

Hutchinson Fire Department

2023 Annual Report



“Remembering your roots tends to build a strong foundation for future growth and success.”

-Unknown Author

Our Mission Statement	“To Help People”
Our Mission	“Be Honest, Be Safe, Be Nice, Treat People Like They Are Family”
Our Vision	“To Provide the Best Service and Protection Possible”
Our Guiding Principles	“Pride, Honor and Integrity”



To the Community We Serve

Another year in the books as 2023 comes to a close. We finished the year with 517 total calls, which is the second highest in our history. We trained, tested and certified our 4 new recruits and have now put them to work. Utilizing donations, we continued with improvements down at Fireman’s Park which brings that project to near completion. Using additional donations, we equipped our first out engine with battery-operated auto-extrication tools, which has been an incredible improvement. Through county support and funding, we worked with the McLeod County Sheriff’s office to replace all of our outdated radio communications equipment. With a strong focus on developing our next group of leaders we provided officer level training opportunities and set a plan in place to create a rotating Assistant Lieutenant position to broaden our pool of future leaders. We also took delivery and put into service a new hybrid command SUV and completed all the underground and utility work for the new parking lot to the north of our station. It was a very, very busy year!

We can’t stress enough how much we appreciate the relationships we have with the townships and cities that we serve. This partnership has laid an incredible foundation for our organization and for that we say THANK YOU!

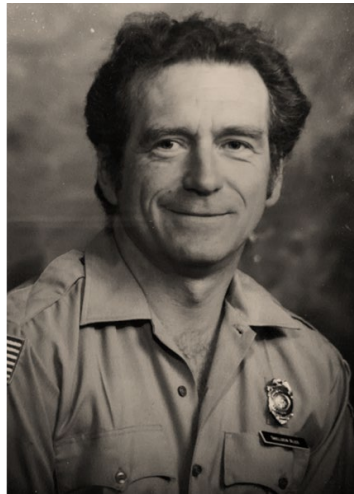
Chief Schumann – Assistant Chief Abelson – Battalion Chief Sturges – Battalion Chief Vik

Dedication:

We honor those who have come before us and paved the way for the current and future success of our organization, and we thank them for their dedicated service to this community.

Sheldon Nies- passed away May 2023 with 21 years of service from 1963-1984

Lee Grams- passed away August 2023 with 10 years of service from 1976-1986



Awards: The Firefighters vote annually on awards that celebrate the accomplishments of those who have performed at the highest levels throughout the year. These individuals have been excellent performers throughout their careers, and we proudly honor them.



“Distinguished Service”

Randy Abelson



“Officer of the Year”

Chris Dostal



“Firefighter of the Year”

Mark Alberts

Events and Activities

-Annual open house event with special thanks to the open house/fundraiser committees.



-McLeod County Fair grandstand events (fire suppression and EMS support).

-Supported our veterans by walking in the Annual Memorial Day Parade.

-Participated in the annual polar plunge event at HHS.

-Provided equipment and manpower to fill Silver Lake's swimming pool after repairs were completed.

-Continued support for the "REACH" program (Spooky Sprint and Chad Greenway Camp).



-In partnership with "McLeod Toward Zero Deaths" we conducted a MVA mock crash at HHS.

-Escorted several HHS state qualifying sports teams out of town.

-Sponsored and supported our youth football team.

-Worked with HHS teachers and held a tour of the fire station focusing on the mechanics and functions of our small tools, large equipment, gear, etc.

Events and Activities

-Conducted various prescribed burns around City parks, prairies and ponds.



-We gave Santa and Mrs. Clause a ride to their big event in Library Square.

-Engaged with community members at multiple city and rural “National Night Out” locations.

-Partnered with other civic entities and participated in the annual “walking school bus.”



-Attended funerals for two of our retired Firefighters. We were able to reminisce with some old friends.

-Got together with all of our HFD extended family for the annual Water Carnival Parade.



-Multiple other fire prevention and public relations activities were conducted as well.

Accomplishments

- Worked on more projects at our training facility to improve usage for our Firefighters as well as other Regional Fire Departments that utilize the space. We completed the window and siding project on our search and rescue house and made some final improvements to our storage and burn training containers.
- Completed phase one of the parking lot project (north side of station) which included all the underground work such as drainage and natural gas and utilities work. We are planning on phase 2 being completed in 2024/2025. We've continued working closely with our neighbors to the north to ensure we improve the space for all.
- Took delivery, installed, and trained on all new 800mhz radio communications equipment for us and the entire county.
- Our fire station served as the host regional location for about twenty new FF recruits from neighboring towns to receive their FFI, FFII and Hazmat initial training.
- The four newly hired recruits completed all of their FFI-FFII, Hazmat and Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training. They passed their tests, received state certifications, and had their badges pinned at a ceremony in November 2023. They have now had the reigns loosened and they are performing well!



- Utilizing a generous donation, we replaced our older Hydraulic Auto-Extrication equipment in our first out Engine with battery-operated Holmatro tools. These new tools provide unparalleled speed, cutting/spreading power compared to their predecessors.
- Summer duty crews (from Memorial Day to Labor Day) continued with great success.
- Multiple firefighters attended regional and state outside schooling focusing on job proficiency, learning new skills, and focusing on professional development.

Accomplishments

- Started working on a project to completely overhaul our Standard Operating Guidelines and Policies. We are focusing on updating, modernizing, and creating easier digital options for all firefighters to review them.
- Expanded and improved our annual competency testing and air consumption testing nights with additional drills, stations, and activities to mirror real world fire ground activities.
- UTV off-road rescue/wildland firefighting unit committee was formed and began researching and creating the specs for the machine we hope to take delivery of in 2024.
- Working with HPD and City staff we started the initial planning for project prioritization of the recently available public safety funding.
- Decommissioned and sold the 2013 Dodge Durango.
- Decommissioned and sold the 2010 Holmatro hydraulic auto-extrication tools.
- Sold a used set of tires that were previously installed on Tanker 6.



- Now that Fireman's Park has opened, the committee worked on the finishing touches and improvements, expanding the shelter with new roof steel, prep work for bench seating and other small details. We received a joint award from the MRPA for the collaborative effort between the City Parks Dept. and the HFD to complete Fireman's Park.
- The Ladder truck committee went down to Indianapolis to attend the FDIC vendor show.
- Continued with heavy involvement in the McLeod County Chiefs Association.
- Conducted a joint training, security threat event at the Hutchinson Health Hospital with our law enforcement and EMS partners.

Accomplishments

- As a Regional Director for the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association I was honored to attend an all expenses paid Fire Chiefs forum at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) headquarters in Quincy, Massachusetts, representing the Fire Chiefs of Minnesota.
- We took delivery and outfitted a new fire command vehicle which is a Hybrid Ford Interceptor. This vehicle replaced a 2013 Dodge Durango that had been in service for 10 years.



- Focusing on health and wellness, we had a wonderful young lady named Sophina share her story and provide us with mental health challenge coins to help protect us.
- Completed all annual requirements to maintain Firefighter licensing and certification. Worked with our medical training partner (Allina) to keep up with all EMS continuing education needs.
- Conducted annual Firefighter physicals, blood tests, EKG, pulmonary function, SCBA and N95 fit testing along with all other health and safety requirements.
- Completed annual testing, certification and required maintenance on all apparatus, breathing air compressor, SCBA packs, and small/tools equipment.
- Continued annual replacement of PPE/gear to stay ahead of minimum NFPA requirements. Finished the replacement of all fire helmets as required by the NFPA utilizing a two-year phase in model.
- Continued using hybrid and online training whenever possible to improve our training delivery methods to all of our Firefighters.
- Continued supporting and helping to educate the community on usage of the burn permit system that went live in 2022. The Townships, McLeod County and the MN DNR helped to develop this new, simple, and free system and it has been working well.

Operational Data

Emergency Call Breakdown

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
FIRE-General	28	20	42	40	41	33	27	47	57	35	28
FIRE-Structure	12	14	12	16	19	17	7	12	11	8	18
Rescues & MVA	23	47	46	75	81	69	70	74	81	71	73
Medicals	109	124	125	156	167	170	155	155	178	190	213
Alarms & Sprinklers	97	116	105	92	83	91	70	85	63	90	85
Hazardous Condition	73	93	87	78	89	64	95	67	60	60	55
Other	47	51	50	48	52	48	39	44	48	43	45

Emergency Calls Total

Year	1990	2000	2010	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
City	156	215	319	342	348	307	318	332	318	318	350
Rural	76	132	117	163	184	185	145	152	180	179	167
Total	232	347	436	505	532	492	463	484	498	497	517

Structure and General Fires

Year	2001	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
General Fires	50	34	54	56	60	50	34	59	68	43	46

Firefighter Injuries (per OSHA)

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Injuries	4	0	1	0	2	2	1	4	1	1	3

Fire Event Fatalities

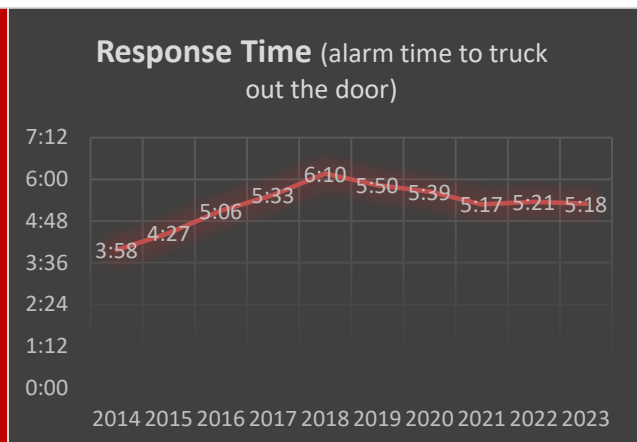
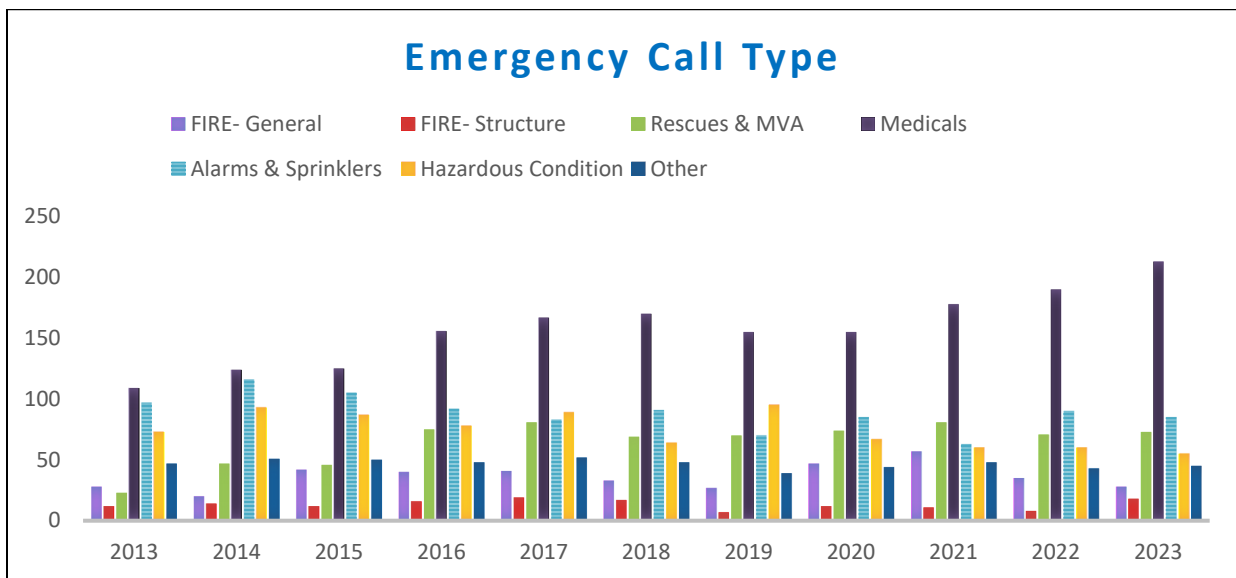
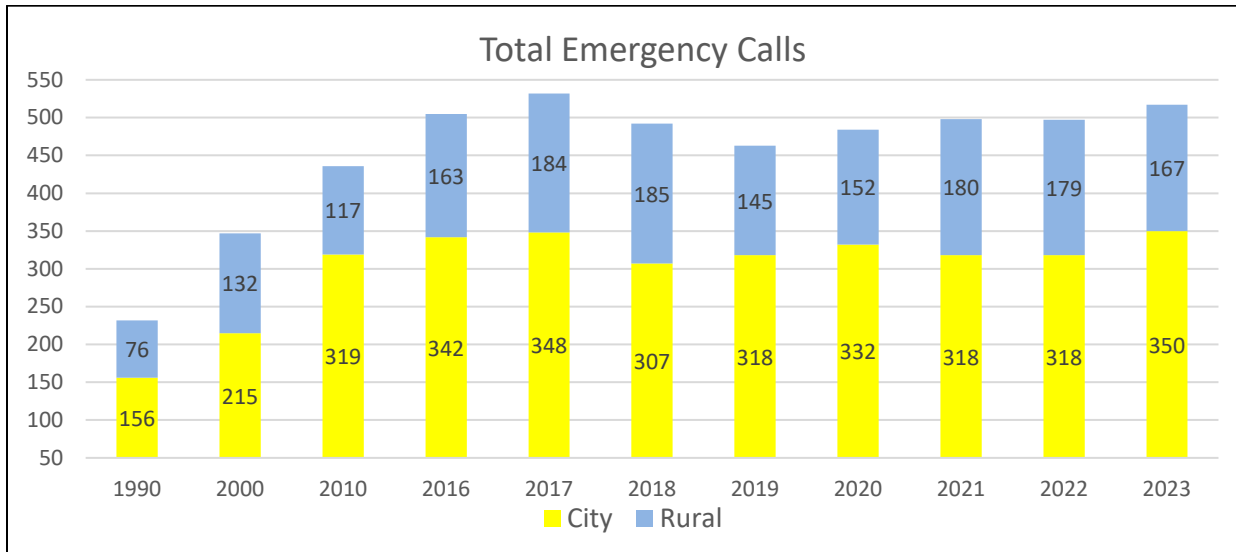
Year	2001	2002	2003 - 2010	2011	2012 - 2020	2021	2022	2023
Fatalities	*3	1	0	1	0	2	0	0

Response Time (Alarm to Truck Out the Door for All Full Page Out Calls)

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Time	3:24	3:58	4:27	5:06	5:33	6:10	5:50	5:39	5:17	5:21	5:18

Officer Only Calls (*Indicates Hourly Pay Multiplier Increase)

Year	2013	2014	2015	*2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*2022	2023
Number of Calls	106	149	143	156	161	130	130	135	126	123	101
Dollars Saved	\$19,292	\$27,118	\$26,026	\$30,576	\$31,564	\$25,480	\$25,480	\$26,460	\$24,696	\$27,675	\$22,725
Hours Saved	1,590	2,235	2,145	2,340	2,415	1,950	1,950	2,025	1,890	1,845	1,515



Estimated Property Value Saved: \$12,906,100 **Lives Saved: 3**

Property Value Lost: \$1,244,800

Emergency Call Hours: City- 3,755 Rural- 2,622

Total Training Hours: 3,555 **Total Training Events: 62**

Public Relations and Fire Safety Education

We hosted multiple tours and education events at the fire station as well as on location at businesses and schools as requested.

We appreciate the relationship we have with the Hutchinson Schools and conducted our first fire safety education for the 2nd graders at the New Tiger Elementary School. We also conducted fire safety education for the kindergartners at the West Elementary School as normal. Several early childhood and preschool classes were also provided with a fire safety education message.

49 Public Relations Events / 728 Hours

9 Fire Safety Education Events / 141 Hours

1,702 Total Students



Inspections and Permits

-2023 remained similar to the previous year and we inspected living units (apartments, rentals, etc.) in a joint effort with the City Building Dept. Businesses and commercial buildings were inspected for fire safety concerns and basic code compliance as time allowed.

-Daycare and Foster Care facilities were inspected as requested through our partnership with the county/state (approx 19) and all new and remodeled construction (commercial properties) were inspected to ensure proper installation and operations of fire alarm and sprinkler systems (approx 68).

-Building plan reviews were also conducted jointly with the City of Hutchinson Building Department.

-The new paperless burn permit system for Mcleod County went live in 2022 and is working well.

Goals for 2024

- Continue our firefighter health and safety initiative by making facility and equipment improvements as needed and also focusing on personal health and well-being.
- Ensure timely replacement of PPE items as needed to ensure NFPA compliance.
- Proactively conduct maintenance and upgrades to all apparatus and analyze future CIP needs.
- Work through the details and make appropriate plans for the public safety funding projects.
- Finalize specs and prep for purchase, delivery, outfitting and training on a new UTV off-road rescue/wildland firefighting unit.
- Utilize grant opportunities to help offset cost for a new UTV.
- The committee will continue evaluating and planning for the replacement of the Ladder Truck.
- Host our first regional one day hands on one day training school at our training site utilizing instructors from multiple agencies.
- Conduct a detailed evaluation of staffing needs for the next five years and beyond. Focusing on daytime emergency response needs, fire safety-education delivery and an expanded commercial fire safety inspection program.
- Begin talks and planning with MCSO for streamlining and prioritizing resource needs...the correct size response for emergent and routine call needs.
- Work with City Engineering department on final plans for phase two of the north parking lot.
- Complete the last finishing touches on the Fireman's Park project.
- Expand commercial fire safety inspection program.
- Create an "Assistant Lieutenant" rotating officer position.
- Conduct a Firefighter hiring in the fall.
- Expand on technology upgrades where possible for apparatus, tools, and training.
- Continue training on new armor vests and protocols with HPD, MCSO and Allina.
- Conduct training using alternative delivery models, hybrid, and staggered start models.
- Complete the thorough review and update to the current SOG/policies system.
- Continue with summer duty crews.
- Hold more frequent officer level/leadership training.

Primary Services

We will continue to deliver professional, consistent emergency responses. Community fire safety education will remain one of our cornerstone programs. Utilizing technology and analytics, we will strive to make improvements to our operations whenever and wherever possible. High quality and frequent training will continue ensuring Firefighter proficiency in all duties. Firefighter health and safety is, and will continue to be, our #1 priority.

Firefighters in Action





Vehicle Maintenance Cost / Mileage / Hours Measurement



Vehicle	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ladder 1 2001 Pierce	\$10,624	\$1,136	\$5,469	\$6,895	\$12,128	\$1,845	\$8,198
Utility 3 2002 Ford CC	\$2,631	\$402	\$2,744	\$487	\$538	\$7,691	\$1,097
Engine 2 2016 Rosenbauer	\$1,496	\$2,742	\$2,048	\$3,348	\$11,299	\$3,204	\$7,530
Tanker 4 2021 International	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	New / \$0	\$518	\$1,212
Tanker 6 1996 International	\$1,570	\$1,949	\$8,783	\$3,773	\$24,860	\$703	\$5,922
Engine 7 2008 General	\$7,133	\$8,414	\$1,362	\$6,334	\$5,700	\$7,192	\$790
Rescue 8 2021 Chevy CC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	New / \$2,077	\$336
Ranger Polaris 6x6	\$0	\$72	\$0	\$18	\$4,569	\$70	\$2,512
Chief 1-new 2023 Ford Intc.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	New / \$0
Chief 1 2013 Dodge Drg.	\$2,672	\$722	\$2,228	\$311	\$2,098	\$2,587	\$739
Command 2017 Ford Intc.	\$154	\$73	\$81	\$1,696	\$1,258	\$921	\$1,072

Vehicle	2017 Miles / Hours	2018 Miles / Hours	2019 Miles / Hours	2020 Miles / Hours	2021 Miles / Hours	2022 Miles / Hours	2023 Miles / Hours
Ladder 1	694 / 91	434 / 60	410 / 71	729 / 65	461 / 84	492 / 58	686 / 106
Utility 3	2,031	1,656	1,435	1,536	1,785	1,842	1,827
Engine 2	1,989 / 135	2,462 / 144	2,325 / 158	3,086 / 209	3,543 / 210	2,649 / 168	2,616 / 163
Tanker 4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,635 / 134	696 / 73
Tanker 6	516 / 39	423 / 45	317 / 30	944 / 80	215 / 22	200 / 21	271 / 18
Engine 7	1,720 / 113	1,388 / 88	957 / 85	1,440 / 87	2217 / 130	1,434 / 90	1,469 / 98
Utility 3	2,031	1,656	1,435	1,536	1,785	1,842	1,827
Rescue 8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,010 / 121	1,755 / 118
Polaris (6x6)	10 hrs	10 hrs	11 hrs	12 hrs	19 hrs	6 hrs	19 hrs
Dodge Durango	8,496 / 681	7,040 / 630	7,430 / 655	6,868 / 585	8,530 / 660	8,825 / 712	6,590 / 572
2023 Ford Intc.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,305 / 85
2017 Ford Intc.	9,448 / 697	8,827 / 691	9,806 / 680	9,104 / 631	9,548 / 628	10,160 / 908	11,494 / 726

Major Capital Improvement Schedule 15+ Year Equipment Replacement Plan (2024 estimates)							
Vehicle	Description / Code	Model Year	Replace Year	Total Miles	Total Hours	Original Cost	Estimated Replacement Cost
Ladder 1	Pierce, 100' Aerial Ladder	2001	2026	14,541	2,205	\$730,000	\$2.4 mil replace
Chief 1	Ford Interceptor (new)	2023	2033	3,305	85	\$52,000	\$68,000
Command	Ford Interceptor	2017	2027	70,637	5,056	\$38,000	\$56,000
HERT Trailer	Hazardous Material Trailer	2000	2024	-	-	\$6,000	\$9,000
Tanker 4	Midwest Fire, Tanker 3000	2021	2046	3,331	207	\$265,000	\$530,000
Tanker 6	International, Tanker 3000	1996	2031	13,947	1,248	\$77,912	\$400,000
Engine 2	Rosenbauer, Engine/Pumper	2016	2036	19,911	1,260	\$579,000	\$1,200,000
Engine 7	Rosenbauer, Engine/Pumper	2008	2028	32,702	1,906	\$321,955	\$850,000
Utility 3	Ford, F350 pickup	2002	2032	34,008	-	\$33,164	\$80,000
Rescue 8	Chevy, 3500HD Med/grass rig	2021	2041	3,765	239	\$104,000	\$250,000
Ranger	Polaris 6 Wheeler w/skid	2006	2024	-	252	\$17,752	no skid \$29,800
Boat	Inflatable w/25hp Yamaha	2007	2032	-	-	\$5,961	boat only \$5,000
Boat	Metal Ice Boat	1998	-	-	-	\$300	Do Not Replace
Med. Trailer	Mass Casualty Trailer*	2004	-	-	-	-	N/A
	*Owned by private health care group and housed by HFD						

- City Owned vehicle
- Rural Owned vehicle
- Shared 50/50 vehicle

Note: Estimated replacement cost is speculative assuming a 3-6% annual inflation rate and/or current market analysis.

Thank you again to the citizens of the Hutchinson Fire District for your continued support of our organization, our firefighters, and our mission!

