

Fitchburg Fire Department NEWSLETTER



IDENTIFYING PAST AND FUTURE NEEDS:

We have talked a lot about our staffing plan lately. It is imperative to understand where this is coming from and where it needs to go. As identified in earlier writings, the Fitchburg Fire Department was established with volunteer firefighters. Most of those firefighters lived or worked in the Town of Fitchburg and were able to drop everything to respond to emergency incidents.

The Town grew into a City and development drove population upward. As population and population density grew, so did the calls for service in the fire department. Industrial and commercial building growth impacted traffic and commerce – requiring additional work from the fire department in the way of planning and prevention. Career members were first introduced in the 1980's to address the administrative needs of the department.

In 1994, Mayor Morrissette identified that the City must continually make strides to eventually staff our fire department with career staff. In 1999, Fitchburg Fire Station #1 was staffed around the clock. Station #2 wasn't staffed regularly until a fire happened across the street from the station and the first response came from across town. Increased staffing happened as a result of consequence.

Today, approximately 95% of our firefighters live outside of the City. Part-time members are not able to leave their primary work to respond to emergencies and everyone has responsibilities at home (i.e. childcare). Our workforce is changing – and recruitment has been impacted. We continue to look for people who are dedicated to staffing, continuing education, and maintaining professional licenses. As we evolve in emergency medical response, technical rescue, and community risk reduction, so too must we evolve in the realistic expectation of staffing and career status. The staffing plan starts that discussion.

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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

We had the privilege to be able provide a conditional offer of employment to Bryan Balzano (for the position of career firefighter). This is a proud moment for the Fitchburg Fire Department. All too often our interns and paid-on-premises firefighters find career employment outside of the City of Fitchburg (based on the number of available career positions we have available).

Bryan's first exposure with the Fitchburg Fire Department happened at an open house when he was approximately five years old... Although Fitchburg Firefighters probably saw hundreds of kids that day, a seed was planted... and Bryan remembered that visit.

This example of community outreach shares the value of making a positive impression. It also provides an excellent example of someone who set goals and worked to achieve those goals. We are extremely proud of Bryan and what he accomplished.

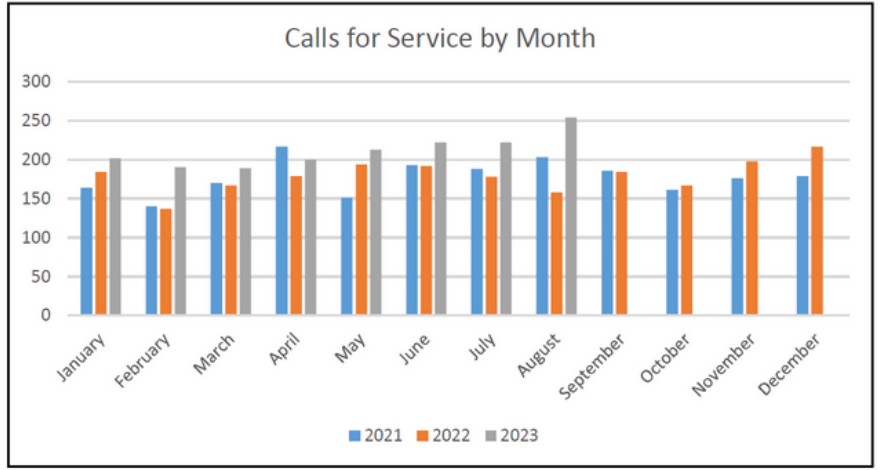
Bryan is a humble person and probably doesn't appreciate me highlighting his performance publicly. However, we need more people like Bryan. More people to express interest in our internship and paid-on-premises program... AND more career firefighters to address the needs of a growing community. This is the first of ten career positions identified in our 3 – 5 year staffing plan.



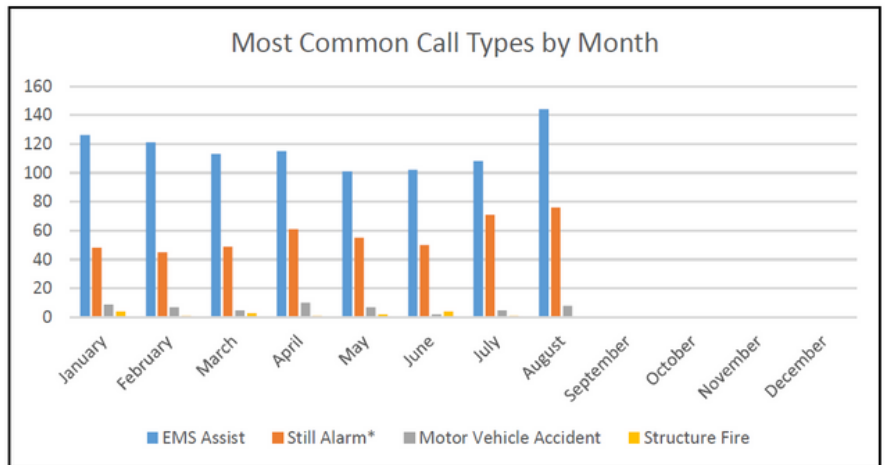
AUGUST 2023 OPERATIONS



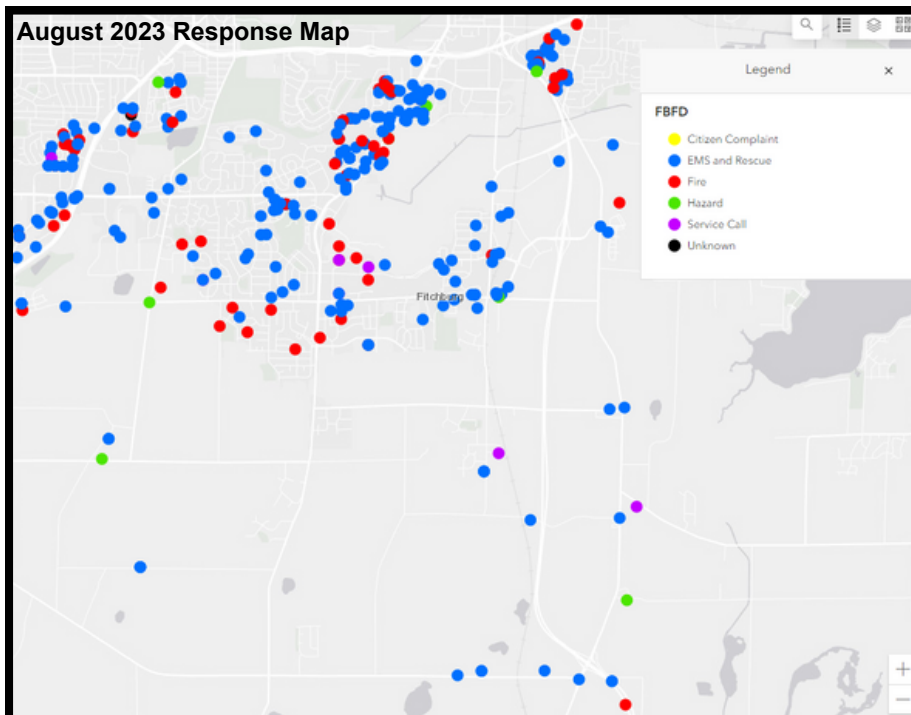
Calls for Service by Month				
Month	2021	2022	2023	Change
January	164	184	202	10%
February	140	137	190	39%
March	170	167	189	13%
April	217	179	200	12%
May	151	194	213	10%
June	193	192	222	16%
July	188	178	222	25%
August	203	158	254	61%
September	186	184		
October	161	167		
November	176	198		
December	179	217		
Total	2128	2155	1692	127%
Projection			2538	



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	101	55	7	2
June	102	50	2	4
July	108	71	5	1
August	144	76	8	0
September				
October				
November				
December				



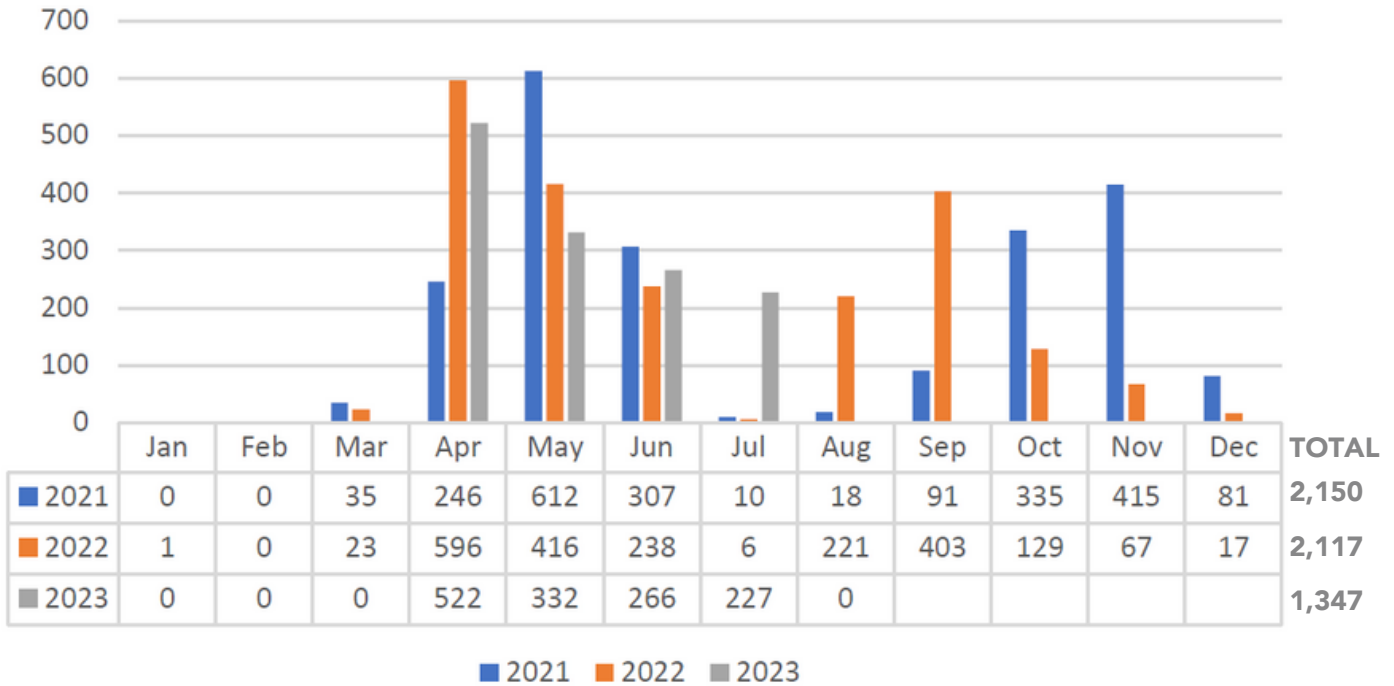
*Still Alarms include: Alarm Sounding, Car Fires, Odor Investigations



PREVENTION AND INSPECTION



INSPECTIONS COMPLETED BY MONTH:



1347
INSPECTIONS

66
CORRECTED
VIOLATIONS

111
RE-INSPECTIONS

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED BY MONTH:

Dane County's Multi-Agency Fire Investigation Team (MAFIT) was called to assist in the investigation of an intentionally set fire in Cottage Grove.

Division Chief Mark Mlekush is a member of MAFIT and was activated to assist the members of the Cottage Grove Fire Department.

This is an important partnership that will equally serve the City of Fitchburg (in the event fire investigation is needed). The outcome of this investigation was shared through the authority having jurisdiction.



STAFFING REPORT



STAFFING AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 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			45	
Chiefs	2	2	0	2	0
Lieutenants	3	0	0	0	-3
Firefighters	45	28	1	29	-16
Intern Staff	6	6	0	6	0
Support Staff	10	8	0	8	-2
Total	84	61	2	63	-21

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING DEMOGRAPHICS

	M/F	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Two or More
Career Staff					
Chiefs	4 / 0	0	0	0	0
Lieutenants	3 / 0	0	0	0	0
Firefighters	10 / 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	25 / 4	0	0	0	1
Intern Staff	5 / 1	1	1	0	0
Support Staff	7 / 1	0	0	1	0
Total	56 / 7	1	3	1	1

PERSONNEL NOTES

- Leave of Absence: Stewart

RECRUITMENT

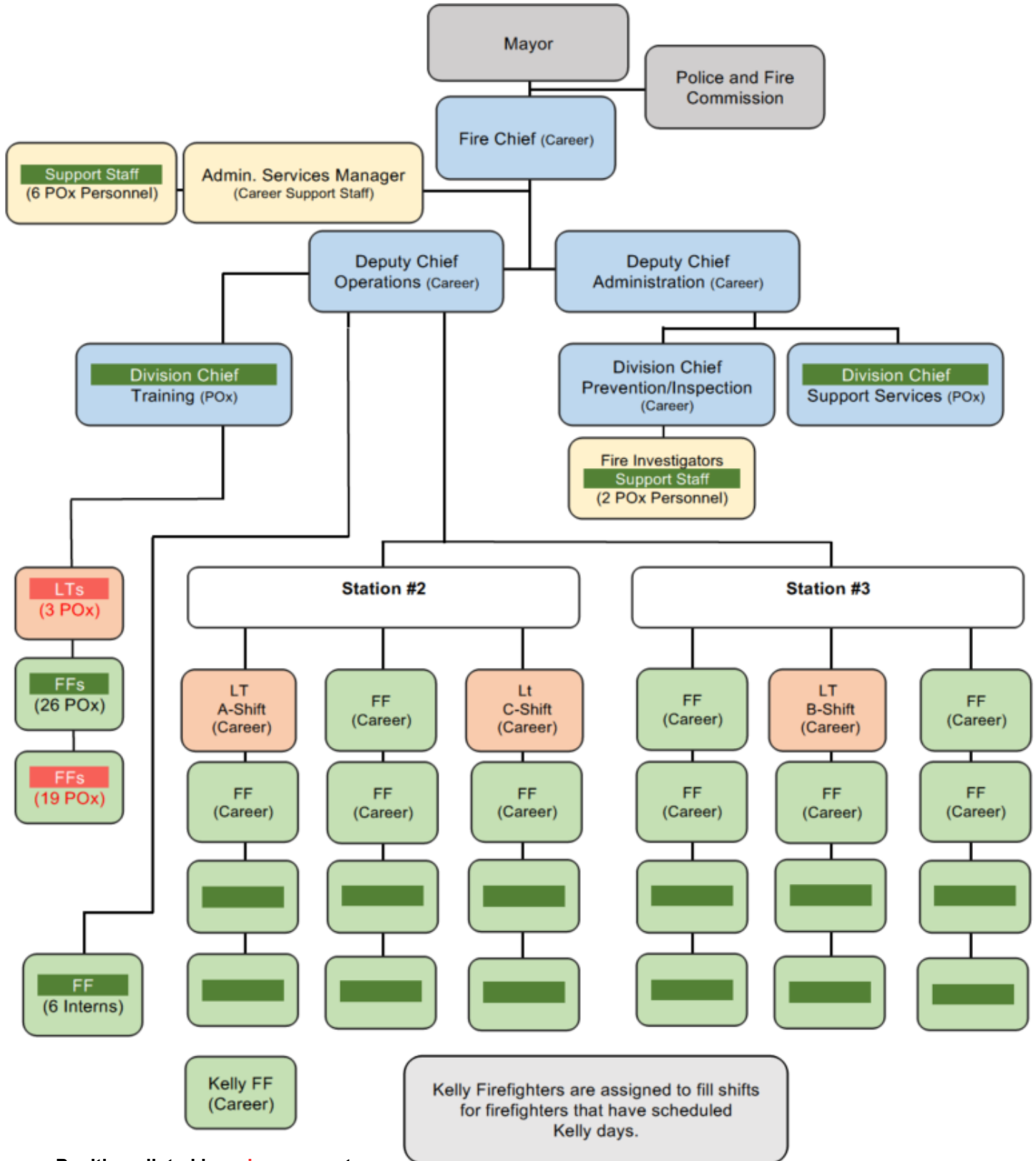
- Paid on Call Firefighter recruitment class has been completed
 - New firefighters are almost finished with all their ride time

PROMOTIONS

- No new promotions



ORG CHART



Positions listed in red are vacant.

OVERTIME BREAKDOWN



OPEN SHIFTS TAKEN VOLUNTARILY BY CAREER

Month	# of 10 hour shifts	# of 14 hour shifts	# of 24 hour shifts	Total # of shifts
Jan	22	4	4	30
Feb	37	1	8	46
Mar	34	3	3	40
Apr	44	1	5	50
May	41	17	29	87
Jun	37	6	27	70
Jul	27	6	34	67
Aug	23	5	17	45
Sep				
Oct				
Nov				
Dec				

PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER

OVERTIME

Month	Overtime Hours
Jan	282.5
Feb	581.75
Mar	199
Apr	530
May	422.25
Jun	508.75
Jul	434.25
Aug	407.75
Sep	
Oct	
Nov	
Dec	

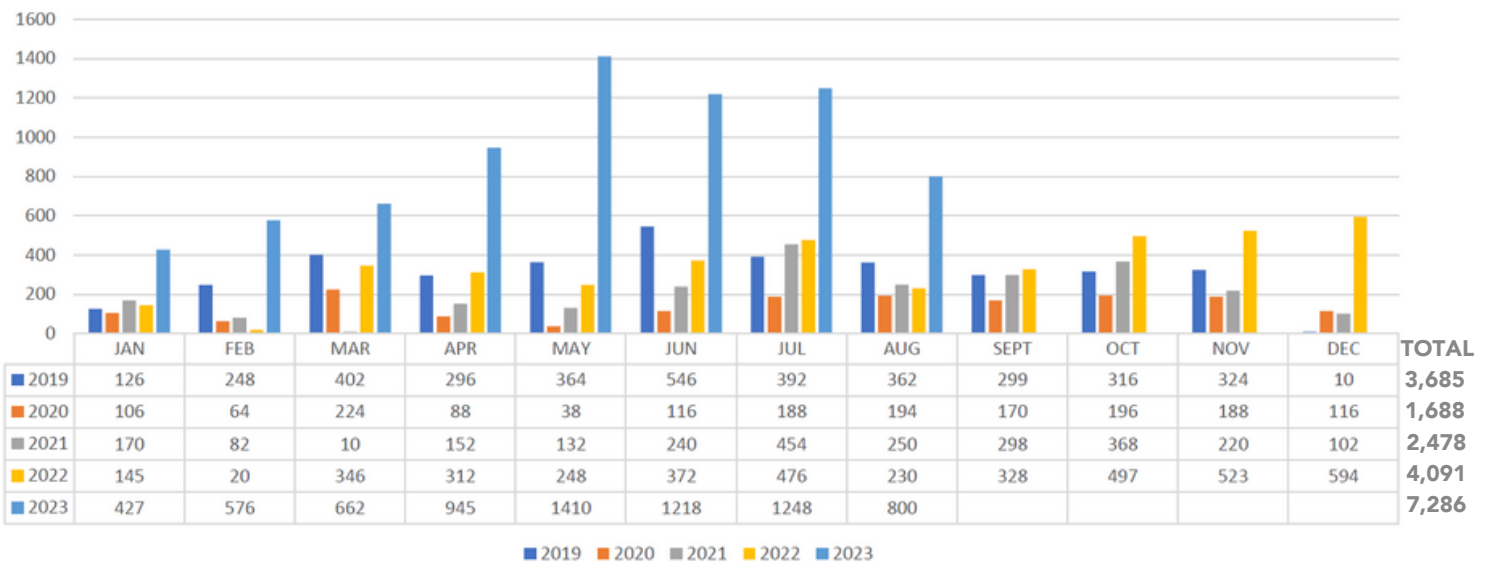
VOLUNTEER SHIFTS VS MANDATED SHIFTS FOR CAREER

Month	# of Voluntary Shifts	# of Mandated Shifts	Total # of shifts
Jan	23	2	25
Feb	45	0	45
Mar	40	3	43
Apr	50	8	58
May	87	3	90
Jun	70	6	76
Jul	67	6	73
Aug	45	6	51
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			

CAREER FIREFIGHTER OVERTIME (HOURS)

Month	Voluntary Hours	Mandated Hours	Total Hours
Jan	393	34	427
Feb	576	0	576
Mar	632	30	662
Apr	814	131	945
May	1358	52	1410
Jun	1102	116	1218
Jul	1170	78	1248
Aug	708	92	800
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			

OVERTIME, BY MONTH AND YEAR



SEPTEMBER 2023 PERSONNEL



BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER:



**Andrew Eastman,
September 1st**



**Joe Pulvermacher,
September 15th**



**Jesus Villagomez,
September 18th**



**Nick Arps,
September 24th**

ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER:



**Wayne Aeschbach,
September 1st (30 years)**



**Brandon Reiter,
September 1st (8 years)**



**Jeremy Bruggemann,
September 16th (20 years)**

AUGUST 2023

OTHER ITEMS



We participated in another year of National Night Out! Thank you to everyone who stopped by to see us and took part of this fun event!



As a part of our August drill night, the department trained on trench rescue awareness and operations.



AUGUST 2023

OTHER ITEMS



We participated in another year of Latino Youth Academy! This year's activity stations included CPR and wound packing, led by Fitch-Rona EMS, donning and doffing turnout gear, a visit and tour of Dane County Sheriff's Office's bearcat, combat challenges, hose movement, a friendly game of lightning, and a Q&A portion with the fire members. Thank you for all the participants for taking the time to learn about what Fire and EMS does and congratulations for graduating the academy!



Firefighter Michael Urben and his wife celebrated the arrival of their son, Beckham!

