

# Sparta Fire Department



2023 Annual Report

## 2023 Chiefs Report

It is my pleasure to present the Sparta Fire Department 2023 Annual Report. You will find within this report interesting facts about the department events, training, and statistical information for the incidents we responded to this year.

This past year was a busy year for the department. We have seen our calls increase from 999 in 2022 to 1157 in 2023. This increase was across all of our response areas with medical responses being the largest increase.

We also went thru and Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating at the end of 2023. This organization sets the insurance standards for residence and businesses in the community based on staffing, response times, equipment, water sources, and auto aid agreements. The results for this review have not been received yet.

The department submitted 3 different grants/sources. The first one through the Michigan Department of Treasury for equipment. We were able to successfully obtain this grant for \$10,000 to help cover the cost of our turn-out gear. The second grant was a Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). This grant was submitted for \$50,000 in headset and communication equipment for the fire trucks, we were not successful with this grant. The third funding request is still outstanding currently. The department submitted a 1-million-dollar request through Congressman Moolenaar's office for the station expansion and renovation. As of this date there has been no word on the status of this funding request.

The largest change in the department as we move into 2024 is the hiring of a full-time Fire Chief. It is my pleasure to be able continue to serve the Sparta Community as the department's first full-time employee. As with any paid-on call department across this country, staffing has been an issue. We are no exception to this issue. By having someone here full-time, I will be able to help fill these gaps that occur during the daytime when our staffing is low. It is difficult to find people in the community willing to dedicate the amount of time needed for training and continued education for the fire service. As we move forward into the next year, we would like to expand our paid-on call staff by 2-3 more people.

I would like to thank the men and women, both past and present, of the Sparta Fire Department for their dedicated services to the Sparta Community. Without their continued dedication and support throughout the years, we would not have the Fire Department that we have today. I would also like to thank the Fire Board and the community for allowing me to continue to serve as your Fire Chief.

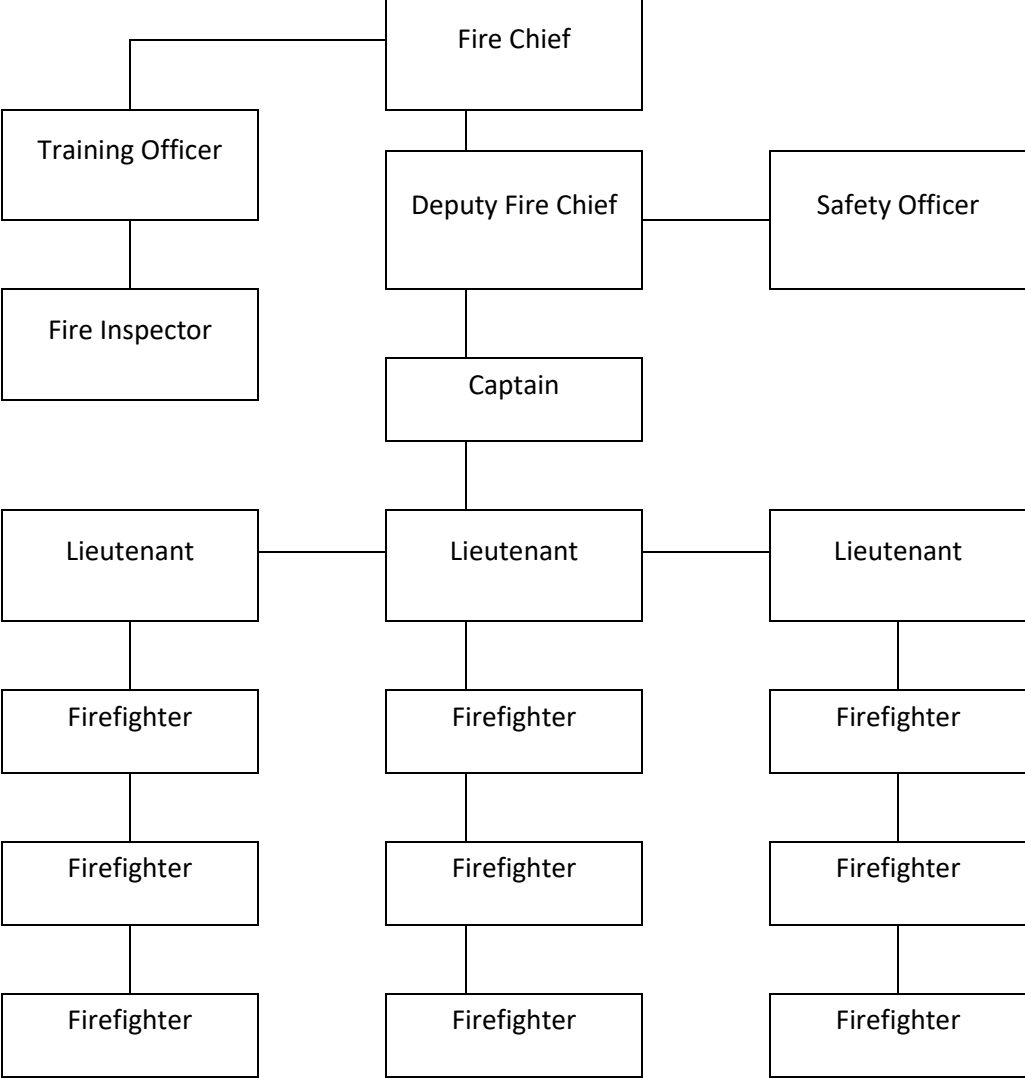
Daniel Olney  
Fire Chief

## **Budget**

A copy of the department's 2022-2023 budget year is attached to review. The department's budget runs from April 1 to March 31 of each fiscal year. The attached is the current budget prior to the audit which shows that we finished the year at 86.60% of the annual operating budget.

Millage #1 was budgeted for \$52,185 and 91.06% of these funds were used. Millage #2 was budgeted at \$34,685 but was amended to \$36,385 to cover expenditures that were made during the year. This millage covered the lease part of the lease payment for Engine #3, a new tablet set-up for Engine #3 for dispatch calls, and 4-sets of turn out gear.

# Fire Department Organization



This is a general layout of the department's organizational chart. Positions and assignment can be expanded or reduced depending on the departments needs at the time.

## 2023 Roster

PERSONNEL	RANK	START DATE	DURATION
Wood , Carl	Deputy Chief	02/01/1983	40 Years, 11 Months
Morton, Shawn	Captain	07/01/1997	26 Years, 6 Months
Olney , Daniel	Chief	07/11/1999	24 Years, 6 Months
Fodor , Dan	Mechanic	08/15/2003	20 Years, 5 Months
Buchanan, Eric	Lieutenant	11/03/2009	14 Years, 2 Months
VanSyckle, Chad	Firefighter	03/13/2013	10 Years, 10 Months
Carter , Jake	Firefighter	09/03/2015	8 Years, 4 Months
Pant , Paul	Firefighter	01/08/2017	7 Years, 0 Months
Fairchild, Todd	Lieutenant	03/27/2017	6 Years, 10 Months
Brown, Troy	Lieutenant	03/03/2019	4 Years, 10 Months
Miedzielec, Allison	Firefighter	05/05/2019	4 Years, 8 Months
Peckham, Chad	Firefighter	08/31/2020	3 Years, 5 Months
Kraemer, Jacob	Firefighter	07/21/2021	2 Years, 6 Months
O'Connor, Alexis	Firefighter	08/01/2021	2 Years, 5 Months
Clark, Dakota	Firefighter	08/01/2021	2 Years, 5 Months
Olney, Blake	Firefighter	08/30/2021	2 Years, 5 Months
Lewis, William	Firefighter	03/01/2022	1 Years, 10 Months
Olney, Lance	Firefighter	10/03/2022	1 Years, 3 Months
Labra, Josh	Probationary Firefighter	04/15/2023	0 Years, 9 Months
Meyerholtz, Andrew	Probationary Firefighter	08/27/2023	0 Years, 5 Months
Behrens, Marc	Probationary Firefighter	08/27/2023	0 Years, 5 Months

**AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT LONGEVITY: 8.9 Years**

### Personnel Information

We did see a change in our staffing over that last year. We had a couple of people leave the department because of changes in their lives. Those members were F/F Jason Waters and Lt. Andrew Good. Andrew Good is still assisting the department by teaching our medical training classes, but just did not have the time to commit to the additional responsibilities.

Currently F/F Allision Hosmer (Miedzielec) had to take a 1-year leave of absence due to her employment with the Plainfield Fire Department and will be returning in May. F/F Paul Pant has also had to take a 6-month leave of absence for his job requirements at South Haven Fire Department.

We welcomed F/F Josh Labra, F/F Andrew Meyerholtz, and F/F Marc Behrens to the department, and they are currently going thru their Firefighter I and II training. F/F Labra has completed his medical schooling, but F/F Meyerholtz and F/F Behrens will start in medical school in May.

## Apparatus:

Engine #3 – 2020 Pierce Saber pumper with 1000 gallons of water and 1500 gpm pump. This is the first out machine on all residential structure fires and the second out machine for all accidents.



Rescue #6 – 2013 Spencer/Spartan Rescue with 750 gallons of water. This is the first out machine on all accidents and second out of all residential fires. This machine also provides mutual aid to area departments for accidents.

Platform #5 – 2014 Spartan with a 100' Crimson aerial. The platform carries 300 gallons of water and can flow 2000 gpm. This is the first out apparatus on all commercial structure fire calls and first out for an auto/mutual aid calls.



Tender #8 – 2008

International/Water master tender.  
This truck carries 4000 gallons of water and responds to all calls in the non-hydrant area. This truck is also one of the first most auto/mutual aid requests for water.



Medic #10 – 2022 Chevy Silverado 1500 that is the first out on all medical calls.

Brush Truck #7- 2010 Chevy 3500 Brush Truck. This truck is used for all grass/field fires and is our back up medical unit if Medic #10 is tied up on another call.



## Fire Prevention:



Every year we conduct visit to the schools during the month of October (Fire Prevention Month). This year theme was Safety in the Kitchen. During our visits to the Sparta Ridgeview School (K – 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Early Childhood Development

Program we talked to about 750 students. Each student was provided with a

There were two different community outreach programs during the summer. Our crews were able to talked and show several kids the equipment that we use to protect the community.

## Training:



During the year we completed a total of 824.5 hours of fire training. These training sessions ranged from extrication training, live fire training, mutual aid training with our neighbors and medical training.

These training hours do not include the additional training hours that our new hires go thru to complete fire school. Each new hire that attends a fire academy completes an additional 360 hours of training prior to taking the state certification exam. Once they complete the fire school they return to the department and complete another 40-50 hours of in-house training to become familiar with our equipment and our staff.



**Incidents:**

The department responded to 1157 incidents in 2023. This is an increase from 999 incidents the department ran in 2022.

One of the largest responses we had in 2023 was a mutual aid to Alpine Township when the tornado moved thru their response area.

Listed below are the various response type of calls we respond to according to our NFIRS classifications:



INCIDENT TYPE	2021	2022	2023
False Alarm & False Call	28	39	27
Fire	47	60	53
Good Intent Call	104	54	71
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	52	41	57
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	664	788	917
Service Call	28	16	31
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0	0	0
Special Incident Type	2	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1157</b>

- False alarm & false call – are fire alarms or incident that we were cancelled prior to arrival (example – auto aid assignment, medical where ALS cancelled us, etc.)
- Fire – include all our fire calls (including house fires, cooking fires, vehicle fires, trash fires, grass fires, and auto/mutual aid calls)
- Good Intent calls – are calls were there are no cause for the incident (odor investigations, smoke in the area, etc.)
- Hazardous Conditions – are were our wires calls come into play, gas leaks, CO alarms
- Rescue & Emergency Medical - are all of medical responds and vehicle accident calls for the year
- Service calls – are calls for lock-outs, smoke detector issues, etc.
- Special Incidents – are hazardous materials calls, water rescues, etc.

**Calls per zones:**



Zones	# of Incident	% of calls
Township	487	42.09%
Village	615	53.15%
Other (Auto Aid/Mutual Aid Request)	55	4.75%
Total	1157	100

Aid Given / Received	# of Incident
Mutual Aid Given	23
Automatic Aid Given	24
Mutual Aid Received	27
Automatic Aid Received	14

Mutual aid resources are additional equipment and manpower provided to or from our neighboring departments after we have been on-scene or based on the scope of the incident. Automatic aid resources are pre-determined pieces of equipment that are

needed for a structure fire from other departments and are started at the same time we are called.

**Medical Response Breakdown**

MED LEVEL DISPATCHED	# of calls 2022	# of calls 2023
Med 1	488	545
Med 2	178	219
Med 3	122	153

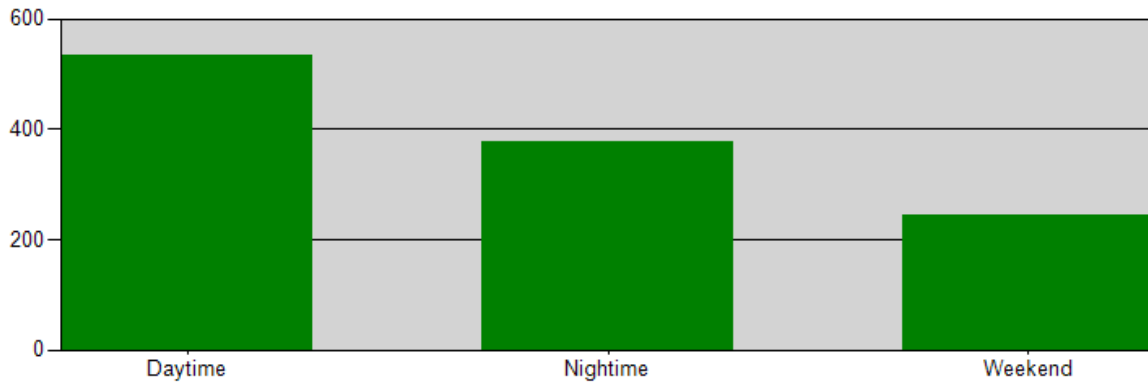
**Response Times:**

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES (Dispatch to Arrived) MM:SS			
SHIFT	Lights/Sirens	Downgraded to No Lights/Sirens	No Lights/Sirens
<b>Shift: Daytime</b>			
Other - Other	10:17	14:30	5:06
Township - Township of Sparta	7:37	6:33	9:07
Village - Village of Sparta	6:39	7:00	7:00
<b>Shift: Nighttime</b>			
Other - Other	10:47	12:15	6:51
Township - Township of Sparta	8:18	8:40	9:29
Village - Village of Sparta	6:46	10:00	7:48
<b>Shift: Weekend</b>			
Other - Other	14:12	4:30	9:00
Township - Township of Sparta	7:57	8:20	8:10
Village - Village of Sparta	5:53	7:20	6:49

**Cost Recovery:**

There were 4 alcohol related incidents in 2023 that were submitted to the 63<sup>rd</sup> District Court for cost recovery.

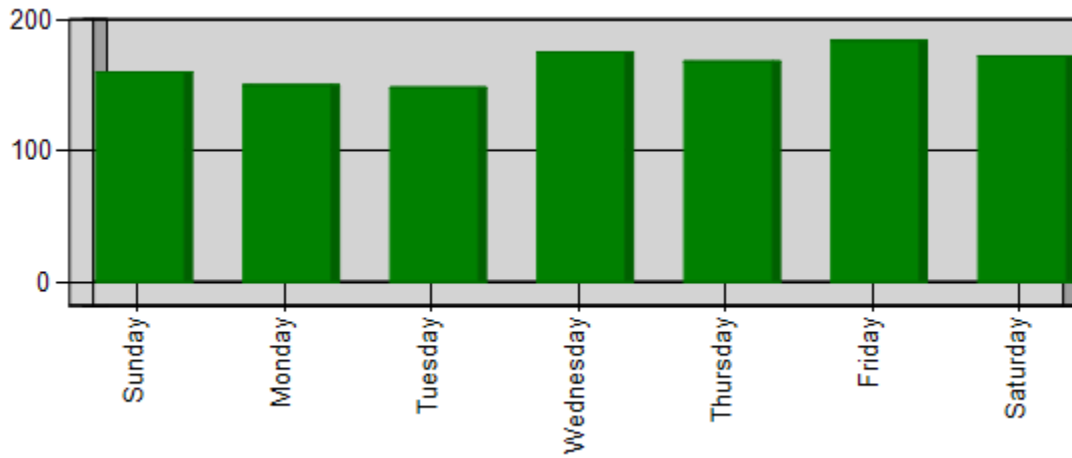
**Call volume by shift:**



SHIFT	# INCIDENTS
Daytime	534
Nighttime	378
Weekend	245

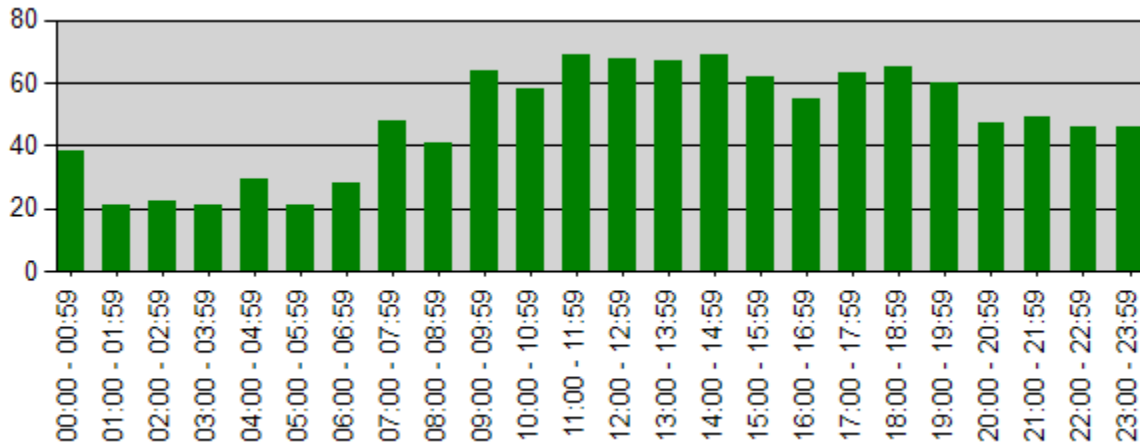
**TOTAL: 1157**

**Call volume by the day of the week:**



DAY OF THE WEEK	2022	2023
Sunday	141	160
Monday	155	150
Tuesday	128	148
Wednesday	163	175
Thursday	124	168
Friday	159	184
Saturday	129	172
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1157</b>

**Call Volume by time of day:**



HOUR	# of CALLS (2022)	# of CALLS (2023)
00:00 - 00:59	35	38
01:00 - 01:59	26	21
02:00 - 02:59	26	22
03:00 - 03:59	25	21
04:00 - 04:59	19	29
05:00 - 05:59	26	21
06:00 - 06:59	26	28
07:00 - 07:59	23	48
08:00 - 08:59	47	41
09:00 - 09:59	48	64
10:00 - 10:59	35	58
11:00 - 11:59	60	69
12:00 - 12:59	53	68
13:00 - 13:59	61	67
14:00 - 14:59	50	69
15:00 - 15:59	53	62
16:00 - 16:59	50	55
17:00 - 17:59	51	63
18:00 - 18:59	72	65
19:00 - 19:59	48	60
20:00 - 20:59	55	47
21:00 - 21:59	36	49
22:00 - 22:59	38	46
23:00 - 23:59	36	46
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1157</b>

**Overlapping calls:**

Overlapping calls are considered incidents that are either happening at the same time or occur back-to-back of each other. The department had 154 overlapping calls occur in 2023. Several of these calls occurred during weather related responses with wire / trees down. This past year we had 47 medical-related calls that were considered to be overlapping, and of these 47 medical-related calls we had to turn 6 of them over to neighboring agencies because we were tied up.

**Response by Apparatus:**

APPARATUS	Village	Township	Other	Total
Engine #3	29	33	15	77
Rescue #6	23	57	3	83
Platform #5	7	5	9	21
Tender #8	1	9	13	23
Medic #10	534	411	19	964
Brush #7	82	96	5	183

**Special Events:**Town and Country Days:

Our crews assisted with the parade and had a water ball event that occurred during the Town and Country Days event this year.

Christmas Parade:

The department decorated Platform #5 with lights for the annual Christmas Parade that was in town. Other crews assisted with the fireworks event and traffic control.

Sparta Grass Drags:

We assist the Momber Family with their grass drag event that is held at their property on 12-mile rd near M37. We provide medical staff for the event.

Freedom Cruise:

This event was scaled down this year, but the Freedom Cruise made it way thru Sparta during their event. We assisted with having the flag up on Platform #5 to honor the Gold Star families as they travelled through town.

Toys for Tots

This year the Sparta Fire Association provided about \$1000.00 to the Kent County Toys for Tots program.

Champagne Breakfast:

Again, this year the Eagles Auxiliary held a fundraiser to benefit the Sparta Fire Department. This event helps raise funds for the department that we can use to purchase safety equipment for our staff and smoke detectors to put back into the community.



In Honor of Those Who Paid the Ultimate Sacrifice on September 11, 2001

*"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"*