



# City of Taylorville Fire Department



# 2023

## End of Year Report



2023 End of year report

Matthew Adermann

1/10/2023

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# Taylorville Fire Department



*From the Desk of Fire Chief Matthew Adermann*

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## 2023 Annual Report Message

Another year is in the books for the Taylorville Fire Department. I am proud to present our 2023 annual report. This report will serve as a simple snapshot of the work the members have put in this past year.

Since 2022, our goal has been to maintain our high level of service as well as work to improve upon our skills. Once again, our members have rose the challenge and have worked diligently to reach those goals. As you will see in this report, our call volume has stayed high as compared to the previous year. Our training hours are up to keep compliant with national and state requirements and public education / community outreach activities have increased dramatically.

I would like to thank all members of the Taylorville Fire Department for their hard work and commitment during this last year. I would also like to personally thank Mayor Barry, Emergency Services Chair Bryant and Dorchinez, our City Council members, the Taylorville Fire Protection District, Treasurer Miles, and City Clerk Lilly for their outstanding support.

### **Mission Statement:**

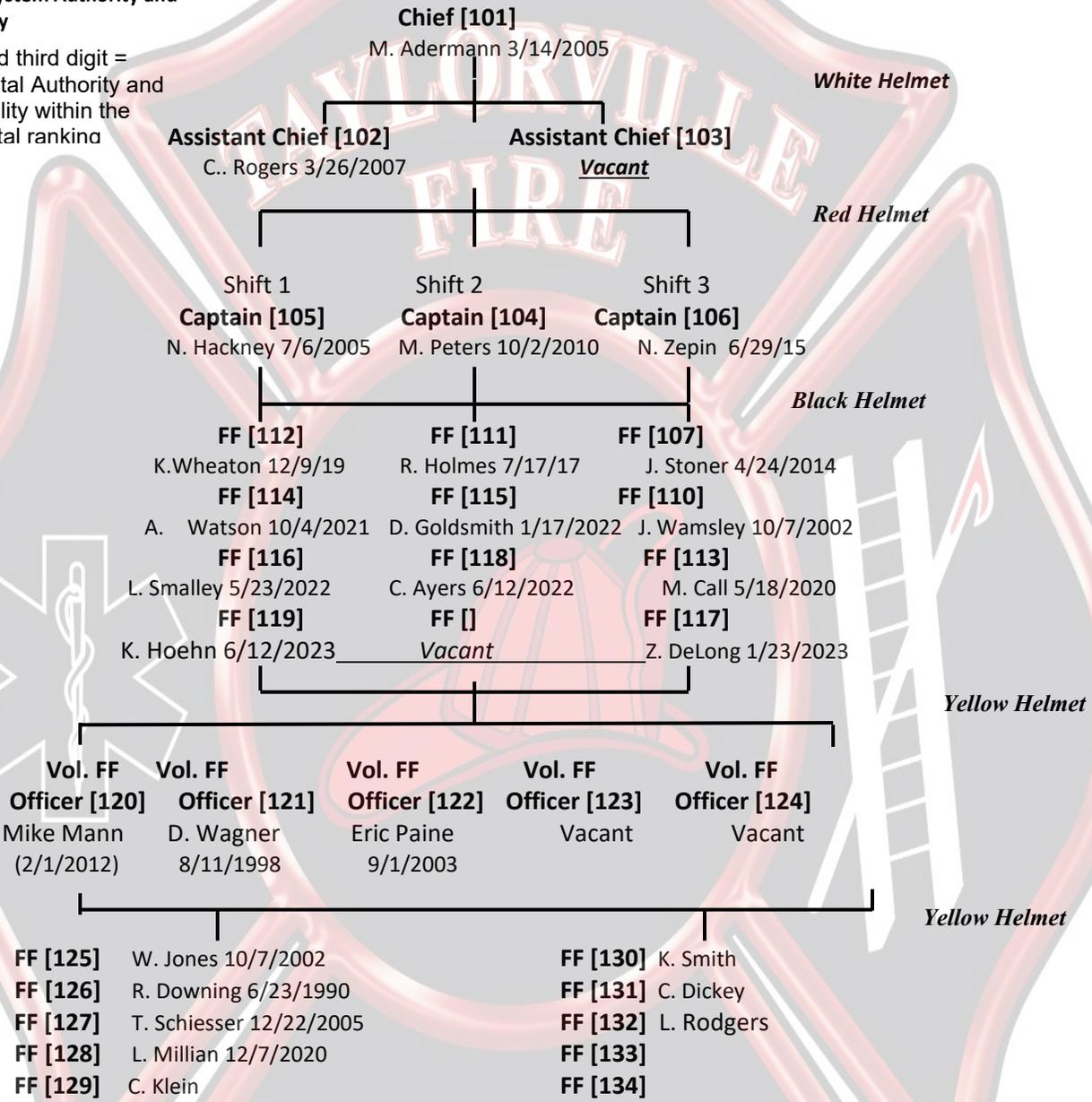
***The purpose and mission of the Taylorville Fire Department is to reduce deaths, injuries, emotional distress, and property loss that may result from a wide range of community and individualized disasters. Our response goals of Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, and Environmental / Property Preservation will always be addressed prior to our return to the station. We will pursue our responsibilities through a tireless attention to public education, inspections, training, and the maintenance of our response physical resources.***

# Taylorville Fire Department Organizational Structure Chart

1/1/2024

First digit = Based on County Dept numbering system Authority and Responsibility

Second and third digit = Departmental Authority and Responsibility within the departmental ranking



## Members

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### Career Staff

2023 saw the addition of 3 new members and the departure of 1 member for another fire department. At this time, we have 5 members assigned to two shifts and 4 members assigned to the other. As stated in last years report, 2019, we had 5 members on each shift and went to 5,4, and 4 during 2020 due to fear of where the pandemic would drive our city finances. As call volume continues to stay high, 2024 I will be working to maintain 5 members per shift.

### Career News:

- In December of 2022, Drew Carls left the department for another opportunity. His replacement was Zach DeLong from Morrisonville in January of 2023. He has since completed the Fire Academy and is currently in his second semester of Paramedic school. Zach is a welcome addition and is currently assigned to shift 3
- In February of 2023 Daniel Tatge left the department to move to Chatham Fire. His replacement was pushed back to June because of the time involved in new hire testing.
- Colin Ayers was hired in June of 2023 to replace Daniel Tatge. Colin is from Taylorville and has served as a volunteer firefighter prior to being hired. Colin completed the Fire Academy in the fall of 2023 and will now be attending paramedic school in 2024.
- Austin Hoehn was hired in June of 2023 to replace Andy Goodall after retirement in 2019 Austin comes from Nokomis and completed the fall academy with Colin.
- Drew Watson spent 7 months deployed over seas and returned to us late November 2023. While away, Drew completed his Paramedic training and is awaiting his National testing.
- Only a short month from signing a 4 year contract and I believe morale has seen an increase amongst the members.
- Due to past turnover, we find our department with young members and low seniority years. This has added a wrench in our SOIC position. We have changed members on shifts for the 2024 year to find a more even balance with seniority and experience. Training members will help attempt to fill the gap left by inexperience.



## Volunteer Members:

Volunteer numbers are down across the country and we are not exempt. Asking someone to volunteer for anything in this day in age is next to impossible. These men and women do this for little compensation. We have a lot of room for improvement for some of our volunteers in the realm of training and attendance, however we have developed a plan to address these issues. Our current roster of volunteers is down to 11 members. We have lost 4 since the previous year due to age, time requirements, and lack of interest.

## Volunteer News:

- After 26 years between Taylorville and Pana, Jason “Jake” Blanchetti has retired as a volunteer with our department. Jake started as an explorer years ago and we will be honoring him at an upcoming Foreign Fire Awards Dinner.
- Caitlyn Klein completed EMT school in 2023.
- Chance Dickey is currently enrolled in EMT class
- Chance Dickey and Luke Millian completed their Basic Operations Fire Fighter Training in 2023.

Managing a department with both volunteer and career staff is one of the most difficult things to do in the fire service. You must constantly balance the needs of two groups of people with varying degrees of availability, skills, and knowledge. We manage this well but it is still an area where we continue to learn and grow as a department.



Both volunteer and career staff step up and work well together.



## Taylorville Fire Protection District

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Another change to the Taylorville Fire Protection District came in 2023. Board President Dave Wagner has stepped down from the board. The Christian County Board appointed John O'Brien to take over the new member spot

Current members include:

- Dave Puccetti – President
- Ron Veradi – Treasurer
- John Obrien- Secretary
- With Rocci Romano as legal counsel

The new tanker that the board approved purchase of in 2022 will arrive sometime between February or March of 2024.

District trustees are appointed by the Christian County Board. Trustees must attend annual trainings that include open meetings training, district administration, finance, and legal trainings. Our district is easy to work with and are committed to supporting their constituents in the way of providing adequate fire and emergency protection.

Total Calls run in the district - 212

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### OSHA Inspection

In 2023, OSHA made a site visit to the Taylorville Fire Department. I am pleased to say that in 2020, practices were put into place that had been lacking for some time. By putting these policies into effect, our “violations” were minimal.

TFD ended up with 5 citations

- Dirty PPE
- Un secured Cascade bottles
- Bench grinder guard out of limits
- Junction box cover open
- Extension cord on the floor

All citations were corrected by 6 pm the same day and were reflected in the OSHA report. Our members training and the departments policies were evaluated and no issues were found.

Unfortunately, OSHA advised us not to use our 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the training facility until it can be evaluated by an engineer for its structural stability. We will be addressing this issue in 2024.

## Apparatus

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Below is a condition of our current fleet. I broke them down into two categories, city owned and district owned.

National recommendations on apparatus are to place a unit into reserve status after 15 years and to retire it after 25. As long as we continue to maintain the apparatus, we should have no issue reaching those recommendations.

### City Owned:

Truck 1 – 2013

Condition: Overall Good

This unit had an extensive repair to its lift cylinders in 2022. In 2023 we addressed front end repair on this unit.

Anticipated Life – 20 years or 2033



Tanker – 2001

Overall Condition: Truck is good Pump is fair.

This unit will be replaced in the Spring of 2024

It will then be sold by the City . Estimated value as it sits is approximately \$30,000

Anticipated Life: 1 year (for our use)



Squad 3 – 2006

Overall condition is good. We may upgrade some of its pump this next year but I do not anticipate a replacement anytime soon.





Marine 1 – 1986  
 Condition: Good  
 Used for dive recovery. Unit is old but has been maintained very well. Anticipated Life is unknown. As long as we upkeep it, it should last another 15-20 years.

**District Owned:**

Squad 1 – 2021  
 Condition is good and warranty issues addressed in 2023. Anticipated Life 10 years



Engine 2 – 2020  
 Condition: Overall Good  
 Anticipated Life – 19 years



Marine 2 – 2018  
 Excellent condition  
 Anticipate 20 yrs life



Special Response Trailer – 2000  
 Good Condition No Issues.

Engine 1 – 2010  
 Condition: OK  
 This engine was used extensively when it was purchased. Late in 2023, E-1 had extensive repair to the front end components. Anticipated Life is 7-9 more years.



Engine 3 – 2001

Condition: **Critical**

This engine has major frame rail deformation. A Pierce authorized repair group looked at it in the fall and stated it is only a matter of time. Most departments that have had this issue have removed these trucks from service. The cost of repair will not be worth the value of the truck. This unit must be replaced soon. Anticipated cost to replace new - \$500,000 to \$700,000. Decent used apparatus are hard to come by. It is my opinion that if the city replaces this apparatus, we should try to find a used apparatus or a Demo apparatus.

**Anticipated Life span is 1-2 years.**



Car 2 – 2020

F-1 – 2016

F-1, and C-2 are in good condition. C-2 should last 7-9 years and F-1 should last 15 more years.



3-Ida-33 – 2016

Overall condition: Good.

Anticipated Life Span 13 years



Squad 2 – 2006

Overall condition is OK.

We have been told the motor may be an issue in the future. It may be pushed to another budget year.

Anticipated Life Span - Unknown



## Fire Station

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Overall condition of the fire station is good condition.

2023 saw some major repairs.

- 2 Roof top HVAC units had to be replaced (one from Budget and one from BDD) \$30,000 +
- Garage door replaced at \$2,900
- Roof Leaks addressed again
- Garage door motor replaced \$2,500
- Generator Repairs \$3,100

All of the above repairs were covered by our budget, but all were not anticipated. Because of this, projects for 2023 had to be put on hold and the same goals from last year will carry forward into this next fiscal year.

Projects at the fire station moving into 2024 are as follows:

- Station Solar Project should be completed in the spring of 2024.
- Window repairs
- Finish LED lighting project
- Repair to ventilation fans on apparatus floor
- Floor Refinishing
- Basement Wi Fi
  - Due to the construction of the building, internet does not work well in the basement. During severe weather, we have had residents leave the safety of the shelter to get “better reception”. We will see if this issue can be resolved with little financial burden.

The firehouse was proven as the “place to be in 2023”. The community has come to know the firehouse as a place of refuge, gathering space, and meeting place. In 2023, the community room and basement continued to serve the community providing a place of refuge. It also served as a welcoming space for people to come together to socialize and plan. Some of the uses include:

- Cooling center
- Warming center (overnight)
- Birthday Parties
- Bridal Showers
- County LEPC meetings
- Community CPR
- Severe Weather shelter
- Various Community Meetings
- Outside training opportunities

## RUN STATISTICS

2023 ended the year as being the *2<sup>nd</sup> busiest year in history*. TFD finished the year just 58 calls behind 2022. Below is the breakdown of call types.

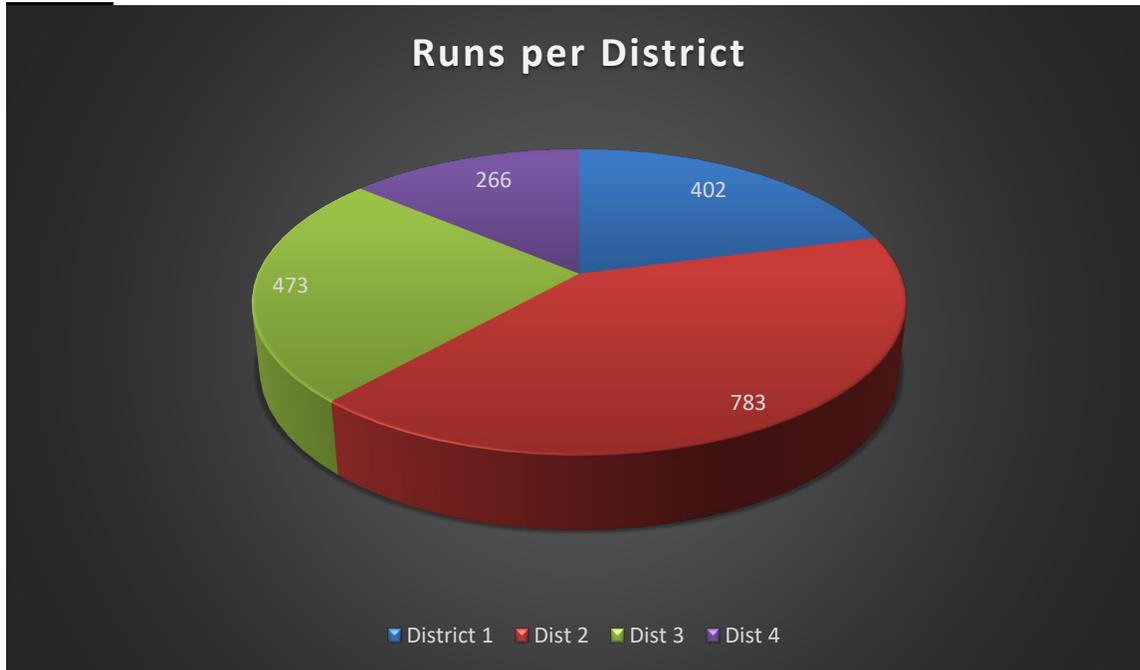
**Table A**

Call Types	Total		
(11) Structure Fire	39	(56) Unauthorized burning	24
(12) Fire in mobile property Used as a fixed structure	2	(57) Cover Assignment move up	3
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire	10	(60) Good intent call, other	6
(14) Natural vegetation fire	22	(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	32
(15) Outside rubbish fire	13	(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	2
(16) Special outside fire	2	(63) Controlled burning	7
(17) Cultivated vegetation, crop fire	2	(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke	11
(22) Overpressure rupture from air or gas (no fire)	1	(67) HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	2
(25) Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	2	(70) False alarm and false call, other	2
(31) Medical assist	7	(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm	2
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	1,547	(73) System or detector malfunction	12
(33) Lock In	1	(74) Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire)	48
(35) Extrication, rescue	6	(90) Special type of incident, other	1
(36) Water or ice-related rescue	1	UNK	4
(37) Electrical Rescue	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,174</b>
(38) Rescue or EMS standby	5		
(40) Flammable gas or liquid condition, other			
(41) Combustible/flammable spills & leaks	25		
(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	12		
(44) Electrical wiring/equipment problem	50		
(46) Accident Potential Accident	2		
(48) attempted burning, illegal Action	1		
(51) Person in distress	2		
(52) Water problem	1		
(53) Smoke, odor problem	2		
(54) Animal problem or rescue	3		
(55) Public service assistance	265		

Two statistics almost mirrored the previous year. Most alarms and “double calls”. The most alarms handled in a shift was 17 alarms which happened on two different occasions in 2023. In 2022, 16 was the most on two different occasions. Also holding true to 2022, is the 20% phenomenon. Over 23% of our calls in 2023 happened within 20 minutes of each other. This statistic is interesting and one that we must keep a close eye on because it can drain our resources very quickly depending on the type of call.

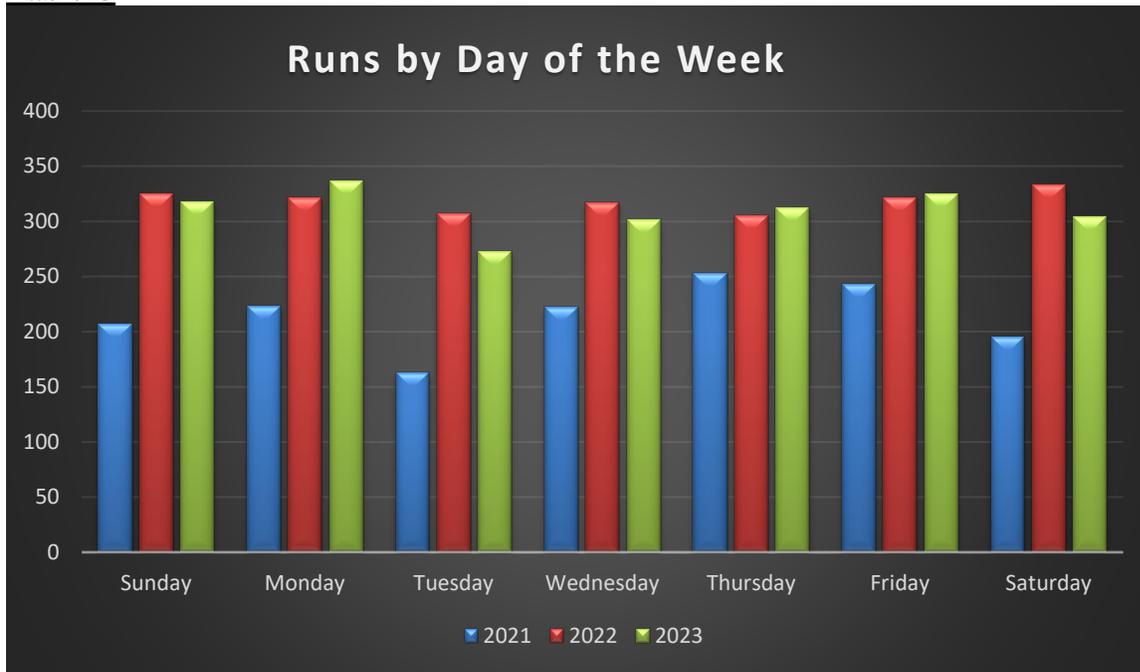
Our districts are broken down to mirror the 4 alderman wards. The following chart shows the breakdown of calls per district.

**Table B**

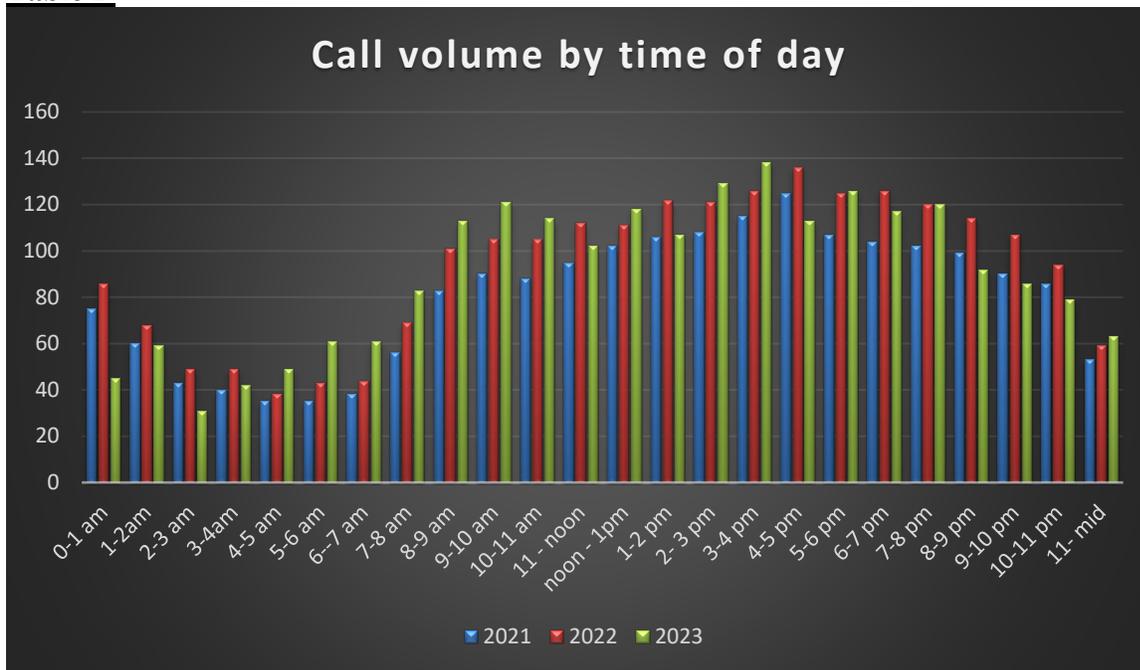


The busiest day of the week was Monday and the busiest time of day was between the hours of 4 and 5 pm. The charts in *Table C and D* show these statistics matched up with the previous two years.

**Table C**



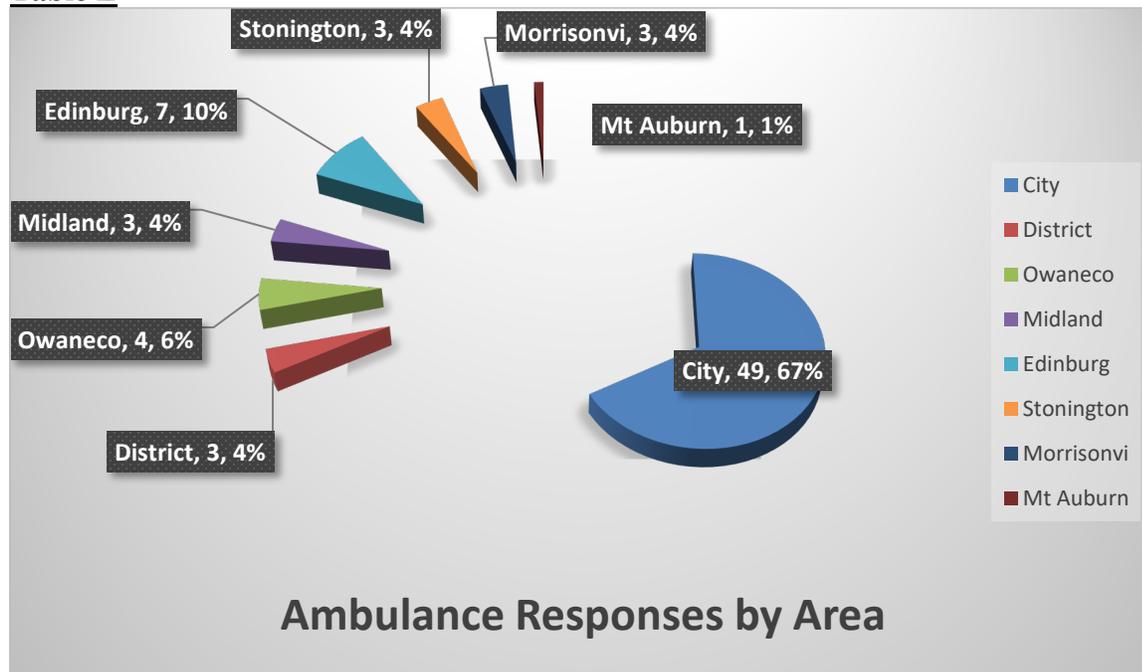
**Table D**



## Ambulance Runs

2023 saw a decrease of ambulance runs for TFD compared to 2022. We are still well ahead of the number of ambulance runs we had prior to 2020.

**Table E**



3-Ida-33 transported 40 patients in 2023. This resulted in **\$29,823.75** being billed for ambulance services. Revenue will continue to be collected well into 2024 and beyond for the CY of 2023.

## Mutual Aid

TFD has continued to maintain and foster a great working relationship with our mutual aid partners. In 2023, we have covered a neighboring district during low staffing periods. Our calls for service to our mutual aid departments increased by over 26% in 2023.



## Response Times

It is important to note the average response time of your fire department. The table below will show the NFPA national recommendations as it compares to TFD. We are actually under the national average when it comes to responses. That means We should have an apparatus on scene of an emergency within 6 minutes of a 911 call 90% of the time. We have seen a decrease in response times from your fire department compared to the year before.

Turnout time is the amount of time from an alarm to crews leaving the station  
Response time is the amount of time from the time leaving the station to arriving on the scene.  
As of 2019 statistics, 34% of career departments could not meet the following standard.

<b>National Standard for Response Times</b>			
	<b>NFPA</b>	<b>TFD 2022</b>	<b>TFD 2023</b>
Turnout Time	1 Minute	00:57	00:54
Response Time	4:00 minutes	3:58 minutes	3:40

The importance of the speed shown above is because modern homes and modern furnishings exacerbate fires. Every 30 seconds a fire burns unchecked; it doubles in size. Every minute that goes by results in growing property damage.

## **ESDA**

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On June 29<sup>th</sup> we had another storm that was declared a disaster by the president. I have been working with FEMA and we should see a significant reimbursement for the costs the city incurred. All of the City's work for this has been completed and we are now awaiting on FEMA. Once received, I will work with treasurer Miles to put it into the appropriate budgets as grant revenue with the majority of it going to the Street and Sewer budgets.

In 2023, the Christian County EMA has brought the entire county on board with hyper reach. This has reduced our expense in the line item and will bring better service to all users.

FF Rich Holmes has been maintaining the sirens and we will work towards software upgrades in the next FY.

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# TRAINING

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## **TFD Training Statistics**

- 954 hours of Live Fire/Facility training conducted
- Members attended 2,724 hours' worth of outside courses in Fire and EMS disciplines
- 3896 in-house Fire and EMS training
- 6,620 of total training hours completed

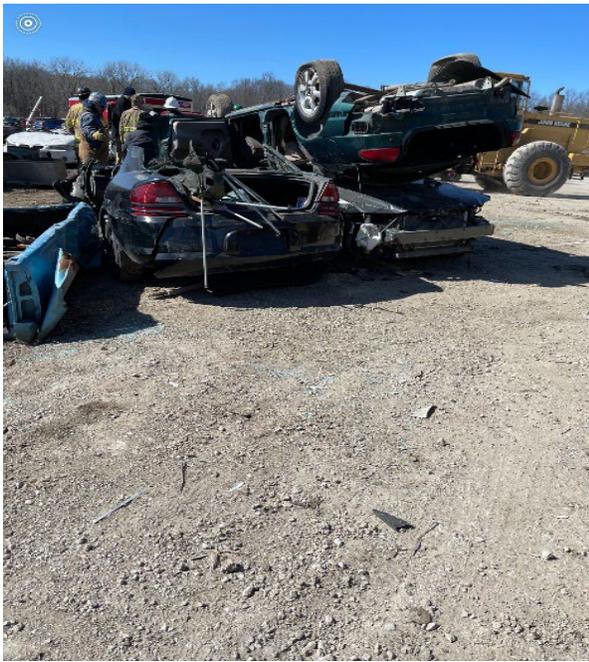
## **Comparison to 2022**

- Live Fire training is up from 287 hours to 954 hours for a 233% increase
- Outside courses are up from 488 hours to 2,724 for an increase of 458%
- Total training hours are up from 4592 to 6620 for an increase of 44%
- Firefighters' average hours are up from 275 to 413 for an increase of 40%

## **TFD Trainings through 2023**

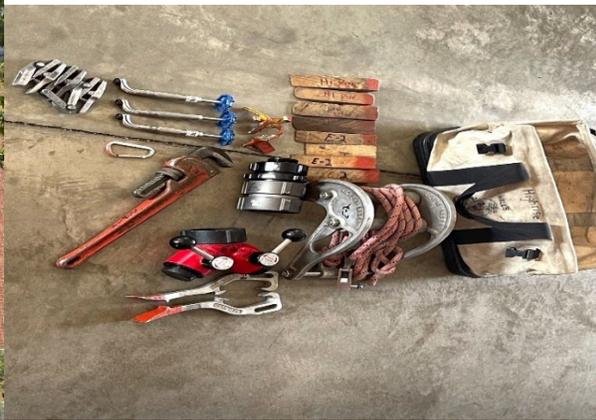
### **Vehicle Machinery Operations**

In the last three years, TFD has seen an 81% increase in motor vehicle accidents, and the department has actively collaborated with other departments in the area to share information and best practices for handling such cases. Under Chief Adermann's leadership, TFD has closely monitored all types of calls to adjust training programs and prepare for emergencies effectively. In March 2023, TFD organized a 40-hour VMO class that ten members completed successfully. The course, which focused on extricating victims from vehicles, was held in collaboration with Kertow's Salvage and provided an excellent learning opportunity for our members.



### **High Rise Training**

For 5 weeks in 2023, we shifted our focus toward the high-rise buildings in town. Given the high occupancy of these buildings, we needed to be prepared to intervene and save as many people as possible in case of an emergency. Through drilling and practice, we identified ways to make our approach more effective and streamlined, which were then incorporated into our standard operating guidelines and standard operating procedures.



### **Active Shooter Training**

The Taylorville Fire Department played a key role in organizing an active shooter training class with the Illinois Fire Service Institute. The class involved running different scenarios with school employees, police, EMS, TMH, and other agencies to prepare for any emergency situations.



### **IFSI Academy**

In October, we celebrated the graduation of two of our rookie firefighters who successfully completed a grueling 280-hour Academy program. This program provided them with the essential skills required to become proficient firefighters. We were thrilled to hear that both of them received excellent remarks for their performance, and we are especially proud of Austin Hoehn, who received the academic award for the highest grades in the class. It's a testament to their hard work, dedication, and commitment to serving our community.



### **Rapid Intervention and Self-Rescue**

In 2023, five new firefighters joined our department, which had a relatively young team. The average years of service for the firefighters in 2023 was 6.7 years. Although experience cannot be replaced by training, ensuring everyone's safety became a top priority. To achieve this, TFD conducted window bailouts and RIT drills to enhance the skills of our young team.



### **Training Vision for 2024**

As we move forward into 2024, TFD will continue its focus on developing strong leaders within the department. With a high turnover rate, it has become increasingly important to rely on our youngest members to take on greater responsibility. Although nothing can replace experience, we recognize the need to provide our team with the very best training to protect both our community and firefighters. Our top priority is to ensure that every member has the skills and knowledge to overcome any challenge that may arise. We understand that each year brings new obstacles, but by prioritizing training and development, TFD is better equipped to serve the community and provide the highest level of safety possible. We remain committed to our mission of protecting lives and property, and we will continue to work tirelessly to achieve it.

To: Chief Adermann  
From: Nicholas Zepin  
Date: January 20, 2024

## **2023 Public Education/ Fire Prevention Report**

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I am proud to report this snapshot of fire prevention and public education activities completed by TFD members in 2023. Overall, members performed 152 hours of documented public interaction and education that directly reached hundreds of City of Taylorville and fire protection district residents and families. The messages were widespread and ranged from CPR training, smoke alarm installations, fire safety messages, and child safety seat installs, just to name a few.

In 2023, the fire prevention program focused heavily on not only spreading safety messages but also bringing awareness to what the Taylorville Fire Department does and the services we are able to provide. Many citizens may be under the impression firefighters simply respond to emergency calls; however, 2023 was the prime example of TFD doing so much more. Over the last 12 months, firefighters experienced an increase in every public education-related activity/service offered.

A significant amount of time and resources were spent on distributing and installing smoke alarms in Taylorville homes. Last January, Illinois law required new smoke alarms to be installed with a 10-year sealed battery and it was a message firefighters aimed to spread. This was evident by a 52% increase in smoke alarm installations last year and has continued into 2024.

The busiest fire prevention month was once again October, specifically during fire prevention week. This included area pre-schools and their parents coming to the firehouse where kids practiced stop, drop and roll, how and when to call 911 and other lessons from the beloved fire dog, Sparky.

The L3144 and TFD Angel Tree assisted with Christmas for a record 205 kids this year. As usual, it would not be possible without the support and generosity of our community.

Lastly, our CPR program continued to grow and saw more public classes than ever before. This included laypersons from all over central Illinois, area fire departments and local businesses. This will be a continued focus and area for more opportunity for growth in 2024.

We are adding an instructor and are exploring options to transform TFD into our own AHA training center.

Attached you will find a breakdown of all documented 2023 public education activities. As always, thank you for your continued support of all the Taylorville Fire Department's fire prevention program.

Nicholas Zepin

#### 2023 Public Education Activities

- 24 Car Seats Installed
- 26 Smoke and Co alarms
- 0 Fire Extinguisher class
- 20 CPR classes Taught
- 10 Fire/ Tornado Drills
  - 5 Tours
  - 16 Special Events



## Economic Impact

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In last years report I included an economic impact study. I am including it again and want to offer our assistance in moving forward. If there are questions about how a project, business, renovation, or loss can impact our community, please feel free to reach out and we can do the study for you.

As an example to how a fire relates to the economic impact, a fire that occurred in 2022 is included below.

In 2022, TFD responded to a fire in the basement of a downtown restaurant. When we arrived, the fire was small and extinguished relatively quickly with little damage to the property. TFD was alerted quickly because the building had an alarm system that was installed as a direct effect of codes the City of Taylorville has adopted. The fire in the structure was quickly found by fire department members and extinguished. Without the early notification and the quick response from the fire department, the potential of losing one side of the square becomes very real. We can now show how devastating a loss like that can be in terms of the induced and indirect economic effects.

Key terms to know for the following graphic.

- **Direct effect** – Money spent to the business
- **Indirect effect** – money the business spends to operate
  - Including supplies, taxes and employee wages
- **Induced effect** – the money given to the workforce to make up their household income.
  - They then used this money to manage their own lifestyle. (purchase goods and services)

The following graphic will show the effect if only that one business was lost. Keep in mind that a fire on the square has the great protentional to travel to multiple buildings on either side of them.



Economic Indicators by Impact				
Impact ^	Employment	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
1 - Direct	113.66	\$3,571,881.15	\$6,259,770.42	\$11,863,290.73
2 - Indirect	13.30	\$516,516.23	\$846,203.43	\$2,136,213.54
3 - Induced	11.46	\$445,836.28	\$919,595.49	\$1,695,187.78
<b>Totals</b>	<b>138.42</b>	<b>\$4,534,233.66</b>	<b>\$8,025,569.34</b>	<b>\$15,694,692.05</b>

Tax Results						
Impact ^	Sub County General	Sub County Special Districts	County	State	Federal	Total
1 - Direct	\$183,846.54	\$624,718.18	\$83,665.63	\$945,761.44	\$430,607.47	\$2,268,599.26
2 - Indirect	\$5,074.49	\$17,243.31	\$2,309.32	\$39,838.38	\$102,637.85	\$167,103.35
3 - Induced	\$13,199.64	\$44,852.94	\$6,006.95	\$76,747.32	\$78,618.53	\$219,425.37
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$202,120.67</b>	<b>\$686,814.43</b>	<b>\$91,981.89</b>	<b>\$1,062,347.14</b>	<b>\$611,863.85</b>	<b>\$2,655,127.98</b>

**TAYLORVILLE FIRE OPERATING BUDGET: \$1,711,650.00**

**TAYLORVILLE FIRE INCOME : -\$61,084.23**

**TAYLORVILLE FIRE TOTAL COST: \$1,650,565.77**

**TOTAL SAVED RESTAURANT ALONE: \$1,990,810.55**

**TOTAL SAVED FOR SQAURE: \$15,694,692.05**

\*NOT INCLUDING REAL ESTATE VALUE

**RATE OF RETURN FOR THE CITY: 850.86%**

**\*CURRENT BUDGET STATEMENT**