



# MILTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present to you the Milton Township Fire Department's 2021 annual report. On behalf of the entire department staff, we thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Our roster is filled with dedicated individuals who are committed to enhancing the safety and the quality of life for the community. These individuals dedicate their time and effort to drop what they are doing at a moment's notice to help those in need. These individuals are true heroes in every aspect and I thank them for the hard work and dedication throughout the year. This report cannot possibly capture all of the individual efforts throughout the year, but it does represent an overview of the department's accomplishments for 2021.

This year the nation still is battling the pandemic and the variants of the virus. Our staff continued to take necessary precautions during fire department functions and incident responses by wearing proper protective equipment and social distancing as best as we could.

As you will read, in 2021 the department responded to 138 calls for service which is a decline of 39 incidents from 2020. Service related incidents accounted for 78% of the departments responses. Rescue incidents accounted for 13% and Fire incidents accounted for 9% of the department responses for the year.

The community outreach programs that the department offers continue to be well received throughout the community. We are grateful that the community has been participating in these programs. We appreciate the community doing their part in promoting public safety within our Township.

I am very proud of the staff of this department and the time and dedication these fine men and women put into this department. The staff are committed to the departments mission of minimizing loss of life, extinguish fires, promote general fire safety through public education, and protect property.

We are proud to be your fire department and we stand ready to serve the community. I look forward to hearing from you if you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can serve you better. Please contact me at 231-264-6694 or at [miltontwpfd@gmail.com](mailto:miltontwpfd@gmail.com).

*SINCERELY,*

***Jeremy Ball, Fire Chief***

## **M.T.F.D Mission**

The mission of the Milton Township Fire Department is to minimize loss of life, extinguish fires, promote general fire safety, and protect property under the provisions of Public Act 207.

The members of the Milton Township Fire Department will accomplish our mission through prevention, fire suppression, code enforcement, rescue skills, pre-planning, and other related emergency and non-emergency activities. We will actively participate in our community, serve as role models, and strive to effectively and efficiently utilize all of the necessary resources at our command to provide the highest level of service to our township residents.

## **M.T.F.D CORE VALUES:**

The Milton Township Fire Department believes that pride, the pursuit of excellence, and commitment to public service is important. The department strives through active leadership to develop new knowledge and concepts for a progressive department. The department values a creative and proactive department. The Milton Township Fire Department is professional in all of its actions. Our value to the community will be measured in the type and quality of services provided. It will be the policy of the Milton Township Fire Department to operate with the highest levels of safety for all fire department personnel.

# Fire Department Organizational Chart



**FIRE STATION #1**

**7015 Cairn Hwy**

**Built in 1982**



Fire Station #1 was built in 1982 and is located at the intersection of Cairn Hwy and Indian Road. Station #1 is home to Fire Administration and houses the following apparatus: Engine 1, Tanker 1, Rescue, Mini Pumper and ATV.

**FIRE STATION #2**

**12105 Cherry Ave.**

**Built in 2001**



Fire Station #2 was built in 2001 and is located on Cherry Ave east of Chippewa Trail in the Southern half of the Township. Station #2 is home to the following apparatus: Engine 2, Pumper/Tanker 2, and Water Supply.

# **FIRE Apparatus in Service**

## **Station #1 Apparatus**



### **99-ENGINE 1 - 2017 SPARTAN RESCUE PUMPER**

1500 gallon per minute pump, 1000 gallon water tank. 30 gallons Class A / B foam tank. 4 SCBA, Gas Monitor, Thermal Imaging camera, LED light tower, Scene Lighting, Vent saw, Chain saw, deck gun, full compliment of rescue extrication equipment. Positive pressure fan, exhaust fan, 800 ft. of large diameter hose, 1,350 ft of 2.5 hose, 800 ft of 1.75 hose.

\*This unit responds first out on all fires and vehicle accidents.\*



### **99-TANKER 1 - 2010 KENWORTH TANKER**

2300 gallon water tank, 2 - 2500 gallon drop tanks, 2 - Zico power drop tank holders, Class A / B foam, a portable pump and miscellaneous other fire fighting equipment.

\*This unit responds to all incidents where water will be needed. \*



### **99-RESCUE - 2008 FORD F350 - UTILITY**

This unit serves as a utility vehicle. This unit responds to a variety of incidents including Water / Ice rescue calls, EMS assists, tree down and line down calls. Serves as a rehab unit, traffic control unit, incident command unit during long incidents. Carries a wide variety of equipment.

# **FIRE Apparatus in Service cont.**

## **Station #1 Apparatus**



### **99-MINI PUMPER - 2006 FORD F550 4X4 MINI PUMPER**

500 gallon per minute pump, 200 gallon water tank, 20 gallon Class A / B foam tank, Compressed Air Foam System (CAFFS), 5000 watt Generator, Wild Land Interface equipment, 600 feet of 1 inch forestry hose, 200 ft. of booster hose, 500 ft. of 1.75 inch fire hose, 350 ft. of 2.5 fire hose. This unit has a pump and roll feature.

**\*\*This unit responds first out on grass / brush fires, trees down, lines down, hauls the ATV, as well as a variety of other incidents.\*\*** .



### **99-ATV - 2009 POLARIS ATV**

95 gallon per minute pump, 75 gallon water tank, Class A / B foam, 220 feet of 1 inch forestry hose, has pump & roll capabilities. This unit also carries a stokes basket to transport patients for EMS when they are in remote areas. This unit also carries personnel to areas where apparatus cannot get too.



## **Station #2 Apparatus**



### **99-ENGINE 2 - 1993 PIERCE INTERNATIONAL PUMPER**

1250 gallon per minute pump, 500 gallon water tank, 12 gallon Class A / B foam tank, 4 – SCBA'S, ventilation equipment, Gas Monitor, Thermal Imaging Camera, and various tools and equipment. 900 feet of 4 inch supply hose, 850 feet of 2.5 inch fire hose, 750 feet of 1.75 inch fire hose.



### **99-TANKER 2 - 2003 KENWORTH PUMPER / TANKER**

1000 gpm pump, 2000 gallon tank. 1 – 2500 gallon drop tank. 200 ft of 1.75 hose, 200 ft of 2.5 hose. various other equipment.



### **99-WATER SUPPLY - 1974 CHEVY ¼ TON 4X4 WATER POINT TRUCK**

1400 gallon per minute pump. This unit is the water supply truck that sets up at or near lakes, dry hydrants and underground tanks to draft water to fill tankers. This unit responds to structure fires and a variety of other equipment. This unit does respond to mutual aid areas to fill tankers when needed.

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

- Annual Maintenance and DOT inspections on all apparatus. Fick and Sons performed the maintenance and repairs.
- Northwest Fire conducted annual maintenance checks on all of the departments fire extinguishers.
- Hose and Ladder testing was performed by Firecatt. They tested over 10,000 feet of hose for the department. We had 2 lengths of 2.5 hose and 2 lengths of 4 inch large diameter hose fail testing.
- CSI performed pump maintenance and pump testing of four apparatus.
- Westshore completed annual tool maintenance on all extrication rescue equipment.
- Premier Safety provided annual flow testing to all self- contained breathing apparatus and masks.
- Northwest Fire hydro tested several air bottles and some when in for repairs. Air bottles are filled at Elk Rapids Fire Department.
- Annual Gear inspections were performed inhouse by one of our Lieutenants.
- Station 2 – gear room floor redone, walls painted.
- Recall work on Engine 1 – pump solenoid, fuel rails, tail light cluster.
- Radio language changed – elimination of 10 codes, now using plain English.
- Purchased Fire Programs Software for records management needs after Fire Tools software went out of business.
- County Dispersed out new dual band pagers and 800 mhz radios.
- Over 900 logged administrative hours.

## **Members of the Milton Township Fire Department.**

The department currently has a roster of 15 personnel. There is 12 certified Fire fighter's, 2 support staff, and 1 probationary fire fighter.

Andrea Albert	Fire Fighter	Secretary / Treasurer
Jeremy Ball	Fire Fighter	Fire Chief
Kevin Ball	Fire Fighter	Lieutenant
Larry Ball	Fire Fighter	Association President
Dan Butler	Fire Fighter	Deputy Chief
Jeff Dawson	Support Staff	Association Vice President
Tony Hutchcraft	Fire Fighter	IT
Matt Koeplin	Fire Fighter	Public Information Officer
Nate McGuire	Probationary Fire Fighter	
Matt Rainey	Fire Fighter	
Mike Tilley	Fire Fighter	Lieutenant
Tim Tilley	Fire Fighter	Captain
Phil Vandenberg	Fire Fighter	
Justin Walkowiak	Fire Fighter	
Toby Way	Support Staff	

## **Fire fighting Experience of Staff Members**

less than one year experience:	0 members
1 – 5 years experience:	2 members
6 – 10 years experience:	8 members
11 – 15 years experience:	3 members
16 – 20 years experience:	1 members
21 and over years of experience:	1 member

## **Age Range of Staff:**

19 and Under:	<b>0</b>	20-29:	<b>1</b>	30-39:	<b>4</b>	40-49:	<b>5</b>
50-59:	<b>3</b>	60-69:	<b>0</b>	70 and Over:	<b>2</b>		

# **DEPARTMENT TRAINING**

Below is a breakdown of department hours for the year:

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>
Total Training Hours:	617 hours	Total Training Hours:	385 hours
Classes:	31.5 hours	Classes:	129 hours
Meetings:	284.25 hours	Meetings:	227.5 hours
Maintenance:	332.5 hours	Maintenance:	318.5 hours
Dept. Details:	414.5 hours	Dept. Details:	449.5 hours
Admin Hours:	993.25 hours	Admin Hours:	914.5 hours
Total Hours:	<b>2627 hrs</b>	Total Hours:	<b>2424 hrs</b>

As we were in the second year of the pandemic, the department conducted trainings in a more normal fashion this year. We had thirty-eight scheduled trainings with an estimated total of ninety-five hours available. The department training policy requires staff achieve at minimum thirty-five hours of department training on an annual basis.

The department trained in several topics: Pump operations, tactical set ups, water supply, chain saw operations, ventilation, ladders, ropes & knots, wildland, search and rescue, RIT, SCBA, utilities, tools and equipment, apparatus driving, incident command and radio operations, hazmat, fit testing, blood borne pathogens training, extrication, ice rescue, water rescue and various other departmental trainings.



# Department Programs

## Knox Box Program

The department started this program in 2014. The Knox Rapid Entry System and Knox HomeBox provides fire department entry to a home or business in an emergency. With one master key, the department can gain access. The Knox System includes UL listed lock boxes. Property owners can store entrance keys, access cards, and floor plans in a high security Knox Box Key box mounted near the building entrance. Please check out the website at [www.knoxbox.com](http://www.knoxbox.com)

With the Knox System there is no waiting period for a property owner or key holder to unlock the door in the middle of the night, or have fire personnel force entry to a residence. The Knox Rapid Entry System reduces response time, property damage, and liability.

For 2021, one resident purchased and installed a Knox Box. To date the following Knox Boxes are in use within the Township.

### Commercial Business - 4 in use

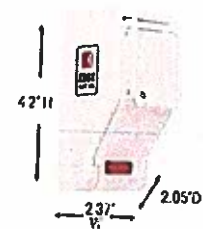
- Milton Township Hall 7023 Cherry Ave
- Historic Milton Township Hall 7268 Cairn Hwy
- Torch River Party Store 12398 Cherry Ave
- Fabiano's on the River 7711 Crystal Beach Road



Residential or Commercial Use

### Residential Use – 13 in use

- Juniper Drive – 3 Homes
- E Elk Lake Drive – 1 Home
- Fairlane Drive – 1 Home
- North West Torch Lake Drive – 1 Home
- Elk Tip Drive – 1 Home
- South West Torch Lake Drive – 1 Home
- Morlen Drive – 2 Homes
- Mackenzie Drive – 1 Home
- Winters Road – 1 Home
- Birch Lake Road – 1 Home



Residential Home Box

# Department Programs

## Smoke Alarm Program



In 2011, the department started a smoke alarm program with the goal of ensuring that every home in Milton Township would have a minimum of three working smoke alarms, and at least one working smoke alarm on each level, and in each sleeping area of a home. The department will provide up to 3 smoke alarms to anyone within the township in need of them.

This year we provided 18 smoke alarms to four homes. Since inception of the program we have provided 141 smoke alarms to residents of the Township.

We encourage everyone to change the batteries in their smoke alarms every six months. Please check the manufacturer's date on the alarm, if your alarm is 10 years old or older it is recommended that they be replaced this applies to hardwired smoke alarms. Even check your carbon monoxide alarms as well.

## Reflective "911" Address Sign Program



**“We can’t help you... if we can’t FIND you!”**

Every second counts during a fire, police or medical emergency. Valuable time can be lost if your house number is not clearly posted where emergency responders can see it. Police officers, Fire fighters, and EMS responders can’t provide lifesaving services to you and your family if they cannot find your house. The Department is offering to provide you with or install a highly-visible reflective sign in order for responders to locate your residence, potentially saving time....and lives!

This year the department provided 8 signs to residents. The department has provided a total of 132 signs to Township residents. Unfortunately due to rising costs, the department implemented a \$10 fee for each sign made.

# **Fire fighter's Association**

This year our Association President is Larry Ball, Vice President is Jeff Dawson and Secretary is Andrea Albert.

- The Association donated \$100.00 to the Village Market Christmas Giving Tree Project.
- Collected Community Cash receipts.
- Raised \$2,194.62 for MDA via Fill the Boot campaign held during the Township junk days in April and August.
- Sent flowers to retired member that suffered a death in the family.
- Fire fighters purchased gifts for two well deserving kids for Christmas and assisted Santa Claus in the delivery of those gifts.
- Various other department functions.

## **Recognition Awards**

10 Year Service Pin:

Kevin Ball  
Phil Vandenberg

20 Year Service Pin:

Dan Butler

Retirements:

Captain Tim Tilley - 14 years of service

# GRANT AWARDS

This year the department received three grants:

MTA Risk Reduction Grant: The amount awarded was \$4,264.01 . This grant was to add reflective chevron and re-logo all fire apparatus.

DNR 50/50 Grant: The amount awarded was \$2,109.00. This was for the purchase of two 800 Mhz portable radios for two apparatus.

Grand Traverse Band 2% allocation Grant: The amount awarded was \$12,813.00. This was for the purchase of Pentheon Battery Spreader, batteries, and charger for extrication purposes.

The department has been very active in submitting grants on a regular basis to help secure funding for equipment to continue to update equipment, purchase new equipment, and continue to provide the best service we can to our community.

Since 2001, the department has been awarded 23 grants totaling \$180,777.01. The department has been awarded grants from the following:

AAA:	1 grant -	\$4,500.00
Elk Rapids Lions Club:	6 grants -	\$4,425.00
DNR:	7 grants -	\$14,374.00
MMR:	1 grant -	\$1,630.00
FM Global:	1 grant -	\$1,338.00
GT Band:	5 grants -	\$148,996.00
MTA:	2 grants -	\$5,614.01



## **MUTUAL / AUTOMATIC AID SERVICES**

Our agency provides mutual aid and automatic aid services to Elk Rapids Township Fire Department, Torch Lake Township Fire Department, South Torch Lake Fire Department, Clearwater Township Fire Department in Kalkaska County.

We receive mutual aid and automatic aid from Elk Rapids Township Fire Department and Torch Lake Township Fire Department. We occasionally will receive aid from South Torch Lake Fire Department and Clearwater Township Fire Department.

With the personnel shortages for many departments during the daytime, we have entered into specific mutual aid agreements with regards to vehicle accidents. If we are providing the aid we send an engine and if agencies are providing aid to us they send an engine.

We have in place an automatic aid agreement with Torch Lake Township to be simulcast to all vehicle accidents with known or unknown entrapments to assist with extrication duties. We will assist in covering the entire portion of Torch Lake Township.

We have an automatic aid agreement with Elk Rapids and Torch Lake Townships for Structure Fire responses within Elk Rapids, Milton and Torch Lake Townships. This ensures a 3 station response to all structure fires that occur within the 3 Townships.

We also have in place a mutual aid agreement with the Antrim County Emergency Services. This agreement is between all Fire agencies within the County.

We also try and work jointly with our mutual aid partners to have less duplication of equipment. An example of this is we have an atv that provides fire suppression and rescue capabilities in trade our neighboring agencies all have rescue boats, therefore we save money on purchasing a rescue boat and our neighbors save money on having to purchase an atv. We rely on each other to respond to incidents where specialized equipment is needed.

# ISO Public Protection Classification

## ISO RATING:



ISO collects information on municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes data such as response times, available water supply, man power, equipment, department records, number of stations in comparison to response area, and the different types of apparatus. They then assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. The number rating system is used by most insurance companies to determine rates charged to homeowners based upon the community they live in.

Our ISO test was in 2009 and was reviewed in 2018. Effective 11-1-2018 our Public Protection Classification rating is a split classification 6 / 10. What this means is that homes or businesses located within 5 road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a creditable water supply have a rating of 6 and homes or businesses beyond 5 road miles of a fire station receive a 10 rating.

The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule measures the major elements of a community's fire protection system and develops a numerical grading called a Public Protection Classification. The following outline is the items considered and the weight of each item used in calculating a PPC rating.

- |    |  |            |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Emergency Communications   | 10 points  |
| 2. | Fire Department  | 50 points  |
| 3. | Water Supply   | 40 points  |
| 4. | Community Risk Reduction   | 5.5 points |
| 5. | Divergence – if the relative scores for fire department and water supply are different, ISO adjusts the total score downward to reflect the limiting effect of the less adequate item on the better one. |            |

**Water Point Program:** The department continues to work on establishing certified water points throughout the Township using public accesses and road end accesses locations. If these areas are determined to be accessible by fire department personnel we will submit these locations for certification via ISO to help our score in the Water Supply category.

Contact your insurance company and see if you may benefit from our improved Fire Protection Classification. If your insurance company needs any documentation supporting or improved rating please have them contact the Fire Chief via email at [miltontwpfd@gmail.com](mailto:miltontwpfd@gmail.com) or call 231-264-6694.

## **Recruitment & Retention**

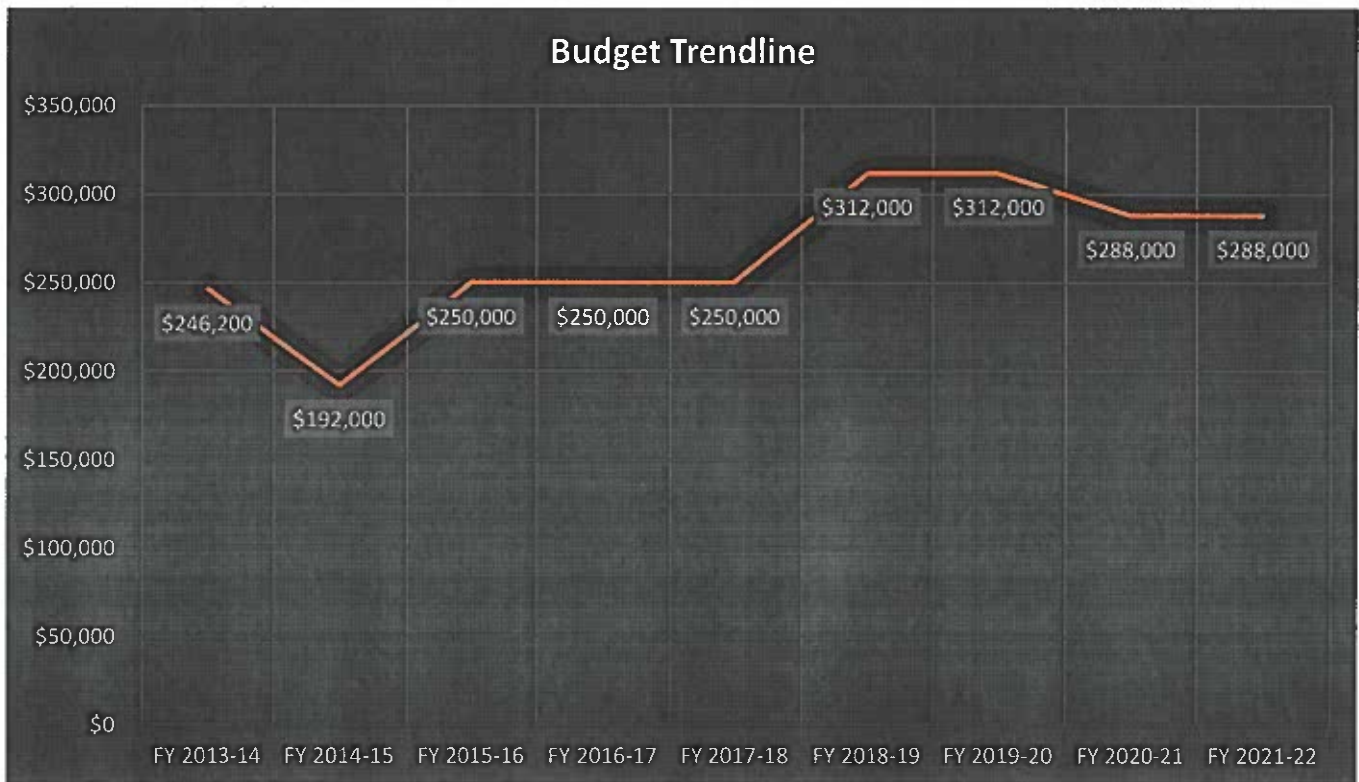
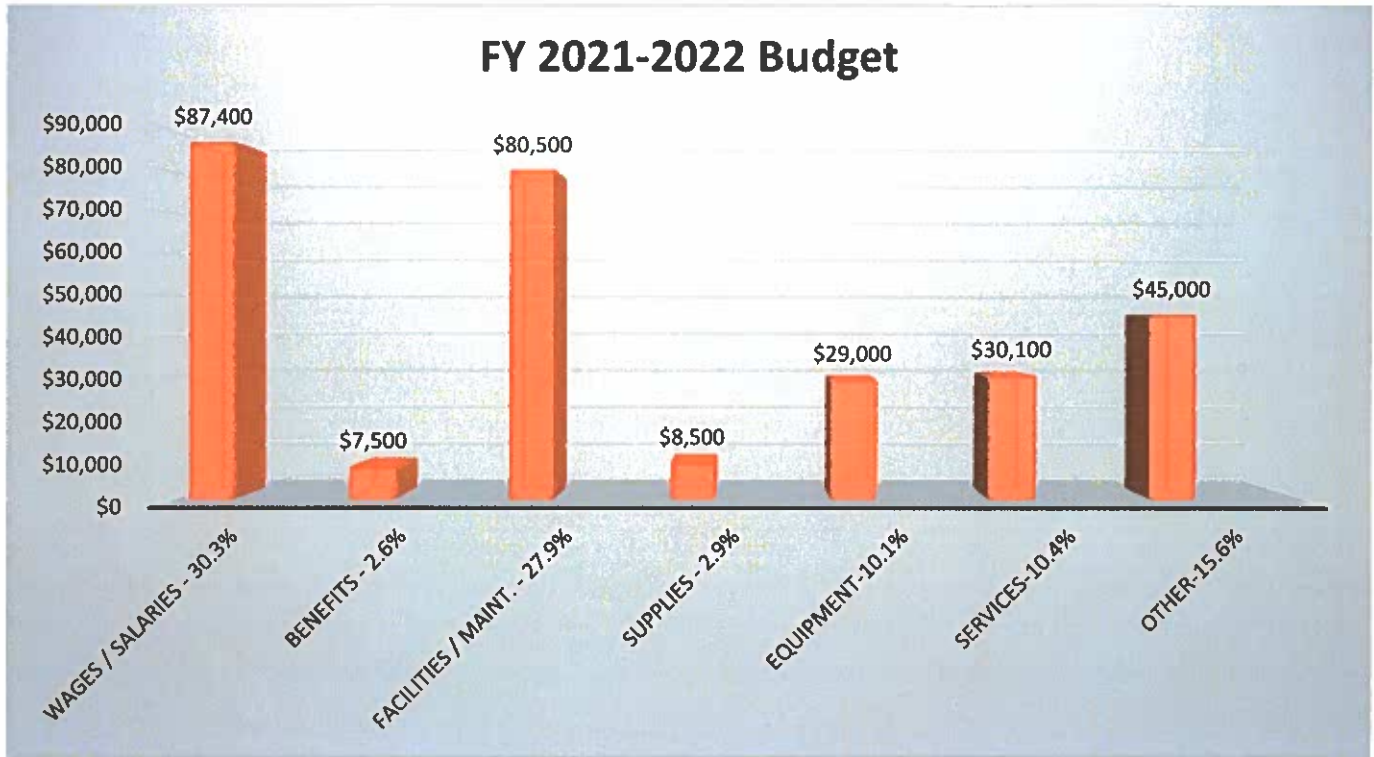
Nationally the paid-on call fire departments and volunteer departments continue to struggle with membership. We are seeing this in our Township. Time is the most critical element that people struggle with. There is just not enough time to volunteer with people having to work outside the Township, raising a family, having to possibly work two jobs, and / or both spouses are working outside the home. Our Township is a unique one, we have lots of rural space where there are several working farms, and several seasonal homes that are nestled on the shores of the boarding waters. There are not many businesses within the Township that bring workers in to possibly join the department.

Recruitment is always an ongoing process to gain and retain members of the fire department. We will continue to work within the school system, hold open houses, holding public education days, attend association meetings, use social media, and anything else we can do to attract members to serve the community.

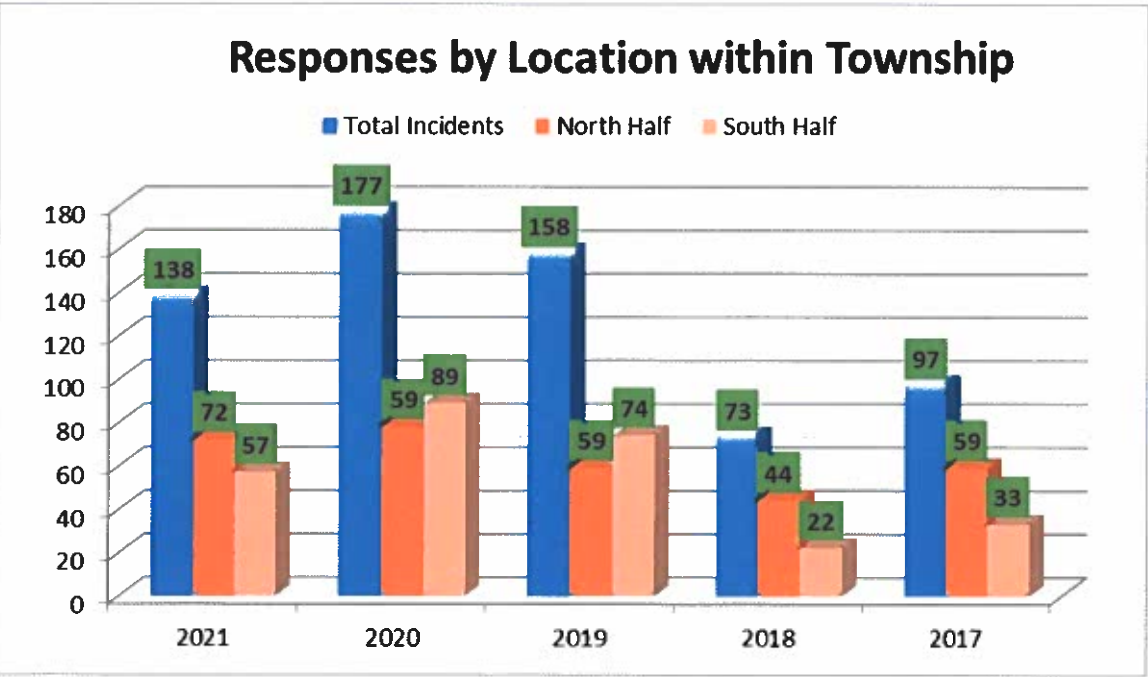
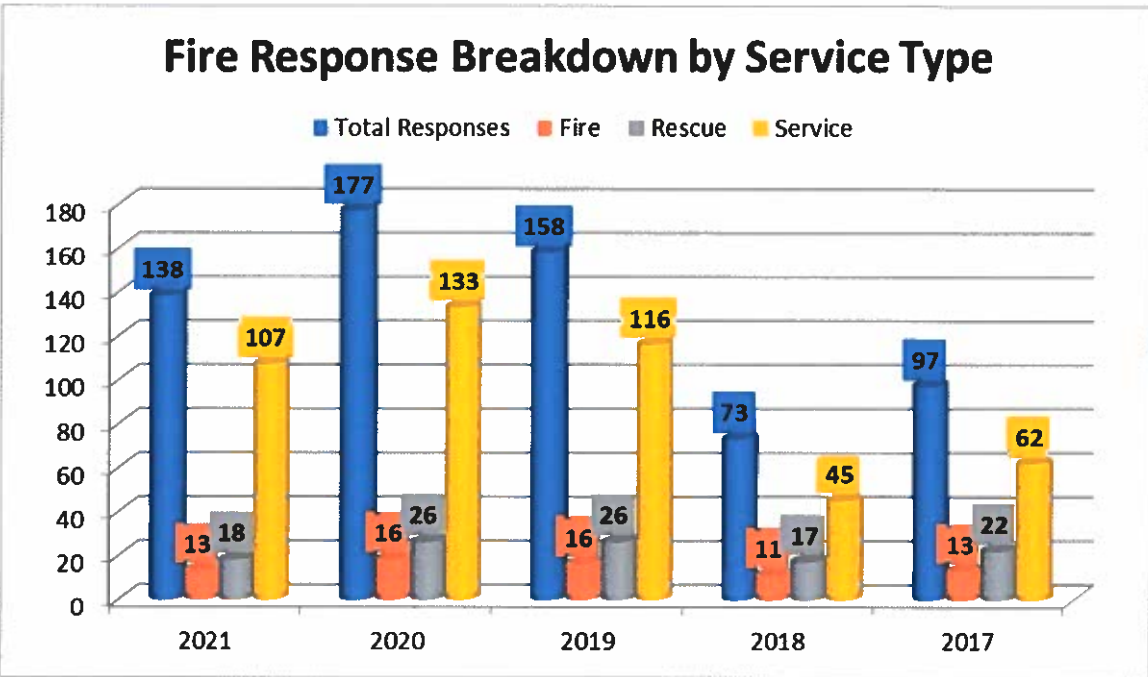
We have to also keep in mind that as we struggle to attract new members, we need to remember that the current membership continues to age. We need to do our best to retain these key members for as long as we can.

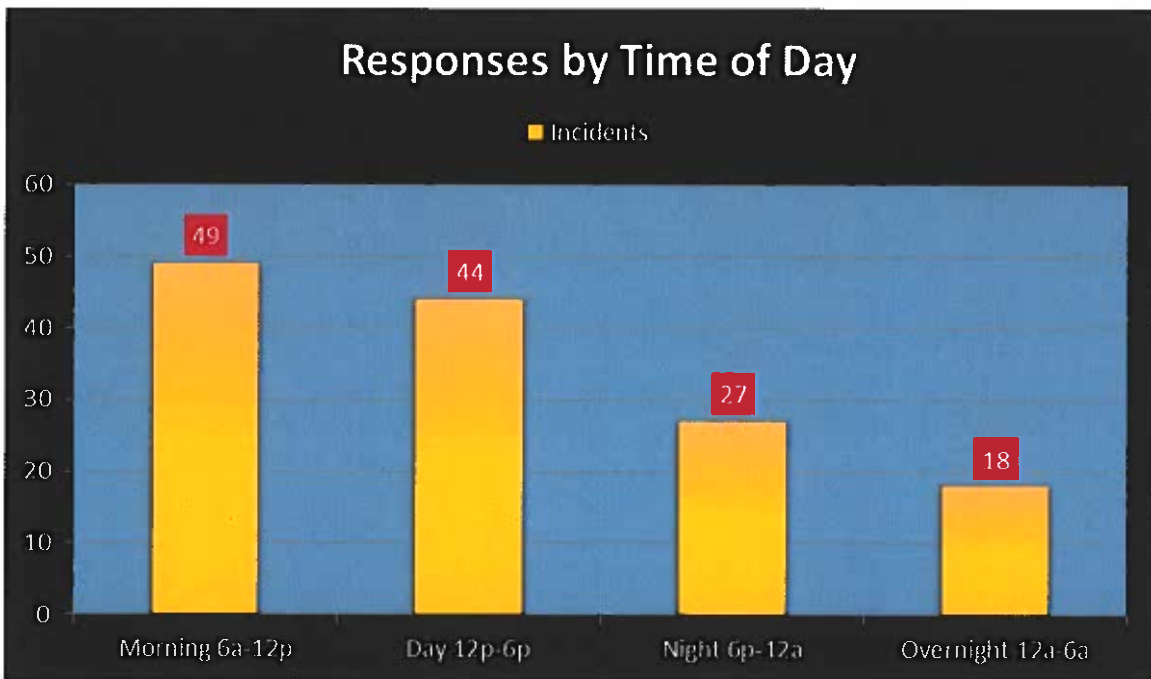
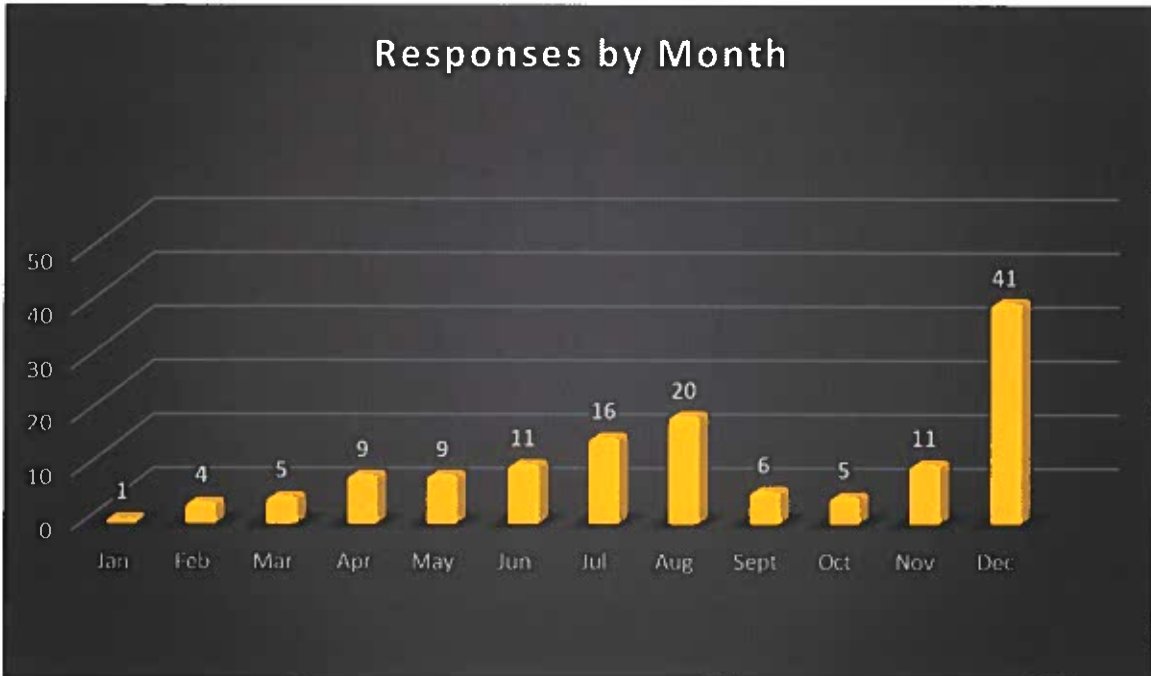
State & Federal Laws are ever changing, making it very difficult to retain members. We are going to need to continue to recruit members, but also look at staffing levels to possibly have hired personnel staffing the station, especially during the daytime hours where our call volume is the highest.

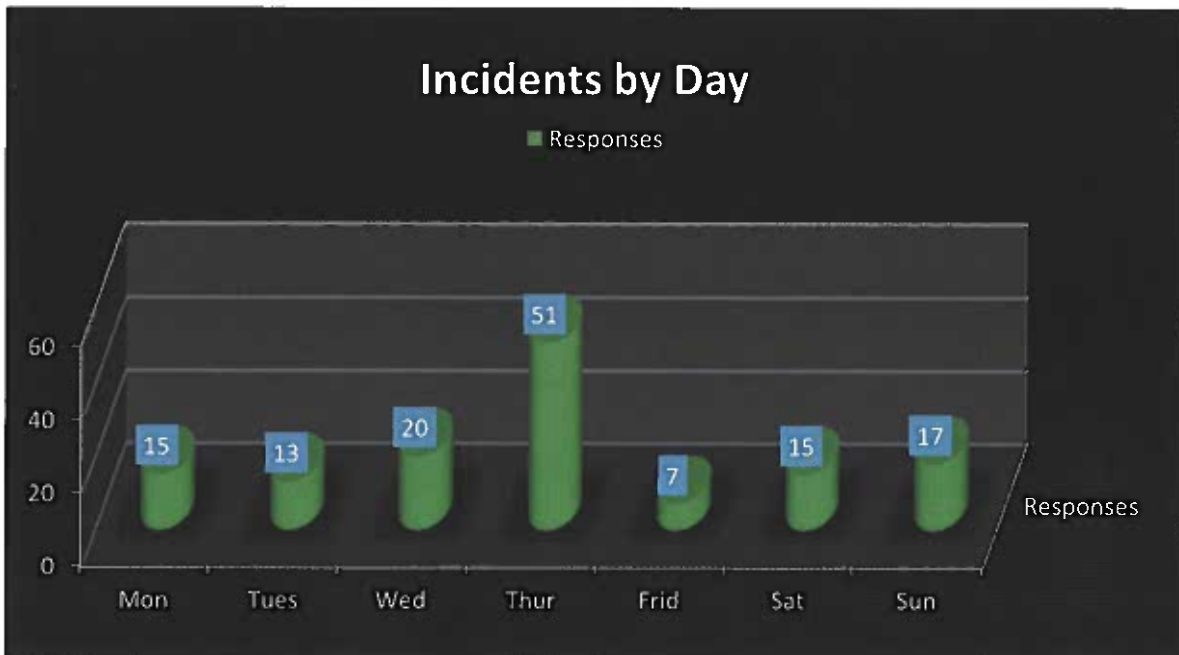
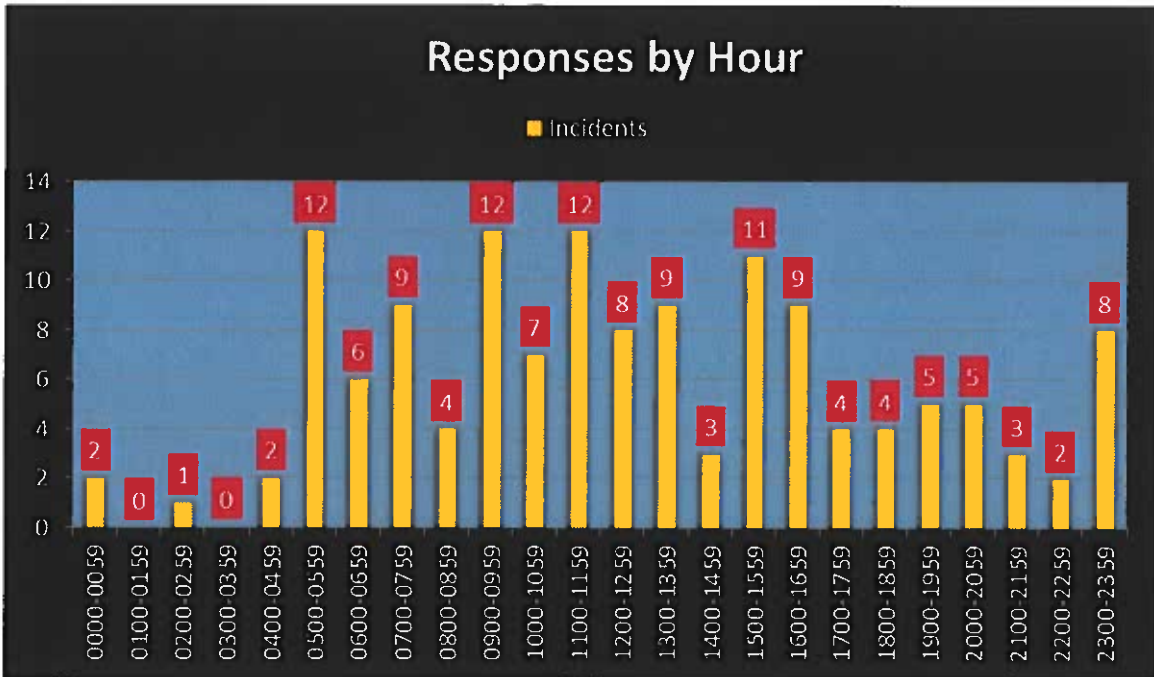
# Financial and Growth Information



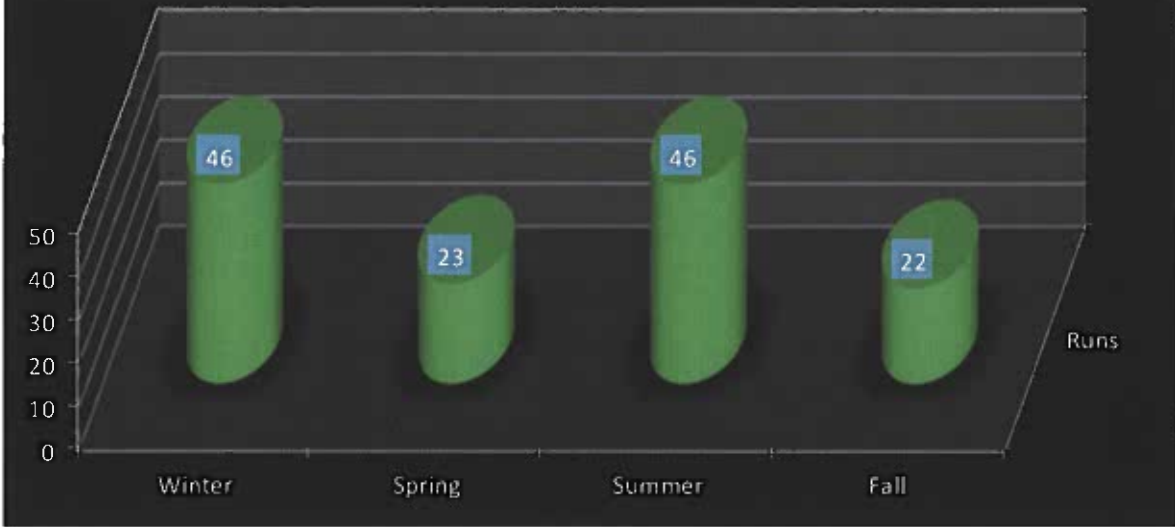
# Incident Data and Emergency Response Statistics



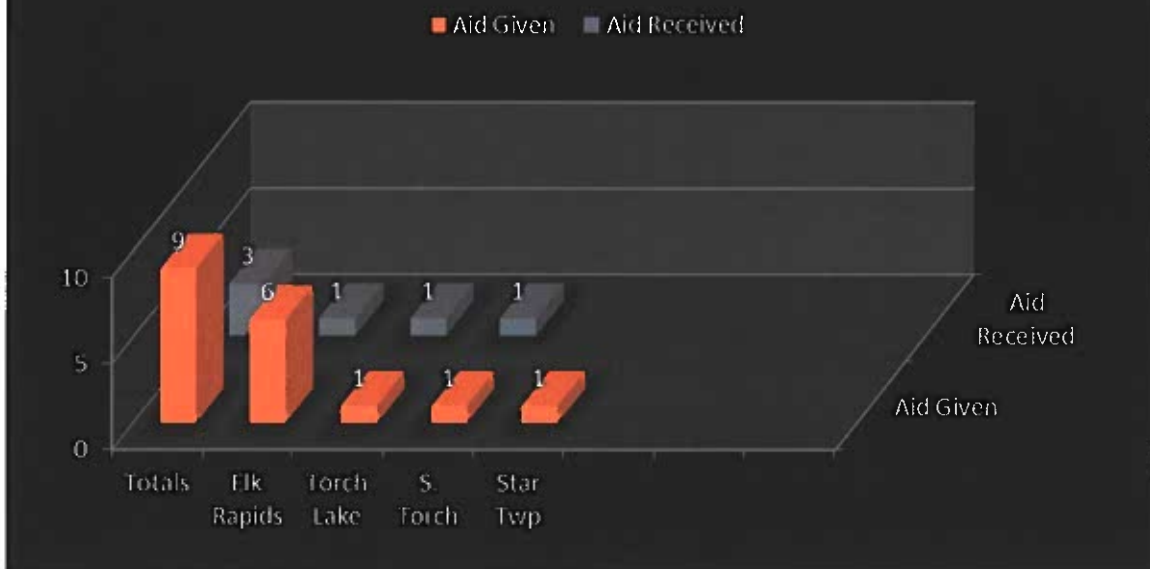




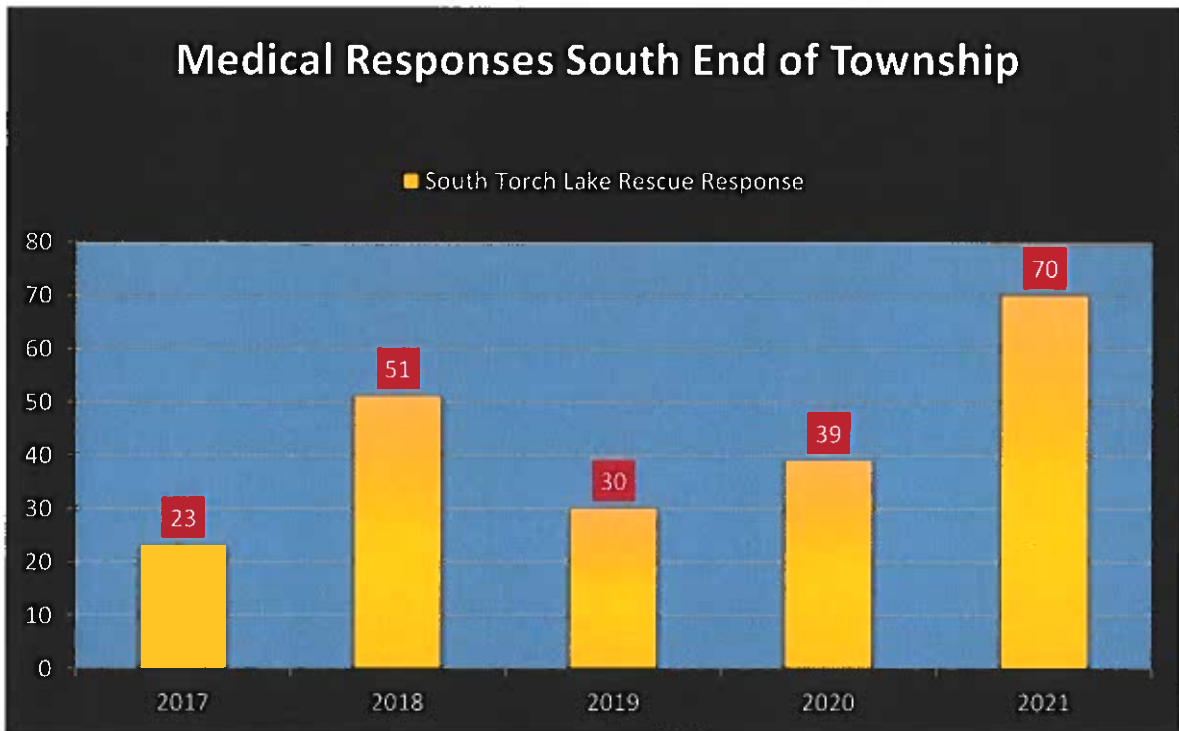
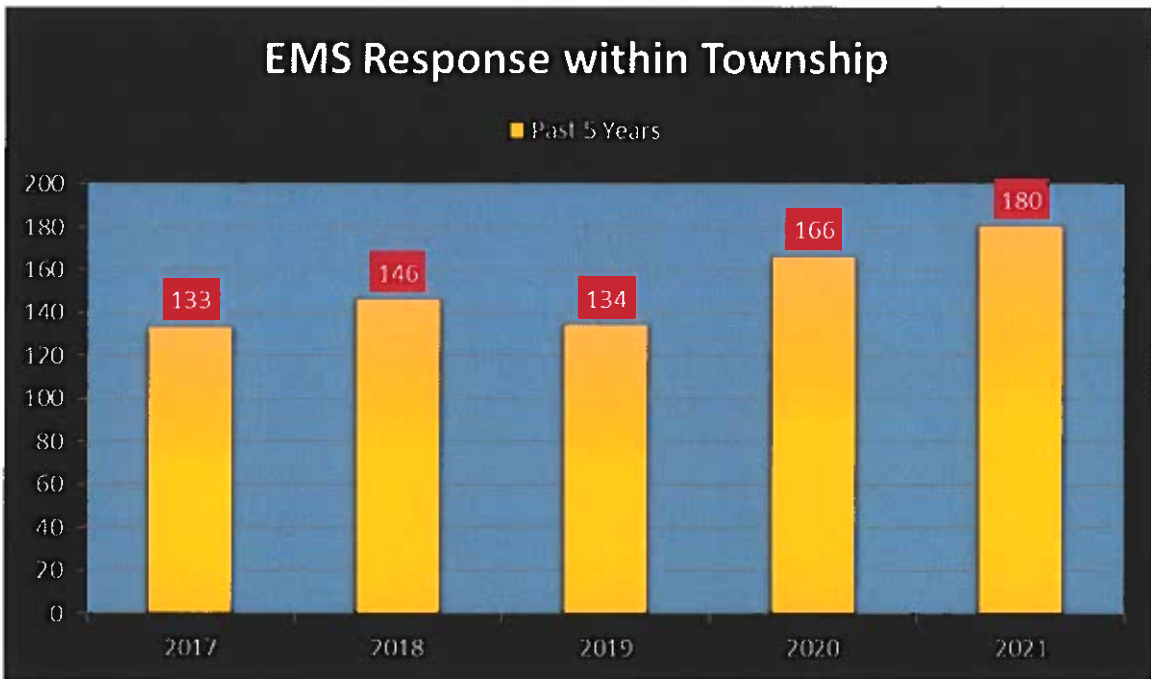
## Responses by Season



## Mutual & Automatic Aid Responses







## **FUTURE STRATEGIC PLAN**

1. Replacement of 1993 Pierce international pumper.
2. Hiring of one day time staff member.
3. Replacement of 1974 Chevy Water Point Truck.
4. Installation of exhaust removal system station 1.
5. Purchase of a utility vehicle.
6. Purchase stationary generator for station 1.
7. Build training pad at station 2.
8. Remodel or expansion of Station 1.
9. Recruitment of new members / Retention of Staff.
10. Make the stations more energy efficient.