



WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

TO: Mayor Blaser, Police & Fire Commissioners, and City Common Council

FROM: Todd Eckes Fire Chief Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

RE: 2022 Annual Summary

Date:

As we enter 2023, I want to provide you with a snapshot of 2022 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.

WRFD started the year off with a new area to our south that we would provide coverage for through contracts for service. There was a lot of questioning if this was the right thing to do. We had projected we would respond to that new area about once a day, and that contract opportunity would pay for the last 11th Tier position. As it turns out, we were not far off. We responded 397 times in 2023, 22 times more than projected, into those new contracted areas and the generated income paid for that 11th Tier. Immediately following that addition data was collected and research on the average cost for service for an ambulance. We had not raised that fee in 5-7 years. With the help of our new third party billing service, Life Quest Billing out of Wautoma, an average charge was developed and placed into use. These changes would make a great difference in the income to the city from that Ambulance service provided.

The year 2022 also saw the members move into a new/renovated station that was in progress from October of 2021. This move happened in June of 2022 and has been the new home of WRFD since that date. There was a lot of hard work accomplished both internally, and in partnership with the Council, Mayor, and citizens that we serve. We are extremely grateful for the investment made into the future of the department by all parties. This investment will still be here 40-50 years from now as a testament to the sustainability of the department, and the future of Emergency services for the city.

A risk /safety analysis completed in early June identified risks associated with the rising call volume. From that analysis, a presentation was completed and given to Finance & Property and Human Resources on the problem, the factors driving that problem, and a solution to that problem, followed by a path to finance the request. The Result after many questions and answers on need, and avenues to provide solutions to those needs. Three Firefighters were hired early January and application for a Staffing Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grant was completed and submitted. With grant approval from FEMA, we will hire three more Firefighter/Medics. This grant pays for all benefits and wages for these three Firefighters for three years. These positions were needed for many reasons, none more than assuring adequate 911 response for the citizens that we serve, but also for relief for the members of the department who are showing identified signs & symptoms of burnout and fatigue.

Lastly, the department received a new Fire Chief and with that, appointment a new Leadership team formed, with promotions from a trickledown effect as members promoted up. This change was from Chief through Officers ending with hires at the Firefighter/Medic level.

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**

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department



Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

2022 Conferences

- **Conferences attended**
 - **Members attended the Fire Investigators conference held annually in Steven's Point.**
 - **Two members attended the Winter In Service for Fire Chiefs**
 - **Two members attended the State Fire Chiefs Conference in Green Bay.**
 - **Members attended the North Central Regional Trauma Advisory Council conference**
 - **Two members attended Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC)**
 - **Three members attended the Paramedic Conference**
 - **Fire Marshal attended the Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors conference**
 - **Six members attended the Wisconsin Association of Hazardous Material Responders (WAHMR) conference**
 - **Two members attended the Cambria explosion training**
 - **Two members attended a modern day recruiter class**
 - **Dealing with Media training for department Officers**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 Highlights and Accomplishments

- Started a new Fire Cadet program for students 14 – 18
- Began a new and more aggressive Recruitment program
- Started the groundwork for a more aggressive Community Risk Reduction program
- Annual Hose Testing meeting NFPA standards was completed
- All Haz Mat physicals were completed in January
- DOT Inspections were completed on all department vehicles
- Fireworks Inspections were completed of the 4th of July display, BMX Bike Track display, and the Rafters Displays.
- New electric extrication tool was placed in service
- 4 sets of turnout gear was purchased for replacement as per NFPA
- Battery Powered tools placed into service on Engine 1
- Placed three new Thermal Imaging cameras into service
- Moved into the new Station/Renovation in June with an open house and ribbon cutting
- Re-instated a Retiree breakfast every other month
- Mental Health initiatives
 - Pastor Dan DeRoche – Crisis intervention, signs & symptoms of Breakdown
 - Glynn Novak – Presentation of his personal breakdown from start to back on the job
 - Mike & Anne Gagliano – Challenges of the Firefighter Marriage

WISCONSIN RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Highlights and Accomplishments of 2022 Fire Operations

Fire Training Highlights

- Implementation of Blue Card system on the Fire Ground Operations
- DNR Wildland Training
- Ice Rescue Scenarios
- Fire Ground Tactics for Officers and Fire fighters
- Live Fire Scenarios March/November
- Department Health wellness training
- 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

- **MRI Fire Concerns Training**
- **Microwave asphalt plant training**
- **All Day Drills for all 3 crews**
- **Fire Prevention in the schools**
- **Multi crew, Multi agency drill at Northland Cranberries**

Highlights and Accomplishments of 2022 Special Operations

- **Identified Capital Outlay items for 2023 Budget**
- **Developed a 20 year replacement schedule for Special Operations equipment**
- **Participated in the quarterly State coordinators meetings**
- **Secured a grant for three new level A haz-mat suits**
- **Secured a grant for an eight hour refresher class given on three days**
- **Coordinated and conducted a 4 hour Mass Casualty drill**
- **Attended a table top mock spill put on by Enbridge**
- **Held two committee meetings of the whole**
- **Seven members attended the WAHMR conference in Stevens Point**
- **Covered 500 Confined Space entry permits for Rescue standby**
- **Attended an 8 hour hazmat refresher at Marshfield our coordinating with our county haz-mat team partner**

Highlights & accomplishments of 2022 EMS Operations

- **Added four service contracts for areas south of the city needing EMS coverage**
- **Certified 5 members as Handtevy Pediatric Resuscitation Instructors**
- **Switched our Third Party Billing agent to LifeQuest**
- **Attained Mission Life Line Gold Plus award for the third year**
- **Met or exceeded all metrics for the Coverdall Stroke program**
- **Conducted 24 hours of First responder training for our First responder agencies we interact with**
- **4 members completed Critical Care Paramedic**
- **Conducted in house paramedic and critical care state mandated training**
- **Completed CPR, ACLS, and ACLS for the experienced provider certification**
- **Added Video Laryngoscopes to assist with difficult airways**
- **Initiated pre-hospital blood draws to reduce critical time in stroke patients**
- **Applied for and awarded the flex grant from the State**
- **Several joint Tactical EMS training sessions with WR police dept, and wood county sheriffs**
- **Completed CAAS submissions for 2023 Re-accreditation**
- **Placed the 5th ambulance in service**
- **Initiated Naloxone leave behind program**
- **Responded to a record call volume**
- **Navigated the numerous medication shortages throughout the year**

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department EMS Operations

- **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.**
- **The end of 2021 saw the close of Nekoosa Ambulance service after months of trying to recruit and respond to their contracted areas. We were asked to propose contracts for those areas and after consideration of what we could handle, and what was responsible for both the patients we would be responding to as well as the citizens that we serve, we proposed contracts to the closest three areas just south of us. This has become a good relationship with those citizens that we now serve.**
- **In 2022, 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 enrolled in the Coverdell Stroke program. WRFD meets or exceeds all standards with management of victims suffering from a stroke.**
- **We continue to supply Tactical EMS for both the city SRT team and the county, a vital part of the safety of the Officers that we respond with to these incidents.**
- **The Community Care Paramedics continues to respond within our contracted areas offering care as requested by Riverview Aspirus.**
- **The department gave out four Citizen Awards to employees at the Solar Plant in Saratoga, as well as two citizen awards to employees at Wal-Mart. In both instances these employees used their CPR skills to save a life.**

Highlights and Accomplishments of 2021 Building & Grounds

- **Station I Renovation/Remodel. This was a yearlong project taking up a large amount of time in this area. Some of the highlights of the Station are below**
 - **New Training room**
 - **Firefighter Decon space for post fire**
 - **Administrative offices all at central station I**
 - **2 Steam showers for Carcinogen reduction program**
 - **Existing ductwork cleaned**
 - **All mechanicals are now in one room in the basement**
 - **Station I is AFDA compliant**
 - **Focus on Energy compliant with lighting, occupancy sensors, water heater.**
 - **Station I now has security card readers**
 - **Garage doors painted for aesthetics**

- **Station II**
 - **Workbench area and EMS storage updated**
 - **Historic material display cabinet was installed**
 - **New Station II Lieutenants bunk was developed for future additions to staff**
 - **Card reader installed at Station II for security**

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department Health & Safety

- **Review Injury/Near misses and make recommendations to operations or equipment alterations.**
- **Review and identify the need for new workout equipment by identifying, and allocating funds for replacement. This year one Treadmill and one Elliptical was identified and added to the 2023 budget.**
- **Work with Chaplain Dan identifying Behavioral Health needs and identify the support needed.**
- **Helped to rewrite our Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) 313 Behavioral Health Issues**
- **Attended the "Broken Like Me" national speaker at MSTC on Behavioral Health crisis.**
- **Helped with the Mike Gagliano program held 9/30/22. This was an all department mental health initiative focused on the family dynamics and challenges related to a Firefighter Marriage.**
- **Complete the Addition/Renovation with regards to the cancer reduction component in a post fire setting. This includes exhaust systems, gear cleaning, personal exposure limitations, and Steam Showers for post fire Decontamination.**

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department 2023 Highlights

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- **Placed three new Thermal Imaging cameras into service**
- **Moved into the new Station/Renovation in June with an open house and ribbon cutting**
- **Re-instated a Retiree breakfast every other month**
- **5 Year Hydro-testing of all department tanks was completed**
- **Annual maintenance and flow test of all SCBA harnesses was completed**
- **All members were Fit tested for masks as per NFPA and OSHA**

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

Community Involvement Highlights

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

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

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

New Hires:

- *Cole Varsho, May 2, 2022*
- *Caitlin West June 13, 2022*
- *Alexandra Huff August 22, 202*

Promotions:

- *Todd Eckes, Fire Chief May 2, 2022*
- *Justin Pluess, Division Chief Fire May 30, 2022*
- *Adam Yerke, Lieutenant, May 30,2022*
- *Aaron Mancl, Motor Pump Operator, January 1,2022*

Notable Anniversaries

- *Aaron Palbrach; 15 Years*

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

2021 Run Data

<i>Month</i>	<i>Fire 100/200 Series</i>	<i>Fire 400/500 Series</i>	<i>Fire 600 Series</i>	<i>Fire 700/800 Series</i>	<i>EMS 911</i>	<i>EMS IFT</i>	<i>CCP</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>January</i>	2	6	9	9	411	5	0	444
<i>February</i>	3	4	3	7	295	4	0	315
<i>March</i>	2	5	4	4	360	3	1	378
<i>April</i>	2	9	6	5	332	6	0	360
<i>May</i>	5	8	13	6	376	7	1	417
<i>June</i>	7	9	8	8	340	4	0	376
<i>July</i>	4	8	7	9	397	7	1	436
<i>August</i>	2	5	4	10	385	6	1	415
<i>September</i>	2	8	3	13	363	5	0	394
<i>October</i>	5	11	3	3	372	5	1	400
<i>November</i>	3	9	0	5	360	2	0	379
<i>December</i>	4	3	9	9	404	2	0	431
<i>Year End Totals</i>	41	85	69	88	4395	56	12	4,746

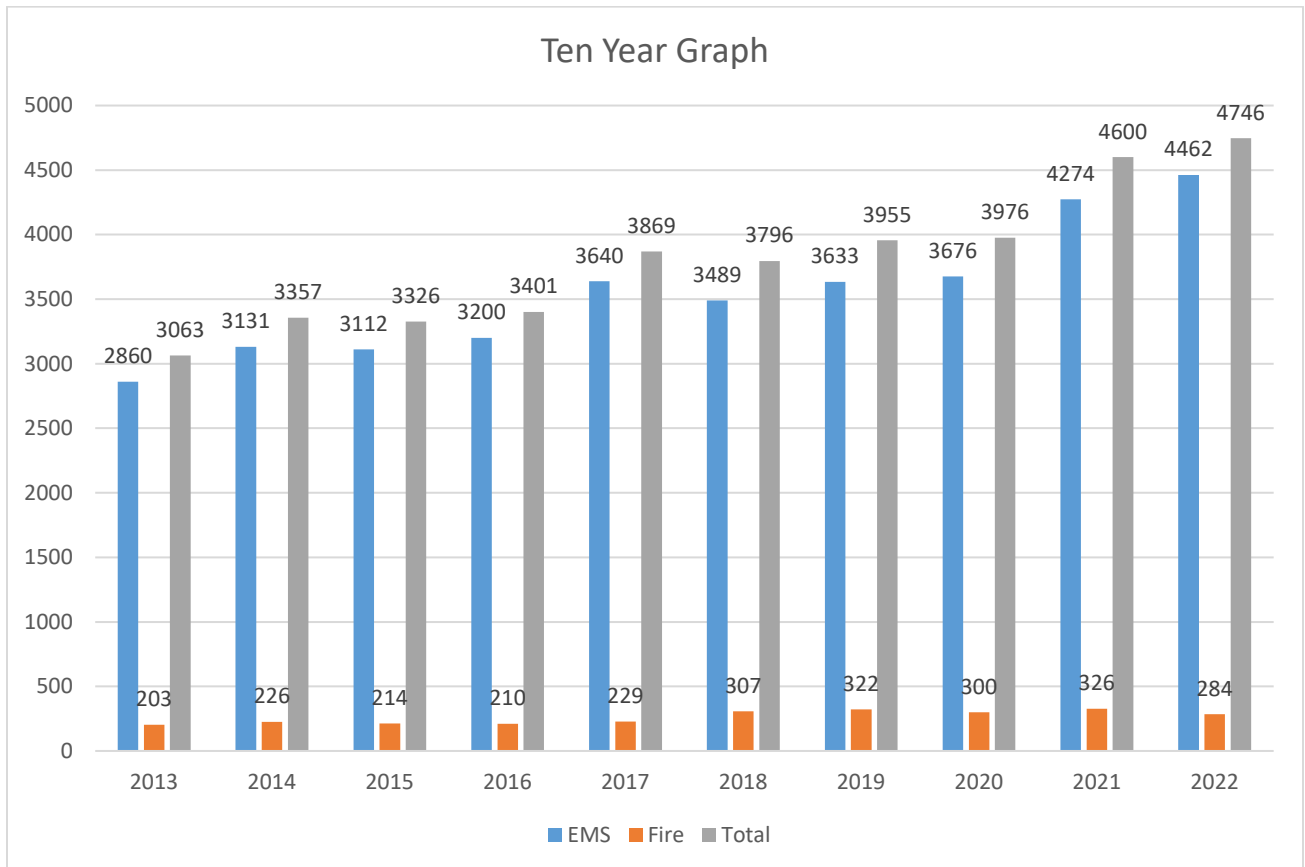
- **Fire 100 Series: Fire (structure, vehicle, wildland)**
- **Fire 200 Series: Over Pressure, Rupture, Explosions, Overheat**
- **EMS 300 Series: Rescue & Emergency Medical Services**
- **Fire 400 Series: Hazardous Condition (spills, leaks with no fire)**
- **Fire 500 Series: Service Calls (water & smoke problems, burning complaints)**
- **Fire 600 Series: Good Intent Calls**
- **Fire 700 Series: False Alarms**
- **Fire 800 Series: Severe Weather, Natural Disaster, Special Incident**
- **CCP: Community Care Paramedic**
- **IFT: Inter-Facility Transfers**

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

Annual Run Volume Past 10 Years

YEAR	FIRE	EMS	TOTAL
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
2022	284	4462	4746

Historical Ten-Year Graph



Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

2022 Financial Overview:

SALARIES & WAGES:	Allocated: \$2,686,799	Used: \$2,555,409.84
	Net: \$131,389.16	
OVERTIME:	Allocated: \$141,250	Used: \$466,946.18
	Net: \$325,696.18	
INTER-FACILITY PAY:	Allocated: \$10,000	Used: \$2,947.71
	Net: \$7,052.29	
EMS REVENUE:	2022	2021
BILLED:	Total: \$3,274,847.65	\$2,758,327.05
COLLECTED:	Total: \$1,311,738.45	\$1,150,071.38
CONTRACTS:	Total: \$140,788	

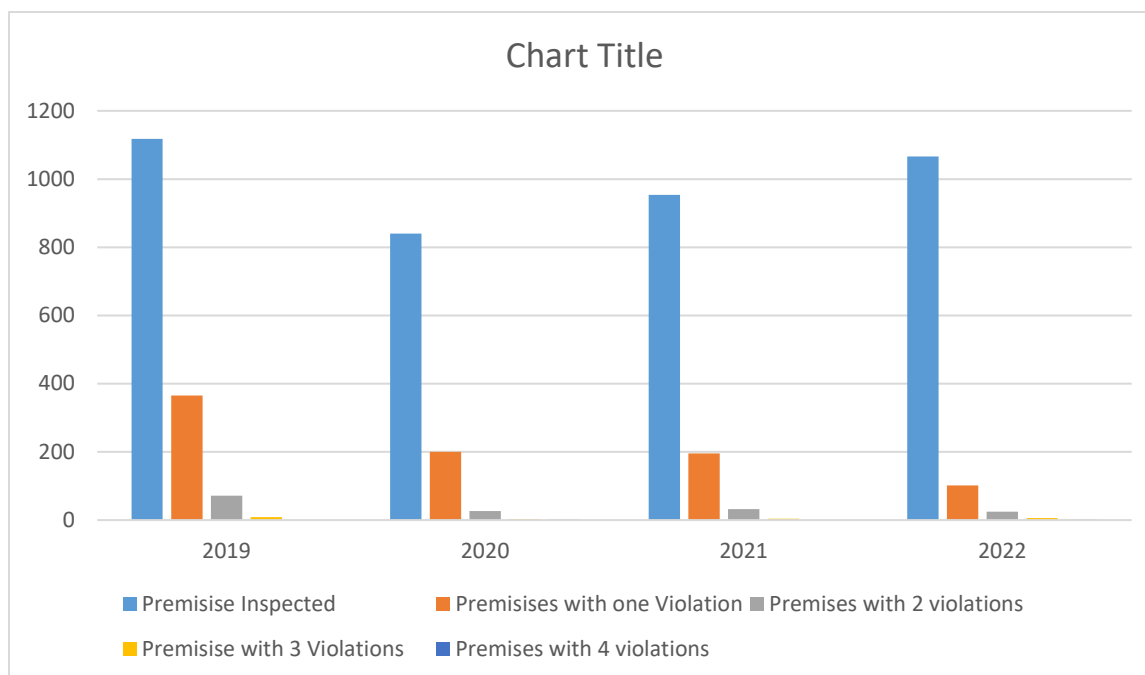
Largest Contributors to 2022 Budget

OVERTIME:	\$340,183
SALARIES & WAGES:	\$2,609,009
AMBULANCE SUPPLIES:	\$95,137
ELECTRICITY:	\$35,938
TELEPHONE & INTERNET:	\$59,251
HEATING:	\$16,431
AMBULANCE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:	\$38,839
FIRE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:	\$56,091
FIRE EQUIPMENT OUTLAY:	\$47,731
FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES:	\$74,091

Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

2022 Inspection Information:

- The Department completed 1066 Inspections with 102 businesses having at least one violation, 25 with 2 violations, 6 with three violations, and 1 with 4 violations.



Confined Space Standby totals

- Issued 480 Confined Space Standby Permits an increase of 12 from 2021
- 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.**