

City of Fairfax Fire Department

Annual Report

2023



Prepared By :

John O'Neal
Fire Chief

City of Fairfax Fire Department

4081 University Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030



*City of Fairfax
Fire Department
Taking Pride in Excellence*

*John O'Neal
Fire Chief*



March 6, 2024

Dear Residents of the City of Fairfax,

On behalf of our dedicated, compassionate, and service-oriented members of the City of Fairfax Fire Department, it is an honor to share our 2023 Annual Report highlighting many of our accomplishments and services provided to the community.

In the past year, our team has worked tirelessly to enhance our emergency and non-emergency services, deepen community engagement, and adapt to the evolving needs of our city. The city and department also took great strides to address employee compensation, recruitment, and retention, as well as improve the health and wellness of our personnel.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members, I would like to highlight a few of our successes:

- In partnership with the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, we continued the feasibility study to replace Fire Station 3.
- We pre-ordered a replacement rescue engine and medic unit with city leadership and council support due to continued supply chain issues and prolonged build times.
- The community response team was fully implemented with a community paramedic, crisis response trained police officer, and mental health clinician in collaboration with city police and human services partners.
- Awarded the Northern Virginia EMS Council Regional Award for Outstanding EMS Agency.
- Earned the Virginia Office of EMS Agency of Excellence designation.
- Supported the opening of a stand-alone behavioral health center for first responders with our city and county partners.

While we cannot list every accomplishment from last year, significant events, or challenges, this report shares many of our successes, statistics, and accomplishments for our stakeholders to review. I am truly honored to serve our city and the men and women of our department, providing life-safety emergency services and community risk reduction activities to protect life and property.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our career and volunteer members for their service, the mayor, the city council, and our citizens for their continued support, and the city leadership team for great collaboration to help us to accomplish our mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief

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Mission, Vision, & Core Values¹



Mission

To protect our community through risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery.

Vision

Preparing today to provide a safer tomorrow.

P.R.I.D.E. ...in action



General Information

The department provides emergency and non-emergency services to the city and surrounding areas of the region with a robust automatic aid system from two strategically located fire stations. We provide fire suppression services, emergency medical services, technical rescue response, building and fire code enforcement, disaster preparedness, and other hazard mitigation services. The department maintains a full-time equivalent (FTE) count of 85 personnel. The department staffs two specialized engine companies, one tower ladder, two advanced life support transport units, and one battalion chief daily. The department is divided into three major cost centers: fire administration, operations, and code administration.



¹ Applicable to CFAI Category 3 Goals and Objectives



Fire Administration²

The fire administration division is responsible for and coordinates budgeting, strategic planning, performance measurement, operational policy development, EMS protocol development, human resources, training, disaster preparedness, employee health, safety, and wellness.

\$18,919,834
FY-24
Adopted
Budget

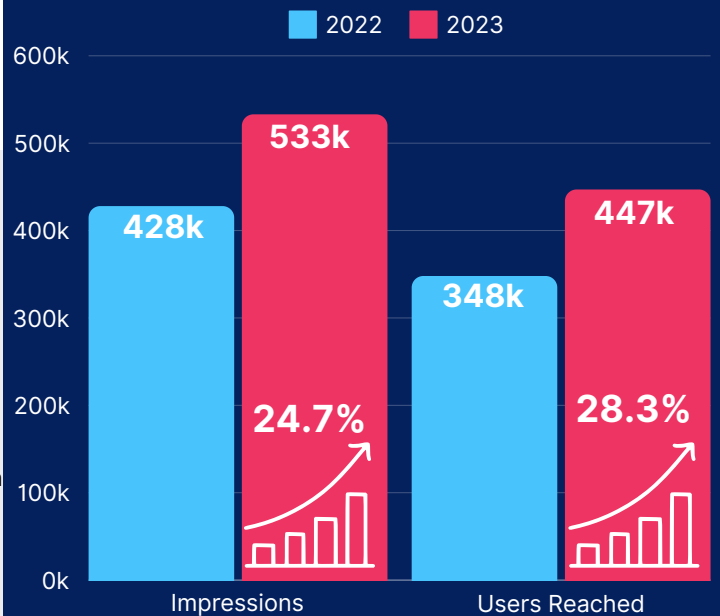
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Assigned
Personnel



Social Media Engagement

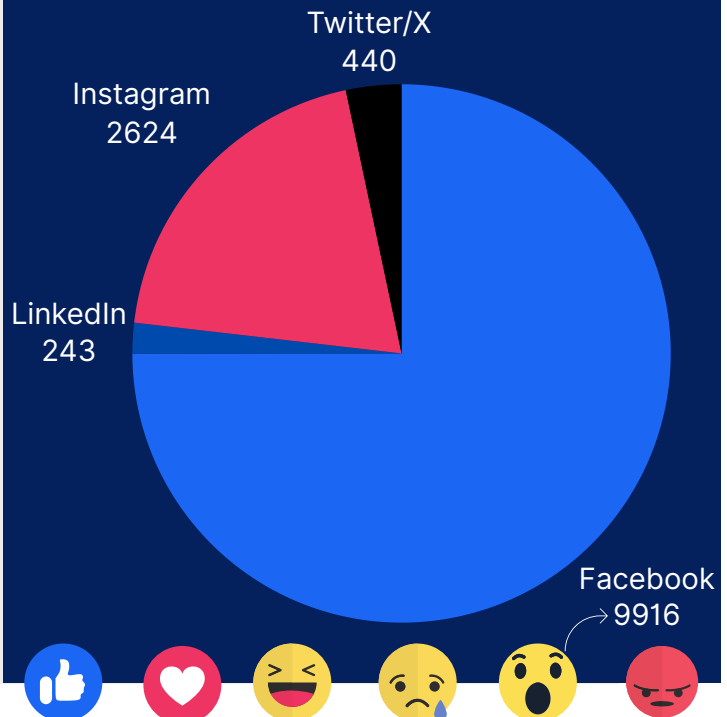
(across all platforms)



Administration Accomplishments

- Earned the Virginia Office of EMS Agency of Excellence designation.
- Awarded the Northern Virginia (NOVA) EMS Council Regional Award for Outstanding EMS Agency.
- Recognized by the American Heart Association Lifeline Gold Plus standard for providing outstanding cardiac care for a fourth consecutive year.
- Maintained Commission on Fire Accreditation International, Inc. accredited agency status through annual compliance reporting.
- Reaffirmed the Insurance Services Offices (ISO) Class 1 Fire Protection Classification rating.
- The community response team was fully implemented with a community paramedic, crisis response trained police officer, and mental health clinician in collaboration with the City of Fairfax Police and Human Services Departments.
- Continued the feasibility study to replace Fire Station 3 in partnership with the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
- The department and city IT maintained the Best in Resilience Certification from Everbridge, achieving Diamond Status.
- Conducted/updated Red Cross shelter surveys for city schools.
- The City Council adopted the NOVA Hazard Mitigation Plan and city-specific annex.
- Conducted 17 emergency management exercises and drills.
- Updated 26 emergency plans, checklists, and operations policies.
- The emergency operations center monitored 30 weather and other public events for reporting and awareness.
- Completed and published the City of Fairfax Fire Department [FY24-28 Strategic Plan](#).
- Completed significant work towards revising the [community risk assessment/standards of cover](#) document with the help of GMU GIS graduate student/city intern using the ESRI Target Hazard Analysis Module.
- Hired a long term temporary administrative assistant.

Fans & Followers



²Applicable to CFAI Category 1 Governance, Category 4 Finance, and Category 9C Administrative Support and Office Systems



Community Risk Reduction ³

The fire department is uniquely positioned to reduce risk in the City of Fairfax. Our firefighters, medics, and inspectors are in the community daily and can assess the safety risks and needs by means such as medical calls, inspections, and emergency responses. It is these assessments that drive our education programs and prevention initiatives.



Emergency Preparedness Activities

Office of Emergency Management

- Fairfax Village-Life Expo, 125 attendees.
- Cobb Dale Civic Center presentation, 45 attendees.
- Older Adult Month, Green Acres Senior Center Open House, 45 attendees.
- City Preparedness Fair, Sherwood Center, 300+ attendees.



Community Paramedic Outreach

- Conducted 15 in-home fall assessment surveys.
- Produced a fall reduction/safety video.
- Presented fall prevention and fire safety information for Fairfax Village-Life Expo, 125 attendees.
- Presented fall prevention and fire safety information for Older Adult Month, Green Acres Senior Center Open House, 45 attendees.
- Conducted eight hands-only CPR and Stop the Bleed courses for the community.
- Taught Stop the Bleed to 2,110 GMU student resident assistants.



CRR Accomplishments

- The city council presented public proclamations for CPR, mental health awareness, emergency preparedness, and fire prevention months.
- Provided hands-only CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed training to city employees.
- Partnered with Inova Blood Donor Services to host five Inova blood drives to support regional whole blood field delivery initiatives.
- Hosted our annual fall festival open house associated with fire prevention month activities.
- Taught hands-only CPR to over 250 attendees during the fall festival.
- For a second year, provided hands-only CPR training to over 1,100 students and faculty at Katherine Johnson Middle School, in collaboration with Gwyneth's Gift Foundation and the Fairfax City School Board.
- Participated in National Night Out events throughout the city with our City of Fairfax Police Department partners.

Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department

Citizen Preparedness

- Hands-only CPR, 19 attendees.
- Fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and call 911 training, 17 attendees.
- Combined hands only CPR/AED, stroke recognition, and stop the bleed, 21 attendees.
- Conducted multifamily fire safety inspections at four complexes totaling 47 buildings.



Smoke Detectors

- Installed 65 smoke detectors.
- Replaced 38 smoke detector batteries.



³ Applicable to CFAI Category 5A Prevention Program, 5B Public Education Program

Operations ⁴



The operations division is where the rubber meets the road for emergency and non-emergency responses. Two specialty engine companies are operating from two fire stations, along with one tower ladder truck, two advanced life support medic units, and one battalion chief.



Assigned Personnel



Fire Incident Responses



Pre-Incident Building Plans Completed



Average Daily Transports



Patients Treated and Transported

Operations by the Numbers

- Assigned personnel: 63.
- Responded to 8,431 total incidents, an increase of 595 over 2022.
- Apparatus and vehicle responses: 12,872.
- Busiest day: Tuesday, with 1,315 incidents.
- Slowest day: Sunday, with 1024 incidents.
- Busiest Time: 2 pm to 2:59 pm with 606 incidents.
- Slowest time: 4 am to 4:59 am, with 105 incidents.

Fire

- Responded to 169 fire incidents in the city and county.
- 90th percentile first unit total response time for building fires in the city: 6 min 26 seconds.
- Busiest engine company: Foam Engine 403 with 2,850 responses.

Rescue & EMS

- Responded to 5,583 rescue and emergency medical service incidents.
- 90th percentile first unit total response time for EMS calls in the city: 7 min 55 seconds.
- Treated and transported 3,162 patients to the hospital.
- Average transports per day: 8.66.
- Busiest medic unit: Medic 403 with 2,537 responses.

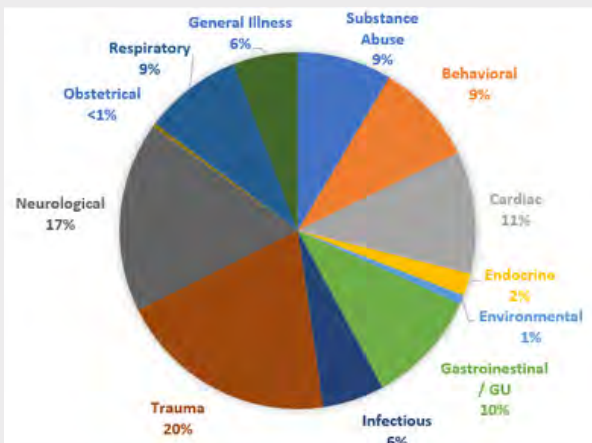


Operations Accomplishments

- Swiftwater rescue team part of a joint task force with Arlington Fire Department deployed to Vermont July 15-19 to assist with record flooding response.
- Five firefighter/EMTs attended paramedic school.

Training Accomplishments

- Completed annual rope training drills for each shift.
- Conducted annual live burns for each shift.
- Completed 1,067 hours of technical rescue related training.
- Six students completed rescue engine five-day school.
- Seven rescue engine members completed minimum staffing requirements.
- Completed one rescue engine driver task book and one foam engine driver book.
- Completed 19 tasks books including 12 for fire minimum staffing, one tower officer in charge (OIC), two rescue engine OIC, three foam engine OIC, and one command OIC
- Completed four advanced life support (ALS) minimum staffing task books and four medic OIC task books.
- Two members completed ALS mini-school.
- Ten members completed the officer development program (ODP).
- Delivered the department's annual continuing medical education program maintaining state and national certifications.
- Delivered crisis response/behavioral training for medical continuing education department-wide and for ODP students.



MORE THAN
20,000
HOURS OF TRAINING

⁴ Applicable to CFAI Category 2 Assessment & Planning, Category 5E Fire Suppression, 5F Emergency 5G Technical Rescue, 5H Hazardous Materials, and Category 8 Training



Code Administration ⁵

Our code administration division promotes life and property safety through code compliance and public education. The division is divided into three sections: fire prevention, new construction, and property maintenance.

Code by the Numbers

- Issued 823 fire prevention code permits.
- Issued 443 residential building, mechanical, electrical, gas, and plumbing permits.
- Issued 342 commercial building, mechanical, electrical, gas, and plumbing permits.
- Performed 4,883 commercial building inspections.
- Performed 3,743 residential building inspections.
- Performed 2,970 fire prevention code inspections.
- Performed 136 property maintenance inspections.
- Conducted 1,047 plan reviews.
- Issued 33 certificates of occupancy permits.
- Conducted eight fire investigations.
- Installed 32 smoke detectors.
- Participated in 17 public education events reaching over 1,370 people.



This PSA stems from a small fire incident at Fire Station 3: Always ensure you are using manufacturer approved charging devices. If it can happen to us, it can happen to you!



⁵ Applicable to CFAI Category 5A Community Risk Reduction and 5C Fire Investigation, Origin and Cause



Physical Resources⁶

PDP = NP + FL + AL + (-) EL



Fleet by the Numbers

- \$12.555 million fleet replacement value
- 6.6 average year for entire fleet
- 95% fleet availability
- 346,971 total hours available
- 16,247 total downtime hours
- \$254,978 motor pool expense
- 253 work orders produced
- 955 labor hours for repairs and maintenance

Accomplishments

- Completed hose, ladder, and pump testing of all apparatuses.
- Initiated letters of intent and pre-orders for a new medic unit and replacement rescue engine (originally scheduled for FY28).
- Placed a new Ford F550-Horton built medic unit in service in August.
- Received and placed a new life safety public education trailer in service in December.
- Completed wear trials on structural helmets, special operations coats, special operations helmets, and extrication gloves.
- Purchased 22 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE, or "fire gear").
- Cleaned and inspected over 140 sets of PPE.
- Audiovisual equipment was upgraded on the third and fourth floors of Fire Station 3.
- Completed uniform upgrades with new department patches and replaced badges with the new city seal.



Health Wellness & Safety⁷

- All operational members completed NFPA 1582-compliant medical physicals.
- Well-fit initiatives expanded to include prehab and rehab physical strengthening, in-station coaching on functional movement exercises, one-on-one counseling, and nutrition education workshops.
- As part of the Fairfax Occupational Health Center, a standalone behavioral health center was opened and expanded services.



⁶ Applicable to CFAI Category 6 Physical Resources

⁷ Applicable to CFAI Category 11 Health & Safety



Human Resources Activities ⁷



Our most important resource for providing quality emergency services to our community is our dedicated and trained personnel. The city's human resources office, fire administration, and operations personnel provide duties for human resources, employee health, and safety.

New Hires

- Firefighter Braden Dasher
- Firefighter Caitlin Edwards
- Firefighter Sophie Fickenschner
- Firefighter Andrei Turets
- Firefighter Christopher Frazier
- Firefighter Joseph Altorelli
- Firefighter Conor Ryan
- Fire Medic James Fidler
- Fire Medic Eric Ransom
- Fire Medic William Stuller
- Temporary Firefighter Jacob McCabe
- Temporary Firefighter Tegan Powers
- Temporary Firefighter Logan Snyder
- Administrative Assistant Maria Rice
- Permit Technician Sharone Small
- GMU GIS Intern Jack Graulich
- Fire Marshal Intern Jeff Wallace



Promotions

- Battalion Chief Shawn Dunstan
- Captain Scott Trotman
- Lieutenant James Bowers
- Master Fire Medic Charles Benefield
- Master Fire Medic Benjamin Hankins
- Master Fire Medic Brandon Robertson

Retirements

- Battalion Chief Andrea Clark

Resignations

- Master Fire Medic Erik Muhlenhaupt
- Fire Medic Rosemary Lavelle
- Fire Medic Tyler Guillie
- Permit Technician Emily Clendenin
- Fire Marshal Intern Jeff Wallace
- Property Maintenance Inspector Wayne Malcolm
- Fire Marshal Intern Jeff Wallace



Accomplishments

- Chiefs Vita, Sites, Dunstan, and Hilt attended the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center Lead, Educate, and Develop (LEAD) program.
- Master Fire Medics Charles Benefield, Jared Cheifetz, and Fire Medic Imran Salek graduated from NOVA's Fire Service Leadership Development Institute.
- Lieutenant Jon Bullock graduated from the VA Fire Marshal Basic Law Enforcement Academy.
- Lieutenant Mike Jenkins received the Northern Virginia EMS Council Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety.
- Lieutenant Mike Jenkins was recognized by the InterService Club Council as our Fire Officer of the Year.
- Lieutenant David Arrington earned certification as a community paramedic.
- Battalion Chief Brian Orndoff and Lieutenant David Arrington were certified in Crisis Intervention Training.
- Management Analyst Roseanne Liska graduated from Columbia Southern University with an Associate in Science degree.
- Held our annual awards ceremony recognizing outstanding performance in 2022, honoring the following:

- Chief's Award** - Patrick MacKay
- Firefighter of the Year** - David Keyser
- Officer of the Year** - Michael Jenkins
- Employee of the Year** - Roseanne Liska

- Outstanding Performance Award**
Skylar Turnbull, John Jeniec, Mitchell Federman, Shawn Dunstan

- Star of Life Award**
Wade Munday, Steve Yannucci, Alex Horvath, Kristin Kuch

- Meritorious Service Award**
Steve Yannucci



⁷Applicable to CFAI Category 7 Human Resources





Mission Statement

To protect our community through risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery.

Questions? Please contact us:

City of Fairfax Fire Department
4081 University Drive | Fairfax, VA 22030
703-385-7940
fairfaxva.gov/fire



 To obtain this information in an alternate format, please email Roseanne Liska at roseanne.liska@fairfaxva.gov