Charter Township Of Kalamazoo

2014 Annual Fire Department Report

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The Year in Review

By Chief Dave Obreiter

We proudly submit this 2014 annual report for the Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department. As I reviewed the details of this report, I was filled with great appreciation and pride for the professionalism, accomplishments and actions of the men and women that make up our team.

As we finished the year, it marked the second time in the last three years that we exceeded the historical highest response year of the department. In 2012, the record of 1,681 responses was set. In 2014, we exceeded that record by 96 responses, ending the year with 1,777 responses.

We continue to actively participate in several collaborative efforts and organizations such as Kalamazoo County Fire Chiefs, Western Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team and Kalamazoo County Fire Investigation Response Team. This concept allows for the sharing of information, ideas and resources between departments and communities to reduce the cost of providing emergency services, while still providing a quality and reliable response to the needs of our citizens.

Each Township of Kalamazoo Fire Station has an association that is made up of all of its members, along with many retirees and honorary members. These associations are an integral and ever important part of the representation of our department in the community. Thru monthly voluntary donations from the members, numerous Little League Baseball teams, AYSO Soccer teams and fire prevention and safety programs are planned, funded and executed.

Community involvement remains a high priority with our fire department members, as witnessed by our member's voluntary participation supporting larger events such as the Westwood Ice Cream Social and the Great Lakes Burn Camp. The voluntary participation by our members is a direct reflection of their desire to serve our community above and beyond their roles as an emergency responder.

In the appendix section of this report, you will find a roster of our assigned personnel as well as the years of service and experience that they provide our department. In addition to the list of personnel, you will find a listing of awards that were presented to our members in 2014 thru our Firefighter Recognition Program. The list of awards recognizes the actions above and beyond the general actions expected of our personnel. Please join me in congratulating our recipients of these awards as well as the dedication to serve our community by all of our personnel.

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Fire Department Program Descriptions

The fire department is managed by categorizing certain aspects of its operation into sections and assigning a point of contact that is responsible for the management of that section. All personnel assigned a section of responsibility coordinate the management of that program with the fire chief. Each section is identified below along with a description of its area of responsibility.

Fire Department Management – The Fire Department Management section is made up of our six full-time fire department personnel and consists of the fire chief, deputy fire chief, two battalion chiefs, fire marshal and fire department maintenance supervisor.

The management section is responsible for the annual budgeting of programs and resources by setting program priorities, department goals and the coordination of constructive efforts between the fire department management section and all fire department personnel.

Emergency Response – The Fire Department Emergency Response section is managed by our Fire Department Management team and is responsible for maintaining a cost effective, reliable and diverse quick-response network of trained personnel and strategically placed fire department vehicles and equipment. The Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department responds to all calls for service such as medical and fire emergencies, as well as non-emergency calls for service such as arcing electrical wires and carbon monoxide alarm activations. The Township of Kalamazoo maintains four fire stations (Northwood, Eastwood, Lakewood and Westwood) and staffs all stations with the exception of Lakewood with a minimum of one firefighter/driver twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Emergency response to the Lakewood neighborhood is provided under written agreement by the Comstock Township Fire Department, which operates and responds in the same manner as the Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department.

The Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department relies heavily on paid on-call personnel for response to all calls for service. In 2014, we averaged about sixty paid on-call personnel on the roster. The paid on-call personnel are assigned to one of the staffed stations and follow a geographically assigned area for response purposes. The paid on-call roster includes assigned duties to selected individuals that appoint them as officers, which is an essential function of personnel management and emergency scene command and control. This concept of paid on-call firefighters has proven to be a cost effective way to utilize only the necessary amount of personnel to handle the type and nature of emergency. The paid on-call personnel receive Township Board approved hourly pay rates only for the emergency responses, scheduled on-

Fire Department Program Descriptions (continued)

call time covering one of the staffed stations (fire apparatus driver), scheduled fire department training and special activities such as station maintenance that they attend.

Fire Prevention and Investigation – The Fire Prevention and Investigation section is managed by our State of Michigan certified full-time fire marshal. The fire marshal is responsible for coordinating all fire prevention activities in the Township of Kalamazoo as well as coordinating all necessary fire investigations with the Township of Kalamazoo Police Department.

Our Fire Prevention and Investigation program includes new and existing facility fire safety inspections, public safety education programs, construction plan reviews, management of our Knox brand secure key access program for all non-residential facilities, fire ordinance compliance and the tracking and updating of hazardous materials used by facilities operating in the Township of Kalamazoo.

Our Fire Marshal is also an active participant with the Juvenile Fire Setter Program and Fire Investigation Response Team, both programs organized as a collaborative effort thru the Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association.

Fire Department Training – Our Fire Department Training section is managed by our assigned department training officer as an additional duty. The training officer is responsible for the planning, scheduling, documentation and coordination of the delivery of our fire department training program to all fire department members.

Our training program is designed to train and maintain a competent roster of emergency responders. Our training program covers a wide range of subjects relating to firefighting, medical emergencies, rescue, hazardous materials, firefighter safety and other response related topics. Our training schedule is driven by State of Michigan requirements as well as local response needs and hazards.

All of our personnel are required to obtain and maintain as a condition of employment, State of Michigan certification as a Medical First Responder and Firefighter I/II. All personnel are also required to maintain a current cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) certifications from a nationally recognized organization.

Fire Department Program Descriptions (continued)

Fire Department Maintenance – Our Fire Department Maintenance section is managed by our Emergency Vehicle Technician certified full-time fire department maintenance supervisor. Our fire department maintenance supervisor is responsible for the inspection, maintenance, testing and documentation of our fire department vehicle fleet and assigned equipment as well as general grounds maintenance at our fire stations.

Our fire department maintenance program is designed to maintain our assets in a ready and reliable configuration while minimizing the maintenance down time of our equipment. Our maintenance supervisor develops and executes a detailed annual proactive preventative maintenance and inspection schedule in an attempt to minimize the costly reactive maintenance mindset. Our maintenance program also ensures that all required third party safety inspections of our vehicles are scheduled and documented. As an associated tasking to the vehicle preventative maintenance program, our maintenance supervisor makes repairs to our vehicles in-house when possible, reducing the down time of the vehicles as well as reducing our overall maintenance budget by reducing costs associated with contracted maintenance.

In addition to vehicle maintenance, our maintenance supervisor also manages the inspection, maintenance and documentation of our powered equipment such as saws, generators and vehicle mounted equipment.

As an additional duty, our maintenance supervisor is responsible for larger exterior maintenance projects at our fire stations such as snow plowing and parking lot maintenance.

Fire Commissioner –The Fire Commissioner is a Township Board Member that is appointed by the Township supervisor.

The Fire Commissioner acts as a liaison between the Township Board and the fire chief in regards to fire department operations, response and budgeting.

Township Trustee Donald Martin remained the Fire Commissioner for 2014.

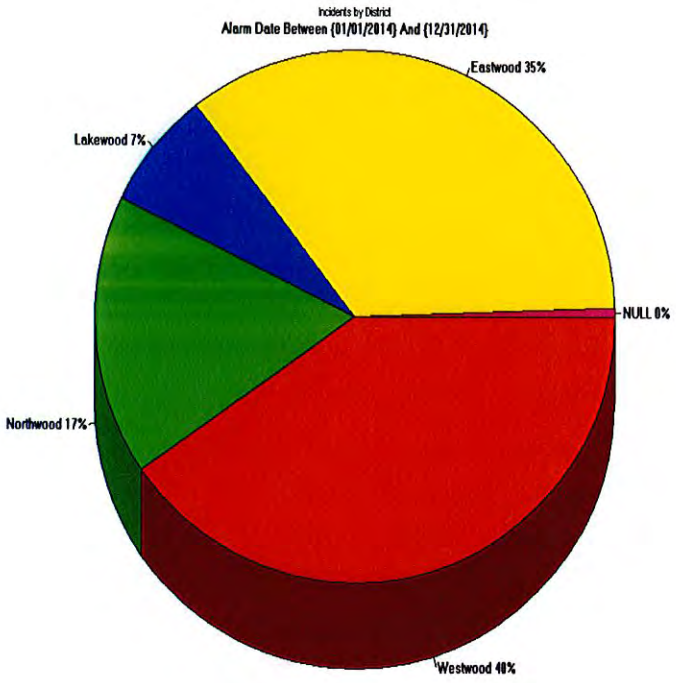
Emergency Response Analysis

In 2014 the Department responded to a total of 1,777 incidents. 1,330 being rescue related, and 447 being fire related.

Calls by Station

Station # 1= 380 / 250
Station # 2= 695 / 665
Station # 3= 129 / 129
Station # 4= 759 / 733

With Assists / Without Assists



Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

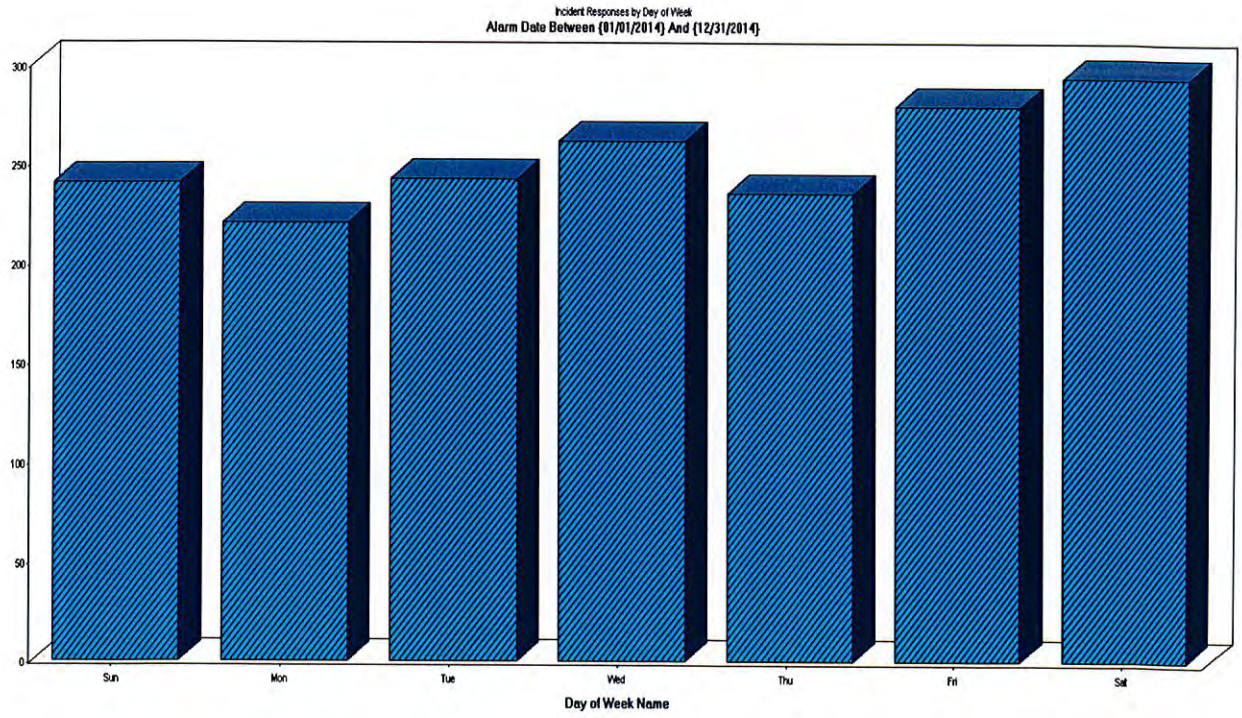
Northwood responding to:
Eastwood = 69
Westwood = 56
Lakewood = 5

Eastwood responding to:
Northwood = 15
Westwood = 0
Lakewood = 15

Westwood responding to:
Northwood = 23
Eastwood = 2
Lakewood = 1

Day of Week
Monday = 221
Tuesday = 243
Wednesday = 262
Thursday = 236
Friday = 280
Saturday = 294
Sunday = 241

Time of Day
00:01 – 04:00 = 181
04:01 – 08:00 = 159
08:01 – 12:00 = 318
12:01 – 16:00 = 375
16:01 – 20:00 = 423
20:01 – 24:00 = 321



Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

In the past 10 years, demands for service of the fire department have been increasing on average, with 2014 being the most active year for incidents ever for the fire department.

	Calls for Service	Fire Related	Rescue Related	Assists Between Stations	Mutual Aid Given
2004	1,541	391	1,150	252	116
2005	1,522	422	1,100	254	92
2006	1,392	373	1,019	173	108
2007	1,539	450	1,089	197	101
2008	1,582	397	1,185	163	110
2009	1,517	410	1,107	192	125
2010	1,504	339	1,165	151	112
2011	1,494	351	1,143	173	103
2012	1,681	444	1,237	151	126
2013	1,667	451	1,216	132	133
2014	1,777	447	1,330	186	106

	Total FF Responses	Average Cost Per Call	Average FF's per call
2004	12,419	$121.28	8.0
2005	12,129	$122.13	7.9
2006	10,893	$123.79	7.8
2007	12,510	$132.43	8.1
2008	13,328	$141.46	8.4
2009	12,008	$137.07	7.9
2010	10,540	$121.45	7.0
2011	9,513	$111.04	6.4
2012	10,402	$107.57	6.2
2013	10,494	$109.31	6.3
2014	11,414	$114.37	6.4

Emergency Response Analysis (continued)

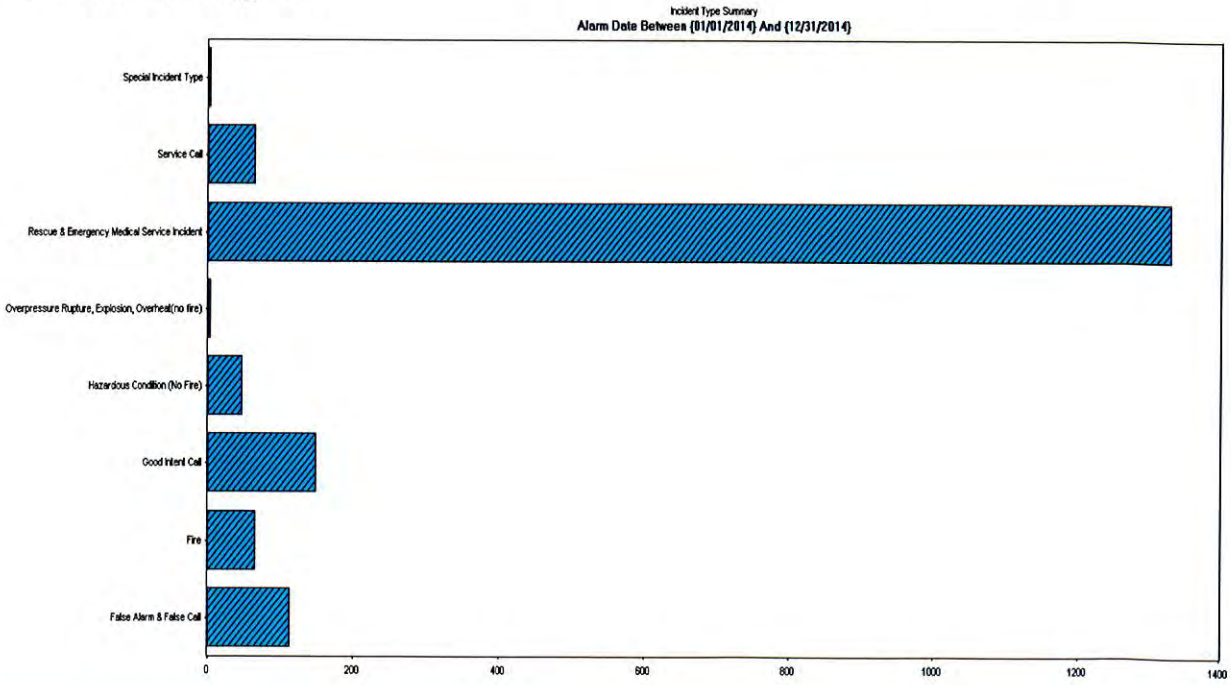
The following is a breakdown of the calls by type and frequency for 2014.

Rescues

Abdominal Pain = 6
Allergic Reaction = 11
Altered Mental Status = 57
Animal Bite = 1
Assault = 7
Assist Police = 13
Attempt Suicide = 6
Back Pain = 4
Cancelled en Route = 51
Carbon Monoxide Call = 5
Cardiac Arrest = 16
Chest Pain = 185
Choking = 6
Diabetic Problems = 52
EMS Alarm = 66
Fall = 92
Head Injury/Pain = 5
Ingestion/Poisoning = 16
Laceration/Hemorrhage = 15
Lift Assist = 27
Man Down = 123
Personal Injury Accident = 76
Pregnancy/OB = 6
Psychiatric Problems = 21
Seizure = 59
Sick Person = 115
Stab/Gunshot = 2
Stroke = 40
Trouble Breathing = 306
Unconscious = 75

Fires

Assist Other Fire = 106
Burning Complaint = 40
Dumpster Fire = 6
Fire Alarm = 55
Gas Leak = 14
Grass/Brush Fire = 0
Smoke Investigation = 27
Structure Fire = 31
Vehicle Fire = 8
Wires Down/Arcing = 26



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Initial Aid Summary

The Township of Kalamazoo has active Initial Aid agreements with Comstock Township, The City of Kalamazoo and Oshtemo Township to provide residents with higher levels of service than each municipality could provide on their own. These levels of service are provided automatically with the receipt of the alarm to provide for immediate response in conjunction with these other agencies as follows:

Comstock Township runs all emergency calls in the Lakewood area and provides an Engine on all calls of Smoke, Fire, or Smell of Gas inside of a structure in Station 2's district. In return, Kalamazoo Township provides a ladder truck for Comstock's commercial and multi-story residential structures.

The City of Kalamazoo provides a Ladder Truck to Kalamazoo Township when there is Smoke, Fire, or Smell of Gas inside of a multi-story residential, or high-hazard commercial structure. In return Kalamazoo Township provides an Engine for the Northwest section of the City of Kalamazoo, a ladder truck to certain structures in the Northeast corner of the City of Kalamazoo, and an Engine to cover City Station 45 on all second alarm fires in the City of Kalamazoo.

Oshtemo Township provides an Engine on all calls of Smoke, Fire, or Smell of Gas inside of a structure in Station 4's district. In return, Kalamazoo Township provides an Engine for the same calls in the Northeast section of Oshtemo's district.

Mutual Aid Summary

The Township of Kalamazoo also has mutual aid agreements with all municipalities in Kalamazoo County to provide assistance when requested, and in return those municipalities will provide assistance to the Township of Kalamazoo when requested. These requests are not automatic with the receipt of the alarm like Initial Aid; however, these requests can be made at any point during the response to an incident, or while at an incident scene.

The following table is a combined list of Initial Aid and Mutual Aid responses between the Township of Kalamazoo, and other municipalities. The Township gave aid a total of 106 times, and received aid 212 times as outlined below:

	Oshtemo		Comstock		KDPS		Cooper		Parchment	
	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received	Given	Received
January	2	1	6	7	0	2	1	0	2	1
February	2	0	3	8	2	3	2	0	1	0
March	2	4	5	7	0	1	0	0	1	0
April	1	2	6	11	1	2	2	0	0	0
May	6	2	5	12	1	4	2	1	0	0
June	1	0	1	23	4	0	1	0	0	0
July	3	0	2	16	1	0	1	0	0	0
August	3	2	2	15	2	0	1	0	1	0
September	1	3	2	26	4	3	0	0	0	0
October	3	4	1	19	1	1	0	0	1	0
November	1	1	2	12	1	1	0	0	0	0
December	2	1	5	17	3	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	20	40	173	20	17	10	1	6	1

*In addition to the above chart, the Township of Kalamazoo assisted Alamo Township once.

**Kalamazoo Township Fire Department also provided personnel to the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Team twice this year to assist other agencies with Hazardous Material incidents.

Fire Loss Summary

There were 29 responses in 2014 with an associated loss caused by smoke and/or fire damage. Those 29 "loss fires" totaled $313,800 in lost property and contents, and are listed individually below:

Incident #	Date	Location	Fire Type	Est. Property Loss	Est. Content Loss	Total Est. Loss
73	1/24/14	240 W Dunkley	Structure Fire	$ 12,000	$ 2,500	$ 14,500
198	2/2/14	2604 Texel	Kitchen Fire	$ 500	$ -	$ 500
235	2/18/14	Cherokee & Devonshire	Vehicle Fire	$ 1,500	$ -	$ 1,500
274	2/25/14	2918 Egleston	Structure Fire	$ 15,000	$ -	$ 15,000
293	3/5/14	616 Cherokee	Structure Fire	$ 10,000	$ -	$ 10,000
354	3/26/14	925 Edison	Structure Fire	$ 8,000	$ -	$ 8,000
376	3/22/14	3409 Coy	Structure Fire	$ 100	$ -	$ 100
406	4/9/14	4124 Valley Ridge #7	Structure Fire	$ 5,000	$ 1,000	$ 6,000
436	4/18/14	908 Campbell	Structure Fire	$ 10,000	$ -	$ 10,000
483	5/1/14	3213 Willow	Kitchen Fire	$ 500	$ 500	$ 1,000
539	5/5/14	315 Turwill	Structure Fire	$ 40,000	$ 1,000	$ 41,000
633	5/12/14	1421 Sunnyside	Structure Fire	$ 37,500	$ 7,500	$ 45,000
634	5/13/14	2528 Dearborn	Electrical Fire	$ -	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
640	5/18/14	E Main & Lum	Vehicle Fire	$ 3,500	$ 250	$ 3,750
783	6/6/14	1700 Gull	Trash Fire	$ 100	$ -	$ 100
866	6/15/14	1519 Upland	Electrical Fire	$ -	$ 400	$ 400
878	6/21/14	2014 Sunnyside C-19	Structure Fire	$ 1,000	$ 400	$ 1,400
889	7/4/14	2600 E Michigan	Vehicle Fire	$ 15,000	$ 1,500	$ 16,500
904	7/9/14	1530 Nichols	Vehicle Fire	$ 3,500	$ -	$ 3,500
936	7/5/14	3328 Coy	Trash Fire	$ -	$ 50	$ 50
1035	7/21/14	1809 Humphrey	Structure Fire	$ 2,000	$ 500	$ 2,500
1318	9/24/14	3407 Kenilworth	Structure Fire	$ 24,000	$ 15,000	$ 39,000
1347	10/3/14	2603 Nichols	Electrical Fire	$ -	$ 100	$ 100
1350	10/8/14	1315 Olmstead	Structure Fire	$ 35,000	$ 12,000	$ 47,000
1523	11/15/14	3500 Oaktree #2	Structure Fire	$ 20,000	$ 5,000	$ 25,000
1546	11/18/14	1521 Gull	Vehicle Fire	$ 3,000	$ -	$ 3,000
1559	11/22/14	3520 N Drake B-314	Structure Fire	$ 10,000	$ 100	$ 10,100
1604	11/30/14	3520 Oaktree	Vehicle Fire	$ 1,800	$ -	$ 1,800
1609	12/3/14	Grand Prarie & Sagebrush	Vehicle Fire	$ 6,000	$ -	$ 6,000

*Property loss is generally considered loss to the structure or vehicle itself, while the content loss is the personal property contained within the structure or vehicle.

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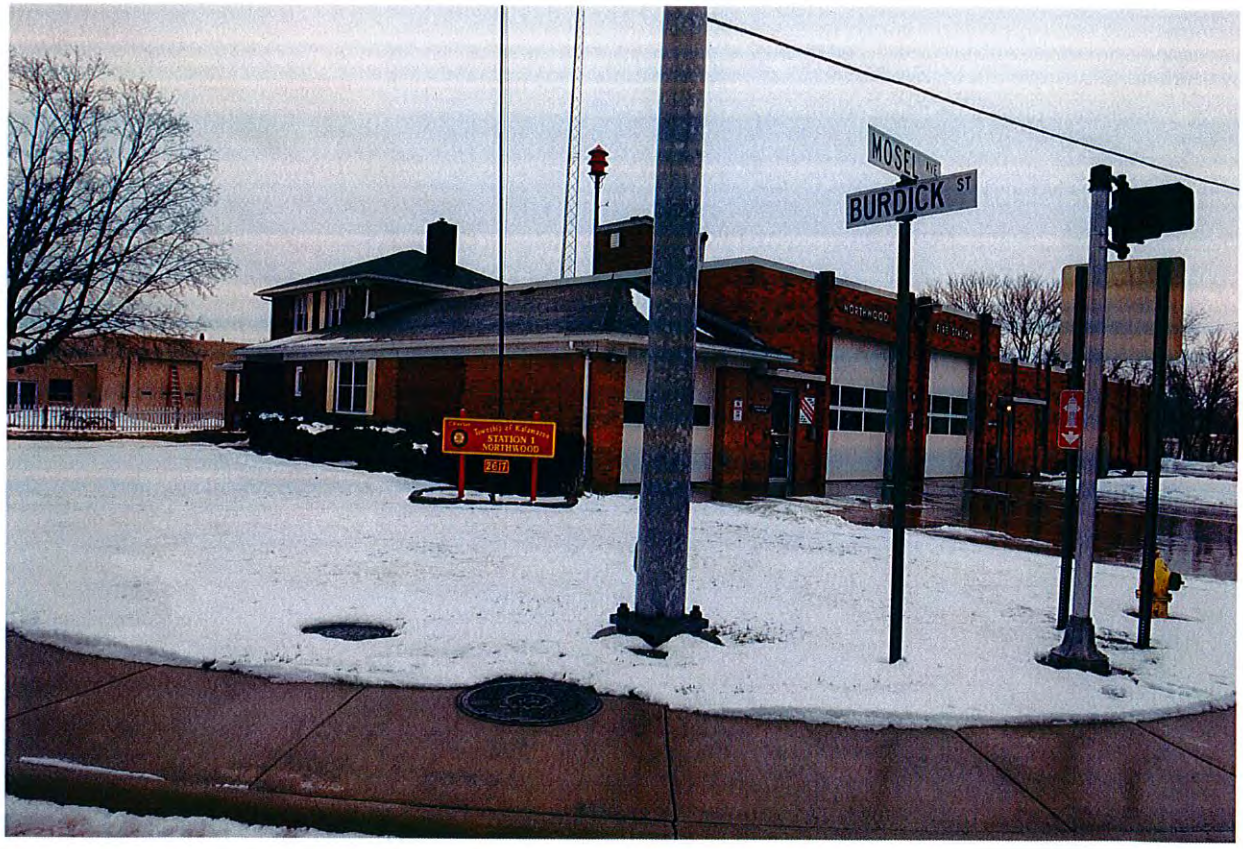
Station 1

Northwood Fire Station
2617 North Burdick Street
Built in 1948
Houses Engine 811, Engine 821 and Rescue/Brush Truck 851



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Station 1 (continued)

811
2011 Pierce Contender
1500 Gallon per minute pump
1000 Gallons of water
On board foam system with 30 gallons of foam concentrate
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

821
1988 Spartan Quality
1250 Gallon per minute pump
750 Gallons of water
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

851
2008 Ford F-350
150 Gallon per minute pump
200 Gallons of water
Assorted nozzles and tools for brush fires
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

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Station 2

Eastwood Fire Station
2703 East Main Street
Built in 1940
Houses Engine 812, Ladder 842 and Rescue 852

Station 2 (continued)

812
2007 Sutphen Shield
1500 Gallon per minute pump
1000 Gallons of water
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

842
2007 Sutphen TS-100
1500 Gallon per minute pump
300 Gallons of water
100 foot aerial bucket
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

852
2007 Ford Expedition EL
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

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Station 3

Lakewood Fire Station
3100 Lake Street
Built in 1950, Residence in 1967
Houses Engine 813

813

1988 Spartan Quality
1250 Gallon per minute pump
750 Gallons of water
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

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Station 4

Westwood Fire Station
1310 Nichols Road
Built in 1967
Houses Engine 814, Ladder 844, and Rescue 854

Station 4 (continued)

814

1998 Pierce Quantum
1500 Gallon per minute pump
880 Gallons of water
Full complement of extrication tools
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

844

2009 Sutphen TS-100
1500 Gallon per minute pump
300 Gallons of water
100 foot aerial bucket
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

854

2007 Ford Expedition EL
Automated External Defibrillator
Various emergency medical supplies

Apparatus Fleet Status

While the average age of our fleet is nine and a half years, we have some vehicles which are approaching their replacement dates. We use a replacement date in line with current industry standards in order to plan for vehicle purchases and budget capital improvement funds more efficiently. These replacement dates are used to get the most value out of each piece of apparatus while also replacing them frequently enough to allow for safety and technological improvements to enhance the services we deliver.

-Rescues are replaced approximately every 12 years.

-Engines are replaced approximately every 25 years.

-Ladders are replaced approximately every 30 years.

The table below shows the current timeline of each vehicle, as well as necessary special equipment that must be factored into apparatus purchasing/replacement decisions in order to maintain our current level of service.

Unit	Type	Year	Age	Assigned Station	Projected Replacement	Special equipment
811	Engine	2011	3	Northwood	2037	Foam System
821	Engine	1988	26	Northwood	2015	
851	Rescue/Brush Unit	2008	6	Northwood	2028	Water tank & pump for grass fires
812	Engine	2007	7	Eastwood	2032	
842	Platform Ladder	2007	7	Eastwood	2037	Ladder Truck
852	Rescue	2007	7	Eastwood	2022	
813	Engine	1988	26	Lakewood	2014 (ordered in 2014)	
814	Engine	1998	16	Westwood	2023	Vehicle Extrication
844	Platform Ladder	2009	5	Westwood	2039	Ladder Truck
854	Rescue	2007	7	Westwood	2022	
855	Fire Marshal	2008	6	Township	2013 (ordered in 2014)	
856	Maintenance	2009	5	Township	2015	Snow plow
890	Fire Chief	2010	4	Township	2016	

Equipment inspection, testing and maintenance

The annual fire department equipment inspection, testing and maintenance are an important function on both the liability and safety sides of our operation. While much of the inspection, testing and maintenance work is done by our trained and certified fire department personnel, some of the work must be done by contracting to an outside service provider.

The following list describes our larger inspection, testing and maintenance projects that must be performed and documented on an annual basis.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) – 50 units were inspected and flow tested with only minor repairs needed. Cost: $4,600

Hydrostatic testing of SCBA cylinders – Cylinders were visually inspected and hydrostatically tested. Cost: $200

Ground ladder testing – All ground ladders carried on fire apparatus were visually inspected and weight tested with only minor repairs needed. Cost: $1,625

Ladder truck inspection and testing – Both ladder trucks were visually inspected, and functionally tested. Cost of inspection: $2,400

Fire hose testing – Was completed by our fire department maintenance personnel with the help of our paid on-call firefighters. Over 12,500 feet of fire hose was visually inspected and pressure tested.

Breathing air compressor –A visual inspection was made of the breathing air compressor system. Quarterly air samples were taken and sent in for analysis. All test samples passed required quality standards. Cost: $900

Fire extinguisher inspections (facility and vehicle) – Visual inspection and annual certification were completed on all fire department facility and vehicle mounted fire extinguishers with only a few minor repairs needed. Cost: $1,000

Fire protective coat and pant inspection/maintenance – When our fire protective clothing develops rips, tears, signs of wear or holes, it must be sent to a certified company for inspection and repair. In 2014, equipment was sent in as needed for inspection and maintenance, reducing the amount of fire protective clothing that needed to be replaced. Cost: $1,000

Capital Purchases

Separate from our operational budget, our capital improvement budget helps us maintain our facilities and provide for equipment purchases that enhance our emergency response capability.

Thru continued collaborative efforts with adjoining municipality emergency responders, we make every attempt to not duplicate special equipment and services between organizations. This process has reduced our overall equipment purchase and maintenance costs.

Listed below are some of the capital projects completed in 2014

- Ordered a 2014 Pierce Sabre fire engine	$412,000
- Replaced Fire Marshal's vehicle	$39,000
- Replaced 10 sections of hose (100' in length, 5" diameter)	$5,200
- Purchased powered hose roller	$8,195
- Roofing repair/replacing at Stations 1, 3, and 4	$22,500
- Replaced apparatus bay heater at Station 1	$1,800
- Replaced rooftop heating unit at Station 3	$4,500
- Replaced windows at Station 4	$5,400
- Replaced hydraulic rescue tool pump	$8,400
- Replaced 9 vehicle computers	$12,400
- Replaced 2 chainsaws	$1,100
- Installed backup cameras on 7 vehicles	$3,000 (See note 1)
- Replaced interior and exterior lights at Station 4	$8,400 (See note 2)

Notes:
1 – Michigan Township Participating Plan refunded $2,500 of this cost.
2 – Consumers Energy Rebate refunded $1,800 of this cost.

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Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement

	Inspections	Inspection Follow Up's	Citations	Fire/EMS Calls	Investigations	Investigation Follow Up's	Public Education Hours	Court Hours	Burn Complaints
January	15	9	14	7	3	0	0	2	0
February	21	8	16	8	2	0	0	1	0
March	24	2	13	7	2	0	0	0	0
April	20	4	10	11	3	0	0	2	0
May	24	6	10	9	2	0	0	3	0
June	30	8	8	9	1	0	0	3	0
July	18	9	6	8	1	0	0	4	0
August	22	5	9	9	1	0	0	0	0
September	18	7	9	10	2	0	0	3	0
October	19	11	12	17	3	0	0	5	14
November	18	11	12	34	4	1	0	4	7
December	15	8	7	33	3	0	0	5	0
Totals	**244**	**88**	**126**	**162**	**27**	**1**	**0**	**32**	**21**

Inspections consist of the physical inspection of commercial occupancies within the Township of Kalamazoo to enforce Fire Codes. The length of time spent on these inspections can vary widely depending on the size and hazards of the occupancy.

Citations are issued as an enforcement tool to ensure compliance with Fire Codes.

Fire/EMS Calls are responses by the Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement division to emergencies when they are in the area during the time of dispatch, thus providing more rapid response to active emergencies.

Investigations are conducted on most fires, and all loss fires, in an attempt to determine cause and origin. Time spent on these investigations also varies widely depending on the complexity of the investigation.

Public Education is time spent in the local schools teaching fire prevention to students throughout the community.

Court Hours are hours spent appearing in court for enforcement of citations, as a witness in arson prosecutions, and anytime subpoenaed as an expert witness.

Burn Complaints are responses to complaints about citizens not burning within the rules outlined in the Kalamazoo Township Burning Ordinance.

Training

There are three major categories of training within the department. They are initial employment training, department wide training and outside training. All training hours are paid at the current training rate approved by the Township Board.

Initial employment training consists of a 277 hour training academy which covers Firefighting Basics, Hazardous Material Responses, and the Incident Command System. New employees must also obtain their MI EMS license as a Medical First Responder which is a 92 hour training course. In 2014 the Department hired 7 new paid on-call employees.

Department wide training consists of a 3 hour scheduled training every Tuesday in which there is a morning session and evening session to allow our paid on-call personnel to attend the one session that does not conflict with their full-time jobs. Training varies every week and covers all areas of the expected job functions. In 2014, our firefighters spent 3,925 hours performing proficiency training within our department. Firefighters also spent 120 hours maintaining their EMS licenses through EMS specific proficiency training offered by the department.

Outside training consists of any training in the region in which an employee attends with the approval of the department. Normally, if an employee receives outside training, all travel, tuition, lodging, and books are covered by the Township. In 2014, our firefighters spent 1,035 hours receiving advanced training outside of the department training program.

*Pictured above is the Kalamazoo Regional Training Tower where department wide training is held several times throughout the year.

Inter-Governmental Cooperation

Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team

The Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team (KCHMRT) is made up of various personnel from numerous Fire Departments within Kalamazoo County. Their major goal is to provide a level of service that no municipality could alone provide to its residents without a substantial financial commitment.

In 2012 there were four team members and one executive board member from the Township of Kalamazoo on the KCHMRT as outlined below:

- Fire Chief Dave Obreiter – Executive Board Member
- Captain Todd Martin – Team Member
- Firefighter Dave Weal – Team Member
- Firefighter Derek Bucknell – Team Member
- Firefighter Chris Weidemann – Team Member
- Firefighter Scott Morrison – Team Member

These members have additional training above and beyond the requirements of the Fire Department which take place once a month with the rest of the KCHMRT.

Kalamazoo County Fire Investigator Response Team

The Kalamazoo County Fire Investigator Response Team (KCFIRT) is a group of investigators throughout Kalamazoo County that through their combined efforts and schedules allow continuous availability of investigators to respond immediately upon request following a fire in order to determine the cause and origin. Township of Kalamazoo Fire Marshal Todd Kowalski is a Senior Fire Investigator with KCFIRT.

Appendix

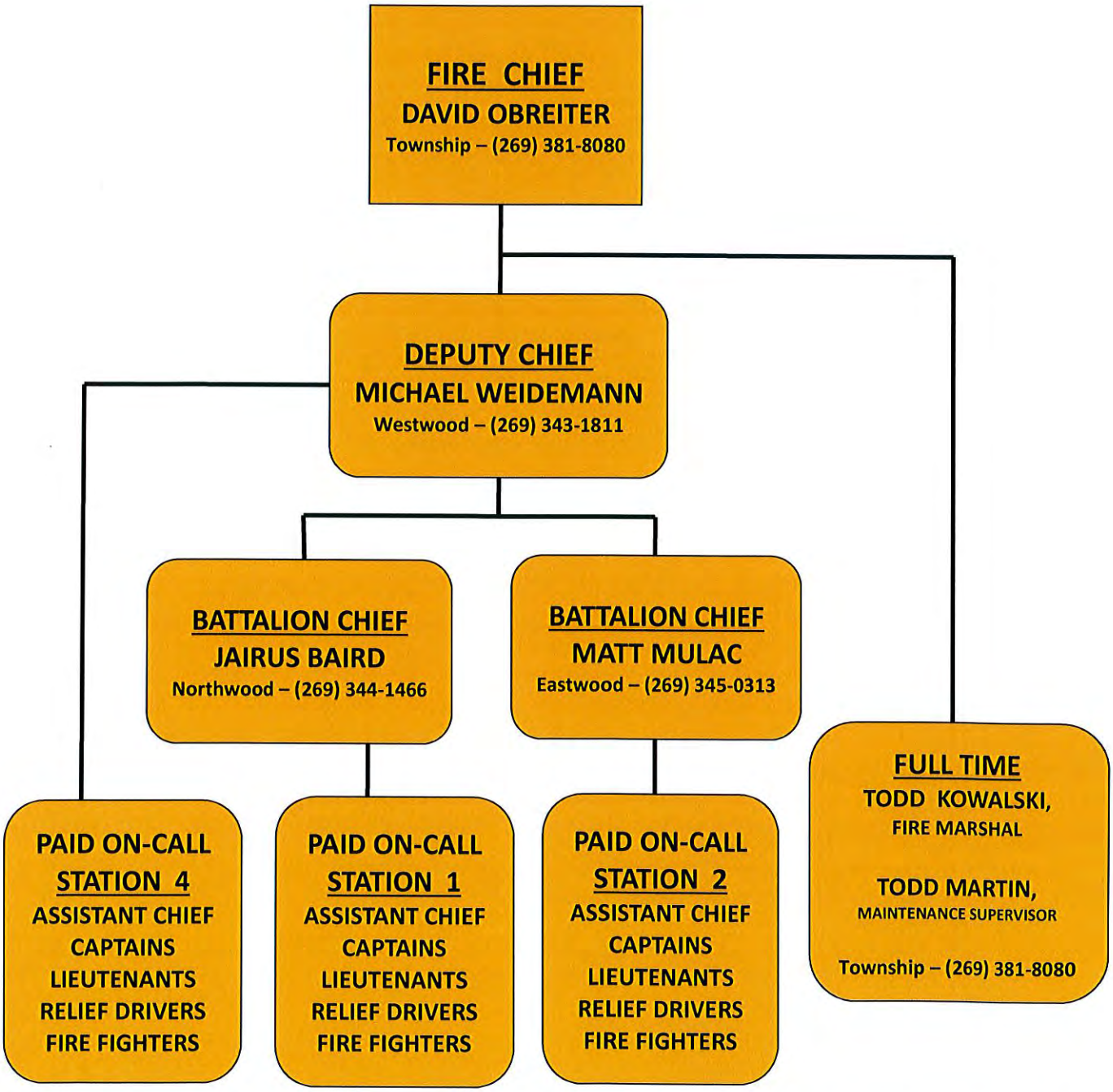
Township of Kalamazoo Fire Dept. 2014 Years of service

Rank	Name	Yrs. Of Serv.	Award
Lt.	Tim James	38	
Capt.	Randy Thompson	37	
D/C	Mike Weidemann	30	Pin
A/C	Dave Hoekstra	29	
FF	Mark Warnicke	28	
FF	Joe Vanorder	26	
Chief	Dave Obreiter	25	Pin
Capt.	Todd Kowalski	24	
FF	Jim Loedeman	23	
A/C	Todd Dunfield	22	
Capt.	Todd Martin	21	
Capt.	Joe Landreville	20	Pin
B/C	Matt Mulac	17	
Lt.	Tom Sutton	17	
Disp.	Teresa Weidemann	17	
FF	Jim Varda	17	
FF	Pete Stirn	16	
FF	Tim Vanderberg	14	
Capt.	Bruce Wheatley	13	
FF	Rick Trott	11	
FF	Dave Weal	11	
FF	Dan Merchant	10	Pin
FF	Derek Bucknell	10	Pin
FF	Mike Hubartt	10	Pin
Lt.	Troy Cox	9	
FF	Al Garnaat	9	
FF	Gabriel Podolsky	8	
FF	Kent Smith	8	
FF	Justin Vanorder	8	
Capt.	Chad Baker	8	
FF	Shane Peterson	8	

Rank	Name	Yrs. Of Serv.	Award
B/C	Jairus Baird	6	
FF	Jesse Roder	6	
FF	Chris Weidemann	6	
FF	Shawn Gallagher	5	Pin
FF	Tom Baas	4	
FF	Nick Bowers	3	
FF	Phil Curley	3	
FF	Alvin Miles	3	
FF	Louie Playford	3	
FF	Tyler Suszek	3	
FF	George Tazelaar	3	
FF	Brian Tenbrink	3	
FF	Mark Garrett	3	
FF	AJ Vigen	3	
FF	Dan Ballock	2	
FF	Zach Conroe	2	
FF	Mike Rotgers	2	
FF	Lori Stirn	2	
Disp.	Rachel Baird	1	
FF	Elbert Huell, Jr.	1	
FF	Garrett Fuller	1	
FF	Allen Martensen	1	
FF	Andrew Vanderberg	1	
FF	Sheila Looman	1	
FF	Brandon Morrison	1	
FF	Scott Morrison	NEW	
FF	Joshua Haertel	NEW	
FF	Jason Switzer	NEW	
FF	Anthony Tazelaar	NEW	
FF	Tyler Vaughn	NEW	

Appendix (continued)

Fire Department Organizational Chart



Appendix (continued)

2014 Fire Department Awards

The following awards were presented in 2014, for the year of 2013, to the members of the Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department as follows:

Firefighter of the Year (2013)
The Fire Fighter of the Year award is presented to a member of the fire department that has been selected from nominations by their peers. The recipient of this award is selected based on their overall outstanding performance as a fire fighter, performance above and beyond that normally expected of a fire fighter, community service and an overall commitment to improving the fire service.

-Awarded to Firefighter Al Garnaat

Citation for Lifesaving
The Citation for Lifesaving is awarded for the saving of a life through various actions, such as the direct application of first aid. The following members were awarded the Citation for Lifesaving for responses during 2014.

Name	#	Name	#	Name	#	Name	#	Name	#
Baas, T	1	Garrett, M	1	Martin, T	4	Stirn, L	2	Vanderberg, A	2
Baird, J	3	Haertel, J	1	Merchant, D	1	Stirn, P	2	Vanderberg, T	1
Baker, C	6	Hoekstra, D	1	Miles, A	3	Suszek, T	3	VanOrder, Joe	2
Bucknell, D	3	Hubartt, M	2	Morrison, B	1	Sutton, T	1	Warnicke, M	3
Carsten, A	1	Huell, W	1	Morrison, S	4	Switzer, J	5	Weal, D	2
Conroe, Z	2	Kowalski, T	4	Mulac, M	2	Tazelaar, A	5	Weidemann, C	3
Cox, T	4	Landreville, J	2	Obreiter, D	1	Tazelaar, G	4	Weidemann, M	4
Fuller, G	3	Loedeman, J	3	Podolsky, G	2	Tenbrink, B	3	Weidemann, T	3
Gallagher, S	5	Looman, S	1	Roder, J	3	Thompson, R	6	Wheatley, B	1
Garnaat, A	6	Martensen, A	1	Rotgers, M	4	Trott, R	6		

* The number after the name indicates the number of awards that they received.