

# KAUKAUNA FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Celebrating*  
**100 YEARS**



FIRE/RESCUE



EMS



PREVENTION



TRAINING



MAINTENANCE

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Kaukauna, WI 54130

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# KAKAUNA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

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Fire Chief Jacob Carrel

As the fire chief, it is my honor and privilege to present to you the Kaukauna Fire Department 2022 Annual Report. Our Firefighter / Paramedics continue to provide a high level of professional services to Kaukauna's residents and visitors. The intent of this report is to provide insight into the various activities and services provided by our department in an effort to best serve our community.



2022 was a milestone year, marking 100 years as a paid municipal fire department. Kaukauna and its leaders have a long history of commitment to public safety, and this was a great opportunity to celebrate! An open house was held on October 1, 2022, bringing hundreds of visitors to the fire station. The department's history was reviewed, and several demonstrations were conducted along with activities for the children. It was a very positive day visiting with so many community members, but it wasn't without a few tears. We had the privilege to talk with several survivors who came back to personally thank the firefighters who had saved their lives. In one case, it was the first time the survivor had the chance to meet the now-retired firefighter who rescued her from a burning home over 45 years ago.

Many things have changed over the past 100 years, but one thing that hasn't is our commitment to serving others. Over the years, our citizens, businesses, and elected leaders have remained committed to making the necessary investments for our firefighters to carry out their mission.

We cannot accurately predict what challenges we will face in the next 100 years, but I can assure you that your fire department and firefighters are up to the challenge, and are working day in and day out to ensure we are ready.

On behalf of our staff, we thank you for the opportunity to serve this great city.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Carrel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

# CITY OFFICIALS & COMMISSIONERS

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## MAYOR

- ANTHONY J. PENTERMAN

## COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS

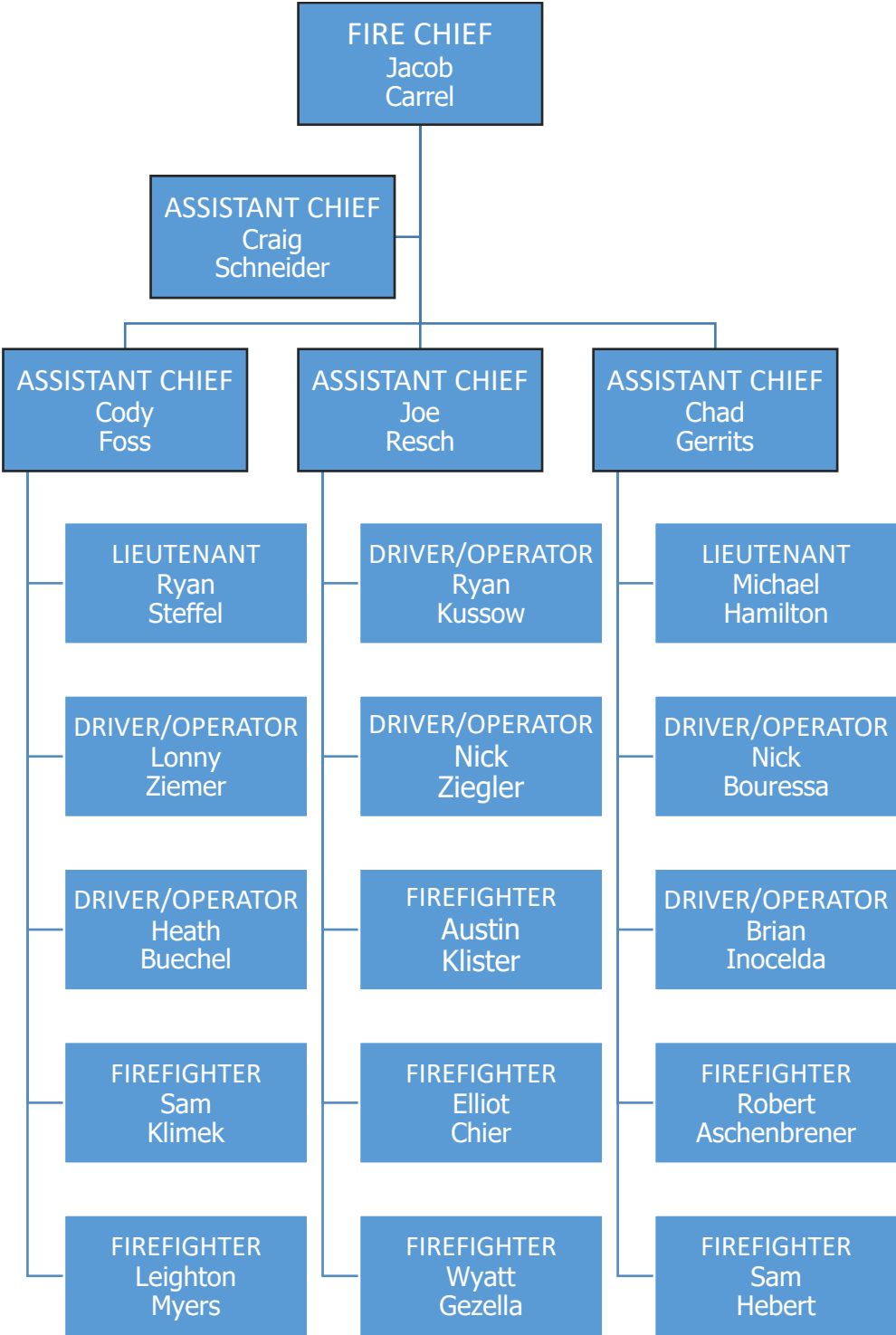
- MARTY DECOSTER
- JENNIE EGGLESTON
- KELLI ANTOINE
- JOHN MOORE
- BRIAN SCHELL
- MARY JO KILGAS
- PENNIE THIELE
- MIKE COENEN

## POLICE & FIRE COMMISSIONERS

- SHANNON YOUNG
- BETH JASIAK
- PAUL VAN BERKEL
- JOHN VERKUILEN
- CARLA ZACHARIAS

# DEPARTMENT STAFFING

## Organizational Chart



# DEPARTMENT STAFFING

## Anniversary Dates

Full-time Staff	Date of Hire	Years of Service
Ziemer, Lonny	11/4/1997	25.2
Schneider, Craig	1/2/1998	25.0
Hamilton, Mike	4/10/2000	22.7
Gerrits, Chad	4/8/2003	19.7
Kussow, Ryan	7/7/2005	17.5
Buechel, Heath	1/13/2007	16.0
Resch, Joe	6/16/2008	14.6
Foss, Cody	1/3/2009	14.0
Steffel, Ryan	6/22/2010	12.5
Bouressa, Nick	5/21/2012	10.6
Inocelda, Brian	11/4/2013	9.2
Ziegler, Nick	11/7/2013	9.2
Klister, Austin	9/4/2016	6.3
Aschenbrener, Robert	8/27/2017	5.3
Carrel, Jacob	5/28/2019	3.6
Klimek, Samuel	11/14/2019	3.1
Hebert, Sam	12/1/2021	1.1
Chier, Elliot	6/2/2022	0.6
Myers, Leighton	6/2/2022	0.6
Gezella, Wyatt	10/31/2022	0.2
Paid-On-Call Staff	Date of Hire	Years of Service
Vandenheuvel, Scot	3/16/1994	28.8
Moericke, Jeff	8/31/1997	24.4
Prock, Michael	10/12/2005	17.2
Bain, Alex	2/3/2010	12.9
Van Asten, Brad	2/3/2010	12.9
Vanderloop, Kurt	7/1/2013	9.5
Uitenbroek, Justin	2/3/2014	8.9
Novak, John	2/3/2014	8.9
Uitenbroek, Jeremy	7/1/2014	7.5
Romenesko, Keith	1/2/2019	4.0
Simon, Shawn	1/6/2020	3.0

# FIRE REPORT

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The Kaukauna Fire Department is a combination fire department that consists of 20 full-time paid staff and 11 active paid-on-call members. All full-time staff are cross-trained as firefighters and licensed paramedics. Each shift is comprised of 6 firefighters that include the ranks of Assistant Chief, Lieutenant, two Driver/Operators, and two Firefighter/Paramedics. Administrative day staff consists of the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief of Emergency Medical Services.

In addition to fire suppression and emergency medical services, we provide swift water rescue, ice rescue, confined space entry, trench rescue, and extrication services. The fire department actively pursues fire prevention through regular inspections and public education activities.

*The Kaukauna Fire Department is committed to providing a safe and healthy community for both citizens and businesses by minimizing fire loss through sound prevention efforts, competent suppression techniques and efficient medical care.*

# FIRE REPORT

## 2022 FIRE STATISTICS

Incident Type - Summary	2019	2020	2021	2022	% of Total
Fire	18	27	24	18	1.0%
Rescue & EMS	1,295	1,192	1,317	1,607	86.2%
Hazardous Condition	103	45	45	57	3.1%
Service Call	70	40	45	50	2.7%
Good Intent		56	67	58	3.1%
False Alarm & False Call	76	60	52	70	3.8%
Special Incident	13	10	8	4	0.2%
Total Incidents	1,575	1,430	1,558	1,864	100%

Property Loss - Summary	2019	2020	2021	2022
Pre-incident Property Values	1,676,300	1,355,302	9,977,800	11,112,550
Total Value Lost	329,600	277,002	124,550	55,550
Total Value Saved	1,346,700	1,078,300	9,853,250	11,057,000

Casualty – Summary	2019	2020	2021	2022
Civilian Injuries	1	2	1	2
Civilian Deaths	0	0	0	0
Firefighter Injuries	0	1	0	0
Firefighter Deaths	0	0	0	0



# AMBULANCE REPORT

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This past year did not provide a shortage of EMS calls for the fire department ambulances. EMS calls for service increased by 20 percent over 2022. Falls, general illnesses, chest pain, and breathing issues accounted for 50 percent of all calls. While some of this increase can be attributed to the addition of contracted ambulance coverage for the Village of Combined Locks in 2022, demand for EMS services have increased for agencies across the region.

In an effort to ensure the department can meet the demands of increased EMS services the fire department purchased a used ambulance. This ambulance brought the total number of in-service ambulances to three. New lifesaving equipment was purchased, including a LifePak 15 cardiac monitor, ventilator, patient moving equipment, and all other required equipment making all units able to handle the most critical of calls. This unit will be replaced upon delivery of a new ambulance in early 2023.

The Fire Department Ambulance Service again received funding from the State of Wisconsin Funding Assistance Program. This program provides funding to assist EMS organizations in equipment purchases and continued training. A formula-based algorithm is used to distribute monies to transporting EMS agencies throughout the state of Wisconsin. Kaukauna received \$4,983.50 for FY2022.



In addition, the Fire Department Ambulance Service was awarded a one-time Funding Assistance Program American Rescue Plan Award (ARPA) in the amount of \$24,390.23 and a one-time EMS Flex grant Award in the amount of \$14,455. These awards will be used toward the purchase of a quick response vehicle that will respond to ambulance calls for service. This will save wear and tear on our fire engine, as well as provide a safer, quicker, and more efficient means of transportation.

Craig Schneider  
Assistant Fire Chief - EMS

# AMBULANCE REPORT

## 2022 EMS STATISTICS

Incident Location	2020	2021	2022	% of Total
City of Kaukauna	1,043	1,149	1,300	79.4%
Village of Combined Locks	10	5	128	7.8%
Town of Kaukauna	49	46	56	3.4%
Village of Little Chute	41	57	52	3.2%
Town of Vandebroek	36	34	40	2.4%
Town of Buchanan	34	37	22	1.3%
Town of Holland	10	17	17	1.0%
City of Appleton	3	8	7	0.4%
Town of Freedom	1	0	7	0.4%
City of Menasha	0	0	3	0.2%
Village of Wrightstown	0	1	2	0.1%
City of Seymour	0	0	1	0.1%
Town of Bovina	0	0	1	0.1%
Village of Kimberly	1	0	1	0.1%
Town of Morrison	0	1	0	0.0%
Town of Grand Chute	1	1	0	0.0%
Village of Ashwaubenon	0	3	0	0.0%
Town of Greenleaf	1	2	0	0.0%
Total	1,230	1,361	1,637	100%
Response Disposition			# of Runs	% of Runs
Patient Treated, Transported by KKFD			1,166	71.2%
Patient Treated, Released			166	10.1%
Patient Refused Evaluation/Care (No Transport)			102	6.2%
Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required			82	5.0%
Patient Dead at Scene - No Resuscitation Attempted			34	2.1%
Canceled on Scene (No Patient Found)			30	1.8%
Canceled (Prior to Arrival)			26	1.6%
Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)			10	0.6%
Patient Treated, Transferred Care to Another EMS Unit			7	0.4%
Canceled (Request Transferred to Another Provider)			5	0.3%
Canceled (Request Transferred to Another Provider)			5	0.3%
Standby- No Services or Support Provided			3	0.2%
Patient Dead at Scene – Resuscitation Attempted (No Transport)			1	0.1%
			1,637	100%

# AMBULANCE REPORT

## 2022 EMS STATISTICS

Emergency Response Times in the City of Kaukauna 911 Call > On Scene	# of Runs	% of Runs
0:00 – 4:29 Minutes	187	29.8%
4:30 – 8:59 Minutes	419	66.8%
> 09:00 Minutes	21	3.3%

*Our benchmark is less than 9 minutes 90% of the time.*

Incident Location Type	# of Runs	% of Runs
Residence - Single Family Home	808	49.4%
Residence - Apartment or Townhouse	278	17.0%
Nursing Home (SNIF, LTCF, Etc.)	222	13.6%
Street or Highway	99	6.1%
Health Facility - Medical Office	39	2.4%
Health Facility – Free-Standing ED/Urgent Care Center	30	1.8%
Factory	30	1.8%
Public Building – Commercial Establishment	28	1.7%
Not Applicable/Not Recorded	24	1.5%
Public Building - Restaurant/Café	17	1.0%
Public Building – Government	9	0.6%
School – High School	7	0.4%
Recreation Area – Public Park	6	0.4%
Public Building - Not Otherwise Listed	6	0.4%
School - Elementary	5	0.3%
Recreation Area - Not Otherwise Listed	5	0.3%
Religious Facility (not school)	4	0.2%
Sport Facility - Not Otherwise Listed	4	0.2%
Wilderness Area	3	0.2%
Other Paved Road	2	0.1%
Construction Site - Building	2	0.1%
Sport Facility - Field	2	0.1%
Health Facility – Not Otherwise Listed	2	0.1%
Residential Institution - Not Otherwise Listed	1	0.1%
Garage of Single Family Home	1	0.1%
School - Middle School	1	0.1%
Farm	1	0.1%
Residence - Not Otherwise Listed	1	0.1%

# AMBULANCE REPORT

## 2022 Financial Report

Coverage Contracts	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Village of Combined Locks	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$72,540

Billing Charge Summary	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Charges	\$1,144,483	\$1,103,514	\$1,033,601	\$1,133,796	\$1,341,496
Gross Revenue	\$515,464	\$559,307	\$521,903	\$512,668	\$627,547
Service Revenue	\$484,315	\$523,855	\$487,828	\$479,900	\$588,452

Payor Mix	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Commercial Insurance	18.8%	19.0%	16.3%	17.8%	17.4%
Medicaid	13.6%	10.9%	13.0%	13.2%	15.2%
Medicare	52.4%	55.9%	55.0%	55.7%	53.4%
Private	15.2%	12.4%	13.3%	10.5%	11.5%
Other	0.0%	2.0%	2.4%	2.8%	2.5%

Collection Rate by Payor	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Commercial Insurance	78.8%	80.1%	83.2%	73.1%	69.2%
Medicaid	23.3%	25.8%	26.6%	21.7%	34.0%
Medicare	40.7%	41.3%	40.1%	38.4%	40.5%
Private	30.6%	59.8%	77.2%	67.3%	53.6%
Other	N/A	74.3%	90.2%	57.0%	83.9%
Overall Collection Rate	45.0%	50.7%	50.5%	45.3%	46.8%

# FIRE PREVENTION

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Assistant Chief Cody Foss continues to lead and direct our Fire Prevention Division and oversee our fire inspection program. In 2022, we provided 40 classes to Kaukauna Area School District students and spread the message of “Fire won’t wait. Plan Your Escape” to 2,160 students. In partnership with the Kaukauna Recreational Department, the fire department hosted the summer Safety Town program. In this program, we taught 47 students how to be “fire safe kids”.

With the help of donations, we distributed 79 carbon monoxide detectors to citizens in 2022. We also continue to offer free smoke detectors with a partnership with the American Red Cross.

Fire inspections continue to be a very important and very labor-intensive function performed by our firefighters. In 2022, the fire department conducted 1,282 fire inspections throughout the city. During these inspections, 255 fire code violations were found and addressed. The addition of a Code Enforcement Officer has been very valuable in helping to gain compliance with major fire code violators.

During our 100-year open house celebration, we had the opportunity to display the importance of home sprinklers with a live fire demonstration and debunk many common myths about home fire sprinklers. We hope those building a new home will consider the minimal cost (0.5-2% of total construction cost) well worth the piece of mind and protection a sprinkler system offers. Besides the lives saved, studies have shown that property damage is nine times lower in sprinklered homes.



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS & TRAINING

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Assistant Chief Chad Gerrits has lead our Special Operations and Training Division for many years. During 2022, A/C Gerrits took over duties as our Apparatus and Equipment coordinator that was left vacant with the resignation of Assistant Chief Travis Teesch. Maintaining the necessary level of competencies required to do our job safely is no easy task and requires hundreds of hours of on-going training for our firefighters. In 2022, the fire department logged 1,528 hours of training.

In order to train safely and effectively, many hours of coordination and planning are required for these sessions. Beginning in 2023, our Special Operations and Training division will be led by a full-time Assitant Chief of Training. We are grateful to the Common Council and Mayor for supporting this new position.

A new Orientation Week program was established this year. Each new recruit completes a 40-hour intense training orientation before they are placed on a shift to begin work. This allows them an oppotunity to learn our equipment and procedures. Driver/Operator Heath Beuchel conducted this training for our new hires in 2022.

Paid-on-call (POC) staff training was updated in 2022 to mirror that of our full-time staff. Our POCs respond to large incidents and must be trained to work alongside our full-time staff. They train two nights per month for a total of 72 annual training hours per paid-on-call firefighter.

We continued our participation with other Fox Valley fire departments in conducting joint training. These training drills allow our members to work with other fire departments and personnel to accomplish different tasks and learn new skills. In the event that we are called upon to help them or they are called to respond to Kaukauna, it is important that we operate in a similar manner.

We also began conducting joint EMS training classes with Combined Locks Fire & Rescue and Buchanan Fire Department. Our personnel regularly work with personnel from these departments, and our joint training sessions ensure a smooth transition of patient care in the field.

# SPECIAL OPERATIONS & TRAINING

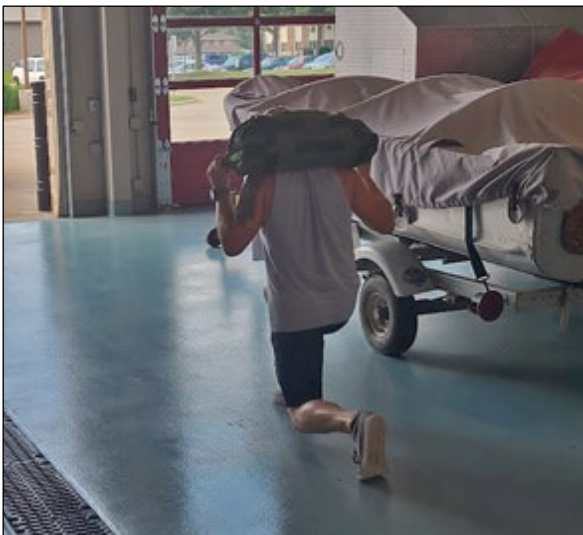
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*Firefighters training on safely entering a confined space to ensure responder safety*



*New recruits working on basic skills of automobile extrication*



*Firefighters perform functional exercises as part of their training. They are often referred to as “tactical athletes.”*



*A building collapse creates a very dangerous work environment. Firefighters review techniques on how to stabilize structures to create a safe work environment.*

# APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT

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Assistant Chief Chad Gerrits leads our Apparatus and Equipment Division. In order for our firefighters to provide effective emergency services, we must maintain a reliable fleet of apparatus and equipment.

We are fortunate to have skilled staff that can perform most of our routine vehicle maintenance in-house. Some of the tasks completed this year include:

- Ball Valves
- Serpentine Belt Replacements
- Pressure Gauge Replacements
- Shocks and Brake pads
- Oil Changes

Equipment used for fireground operations is also commonly serviced by our own Kaukauna firefighters. All ladders are tested in-house for to meet safety standards. We also pressure test every piece of firehose annually. We are proud that our staff members are skilled and capable of performing many of these maintenance tasks and repairs in-house, saving tens of thousands of dollars in labor costs.



In September of 2022, it was announced that we were successful in obtaining over \$140,000 in grant monies to replace our handheld radio inventory. This will represent approximately 50% of the total cost of the project. We were also awarded a grant from Wisconsin DNR for nearly \$1,500 to maintain necessary equipment to fight vegetation fires.



In 2022, the department operated and maintained a fleet of 11 pieces of apparatus.

Type	Year	Make	Model	Anticipated Replacement Year
Ladder	1995	Pierce	Arrow	2024
Engine	2003	Pierce	Enforcer	2027
Rescue	2007	Pierce	Freightliner	2027
Support	2009	Chevrolet	Silverado	2025
Ambulance	2009	Ford	E450	2028
Engine	2014	Seagrave	Marauder	2038
Command Car	2015	Chevrolet	Impala	2027
Boat	2015	Zodiac	Futura Mark II	2027
UTV	2016	Polaris	Ranger 6x6	2031
Ambulance	2018	Ford	E450	2034
Boat	Unknown	Alumacraft	F9-15	N/A