



MILTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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FIRE DEPARTMENT Mission

The mission of the Milton Township Fire Department is to minimize loss of life, extinguish fires, promote general fire safety, and protect property under the provisions of Public Act 207.

The members of the Milton Township Fire Department will accomplish our mission through prevention, fire suppression, code enforcement, rescue skills, pre-planning, and other related emergency and non-emergency activities. We will actively participate in our community, serve as role models, and strive to effectively and efficiently utilize all of the necessary resources at our command to provide the highest level of service to our township residents.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES:

The Milton Township Fire Department believes that pride, the pursuit of excellence, and commitment to public service is important. The department strives through active leadership to develop new knowledge and concepts for a progressive department. The department values a creative and proactive department. The Milton Township Fire Department is professional in all of its actions. Our value to the community will be measured in the type and quality of services provided. It will be the policy of the Milton Township Fire Department to operate with the highest levels of safety for all fire department personnel.

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present to you the Milton Township Fire Department's 2025 annual report. On behalf of the 12 members of the department, we thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Our roster is filled with dedicated individuals who are committed to enhancing the safety and the quality of life for the community. These individuals dedicate their time and effort to drop what they are doing at a moment's notice to help those in need. These individuals are true heroes in every aspect and I thank them for the hard work and dedication throughout the year. This report cannot possibly capture all of the individual efforts throughout the year, but it does represent an overview of the department's accomplishments for 2025.

As you will read, in 2025 the department responded to 132 calls for service which is an increase of 29 incidents from 2024. Service related incidents accounted for 68% of the department responses, Rescue incidents accounted for 21%, and Fire incidents accounted for 11% of the department responses for the year.

The department offers a variety of programs to the community. A reflective address sign program, smoke detector program, and knox box program. Our goal is to have reflective address signs and working smoke alarms installed in every home within the township.

This year we continue to await our new engine to replace our 33 year old engine from station 2. Post covid apparatus build times have really taken a dramatic length of time to build. We also have in the works to renovate the current station 1 that was built in 1982 at the recommendation of the fire advisory board. We are working with the township board on finding the best option to make this happen.

I am very proud of the staff of this department and the time and dedication these fine men and women put into this department. The staff are committed to the departments mission of minimizing loss of life, extinguish fires, promote general fire safety through public education, and protect property.

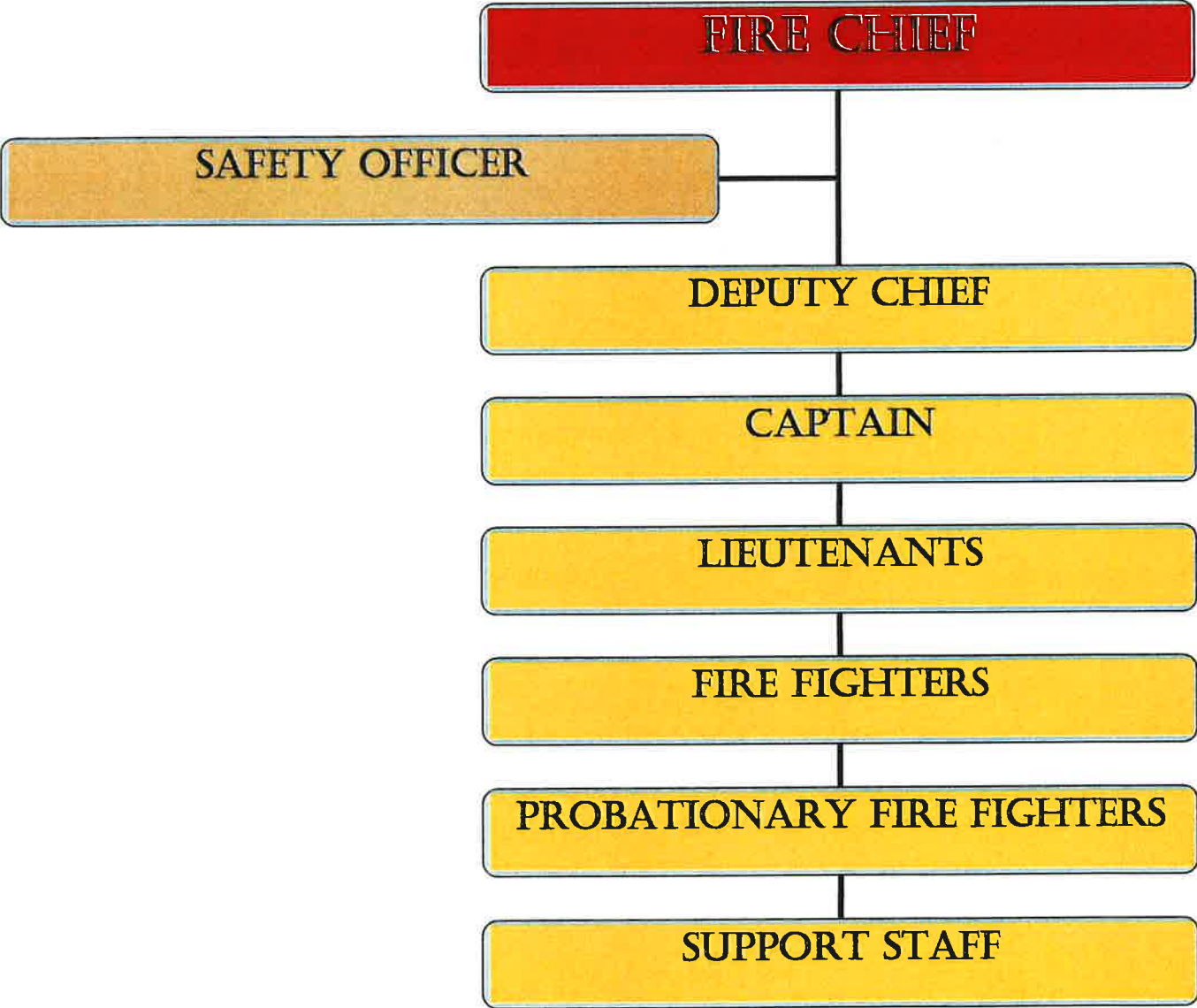
We are proud to be your fire department and we stand ready to serve the community. I look forward to hearing from you if you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can serve you better. Please contact me at 231-264-6694 or at firechief@miltontownshipmi.gov.

SINCERELY,

***Jeremy Ball,
Fire Chief***



Fire Department Organizational Chart



FIRE STATION #1 7015 CAIRN HWY

BUILT IN 1982



Fire Station #1 was built in 1982 and is located at the intersection of Cairn Hwy and Indian Roads. Station #1 is home to Fire Administration and the following apparatus: Engine 1, Tanker 2, Rescue, Mini Pumper and ATV.

FIRE STATION #2 12105 CHERRY AVE.

BUILT IN 2001



Fire Station #2 was built in 2001 and is located on Cherry Ave east of Chippewa Trail in the Southern half of the Township. Station #2 is home to the following apparatus: Engine 2, and Tanker 1.

Fire Apparatus Station 1



99-ENGINE 1 - 2017 SPARTAN RESCUE PUMPER

Engine 1 is the main unit that suppresses fires. This unit carries all of our extrication equipment and responds to all vehicle accidents. This unit carries ventilation equipment, gas detectors, thermal imaging camera. This unit has a 1500 gallon a minute pump and a 1000 gallon water tank with a 30 gallon foam tank.



99-TANKER 1 - 2010 KENWORTH TANKER

This unit responds to all fires and shuttles water to the scenes. This unit carries 2300 gallons of water has 2 - 2500 gallon porta tanks, 2 - Zico power drop tank holders, a portable pump and miscellaneous fire fighting equipment.



99-RESCUE -2008 FORD F350 - UTILITY

This unit serves as a utility vehicle. This unit responds to a variety of incidents including Water / Ice rescue calls, EMS assists, tree & line down calls. Serves as a rehab unit, traffic control unit, incident command unit during long incidents. Carries a wide variety of equipment.

STATION 1 FIRE APPARATUS



99-MINI PUMPER - 2006 FORD F550 4X4

500 gallon per minute pump, 200 gallon water tank, 20 gallon Class A / B foam tank, onboard generator, winch, forestry hose, booster hose, and has the ability to pump and roll meaning the truck can be in motion while flowing water.

****This unit responds first out on grass / brush fires, trees down, lines down, hauls the ATV, as well as a variety of other incidents.****



99-ATV - 2009 POLARIS ATV

95 gallon per minute pump, 75 gallon water tank, Class A / B foam, forestry hose, has pump & roll capabilities. This unit also carries a stokes basket to transport patients for EMS when they are in remote areas. This unit also carries personnel to areas where apparatus cannot get too.

STATION 2 - FIRE APPARATUS



**99-ENGINE 2 - 1993 PIERCE
INTERNATIONAL PUMPER**

1250 gallon per minute pump, 500 gallon water tank, 12 gallon Class A / B foam tank, carries ventilation equipment, Gas Monitor, Thermal Imaging Camera, and various tools and equipment.



**99-TANKER 2 - 2003 KENWORTH
PUMPER / TANKER**

1000 gpm pump, 2000 gallon tank. 1 - 1500 gallon drop tank. Carries a variety of fire fighting equipment, has the ability to provide water supply or perform fire suppression duties.

Staff of the Milton Township Fire Department.

At the end of the year our roster was at 12 members. There are 8 certified fire fighter's, and 4 support staff.

Andrea Albert	Fire Fighter	Secretary / Treasurer
Jeremy Ball	Fire Fighter	Fire Chief
Kevin Ball	Fire Fighter	Captain
Larry Ball	Fire Fighter	Association President
Dan Butler	Fire Fighter	Deputy Chief
Jeff Dawson	Support	Association Vice President
Lennie Dawson	Fire Fighter	
Nate McGuire	Support	
Terran Peterson	Fire Fighter	
Phil Vandenberg	Fire Fighter	
Jordan Way	Support	
Toby Way	Support	

Fire fighting Experience of Staff Members

less than one year experience:	1 member
1 – 5 years experience:	2 members
6 – 10 years experience:	2 members
11 – 15 years experience:	5 members
16 – 20 years experience:	0 members
21 and over years of experience:	2 members

Age Range of Staff:

19 and Under:	0	20-29:	2	30-39:	1	40-49:	2
50-59:	5	60-69:	0	70 and Over:	2		

Fire Training Program

Below is a breakdown of the departments hours logged for the year:

Training Hours:	600.5 hours	Classes:	56.5 hours
Meetings:	264.5 hours	Maintenance:	301 hours
Dept. Details:	347 hours	Admin Hours:	1,137 hours

Total Hours: 2,706.5 hours

The department trained in several topics: Pump operations, tactical set ups, water supply, chain saw operations, ventilation, ladders, ropes & knots, wildland, search and rescue, RIT, SCBA, utilities, tools and equipment, apparatus driving, incident command and radio operations, hazmat, fit testing, blood borne pathogens training, extrication, ice rescue, water rescue and various other departmental trainings.

Firefighters are required to become certified Firefighter I and/or II by the State of Michigan, plus receive Hazardous Materials training. Once all this is complete, all newly hired firefighters go through a probationary training period where they learn our procedures, techniques, equipment, apparatus, geographic area, and other skills.



Public Safety Programs

Knox Box Program

The department recognized the need for a secure key box for commercial businesses and for residential use within the Township. The department began the Knox Box program in 2014. The Knox Rapid Entry System and Knox HomeBox provides fire department entry to a home or business in an emergency. With one master key, the department can gain access minimizing damage, wait time for a key holder and may reduce insurance premiums. The Knox System includes UL listed lock boxes. Property owners can store entrance keys, access cards, floor plans, and any hazardous information in a high security Knox Box Key box mounted near the building entrance. Please check out the website at www.knoxbox.com

With the Knox System there is no waiting period for a property owner or key holder to unlock the door in the middle of the night, or have fire personnel force entry to a residence. The Knox Rapid Entry System reduces response time, property damage, and liability.

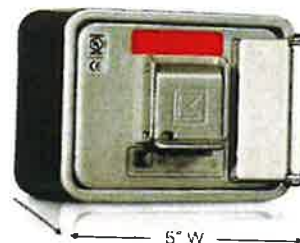
There were no Knox Boxes installed within the township for the year. We currently have a total of 17 Knox Boxes in use within the Township.

Commercial Business - 4 in use

- Milton Township Hall 7023 Cherry Ave
- Historic Milton Township Hall 7268 Cairn Hwy
- Fabiano's Party Store 12398 Cherry Ave
- Torch River Shack 7711 Crystal Beach Road

Residential Use – 14 in use

- Juniper Drive – 3 Homes
- E Elk Lake Drive – 1 Home
- Fairlane Drive – 1 Home
- North West Torch Lake Drive – 1 Home
- Elk Tip Drive – 1 Home
- South West Torch Lake Drive – 1 Home
- Morlen Drive – 2 Homes
- Mackenzie Drive – 2 Homes
- Winters Road – 1 Home
- Birch Lake Road – 1 Home



Smoke Alarm Program

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Some safety tips with regards to smoke alarms:

1. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom.
2. Install smoke alarms outside each sleeping area.
3. Install smoke alarms on every level of the home including the basement.
4. Large homes may need extra alarms.
5. Test all smoke alarms at least once a month.
6. A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms.
7. Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

In 2011, the department started a smoke alarm program with the goal of ensuring that every home in Milton Township would have at least three working smoke alarms.

The department has provided 152 smoke alarms to our community.



Reflective "911" Address Sign Program



“We can’t help you... if we can’t FIND you!”

Every second counts during a fire, police or medical emergency. Valuable time can be lost if your house number is not clearly posted where emergency responders can see it. Police officers, Fire fighters, and EMS responders can’t provide lifesaving services to you and your family if they cannot find your house. The Department is offering to provide you with or install a highly-visible reflective sign in order for responders to locate your residence, potentially saving time....and lives!

This year the department provided 8 signs to our community residents. The department has provided a total of 171 signs to the community since the programs inception.

HELP FIRE FIGHTERS REACH YOU

You are the first line of defense when it comes to helping your home survive a fire. To enable emergency apparatus to locate and reach your residence quickly, it’s important to establish a safe route with adequate driveway access. The following steps will help you prepare for emergency access that could make all the difference in reducing property damage during a fire or other emergency event.

- Position your reflective address sign so it is visible from the road from either direction and cut back vegetation around the sign.
- Clear trees, branches, or brush from your driveway so it is at least 10 feet wide with a vertical clearance of at least 10 feet to allow fire trucks access.
- Ensure your driveway’s surface is firmly packed and can support the weight of emergency vehicles even in the spring when the ground is soft.
- Remove gates, fence posts, or other obstructions that could restrict access.
- Create space at the end of your driveway with adequate room for an emergency vehicle to turn around once it reaches your home.
- Keep your driveway plowed out during the winter months.

MDA "FILL THE BOOT" for MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY



MDA donations during Township Junk Day collection during the last Saturday in April and August.

2025 donations totaling:

April: \$1,477.13
August: \$1,354.10

Total Donations since 2002: **\$34,791.14**

THANK YOU COMMUNITY!!!!!!

GRANT AWARDS

This year the department received three grant awards.

1. DNR grant award in the amount of \$2,185 for a turbo draft used for water supply.
2. MTA grant award in the amount of \$690.00 for the purchase of traffic cones.
3. DNR grant award in the amount of \$3,784 for the purchase of wildland rescue personal protective clothing.

The department is very active in researching grants and applying for grants on a regular basis. Our continued efforts to secure funding through grants allows us to save money to our tax payers.

Since 2001, the department has been awarded **31** grants totaling **\$241,352.28**. The department has been awarded grants from the following:

MUTUAL / AUTOMATIC AID SERVICES

Our agency provides mutual aid and automatic aid services to Elk Rapids Township Fire Department, Torch Lake Township Fire Department, South Torch Lake Fire Department, Clearwater Township Fire Department in Kalkaska County.

We receive mutual aid and automatic aid from Elk Rapids Township Fire Department and Torch Lake Township Fire Department. We occasionally will receive aid from South Torch Lake Fire Department and Clearwater Township Fire Department.

We have an automatic aid agreement with Elk Rapids and Torch Lake Townships for Structure Fire responses within Elk Rapids, Milton and Torch Lake Townships. This ensures a 3 station response to all structure fires that occur within the 3 Townships.

We also try and work jointly with our mutual aid partners to have less duplication of equipment. An example of this is we have an atv that provides fire suppression and rescue capabilities in trade our neighboring agencies all have rescue boats, therefore we save money on purchasing a rescue boat and our neighbors save money on having to purchase an atv. We rely on each other to respond to incidents where specialized equipment is needed.



Joint Training with Elk Rapids Fire – Milton Tanker supplying Elk Rapids Engine

Mutual Aid Responses provided: 11 calls: Elk Rapids – 3, Torch Lake Twp – 3, Clearwater Twp – Kalkaska County -5. **Mutual Aid Received:** 8 calls: Elk Rapids – 6, Torch Lake Twp – 4, South Torch Lake Fire District – 3.

ISO PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

ISO RATING:



ISO collects information on municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes data such as response times, available water supply, man power, equipment, department records, number of stations in comparison to response area, and the different types of apparatus. They then assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. The number rating system is used by most insurance companies to determine rates charged to homeowners based upon the community they live in.

Our first ISO test was completed in 2009, reviewed in 2018, and again in 2023. Effective February 11 2024 our Public Protection Classification rating is a split classification 6 / 10. What this means is that homes or businesses located within 5 road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a creditable water supply have a rating of 6 and homes or businesses beyond 5 road miles of a fire station receive a 10 rating.

The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule measures the major elements of a community's fire protection system and develops a numerical grading called a Public Protection Classification. The following outline is the items considered and the weight of each item used in calculating a PPC rating.

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Emergency Communications | 10 points |
| 2. | Fire Department | 50 points |
| 3. | Water Supply | 40 points |

Because we do not have fire hydrants supported by a municipal water system. We have to shuttle water to and from locations to the scenes. This means that our fire department is responsible for 90% of our fire protection score as far as ISO is concerned.

Water Point Program: The department continues to work on establishing certified water points throughout the Township using public accesses and road end accesses locations. If these areas are determined to be accessible by fire department personnel we will submit these locations for certification via ISO to help our score in the Water Supply category.



Contact your insurance company and see if you may benefit from our improved Fire Protection Classification. If your insurance company needs any documentation supporting or improved rating please have them contact the Fire Chief via email at firechief@miltontownshipmi.gov or call 231-264-6694.

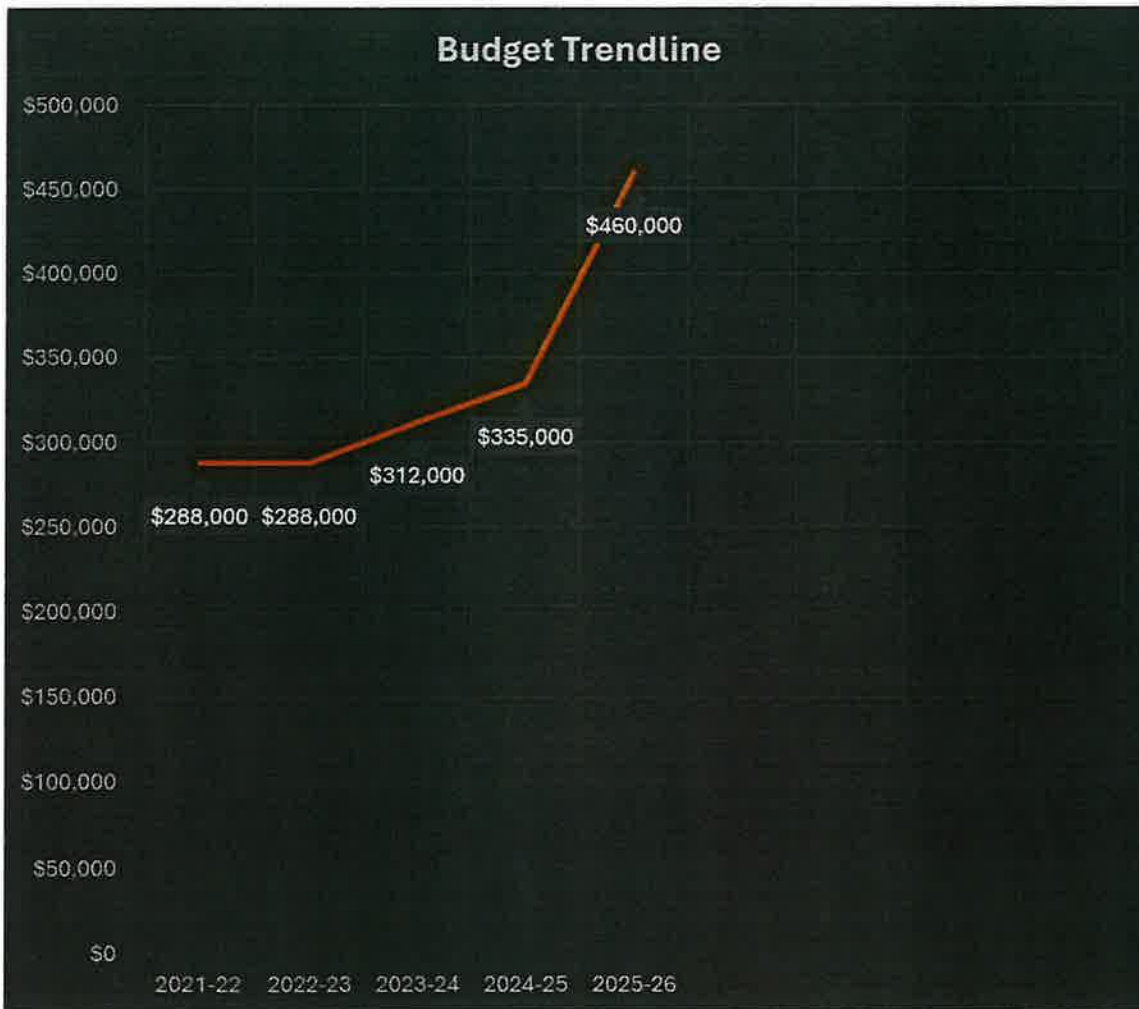
Recruitment & Retention

Recruitment and Retention is always going to be a revolving door where the fire department is concerned. Nationally volunteer firefighters are declining in numbers. More requirements, continuing education requirements, balancing time are all coming into play.

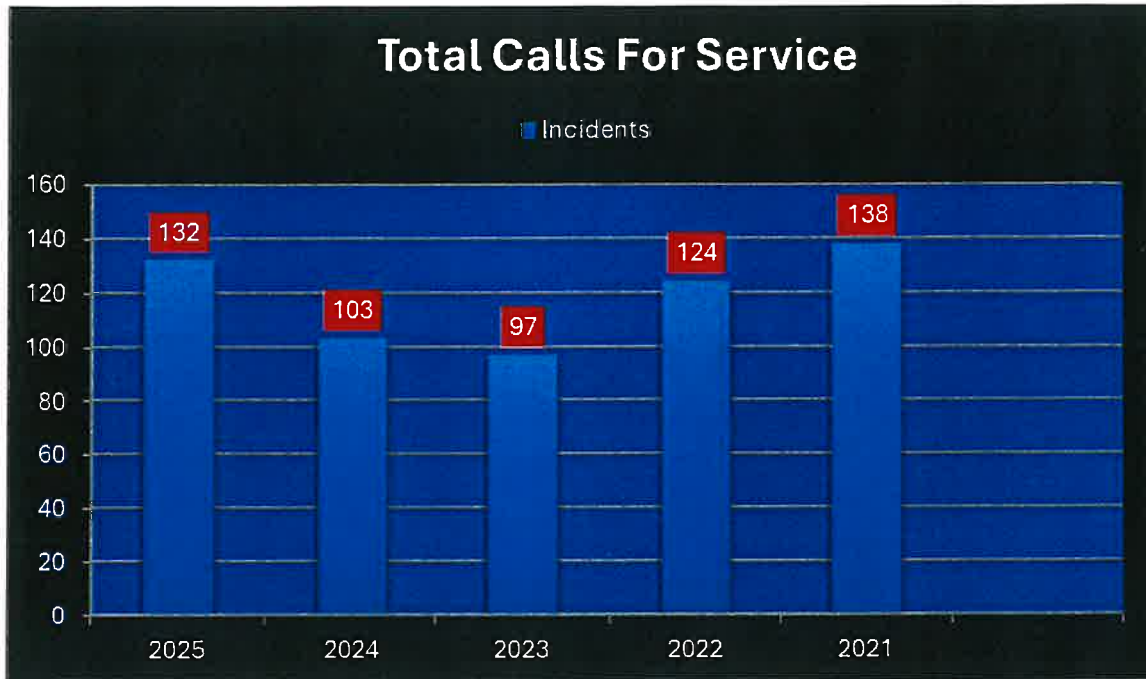
We take recruiting new members very seriously and do our best to attract new members. We were lucky enough to have one new member join the department in 2025.

More importantly than attracting new members, we need to focus on retaining the current staff we have. This area is vastly important as well.

Financial and Growth Information

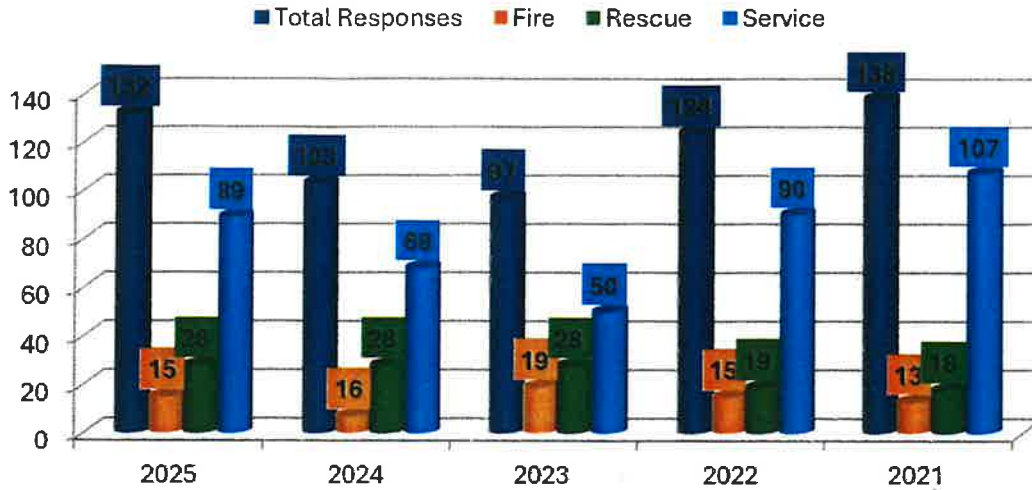


Incident Data and Emergency Response Statistics

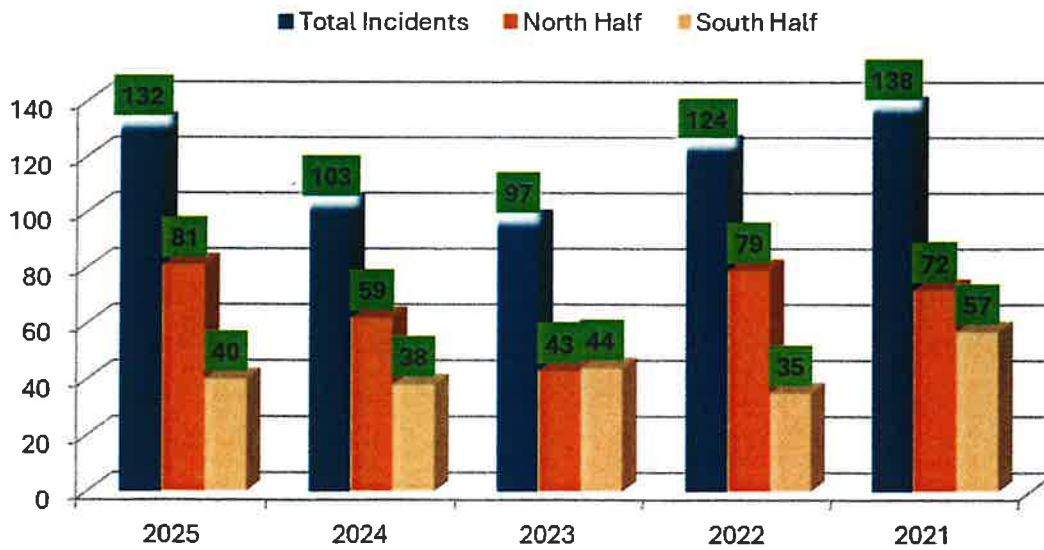


YEAR	INCIDENTS
2025	132
2024	103
2023	97
2022	124
2021	138

Fire Response Breakdown by Service Type



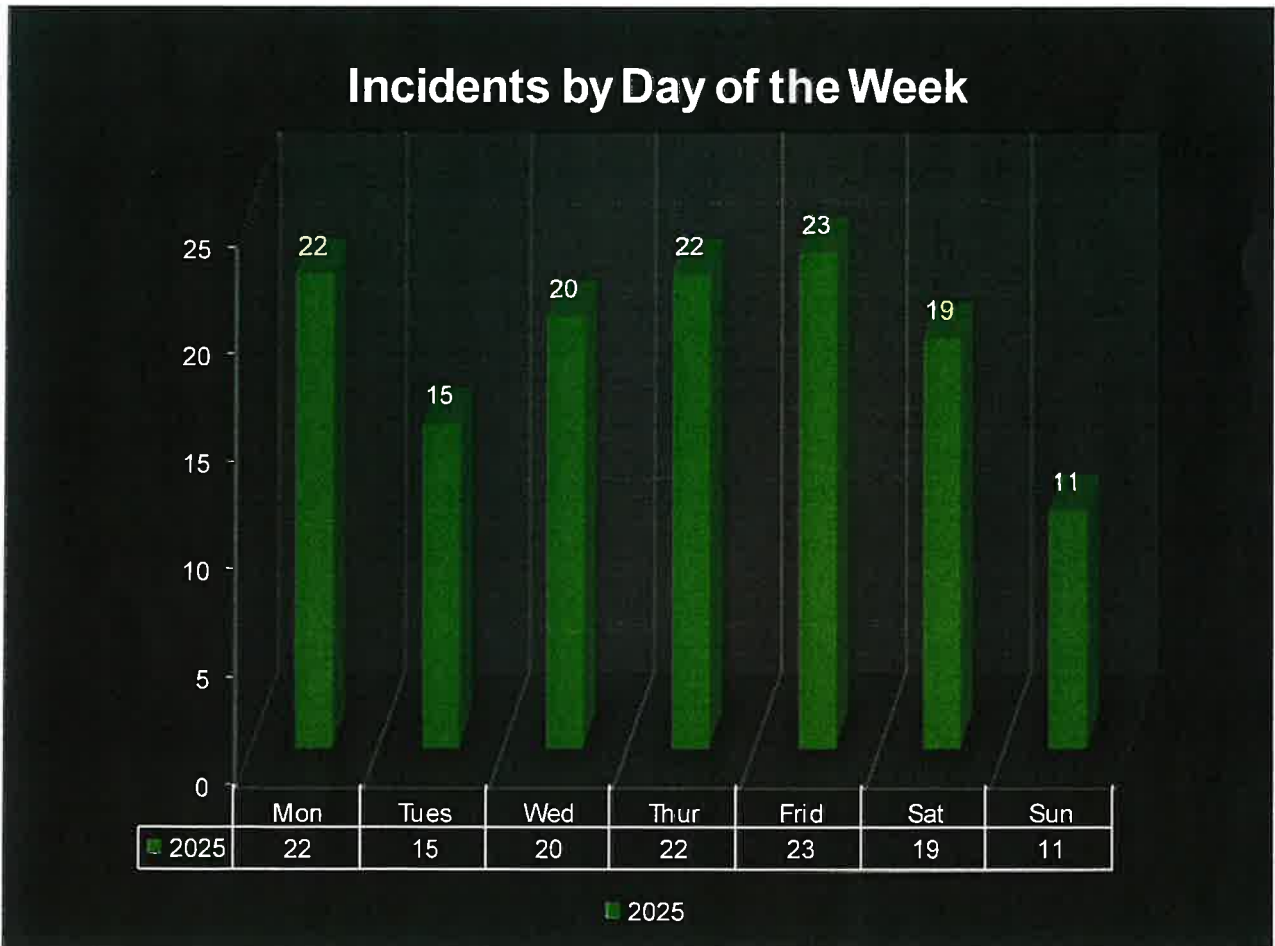
Responses by Location within Township

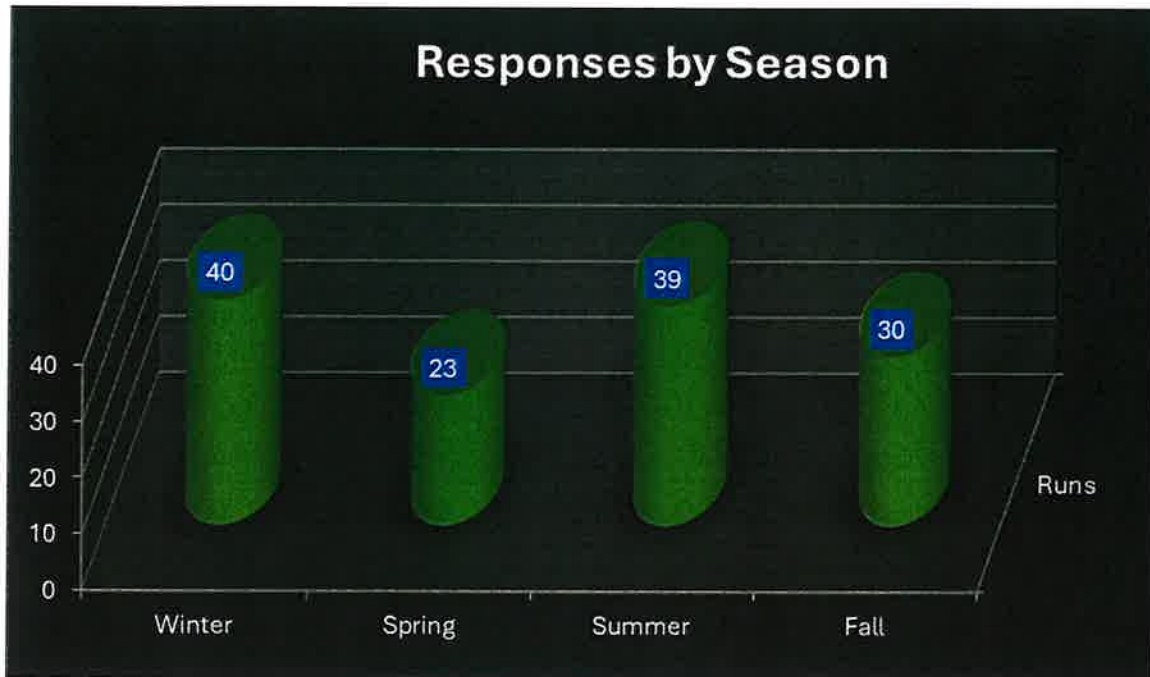
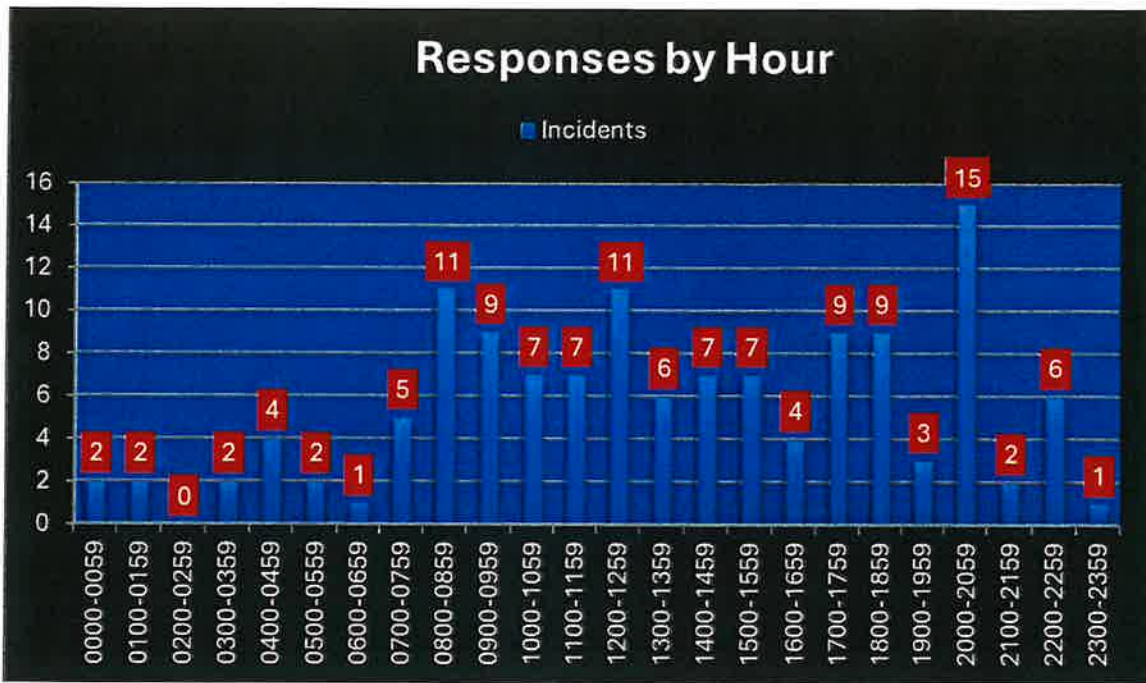


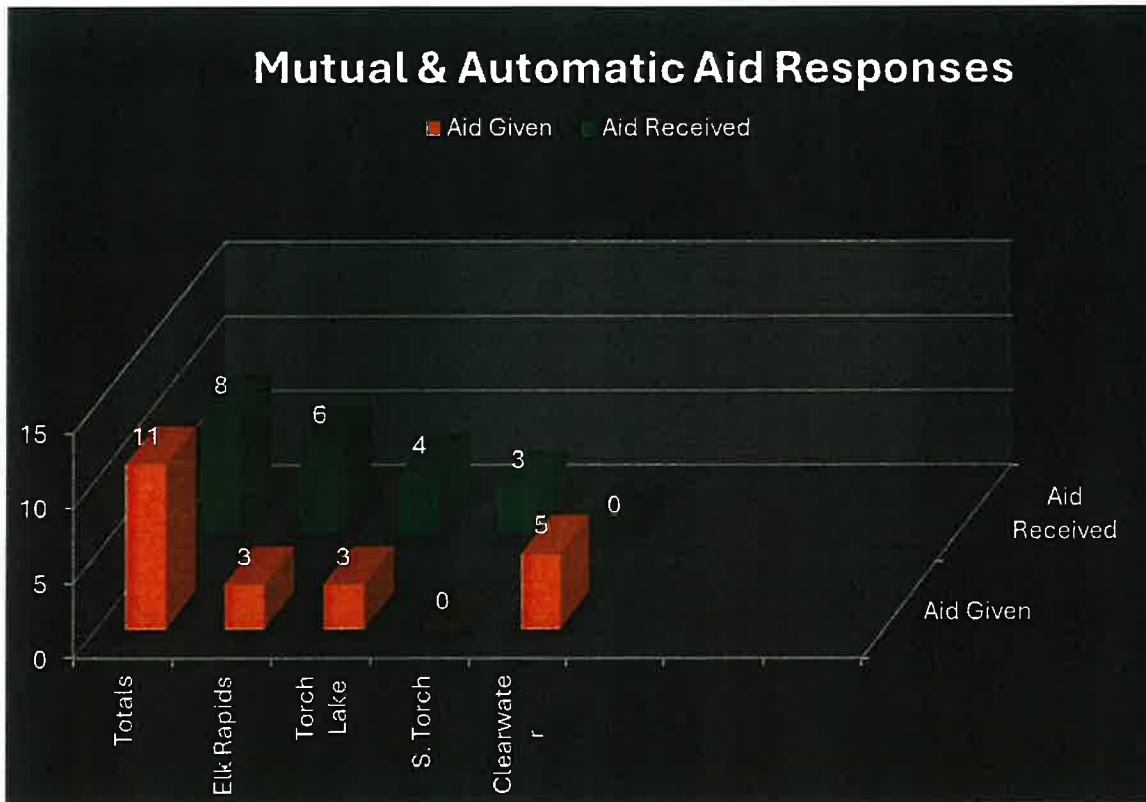
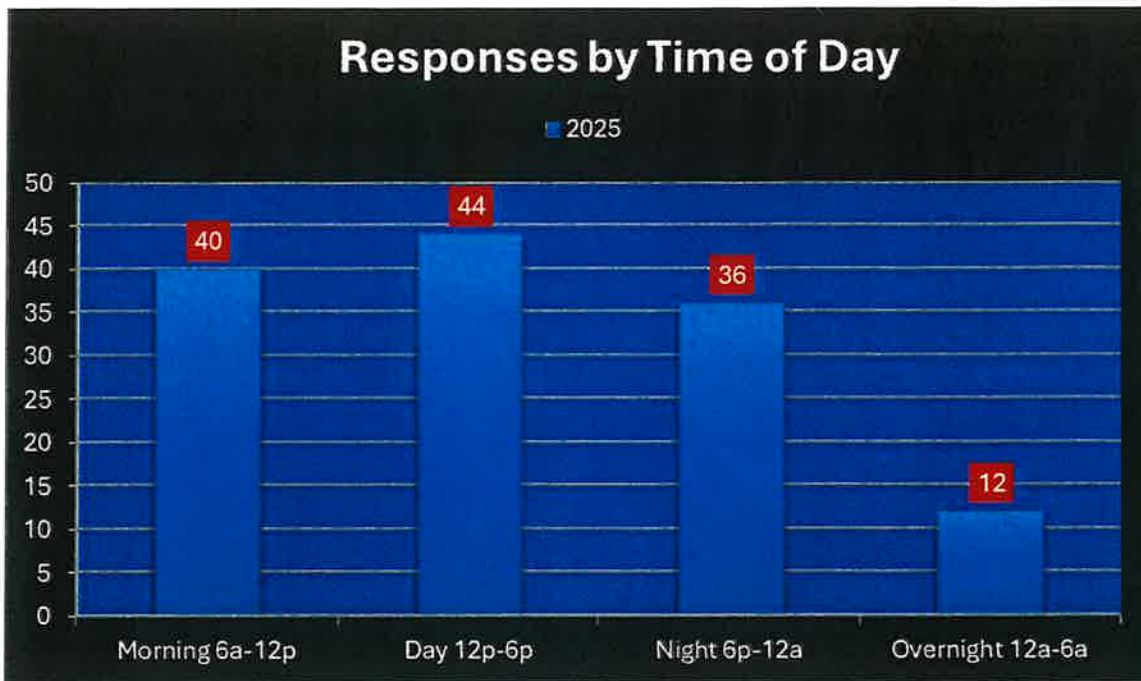
Responses by Month



Incidents by Day of the Week

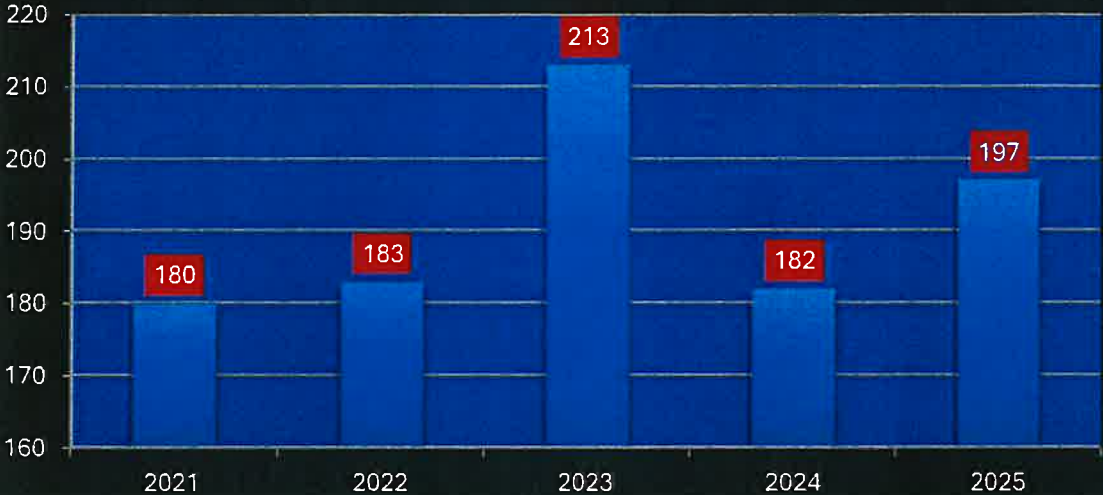






EMS Response within Township

■ Past 5 Years



Medical Responses South End of Township

■ South Torch Lake Rescue Response

