



WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

TO: Mayor Blaser, Police & Fire Commissioners, and City Common Council
FROM: Todd Eckes Interim Fire Chief Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department
RE: 2021 Annual Summary
Date:

As we enter into 2022 I want to provide you with a snapshot of 2021 from the Fire Departments perspective. I hope that the information provided, will help to present how busy and eventful the year was for Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department.

This year saw us begin with a continuation of the COVID Pandemic we all experienced for the last two years, but we would eventually see a light at the end as we moved into spring. The first quarter found us beginning the final phases of the Building addition preparatory work. The first quarter also found us testing for an eligibility list for the Lieutenants position, and after two years the ability to begin Fire Inspections again. In that, quarter we could begin to train in person again as the Pandemic eased up allowing for some normalcy with training.

The year brought about many changes and future challenges. Ground broke for the new Station I addition/renovation with completion slated for early July. This addition fills many needs, Gender Neutral ability, increased efficiency with department operations, but most important is the safety of our members with a major reduction in carcinogen exposure. Exposure to the many carcinogens Firefighters are exposed to in operations will minimized with the ability to isolate contaminated gear from the living space and new showers that allow steam generation to open the pores in our Firefighters skin allowing for the release of those carcinogens. This new facility will stand as a testament of investment and value from the city that ensures our members safety, while updating an outdate facility. Thanks you to everyone involved for your support of this project.

This year also found WRFD saying goodbye to two long-standing members of our Family who both served the city for more than 30 years. Chief Scott Young and Lieutenant Todd Forcier. Chief Young Retired October 31 and Lieutenant Forcier retired December 31. Thank you for your Professional and dedicated service!

As we entered into the end of the year, the department would be requested to supply EMS coverage for 4-6 different communities. Many hours and work went into putting together numbers and contracts to ensure we could help these communities and still supply the citizens of our city with the care they expect. The result is contracts with four municipalities that not only generates revenue for the city, but also helps finalize a missing member on our 11th tier.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Organizational Mission

- **Professional at all times**
- **Proficient in all assigned tasks**
- **Polite to all whom we serve**
- **Compassionate to those in need**

Organizational Motto

“Commitment to Excellence”

Organizational Objectives:

- **Remain a community orientated organization**
- **Research and develop policies that enhance community and member safety**
- **Make every day a training day**
- **Apply best practices in EMS and fire operations**
- **Promote a culture of teamwork**
- **Remain fiscally responsible to those we serve**
- **Develop and mentor our future leaders**
- **Promote public education with a focus on fire safety and health related issues within the community**

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Table of Organization 2022

WRFD 900 102
26 Personnel



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Highlights and Accomplishments of 2021 Fire Operations

- **Fire Training Highlights:**
 - **All Officers completed Blue Card Training (Specialized Officer Fire Ground management training)**
 - **Review Building Construction**
 - **Ice Rescue Scenarios**
 - **Fire Ground Tactics for Officers and Fire fighters**
 - **Live Fire Scenarios March/November**
 - **Rapid Intervention Team Techniques**
 - **Confined Space Rescue at Ocean Spray, VERSO, and Demitz Park lift station**
 - **Auto Extrication**
 - **Swift Water Rescue**
 - **Ladder Proficiency**
 - **Relay Pumping and pumping to a standpipe**
 - **Forcible entry**
 - **All Day Drills for all 3 crews**
 - **Metering for hazardous environments**
 - **Fire Prevention in the schools (Virtual)**
 - **Multi crew, Multi agency drill at Lycon**
 - **Haz-Mat Technician class for 8 of our members**
- **Held a Lieutenant's testing process in March developing an internal Lieutenant's promotion list**
- **Held a Chief Officer Assessment center in December developing a promotional list for Chief Officers within the department.**
- **Annual Hose Testing meeting NFPA standards was completed**
- **All Haz Mat physicals were completed in January**
- **DOT Inspections were completed on all department vehicles**
- **Replacement of High Pressure lifting Air bags was completed**
- **7 sets of turnout gear was purchased (3 for replacement/4 for rotating after fires)**
- **Battery Powered Chainsaw purchased and put into service**
- **Extensive repairs were completed to Truck 5 identified during 2020 DOT Inspection.**
- **Fireworks Inspections were completed of the 4th of July display, BMX Bike Track display, and the Rafters Displays.**

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➤ **Conferences attended**

- **Members attended the Fire Investigators conference held annually in Steven's Point.**
- **Two members attended the State Fire Chiefs Conference in Green Bay.**
- **Members attended the North Central Regional Trauma Advisory Council conference**
- **5 members attended the Safety & Professional Services training sponsored by the State at Pittsville Fire Department and Wausau Fire Department.**

Highlights and Accomplishments of 2021 Special Operations

- **Special Operations Committee focused on Improving the inventory storage on the Squad.**
- **A need for a Battery Powered Chainsaw in close spaces and oxygen-limited spaces was identified and purchased.**
- **Replacement of two level 1 Hazardous Materials ensemble.**
- **A water Rescue mannequin was purchased to enable a more realistic training of a victim in the water.**
- **Training for every member in house on Hazardous Metering was given.**
- **Quarterly financial reports were submitted to the State.]**
- **Sic Members attended the annual Wisconsin Emergency Management conference held every year in Stevens Point.**
- **B.C. Kubis attended the Wisconsin Emergency Management coordinators meetings.**
- **A grant was secured to train eight of our youngest members to the Hazardous Materials Technician level. By securing this Grant the department saved a considerable amount of money. This training was also coordinated through MSTC so training was in the city.**

Highlights & accomplishments of 2021 EMS Operations

- **The department received the three-year re-accreditation review from CAAS. There were no deficiencies found and at the final wrap up meeting the committee, praised D.C Joling and the department for the great work done since the last review.**
2021 saw a drastic increase in our EMS call volume due in part to the COVID pandemic, but also in part to a nationally recognized increase of requests for EMS. This increase in call volume equates to a 14% increase. 5% of that increase was from covering for Nekoosa Ambulance Service as they tried to work through their difficulties.

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The members met that challenge continuing to meet our Mission Statement with every patient they cared for. Along with that increase, we met with supply chain challenges, as well as enormous increase to cost of EMS supplies.

- As we worked through the year a local Ambulance service, (Nekoosa Ambulance Service) began to see staffing shortages. We worked with their staff to try to help them through this time from both an administrative side, as well as service given in their absence. Eventually Nekoosa, Town of Port Edwards, and Town of Cranmoor would approach us for service coverage beginning January 1, 2022. Operational needs were identified and worked through in partnership with the city and the department to ensure that with this new area of responsibility we were not lowering the quality of care for the citizens that we already serve.
- In 2021, WRFD attained the Mission Lifeline Award for the fourth year in a row. This "Gold-Plus" award recognizes the crews for exceeding standards in the management of patient's suffering from a "Heart Attack". WRFD also is enrolled in the Coverdell Stroke program. WRFD meets or exceeds all standards with management of victims suffering from a stroke. WRFD also has enrolled in Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES). The reports details National, State, and department data in relation to management of Cardiac Arrest. Of noted importance, the Utstein Survival percentage is 29.2% nationally, 42.5% in the state, and WRFD maintains a 66.7%. This data serves to prove the outstanding clinical quality the staff of WRFD provide our citizens.
- We continue to supply Tactical EMS for both the city SRT team and the county.
- The Community Care Paramedic program continues to respond within our contracted areas offering care as requested by Riverview Aspirus.

Community Involvement Highlights

- **Community Involvement**
 - COVID Vaccination clinic standby (23 Events)
 - Wood County Car Seat Clinic
 - Dispatch Meeting
 - 4th of July Fireworks
 - Fire Extinguisher Training Wood County Highway Department
 - Life Guard Training
 - Firefighters Memorial Clean up
 - Cranberry Blossom Parade, Rekindle the Spirit
 - BMW Bike Track Standby

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- **High School Football Standby**
- **National Night Out**
- **Soles for Souls 911 Memorial Service**
- **Fill the Boot for Muscular Dystrophy**
- **Firefighters Final Alarm Ceremony**
- **Career Day at Lincoln high School**
- **Teen Leadership Program**
- **Trunk or Treat**
- **Division 5 Football, and WIAA 8 man football championship standby**

Highlights and Accomplishments of 2021 Building & Grounds

- **Biggest project completed by this committee was the design of Station I Addition/Renovation.**
- **Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Addition**
- **Repairs to the hose drying system in the hose tower**
- **New workbench at Station II**
- **Archives display case at Station II**
- **With the new command system implemented new command boards were identified and place into service**
- **After the large wind storm of 2020 a need was identified to use Station I as a command post in large events like that one. This committee designed and installed equipment needed for future large-scale events.**
- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant application for 2022 was a result of research and maintenance of our exhaust capture system at both stations. This year's maintenance identified many needed repairs and identified a failing exhaust capture system. This committee researched and identified a replacement system for submittal to FEMA for a 95%/5% Grant.**
- **The last half of 2021 and the first half of 2022 will be busy for this committee with the finalization of and moving into the new Addition while the renovation takes place in the existing structure. Completion of this project identified for mid to late July.**
- **COVID brought many challenges for this committee with sleeping arrangements. Social distancing needed adherence within the stations also. In order to separate members in the existing station we needed to purchase Murphy beds that could be stored away during the day but used at night.**

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Employee: New Hires, Promotions, Notable Anniversaries, & Retirements

New Hires:

- *Dylan West, June 14, 2021*
- *Bryanna Windsor, November 29, 2021*

Promotions:

- *Derek Matykowski; Lieutenant January 1, 2022*
- *Joel Fetterer; 2nd Lieutenant January 1, 2022*
- *Brenan Agen; Motor Pump Operator January 1, 2022*

Notable Anniversaries

- *Joe Kubis; 25 Years*
- *Mathew Feder; 25 Years*
- *Mike Lisitza; 20 Years*
- *Joel Fetterer; 15 Years*
- *Ben Goodreau; 15 Years*
- *Brian St. Myers; 15 Years*
- *Steve Koch; 15 Years*

Retirements

- *Scott Young; October 31, 2021*
- *Todd Forcier; December 31, 2022*

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2021 Run Data

<i>Month</i>	<i>Fire 100 Series</i>	<i>Fire 400 Series</i>	<i>Fire 500 Series</i>	<i>Fire 700 Series</i>	<i>EMS 911</i>	<i>EMS IFT</i>	<i>CCP</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>January</i>	2	3	6	8	268	19	1	307
<i>February</i>	9	3	10	6	275	10	2	315
<i>March</i>	9	9	12	7	283	17	0	337
<i>April</i>	3	6	10	7	274	17	3	320
<i>May</i>	3	3	9	6	334	25	1	381
<i>June</i>	3	5	7	11	353	36	2	417
<i>July</i>	6	4	20	12	389	25	1	457
<i>August</i>	2	5	10	8	407	39	0	471
<i>September</i>	2	3	8	5	358	12	3	391
<i>October</i>	5	1	10	12	364	6	0	398
<i>November</i>	3	4	7	9	373	6	1	403
<i>December</i>	4	9	10	10	366	3	1	403
<i>Year End Totals</i>	51	55	119	101	4044	215	15	4,600

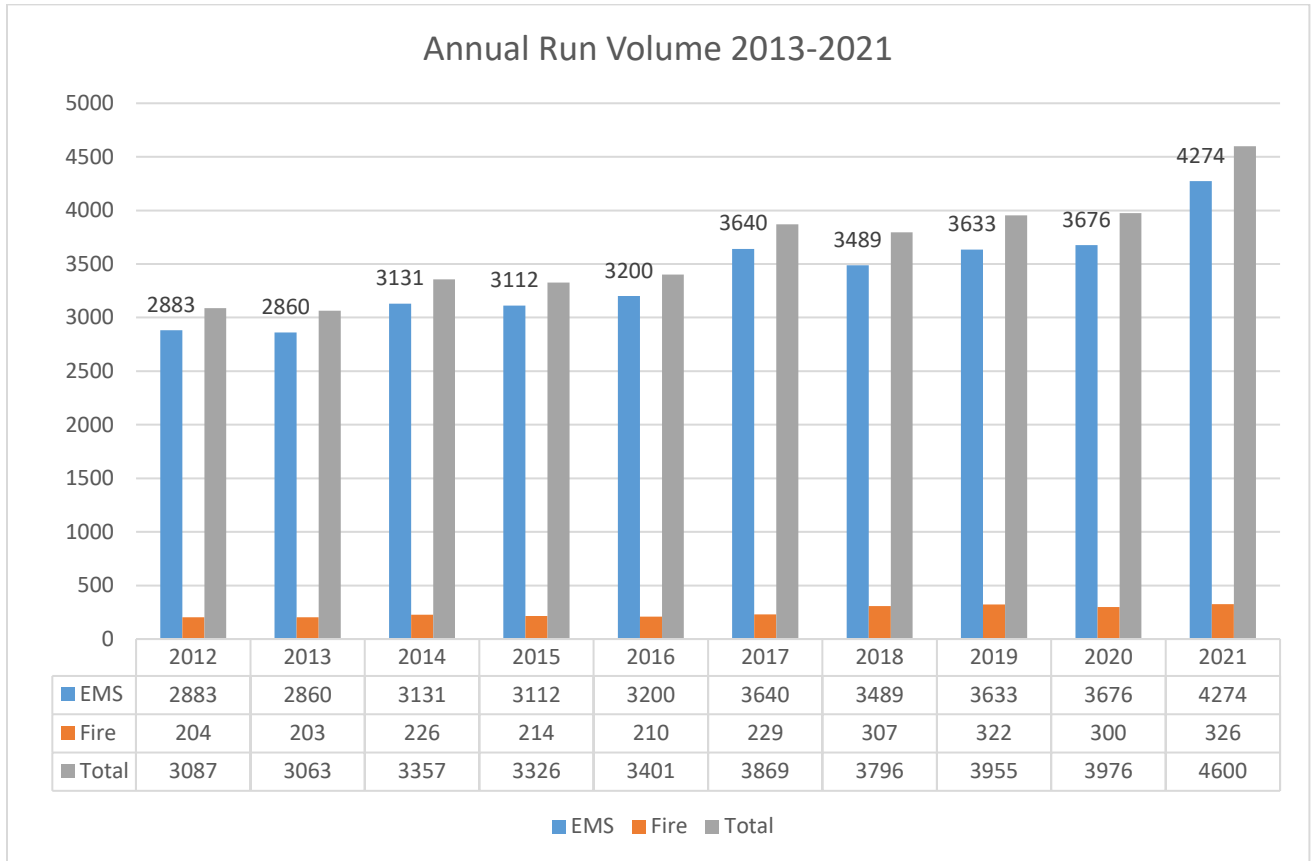
- **Fire 100 Series: Fire (structure, vehicle, wildland)**
- **Fire 400 Series: Hazardous Condition (spills, leaks with no fire)**
- **Fire 500 Series: Service Calls (water & smoke problems, burning complaints)**
- **Fire 700 Series: False Alarms**
- **CCP; Community Care Paramedic**

- *Annual Run Volume Past 10 Years:*

YEAR	FIRE	EMS	TOTAL
2012	204	2883	3087
2013	203	2860	3063
2014	226	3131	3357
2015	214	3112	3326
2016	210	3200	3401
2017	229	3640	3869
2018	307	3489	3796
2019	322	3633	3955
2020	300	3676	3976
2021	326	4274	4600

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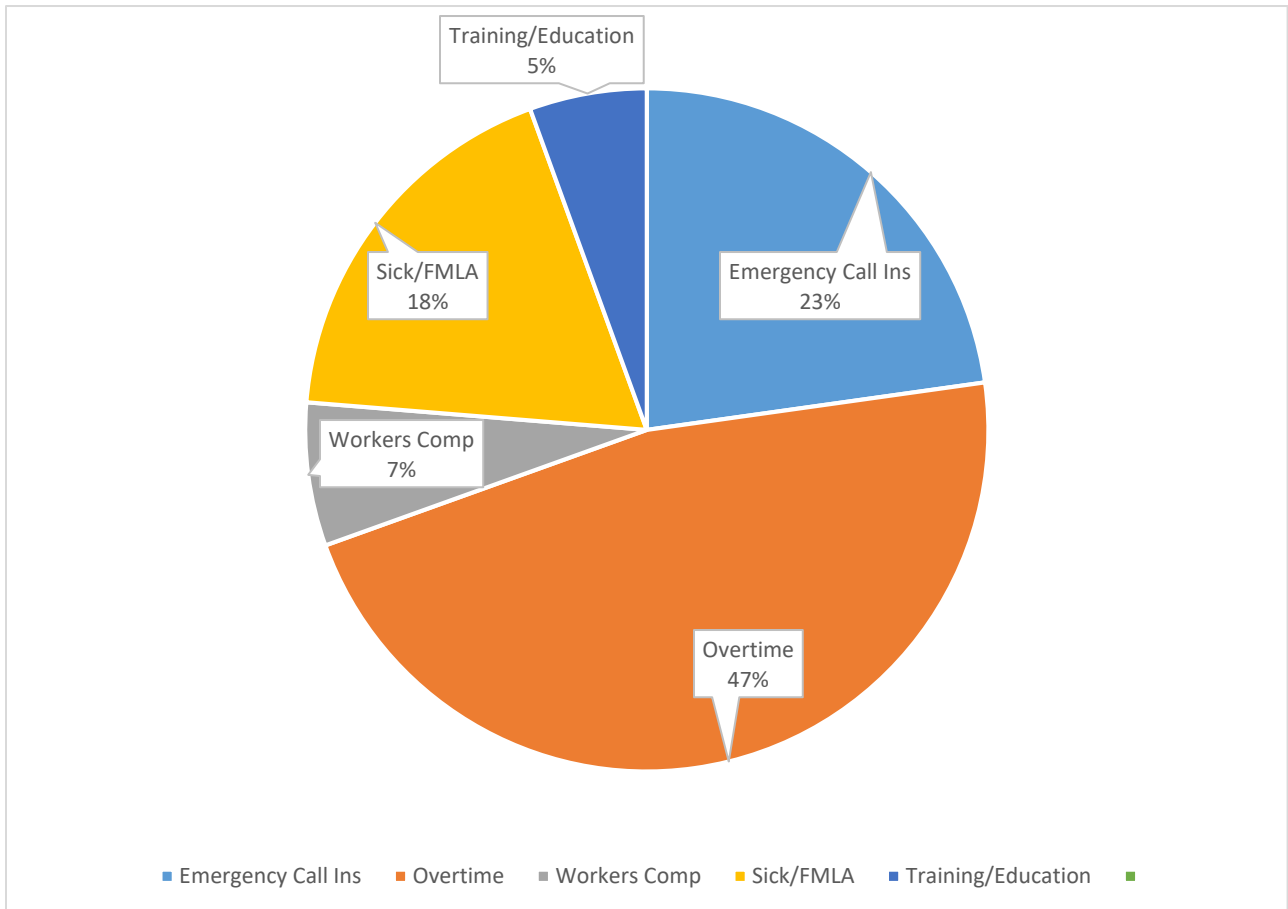
Historical Ten-Year Graph



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2021 Financial Overview:

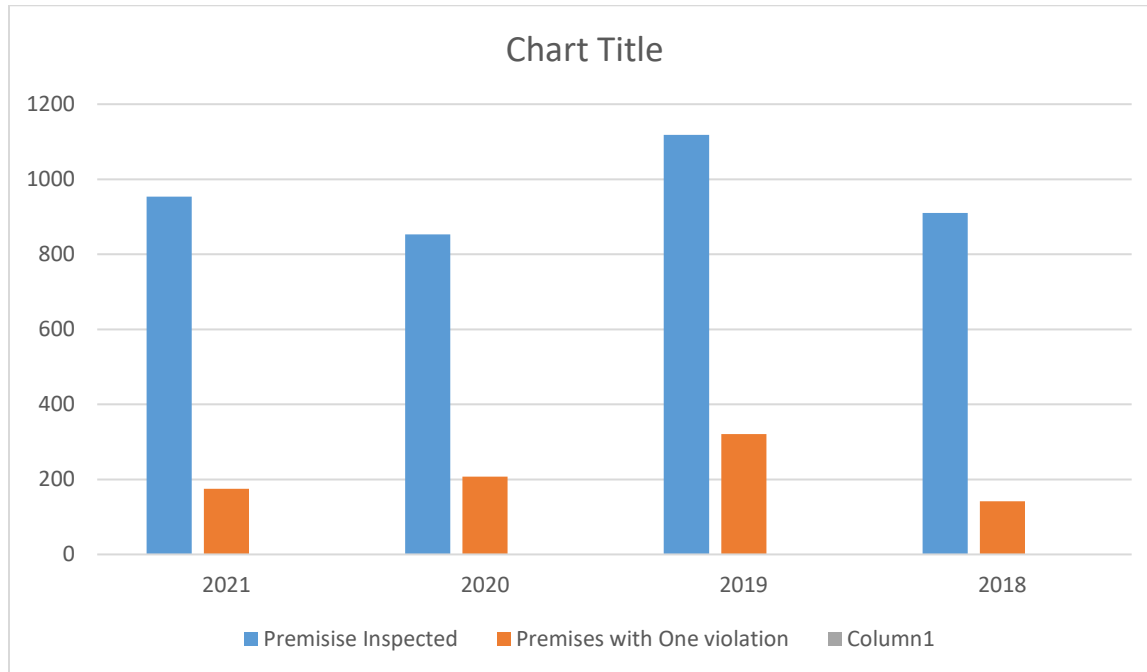
SALARIES & WAGES:	Allocated: \$2,730,448	Used: \$2,682,240
	Net: \$48,208	
OVERTIME:	Allocated: \$127,200	Used: \$156,567
	Net: \$29,367	
INTER-FACILITY PAY:	Allocated: \$15,000	Used: \$4,130
	Net: \$10,870	
40-HR/WK SAVINGS:	Total: \$27,515	
EMS REVENUE:		
BILLED:	Total: \$2,760,362.05	
COLLECTED:	Total: \$1,150,071.38	
CONTRACTS:	Total: \$78,009	



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2021 Inspection Information:

- **The Department completed 954 Inspections with 175 businesses having at least one violation.**



Confined Space Standby totals

- **Issued 359 Confined Space Standby Permits**
- **The WRFD provides 'rescue' stand-by services at no charge to area businesses**

Health & Safety

- **Purchased a second set of wireless headsets for Truck 5. The hard-wired communication system between the bucket of the Truck and the system in the truck failed leaving members in the bucket in an unsafe condition. Research found the wireless headset option cheaper than the repairing the hardwired system and it allows for better communications due to ambient noise on scene.**
- **This year we were able to send one member through a Safety, Health and Wellness program through the National Fire Academy. This allows the department to meet the NFPA standard of a Health and Safety Manager within the department.**
- **The Health and Safety committee helped with the reduction of Carcinogens within the department on scene as well as post incident by evaluating and**

recommending change to the Standard Operating Guidelines used at the department. They also helped with the layout of the new department to help further enhance the reduction to life threatening exposures post incident.