

2023

ANNUAL
REPORT

WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT



DUTY, PRIDE, SERVICE



OUR VISION

The Watertown Fire Department will provide the highest level of service and excellence, and have the capabilities and confidence of equipment and personnel to deal with all emergency responses.

OUR MISSION

The Duty of the Watertown Fire Department is to serve the public through the preservation of life, property, and the environment with the highest level of dedication, professionalism, compassion, and pride

OUR VALUES



Dedication
Respect
Courage
Innovation
Professionalism
Accountability

ABOUT US



The Watertown Fire Department was organized in 1857 to provide fire protection to the citizens of the City of Watertown. In 1975, the department started providing EMS services. In 1993, the department was the first in Dodge and Jefferson counties to provide paramedic service.

We currently provide fire and EMS services to the City of Watertown, and part of the surrounding townships of Watertown, Milford, Emmet, and Shields. The coverage area is 101.1 square miles, and approximately 26,000 people.

The station is located at 106 Jones St. Watertown, WI 53094

The Watertown Fire Department would like to present the 2023 Annual Report. This report serves as a highlight of the accomplishments achieved by the dedicated professional men and women that protect this community. Their devotion makes Watertown a great place in which to live, work, and visit. A special thanks to the citizens and city leadership team for continued support, especially as we planned and executed the building of a new station over the past 3 years.

2023 was a record year for the Department. We responded to an all time record of 3027 calls for service. Eighteen percent of those calls were simultaneous. This means multiple units were responding to separate calls at the same time.

Highlights included:

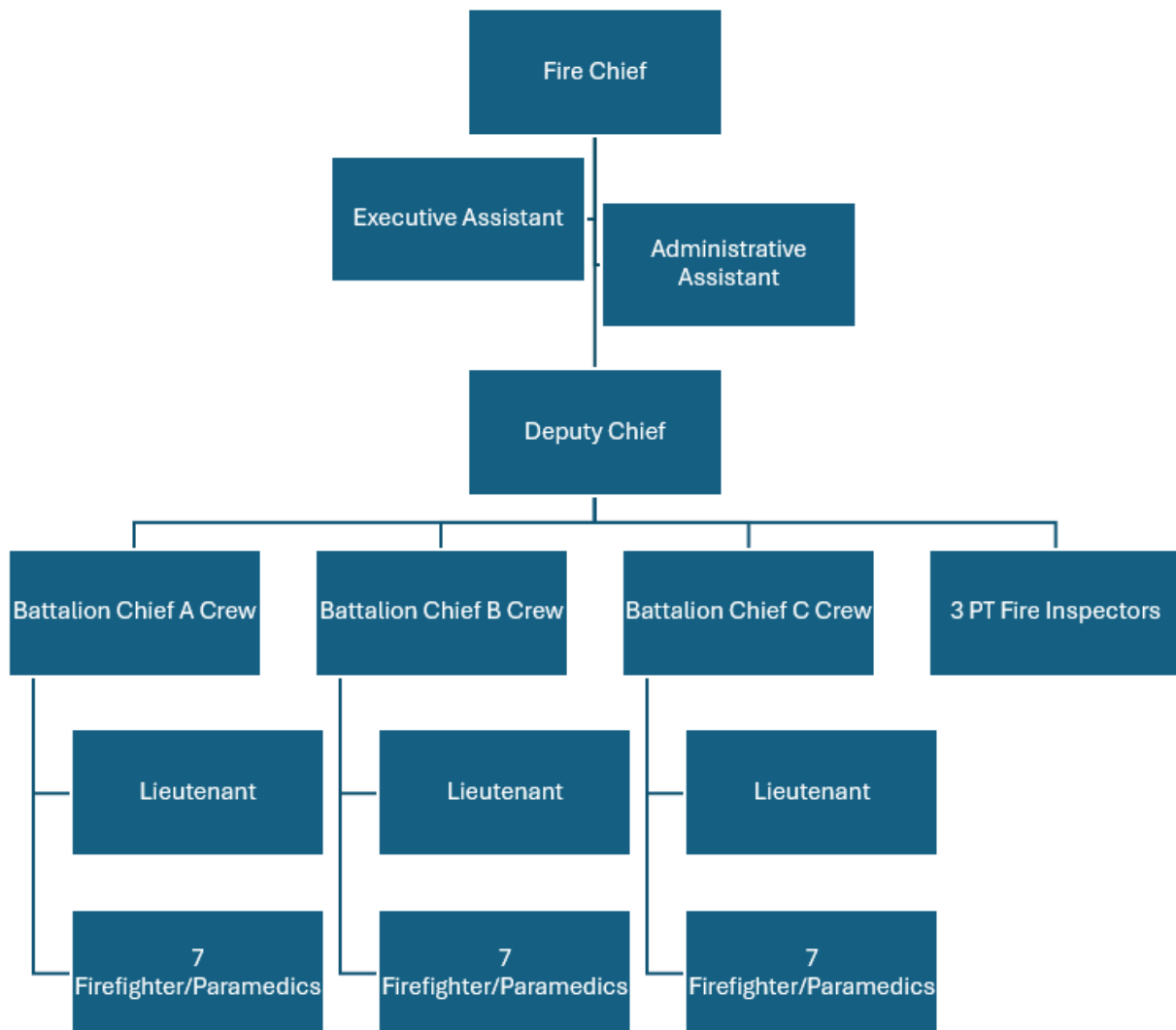
- Installed Mobil Data Terminals in apparatus. This device allows the call information to be right in front of the crew when they respond to a call.
- Purchased new extrication equipment.
- Installed lock boxes in the apparatus that provide emergency access to commercial and residential properties in the city.
- New command truck for the Battalion Chiefs
- Job description/JPR updates
- Inservice days
- Daily/Training Schedule updates



OUR TEAM

Administration, A Crew, B Crew, C Crew, Fire Inspectors

We operate with four daily administration staff (a Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Executive Assistant, and Administrative Assistant), and three rotating shifts consisting of a Battalion Chief, a Lieutenant, and 4-7 firefighters/paramedics. We also have three part-time fire inspectors.



We hired 11 staff members and 9 of our staff resigned. The City of Watertown recognized Brad Fox's 15 years with the Fire Department.

OPERATIONS REVIEW

Fire Administration

The Administration provides leadership in coordinating efforts to ensure efficient and effective services to the public. Management policies are developed and instituted to improve all fire and life safety services as well as coordinating interactions with other city departments. An annual budget is set and administered. Operating procedures are evaluated and upgraded when necessary to improve services and to keep pace with changing conditions and technologies.

Fire Suppression

Personnel in this division work on a 24 hour rotating basis on three shifts of nine. While on duty they are responsible for responding to the following assignments:

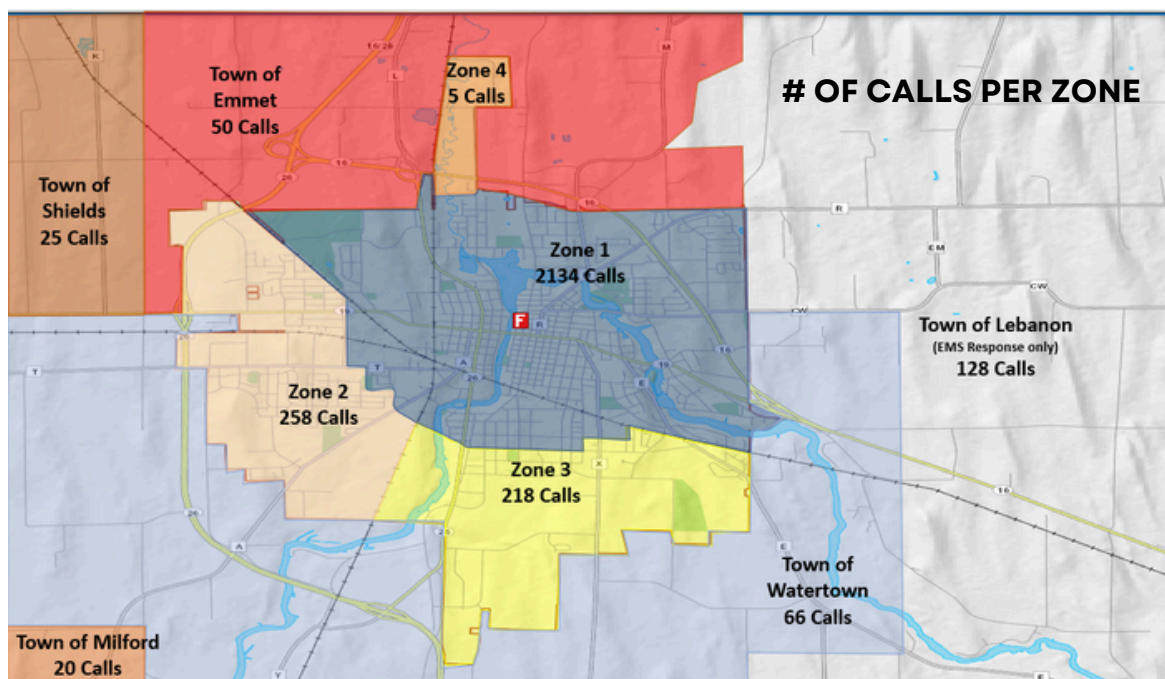
- Fires
- Medical emergencies
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Hazardous material events
- Ensuring safe and efficient operations of apparatus and equipment
- Conducting fire and EMS training
- Performing fire prevention inspections
- Fire investigations
- Public education
- Cleaning and maintaining the station

Emergency Medical Services

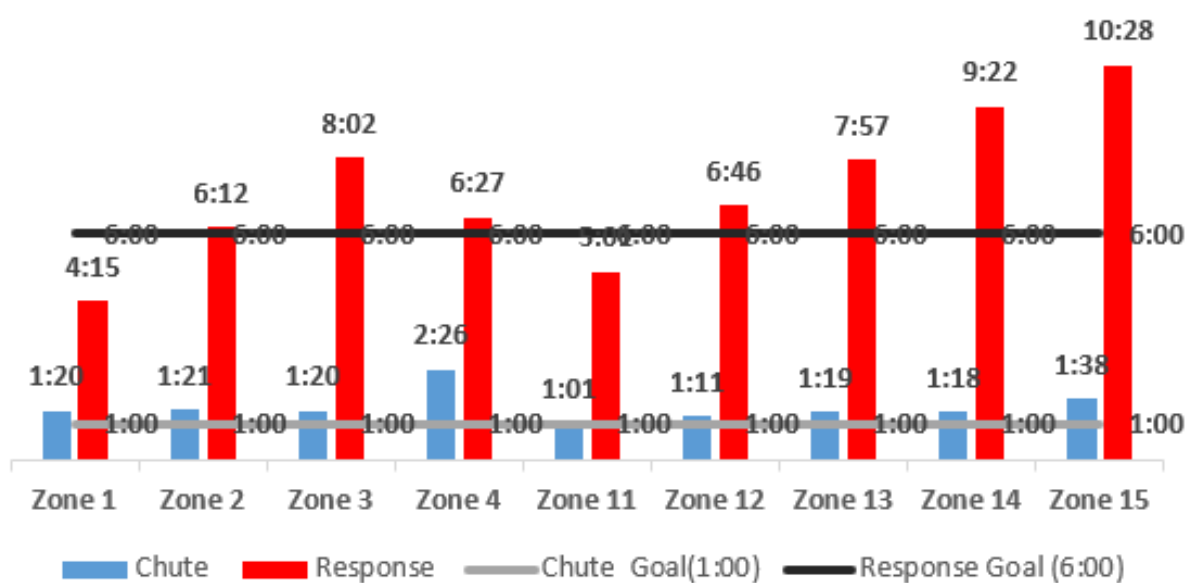
Medical calls accounted for 80% of our departments response. Department paramedics provide vital lifesaving services to the citizens and support to the department's other functions.

Special Teams

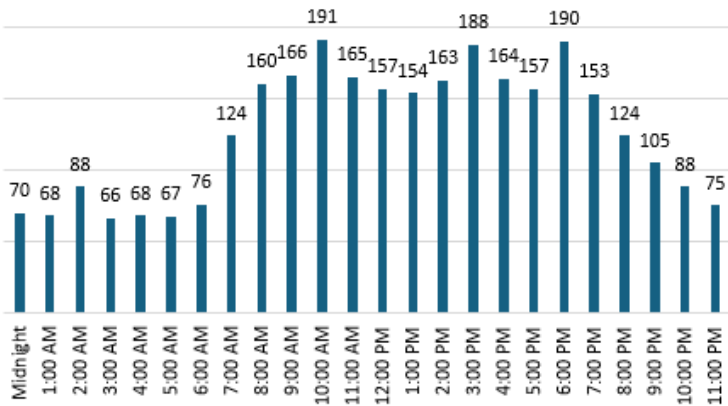
The department has training to provide high-angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, water/ice rescue and hazmat operations. While these are low frequency calls, they are very high risk operations.



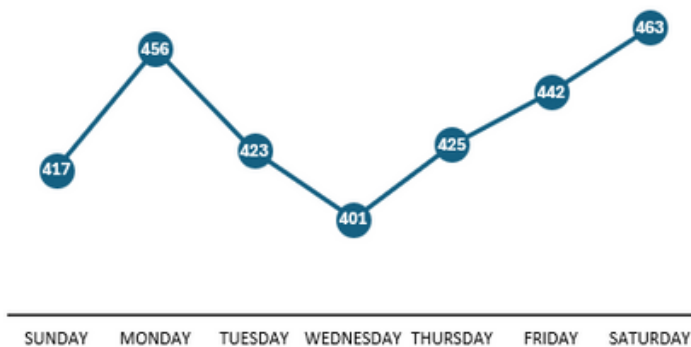
AVERAGE CHUTE/RESPONSE TIMES BY ZONE



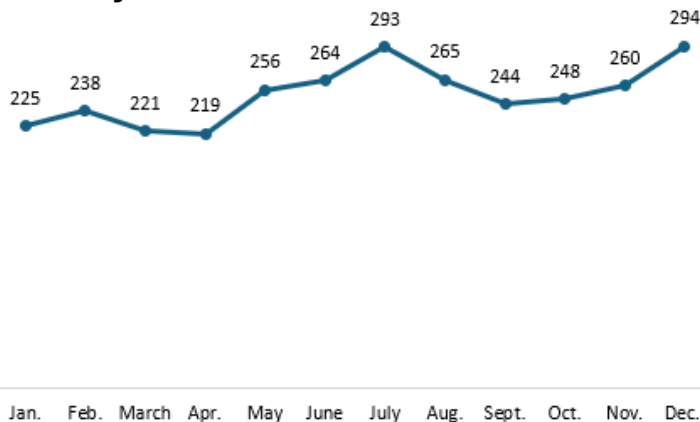
Calls by Hour of Day



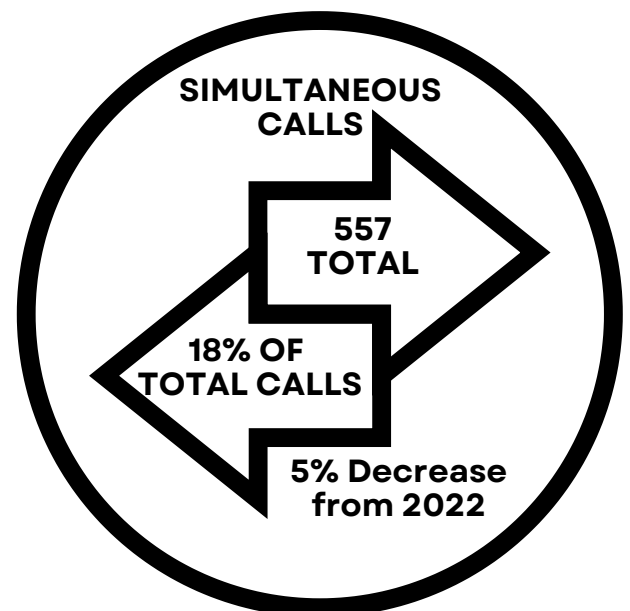
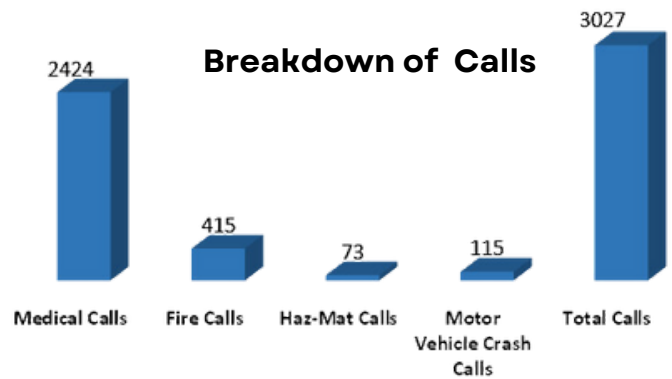
Calls by Day of the Week



Calls by Month

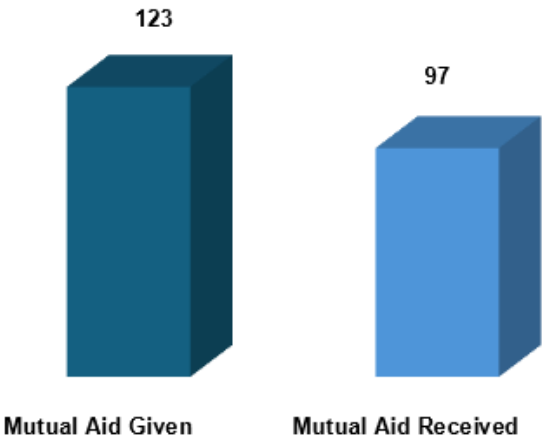


Breakdown of Calls

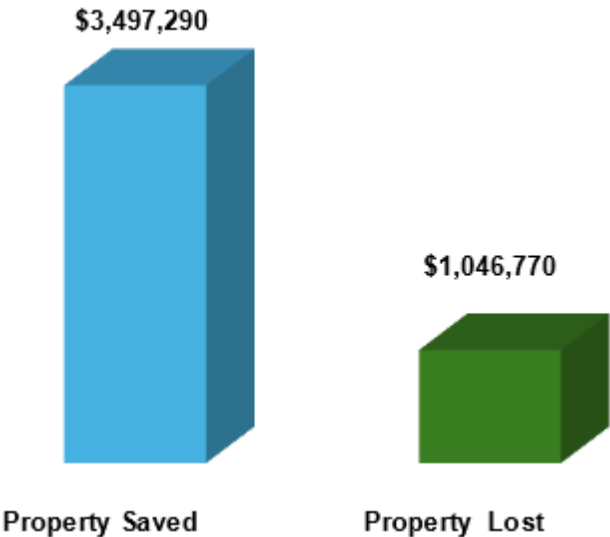


Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) is a mutual aid measure that may be used for deploying fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel in a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency response. Equipment, personnel, or services are provided at no charge between MABAS agencies. We received or gave mutual aid in 2023 to Ashippun, Beaver Dam, Cambridge, ClymanLowellReeseville, Columbus, Fort Atkinson, Horicon, Hustisford, Ixonia, Jefferson, Johnson Creek, Juneau, Lake Mills, Lebanon, Marshall, Mayville, Palmyra, Rome, Sullivan, Waterloo, Whitewater, Western Lakes, and Flight for Life & Med Flight.

Mutual Aid Given & Received



Property Saved and Lost



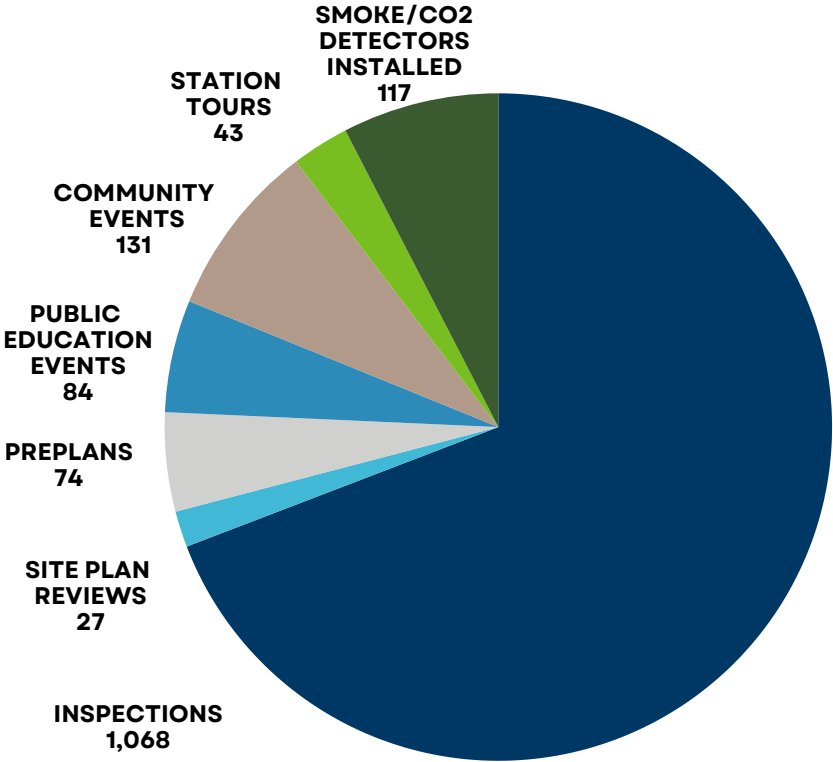
The Watertown Fire Department responded to 415 fire calls and 73 Hazmat calls. The goal of the Fire division is to save lives and property to residents and visitors of Watertown. We protect over \$1.59 billion in assessed value. In 2023, Watertown Fire Department saved 76% of total property value. This amount increased from 72% in 2022. Significant Watertown fires from 2023 included: a marsh fire on May 10th; structure fires on May 22nd, July 25th, Sept. 29th, Oct. 1st, Oct. 3rd, & Dec. 8th; a plane crash/fire on June 14th; and a vehicle fire on Sept. 10th.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & FIRE PREVENTION



Fire prevention oversees all fire and life safety inspections, plan reviews, code enforcement, and public education. We have a Deputy Chief and three parttime fire inspectors that enforce fire codes in the city. Fire inspections are conducted in all city commercial buildings, four+ family residences, businesses, and public buildings. Smoke and CO2 alarm installations and battery changes, building plan reviews, and preplans help the effort of fire prevention also.

Community outreach is done through education of citizens by fire extinguisher and CPR trainings, fire safety talks, home safety checks, community events, station tours, and student or public riders.



The Watertown Fire Department (WFD) responded to 2424 medical calls in 2023 under the direction of the Medical Director, Dr. Nestor Rodriguez, at Watertown Regional Medical Center (WRMC). Communication between the WRMC Director and the WFD is critical. This communication promotes ways to improve patient care by training, staying current on medical policies and procedures, and utilizing up-to-date equipment and medical supplies. The fire department is dedicated to increasing survival in patients by providing the highest quality patient care in the pre-hospital setting.

EMS PAYOUTS

Group/Category	Calls	Percentage
Commercial Insurance		
Commercial Insurance	139	8.1%
Hospice	11	0.7%
Commercial Insurance Total	150	8.8%
Medicaid Fee for Service		
Medicaid Fee for Service	92	5.4%
Medicaid Managed Care		
Medicaid Managed Care	202	11.8%
Medicare Fee for Service		
Medicare Fee for Service	566	32.9%
Medicare Managed Care		
Medicare Managed Care	509	29.6%
Other		
Refund Payor	0	0.0%
Private		
Attorneys	0	0.0%
Private (patient self-pay)	186	10.8%
Contract - Hospital, Intercept	4	0.2%
Private Total	190	11.1%
TRICARE		
TRICARE	0	0.0%
Veteran's Health Admini		
Veteran's Health Administratio	7	0.4%
Workers Compensation		
Workers Compensation	2	0.1%
2023 Totals	1,718	100.1%
Grand Totals	1,718	100.0%



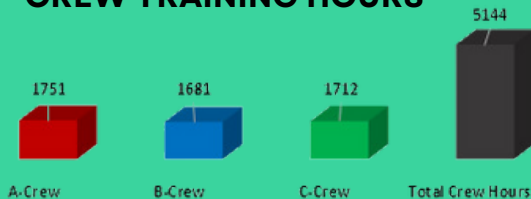
CREW TRAINING



The Watertown Fire Department maintains their skills and community safety by training continuously in EMS and fire. This enables the crew to learn new tactics and make changes to operations if necessary. Some of the topics they train on are rescue, fire attack, ventilation, apparatus operations, hose deployment and testing, tools and equipment, SCBA, cold & hot weather emergencies, EMS protocols, and medications.

The crew also attends a monthly EMS refresher on different topics. They can also go to various hospitals; and train and sometimes holds trainings with other local businesses, city departments, and residents. This past year the staff attended an autism training to better understand how to approach and care for autistic individuals they may encounter; and management training classes.

CREW TRAINING HOURS



3437

3500

3000

2500

2000

1500

1000

500

0

TRAINING HOURS BY TOPIC



There were 12 new certificates earned



APPARATUS

The Watertown Fire Department operates with a fleet of 16 vehicles, a boat, and three support trailers which require in-and out-of station maintenance.

Fire Suppression

- Engine 61-2016 Spartan/Marion Gladiator
- Engine 62-2004 E-One Pumper
- Engine 63-1998 Pierce Pumper
- Brush 81-2012 Ford F-350
- Ladder Truck-2007 E-One

Ambulances

- Med 54-2020 Ford/Lifeline F-450
- Med 53-2014 Ford/Lifeline F-450
- Med 52-2006 International/Braun
- Med 51-2006 International/Braun

Tenders (Township owned)

- Tender 91-2006 Peterbilt/Welch (3,000 gal.)
- Tender 92-1987 International/3D F2554 (2,800 gal.)

Staff Cars

- 2013 Ford Explorer Command Car
- 2013 Ford Taurus Command Car
- 2023 Ford F-150 Responder Command Truck
- 2015 Ford Escape
- 2004 GMC pickup (Jefferson County owned MCI Truck)

NEW FIRE STATION

Progress of the new fire station continued in 2023. In February, bids were accepted for professional services for the design and construction administration of the new station and was awarded to Short, Elliot, and Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH).

The new station and training facility will be located at 621 Bernard St. Watertown, WI, on 7.6 acres of land.

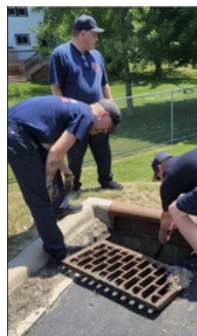
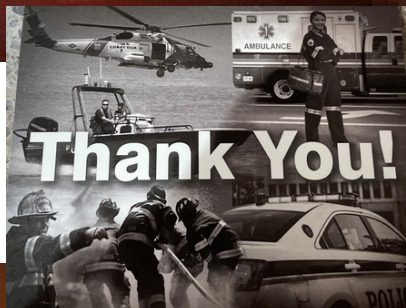
There are a few main reasons for needing a new station. One of them is that the current one does not fit the needs of modern-day firefighting and EMS. Also, our vehicles today are larger, heavier, and we have a lot more of them. We also need better designed decontamination facilities for staff and gear. Separated dorm spaces for men and women are a necessity. We have females on staff now and need equitable living spaces.

We anticipate the opening of the new station and training facility in early 2025.



2023





Good Morning,

Today, on International Firefighters Day, and really every day, I'm so thankful for the commitment and sacrifice each one of you chooses to make every time you step into our station. I'm grateful for the work you do and the critical services you provide our community. So on behalf of our community, thank you!

Emily McFarland
Mayor | City of Watertown



CONNECT WITH US



WEBSITE

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PHONE

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FOR EMERGENCIES, DIAL 911

**106 JONES ST
WATERTOWN WI, 53094**



This report would not be possible without the diligent effort of the department's members who, on a daily basis, respond and mitigate emergencies, record incidents and dispatch information and educate the citizens of Watertown. We also acknowledge the city and county dispatch centers who answer the calls and communicate the needed information for effective and efficient response. Lastly, the mutual aid partners who respond when asked. We extend our sincere gratitude for the continued support. Thank you.

