

STILLWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Stillwater Fire Department

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Proudly Serving Since 1872

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2024 Annual Report: Message from the Fire Chief



It is my pleasure to present the 2024 Stillwater Fire Department Annual Report. Stillwater Fire is honored and proud to serve each citizen and visitor to our community with **Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Excellence - P.R.I.D.E.!**

2024 was an extremely active year for the Stillwater Fire Department. The Department saw a number of changes both operationally and personnel related.

Operationally the Department implemented a number of equipment upgrades and fire safety programs.

- New Rescue 2 was designed and is in production. Anticipate delivery of the vehicle in third quarter of 2025.
- Ordered two new brush vehicles to replace the 17-year-old vehicles currently in service.
- Placed new tech rescue vehicle in service.
- Updated rescue tools to improve capabilities and replace outdated equipment.
- Received a donation to upgrade our Zoll Heart Rate Monitor to improve patient care.
- Purchased high angle tech rescue equipment to assist our local law enforcement agencies during person in crises related incidents.
- Updated specialized personal protective gear in the event of civil disturbance or active threat situations.
- Received delegation of authority from the State Fire Marshal to conduct plan reviews.
- Implemented new Brycer Safety System Compliance Platform for code compliance.

In addition, the Department experienced considerable changes in personnel both active duty and retired.

- Implemented a monthly retiree get-together to engage and honor our retirees.
- Honored two personnel who retired in 2024, Bill Peltier with 45 years of service and Ryan Smith with 12 years of service.
- SFD was recognized by First United Methodist Church with a cake and coffee get-together in March.
- SFD along with other first responders participated in a Blue Mass at St. Michael's Church.
- Honored and sadly we said farewell to a number of retirees: Kevin Charlsen, Dan Mosiman, Larry Viers, Ken Schmitz, Tom Crotty and Leonard Schrade. The Department recognizes the sacrifice and service these individuals made to our community and thank them and their families for their service. Job well done, rest in peace.

2025 is going to be as active and busy as 2024, and I look forward to continuing to serve the City of Stillwater and our surrounding communities. The Stillwater community should be extremely proud of all the dedicated men and women who are committed to protecting our citizens.

Sincerely,

Stuart W. Glaser

Stuart W. Glaser

MISSION STATEMENT



Our commitment is to protect life and property through dedicated service to the community.

Stillwater Fire Department serves with **P.R.I.D.E.**

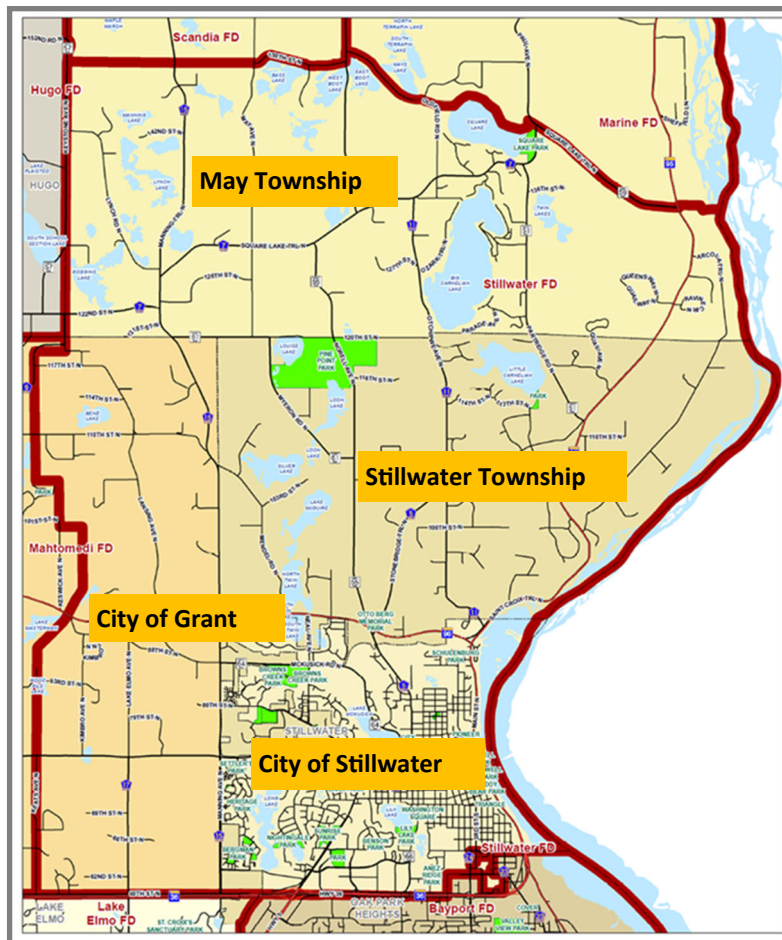
Professionalism, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**edication, and **E**xcellence

STILLWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE AREA - 53 SQUARE MILES

Highway 36—Southern Border
150th Street—Northern Border
St. Croix River—Eastern Border
Keats Avenue North—Western Border

Stillwater Fire Department takes great pride in protecting Historic Downtown Stillwater, the birthplace of Minnesota.

The demographics for response encompass the law enforcement center, adult care facilities, single and multi-family residential living, high-rise, commercial and industrial buildings, schools, clinics, hospital, senior assisted living and nursing homes.



Stillwater is continuously voted as a favorite getaway in Minnesota and nationwide. As a favorite destination, it increases the population and coverage needed by Stillwater Fire.

The Stillwater area is comprised of bluffs, cliffs, ravines, railways, highways, rivers, lakes, swamps, agricultural, forested areas and recreational trails and parks. Fire personnel train in all levels of rescue to be proficient in all situations.

COMMUNITIES SERVED

CITY OF STILLWATER

Mayor	Ted Kozlowski
City Council	Ryan Collins David Junker Larry Odebrecht Mike Polehna
City Administrator	Joe Kohlmann
City Clerk	Beth Wolf



Vehicle Fire - Frontage Road

CITY OF GRANT

Mayor	Jeff Huber
City Council	John Rog Jeff Giefer Tom Carr Ben Cornett
City Clerk	Kim Points



Motor Vehicle Accident - Manning & Liberty

MAY TOWNSHIP

Township Supervisors	John Pazlar Steve Magner Don Rolf
Township Clerk	Bobbi Hummel



Grass Fire - Paris Avenue

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP

Township Supervisors	Shelia-Marie Untiedt, Board Chair Tim Sinclair Robert Geisen Alan Robbins-Fenger Jim Riehle
Township Clerk	Barbara Riehle



Vehicle Crash - Manning & 36

FIRE SERVICES PROVIDED

<p style="text-align: center;">Fire Suppression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure - Residential/Commercial • Wildland/Urban Interface/Grass • Marine • Auto 	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Rescue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto and Machinery Extrication • High Angle Rope Rescue • Confined Space Rescue • Collapse • Hostile Event Response • Terrorism
<p style="text-align: center;">Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Transport Emergency Medical Services (EMS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Emergencies • CPR and AED Certified • Advanced Airway Placement • Assist Lakeview EMS • Blood Pressure Wellness Checks • Medicine Variances 	<p style="text-align: center;">Water & Ice Rescue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ice Rescue - Swift Water Rescue • Dive Ice Water and Open Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Washington County Fire Dive Team • Boat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - River and Lakes
<p style="text-align: center;">Code Enforcement/Inspections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Construction • Commercial • Multi-Family Residential • Short-Term Housing Rental • Daycare/Foster Care • Special Events 	<p style="text-align: center;">Hazardous Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Spill/Gas Leak • Powerline Down • Electrical Wiring • Lightning Strike
<p style="text-align: center;">Fire & Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-service training for businesses; fire extinguisher, AED and CPR • Drills and exercises - conduct drills, exercise and re-view emergency plans for assisted living facilities, schools and area businesses 	<p style="text-align: center;">Fire Prevention & Life Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Visits and Activities • Open House • Senior Center Presentations • General Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety Presentations
<p style="text-align: center;">Community Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Events • Station Tours • Child Safety Seat Inspections 	<p style="text-align: center;">Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Station - Maintain building, grounds, and mechanical equipment • Trucks and response equipment - Daily inspections and inventory of apparatus and equipment

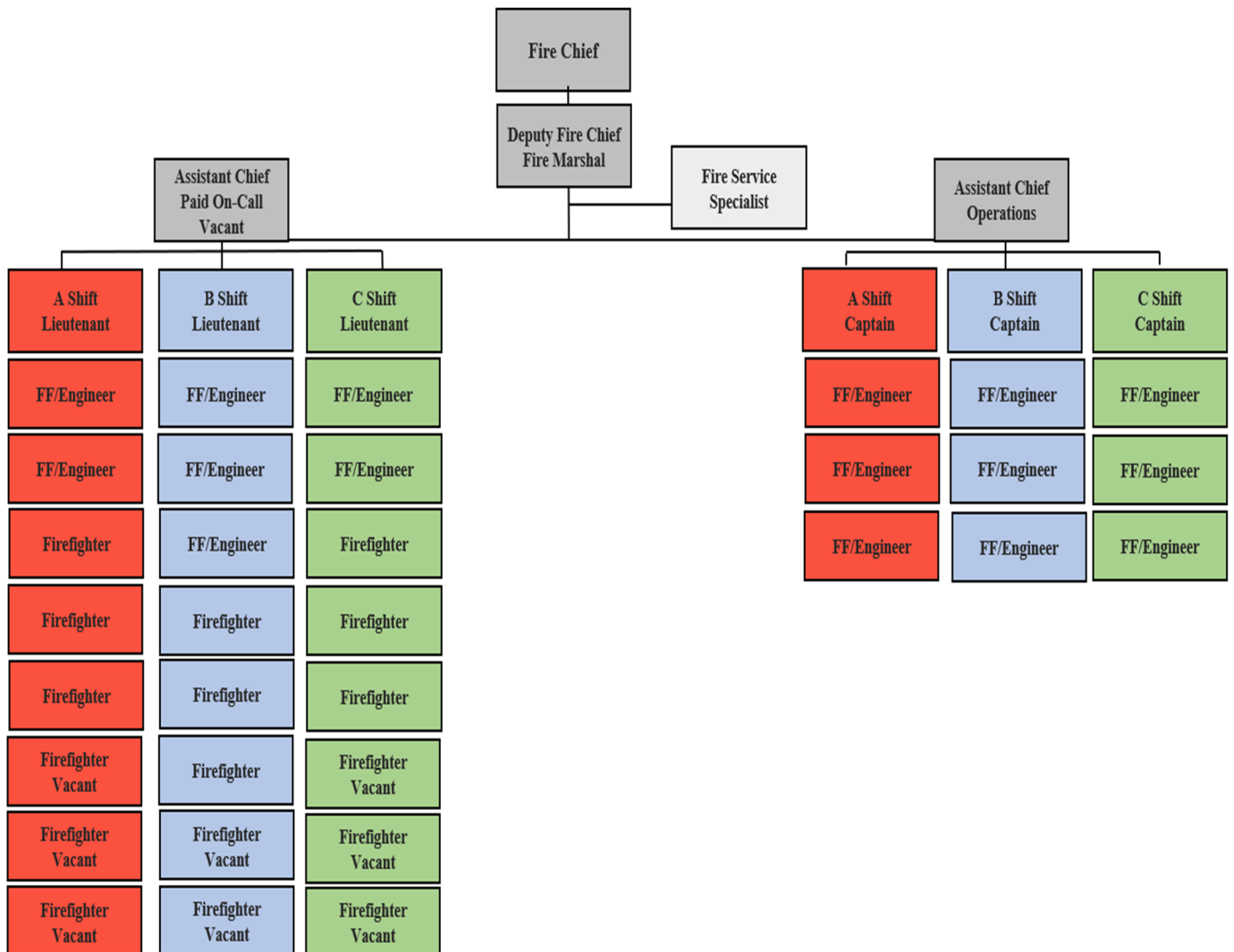


Mutual Aid Call - Mahtomedi Fire



First Street North

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The key to a successful fire service is to have a team readily available to quickly respond to an incident when needed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. This has become challenging for the Department as the number of Volunteer Paid-on-Call (VPOC) staff continues to decrease and the turnover increases.

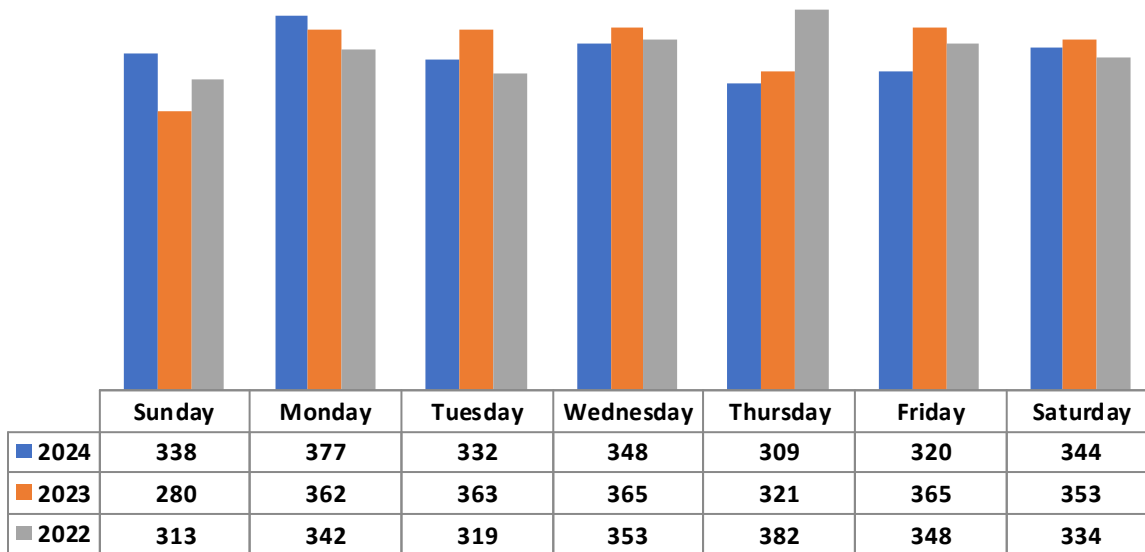
The Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover Consultant Report conducted in 2022, outlines a staffing configuration to improve safety and response. The Stillwater City Council approved of the recommendation and has been very supportive. City Council authorized the hiring of two additional full-time Firefighter/Engineers in 2024. The additional staff is a significant improvement for the communities SFD serves.

To view of a copy of the report you can visit the link below.

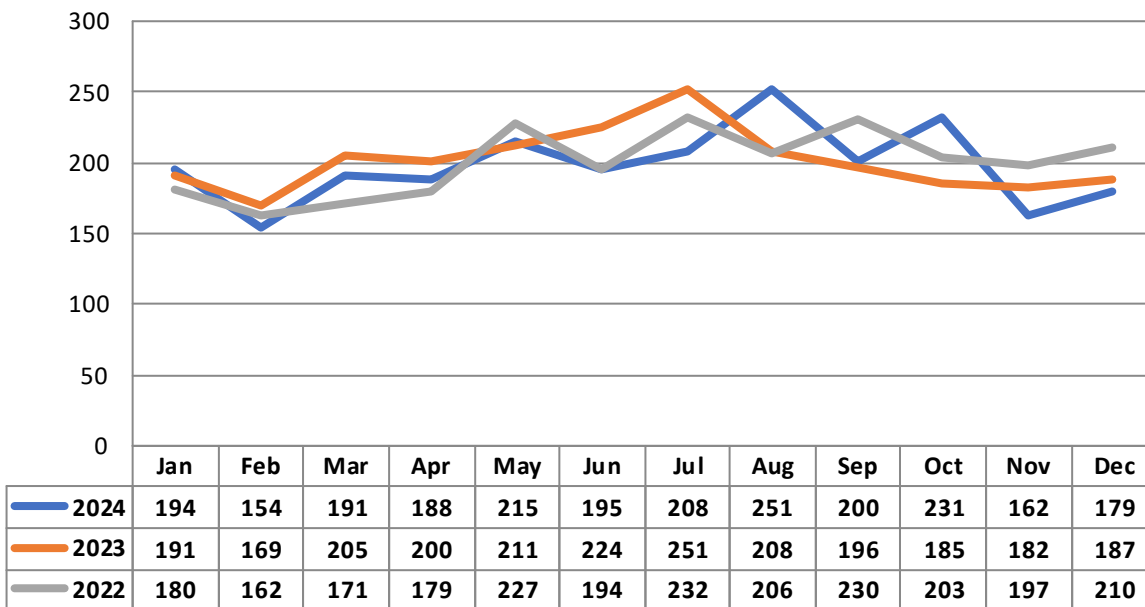
<https://www.stillwatermn.gov/city-government/departments/fire/2022-consultants-report>

2024 RESPONSE SUMMARY

Fire Call Volume by Day of Week

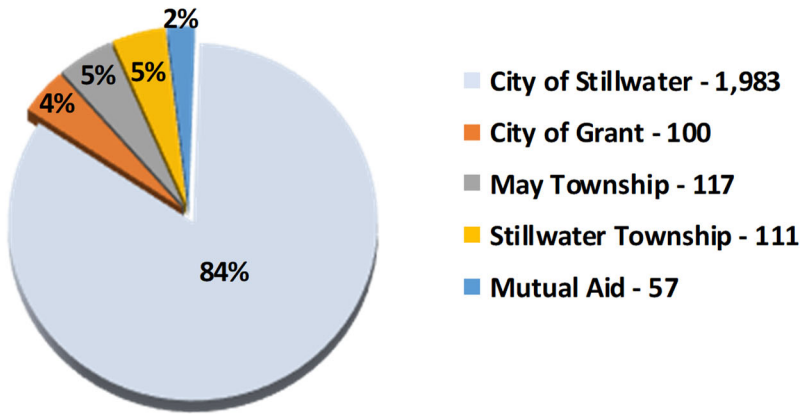


Fire Call Volume by Month

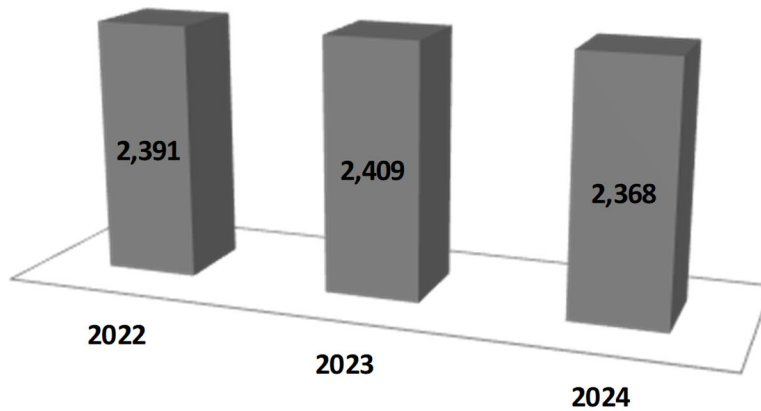


2024 RESPONSE SUMMARY

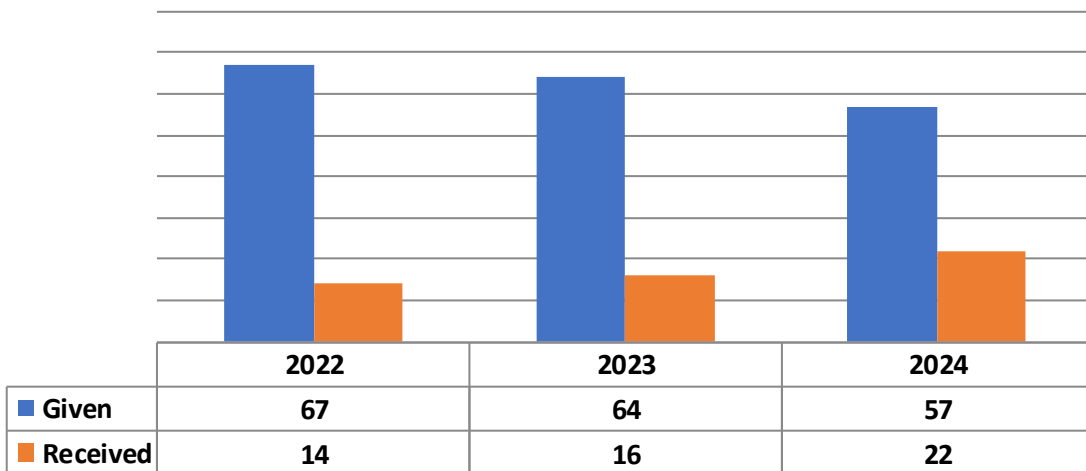
Total Calls by District



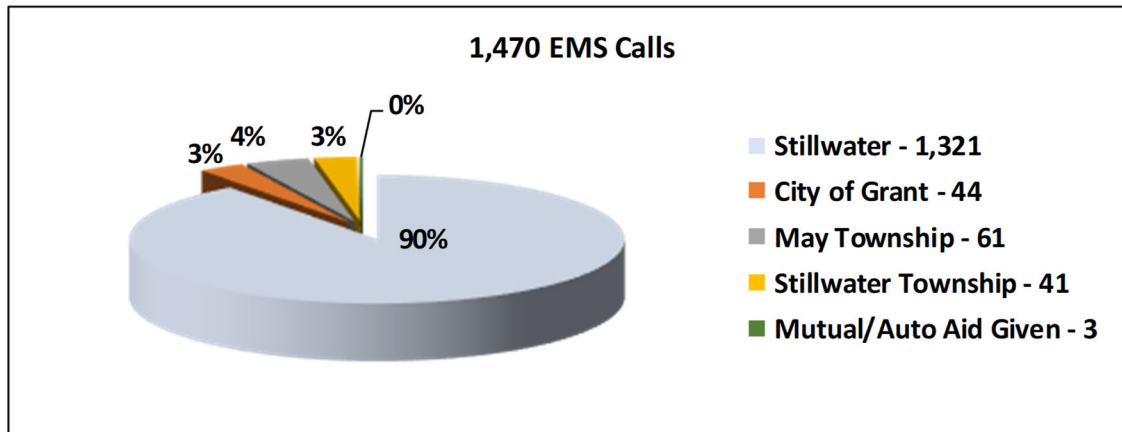
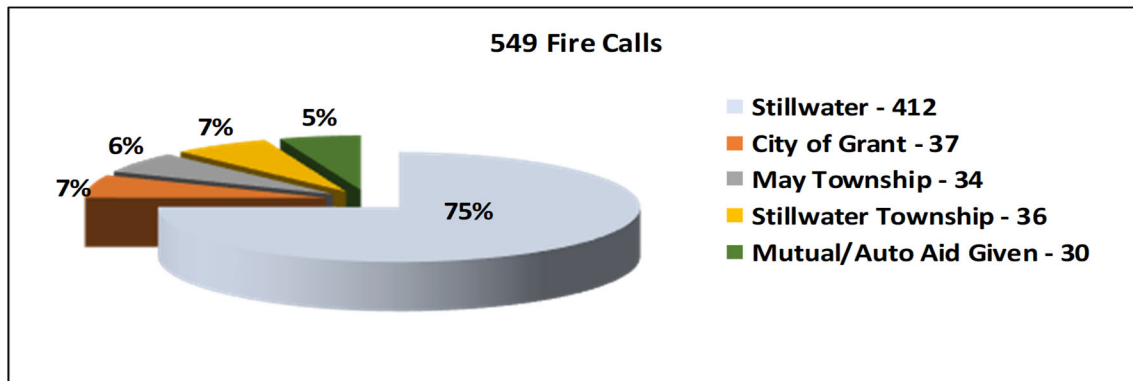
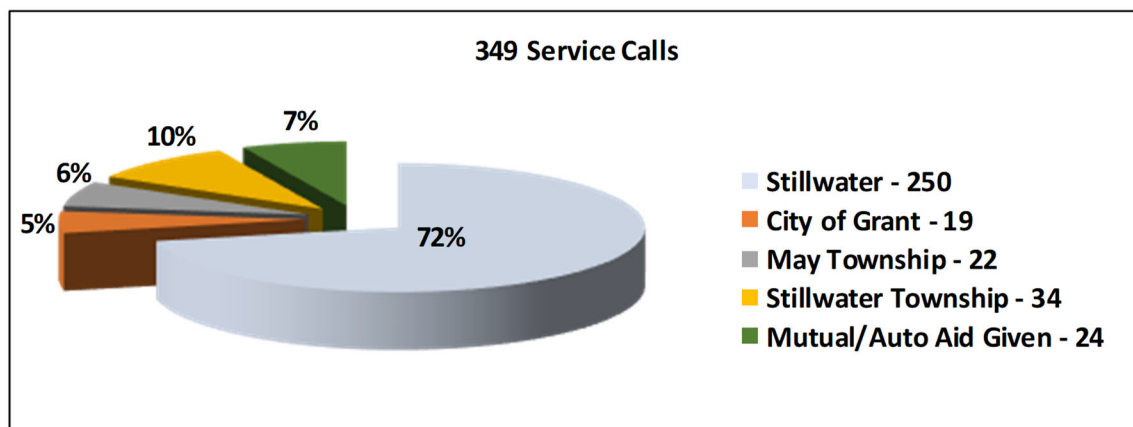
Annual Run Response Trend



Mutual & Auto Aid - Given/Received



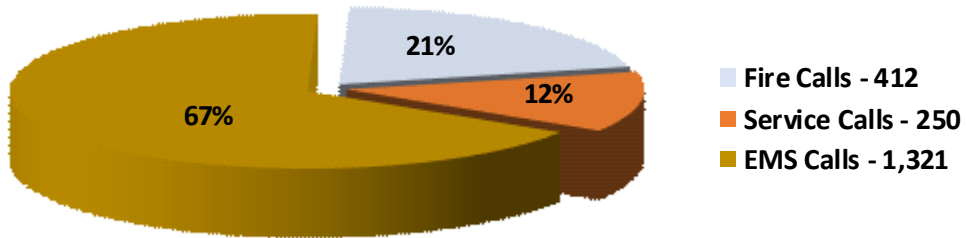
2024 RESPONSE DETAIL
*** CITY OF STILLWATER, CITY OF GRANT, MAY TOWNSHIP, STILLWATER TOWNSHIP**



* Mutual/Auto Aid Given

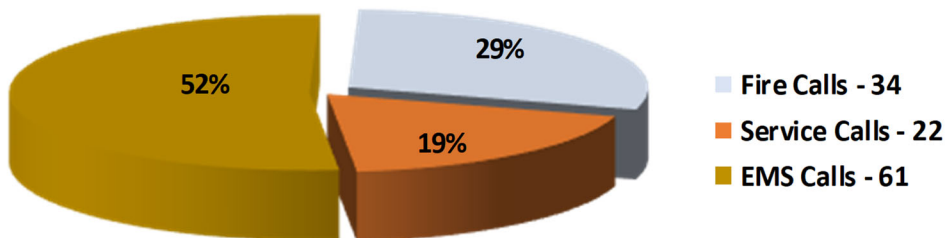
CITY OF STILLWATER

1,983 Calls for Service



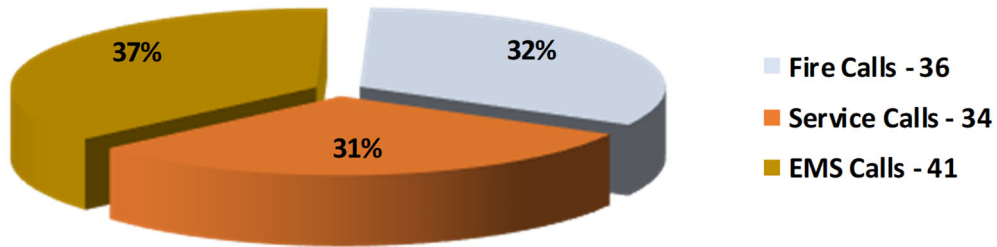
MAY TOWNSHIP

117 Calls for Service



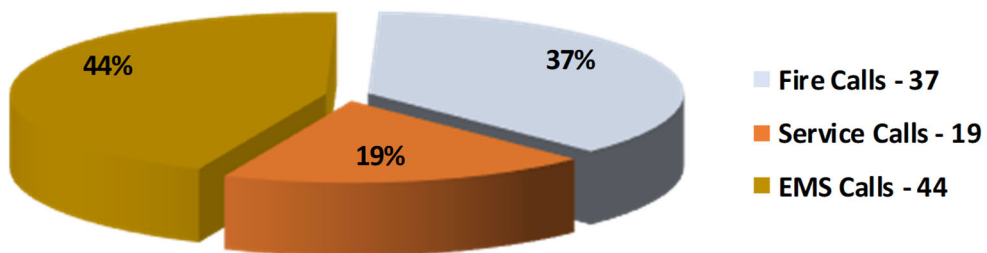
STILLWATER TOWNSHIP

111 Calls for Service



CITY OF GRANT

100 Calls for Service



CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Stillwater Fire Department conducts inspections of the City's commercial occupancies, including: businesses, new construction, multi-family residential, daycare providers, special event/plan reviews, short-term housing rentals and general company fire inspections of existing structures. The goal of inspections is to ensure compliance with the fire code, and community safety. Fire safety inspections ensure equipment, such as sprinkler systems, smoke alarms, fire doors and fire alarms, perform as they should.

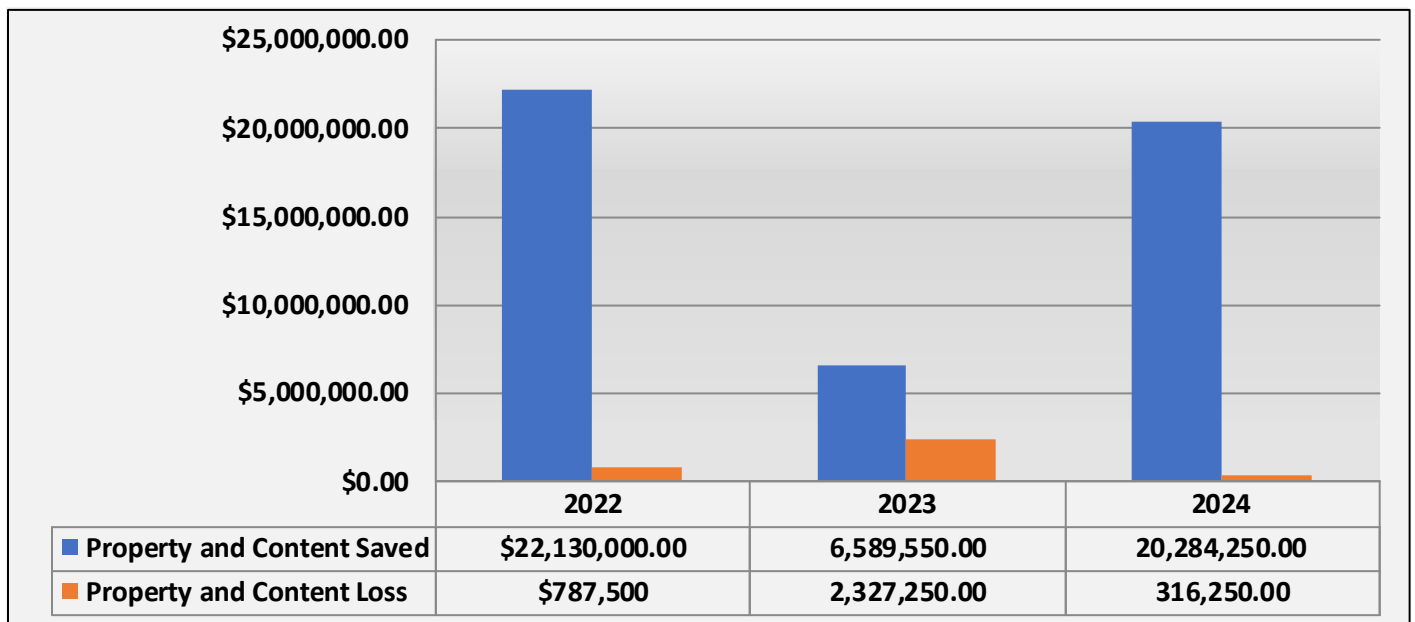
Inspections and re-inspections for 2024 totaled 211 and approximately 385 hours. Of those inspections, twenty-five Short-Term Home Rental (STHR) inspections were conducted in 2024. Eleven of the inspections were for new rental locations. All applications for STHR must be accompanied by a satisfactory City inspection and a report signed by the Fire and Building Department.

PROPERTY AND CONTENT SAVED

The Stillwater Fire Department protects a wide variety of properties which have substantial dollar value but also buildings which have great historical significance to our City and the State of Minnesota.

Fire loss is an estimation of the total loss to the property and contents, in terms of the cost of replacement in like-kind and quantity. This estimation of fire loss includes contents damaged by fire, smoke, water, and overhaul. It does not include indirect loss, such as business interruption.

The chart below indicates the total property and content damage which occurred by fire in 2024. As the data indicates, SFD provides a tremendous economic value based on cost versus benefit to the City and communities it protects.



Cost estimates are derived from property value records from the Washington County Property Records and Taxpayer Services.

FIRE PREVENTION & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The Stillwater Fire Department spends hundreds of hours and takes part in a multitude of events to make up the Department's Fire Prevention and Life Safety Education program. Being proactive in preventing fires and educating the public on personal injury safety is the most pro-active and cost effective activity the Department can provide. Some events that SFD participated in are listed below.

Lily Lake Carnival
 Bayport Memorial Day Parade
 Bike Safety Rodeo
 Lumberjack Days
 St. Croix Crossing 1/2 Marathon
 National Guard Family Day
 School Visits Fire Prevention
 Funeral Details

ECFE Big Truck Event
 SAHS Career Fair
 School Patrol Picnic
 Washington County Fair
 Night to Unite
 Withrow Truck & Tractor Parade
 Fire Prevention Open House
 Santa's Escort

Meals from the Heart Food Packaging
 Leadership in the Valley
 Stillwater 1/2 Marathon
 Stillwater Township Picnic
 Fourth of July Fireworks
 343 Tribute Run
 SAHS Homecoming Carnival
 Twinkle Parade



Kick-off for Fire Prevention Week



Twinkle Parade Participants



SFD Fire Prevention Open House

TRAINING

The modern fire service is required to respond to the most diverse and dangerous situations encountered in the public realm. Personnel devoted over 2,863 hours enhancing their firefighting capabilities and life saving skills in 2024. Personnel train several times a month and attend additional training courses and professional development programs.

Several members attended a CMC Technical Rescue Course in Red Wing and a number of staff attended the Mobile Field Force Trainings with the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Minnesota requires career firefighters to be licensed by the State and maintain certification in Emergency Medical Services. The 11 core firefighter competencies listed below make-up the majority of the annual on-going educational hours and training.

Firefighter I / II
 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
 Advanced EMS Certification
 Hazardous Materials Operations

Terrorism Awareness Training
 Fire Apparatus Operator
 Technical Rescue
 Vehicle Extrication
 Confined Space

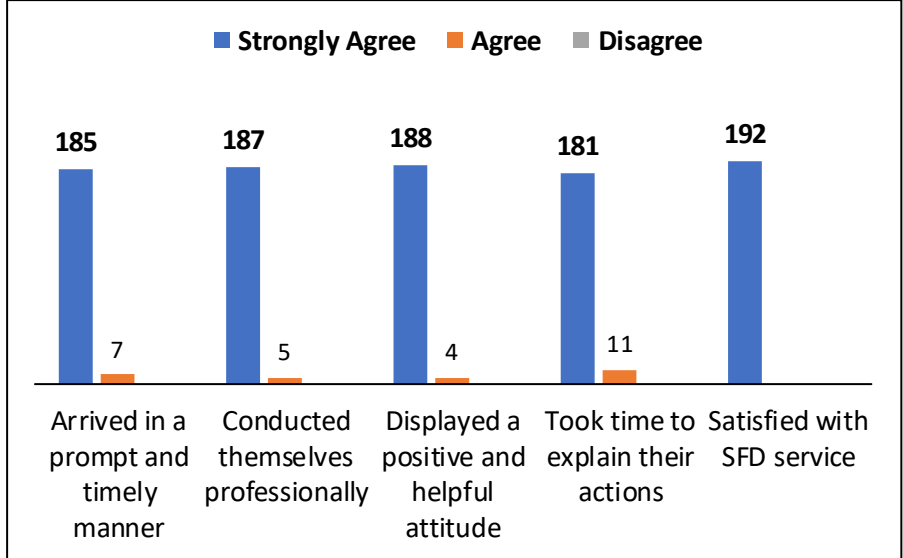


SFD Fire Prevention Open House Demonstration on Extrication

PERFORMANCE SURVEY RESULTS

Stillwater Fire Department mailed 690 surveys to residents and 192 were returned in 2024 - a 28% return rate. Comments from the survey are listed below.

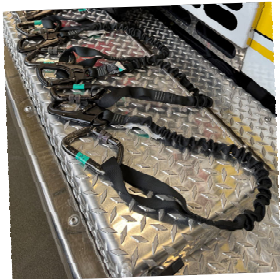
- "They found a problem in the garage and were very professional."
- "We felt safe and informed during the fire at our home from a lightening strike."
- "They were prompt, professional and caring."
- "This was the first time we had to call 911. All personnel were calm and made us feel comfortable in a scary situation."



GRANTS AND IMPROVEMENTS



Rescue 3 (R3) is a 2025 3/4 ton pick-up with a special built in compartment for medical equipment, along with storage for high angle rescues. Receiving multiple calls at the same time, this vehicle will permit SFD to respond quickly and efficiently.



SFD partners with Washington County Sheriff's SWAT/Crisis Negotiation Team, for calls that take place on high ledges, bridges and tall buildings. Specialized equipment was purchased to protect the negotiators and the person in crisis.



With the increasing danger to first responders, ballistic helmets were purchased. This will be in addition to ballistic vests that were purchased last year.



Holmatro Rescue Lifting Air Bags were purchased to assist when lifting heavy objects; such as a vehicle that may have trapped an individual. These bags replace our 20+ year old air bags.



A generous donation from the Stillwater Firefighters Relief Association made it possible to purchase a new Zoll Patient Monitor. The device allows firefighters to take patient vitals, 12 lead EKG, CO levels and defibulate a patient if required.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Years of Service Recognition



Steve Zoller
Captain
30 Years



Mike Aspengren
Firefighter/Engineer
20 Years



Steve Hamond
Firefighter
15 Years



Ben Wojcik
Firefighter/Engineer
10 Years

Badge Presentation



Firefighter Erick Barrera, Chief Stuart Glaser,
Firefighter Devin Cates

Congratulations to Firefighters Erick Barrera and Devin Cates who were presented with their SFD badges on October 1, 2024.

Firefighters Barrera and Cates successfully completed all probationary requirements and certifications.

We look forward to their ongoing contributions and a long successful career with SFD!

Retirements



Bill Peltier Full-time Firefighter/Engineer started his career on April 1, 1979 and retired on February 29, 2024. During these 45 years, Bill was known for his work ethic and getting the job done. Bill took great pride in serving the community.



Deputy Chief Tom Ballis, Bill Peltier, Chief Stuart Glaser



Congratulations to Lieutenant Ryan Smith on his retirement. Ryan started his career with the Stillwater Fire Department on January 1, 2012. During this time, Ryan proudly served the citizens of Stillwater for 12 years. Ryan retired on September 1, 2024.



Back Row (left to right): Amelia Smith, Ryan Smith, Alex Smith, Priscilla Smith, Chief Stuart Glaser
Front Row: Ava Smith

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Promotions



Luke Hoffmann

Luke Hoffmann was promoted from Volunteer Paid-on-Call Firefighter/Engineer on June 3, 2024 to Full-time Firefighter/Engineer. After completing the onboarding recruitment requirements, Luke was assigned to A Shift.



Peter King



Seth McCauley



Ryan Sarner

Volunteer Paid-on-Call Firefighter/Engineers Peter King, Seth McCauley and Ryan Sarner were promoted to Volunteer Paid-on-Call Lieutenants in January 2024.

New Hires



Michael Cody



Leah Berrisford

Two Full-time Firefighter/Engineers were hired in 2024. Mike Cody joined the Department on June 3 and after completing the Field Training Operations (FTO) program, Michael was assigned to C Shift.

Leah Berrisford was hired on December 2, 2024. Once she completes the FTO program she will be assigned to B Shift.



Michael Dollerschell



Kelli Swanson

Stillwater Fire welcomed two new Volunteer Paid-on-Call Firefighters in 2024. Michael Dollerschell and Kelli Swanson joined the Department on September 8, 2024.

Stillwater Fire is excited to have these individuals on board and look forward to their contributions for many years to come.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Certificate of Excellence



Volunteer Paid-on-Call personnel are required to meet minimum quarterly run response requirements. Lieutenant Ryan Sarnar responded to **109 of 172** calls for service and went above and beyond and averaged **over 65%** call response for the year. Ryan was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for the Highest Run Percentage made in 2024. Congratulations and thank you Ryan for your dedication to the Stillwater Fire Department and the citizens we serve.

Four Person Duty Staffing

Four-person duty staffing is a significant safety and operational improvement for our Department and the communities we serve. Staffing based on the risks and needs of our community are coming to fruition and the City Council has been very supportive. Responding to incidents with the recommended number of personnel increases the safety for our firefighters and improves the overall safety and outcomes for the residents we protect.

A Shift



Firefighter/Engineer L. Hoffmann, Captain J. Marchetti,
Firefighter/Engineers R. Peltier and B. Wojcik

B Shift



Firefighter/Engineer L. Berrisford, Captain C. Jansen,
Firefighter/Engineers M. Richardson and J. England

C Shift



Firefighter/Engineers J. Roush, M. Aspengren, M. Cody,
and Captain S. Zoller

IN MEMORIAM



The Stillwater Fire Department family experienced a number of losses in 2024. SFD extends its heartfelt sympathies to the family of members who passed in 2024.



Kevin Charlsen passed away on January 20, 2024. Kevin served the Department faithfully for 26 years and retired in 2000. Kevin survived the tragic Brine's fire of 1982 where two other firefighters lost their lives. Kevin remained a dedicated servant of the community and will be missed.



Daniel Mosiman passed away on January 21, 2024. Dan served the Department as a career Firefighter/Engineer for 15 years and retired in 1989. Dan was a committed City employee who served with pride and dedication throughout his career.



Larry Viers passed away on April 14, 2024. Larry was a decorated Army Veteran and served our country with pride and honor. Larry was a dedicated Stillwater Firefighter for 15 years. He retired in 2000.



Kenny Schmitz passed away on May 18, 2024. He was with SFD for over 25 years, retiring in 2013. Ken was dedicated to the Department throughout his career whether he responded to calls, assisted with training or conducted fire prevention activities.



Tom Crotty passed away August 28, 2024. Tom retired from SFD in 2009 after a 20-year career and attaining the rank of Assistant Chief. Tom as a dedicated member and had a passion for water rescue and worked diligently to ensure SFD had a competent and prepared technical dive rescue team.

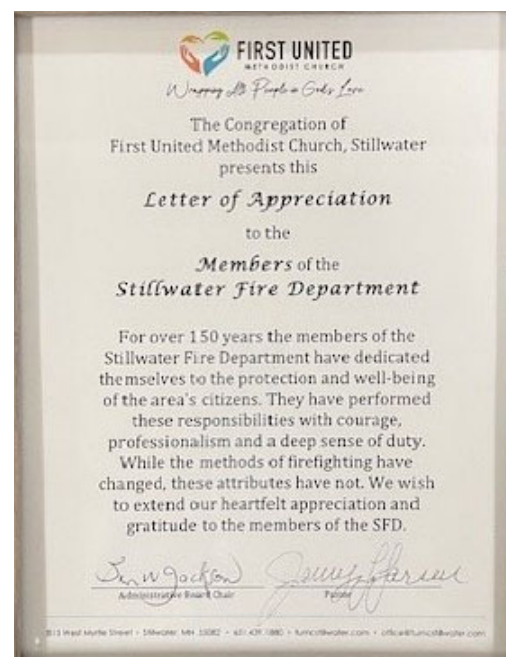


Leonard Schrade passed away on October 18, 2024. Len was a loyal member of the Stillwater Fire Department and retired at the rank of Assistant Chief after 32 years of service. Born and raised in Stillwater Leonard gave back to the community where he spent his life serving others and taking care of those around him. Leonard was known for his story telling and sense of humor.

First United Methodist Church Honors SFD

The Missions Committee of the United Methodist Church of Stillwater recognized the Stillwater Fire Department's outstanding service to Stillwater and surrounding communities.

SFD was presented with the above letter of appreciation along with goodies for the Department.



SFD Retirees Monthly Recognition

In addition to the quarterly newsletter for active and retired firefighters, SFD in 2024 implemented a monthly recognition for all retirees. Coffee, conversation, treats and many memories are shared on the first Thursday of every month at the fire station. The institutional knowledge shared by these "smoke eaters" is a valuable contribution to our history and for our current staff to understand the culture and pride instilled in SFD. The get-together has been a huge success and is enjoyed by all who attend.

Thank you all for your service, dedication and sacrifices made during your careers!

