit a building. Advanced rope rescue skills are also trained on regularly. Examples include lifting a patient off of a roof, or rescuing an injured construction worker from a ladder.

## HAZMAT

The use of chemicals is common in our community, ranging from treating the water in a pool to manufacturing a needed product. Under normal circumstances they benefit our community. However, the SFD trains to protect the community for when mishaps occur. Whether it’s protecting the environment by keeping leaking fuel out of the storm sewer, or decontaminating individuals before they can receive medical treatment at a local hospital.



Tom Hass - Aurora EMS Community Educator and Sheboygan FF/P Timreck demonstrate Hazmat safety.

A photograph showing two emergency medical services (EMS) personnel in dark blue uniforms. One person, wearing glasses and a watch, is using a white manual resuscitator (Ambu bag) on a baby-sized medical training mannequin lying on a blue gurney. The other person is assisting. Medical equipment, including a black bag and a blue oxygen tank, is visible in the background.

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

**3,352**

IVS STARTED

**3,203**

12-LEAD EKGs COMPLETED





## ENHANCED SERVICE & EQUIPMENT

In 2024, the Sheboygan Fire Department continued to enhance its emergency medical services, improving patient care and response efficiency.

As part of our commitment to providing cutting-edge pre-hospital care, SFD placed **new Stryker LifePak 35 cardiac monitors** into service. These state-of-the-art monitors replace units that were over a decade old and allow for advanced cardiac monitoring and seamless data transmission to hospitals. The monitors were funded through a **FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant**, with **10% matching funds from the City of Sheboygan**.

## FOURTH FRONT-LINE AMBULANCE

As previously mentioned, the SFD also expanded its EMS capabilities by placing a fourth full-time ambulance into service at Fire Station 4 on the north side. This additional unit has reduced response times and increased capacity during overlapping calls, ensuring quicker care for critical patients.

To further enhance patient and provider safety, the department replaced an aging ambulance which had been re-mounted in 2016 and had a deteriorating, original patient compartment from 2008. This new ambulance was placed into service at Fire Station 1. The new ambulance features the SFD's first power-load cot system improving operational efficiency and reducing the risk of injuries.

Through strategic investments and continuous training, SFD remains committed to delivering the highest level of emergency medical care to the Sheboygan community.

### FAQ: Can I choose which hospital I'm transported to?

SFD paramedics transport patients to the hospital of their choice within the 911 service area. However, in life-threatening emergencies, patients may need to be transported to the closest and most appropriate facility to ensure the best possible outcome. For example, a patient experiencing a heart attack may need to be taken to the nearest emergency cardiac catheterization lab, which is located in Grafton, WI.





## LIFE-SAVING INTERVENTION RECOGNITION

Aurora Medical Center Sheboygan partnered with the Sheboygan Fire Department after struggling to meet the required transfer times for Large Vessel Occlusion (LVO) stroke patients. With SFD's involvement, these critical patients were transferred in under 10 minutes, ensuring they received life-saving intervention at St. Luke's in Milwaukee. SFD members received a Brain Pin award after one crew identified a stroke patient in the field, and another SFD crew later facilitated the patient's rapid transfer from the emergency department. This partnership exemplifies how EMS and hospitals can collaborate to enhance patient outcomes.

Back row: FF/P Lubner, Lieutenant Loose, Battalion Chief Nicolaus, Aurora Regional EMS Office Manager Rick Boeshaar, FF/P Nett; Front row: FF/P Olig, FF/P Sinotte, FF/P A. Schmitt, Assistant Chief Salzman, SFD Medical Director Dr. Erin McGlynn, AMSC Stroke Coordinator Lynn Stern, RN.





# BUDGET





# FISCAL YEAR BUDGET



## Personnel - \$9,323,361

- Salaries, overtime, workers compensation and benefits.

## Operating - \$908,784

- Day-to-day expenses including maintenance, contracted services, supplies, gas, utilities, and employee development.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### 2022 Project: Rescue Pumper

- Budget: \$810,000
- Item: 2023 Pierce Impel PUC pumper.
- Received in June 2024 and assigned as new Rescue 1862.

### 2024 Project: Ambulance

- Budget: \$351,777
- Item: Demers MXP170 Ford450 diesel.
- Ordered in 2023 as stock ambulance due to urgent replacement need. Received in October and assigned as new Med 1851.

### 2024 Project: Replacement Cot

- Budget: \$25,000
- Item: Stryker Power-PRO XT



Pictured left:  
2024 Project  
Replacement Cot

Pictured right:  
2024 Project Ambulance

### 2024 Project: Quint Engine

- Budget: \$1,700,000
- Item: Pierce Velocity PUC quint.
- Order placed in January with estimated delivery in early 2027.

### 2024 Project: Turnout Gear

- Budget: \$40,200
- Item: 10 sets of gear, gloves and hoods.
- Received. This is typically an annual purchase.





# CAPITAL PROJECTS (Cont.)

## **2024 Project: Station 3 Construction - UPDATE**

The city continues to pursue a rebuild of both Fire Station 3 - Headquarters (built in 1971), Fire Station 2 (built in 1979) and a public safety training complex, which has been in the works since 2019.

2020

- As part of the 2020-2024 Capital Improvements Program, request was made for a Station 3 project beginning in 2021 and ending in 2023 along with a training facility in 2021.

2021-2023

- Fire Department administration with guidance from the Department of Public Works, met with Short Elliot Hendrickson, an engineering firm, to review facility needs.
- A new build was identified as the best path to move forward based on facility space needs for current and future use.
- The city began pursuit of the alternate site purchase for Station 3 at the former Sheboygan County building (1211 N. 23rd St).
- The current location of Station 2 was confirmed to be the ideal spot for rebuild.

2024

- An RFP was issued for Station 2 and 3 architectural design services.
- The City finalized purchase of the former Sheboygan County building from Aurora Medical Group for \$1.4 million.
- Five Bugles/Wendel Companies was selected for design and engineering services.
- The former Sheboygan County building and shed were demolished.
- Conceptual design planning began for all three projects.

As part of this future public safety complex, members from fire, police and public works will be able to enhance their skills utilizing this state-of-the-art facility.





# APPARATUS



## NEW RESCUE 1862

The SFD took delivery of a new fire apparatus in 2024, Rescue 1862. The “Rescue” in its name refers to technical rescue. It is designed to carry a variety of different pieces of equipment that firefighters need to perform work in areas such as confined spaces, at high elevations, and motor vehicle extrication. Most importantly it provides safe transport of our firefighters in a vehicle that meets the latest safety standards. Thank you to the Sheboygan community for continued support in acquiring the equipment we need.





# IN MEMORY OF...

**Fire Chief  
Herbert Hermann**



**34 Years of Service  
1958-1992**

**Fire Equipment Operator  
Jerome "Jerry" Timm**



**30 Years of Service  
1966-1996**

**Lieutenant  
Terence "Terry" Knier**



**23 Years of Service  
1984-2007**

