

Fitchburg Fire Department NEWSLETTER



PRESCRIBED BURNS (PRAIRIE RESTORATION):

Used with permission of Fitchburg Parks Department:

A prescribed fire, or a controlled burn, is the intentional application of fire to a particular property under specific environmental and weather conditions (the prescription) in order to accomplish planned land management objectives.

The City of Fitchburg uses prescribed fire as a land management tool to establish and maintain native plant communities, which require fire to thrive.

The City of Fitchburg hires contractors to conduct prescribed fire in order to manage for native vegetation in a variety of parks and storm water facilities. The City of Fitchburg utilizes qualified and insured burn contractors staffed with trained professionals (the Fire Department does not conduct prairie burns). The burn contractor is required to submit a burn plan, obtain a burn permit, and notify neighboring residents.

The City of Fitchburg does not use prescribed fire to dispose of leaves or other woody debris. More information on burning in the City of Fitchburg can be found here:

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/592/Burn-Permit-Regulations>

Newsletter Editor:

If you have questions or suggestions about content, please contact:

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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

The Fire Department experienced an unprecedented number of Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requests over the last few months. This, in conjunction with the downward trend of paid-on-call/paid-on-premises recruitment, our firefighters have been filling a lot of hours. Further, as we continue to experience growth in our community, we see a proportional increase in service demand (emergency and non-emergency needs).

I will continue to reach out to see what information is needed to plan for future staffing needs. We will work with the information received through the Baker Tilly staffing study and utilize information received from our firefighters and fire officers – recognizing the impact our staffing situation is having on personal/family life.

Please reach out to my office if you have additional questions or concerns.

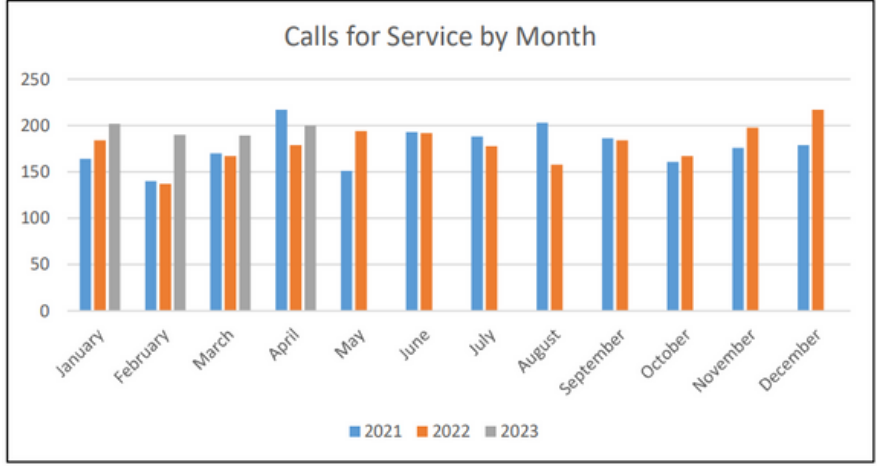


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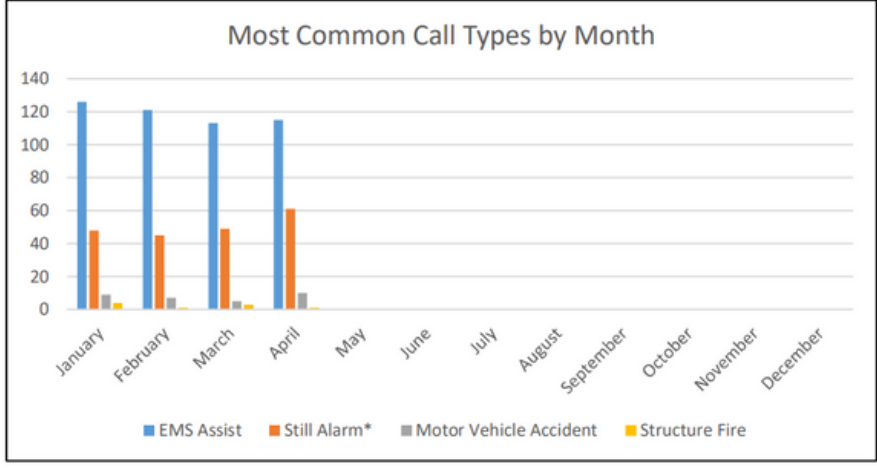


OPERATIONS

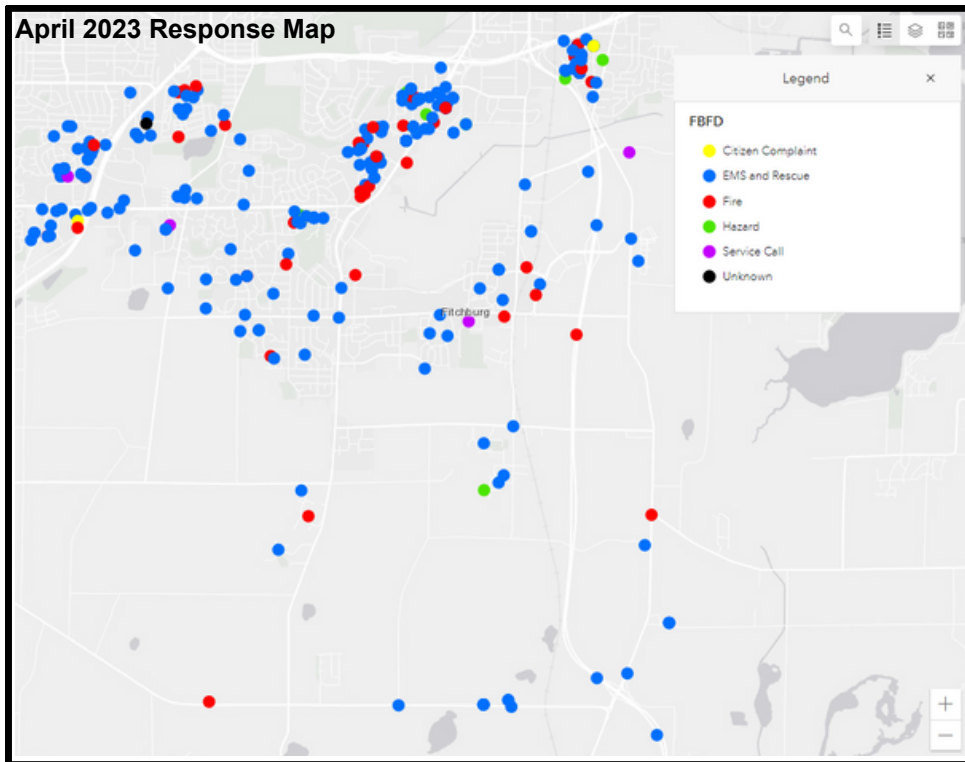
Calls for Service by Month				
Month	2021	2022	2023	Change
January	164	184	202	10%
February	140	137	190	39%
March	170	167	189	13%
April	217	179	200	12%
May	151	194		
June	193	192		
July	188	178		
August	203	158		
September	186	184		
October	161	167		
November	176	198		
December	179	217		
Total	2128	2155	781	127%
Projection			2323	



Most Common Call Types by Month				
Month	EMS Assist	Still Alarm*	Motor Vehicle Accident	Structure Fire
January	126	48	9	4
February	121	45	7	1
March	113	49	5	3
April	115	61	10	1
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				



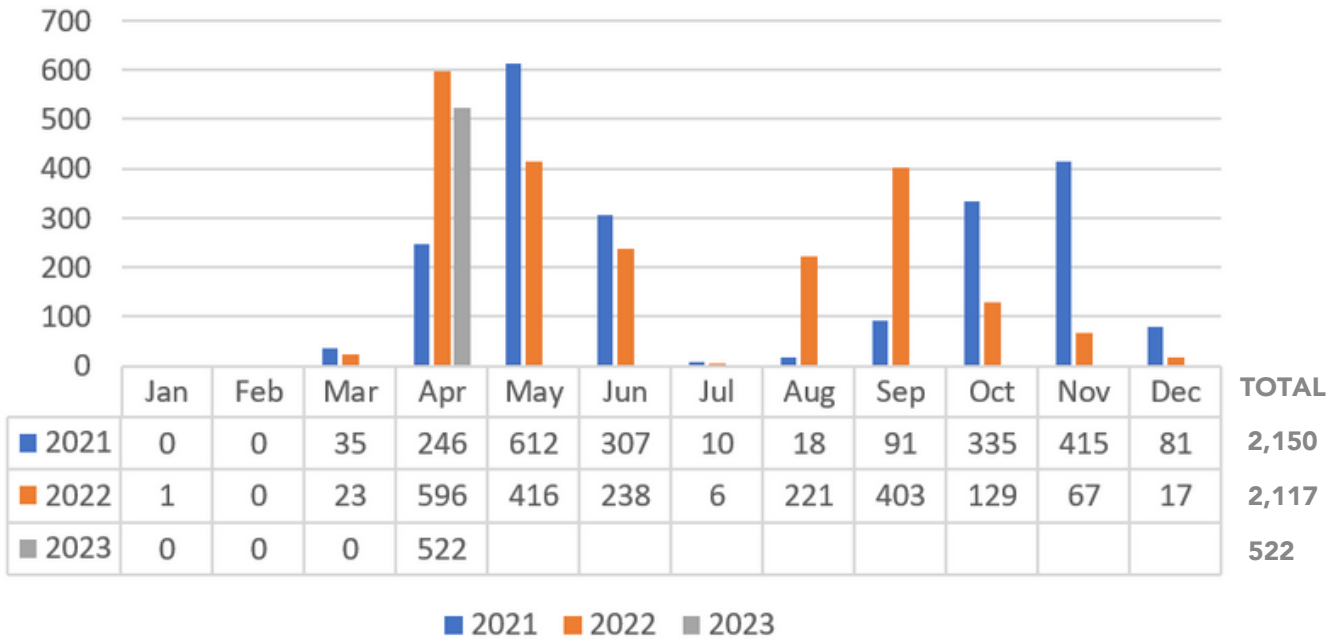
*Still Alarms include: Alarm Sounding, Car Fires, Odor Investigations



PREVENTION AND INSPECTION



INSPECTIONS COMPLETED BY MONTH:



522

INSPECTIONS

4

CORRECTED VIOLATIONS

4

RE-INSPECTIONS

FIRE INVESTIGATION:

We are responsible for the investigation of all fires that have an estimated loss of five hundred dollars (or more). Division Chief Mlekush is working to solidify the Fitchburg Fire Department's collaboration with the Dane County Multi-Agency Fire Investigation Team (MAFIT) - an effort to appropriately share investigative resources and personnel.

The Dane County Fire Chief's Association supports fire investigation training for all member fire departments through the Dane County Arson Response Initiative (DCARI). Within DCARI, a team of fire investigators has formed (comprised of trained and credentialed fire investigators - both Fire Service and Law Enforcement representatives from around the county. MAFIT can be called upon by any Dane County fire department to provide assistance in the determination of Fire Origin and Cause (for fires in their jurisdiction). In a "true" mutual aid effort, MAFIT investigators can assist the local department with O&C determination (and write a report) or simply assist the local department that may not have the expertise, personnel, or resources to complete a thorough fire investigation as required by State Statute 165.55.

MAFIT provides 24/7 access to requesting agencies via an "on-call" rotation and can be contacted through the Dane County Communications Center at any time. MAFIT works very closely with both the State Fire Marshal's Office (DCI) and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) - for both training and investigative support (thus expanding the list of resources available to the individual requesting agency).

STAFFING REPORT



STAFFING AS OF APRIL 30, 2023

	Authorized Headcount	Current Number of Members	Light Duty / On Leave	TOTAL	+/- Headcount
Career Staff	18			18	
Chiefs	4	4	0	4	0
Lieutenants	3	2	1	3	0
Firefighters	10	10	0	10	0
Support Staff	1	1	0	1	0
Part-Time Staff	66			46	
Chiefs	2	2	0	2	0
Lieutenants	3	0	0	0	-3
Firefighters	45	26	5	31	-14
Intern Staff	6	2	3	5	-1
Support Staff	10	8	0	8	-2
Total	84	55	9	64	-20

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING DEMOGRAPHICS

	M/F	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Two or More
Career Staff					
Chiefs	3 / 0	0	0	0	0
Lieutenants	3 / 0	0	0	0	0
Firefighters	9 / 0	0	1	0	0
Support Staff	0 / 1	0	1	0	0
Part-Time Staff					
Chiefs	2 / 0	0	0	0	0
Lieutenants	0 / 0	0	0	0	0
Firefighters	24 / 2	0	0	0	1
Intern Staff	4 / 1	0	1	0	0
Support Staff	9 / 1	0	0	1	0
Total	55 / 4	0	3	1	1

PERSONNEL NOTES

- Leave of Absence: Schnelle, Stewart, McCreary, Mielke, Ritter
- Further explanation of CPAT- questions raised about its impact on recruitment, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - Chief still supports the need for physical ability testing.
- Division Chief of Prevention and Inspection, Mark Mlekush, was sworn in

RECRUITMENT

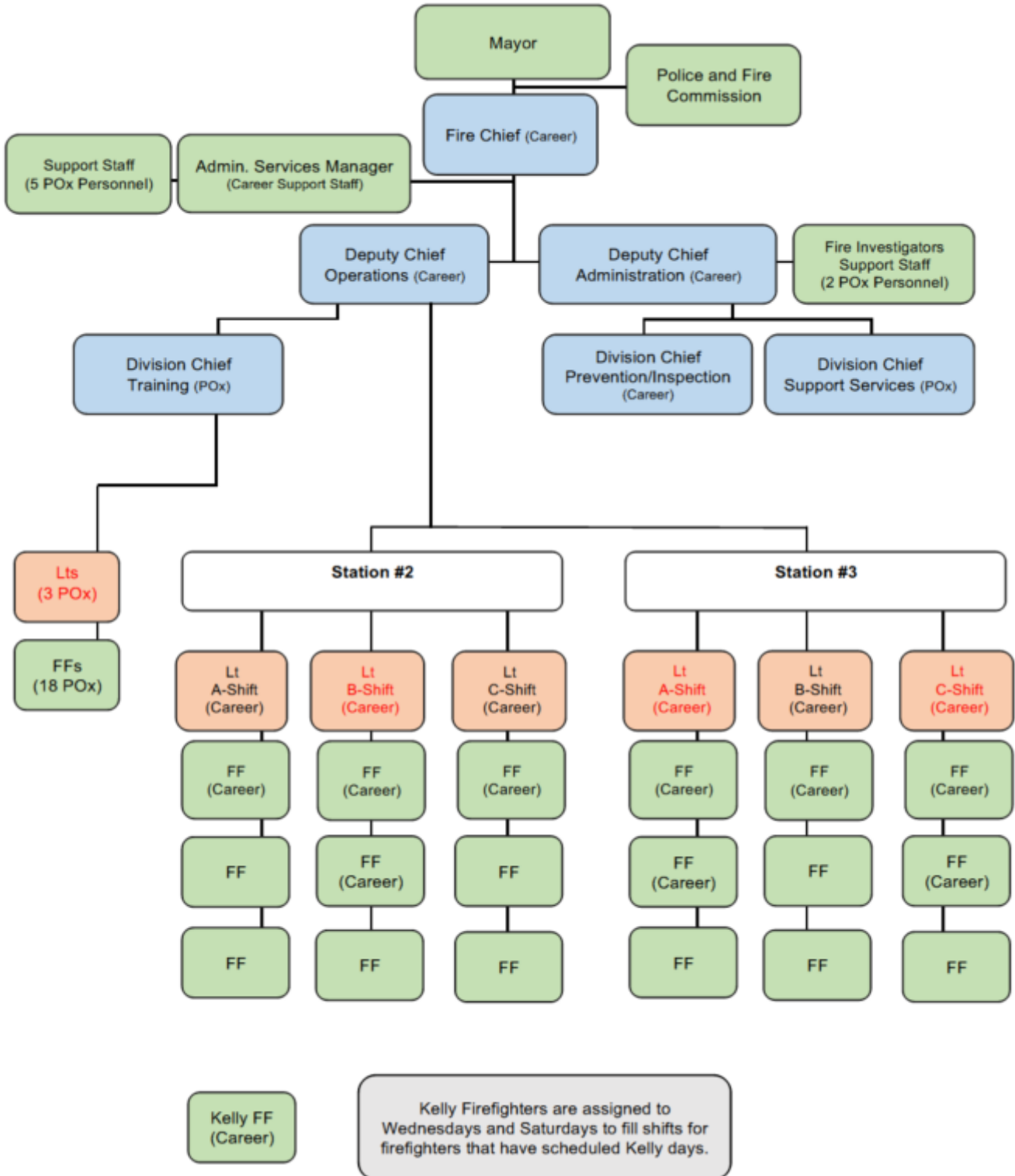
- Career Division Chief recruitment process
 - Division Chief of Prevention and Inspection was sworn in
- POX Firefighter recruitment process
 - Recruit Class has begun
- Intern Firefighter recruitment process
 - New interns will start in June

PROMOTIONS

- No new promotions

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ORG CHART



Positions listed in red are vacant.



OVERTIME BREAKDOWN

OPEN SHIFTS TAKEN VOLUNTARY BY CAREER

Month	# of 10 hour shifts	# of 14 hour shifts	# of 24 hour shifts	Total # of shifts
Jan	20	0	3	23
Feb	36	1	8	45
Mar	34	3	3	40
Apr	44	1	5	50
May				
Jun				
Jul				
Aug				
Sep				
Oct				
Nov				
Dec				

PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER OVERTIME

Month	Overtime Hours
Jan	282.5
Feb	581.75
Mar	199
Apr	530
May	
Jun	
Jul	
Aug	
Sep	
Oct	
Nov	
Dec	

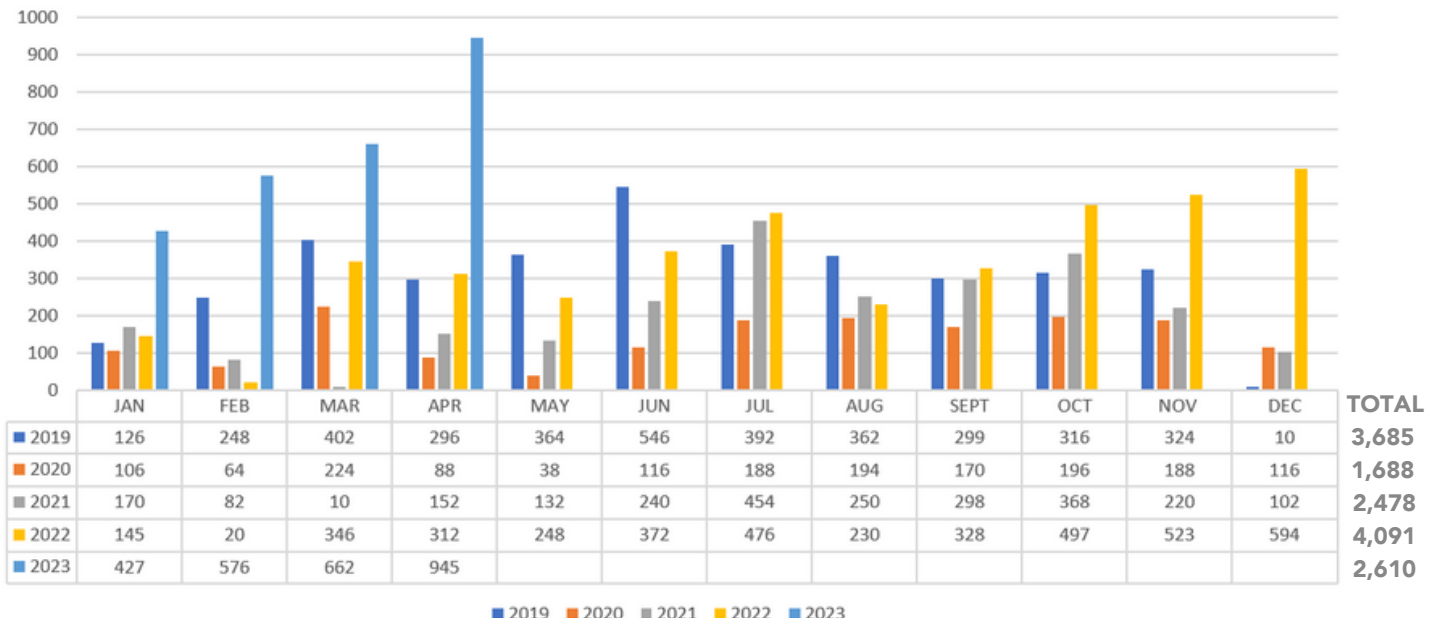
VOLUNTEER SHIFTS VS MANDATED SHIFTS FOR CAREER

Month	# of Voluntary	# of Mandates	Total Shifts
Jan	23	2	25
Feb	45	0	45
Mar	40	3	43
Apr	50	8	58
May			
Jun			
Jul			
Aug			
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			

CAREER FIREFIGHTER OVERTIME (HOURS)

Month	Mandated Hours	Volunteer Hours	Total Hours
Jan	34	393	427
Feb	0	576	576
Mar	30	632	662
Apr	131	814	945
May			
Jun			
Jul			
Aug			
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			

OVERTIME, BY MONTH AND YEAR



MAY 2023 PERSONNEL



BIRTHDAYS IN MAY:



**Dustin Roder,
May 1st**



**Robert Kunze,
May 5th**



**Brian Hotchkiss,
May 25th**



**Molly Schulz,
May 28th**

ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY:



**Garrett Christian,
May 4th (3 years)**



**Dana Collins,
May 4th (3 years)**



**Peter Gander,
May 4th (3 years)**



**Nabeel Qureshi,
May 4th (3 years)**



**Andrew Ott,
May 2nd (6 years)**



**Camden Parman,
May 2nd (6 years)**



**Alex Wichmann,
May 2nd (6 years)**

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OTHER ITEMS



We welcomed our new Division Chief of Prevention and Inspection, Mark Mlekush, who was sworn in on April 17th!



Second year Fire interns Bryan Balzano, Anthony Edge and Molly Schulz as well as Firefighter Hans Schwoerer graduated from the Fire Science Program!

