



**City of Canal Fulton
Lawrence Township
Fire Department**

cityofcanalfultonfire.com

2024 Annual Report

Prepared by
Shawn Yerian

Prepared for
Elected Officials

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Letter from the Chief



As Fire Chief, I am committed to ensuring our community receives the highest quality Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services. Thanks to the dedication of our firefighters and support staff, we continue to provide exceptional service to Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township.

In 2024, we reached a significant milestone with the successful passage of a City of Canal Fulton fire levy, which will fund one full-time firefighter/paramedic in 2025. Lawrence Township has agreed to match this with another full-time firefighter/paramedic. This is a critical step toward improving staffing and emergency response; we will monitor the budget and consider a third full-timer to meet our staffing needs in the fall.

Additionally, we secured approximately \$1.1 million in grants in 2024, funding essential equipment, training, and staffing incentives. Highlights include new rescue tools, a UTV for off-road emergencies, PPE upgrades, and a 75-foot quint fire apparatus to enhance our response capabilities. These resources are crucial in addressing the growing needs of our community.

As we transition to a full-time staffing model, we are facing new challenges we have not encountered before. High turnover among part-time firefighters has long been a concern, but we are now also seeing increasing competition for full-time firefighters as larger departments offer higher salaries and benefits. The Ohio Fire Marshal is working on statewide solutions, and while our SAFER grant provides vital support through 2027, we must remain focused on long-term workforce stability to ensure we retain skilled personnel and provide uninterrupted service to our community.

Our administration is dedicated to innovative strategies that enhance staffing, improve response times, and adapt to our community's evolving needs. I am incredibly proud of our firefighters and officers for their dedication to training, public safety, and service. Their hard work is the foundation of our department's success.

Fire Chief Shawn Yerian
Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township Fire Department

1,699

Emergency Incidents

\$1.1 million

Grant Revenue

1,371

Training Hours

Department Overview



About

The Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township Fire Department's 2024 Annual Report reflects our ongoing dedication to delivering exceptional Fire, Rescue, and EMS services to the residents, businesses, and visitors of Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township.

Our department is a combination force, consisting of the Lawrence Township Fire Department (LTFD) and the Canal Fulton Fire Department (CFFD). Together, we operate with a part-time Fire Chief, one full-time Assistant Fire Chief, 50 part-time firefighters, and a part-time administrative assistant.

In 2024, our team had another successful year, responding to 1,699 incidents and dedicating 1,371 hours to training — underscoring our commitment to public safety and professional growth.

Vision

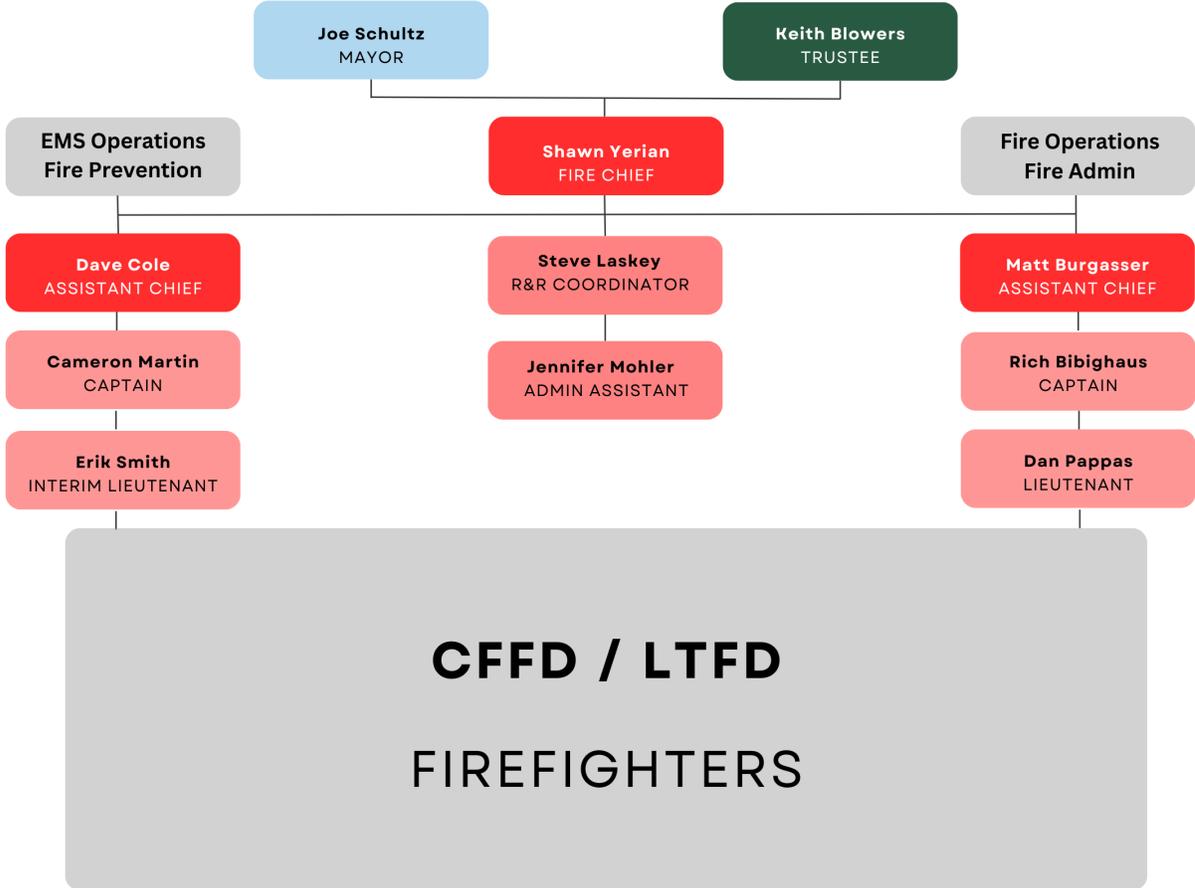
Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township will be one of the safest communities in Stark County.

Mission

To protect the lives and property of the citizens, visitors, and businesses in the Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township.

Organizational Chart

CANAL FULTON & LAWRENCE TWP FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ORGANIZATION CHART



CFFD / LTFD
FIREFIGHTERS



Our Team

Number	Member	Certification	Length of Service
1	Yerian, Shawn	Paramedic	19 Years
2	Pennington, Steve	Paramedic	16 Years
3	Cole, David	Paramedic	14 Years
4	Smith, Erik	Paramedic	14 Years
5	Bibighaus, Richard	Paramedic	14 Years
6	Burgasser, Matt	Paramedic	12 Years
7	Martin, Cameron	Paramedic	11 Years
8	Fetters, Allison	Paramedic	8 Years
9	Pappas, Dan	Paramedic	8 Years
10	Hagen, Jared	Paramedic	6 Years
11	Litten, Matt	Paramedic	5 Years
12	Deyaeger, Mike	Paramedic	5 Years
13	Hull, Brian	Paramedic	4 Years
14	Hare, Jarod	Paramedic	3 Years
15	Farrington, Shaquoi	Paramedic	3 Years
16	Wamsley, Dakota	Paramedic	3 Years
17	Pierpont, Mason	Paramedic	3 Years
18	Cordi, Austin	Paramedic	2 Years
19	Hare, Mikaila	Paramedic	2 Years
20	Zentkovich, Ryan	Paramedic	2 Years
21	Snyder, Daniel	Paramedic	2 Years
22	Nash, Nicholas	Paramedic	1 Year
23	Fogle, Jalen	Paramedic	1 Year
24	Bigelow, Erik	Paramedic	1 Year
25	Wiseman, Michael	Paramedic	1 Year
26	Quiggle, Brandon	Paramedic	1 Year
27	Neuhauser, Brycen	Paramedic	1 Year
28	Laskey, Steven	Paramedic	6 Months
29	Dodge, Tanner	Paramedic	6 Months
30	Gooden, Kenneth	Paramedic	4 Months
31	Yeakley, Ben	Paramedic	3 Months
32	Sugalski, Paige	Paramedic	3 Months
33	Smith, Madeline	Paramedic	3 Months
34	Greegor, Seth	Paramedic	3 Months
35	Mohler, Jennifer	Paramedic	2 Months
36	Diana, Michael	Paramedic	1 Month

Our Team - Continued

Number	Member	Certification	Length of Service
1	Collet, Ed	EMT-Advanced	18 Years
Number	Member	Certification	Length of Service
1	Stevenson, Michael	Paramedic Student	2 Years
2	Jones, Tanner	Paramedic Student	1 Year
3	Flesher, Cameron	Paramedic Student	1 Year
4	Januzzi, Andrew	Paramedic Student	1 Year
5	Rieger, Kevin	Paramedic Student	6 Months
Number	Member	Certification	Length of Service
1	Rock, Corey	EMT-B	2 Years
2	Pennington, John	EMT-B	2 Years
3	Zeroski, Zachary	EMT-B	1 Year
4	Koonce, Tahrieq	EMT-B	1 Year
5	Jones, Makala	EMT-B	1 Year
6	French, Christian	EMT-B	10 Months
7	Bostic, Jacob	EMT-B	8 Months
8	Fuller, Jack	EMT-B	6 Months
9	Ramsey, Connor	EMT-B	4 Months
10	Smith, Sophia	EMT-B	2 Months
11	Maavich, Austin	EMT-B	2 Months

Understanding EMS Certification Levels in Ohio

In Ohio, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel are certified at different levels based on their training, scope of practice, and responsibilities in patient care. **EMT-Basics (EMT-B)** are the entry-level providers, trained in fundamental life support skills such as CPR, oxygen administration, bleeding control, and basic airway management. They are essential for stabilizing patients and providing initial pre-hospital care. **Advanced EMTs (formerly known as EMT-Intermediates)** have additional training in airway management, IV therapy, and limited medication administration, allowing them to provide a higher level of support before hospital arrival. **Paramedics** undergo the most advanced training, equipping them to perform endotracheal intubation, cardiac monitoring, medication administration, and advanced airway techniques. They are the backbone of pre-hospital emergency care, handling critical medical and trauma situations. **Paramedic students** are individuals currently enrolled in paramedic training programs, gaining hands-on experience under supervision as they work toward full certification. Each level plays a crucial role in the EMS system, ensuring comprehensive care for our community during emergencies.

2024 Staffing Analysis

The department experienced significant turnover, including 2 retirements (48 years combined) and **19 resignations**, primarily among paramedics. Over half left for full-time positions at nearby fire departments, while others unmet minimum hour requirements (24 hours per month), unfinished probation, or military service. Unfortunately, reducing the 24-hour minimum is not feasible without compromising staff familiarity with apparatus, community, training, protocols, and team cohesion. Asking part-time firefighters for two 12 hour shifts per month is not unreasonable.

In 2025, we will focus on enhancing probationary support through mentorship and actively promoting our department's strengths to improve recruitment and retention.

Resignation Analysis Summary

This breakdown highlights key trends and patterns, offering insights for improving retention and addressing staffing concerns.

1. Experience Level Breakdown

- Veteran Staff (5+ years): 6 paramedics (32%)
 - 3 left due to unmet minimum hours. Scheduling challenges or difficulty balancing multiple jobs.
 - 3 left for full-time roles elsewhere.
- Mid-Career Staff (1–5 years): 7 members (37%)
 - Primarily left for full-time roles at competing fire departments.
- New/Probationary Staff (<1 year): 6 members (31%)
 - 2 didn't finish probation. Issues with onboarding, training, or expectations.
 - 1 left for military service.
 - 1 left the fire service altogether.

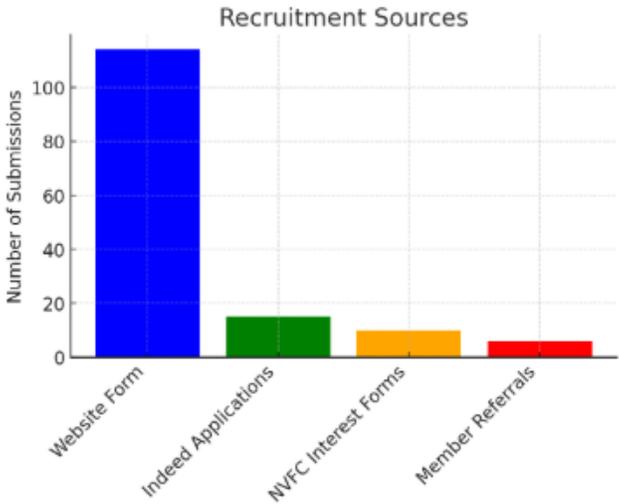
2. Key Reasons for Resignation

- Full-Time Job at Other Departments: 10 individuals (53%)
 - Popular departments include Columbus, Canton Township, Barberton, and Akron.
- Did Not Finish Probation: 3 individuals (16%)
- Couldn't Meet Minimum Hours: 3 individuals (16%)
- Other (Military/Left Fire Service): 3 individuals (16%)

3. Concerning Patterns

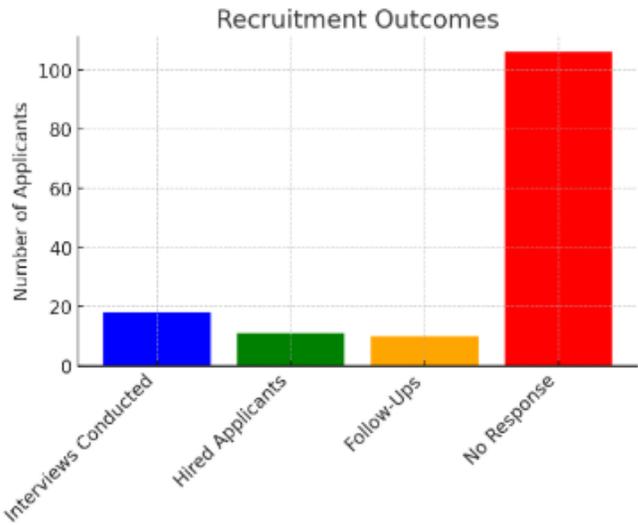
- Experienced Paramedics Lost to Scheduling Issues: Long-serving members struggled to meet minimum hour requirements, suggesting possible burnout, competing job priorities, or personal challenges.
- Probationary Dropouts: Two new hires didn't complete probation, unmet role expectations.
- Intense Regional Competition: Local fire departments are actively recruiting our staff, especially those with 1–3 years of experience.

Recruitment and Retention



Recruitment Inquiry

145
Submissions



Hired

11
Successful

Ghosted

106
No Response

Canal Fulton’s recruitment efforts from July 1, 2024, to January 29, 2025, generated 145 total submissions, sourced from:

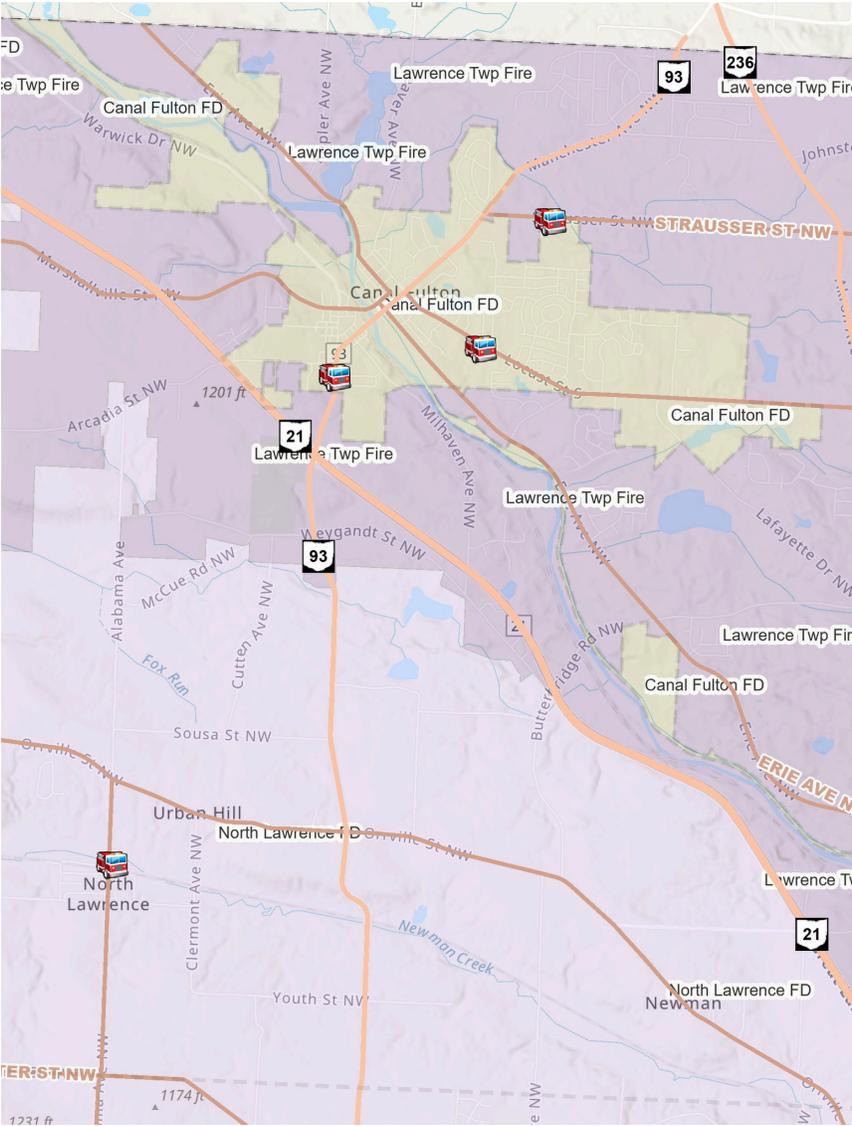
- Website Form: 114
- Indeed Applications: 15
- NVFC Interest Forms: 10
- Member Referrals: 6

However, engagement and conversion remain challenges:

- Interviews Conducted: 18
- Hired Applicants: 11
- Follow-Ups After Application/Interview: 10
- No Response After Initial Contact: 106

While interest remains high, retention and follow-through are critical areas for improvement. Moving forward, we aim to enhance engagement, streamline the hiring process, and strengthen incentives for long-term staffing stability.

Response Map



Stations

Strausser St
Locust St
Milan St

Response Area

Twp - West
City
Twp - East

Contracted Area

North
Lawrence
FD

The Lawrence Township Trustees signed a three-year contract with the North Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department on March 18, 2024, continuing the long-standing history of contracted fire services for the southern portion of the community. (This was briefly interrupted in 2020 and 2021 by the previous administration and fire chief.) This agreement ensures that NLVFD will provide emergency services within the designated area, generally identifiable as the area south of State Route 21. Elected officials should plan for the long-term growth and development of the State Route 21 corridor with the addition of a water tower, existing city sewer, and the development of county sewer in North Lawrence. The expansion of these utilities will likely bring development, which may impact service demands. It is recommended that a professional study be discussed and prepared for in the near future to address the anticipated growth and ensure that service delivery keeps pace with the evolving needs of the area.

Fire Stations

Address	Year Built	sq. ft.	Building Picture
1165 Locust St S	2007	5,992	
393 Milan St S	1978	3,216	
12270 Strausser St NW	1985	6,822	

In 2025, the City of Canal Fulton will pay off the 2005, 0.90-mill, 20-year Fire Station Levy, which funded the construction of the current fire station, completed and opened in 2007. Prior to this, firefighters operated out of the Milan Street Fire Station, with living quarters in a construction trailer parked beside it. In 2013, the Milan Street Fire Station was repurposed into the James Coughlin Sr. Training Center, a dedicated firefighter training facility. Additionally, the Lawrence Township Fire Station on Strausser was staffed until 2013, when township firefighters relocated their trucks and equipment to the Eugene M. Fellmeth Safety Center, improving efficiency under a joint staffing agreement.

As the Canal Fulton Fire Department and Lawrence Township continue to evolve, it is important to recognize that our facilities are aging and will require ongoing evaluation and maintenance. The Milan Street Fire Station, built in 1978, has served the department for decades but will need continued upkeep to remain a viable training facility. Similarly, the Strausser Street Fire Station, constructed in 1985, remains a critical part of our fire service history and infrastructure. While no longer actively staffed, its long-term condition must be assessed. Regular maintenance and strategic investments will be necessary to ensure all buildings continue to meet the department's operational and training needs in the years ahead.

Fleet

FIRE TRUCKS									
Owner	Vehicle ID	Year	Vehicle Description	Manufacturer	AGE	NFPA Category	15 Years Primary	5 Years Reserve	Original Cost
Lawrence	Engine 2	2016	Engine / Tanker	Rosenbauer	8	ENGINE	2031	2036	
Canal	Engine 5	2017	Engine	Rosenbauer	7	ENGINE	2032	2037	\$ 316,866
Joint	Ladder 1	2025	Ladder	E-One		LADDER	2040	2045	\$ 1,457,430
Engine 1	Engine 1	1996	Engine	KME	28	ENGINE	2011	2016	
Engine 3	Engine 3	1996	Engine	Pierce	28	ENGINE	2011	2016	
AMBULANCES									
Owner	Vehicle ID	Year	Vehicle Description	Manufacturer	AGE	NFPA Category	5 Years Primary	5 Years Reserve	Original Cost
Lawrence	Medic 1	2014	Twp Ambulance	Lifeline Ambulance	10	AMBULANCE	2019	2024	
Canal	Medic 7	2017	City Ambulance	Osage Ambulance	7	AMBULANCE	2022	2027	
Canal	Medic 8	2020	City Ambulance	Osage Ambulance	4	AMBULANCE	2025	2030	\$ 158,152
Lawrence	Medic 1	2024	Twp Ambulance	Medix	0	AMBULANCE	2029	2034	\$ 254,144
GRASS TRUCKS									
Vehicle ID	Vehicle ID	Year	Vehicle Description	Manufacturer	AGE	NFPA Category	10 Years Primary	5 Years Reserve	Original Cost
Lawrence	Brush 4	1988	Grass Truck	Ford Custom	36	BRUSH	1998	2003	
Canal	Brush 9	2005	Grass Truck	Dodge 2500	19	BRUSH	2015	2020	
STAFF VEHICLES									
Vehicle ID	Vehicle ID	Year	Vehicle Description	Manufacturer	AGE	NFPA Category	10 Years Primary	5 Years Reserve	Original Cost
Joint	Chief 2	2024	Assistant Chief SUV	Durango	0	SUV	2034	2039	\$ 44,712
Canal	Battalion 1	2024	Command Truck	Ford F350	0	SUV	2034	2039	\$ 53,330
Lawrence	Chief 1	2023	Chief SUV	Chevy Tahoe	1	SUV	2033	2038	\$ 45,057
UTILITY VEHICLES									
Vehicle ID	Vehicle ID	Year	Vehicle Description	Manufacturer	AGE	NFPA Category	10 Years Primary	5 Years Reserve	Original Cost
Canal	Gator1	2018	UTV	John Deere Gator	6	UTV	2028	2033	
Lawrence	Gator2	2024	UTV	John Deere Gato	0	UTV	2034	2039	\$ 24,670
Canal	Utility 2	2018	Explorer Vehicle	Ford Transit Van	6	VAN	2028	2033	
DISPOSE									
Vehicle ID	Vehicle ID	Year	Vehicle Description	Manufacturer	AGE	NFPA Category	10 Years Primary	5 Years Reserve	Original Cost
Canal	Car 1	2010	EMS Chase SUV	Ford Explorer	14	SUV	2020	2025	
Lawrence	Car 10	2010	Assistant Chief SUV	Ford Expedition	14	SUV	2020	2025	



In 2024, Lawrence Township and the City of Canal Fulton were awarded \$984,285 in regional funding through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for vehicle acquisition. This funding will allow the Canal Fulton—Lawrence Township Fire Department to procure a custom-built ladder truck, replacing two outdated fire trucks with a combined age of over 60 years. After extensive research by a dedicated truck committee, the new vehicle was purchased in 2024 and is expected to arrive by June/July 2025. Additionally, Lawrence Township has applied for a brush truck in 2024, which received a high score in the grant process. Looking ahead, the next major joint purchase will be an ambulance in 2027, estimated at \$300,000, with costs shared between the two departments.

**\$1.4
MILLION**

Regional Ladder Truck
Grant Funded

Year in Review



Station Visits

Northwest Special Needs Class



Elevator Rescue

United Methodist Church



Risk Reduction

Community Outreach Education

Canal Fulton, a historic city in Stark County, Ohio, is known for its rich heritage, the Ohio & Erie Canal, and a strong sense of community. It operates under a joint staffing agreement with Lawrence Township, which encompasses both incorporated and unincorporated areas. **Lawrence Township**, a diverse mix of residential, rural, and commercial properties, contracts fire and emergency services with North Lawrence Fire Department, a private non-profit entity serving the unincorporated village of **North Lawrence** and the southern portion of the township, primarily everything south of State Route 21. This collaborative approach ensures comprehensive emergency response coverage across the region, effectively balancing municipal and township resources to meet the needs of residents.

Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township Fire Department takes great pride in their commitment to Community Risk Reduction (CRR), focusing on proactive measures to enhance public safety. Through fire prevention programs, public education initiatives, and strategic partnerships, both departments work to reduce fire hazards and emergency risks before they occur.

Public Education



FREE CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK!

Thursday
04.11.2024
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
(Rain or Shine)

1165 LOCUST ST.
CANAL FULTON, OH

The Canal Fulton Fire Department is hosting a FREE car seat checkup event!

If you have a child who rides in your car, a Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician can help make sure your child's car seat is the right seat for them and that it's installed properly.

A limited number of free convertible seats and booster seats will be available for eligible families whose seats are expired or otherwise considered unsafe. Primary caregiver and child(ren) must be present to receive a car seat or booster seat.

University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's
SAFE KIDS STARK COUNTY
CANAL FULTON FIRE DEPT.

CPR Classes / Car Seat Inspections

In 2024, our department made great strides in emergency training, community outreach, and recruitment. We certified or recertified over 60 BLS Healthcare providers in CPR and trained 65+ bystanders in Heartsaver CPR/AED and First Aid. According to the AHA, immediate CPR can double or triple survival rates in cardiac arrest cases, making these certifications vital to public safety.

Additionally, we conducted over a dozen child passenger safety checks, ensuring proper car seat installation. With nearly 46% of car seats misused nationwide, these efforts help protect our youngest residents. Our role as a clinical site for Akron General, Summa Health, Tri-C, and Stark State College continues to receive positive feedback, playing a key role in recruiting skilled first responders.

We are proud of our progress and remain committed to serving our community with the highest level of emergency care. Here's to another year of growth and dedication in 2025!

Report provided by Captain Cameron Martin
AHA Instructor / Child Seat Technician

60

Healthcare Providers
Trained, Nurses, EMTs, Staff

65

CPR/First Aid Providers
Trained

12

Car Seat Checks and
Hosted a Training Class

Employee Spotlight

Allison Feters

Officer In Charge / Paramedic

OIC Allison Feters has worked for the department for 8 years, and she is truly an exceptional Paramedic and emerging leader.

Allison is mentally strong, with excellent problem-solving skills and a deep commitment to the safety of others. She consistently remains calm and focused in high-pressure situations, showcasing her resilience. As a team player, she communicates clearly, collaborates effectively, and always offers help to her colleagues.

As a young officer in charge, Allison's leadership and positive attitude make her an invaluable asset to Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township. Her professionalism and dedication continue to inspire those around her.



Ed Collet

Firefighter / EMT - Advanced

Firefighter Ed Collet, an 18-year member and resident of Lawrence Township, recently traveled to Chile in November 2024 to climb 62 flights of stairs as part of a firefighter event organized by the Santiago Fire Department. This global gathering brought together firefighters from around the world, and FF Collet's participation showcased the dedication of our own department on an international scale.

You may not know that FF Collet is also an avid volunteer, regularly making mission trips to Africa and other regions in need of fire and rescue resources that are more readily available in the U.S. His experience teaching both locally at the Ohio State Fire Marshal Fire Academy and at the FDIC in Indianapolis makes him well-equipped to share his knowledge and expertise with others.

How cool is it to have a Firefighter representing our small communities of Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township, 5,325 miles away, and spreading our values and skills across the globe.



Northwest Fire Explorers



Safety Town

Northwest Schools



Youth Gain

Speaking Skills



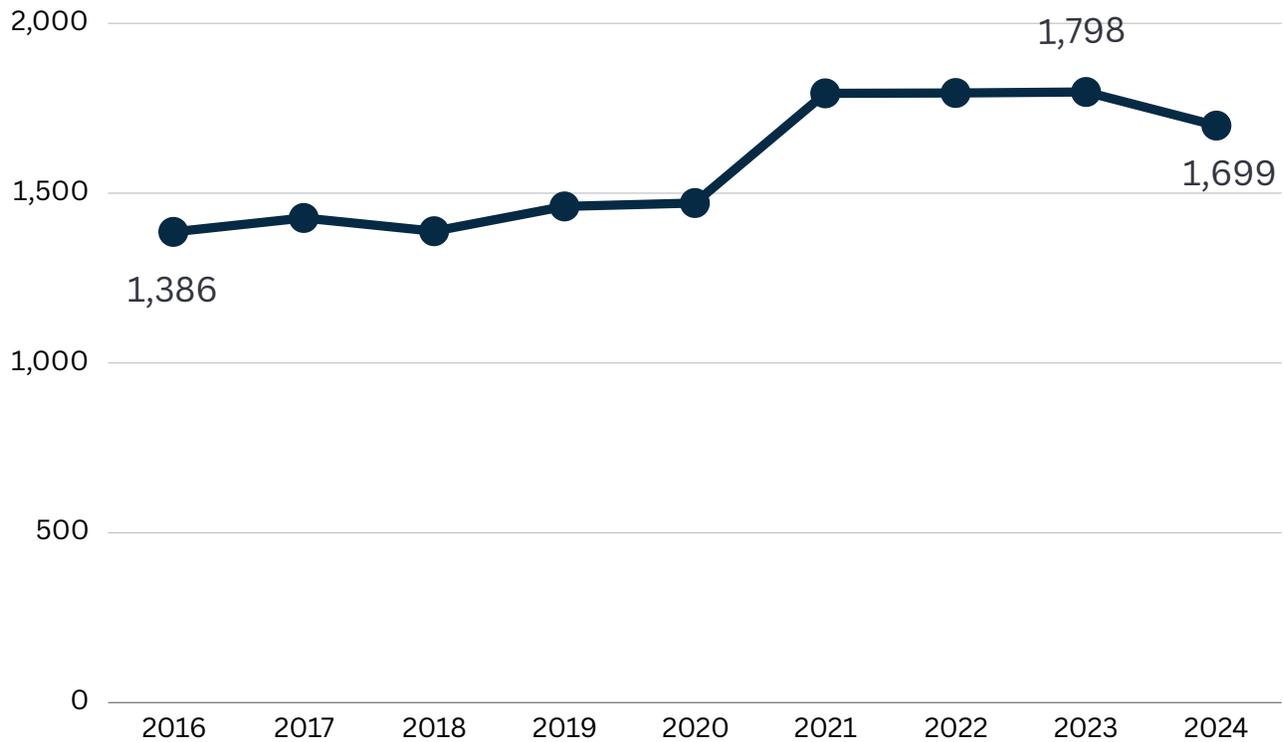
Program Charter

Buckeye Council

In 2024, members of Northwest Fire Explorer Post 1854 participated in Canal Fulton's Safety Town program, engaging with incoming kindergartners to teach essential fire safety skills. Safety Town is a week-long initiative that introduces safety awareness to young children in a fun, interactive environment. The Explorers, ages 14 to 18, are youth interested in firefighting careers who assist with hands-on training to help children build confidence in fire safety. This program is also an important recruitment tool, as many Explorers go on to pursue careers in fire and EMS, with some later joining our department as they graduate and become eligible for hire. Their involvement not only provides valuable education to the community but also strengthens the future of our fire service.

The Ohio Fire Marshal has been actively encouraging programs like ours, recognizing their value in preparing the next generation of firefighters and EMTs. Our Explorer program has gained attention across the nation, and we regularly receive calls from other departments looking to model their programs after ours. This interest highlights the program's success in fostering career development, hands-on training, and community engagement, making it a vital part of our department's long-term growth strategy.

Annual Incidents



Overall Trend

The total number of incidents has generally increased over the years, with some fluctuations:

- 2016-2020: The number of incidents gradually increased from 1,386 in 2016 to 1,471 in 2020.
- 2021-2023: The sharpest rise occurs between 2020 and 2021, with the incidents increasing significantly from 1,471 to 1,794. From 2021 to 2023, the numbers remain relatively steady, with incidents in 2022 and 2023 at 1,795 and 1,798 respectively.
- 2024: The number of incidents drops slightly to 1,699, showing a small decline compared to the previous years.

Conclusion

From 2016 to 2024, the department has seen a significant rise in incidents, particularly in 2021. While the number of incidents leveled off in 2022 and 2023, the slight decline in 2024 is a positive sign. To ensure continued success, focus on resource management, fire prevention initiatives, and ongoing monitoring of trends will be key to effectively managing fire incidents and improving overall safety in the community.

23%

Increase 2016 to 2024

-5%

Decrease 2023 to 2024

22%

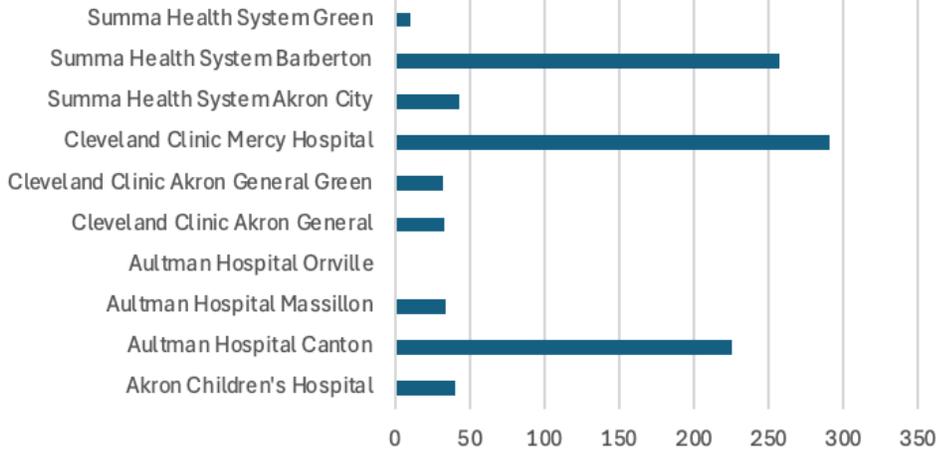
Increase 2021 to 2022

5

Average Incidents per day in 2024

2024 Statistics

Transport Destination

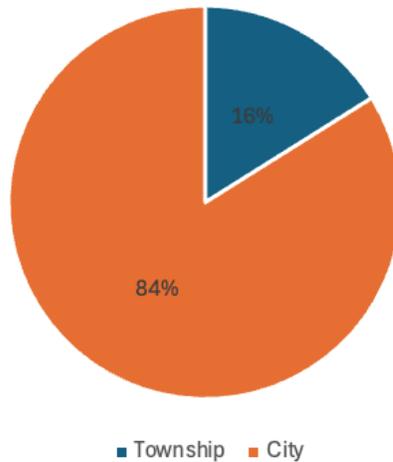


Hospital of Choice

Cleveland
Clinic
Mercy

Mercy Hospital

Fire Inspection Activity

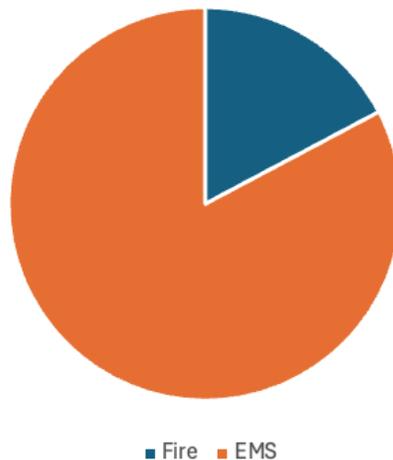


21 min.
Drive

Inspection Activity

317

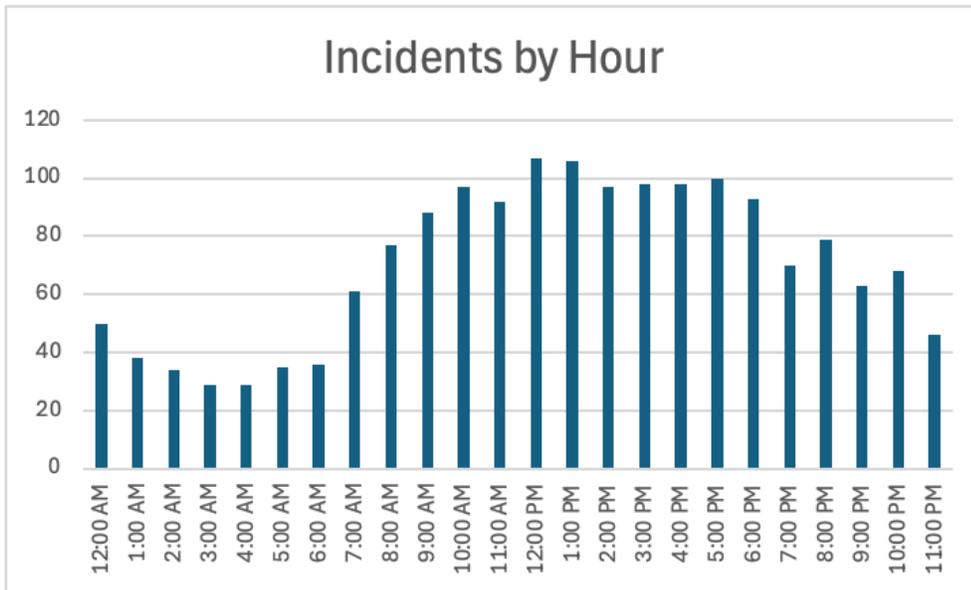
Type of Call



Type of Call

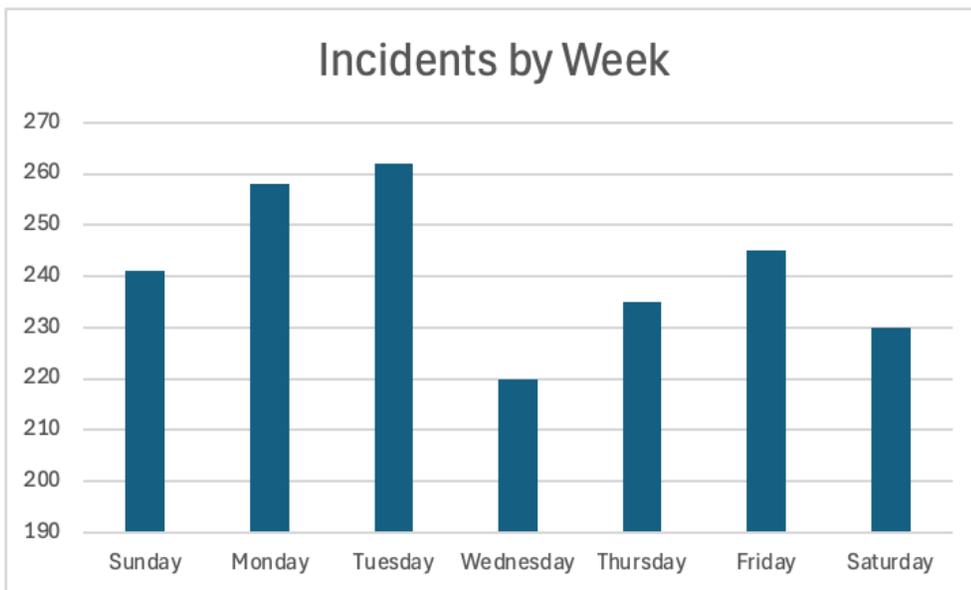
Fire: 17%
EMS: 83%

2024 Statistics - Continued



Busiest Hour

12:00 PM

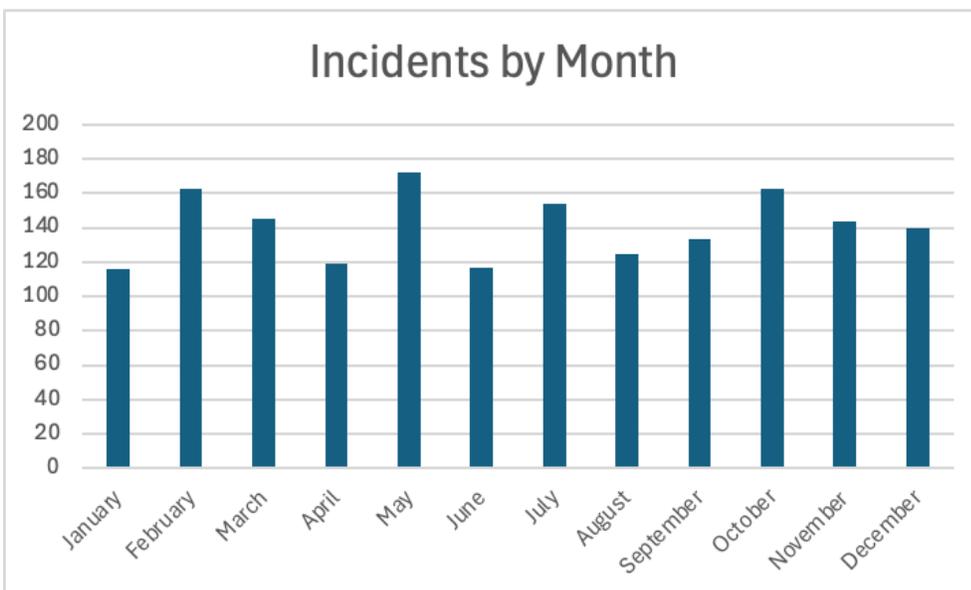


Busiest Weekday

Tuesday

Slowest Weekday

Wednesday



Busiest Month

May

Grants - \$1,145,701

FY - 2024	Received	Grant	Description	Dept.
1	1/4/2024	\$ 2,625	MARCs Programming Upgrade and User Fees	CFFD
2	1/4/2024	\$ 2,715	MARCs Programming Upgrade and User Fees	LTFD
3	1/29/2024	\$ 3,023	Rescue Tools	CFFD
4	2/2/2024	\$ 10,000	Purchase of UTV	LTFD
5	2/2/2024	\$ 3,525	Purchase of UTV Slip-in Unit - Wildland Fires	CFFD
6	2/26/2024	\$ 7,951	Reimbursement of Fire Training	CFFD
7	2/26/2024	\$ 9,018	Reimbursement of Fire Training	LTFD
8	3/4/2024	\$ 7,884	Personal Protective Equipment - Gear Dryer	LTFD
9	3/27/2024	\$ 750	TV	CFFD
10	4/15/2024	\$ 2,710	Miscellaneous - Scene Lighting	CFFD
11	4/26/2024	\$ 300	Search & Rescue Training Lab	CFFD
12	6/27/2024	\$ 650	Grain Bin Rescue Awareness Lab	CFFD
13	6/15/2024	\$ 200	Solar Eclipse Staffing	LTFD
14	6/15/2024	\$ 297	Solar Eclipse Staffing	CFFD
15	6/16/2024	\$ 48,417	Retention Bonus Pay, Hiring Bonus Pay	LTFD
16	6/16/2024	\$ 45,676	Retention Bonus Pay, Hiring Bonus Pay	CFFD
18	8/12/2024	\$ 8,381	Purchase four new AEDs, 4-year pad/battery life	LTFD
19	8/12/2024	\$ 984,286	New Ladder Truck, Custom cab, single axle, 75-foot	LTFD
20	8/26/2024	\$ 4,030	EMS Supplies	LTFD
21	8/26/2024	\$ 3,265	EMS Supplies	CFFD
FY - 2024		\$ 1,145,701		

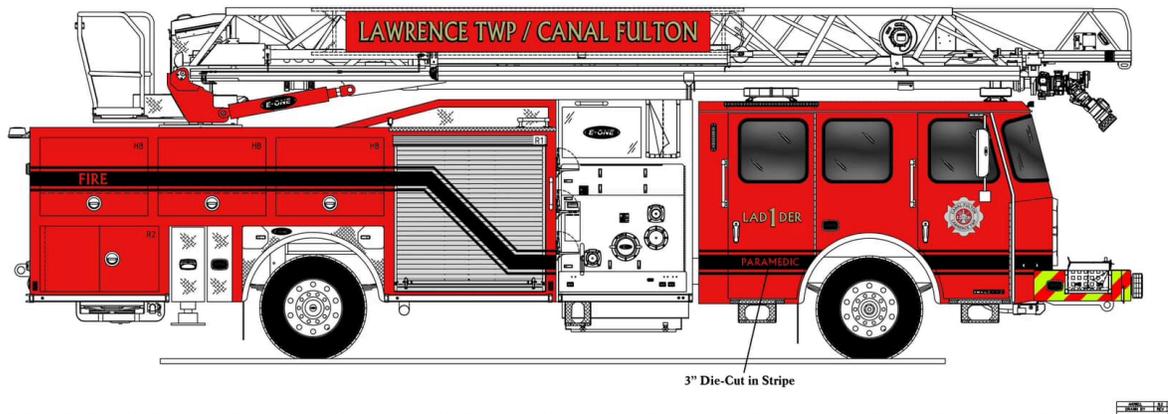
In 2024, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program received a total of **7,962 applications**. Of these, **1,635 awards** were granted across various categories, with **161 awards specifically allocated for vehicle acquisitions**.

This means that approximately 2% of the total applications were successful in securing funding for vehicle acquisitions. Given the highly competitive nature of the AFG program and the limited federal budget, fire departments seeking vehicle grants must be prepared for a rigorous application process.

In November 2024, Lawrence Township and the City of Canal Fulton were awarded a grant totaling \$984,285 through the FEMA AFG program. This substantial funding will be used for the acquisition of a new fire vehicle, significantly enhancing the firefighting and emergency response capabilities of both communities.

Securing an AFG grant is a highly competitive process, with fire departments nationwide competing for limited resources. The approval of this grant highlights the commitment of Lawrence Township and Canal Fulton to maintaining high-quality emergency services, and underscores the effectiveness of their grant application efforts. This award is a testament to the dedication of our local firefighters and the ongoing support from both communities.

2025 Outlook



Ladder Truck

We are pleased to share that we will be replacing an outdated fire truck in Lawrence Township, which has been in service for 28 years, along with another fire truck from Canal Fulton that is 27 years old and has equipment that needs expensive repairs. Together, these vehicles have a combined service of 55 years and no longer meet the modern safety standards required for our firefighters. The National Fire Protection Association recommends removing fire trucks from service at 25 years.

Utilizing a federal grant for this regional purchase can avoid the high costs of replacing each truck separately, which could reach up to \$1 million each. Instead, Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township are each investing approximately \$228,000, resulting in significant savings for our local taxpayers in each community.

The purchase is a quint fire truck, a fire-fighting apparatus that serves the dual purpose of an engine and a ladder truck. Our focus has been eliminating duplication, pursuing grants, and choosing equipment that will serve our growing community for the next 25 years.

Staffing

The Canal Fulton Fire Department and Lawrence Township Fire Department will both add full-time firefighter/paramedics in April 2025, marking a significant step in improving emergency response. A third firefighter/paramedic is projected for fall 2025, pending a budget review. Funded by a dedicated property tax levy, these hires will enhance service reliability and complement ongoing investments in equipment and training.

AFG Grants

The Canal Fulton Fire Department and Lawrence Township Fire Department plan to replace an aging brush truck and an SCBA air compressor for filling bottles in 2025. Both pieces of equipment are prone to mechanical issues, impacting operational efficiency and emergency response capabilities. The majority of the funding for these replacements will come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), with our agency providing a 5% match. Upgrading these critical assets will ensure safer, more reliable service for firefighters and the community..

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