



Scottsbluff Fire Department

2022 Annual Fire Report

Thomas Schingle, Fire Chief

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Scottsbluff Fire Department

Organized in 1900

Protecting 6.6 square
miles

Population 14,316
(2022 estimated)

9 Firefighters

3 Lieutenants

3 Captains

1 Fire Prevention
Officer

1 Fire Chief

Message from the Chief

The Scottsbluff Fire Department had quite the year in 2022. I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of this department for their dedication to the community for the many challenges faced over the past year. Illnesses, injuries, increased service demands, and many other obstacles were overcome by the tenacity of our team.

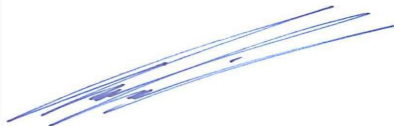
I further want to express my gratitude for our community who overwhelmingly supports us and our mission. Throughout the year we received a number of thank you notes and letters, donations of smoke alarms and fire extinguishers to provide to the public, visitors to the station just to say hello, and much more.

It was much busier in terms of incident responses last year. We answered 2,524 calls for service (CFS); an increase of 254 calls from 2021. This marks another historical record year for call volume, as 2022 showed an increase of 10% from 2021 and a 29% increase since 2012.

We continue to provide public education on a regular basis. This past year we added a youth firefighter day camp in addition to the regular station tours and visits to schools and businesses. By practicing fire safety and learning first-aid and CPR, we can all do our part to stay safe.

It is my privilege to submit the Scottsbluff Fire Department's 2022 Annual Report. As we have done for the past several years, we will continue to seek opportunities to serve the public and provide the highest level of efficiency, effectiveness, and professionalism.

Stay safe,



Tom Schingle

In Memoriam

Tragically, we lost one of our own, Captain Ryan Lohr. Captain Lohr began his career with Scottsbluff Fire in March 2003. He was a dedicated firefighter who served his community well and strived to improve fire department services. In August 2022, we laid him to rest. We dedicate this report to Captain Lohr for his nearly twenty years of service.



Captain Ryan Lohr
Dates of Service March 2003-August 2022

Mission Statement and Core Values

“The Scottsbluff Fire Department is committed to doing our job, treating people right, having an all-in attitude, and giving an all-out effort in the performance of our duties.”

Excellence- We will achieve professional excellence in all aspects of our duties.

Compassion- We believe in empathy and kindness towards the needs of those we serve.

Courage- We will display the mental strength and moral character to do what is right for the protection of our coworkers and community.

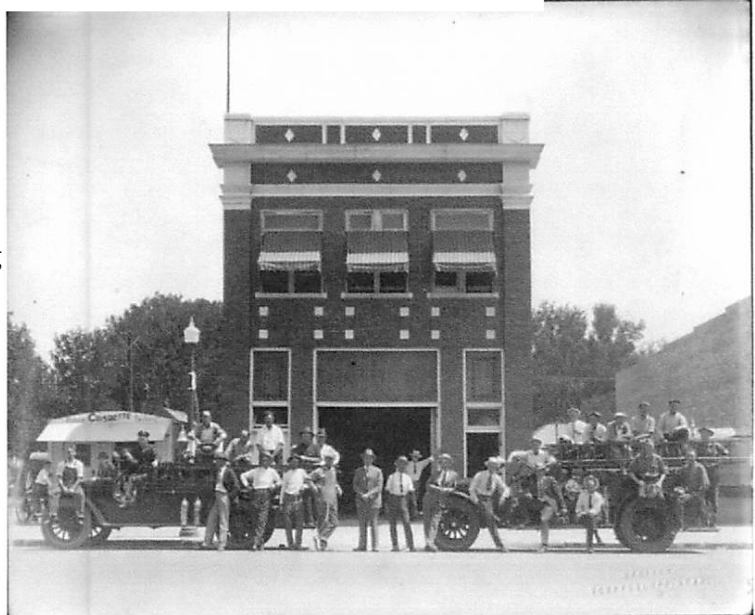
Respect- We will serve our community and each other with dignity, integrity, appreciation, and kindness.

Department History

The Scottsbluff Fire Department has a long and proud past. During the late 1840s and 1850s, thousands of people migrated west through the Scottsbluff area. By 1874, the Mormon Trail was established along the north side of the North Platte River. The City of Scottsbluff was founded in 1900. At this time, the City was protected by volunteer firefighters.

In 1916, the City hired its first firefighter. This individual maintained and drove the City's first motorized fire truck. This one individual assisted the volunteer contingent by responding during the business week. At other times, the volunteers were responsible for responding with the fire truck.

This approach met the needs of the community until early 1926, at which time three fire department shifts were created with one paid apparatus driver/operator per shift. It appears that the department was adversely impacted by the Great Depression and became all-volunteer. The department returned to paid firefighters in the late 1930s and evolved into 24-hour, paid coverage in the early 1940s. This coverage was complete with several paid officers.



The City of Scottsbluff and the Scottsbluff Rural Fire Protection District entered into an automatic-aid agreement by the late 1940s. This agreement was necessary due to a severe human resource shortage caused by World War II. In 1953, the City and the Scottsbluff Rural Fire Protection District entered into a formal agreement for joint operations. The contract called for the City to pay all necessary workers' compensation insurance fees for volunteer members, but no other money would be exchanged. This agreement continued until 1995, when the two separated.

The department continued to grow in the early to mid-1950s. However, in the late 1950s, the City experienced an economic downturn and the department experienced a substantial reduction in the department's paid-coverage. The department, again, increased its dependence on volunteer staffing to meet its needs.

In 1965, the community suffered a tragic event; a structure fire took the lives of two young children. The initial apparatus had been delayed in responding by a train. Following the fire, the City Council rapidly approved the purchase of a new fire apparatus and fire station, located on the south side of the railroad tracks. The City also approved paid staffing of the new station. By the late 1960s, paid staffing was seven personnel per shift.

In the 1970s, staffing levels continued to fluctuate. The station south of the tracks was no longer maintained and Station 1 was staffed with six personnel. The administrative staff included a fire chief, assistant fire chief, fire marshal, training chief, and a secretary.

Escalation of costs forced the deletion of the training officer position in 1995; the same year the City and Rural departments ceased joint operations. The secretary position was eliminated in 1996 and the fire marshal was transferred to Developmental Services. The lieutenant rank was also deleted in 1996. During this same time, the department was experiencing an increase in call volume. The department experimented with part-time, paid firefighters in an attempt to maintain staffing. An attempt to maintain volunteer ranks was also tried, yet several left to continue with Scottsbluff Rural after the split.

In 2003, the part-time firefighter program ended and the fire marshal was moved back to the fire department. This brought the total career force to 17; a fire chief, a fire marshal, three captains, and twelve firefighters. However, in 2006, one career position was cut, bringing the total number of firefighters to eleven.

In 2012, the need to change the volunteer-side of the department was evident. Nationally, there was a trend of far fewer volunteers than in years past. Locally, the number of active volunteers in the department had declined to four personnel. In January of 2013, shift-work began for volunteers where they would work a 12- or 24-hour shift with the paid firefighters. Unfortunately, the volunteer ranks continued to dwindle and in 2018, the volunteer program was cancelled.



Today, the department is all-career, one of seven in the State of Nebraska (Bellevue, Grand Island, Lincoln, Omaha, Omaha Airport, and Scottsbluff). Staffing levels remain at 17, with a

fire chief, fire prevention officer, three captains, three lieutenants, and nine firefighters. Through an automatic-aid agreement established in 2009, the Gering Fire Department and the City respond to all structure fires in each of the respective response districts.

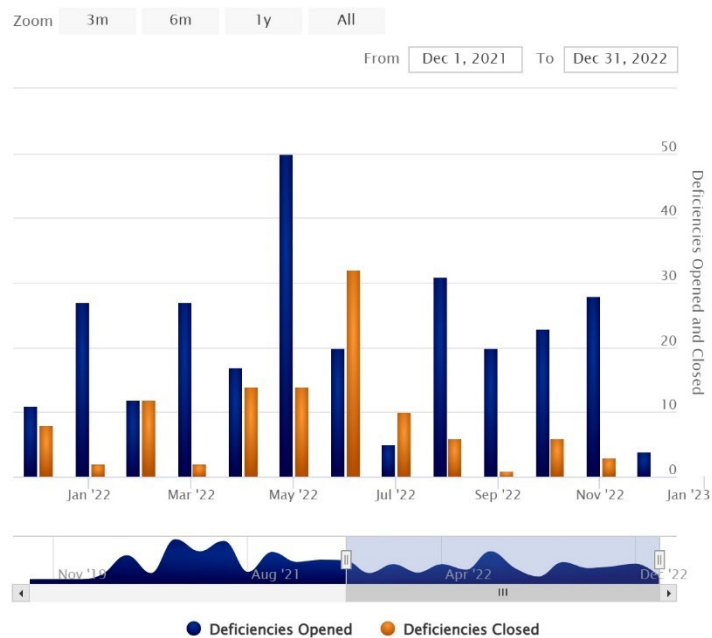
Fire Prevention and Life Safety

The Life Safety Division is composed of Fire Inspections, Plan Review, Fire Investigations, Community Services, and Education. These divisions are tasked with the responsibility of preventing the loss of life and property to both the members of the department and the public we serve.

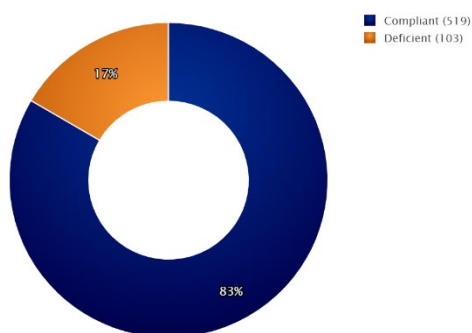
In January 2022 Scottsbluff Fire Department hired a new Fire Marshal, Katie Quintana. She has a combined experience of 17 years in the fire services as a Fire Inspector, Fire Plans Examiner, and Deputy Fire Marshal. FM Quintana is currently fulfilling The State Fire Marshal requirements for Certified Fire Inspector and Certified Fire Plans Examiner.

We have seen great success since the implementation of a cloud based third-party inspection program to track testing and maintenance of fire protection systems throughout the city for code compliance. Reports that are submitted are reviewed and any deficiencies reports generate a letter to the customer outlining requirements. Outstanding deficiencies may require additional attention and follow-up actions; including re-inspection, customer contact, and code review. A total of 36 inspections were performed in 2022.

Deficiencies Opened and Closed by Month



Compliant vs. Deficient Systems



In September 2022 we received Delegated Authority by The State Fire Marshal to perform state licensure inspections, investigate fires, and conduct fire plan review for fire protection systems and building fire code requirements. The Fire Prevention Office is responsible for ensuring that all buildings meet applicable fire codes. A total of 11 building code reviews and 10 fire protection systems reviews were performed in 2022. We plan to implement an electronic plan review process in 2023.

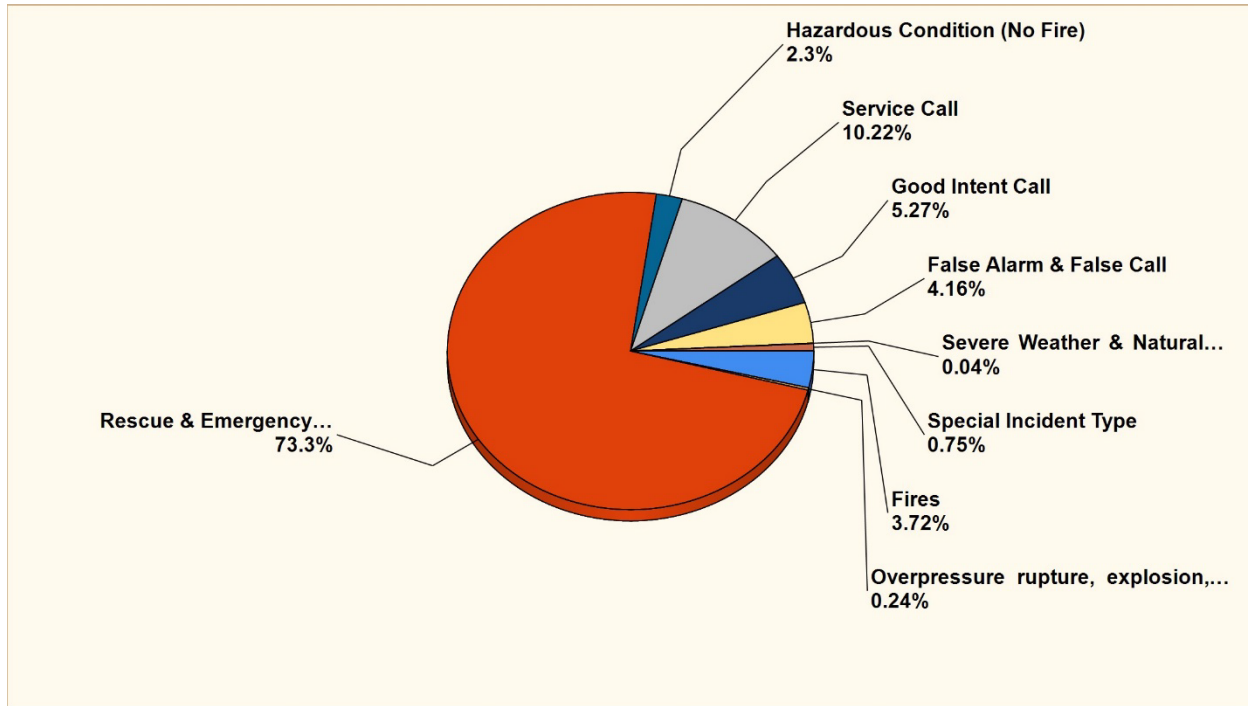
Public Education this year allowed for SFD to return to in-person interaction with local schools and the community, providing fire prevention demonstrations and displaying firefighter gear. We also host station tours, provide information about smoke alarms, proper use of fire extinguishers and



evacuation plans. Additionally, we hosted a youth firefighter camp that allowed 10 to 14-year-olds experience what it is like to be a firefighter. During this two-day camp, they were able to use fire extinguishers and hoselines, search a room with a thermal imaging camera, understand basic first-aid and CPR, and perform an obstacle course with simulated fireground activities.



Calls for Service: Response Category



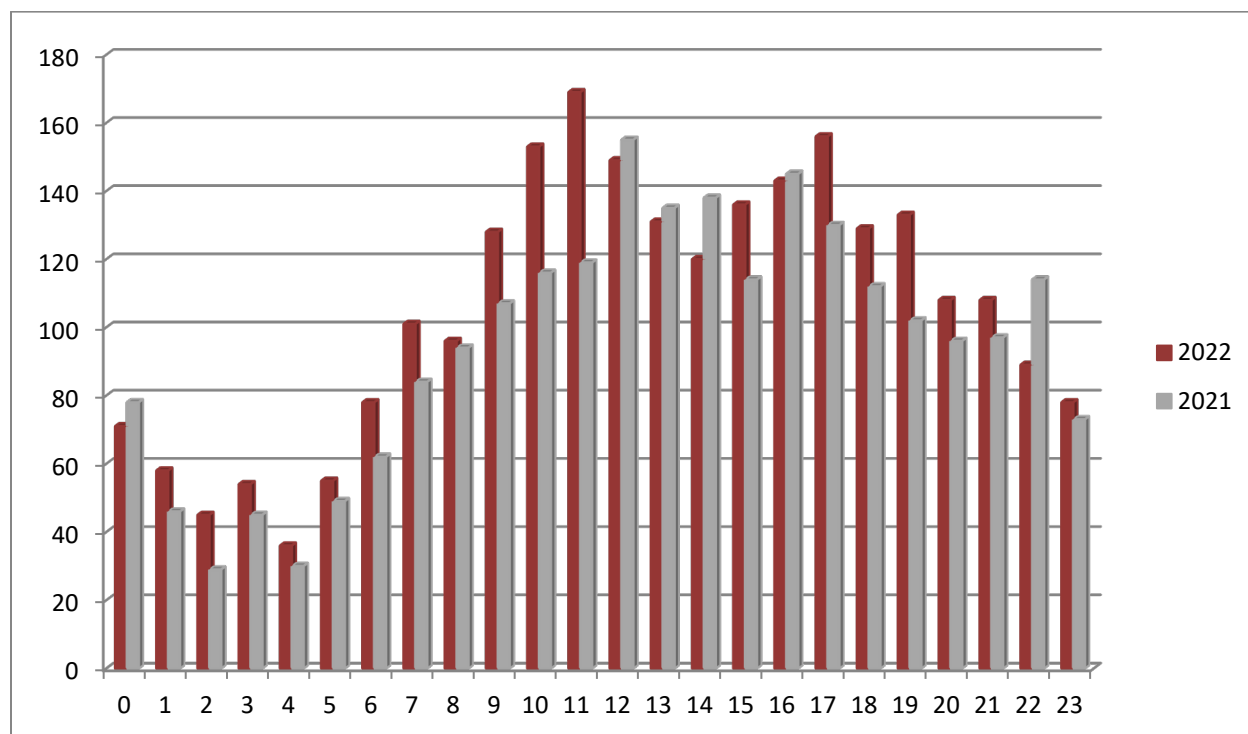
MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	2022 #CFS	% of TOTAL	2021 #CFS	% of TOTAL
Fires	93	3.72%	80	3.52%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	6	0.24%	5	0.22%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1846	73.3%	1542	67.93%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	58	2.30%	58	2.56%
Service Call	255	10.22%	246	10.84%
Good Intent Call	133	5.27%	148	6.52%
False Alarm & False Call	104	4.16%	126	5.55%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.04%	0	0.00%
Special Incident Type	19	0.75%	65	2.86%
TOTAL	2524	100%	2270	100%

The nine major categories are established by the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), which are further broken down into sub-categories. When comparing these numbers, between 2022 and 2021, the percentages remain relatively the same, with the exception of rescue and emergency medical services, despite the volume being higher in most categories. The following page shows the CFS for each sub-category for each month of 2022.

Calls for Service: Category (cont.)

INCIDENT TYPE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Accident, potential accident	1	1	1	1	1							
Attempted burning, illegal action									1			
Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition		1	1	1			2		1	2	3	2
Citizen complaint	1			1	1	6	8		1			
Combustible/flammable spills & leaks	3	1	2	1	1	1	3	1		2	2	1
Controlled burning						1	1					
Dispatched and canceled en route	10	2	7	5	6	13	16	7	5	3	6	6
Electrical wiring/equipment problem	1	1		7	1	6				1	1	3
Emergency medical service (EMS) Incident	155	161	146	129	144	128	143	145	160	159	150	222
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition		1	2			1						
Explosion (no fire)				1	1							
False alarm and false call, other					1	1						
Fire, other												1
Good intent call, other	1											
HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat		1					1				1	
Malicious, mischievous false alarm	1			1			3	1	1		2	
Medical assist											1	
Mobile property (vehicle) fire				1		1	1	1			2	
Natural vegetation fire				6	1	8	4	1	2		1	2
Other incident type				1								
Outside rubbish fire	1	1	1			3	2	1	1		2	1
Person in distress												1
Public service assistance	20	14	17	19	27	18	22	19	17	27	17	25
Rescue or EMS standby	1											
Search for lost person							1					
Smoke, odor problem									1		1	
Special type of incident, other												1
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke	2	1	2				3	3	3	5		5
Structure Fire	2	6	4	2	2	4	4	6	3	4	5	6
System or detector malfunction		4		4	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	2
Unauthorized burning				1						1		
Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire)	9	2	2	7	6	4	10	7	3	5	4	10
Water or ice-related rescue		1										
Water problem												8
Wrong location, no emergency found	3	2	1		1	3		3	1	1	2	
Total	211	200	187	188	195	200	226	201	202	211	202	301

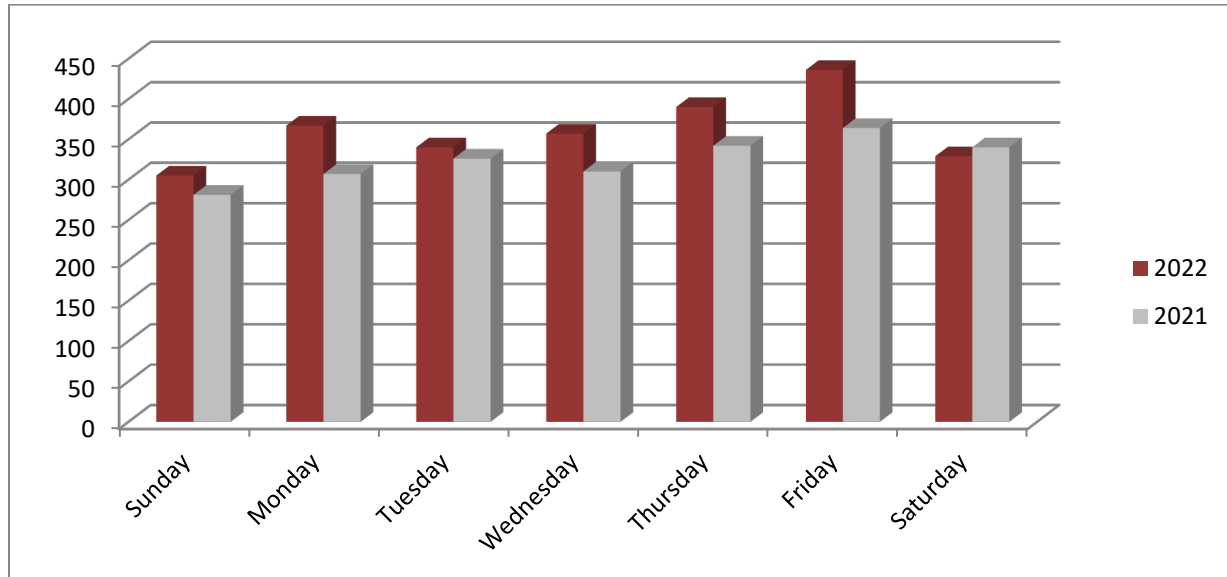
Calls for Service: Time of Day



2022				2021			
HOUR (A.M.)	#CFS	HOUR (P.M.)	#CFS	HOUR (A.M.)	#CFS	HOUR (P.M.)	#CFS
12:00 a.m.	71	12:00 p.m.	149	12:00 a.m.	78	12:00 p.m.	155
1:00 a.m.	58	1:00 p.m.	131	1:00 a.m.	46	1:00 p.m.	135
2:00 a.m.	45	2:00 p.m.	120	2:00 a.m.	29	2:00 p.m.	138
3:00 a.m.	54	3:00 p.m.	136	3:00 a.m.	45	3:00 p.m.	114
4:00 a.m.	36	4:00 p.m.	143	4:00 a.m.	30	4:00 p.m.	145
5:00 a.m.	55	5:00 p.m.	156	5:00 a.m.	49	5:00 p.m.	130
6:00 a.m.	78	6:00 p.m.	129	6:00 a.m.	62	6:00 p.m.	112
7:00 a.m.	101	7:00 p.m.	133	7:00 a.m.	84	7:00 p.m.	102
8:00 a.m.	96	8:00 p.m.	108	8:00 a.m.	94	8:00 p.m.	96
9:00 a.m.	128	9:00 p.m.	108	9:00 a.m.	107	9:00 p.m.	97
10:00 a.m.	153	10:00 p.m.	89	10:00 a.m.	116	10:00 p.m.	114
11:00 a.m.	169	11:00 p.m.	78	11:00 a.m.	119	11:00 p.m.	73

Scottsbluff Fire had the highest call volumes at 11:00 a.m. (same as 2021) and 5:00 p.m. (compared to 12:00 p.m. in 2021), and experiences a higher call volume in the afternoon/evening hours compared to the morning hours. The peak morning hours were between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and the afternoon peak was between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

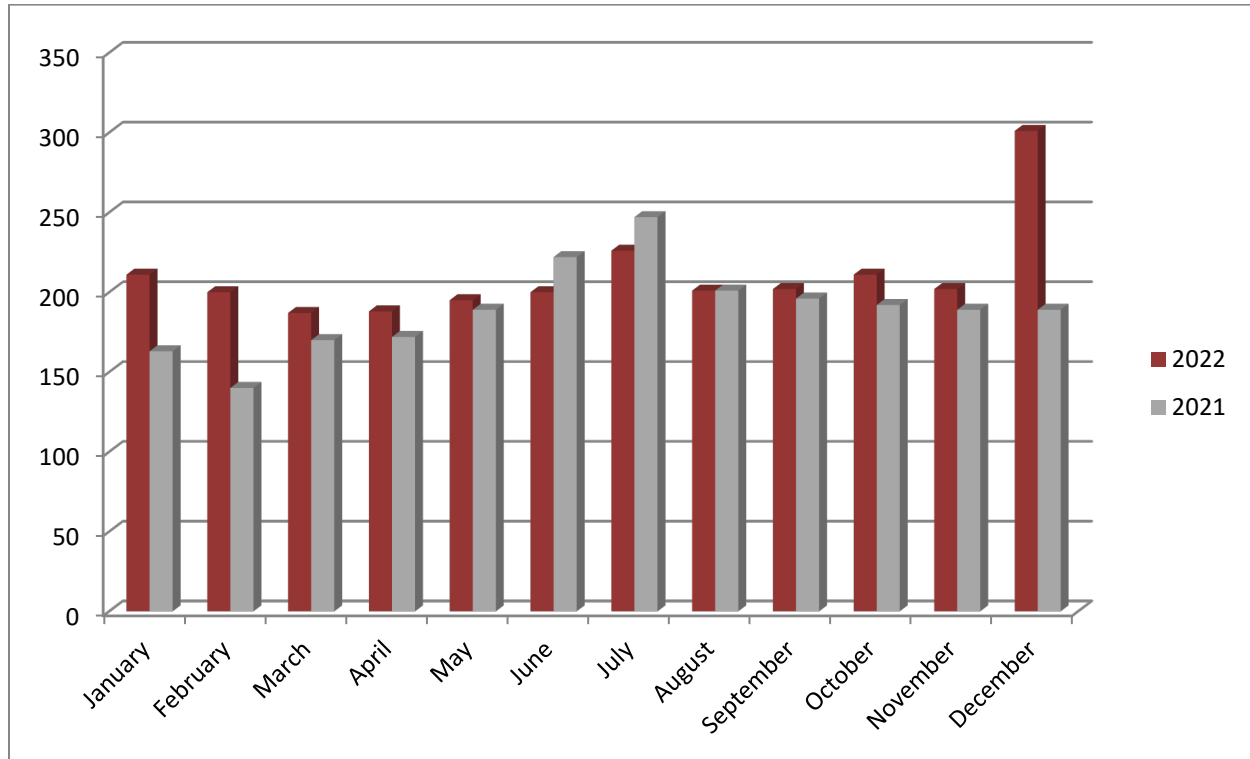
Calls for Service: Day of Week



DAY OF THE WEEK	2022 # CFS	2021 # CFS
Sunday	305	281
Monday	367	307
Tuesday	340	326
Wednesday	357	310
Thursday	390	342
Friday	436	364
Saturday	329	340

Scottsbluff Fire responded to more calls for service on Fridays, followed by Thursdays and Mondays, respectively, in 2022, compared to Fridays, Thursdays, and Saturdays in 2021. Sundays had the lowest call volume in 2022, same as 2021. While Fridays have seen the highest call volume the last few years, 2022 saw a 16.5% increase in call volume compared to 2021.

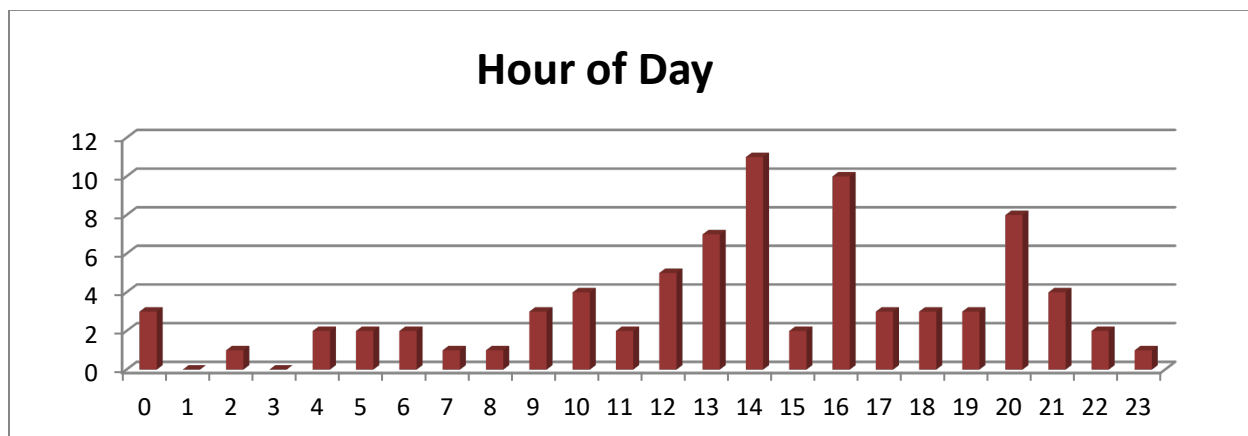
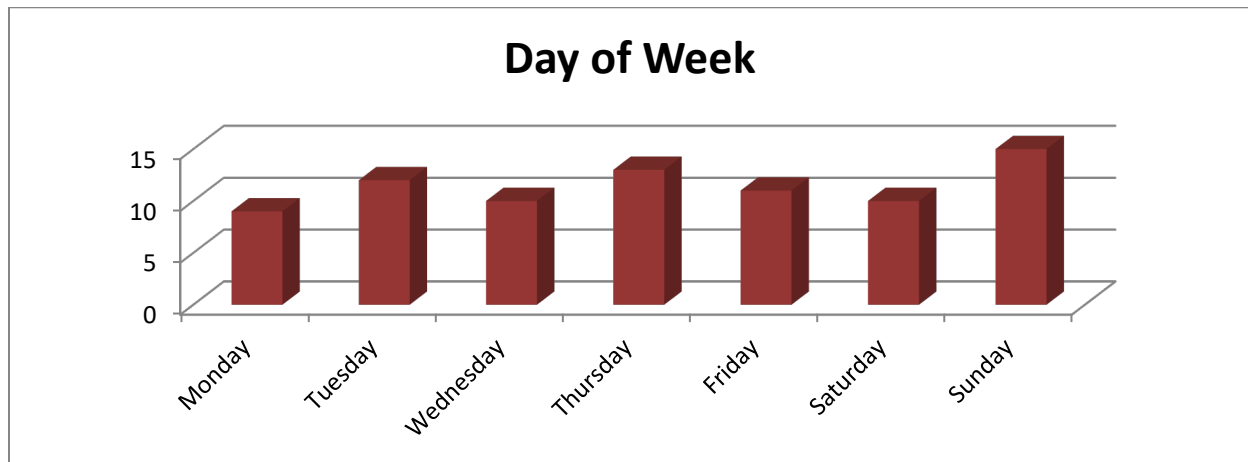
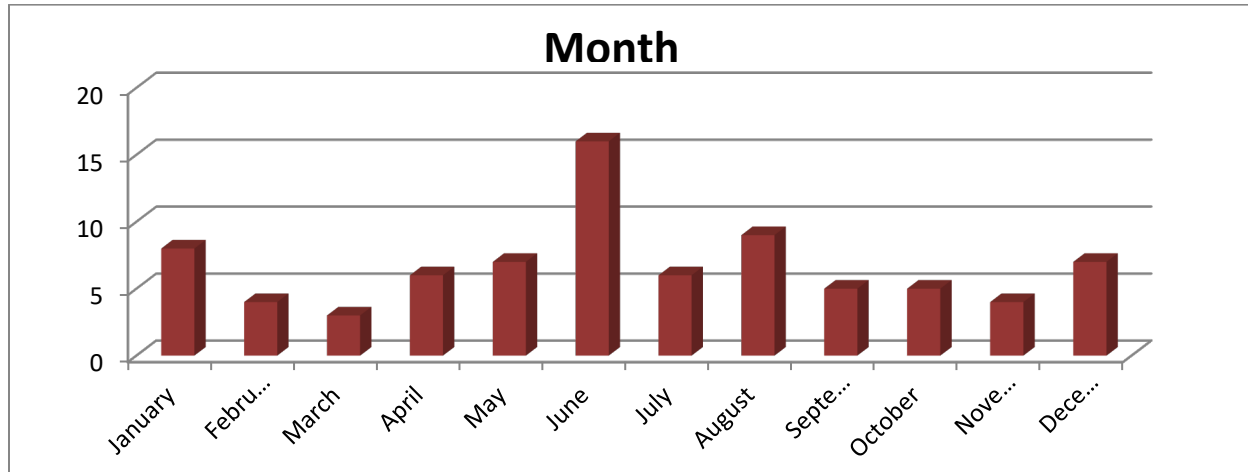
Calls for Service: Month



MONTH	2022 #CFS	2021 #CFS
January	211	163
February	200	140
March	187	170
April	188	172
May	195	189
June	200	222
July	226	247
August	201	201
September	202	196
October	211	192
November	202	189
December	301	189

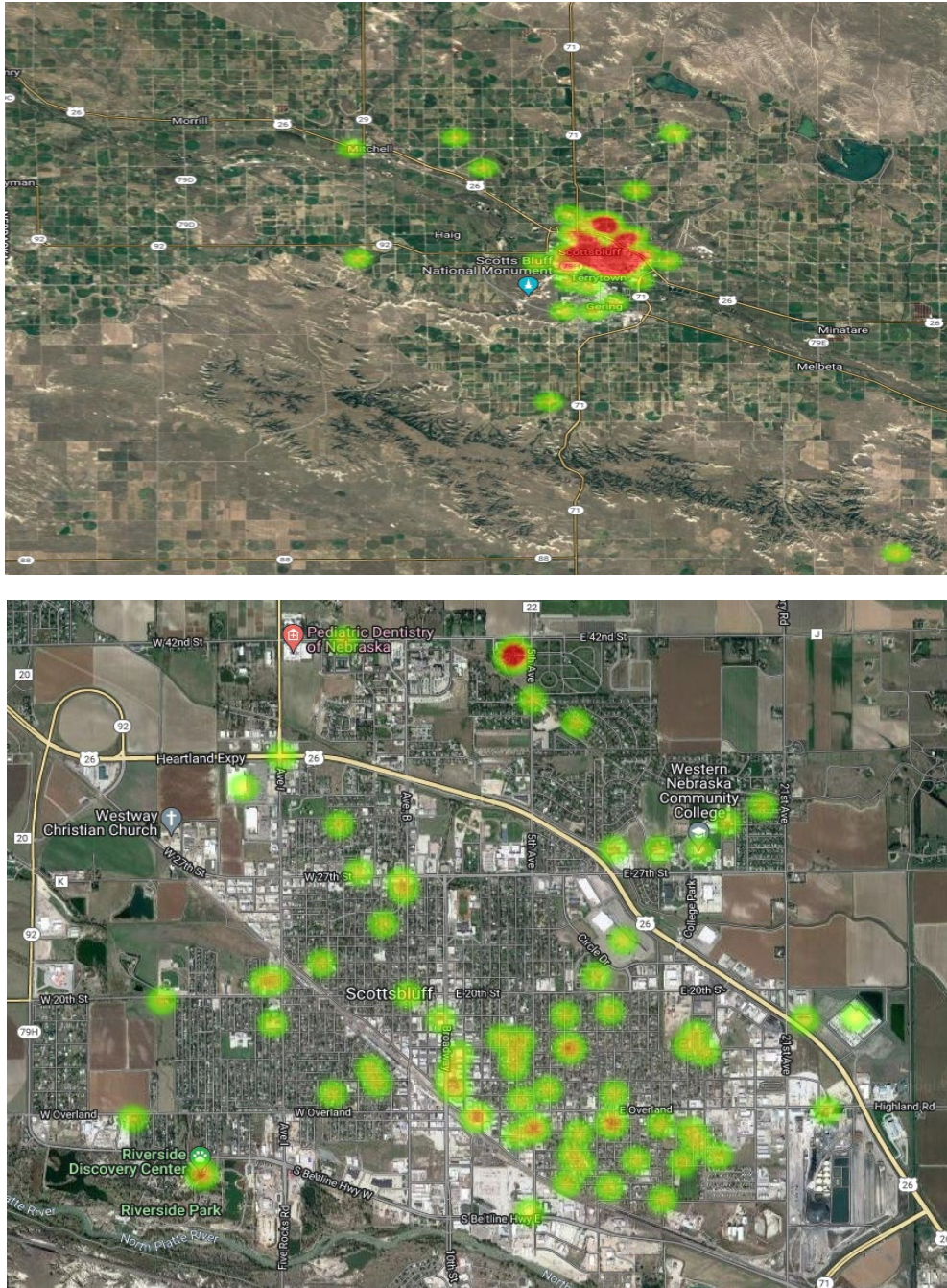
The highest call volume month in 2022 was December, compared to July in 2021. The largest contributor to that volume was requests for emergency medical services.

Calls for Service: When Fires Occurred



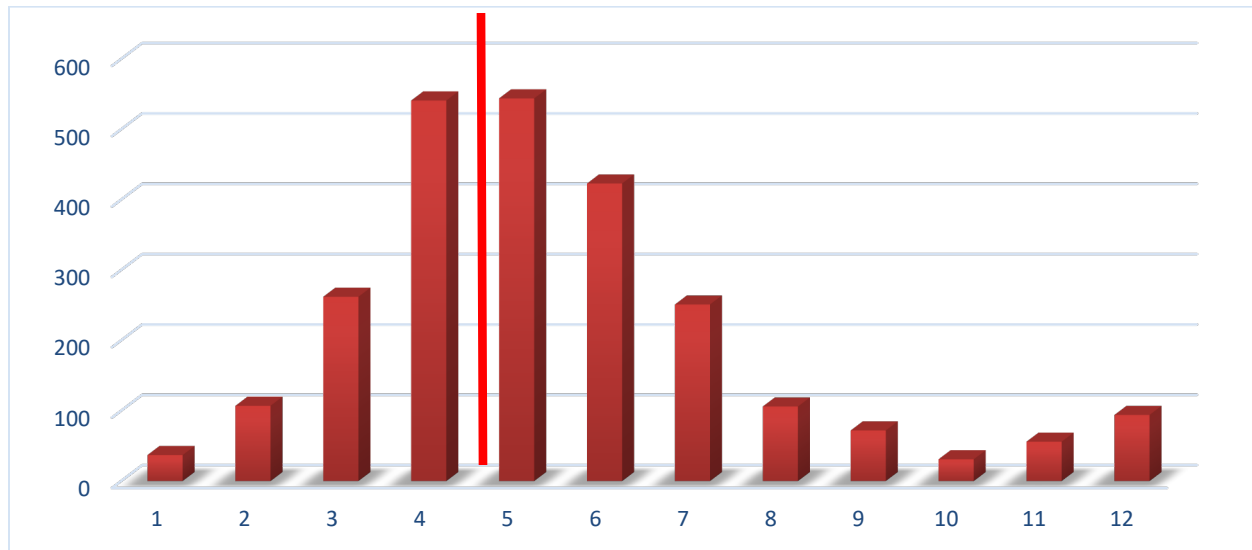
In 2022, approximately 18 percent of all fires occurred in the month of June, approximately 18 percent of all fires occurred on a Sunday, and approximately 28 percent of all fires occurred between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m..

Calls for Service: Where Fires Occurred



The top map shows all fire responses to which Scottsbluff Fire responded in the County and the bottom map shows the general location where fire responses occurred in the City of Scottsbluff only. The green spots indicate a least one incident response and graduate to yellow and red for more frequent responses to those general areas. These include all types of fires including structure, grass, and vehicle.

Calls for Service: Response Times



The Scottsbluff Fire Department responded to 1,491 calls for service in less than five minutes (59%) with an average response time* of four minutes, fifty-five seconds (4:55). The average response time to medical incidents was four minutes, seventeen seconds (4:17), where the average response time to fire incidents was three minutes, twenty-nine seconds (3:29) inside the city limits, and eleven minutes, twenty-seven seconds (11:27) outside the city.

The National Fire Protection Association standard for response time is five minutes (5:00) for medical incidents and five minutes, twenty seconds (5:20) for fires ninety percent (90%) of the time. The standard allows a turnout time (ability to receive the call and get on the truck) of one minute for medical incidents and one minute, twenty seconds for fire incidents and a drive time of four minutes. We met a 5:20 response time 74 percent of the time within the city limits. However, of the 26 percent over the 5:20 standard, the average of those was five minutes, twenty-nine seconds (5:29). The biggest factor is the distance to scene in the northeast (zone 20) and southeast (zone 60).

There are a few conditions that prevent meeting the five-minute response goal such as overlapping incidents, in which we could not respond due to being engaged with another incident. Overlap occurred 22.11 percent of the time which accounts for nearly half of all calls for service over the five-minute response time. Other factors include delays by trains and inclement weather.

*Response time is calculated from time of alarm (when the fire department is notified) to time of arrival.

Calls for Service: Response Times (cont.)



The east/west dividing line is Broadway Avenue. The North Zones are defined north of 27th Street and the South Zones are defined by south of Overland. Between 27th Street and Overland is identified as the Central Zones. These zones are for tracking purposes. The map shows the dividing lines. The tables below show overall, average response time for all incidents, emergent (lights and sirens) incidents only, and non-emergent (no lights, no sirens) incidents only.

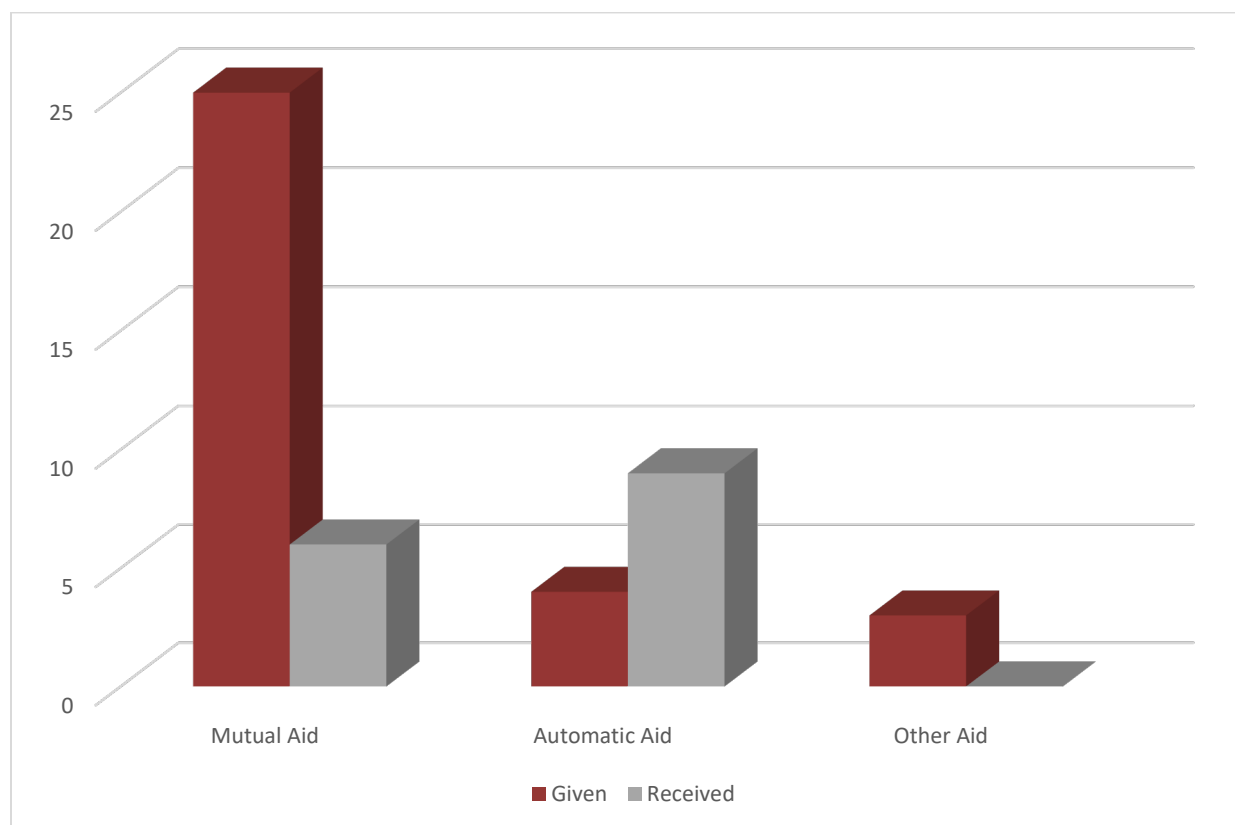
ZONE	OVERALL AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME in minutes (Dispatch to Arrived)
10 - Northwest City	05:19
20 - Northeast City	06:18
30 - West Central City	04:09
40 - East Central City	04:41
50 - Southwest City	04:55
60 - Southeast City	05:14
70 - Outside City Limits	11:45

ZONE	EMERGENT RESPONSE TIME in minutes (Dispatch to Arrived)
10 - Northwest City	04:57
20 - Northeast City	05:24
30 - West Central City	03:56
40 - East Central City	04:10
50 - Southwest City	04:30
60 - Southeast City	04:41
70 - Outside City Limits	11:40

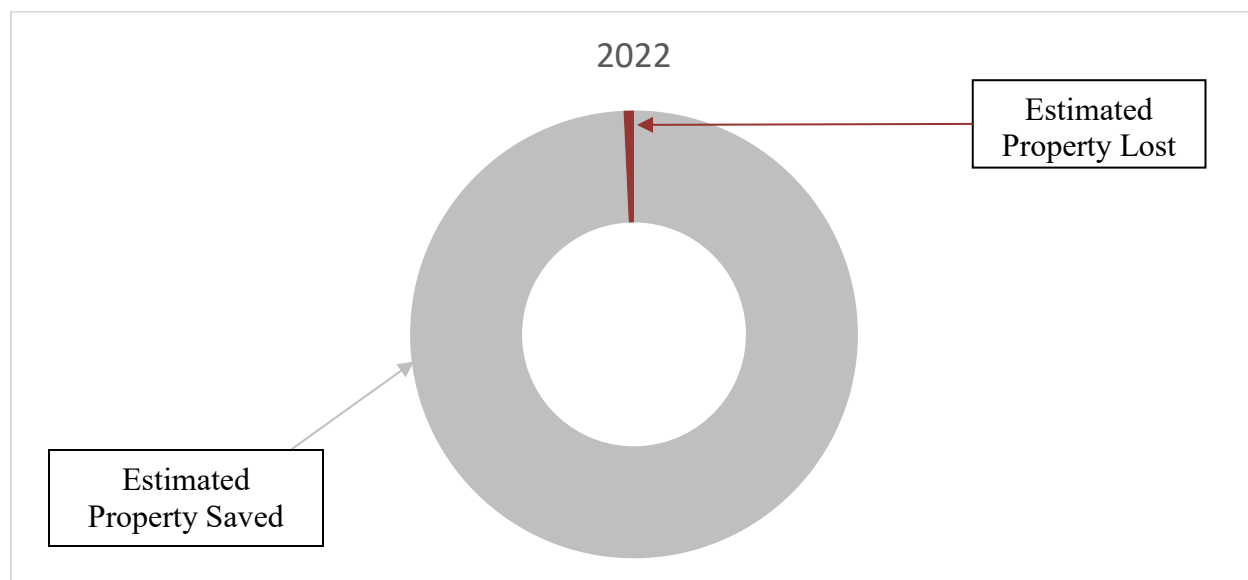
ZONE	NON-EMERGENT RESPONSE TIME in minutes (Dispatch to Arrived)
10 - Northwest City	04:57
20 - Northeast City	07:52
30 - West Central City	04:24
40 - East Central City	05:17
50 - Southwest City	05:27
60 - Southeast City	06:18
70 - Outside City Limits	12:04

Calls for Service: Aid Given and Received

Scottsbluff Fire Department has an automatic-aid agreement with Gering Fire Department in which both agencies are simultaneously dispatched (automatically) for all structure fires. All public safety agencies in Scotts Bluff County have a mutual-aid agreement in which resources may be requested and sent, if available. We thank our fellow agencies for the assistance we provide each other and our great working relationship.

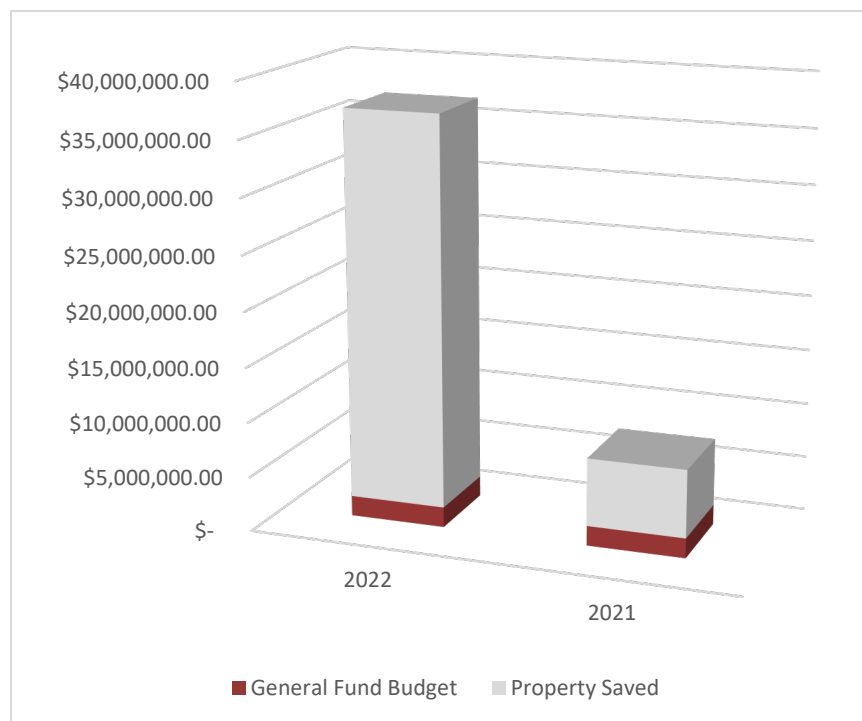


Calls for Service: Estimated Fire Loss



In 2022, it is estimated that there were \$266,340 in property loss resulting from fire in Scottsbluff. The estimated property valuation of those fires was \$35,522,625 indicating ninety-nine percent (99%) of property was saved.

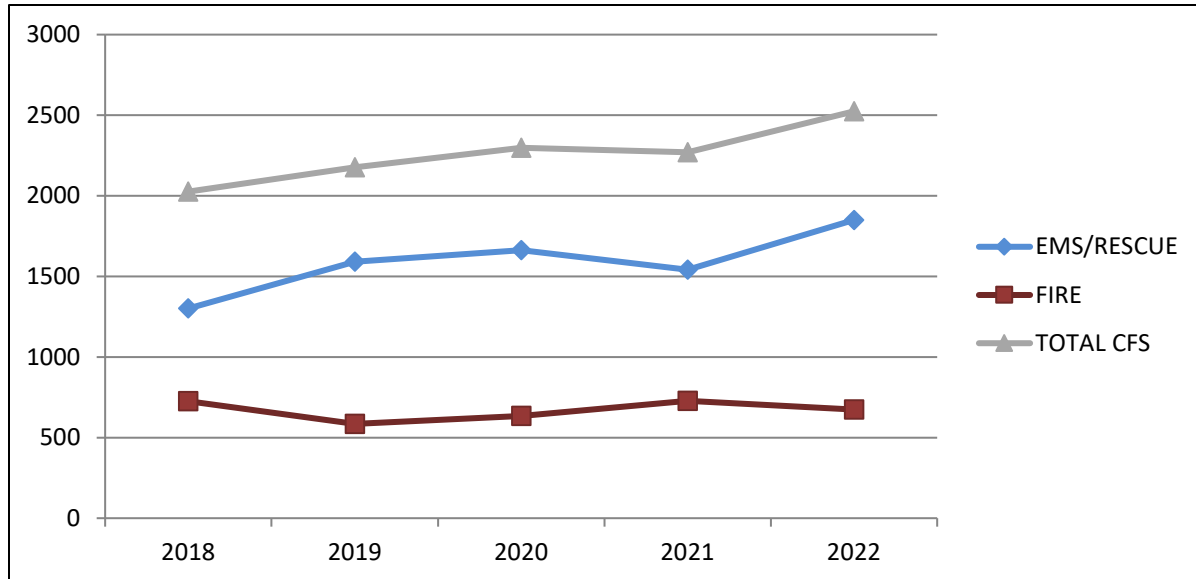
A major difference in these numbers is the type of property, where five of the fires in 2022 were high valuation, commercial properties with fire protection systems. The majority property loss due to fire is found in residential structures where no fire protection systems exist. Residential sprinkler systems would help to increase life safety and reduce property loss.



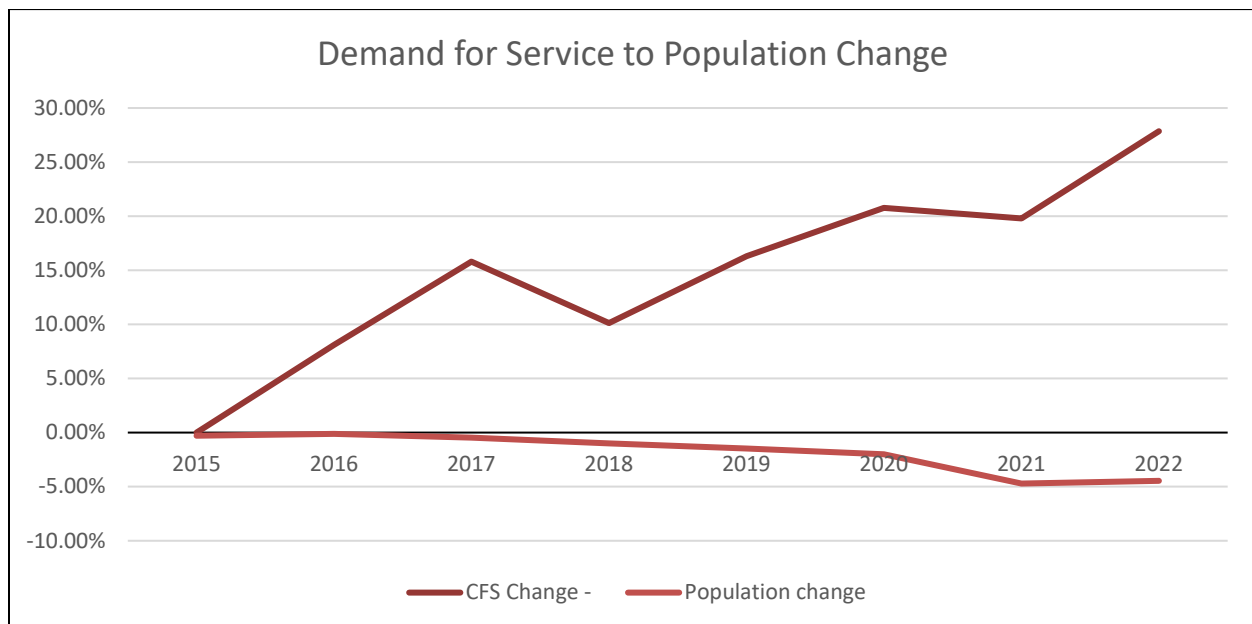
The chart to the left shows the amount of property saved compared to the general fund to operate Scottsbluff Fire.

Smoke alarms and fire extinguishers are a simple and cost-effective way to help increase life safety and reduce property loss.

Calls for Service: Five Year Comparison



A comparison of calls for service shows an increase in emergency medical (EMS) calls from the year previous, and a slight decrease in fires, fire alarms and other emergency incidents. The overall trend, compared to the past five years, shows an increase in EMS incidents and steady numbers for fire incidents. The chart below shows our population change in relation to the demand for services. The population has remained relatively unchanged, yet demand for services have increased in the past years.



Apparatus

Apparatus	Year/Make/Model	Features/Use
Engine 1	2016 KME Pumper	Primary pumper, 1500 GPM pump, 750 gallons of water, extrication equipment
Engine 2	1996 Becker/Freightliner Pumper	Reserve pumper, 1500 GPM pump, 750 gallons of water
Rescue 1	2017 SVI/Freightliner	Basic Life Support, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, extrication equipment
Tower 1	2010 Pierce Arrow XT	Aerial platform (100 foot), 1500 GPM pump, 300 gallons of water
Brush 1	2008 Dodge 3500	Type 6 engine, 300 gallons of water, forestry hose, 250 GPM pump,
Unit 1	2017 Ford F150	Fire Investigation/Inspection vehicle
Unit 2	2020 Chevy 1500	Fire Chief/Investigation/Response vehicle
Unit 11	2000 Chevrolet G30	Passenger Van/Personnel Carrier
Dive Bus	2000 Bluebird	Dive Rescue equipment, breathing air cascade
Zodiac	1998 Zodiac Rubber Inflatable Boat	Used to get divers to dive areas and negotiate waters
SeaDoo	2002 Sea Doo, personal watercraft	Used to clear dive areas
Hazmat Trailer	1998 Pace, 28 foot enclosed trailer	Hazmat response, decontamination equipment, breathing air cascade
UTV	2005 Polaris UTV	Utility vehicle with snow plow



Courtesy of Adventure Photography

Quick Facts

Department Statistics

Average Years of
Service: 9.4 years

Average age of
members: 40.22 years

Average time on-scene
of incident: 15 minutes,
54 seconds

Average CFS per
person: 343.94

Average number of
responding personnel to
structure fires: 5.91

Average number of
responding personnel to
all CFS types: 2.6

- 2234.33 Incident Response Hours
- 2287.5 Training Hours (134.6 hrs/person)
- 161 Ride-along Hours
- 55.25 Public Education Hours
- General Fund of \$128.13 per capita

Top three responders:

Andrew Kelley- 663 calls for service

Joe Sittner- 614 calls for service

Jed Combs- 575 calls for service

Calls for Service by Shift

A Shift- 860

B Shift- 830

C Shift- 819

Admin- 15

Calls for Service by Apparatus

Rescue 1- 1,765

Engine 1- 963

Tower 1- 186

Brush 1- 55

Unit 2- 48

Unit 1- 21



Personnel Hired, Promoted and Retired

The Scottsbluff Fire Department hired four new members in 2022 to replace four vacancies. We welcomed our Fire Prevention Officer, Katie Quintana, on January 10. Three firefighters, Salem Harsh, Sean Gwin, and Brett Walter, were welcomed on November 14. Lieutenant DJ Glenn was promoted to Captain and Firefighter Cody Scott was promoted to Lieutenant, both on December 20. There were no retirements.

Hired



Katie Quintana
January 10, 2022
Fire Prevention Officer



Salem Harsh
November 14, 2022
B Shift Firefighter

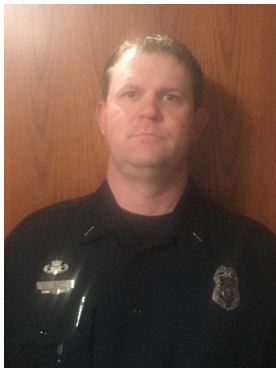


Sean Gwin
November 14, 2022
C Shift Firefighter



Brett Walter
November 14, 2022
A Shift Firefighter

Promoted



DJ Glenn
December 20, 2022
C Shift Captain



Cody Scott
December 20, 2022
A Shift Lieutenant

We want to thank the Civil Service Commissioners for their hard work and dedication to the processes for hiring and promoting public safety officials.

Special Operations Teams

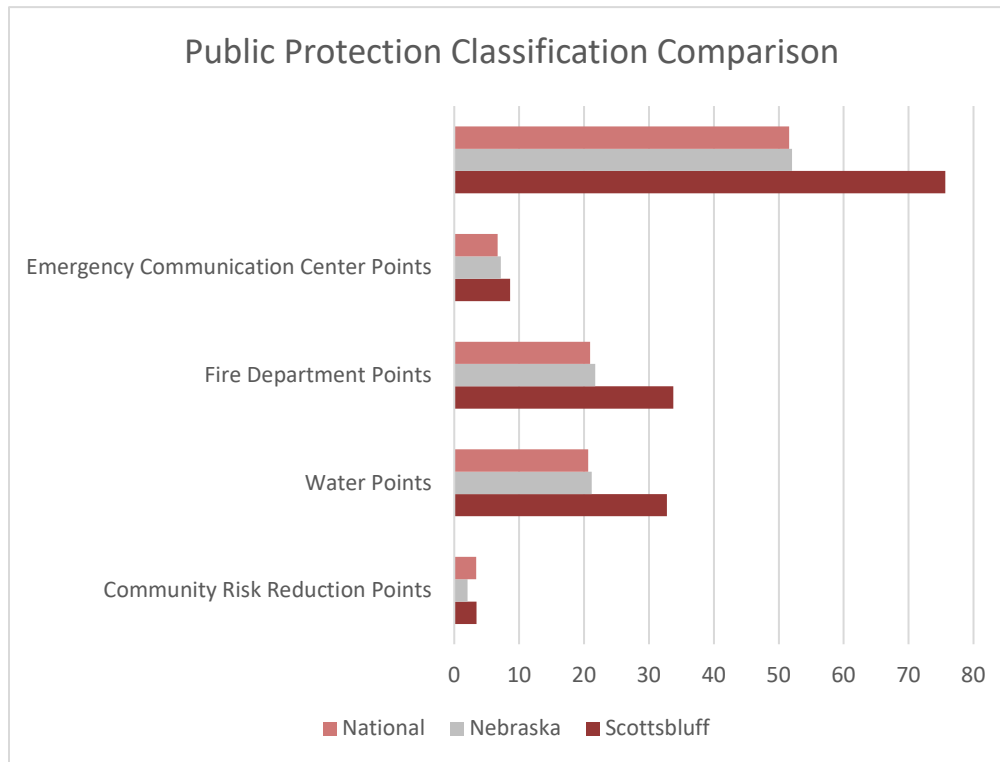
The Scottsbluff Fire Department is equipped to handle a variety of specialized operations which include hazardous materials, technical and dive rescue emergencies, and brush/wildfires.



Scottsbluff Fire is one of ten State Emergency Response Teams (SERT) that handle hazardous materials response in the State of Nebraska. The Scottsbluff Fire Department, when requested and authorized, covers the 11 counties of the Panhandle to mitigate hazardous materials releases. In 2022 we responded to an overturned truck spilling thousands of gallons of diesel fuel. We also participated in an exercise with the 72nd Civil Support Team (CST), which provides hazardous materials response and resources throughout the State when requested through the emergency management process. The exercise conducted was over three days and involved identifying various unknown laboratories and identifying a weaponized virus. The 8th CST, out of Colorado, and the 84th CST, out of Wyoming also participated.



Public Protection Classification



Verisk representatives visited us on August 1, 2022, to perform the on-site verification process. The process begins with pre-survey forms that are completed and submitted with supporting documentation. These forms inquire about equipment on the apparatus

and vehicles, number of personnel, training hours, response times, fire prevention activities, and structure fire response. There are a few other details that the forms capture. All of this information is submitted to the Verisk field representatives and they perform an audit of the information for verification. The representatives also met with the Communications Center and Water Department to verify and validate similar information related to those areas. Once this is complete, they have to compile the information in order to determine the PPC rating. While we do not have our 2022 results yet, we anticipate that we will remain a PPC 3, but hopefully improve the score. Keep in mind, there is no requirement to have a particular score, it is just one way for insurance companies to measure fire risk.

PPC	Points
1	90.00 +
2	80.00 to 89.99
3	70.00 to 79.99
4	60.00 to 69.99
5	50.00 to 59.99
6	40.00 to 49.99
7	30.00 to 39.99
8	20.00 to 29.99
9	10.00 to 19.99
10	0.00 to 9.99