

# Scottsbluff Fire Department

2024 Annual Fire Report



Thomas Schingle, Fire Chief

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## Message from the Chief

It is our pleasure to submit the Scottsbluff Fire Department's 2024 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.

Last year we began focusing on some of our Department goals, one of which is revising and improving our training programs. We saw an increase in documented training hours and several more certifications for personnel. More travel was experienced to attend classes and courses than the previous year.

We are working on improving some processes that will continue to be worked on in the coming year. We spent several months evaluating records management systems and will be implementing a new system by mid-year 2025. We are working with Emergency Management to enhance backup communications and updating local emergency operations plans.

We experienced another increase to total calls for service in 2024; a total of 2,785, thirty-seven more than 2023. While not significant, the trend continues to be more utilization of emergency services. Compared to ten years ago the call volume has increased thirty-eight percent, and increased sixty-five percent in the last thirty years.

As we reflect back on 2024, we also look forward to 2025. We appreciate the opportunity to provide service to our community and continue to reduce risk and increase safety from fire and other hazards.

Stay safe,

Tom Schingle

#### Scottsbluff Fire Department

Organized in 1900

Protecting 6.68 square miles

Population 14,264 (2024 estimated)

9 Firefighters

3 Lieutenants

3 Captains

1 Fire Prevention Officer

1 Fire Chief

# 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. Lieutenants were added back to the organizational structure in 2019 to clearly define the rank structure in the absence of the Captains.



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

Fire Prevention and life safety efforts remain a primary goal of Scottsbluff Fire Department. Conducting fire plan reviews, fire inspections, fire investigations, and public education helps to reduce fires and loss of life and property to the public we serve. While we have implemented several great programs over the years, 2024 saw some additional improvements to those fire prevention and life safety programs.

In 2023, after the departure of our former Fire Prevention Officer, we had to relinquish Delegated Authority back to the State Fire Marshal's Agency. In May of 2024, the State Fire Marshal granted Delegated Authority back to us as our current Fire Prevention Officer worked diligently to obtain the required certifications. We continue to have a great working relationship with the State Fire Marshal's Agency and work together to improve fire inspections and fire plan reviews.

Fire plan reviews received a bit of an upgrade with the onboarding of an electronic plan review system called Bluebeam. This system allows for plans to be reviewed more efficiently and quickly as plans can be accessed anywhere on multiple devices, including in the field during routine inspections. Communication between contractors, architects, and engineers is enhanced with near instant feedback and standard markup and measurement tools.



Approximately seventy percent of occupancies within the City have been audited in the last year. This has been a major project with the goal of ensuring we have accountability in our inspection records management by having correct information and data for each business.

Additionally, we continue to see fire systems (alarms, sprinklers, hoods, etc.) being maintained at a high rate. While we have not experienced 100% compliance, we have been able to maintain compliance in the 90-percentile range for the past several years.

One significant improvement is the number of inspections to mobile food vendors. These are sometimes difficult inspections to complete due to the fact that these trucks and trailers are always on the move. Twenty-five inspections

were completed, thanks to better advertisement and emphasis on the importance of these inspections. We also implemented a new tag system (shown to the right) that assisted in being able to quickly identify vendors that had been inspected and those that needed an inspection.



More information has been added to the website with resources for our commercial occupancies and information on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors for the public. We continue to look for opportunities to enhance the website as a resource for the public. In 2025, we hope to add more content, including a frequently asked questions page based on feedback we receive.

Fire Pup made a debut during several fire station tours and public education events. We hope to have Fire Pup make more appearances in 2025 and may hold a naming contest to give a little more identity.



# Calls for Service: Response Category



| MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE                                 | 2024<br>#CFS | % of<br>TOTAL | 2023<br>#CFS | % of<br>TOTAL |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Fires   | 92           | 3.3%          | 52           | 1.89%         |
| Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire | 1            | 0.04%         | 3            | 0.11%         |
| Rescue & Emergency Medical Service                  | 1998         | 71.74%        | 2079         | 75.66%        |
| Hazardous Condition (No Fire)                       | 66           | 2.37%         | 88           | 3.2%          |
| Service Call  | 342          | 12.28%        | 267          | 9.72%         |
| Good Intent Call                                    | 164          | 5.89%         | 129          | 4.69%         |
| False Alarm & False Call                            | 120          | 4.31%         | 127          | 4.62%         |
| Severe Weather & Natural Disaster                   | 1            | 0.04%         | 1            | 0.04%         |
| Special Incident Type                               | 1            | 0.04%         | 2            | 0.07%         |
| TOTAL   | 2785         | 100%          | 2748         | 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 2024 and 2023, the percentages remain relatively the same, with the exception of rescue and emergency medical service, slightly lower than 2023, and fires, which were slightly higher in 2024. The following page shows the CFS for each sub-category for each month of 2024.

# Calls for Service: Category (cont.)

| INCIDENT  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Мау | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Νον | Dec |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Accident, potential accident  |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 1   |
| Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition<br>Citizen complaint | 3   | 1   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 2   |     | 2   |     | 3   | 1   |
| Combustible/flammable spills & leaks                                | 1   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 4   | 1   | 2   | 4   | 2   |
| Controlled burning  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |
| Dispatched and canceled en route                                    | 12  | 3   | 5   | 7   | 13  | 8   | 10  | 12  | 17  | 5   | 9   | 4   |
| Electrical wiring/equipment problem                                 |     | 2   | 2   |     | 1   | 6   | 1   | 3   | 2   |     | 2   | 1   |
| Emergency medical service (EMS)<br>Incident                         | 174 | 169 | 145 | 162 | 171 | 194 | 150 | 165 | 181 | 154 | 152 | 175 |
| no ignition   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |
| Extrication, rescue   |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     | 1   |     | 1   |     |     |
| False alarm and false call, other                                   |     |     |     | 1   |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |
| Fire, other   |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Flammable gas or liquid condition,<br>other                         |     |     |     |     | - 4 | 1   | - 4 |     |     |     |     |     |
| Good Intent call, other   |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Malicious, mischievous false alarm                                  |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |
| Medical assist  |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Mobile property (vehicle) fire                                      | 1   |     | 1   |     | 1   | 1   | 2   |     | 2   |     | 1   |     |
| Natural vegetation fire   | 1   | 1   |     | 1   |     | 4   | 8   | 2   | 1   | 1   |     |     |
| Other incident type   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Outside rubbish fire  | 2   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 1   |     | 7   |     |     | 1   |     | 4   |
| Person in distress  |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Public service assistance   | 15  | 30  | 27  | 22  | 33  | 71  | 39  | 11  | 23  | 25  | 13  | 10  |
| Search for lost person  |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Service call, other   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |
| Smoke, odor problem   | 2   |     | 2   |     | 2   | 3   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke                                 | 5   | 4   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 3   | 1   | 3   |
| Structure Fire  | 4   | 3   | 4   | 2   | 1   | 6   | 2   | 3   | 5   | 2   | 7   | 4   |
| System or detector malfunction                                      | 3   | 1   | 1   | 6   | 3   | 17  | 2   | 4   | 9   | 1   | 2   | 2   |
| Unauthorized burning  |     |     | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   |
| Unintentional system/detector<br>operation (no fire)                | 5   | 5   | 3   | 6   | 6   | 8   | 5   | 4   | 8   | 6   | 4   | 4   |
| vvater problem  |     |     |     |     |     |     | ·   |     | ·   |     | 1   |     |
| Wrong location, no emergency<br>found                               | 2   | 2   | 204 | 1   | 3   | 3   | 1   | 5   | 1   | 1   | 204 | 1   |
| lotal   | 230 | 228 | 201 | 218 | 247 | 332 | 233 | 217 | 259 | 206 | 201 | 213 |

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#### 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

| 2024       |      |            |      | 2023       |      |            |      |
|------------|------|------------|------|------------|------|------------|------|
| HOUR       | #CFS | HOUR       | #CFS | HOUR       | #CFS | HOUR       | #CFS |
| (A.M.)     |      | (P.M.)     |      | (A.M.)     |      | (P.M.)     |      |
| 12:00 a.m. | 75   | 12:00 p.m. | 163  | 12:00 a.m. | 61   | 12:00 p.m. | 175  |
| 1:00 a.m.  | 72   | 1:00 p.m.  | 163  | 1:00 a.m.  | 69   | 1:00 p.m.  | 149  |
| 2:00 a.m.  | 57   | 2:00 p.m.  | 134  | 2:00 a.m.  | 50   | 2:00 p.m.  | 149  |
| 3:00 a.m.  | 32   | 3:00 p.m.  | 191  | 3:00 a.m.  | 39   | 3:00 p.m.  | 190  |
| 4:00 a.m.  | 64   | 4:00 p.m.  | 166  | 4:00 a.m.  | 46   | 4:00 p.m.  | 205  |
| 5:00 a.m.  | 50   | 5:00 p.m.  | 164  | 5:00 a.m.  | 51   | 5:00 p.m.  | 158  |
| 6:00 a.m.  | 70   | 6:00 p.m.  | 154  | 6:00 a.m.  | 65   | 6:00 p.m.  | 127  |
| 7:00 a.m.  | 117  | 7:00 p.m.  | 126  | 7:00 a.m.  | 129  | 7:00 p.m.  | 119  |
| 8:00 a.m.  | 124  | 8:00 p.m.  | 134  | 8:00 a.m.  | 112  | 8:00 p.m.  | 104  |
| 9:00 a.m.  | 130  | 9:00 p.m.  | 115  | 9:00 a.m.  | 132  | 9:00 p.m.  | 131  |
| 10:00 a.m. | 152  | 10:00 p.m. | 113  | 10:00 a.m. | 152  | 10:00 p.m. | 101  |
| 11:00 a.m. | 146  | 11:00 p.m. | 73   | 11:00 a.m. | 168  | 11:00 p.m. | 66   |

Scottsbluff Fire experienced the highest call volumes at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (compared to 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in 2023), and experienced a higher call volume in the afternoon/evening hours compared to the morning hours. The peak morning hours were between 7:00 and 11:00 a.m., and the afternoon peak was between 12:00 and 6:00 p.m.

# Calls for Service: Time of Day

## Calls for Service: Day of Week



| DAY OF THE WEEK | 2024 # CFS | 2023 # CFS |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Sunday          | 340        | 377        |
| Monday          | 402        | 432        |
| Tuesday         | 440        | 407        |
| Wednesday       | 396        | 367        |
| Thursday        | 428        | 404        |
| Friday          | 412        | 374        |
| Saturday        | 367        | 387        |

Scottsbluff Fire responded to more calls for service on Tuesdays, followed by Thursdays and Fridays, respectively, in 2024, compared to Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in 2023. Sundays had the lowest call volume in 2024, compared to Wednesdays in 2023.



| MONTH     | 2024 #CFS | 2023 #CFS |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| January   | 230       | 211       |
| February  | 228       | 229       |
| March     | 201       | 224       |
| April     | 218       | 219       |
| May       | 247       | 230       |
| June      | 332       | 237       |
| July      | 233       | 235       |
| August    | 217       | 253       |
| September | 259       | 218       |
| October   | 206       | 233       |
| November  | 201       | 257       |
| December  | 213       | 202       |

The highest call volume month in 2024 was June, compared to November in 2023. The largest contributor to that volume was requests for emergency medical services.

# Calls for Service: When Fires Occurred







In 2024, approximately 21 percent of all fires occurred in the month of July, approximately 17 percent of all fires occurred on a Sunday, and approximately 23 percent of all fires occurred between 3:00 and 5:00 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 1,683 calls for service in less than five minutes (65%) with an average response time\* of four minutes, forty-seven seconds (4:47). The average response time to medical incidents inside the city limits was four minutes, forty-six seconds (4:46), where the average response time to fire incidents was four minutes, forty-six seconds (4:46) inside the city limits. The average response time outside of the city limits, when providing aid to other departments, was fourteen minutes, sixteen seconds (14:16).

The National Fire Protection Association standard for response time 5 minutes for medical incidents and 5 minutes, 20 seconds 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 1 minute for medical incidents, with a minimum of two people, and 1 minute, 20 seconds for fire incidents and a drive time of four minutes for the initial arriving company of four people. Response times met the national standard 63% of the time to medical calls and 61.6% of the time to all fires within the city limits.

There are a few conditions that prevent meeting the five-minute response goal such as overlapping incidents, in which we may have had a delayed response due to being engaged with another incident. Overlap occurred 25.42 percent of the time, or 708 calls for service. Other factors include delays by trains, inclement weather, diversion from one call to another, and incorrect address provided.

\*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 following tables show response time averages to each of the zones used for tracking purposes. The map to the left shows the zones for inside the City Limits. The three tables further are broken into all calls for service, emergent response, and nonemergent response.

| ZONE   | OVERALL AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME<br>(in minutes) |
|--|---|
| 11 - Northwest Corner Zone 10                    | 5:20  |
| 12 - Northeast Corner Zone 10                    | 5:08  |
| 13 - Southwest Corner Zone 10                    | 4:27  |
| 14 - Southeast Corner Zone 10                    | 4:42  |
| 21 - Northwest Corner Zone 20                    | 6:41  |
| 22 - Northeast Corner Zone 20                    | 6:45  |
| 23 - Southwest Corner Zone 20                    | 5:09  |
| 24 - Southeast Corner Zone 20                    | 6:36  |
| 30 - West Central City                           | 3:25  |
| 31 - Northwest Corner Zone 30                    | 4:03  |
| 32 - Northeast Corner Zone 30                    | 3:31  |
| 33 - Southwest Corner Zone 30                    | 4:45  |
| 34 - Southeast Corner Zone 30                    | 3:44  |
| 41 - Northwest Corner Zone 40                    | 3:58  |
| 42 - Northeast Corner Zone 40                    | 4:31  |
| 43 - Southwest Corner Zone 40                    | 4:01  |
| 44 - Southeast Corner Zone 40                    | 5:22  |
| 50 - Southwest City                              | 3:46  |
| 51 - West Side Zone 50                           | 5:38  |
| 52 - East Side Zone 50                           | 3:34  |
| 61 - West Side Zone 60                           | 4:23  |
| 62 - East Side Zone 60                           | 5:56  |
| All zones outside the City Limits (aid provided) | 14:16   |

| ZONE  | AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (in minutes)<br>EMERGENT   |
|---|--|
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 10  | 4:37   |
| 12- Northeast Corner Zone 10  | 4:31   |
| 13- Southwest Corner Zone 10  | 4:04   |
| 14- Southeast Corner Zone 10  | 4:14   |
| 21- Northwest Corner Zone 20  | 4:59   |
| 22- Northeast Corner Zone 20  | 5:22   |
| 23- Southwest Corner Zone 20  | 4:26   |
| 24- Southeast Corner Zone 20  | 5:17   |
| 31- Northwest Corner Zone 30  | 3:25   |
| 32- Northeast Corner Zone 30  | 3:25   |
| 33- Southwest Corner Zone 30  | 4:19   |
| 34- Southeast Corner Zone 30  | 3:32   |
| 41- Northwest Corner Zone 40  | 3:35   |
| 42- Northeast Corner Zone 40  | 3:59   |
| 43- Southwest Corner Zone 40  | 3:50   |
| 44- Southeast Corner Zone 40  | 4:51   |
| 51- West Side Zone 50   | 5:54   |
| 52- East Side Zone 50   | 3:07   |
| 61- West Side Zone 60   | 4:03   |
| 62- East Side Zone 60   | 5:56   |
| All zones outside the City Limits (aid provided)  | 12:08  |
|   | AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (in minutes)   |
| ZONE  |  |
|   |  |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 10  | 6:47   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 10<br>12- Northeast Corner Zone 10  | 6:47<br>5:58   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 10   12- Northeast Corner Zone 10   13- Southwest Corner Zone 10  | 6:47<br>5:58<br>4:47   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 10   12- Northeast Corner Zone 10   13- Southwest Corner Zone 10   14- Southeast Corner Zone 10   | 6:47<br>5:58<br>4:47<br>5:04   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 20  | 6:47<br>5:58<br>4:47<br>5:04<br>7:44   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 20  | 6:47<br>5:58<br>4:47<br>5:04<br>7:44<br>8:09   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 20  | 6:47<br>5:58<br>4:47<br>5:04<br>7:44<br>8:09<br>5:51   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 20  | 6:47<br>5:58<br>4:47<br>5:04<br>7:44<br>8:09<br>5:51<br>7:26   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City   | 6:47<br>5:58<br>4:47<br>5:04<br>7:44<br>8:09<br>5:51<br>7:26<br>3:25   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 30   | 6:47<br>5:58<br>4:47<br>5:04<br>7:44<br>8:09<br>5:51<br>7:26<br>3:25<br>4:24   |
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| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 30   | 6:47   5:58   4:47   5:04   7:44   8:09   5:51   7:26   3:25   4:24   3:34   5:17   3:46   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Northwest Corner Zone 3034- Northwest Corner Zone 3034- Northwest Corner Zone 3034- Northwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Northwest Corner Zone 3034- Northwest Corner Zone 3034- Northwest Corner Zone 40 | 6:47   5:58   4:47   5:04   7:44   8:09   5:51   7:26   3:25   4:24   3:34   5:17   3:46   4:26  |
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| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 2021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3041- Northwest Corner Zone 4042- Northeast Corner Zone 4043- Southwest Corner Zone 40   | NON-LINERGENT     6:47     5:58     4:47     5:04     7:44     8:09     5:51     7:26     3:25     4:24     3:34     5:17     3:46     4:26     5:02     4:09  |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 2021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 4042- Northeast Corner Zone 4043- Southwest Corner Zone 4044- Southeast Corner Zone 40   | 6:47   5:58   4:47   5:04   7:44   8:09   5:51   7:26   3:25   4:24   3:34   5:17   3:46   4:26   5:02   4:09   5:50   |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3041- Northwest Corner Zone 4042- Northeast Corner Zone 4043- Southwest Corner Zone 4044- Southeast Corner Zone 4050- Southwest City   | NON-LINERGENT     6:47     5:58     4:47     5:04     7:44     8:09     5:51     7:26     3:25     4:24     3:34     5:17     3:46     4:26     5:02     4:09     5:50     3:46  |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 1021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3041- Northwest Corner Zone 4042- Northeast Corner Zone 4043- Southwest Corner Zone 4050- Southwest City51- West Side Zone 50  | NON-LINERGENT     6:47     5:58     4:47     5:04     7:44     8:09     5:51     7:26     3:25     4:24     3:34     5:17     3:46     4:26     5:02     4:09     5:50     3:46     5:19                               |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 2021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3041- Northwest Corner Zone 4042- Northeast Corner Zone 4043- Southwest Corner Zone 4044- Southeast Corner Zone 4050- Southwest City51- West Side Zone 5052- East Side Zone 50   | 6:47   5:58   4:47   5:04   7:44   8:09   5:51   7:26   3:25   4:24   3:34   5:17   3:46   4:26   5:02   4:09   5:50   3:46   5:19   3:49  |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 2021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 4041- Northwest Corner Zone 4042- Northeast Corner Zone 4043- Southwest Corner Zone 4044- Southeast Corner Zone 4050- Southwest City51- West Side Zone 5052- East Side Zone 5061- West Side Zone 60                                | 6:47   5:58   4:47   5:04   7:44   8:09   5:51   7:26   3:25   4:24   3:34   5:17   3:46   4:26   5:02   4:09   5:50   3:46   5:19   3:49  |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 2021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 4042- Northeast Corner Zone 4043- Southwest Corner Zone 4044- Southeast Corner Zone 4050- Southwest City51- West Side Zone 5061- West Side Zone 6062- East Side Zone 60  | Activitie     6:47     5:58     4:47     5:04     7:44     8:09     5:51     7:26     3:25     4:24     3:34     5:17     3:46     4:26     5:02     4:09     5:50     3:46     5:19     3:49     4:42                 |
| 11- Northwest Corner Zone 1012- Northeast Corner Zone 1013- Southwest Corner Zone 1014- Southeast Corner Zone 2021- Northwest Corner Zone 2022- Northeast Corner Zone 2023- Southwest Corner Zone 2024- Southeast Corner Zone 2030- West Central City31- Northwest Corner Zone 3032- Northeast Corner Zone 3033- Southwest Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3034- Southeast Corner Zone 3041- Northwest Corner Zone 4042- Northeast Corner Zone 4050- Southwest Corner Zone 4051- West Side Zone 5052- East Side Zone 5061- West Side Zone 6062- East Side Zone 60   | NOR-Linit (GLN1)     6:47     5:58     4:47     5:04     7:44     8:09     5:51     7:26     3:25     4:24     3:34     5:17     3:46     4:26     5:02     4:09     5:50     3:46     5:19     3:49     4:42     5:59 |

# 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. In 2024, we provided aid 22 times and received aid 16 times.



# Calls for Service: Estimated Fire Loss



In 2024, it is estimated that there were \$500,413 in property loss resulting from fire in Scottsbluff. The estimated property valuation of those fires was \$9,480,322 indicating ninety-five percent (95%) of property was saved.



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.

Smoke alarms and fire extinguishers are a simple and cost-effective way to help 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.



Calls for Service: Five Year Comparison

A comparison of calls for service shows a slight decrease in emergency medical (EMS) calls from the year previous, and a slight increase 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 generally 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 | Reserve pumper, 1500 GPM pump, 750 gallons of       |
|           | Pumper                   | water   |
| Engine 3  | 2002 Pierce Dash         | Primary pumper, 2000 GPM pump, 750 gallons of       |
|           | Pumper                   | water, compressed-air foam system, extrication      |
| 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           | Travel and utility use                              |
| Unit 2    | 2020 Chevy 1500          | Fire Chief/Investigation/Response vehicle           |
| Unit 3    | 2020 Chevy 1500          | Fire Prevention/Investigation/Response vehicle      |
| Unit 11   | 2000 Chevrolet G30       | Passenger Van/Personnel Carrier                     |
| Zodiac    | 1998 Zodiac Rubber       | Used to get divers to dive areas and negotiate      |
|           | Inflatable Boat          | waters  |
| SeaDoo    | 2002 Sea Doo, personal   | Used to clear dive areas                            |
|           | watercraft               |   |
| Hazmat    | 1998 Pace, 28 foot       | Hazmat response, decontamination equipment,         |
| Trailer   | enclosed trailer         | breathing air cascade                               |
| UTV       | 2005 Polaris UTV         | Utility vehicle with snow plow                      |

The Dive Rescue bus was sold in 2024 and plans are being made to have a more suitable response apparatus



### **Quick Facts**

- 2703.97 Incident Response Hours
- 3800.15 Training Hours (223.54 hrs/person)
- 140 Ride-along Hours
- 35.25 Public Education Hours
- General Fund of \$158.02 per capita

#### **Top three responders:**

Nolan Forbes- 686 calls for service Joey Munoz- 660 calls for service Salem Harsh- 575 calls for service

#### **Calls for Service by Shift**

A Shift- 937 B Shift- 922 C Shift- 926

#### **Calls for Service by Apparatus**

Engine 1- 1,364 Engine 3- 1,326 Tower 1- 430 Scottsbluff 2- 114 Engine 2- 105 Rescue 1- 60 Scottsbluff 1- 55 Brush 1- 34



#### Department Statistics

Average Years of Service: 8.5 years

Average age of members: 36.86 years

Average time on-scene of incident: 17 minutes, 01 second

Average CFS per person: 446.76

Average number of responding personnel to structure fires: 7.55

Average number of responding personnel to all CFS types: 2.8

# Personnel Hired, Promoted and Retired

The Scottsbluff Fire Department hired two new members in 2024 to replace two vacancies. We welcomed Firefighter Hunter Howe on January 16 and Firefighter Jackson Ronne on November 18. There were no promotions and no retirements.

Hired



Hunter Howe January 16, 2024 A Shift Firefighter Jackson Ronne November 18, 2024 C Shift Firefighter

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/water 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.







# **Public Protection Classification**



Verisk representatives visited us on August 1, 2022, to perform the onsite 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. In early 2024, we were advised that our PPC rating was scheduled to drop to a 4-rating. We entered into a retrogression program to address the areas where we fell short and could potentially gain some credit. This program concluded and, while we were able to gain several points, our rating has fallen to a 4/4X designation. We will continue to work to improve this and should see a reevaluation in 2027.

| 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   |