

Richfield Fire Department 2024 Annual Report





Richfield Fire Department
4410 W. Streetsboro Road
Richfield, Ohio 44286
330-659-9400



Chief George Seifert

To: Mayor Wheeler
Richfield Village Council
Richfield Township Trustees

I want to thank Mayor Wheeler and the Village Council for the opportunity to lead the Richfield Fire Department. The year 2024 marked a special year for the fire department. It marked our 90th year of providing service to Richfield. I am proud of all members for their dedication to the residents of both the Township and Village of Richfield.

There were numerous significant events that occurred in 2024. We had a major astrological event in April with the total eclipse. We had a celebration of the fire department's 90th anniversary with a push in event of the new Engine 2. We experienced two separate structure fires. One was residential and the other was commercial. No commercial fire occurred because of a code violation. We responded to several difficult motor vehicle accidents that required extensive extrication on interstate 77 in the construction zones. We ended up with a total of 1429 emergency calls.

The Fire Department continues to remain dedicated to fire prevention, fire education and CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed courses. We perform annual fire inspections and building plan reviews of all businesses in Richfield. We take a very proactive role within our schools, teaching fire and severe weather safety. Our CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed programs help instruct private citizens and many different businesses in Richfield on life-saving measures. We are still building our community connect program.

We finally took possession of our new Pierce Enforcer front line pumper. The building process for this fire engine took two and half years. We were able to fund the equipment needed for the engine through the capital budget and our EMS billing money.

We also finished many capital projects throughout the year. Many of these projects could not have been accomplished without the support of the Mayor and Village Council. \$85,000 was budgeted to outfit Engine 2 with new and updated equipment.

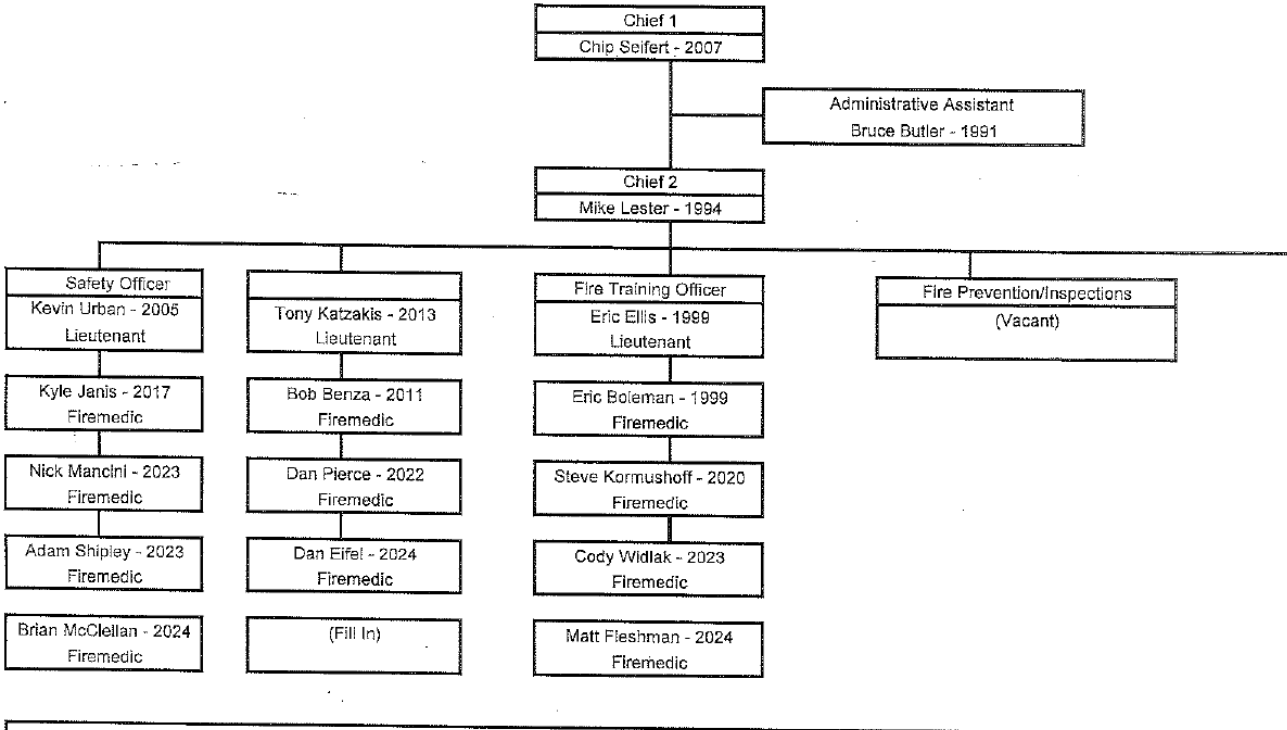
At the end of 2024 we made the decision to increase our staffing to help reduce overtime and due to increase call volume. When I started as Chief staffing was at three members per shift. We currently have two shifts with five members and one with four members. The part-time members play a critical role in keeping us fully staffed.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Seifert".

George K. Seifert
Fire Chief

Richfield Fire Department Organizational Chart



Part Time Staff						
Tom Sullivan - 2006 Firemedic	Steve Weinert - 2007 Firemedic	Mark Willis - 2008 Firefighter/EMT	Jeremy Parkhurst - 2009 Firemedic	John Hovan - 2014 Firemedic	Cody Bennett - 2016 Firemedic	Cory Tessmer - 2018 Firemedic
Christain Brienza - 2020 Firemedic	David Kren - 2021 Firemedic	DeAnna Josey - 2021 Firemedic	David Crawford - 2022 Firemedic	Zach Tisdale - 2023 Firemedic	Tyler Tessmer - 2024 Firemedic	Steve Morbito - 2024 Firemedic
Sandra Norsic - 2024 Firemedic	Dylan Clarke - 2024 Firemedic	Sean VanNeil - 2024 Firemedic				

Organization Members (name and years of service)

George Seifert, Fire Chief (15)

Mike Lester, Asst. Fire Chief (31)

Shift Lieutenants

Kevin Urban, A Shift (20)

Tony Katzakis, B Shift (21)

Eric Ellis, C Shift (24)

Full Time Firemedic Staff

Kyle Janis (18) Daniel Pierce (4) Cody Widlak (2)

Eric Boleman (26) Robert Benza (15) Adam Shipley (2)

Nick Mancini (2) Steve Kormushoff (4)

Dan Eifel (1) Brian McClellan (1) Matt Fleshman (1)

Part Time Staff

Tom Sullivan (19) Steve Weinert (18) Mark Willis (17) Jeremy Parkhurst (16)

John Hovan (11) Christian Brienza (15) Cody Bennett (9) Cory Tessmer(7)

DeAnna Josey (5) David Kren (4) David Crawford (3) Zach Tisdale (2)

Tyler Tessmer (1) Steve Morbito (1) Sandra Norsic (1) Dylan Clarke (1)

Sean VanNeil (1)

Bruce Butler, Admin. Asst. (34)

Specialized Fields of Training – 2024

Instructors:

CPR

Janis, Pierce

Fire Service/Live Burns

Seifert, Ellis, Sullivan

Team Members

Fire Safety Inspectors

Seifert, Lester, Ellis, Benza, Boleman,
Urban, Sullivan, Weinert

Ice Rescue

Lester, Ellis, Urban, Benza, Janis,
Katzakis, Kormushoff, Sullivan, Willis

Drone Operators

Seifert, Lester, Ellis, Benza,
Kormushoff

Fire Investigation

Ellis, Urban

County Hazmat

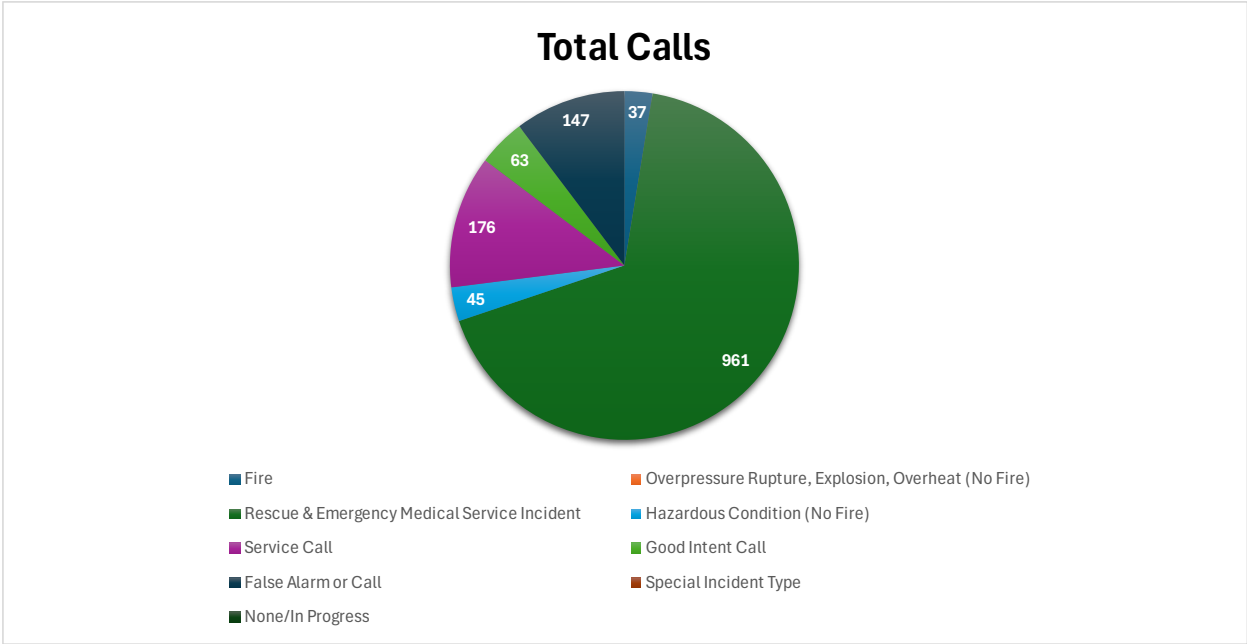
Katzakis, Kormushoff, Sullivan

Technical Rescue Operations

Janis, Sullivan

Emergency Vehicle Technician

Boleman



Dispatched for EMS/Rescue calls- 961 responses

Dispatched for Service Calls- 176 responses

Dispatched for False Alarm Calls- 147 responses

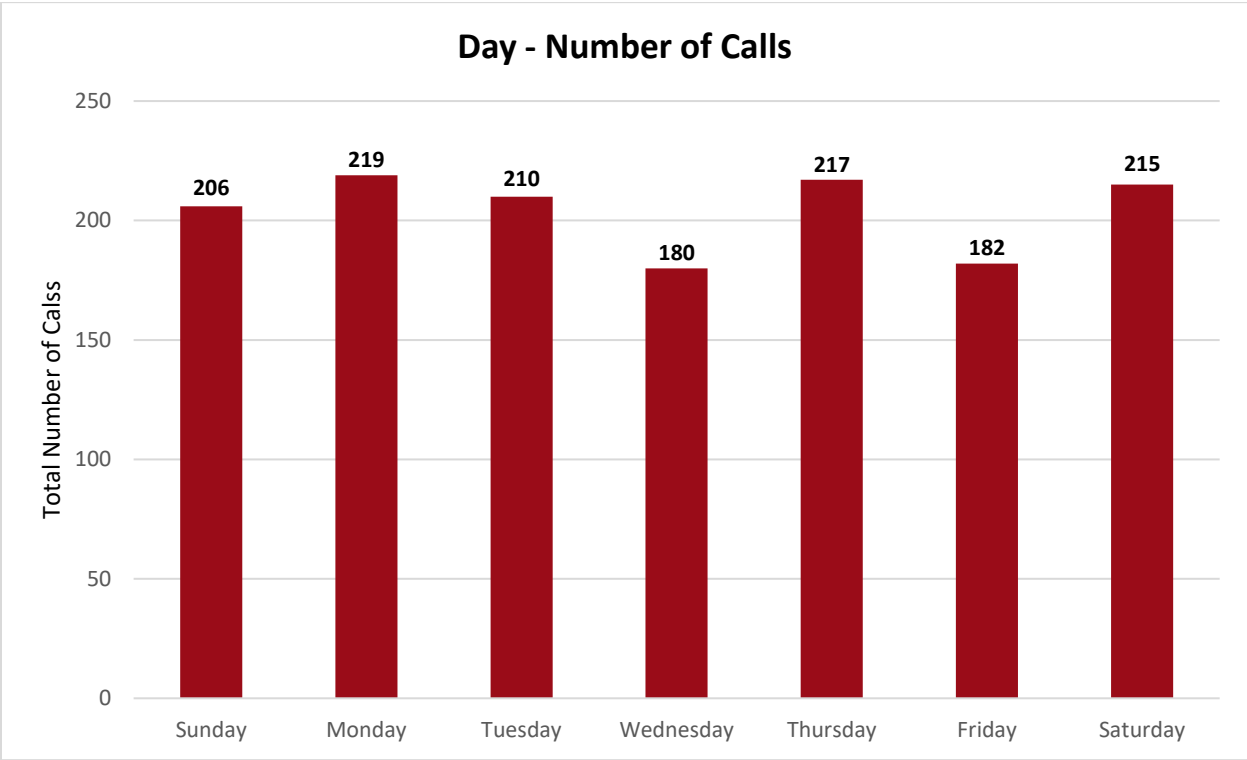
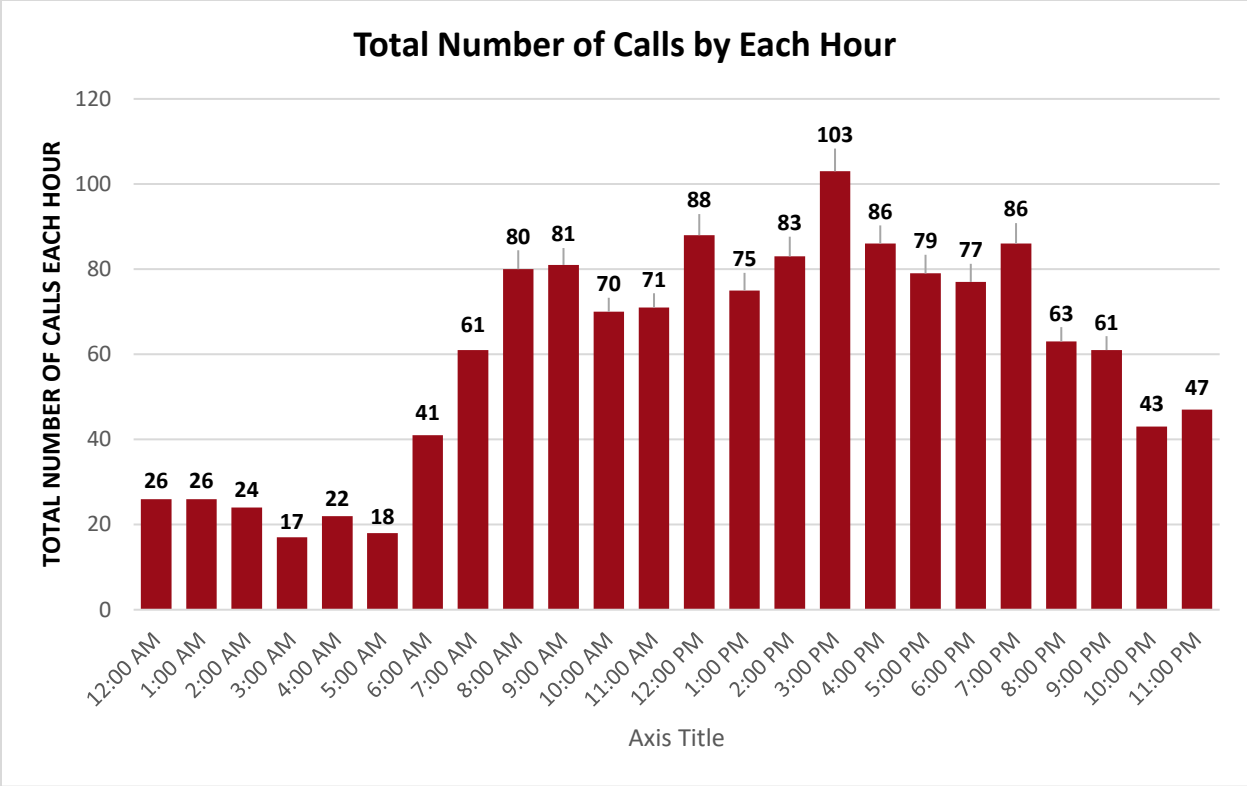
Dispatched for Good Intent Calls - 63 responses

Dispatched for Hazardous Condition (no fire) Calls- 45 responses

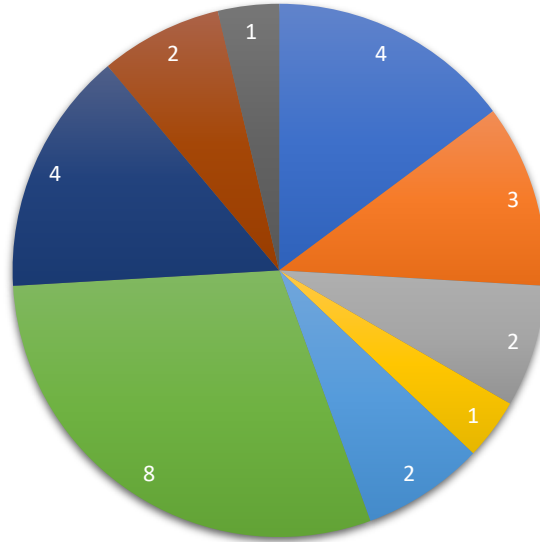
Dispatched for Fire calls- 37 Response

The Richfield Fire Department responded to 1,429 calls for service. We responded to 1,027 calls within the boundaries of the Village of Richfield and responded to 402 calls for service in the boundaries of Richfield Township.





FIRE RUNS TOTAL 27



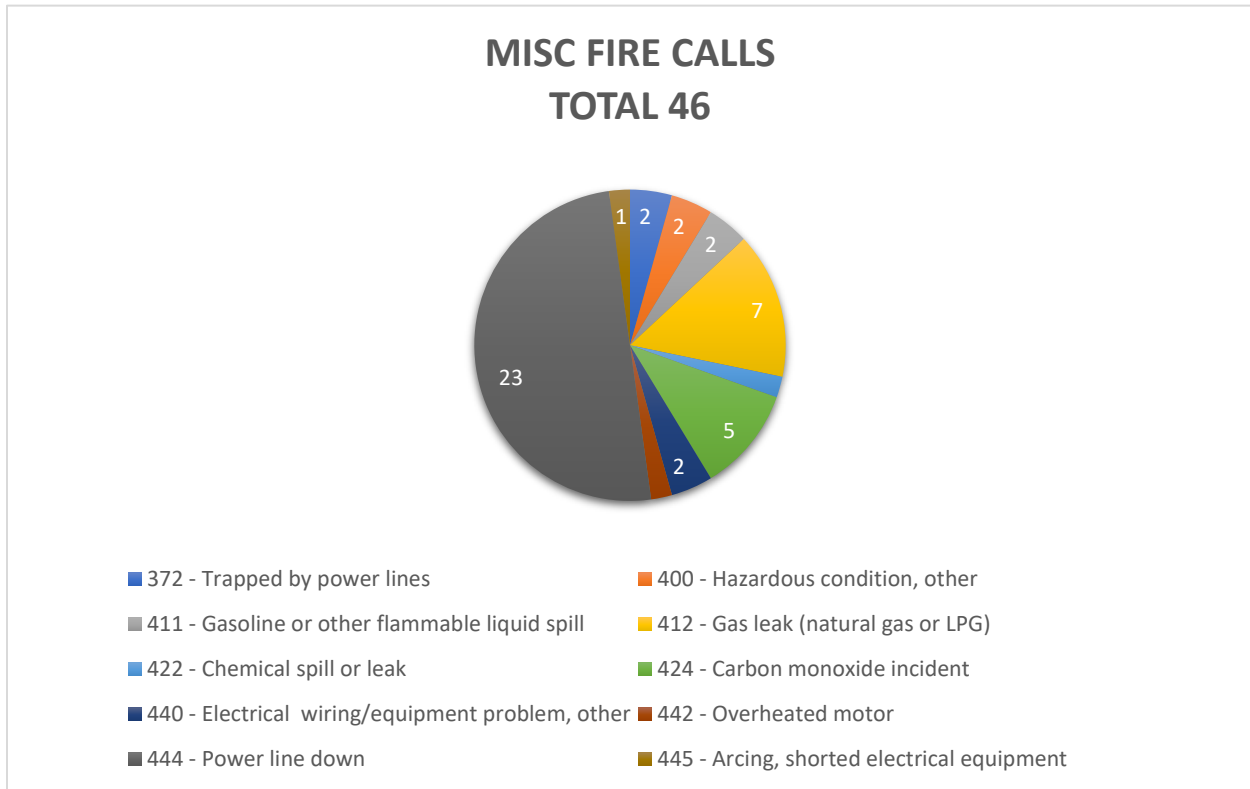
- 100 - Fire, other
- 111 - Building fire
- 113 - Cooking fire, confined to container
- 114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue
- 118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained
- 131 - Passenger vehicle fire
- 132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire
- 141 - Forest, woods or wildland fire
- 251 - Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition

100 - Fire, other	4
111 - Building fire	3
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	2
114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	2
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	8
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	4
141 - Forest, woods or wildland fire	2
251 - Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1

Calls

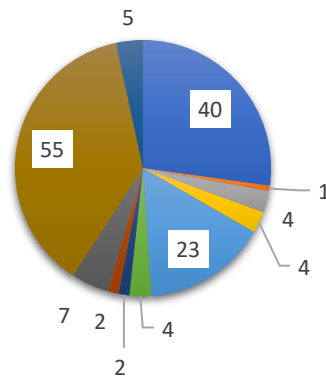


Electrical lines down are the leading cause for miscellaneous fire calls. Miscellaneous calls are a catch all for the fire department responses. Most of the calls we are either investigating or checking the atmosphere with a gas meter to ensure it is safe.



372 - Trapped by power lines	2
400 - Hazardous condition, other	2
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	2
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	7
422 - Chemical spill or leak	1
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	5
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	2
442 - Overheated motor	1
444 - Power line down	23
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1

FIRE ALARM ACTIVATIONS TOTAL 147

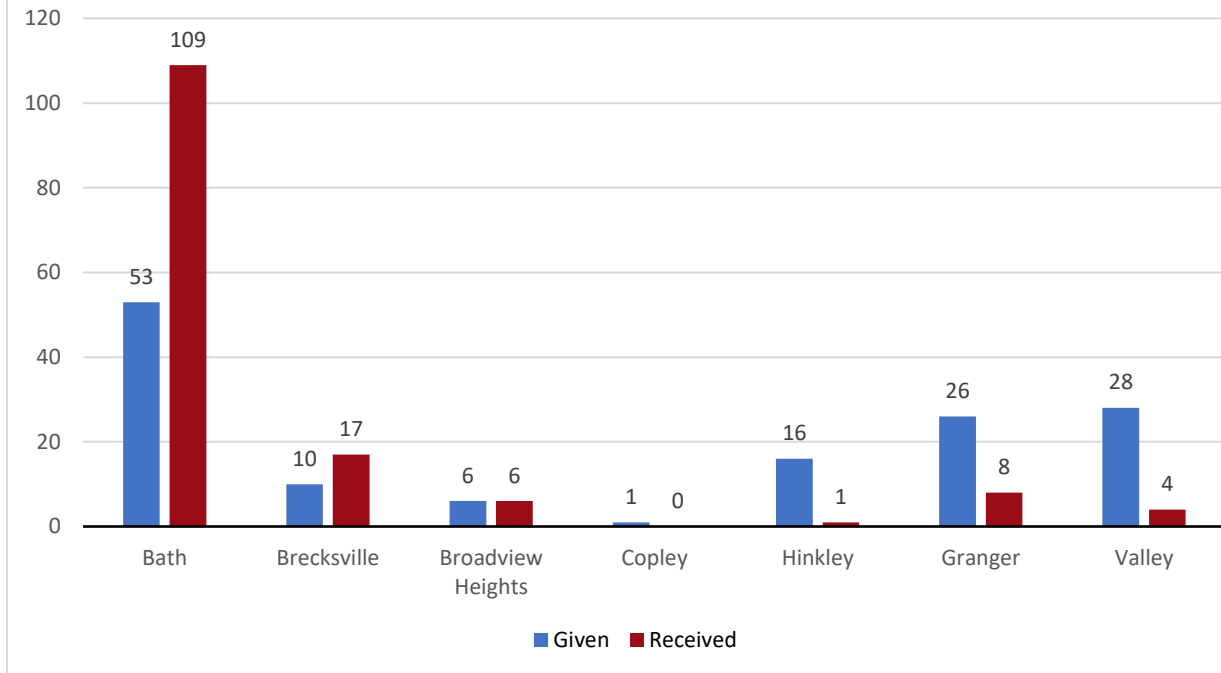


- 700 - False alarm or false call, other
- 710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other
- 730 - System malfunction, other
- 733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction
- 735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction
- 736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction
- 740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other

700 - False alarm or false call, other	40
710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other	1
730 - System malfunction, other	4
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	4
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	23
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	4
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	2
742 - Extinguishing system activation	2
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	7
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	55
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	5

False alarms in commercial buildings are a common occurrence. We have tried to reduce the false alarms by follow up inspections and false alarm billing. We allow three false alarms before we issue a billing statement. In 2024 we billed \$2,500 for false alarms.

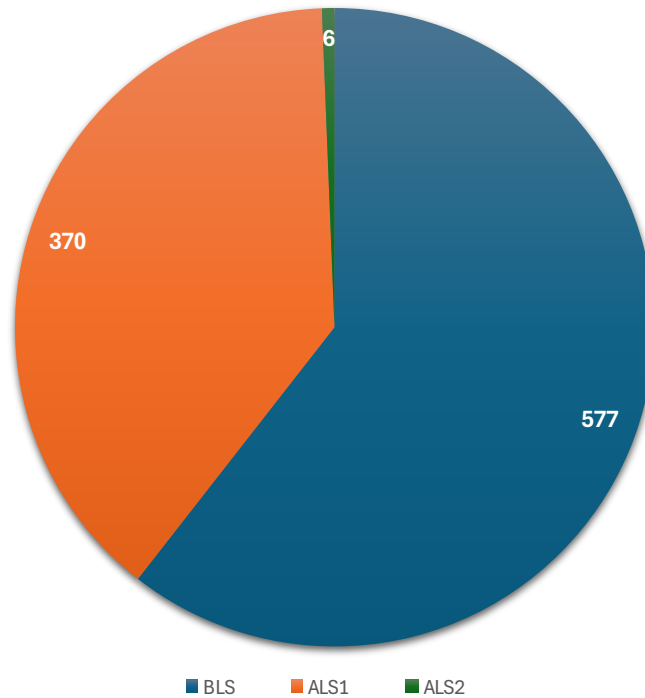
Mutual / Auto Aid



Town	Given	Received
Bath	53	109
Brecksville	10	17
Broadview Heights	6	6
Copley	1	0
Hinkley	16	1
Granger	26	8
Valley	28	4
Total	140	145

In 2024 the fire department was almost equal in auto/mutual aid given and received. We have an automatic aid agreement with Bath Township. Both departments get simultaneously dispatched for any structure fire, or accident on Interstate 77 and 271 no matter if the call is in Bath or Richfield. This gets us the equipment and manpower quickly to the scene.

Runs by Service Level



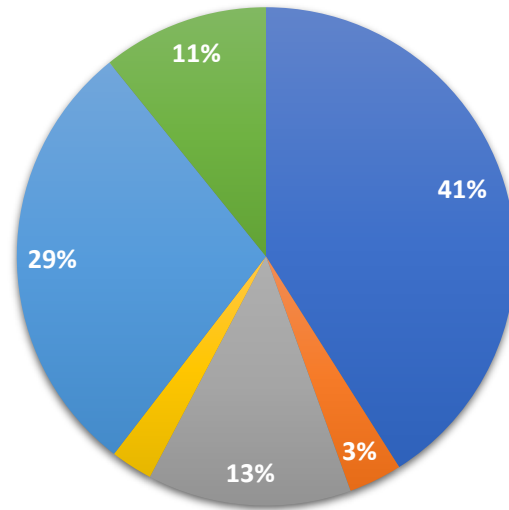
Basic Life Support-577 runs

Advanced Life Support 1- 1 370 runs

Advanced Life Support 2- 6 runs

There are three levels of EMS services for billing purposes. Basic Life Support usually covers injuries and illnesses where treatment on our part is minimal. Advance Life Support is divided into two categories ALS 1 and 2. ALS1 is treatment that includes at least one intervention. An example would be giving medication, interpreting 12 lead ECG as examples. ALS2 must have at least three interventions and can include intubation, chest compressions, and defibrillation/cardioversion.

Transports From



■ Home/Residence

■ Public Building

■ Street/Highway

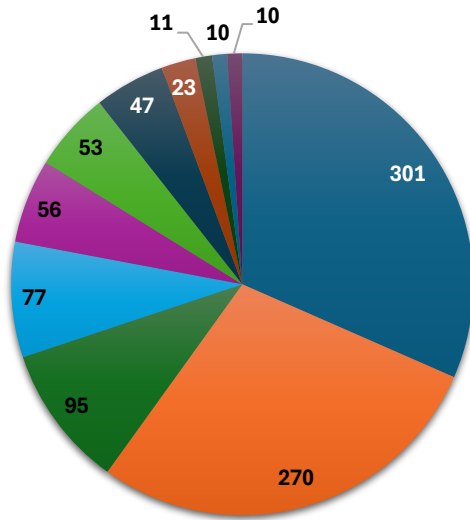
■ Other

■ Nursing Homes

■ Private Commercial Establishments

Home/Residence	391
Public Building	33
Street/Highway	126
Other	26
Nursing Homes	274
Private Commercial Establishments	103

Transport To

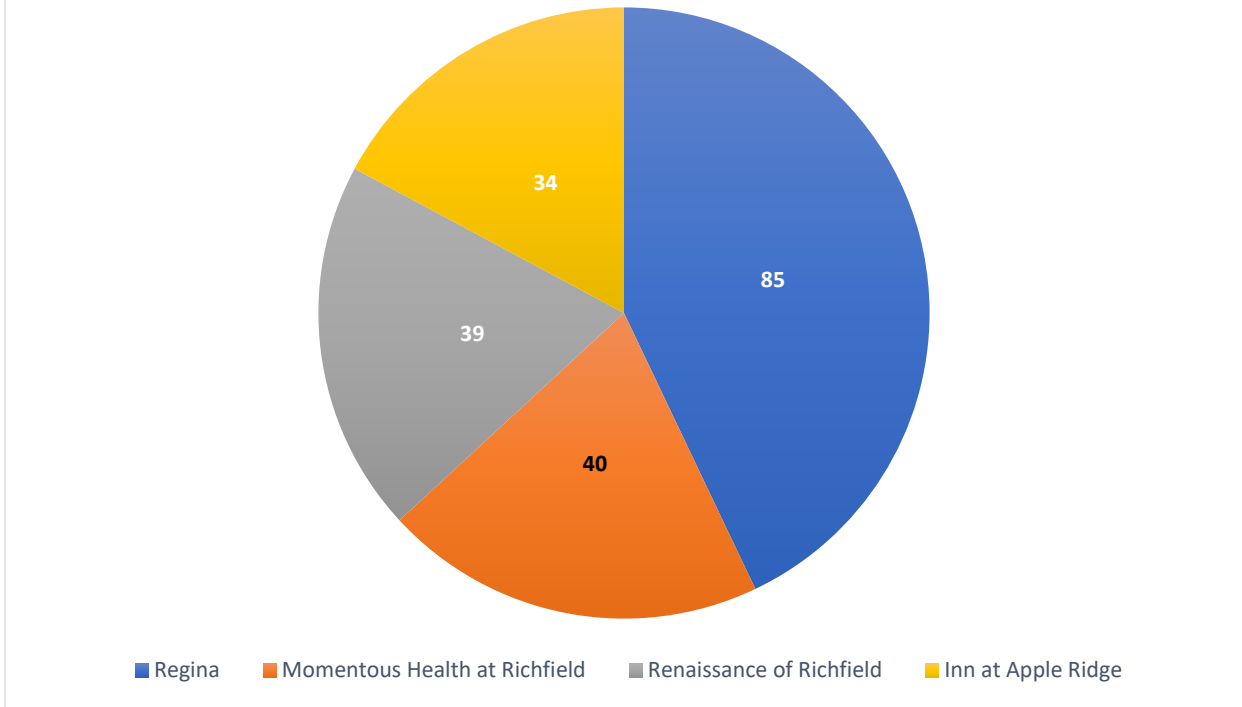


- Cleveland Metrohealth - Brecksville
- UH - Parma Medical Center
- Akron General Medical Center West
- MetroHealth - Downtown
- Other
- Cleveland Clinic - Medina Hospital
- Cleveland Clinic - Brunswick
- Akron City Hospital
- Akron General Medical Center
- Cleveland Clinic - Marymount Hospital
- Children's Hospital - Akron

Cleveland MetroHealth - Brecksville	301
Other, Code 1, Refusals	270
Akron General Medical Center	95
UH - Parma Medical Center	77
Cleveland Clinic - Medina Hospital	56
Cleveland Clinic - Marymount Hospital	53
Akron General Medical Center West	47
Cleveland Clinic - Brunswick	23
Children's Hospital - Akron	11
MetroHealth - Downtown	10
Akron City Hospital	10

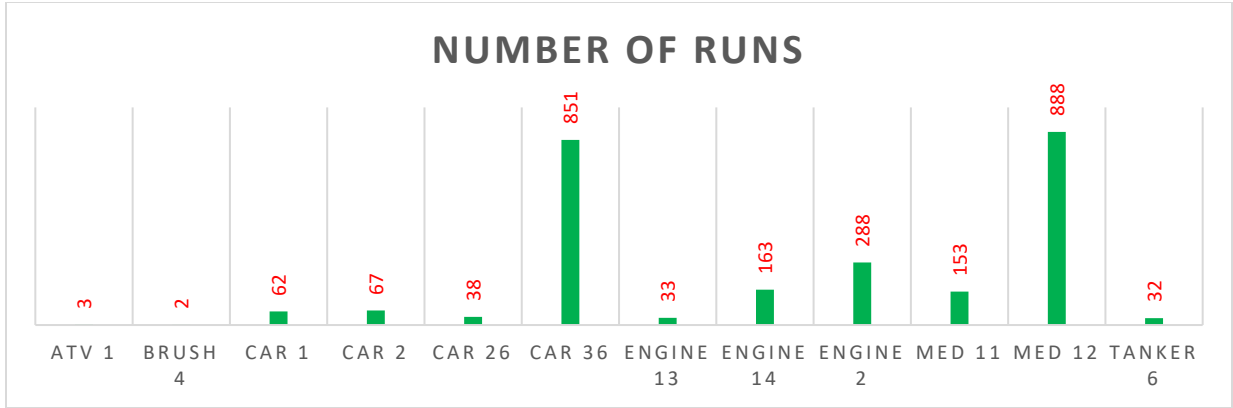
Cleveland MetroHealth is our most utilized emergency room for patient transport. There are several criteria for determining which emergency room to transport to. The closest and most appropriate emergency room to meet the needs of the patient is the main criteria. Other criteria to consider are specialty patients, trauma patients, and cardiac or respiratory arrest in determining which hospital is chosen.

Transports From Nursing Homes



Regina	85
Momentous Health at Richfield	40
Renaissance of Richfield	39
Inn at Apple Ridge	34

Emergency responses to nursing homes account for 20% of our EMS runs. We have worked closely with the area nursing home to reduce the non-emergent responses. Regina Health Care has a larger population of residents, that is why their number is higher than the rest of the nursing homes. We strive to maintain a positive relationship with the nursing homes and are in frequent contact with them to keep the lines of communication open.



Apparatus	Number of Runs	Make, Model, Year Built
ATV 1	3	Polaris Ranger ATV-2016
Brush 4	2	Ford F-250- 2000
Car 1	62	Chevrolet Tahoe -2020
Car 2	67	Chevrolet Tahoe -2016
Car 26	38	Chevrolet Tahoe -2013
Car 36	851	Chevrolet Silverado 3500 -2018
Engine 13	33	Sutphen Pumper -2006 (Retired)
Engine 14	163	Pierce Velocity Pumper - 2014
Engine 2	288	Pierce Enforcer Pumper - 2024
Med 11	153	Horton Squad - 2018
Med 12	888	Lifeline Squad - 2021
Tanker 6	32	Us tanker - 2001
TOTAL	2580	

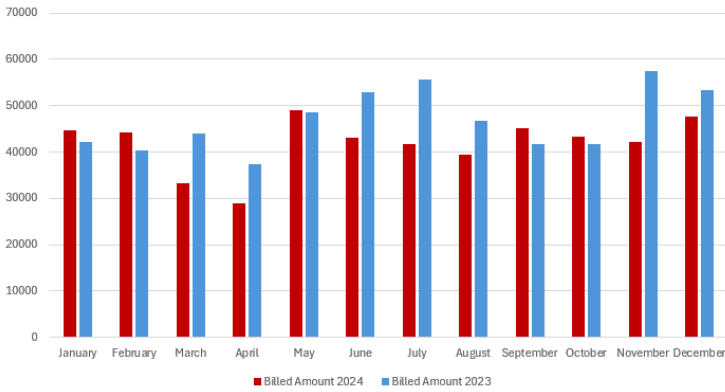
This year we took possession of the Pierce Enforcer pumper in early Spring to replace the Sutphen engine 3013. Our 2006 Sutphen was sold on GovDeals auctions for \$107,000.



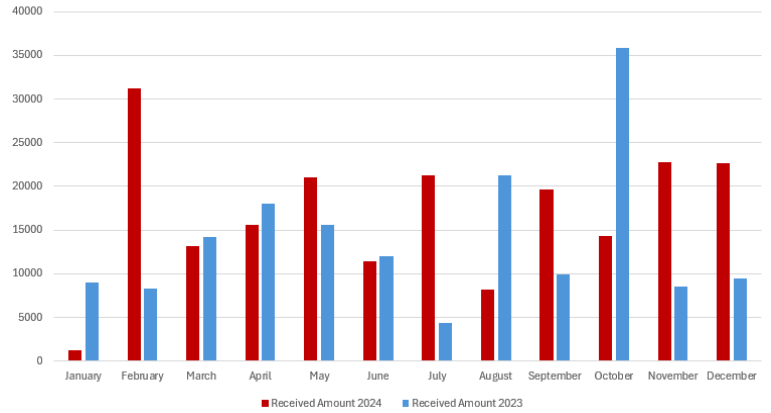
Total Revenue Collected

In 2024 the fire department had several areas where we collected revenue for the Village from our services we provide. We collected from Richfield Township \$646,144 for providing EMS and fire department coverage to Township residents. We implemented a new fee schedule for reviewing fire protections plans and conducting testing in 2023. We collected \$900.00 in fees for plan reviews, permits, and testing. EMS billing as discussed in this report was up from the previous year. We collected a total of \$202,696 for EMS services that were provide both in the Village and the Township. We also billed repeated false alarms in commercial structures for a total of \$2,500. In total the Fire Department collected \$852,240 for the year 2024 for the Village of Richfield.

Village of Richfield Billed Amount per Month



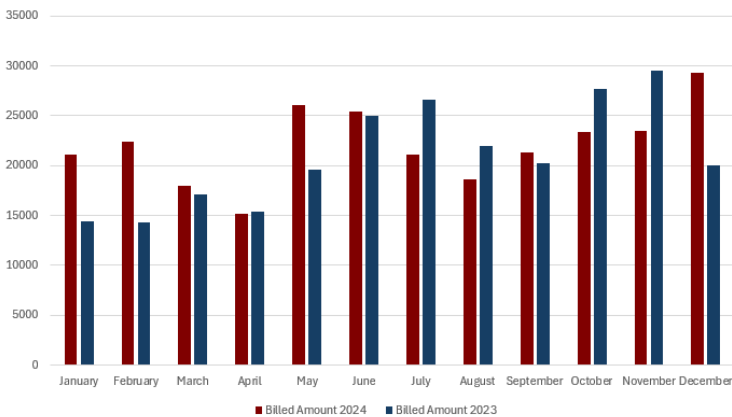
Village of Richfield Received Amount per Month



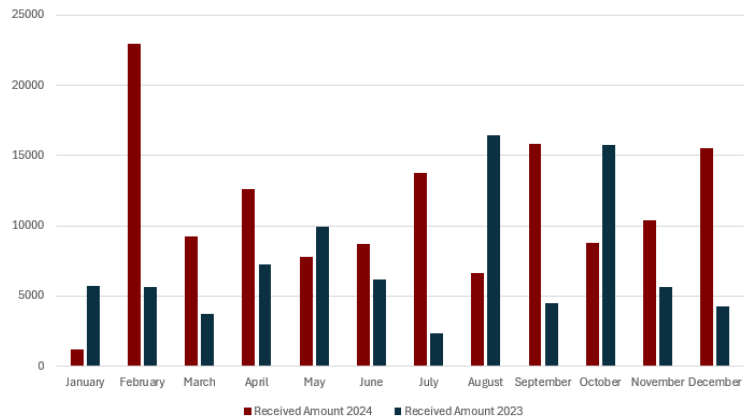
In 2023 the amount billed for EMS for the Village was \$562,160.88 and in 2024 the billed amount was \$507,350.16 with a decrease of \$54,810.72. The amount of collected revenue in 2023 was \$166,608.60 and in 2024 the amount was \$202,696.02 with an increase of \$36,087.42

Richfield Township billing for EMS calls in 2023 was \$252,013.50 and in 2024 it was \$260,935.04 for an increase of \$8,921.54. The amount collected in 2023 was \$87,342.50 and in 2024 the amount was \$133,501.62 for an increase of \$46,159.12

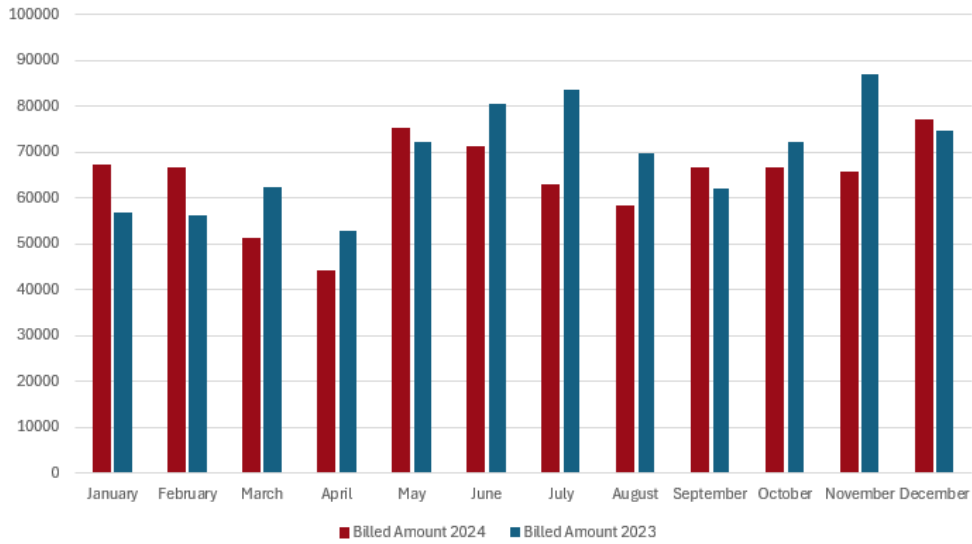
Village Township Billed Amount per Month



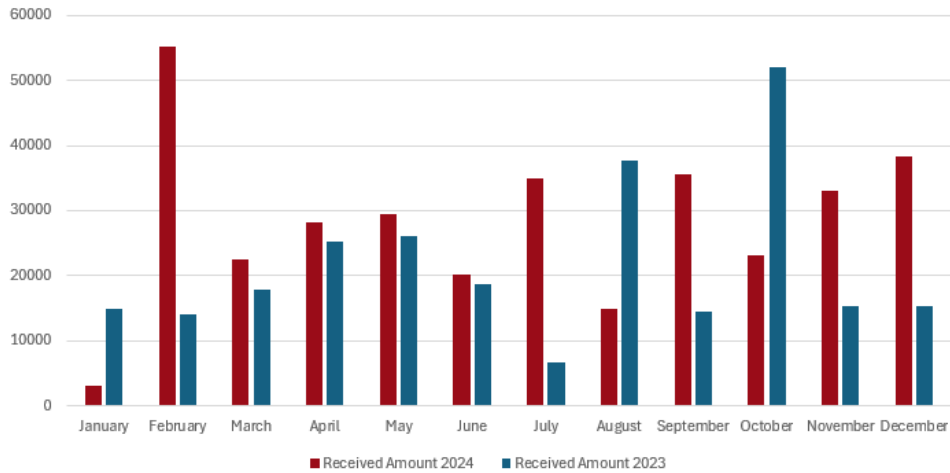
Village Township Received Amount per Month



Richfield Billed Amount per Month



Richfield Received Amount per Month



We had a decrease in overall EMS billing for the year of 2024. In 2023 we billed a total of \$829,036.88 and in 2024 we billed \$772,282.08. This resulted in a decrease of \$56,754.80. We changed the EMS billing rates late in 2023. This helped us collect more revenue even though we were down for the year. The total amount collect for 2023 was \$258,444.74 and for 2024 was \$338,523.58 for an increase of \$80,0078.84.



Public Relations-2024

The Richfield Fire Department placed continued emphasis on public relations and public education. We continued to strive to make the fire department's interaction with the community we serve a high priority. Below are some of the services and events we participated in during the year.

Event Type	Amount Total
Public Events	10
CPR, First Aid	11
Severe Weather Training	13
Doctor Extrication class	1
Fire Extinguisher Training	3
Community Outreach	24
TOTAL	62



TRAINING HOURS

Fire training for 2024 continues to be a high priority for the Richfield Fire Department. We had members attend classes offered by Bowling Green University, Akron University, Tri-C, FDIC and NEOFPA. EMS trainings were provided by the University Hospital and Akron Children Hospitals. Keeping everything current in all fields of fire and EMS training keeps our members up to date with the latest trends and changes in the industry. A breakout of the hours is listed below.

EMS-CARDIAC (6)	47.5
EMS-CARDIAC PEDIATRIC (6)	9
EMS-GENERAL (56)	135.5
EMS-GERIATRIC (4)	16.5
EMS-PEDIATRIC (12)	26
FIRE-INSTRUCTOR	8
ISO 1023.B FIRE INSPECTOR CE	23
ISO 1023.B FIRE INSPECTOR CE, ISO 580.C OFFICER TRAINING	6
ISO 580.B COMPANY TRAINING	482.85
ISO 580.B COMPANY TRAINING, PHYSICAL FITNESS	5
ISO 580.B NEW DRIVER TRAINING	82
ISO 580.C OFFICER TRAINING	16
ISO 580.C OFFICER TRAINING, STAFF DEVELOPMENT ISO	18
ISO 580.E EXISTING DRIVERS OPERATOR TRAINING	41.91
ISO 580.F HAZ-MAT TRAINING	1.5
ISO MULTI DEPARTMENT TRAINING	69
PHYSICAL FITNESS	10
STAFF DEVELOPMENT ISO	188
TOTAL	1185.76



2024 Capital Projects



We had budgeted two capital projects for 2024. The first was \$85,000 to purchase and replace the older equipment for Engine 2. Some of the bigger purchases were new 4-inch supply lines, new one inch and 3/4 firefighting hand lines, new fans, new fittings and fire fighting nozzles.

The second capital project was to replace the residential fans that were original to the station with larger fans. These fans help with both the heating and cooling of the fire bay. Due to the increase size of the fan blades we were able to reduce the number fans needed.



Interstate 77 Construction

In the Spring of 2024, a major undertaking by the State of Ohio was begun on both North and South bound lanes of I-77. The tight lane restrictions and lane changes have caused many accidents in the construction zone. The increase in accidents was very noticeable. We responded to the interstate 101 times with 61 EMS contacts.





Solar Eclipse

April 8th, 2024 was a special day for the community with a year of planning for the event. It was the first time a total solar eclipse passed over Richfield. There was anticipation of large crowds gathering from other communities and States. The planning was a joint effort between the Police, Fire/EMS, Dispatch, and Service. We had multiple emergency vehicles staged where large crowds were anticipated to gather. Due to our meticulous planning no major incident occurred during this event.



Lt. Jason Purkey joined the RFD in 1993. Jason completed Basic EMT training in 1994. Completed Medic training in 1996. Jason was promoted to full-time Fire-Medic in 2000. Concurrent to his full time Richfield position, Jason worked for the Bath-Copley Fire Departments and as a SWAT-Medic for the METRO SWAT team. Jason was promoted to fire lieutenant on 12/30/2013. And accepted the position of Fire Inspector on July 11, 2016.

Lt. Jason Purkey retired from active service on May 31, 2024.