



Fire Department Police & Fire Commission Report

January 1st thru February 24th, 2017

Report by Chief Wayne Chenier

The department responded to 354 incidents during this 55 day reporting period, which included; 2 local structure fires & 1 mutual-aid structure fire with the Mason FD, 73 Local EMS calls, 1 Motor-Vehicle Accident with injuries, 3 Motor-Vehicle Accident without injuries, 1 motor vehicle vs Pedestrian, 46 Advanced-Life-Support intercepts, 44 Township EMS calls, 81 Interfacility transfers, 9 Hazardous Condition calls, 4 fire alarm activations, 4 service related requests, and 1 Ice Rescue incident.

Department members completed a staggering 1,805 hours of training, removed the Main Street decorations, began the first round of occupancy fire inspections, and provided 10 Car Seat Inspections. Department medics completed a 48 hour refresher and a Pediatric Advanced Life Support refresher through WITC. The refreshers began on January 3rd and finished up on February 24th, and is required to maintain the National Registry accreditation.

The structure fire pictured right was a garage fire on January 8, located at 312 Sixth Street West. The structure was fully engulfed by flames on arrival. High winds pushed flames towards the house. The quick action by the members of Shift 2 prevented ignition and potential loss of the home.



Special Events

On Friday evening of January 3, 2017, City Officials and department members came together in a Badge Pinning Ceremony of four department members that completed their one year probationary periods.

Pictured right (left to right):

- *FF/EMT Greg Alexander
- *FF/Medic Brian Best
- *FF/Medic Leaf Mahony
- *FF/Medic Jake Rossing



Staff Updates

AFD WELCOMES NEW A MEMBER

The Ashland Fire Department welcomes Nathan Van Meter. Nathan is from Superior, WI. Nathan was a member of the Town of Superior Volunteer Fire Department and worked for the Bell Ambulance Service in Milwaukee. Nathan has an Associates degree in Fire Technology & Administration through the Lake Superior College, Duluth, MN. Nathan started his career with the AFD on January 3, 2017.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Lt. Stuart Matthias and FF/Paramedics; Clay Kautzer, Tony Feiter, Leaf Mahoney, members of the Mason Ambulance Service, and the members of the Life Link iii crew have been selected for this year's St Luke's EMS award for their heroic rescues during the after math of the July 2016 storm. The award will be presented at the DECC on April 18th, 2017 at the St. Luke's annual EMS recognition dinner.

Staff Anniversaries:

Lt. Kevin Alajoki	20 years	Feb 3rd
Stuart Matthias	15 years	Jan 8th
Chris Pribek	14 years	Jan 6th
Brian Best	1 year	Jan 11th
Leaf Mahoney	1 year	Jan 11th
Jacob Rossing	1 year	Jan 12th
Ryan Dunn	1 year	Jan 13th
Greg Alexander	1 year	Feb 10th

Department members gather for a photo op during the Badge Pinning Ceremony.



Department Updates

New Fire Station

The new fire station has brought many improvements and advantages to the fire departments delivery of emergency services throughout the city and surrounding townships. For the first time in the department's history all fire and ems apparatus and equipment are housed in one building making each piece of apparatus available for any type of call. This has reduced the deployment time of critical pieces of specialized rescue equipment such as the Ice Angel (Ice Rescue Craft), as well as the rescue snowmobile and rescue ATV. Prior to the new station crews were required to drive across town to different storage locations to pick up equipment before responding to an emergency call. The new fire station includes space that allows firefighters to exercise and workout which may help to reduce on-duty injuries as well as promote better health and fitness for the firefighters. The new station includes a training/community room that can be reserved by local community organizations to hold meetings if needed, as well as provides the firefighters a quiet place to conduct fire and ems training classes. Increased space within the fire station allows firefighters to train on location more often including the use of the hose/training tower located on the front side of the building. Crews are able to practice hose line advancement up the tower stairway; this helps to hone firefighters skills all while not having to leave the station. The fire department is now much more efficient in daily operations as well as in the delivery of emergency services to the residents due to the new fire station. The station has allowed our department to provide a higher quality, more efficient, and more professional level of service than ever before.

Alternate Staffing Plan

In an effort to capitalize on lost interfacility transfer revenues, reduce overtime, and increase the number of on-duty firefighters available to answer the increasing number of emergency calls. The plan reduced the number of firefighter/paramedics from 20 to 18, hire 6 firefighter's at the EMT-basic level, which would increase staffing levels from 20 FTE's to 24 FTE's. The four additional positions were to be off-set by an increase in the interfacility transfer revenues, reduction in overtime, lower wage level, reducing off-duty transfer bonuses, and by limiting or eliminating the overtime that would occur to backfill the station for FMLA, funeral-leave, work comp, and sick-leave. The plan was approved and implemented in mid-January of 2016. The number of Interfacility transfers nearly doubled in 2016. The department provided interfacility transports to 545 patients, which compared to 291 in 2015. Revenue collected from the 545 interfacility transfers in 2016 has reached \$472,782. Overtime and transfer bonuses were reduced by nearly 50%. It is difficult to determine that the hiring of the four additional staff members lowered or eliminated the overtime that occurred to backfill the station for FMLA, funeral-leave, work comp, and sick-leave. The department was able to determine that there was no overtime to cover 24 hour shifts due to staffing level falling below the required minimum standard of five FTE's. In conclusion, the alternate staffing plan was successful. The department accomplished the mission to provide immediate transportation of the critically ill or injured patients to a higher level of care without delay, increased the number of interfacility transports and collected revenues, reduced the overtime and the transfer bonuses, allowed off-duty staff quality time-off with family and rest between shifts, and eliminated the 24 hour overtime shifts to backfill the station for sick leave.

Integrated Health Care System (Community Paramedicine)

The Ashland Fire Department has partnered with Memorial Medical Center to provide Integrated Health Care, or more commonly referred to as Community Paramedic. Through this partnership, paramedics work in conjunction with MMC to follow-up with patients after discharge from the hospital to their home, ensuring that they stay compliant with directions from physicians. This follow-up care can range through a wide variety of medical conditions, including wound management, medication compliance, diabetic management, or even behavioral health directives. Community Paramedic is a new initiative in many parts of the country; with the State of Wisconsin just beginning to see legislation which will guide the actions of these specially trained personnel. The Ashland Fire Department hopes to be at the forefront of this movement. Lieutenant Joe Belany and Lieutenant Stuart Matthias have stepped forward to receive this training, which is being conducted by Hennepin Technical College in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Memorial Medical Center obtained a grant to cover the cost of tuition and books for this training, which is a total of 14 college credits. The education involves weekly computer based training, along with assignments totaling 144 hours. Once completed, students then participate in a 196-hour clinical rotation where they will spend time learning topics much different from the emergency mode in which paramedics tend to operate. Clinical time will be spent in a variety of departments throughout Memorial Medical Center, likely including Surgery, Dietary, Pharmacy, Cardiopulmonary, and Behavioral Health. Once completed, Community Paramedic will play an important role in further serving the needs of the citizens of the City Of Ashland, Ashland County, and Bayfield County. We are very excited to be working with Memorial Medical Center and leading the way!