

# Ozark Fire District 2024 Year End Report



**We are a strong team with the duty to aggressively serve our community with integrity and excellence.**



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## LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

To the Citizens of the Ozark Fire Protection District,

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Ozark Fire Protection District and the Board of Directors, I am honored to present our 2024 Annual Report. This report highlights our accomplishments, challenges, and unwavering commitment to protecting and serving the residents and businesses within our district.

As Fire Chief, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the exceptional service provided by our members. I could not be prouder of their dedication, professionalism, and tireless commitment to the community. We are also fortunate to have strong leadership from a proactive Board of Directors who take great pride in how we operate and serve. Most importantly, we are deeply grateful for the steadfast support we receive from our community. Operating 24/7, 365 days a year, our success is a testament to the outstanding firefighters, engaged leadership, and unwavering community backing that define our organization.

Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen our emergency response capabilities, fire prevention efforts, and community engagement initiatives. Our department responded to 4,302 emergency calls, conducted 623 pre-fire plans, attended 9,883 hours of training, and provided essential fire safety education to thousands of community members. We have also invested in advanced training programs and new equipment to ensure our firefighters remain prepared to meet the evolving needs of our growing district.

Beyond emergency response, we are steadfast in our commitment to proactive fire prevention and public education. Through partnerships with local schools, businesses, and community organizations, we have worked diligently to promote fire safety awareness and preparedness.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our firefighters and administrative staff for their unwavering dedication and professionalism. I also extend my appreciation to our Board of Directors, partner agencies, and, most importantly, the residents of our District for your ongoing support. Your trust and collaboration empower us to continue fulfilling our mission of safeguarding lives and property.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to continuous improvement and innovation. We will strive to enhance our services, adapt to emerging challenges, and strengthen our connection with the community. I encourage you to review this report to learn more about our efforts and achievements.

Respectfully,

Jarett Metheny  
Fire Chief





## MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

### Mission

The mission aims to establish a clear focus and objectives, serving as the foundation for the organization's primary function.

*We are a strong team with the duty to aggressively serve our community with integrity and excellence.*

### Vision

The OFPD's vision statement aims to guide the organization's future direction. It serves to predict the future structure, scope, and impact.

*We focus on our community by being good stewards, responsive to risk, and pursue excellence in all we do.*

### Values

The OFPD's established values are instrumental in prioritizing programs and ideas within the district and are a component of budgeting and resource allocation. Values are part of the organization's established culture and are identified as duty, integrity, and excellence.

1. Our **employees** are our most valuable resource.
2. **Relationships** with internal and external agencies are integral to our success.
3. **Reducing risk** to our community and employees is paramount.
4. We embrace **character**, **compassion**, and **ethical** behavior.



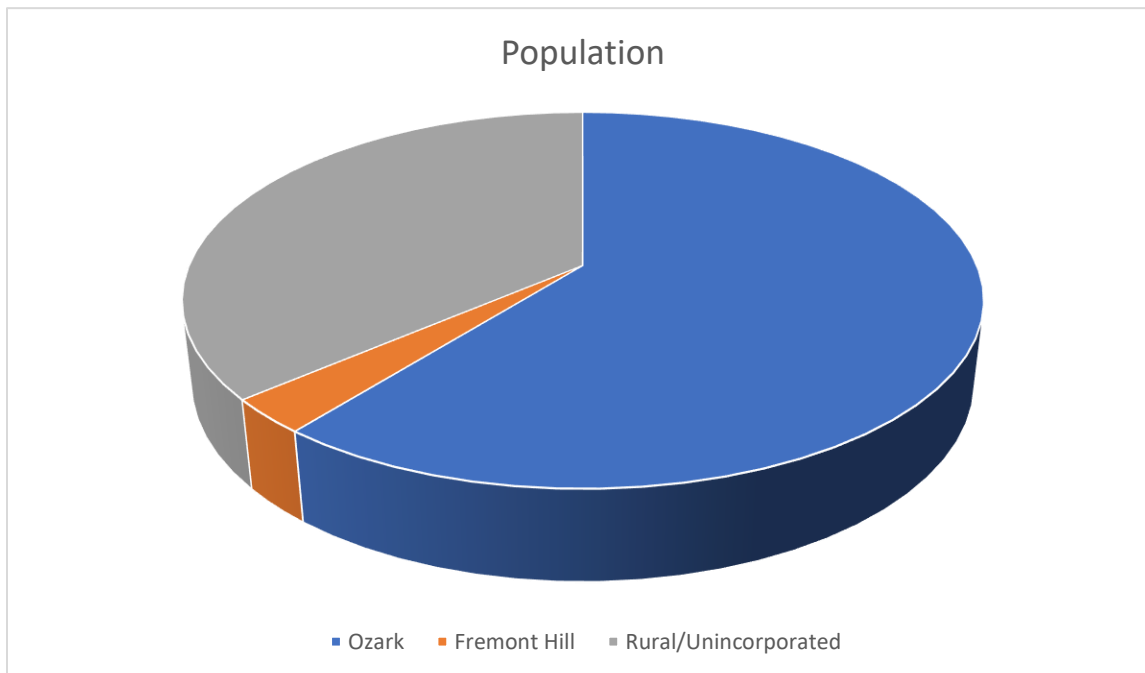
## ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

The Ozark Fire Protection District (OFPD) is responsible for fire and emergency response across a 110-square-mile area in Christian County, Missouri. The district plays a vital role in protecting approximately 40,000 residents living in:

- The City of Ozark – The county seat and a central hub of the district.
- The City of Fremont Hills – A growing community within the district.
- Rural & Unincorporated Areas – Covering a mix of residential, agricultural, and commercial properties.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 1, 2022, Christian County had a total population of 93,114. The Ozark Fire Protection District directly serves 17,000 households, apartments, and businesses, ensuring fire suppression, rescue services, and emergency medical response for a significant portion of the county’s residents.

With its three fully staffed fire stations and 38 dedicated personnel, the OFPD remains committed to protecting life and property through rapid emergency response, fire prevention, and public safety education.





## PERSONNEL


### Board of Directors

				
Will Reynolds President 4/17/2015	Donovan Dobbs Vice-President 4/7/2021	Matt Growcock Treasurer 4/7/2021	Angie Johns Director 4/2/2019	Jim Price Director 10/15/2024




### Chief Officers

			
Jarett Metheny Fire Chief 5/4/2020	Aaron Heaton Assistant Chief 12/16/2007	Jeffrey Owens Assistant Chief 10/7/2019	

### Administrative Coordinator


Melinda York 12/1/2008

### Battalion Chiefs

			
Caleb Thompson A-Shift 9/20/2011	Brian Athen B-Shift 6/21/2023	Rob Crawford C-Shift 1/3/2019	



## Captains

			
Sean Ware 12/31/2006	Burt Roberts 5/1/2019	Dave Hubbard 4/22/2009	
			
Brad Arnott 5/1/2019	Derek Compton 9/10/2017	Paul Winking 5/1/2019	
			
Kyle Heminger 5/1/2019	Justin Cagney 7/13/2020	Aaron Lay 4/22/2009	

## Engineers

			
Ryan Bernhardt 3/3/2014	Matt Gallina 1/2/2008	Eric Eberhart 3/2/2012	
			
Austin Essick 6/17/2019	Cory Fasone 10/19/2020	Mitch Beary 2/22/2022	
			
Jacob Reynolds 2/22/2022	Dustin Cutbirth 2/22/2022	Jacob Stokes 2/22/2022	



# Firefighters

			
Austin White 2/28/2023	Kendra Anthony 2/20/2022	Eleazar Soto 1/28/2008	
			
Jacob Morelan 6/27/2023	Matthew Garrison 2/22/2022	Jared Stover 8/23/2023	
			
Matthew Dilday 7/24/2023	Ryan Rush 7/24/2023	Jesse Gearhart 7/24/2023	
			
David Masterson 10/30/2023	Braden Loehr 7/24/2023	Jarett Crain 10/30/2023	
			
Lucas White 7/8/2024	Ross Caywood 7/8/2024	Wyatt Fritz 7/8/2024	
			
	Tre Shearer 9/16/2024		





## STATIONS

The Ozark Fire District is dedicated to providing round-the-clock emergency services to the community through its three fire stations, each staffed 24/7 with trained firefighters. The district ensures efficient fire suppression, rescue operations, and emergency response capabilities. The district operates with a total of 38 personnel, covering both administrative and operational roles: 1 Fire Chief, 2 Assistant Chiefs, 3 Battalion Chiefs, 34 Suppression Personnel, 1 Administrative Coordinator. The district's three stations are strategically located to provide fast response times across the community.



**Fire Station 1**, located at 604 N. 3rd Street in the City of Ozark, serves as the District Headquarters and is the central hub for fire operations in the area. It plays a vital role in both emergency response and administrative functions for the fire district. The station is staffed with 4-5 full-time firefighters and a battalion chief, ensuring round-the-clock emergency response capabilities.

Additionally, the station is home to key leadership and administrative personnel, including Fire Chief, Assistant Chiefs, Battalion Chief, and Administrative Coordinator. Fire Station 1 is well-equipped to handle various emergency situations with a diverse fleet of firefighting vehicles, including: 1 ladder truck, 1 engine, 1 tanker, 1 brush truck, UTV, and Command vehicle.

**Fire Station 2**, located at 6052 N. 25th St., opened its doors in May 2020 to serve the surrounding community with modern firefighting capabilities. The station operates 24/7, with three firefighters per shift ensuring that emergency response services are always available. The station houses a variety of specialized firefighting vehicles, including: 1 engine, 1 brush truck, 1 tanker, and our antique fire engine. With this range of equipment and dedicated personnel, Fire Station 2 plays a key role in protecting both urban and rural areas within its jurisdiction. Would you like additional details on any of the vehicles, staffing, or history?





## STATIONS (cont.)



**Fire Station 3** has a unique history within the Ozark Fire District, originally built in 1990 when the district was staffed by volunteer firefighters. Unlike the newer stations, it was not initially designed for full-time personnel, but its role evolved as the community's needs grew. In 2014, a tax levy increase was approved, enabling the district to hire full-time firefighters. This necessitated a remodel of Station 3 to create living quarters and workspaces for two firefighters to be stationed there 24/7, ensuring emergency coverage in the southern district. By November 2023, the station underwent another remodel due to mold remediation, expanding its capacity to accommodate 2-3 firefighters per shift. This upgrade improved both safety and functionality, ensuring firefighters could operate effectively while maintaining readiness for emergency calls. With this transformation, Fire Station 3 now provides continuous fire protection and emergency response, reinforcing the district's commitment to community safety.



## APPARATUS

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Make</b>	<b>Model</b>
<b>Battalion 11</b>	2019	Ford	F-350
<b>Brush 11</b>	2017	Ford	F-350
<b>Brush 13</b>	2015	Ford	F-350
<b>Chief 11</b>	2017	Chevrolet	Tahoe
<b>Chief 13</b>	2023	Ford	F-150
<b>Chief 14</b>	2023	Ford	F-150
<b>Ladder 11</b>	2012	HME	75 Foot Ladder
<b>Engine 12</b>	2019	Ferrara	HME Chassis
<b>Engine 13</b>	2023	Spartan	Pumper/Tanker
<b>Engine 14</b>	2011	Ferrara	HME Chassis
<b>Tanker 11</b>	2017	Freightliner	M2
<b>Tanker 12</b>	2011	Freighter	M2
<b>Utility 11</b>	2019	Ford	F350
<b>Utility 12</b>	2011	Chevrolet	Tahoe
<b>UTV 11</b>	2014	John Deere	825i
<b>Utility Trailer</b>	2014	Rivercraft	6X12
<b>Boat 11</b>	2022	Inmar	15 ft Rescue Boat
<b>Engine 1</b>	1946	Dodge	Parade Truck



## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

In 2024, the Ozark Fire Protection District (OFPD) has been deeply committed to engaging with the community through education, outreach, and emergency preparedness. The district's firefighters have worked diligently to educate residents on fire safety while also enhancing their knowledge of local buildings to improve emergency response efficiency.

To ensure safer and more effective responses to incidents, OFPD crews have been actively conducting pre-plans of buildings throughout the district. This involves:

- Visiting and assessing structures to identify potential fire hazards.
- Entering building information into the Records Management System, allowing for quick access to critical data during emergencies.

In 2024, the district participated in over 160 community events, reinforcing its commitment to fire prevention and public safety awareness. These events included:



- 9 Fire Station Tours – Providing residents, students, and organizations an inside look at the daily operations of their fire department.
- 6 Fire Drills – Helping local schools and businesses practice fire evacuation procedures.
- 28 Public Education Events – Teaching fire prevention, home safety, and emergency preparedness.
- First Annual Guns & Hoses Softball Game – A fun and competitive community event that brought together firefighters, law enforcement officers, and residents to build stronger relationships.

By focusing on education, prevention, and community involvement, the OFPD continues to enhance public safety while strengthening its connection with the people it serves.





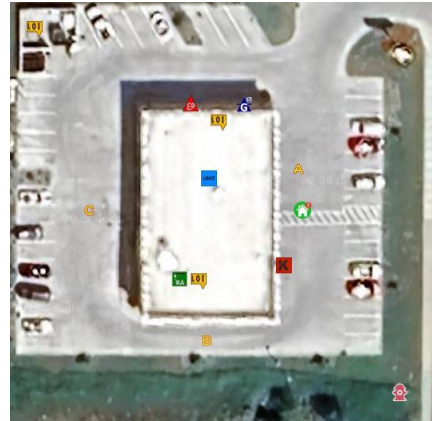
## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION (cont.)

### Pre-Planning

Starting January 1, 2023, the Ozark Fire Protection District (OFPD) implemented a new Records Management System (RMS) to streamline operations, improve emergency preparedness, and enhance fire prevention efforts.

This advanced system helps the district efficiently manage:

- Incidents & Day-to-Day Operations – Tracking emergency responses and department activities.
- Inspections & Permitting – Ensuring compliance with fire codes and safety regulations.
- Asset Management & Staffing – Keeping track of personnel, equipment, and resources.
- Pre-Plans for Buildings – Mapping out structures within the district to locate life-saving features such as:
  - Sprinkler systems
  - Fire alarms.
  - Fire exits.
  - Hazardous material storage



Additionally, the system allows for better risk assessment by analyzing data to help prevent or mitigate future emergencies, improving overall community safety.

### Fire Prevention & Inspections

Under the leadership of the Assistant Chief of Prevention, the district has actively worked to inspect, review, and ensure fire safety compliance across the community. The following inspections and reviews were completed:

- 53 New Business Inspections – Ensuring new establishments meet fire code requirements before opening.
- 21 Annual Inspections – Regular safety checks for existing businesses.
- 29 Mobile Food Vendors – Verifying fire safety measures for food trucks and temporary vendors.
- 34 New Fire Protection Systems – Inspecting installations of fire suppression systems.
- 26 Commercial Plan Reviews – Evaluating fire safety designs in new commercial buildings.
- 26 Solar Plan Reviews – Ensuring safe installation of solar energy systems.
- 13 Sprinkler Plan Reviews – Assessing fire sprinkler system designs.
- 28 Special Event Reviews – Checking fire safety measures for public events and gatherings.

By combining cutting-edge technology with proactive fire prevention efforts, the OFPD is enhancing emergency preparedness, improving firefighter safety, and reducing fire risks throughout the community.



## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION (cont.)

### Public Education

The Ozark Fire Protection District (OFPD) is deeply committed to public education as a key part of its mission to enhance fire safety and emergency preparedness. Through outreach programs and hands-on training, the district ensures that residents of all ages are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to prevent fires and respond to emergencies effectively.

A major focus of the public education program is working with the Ozark School District to teach fire safety to students. Firefighters regularly visit schools to:

- Provide age-appropriate fire safety lessons.
- Teach children about fire prevention, escape planning, and emergency response.
- Instill critical safety habits in young minds, ensuring that fire safety awareness starts early and lasts a lifetime.



### Community Fire Extinguisher & CPR Training

In 2023, the OFPD launched a new fire extinguisher training and community CPR class to further empower residents with life-saving skills. These classes are:



- Held at Fire Station #1 on the first Thursday of each month.
- Open to individuals, businesses, and organizations.
- Designed to teach proper fire extinguisher usage in a controlled, hands-on environment.
- Supported by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks Impact 100 Club, which helped secure an extinguisher training prop for realistic instruction.

By expanding public education efforts, the OFPD is creating a more fire-aware and safety-conscious community, ensuring that residents and businesses alike have the knowledge and tools to prevent fires and respond confidently in emergencies.



## TRAINING

### Annual Training Report – 2024

To the Members of the Ozark Fire Protection District and the Community,

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Training Report, which highlights our department's accomplishments, growth, and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of training and preparedness. This year has been marked by significant achievements in instructional development, specialized training, and inter-agency collaboration, all of which aim to enhance the safety and effectiveness of our personnel.

#### Training Division Overview

The Training Division currently comprises 18 instructors, including:

**Number of instructors:** 18

**Instructor II:** 4

**Number of 1403 “Live Fire” instructors:** 4

**CPR Instructors:** 7

**Fire investigator:** 5

**Swift Water Swimmers:** 8

**Swift Water Instructors:** 2

**FSLEP:** 13 total participants

**Fire Inspectors:** 5



**Training hours:** In total, our personnel logged an impressive 9,883.75 training hours this year. The breakdown of training categories is as follows:

- **Administrative Training:** 352 hours
- **Annual Harassment Training:** 69.5 hours
- **EMS-CCAD Training:** 220 hours
- **Live Fire Facilities Training (ISO 580.A):** 405 hours
- **Company Training (ISO 580.B):** 4,953.75 hours
- **Officer Training (ISO 580.C):** 1,345.5 hours
- **Existing DO Training (ISO 580.E):** 1,297 hours
- **Haz-Mat Training (ISO 580.F):** 170 hours
- **Pre-Plan Training (ISO 580.H):** 124 hours
- **National Registry Training:** 424.5 hours
- **Technical Rescue Training:** 522.5 hours





## TRAINING (cont.)

### Hiring & Certification Achievements

In 2024, the Ozark Fire Protection District successfully conducted two hiring processes, welcoming four new members to our team:

- Firefighter Ross Caywood (#1055)
- Firefighter Lucas White (#1056)
- Firefighter Wyatt Fritz (#1057)
- Firefighter Tre Shearer (#1058)

### Training Classes Conducted

This year, we delivered a wide range of training courses, including:



- Burger King commercial training
- Fire Service Instructor I & Fire Service Officer I
- DO Core, Pumper, Mobile Water Supply, Aerial
- Inspector I
- Managing a Fire Company
- Swift Water Rescue Technician (9 students) & Instructor (2 students)
- Multi-company evolution training at the Burger King facility before demolition
- Introductory ropes class for CC C.E.R.T.
- Confined space training for City of Ozark personnel
- Mutual aid drills with surrounding agencies (June & November)

### Multi-Agency Training & Conferences

We continued strengthening partnerships through joint training with Logan-Rogersville and Battlefield Fire Districts. Our personnel also attended the following conferences:

- **IAFC FRI**
- **Missouri Fire Instructors Conference**
- **Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs**
- **National Fire Academy**





## TRAINING (cont.)

### Special Projects

The Training Division played a key role in the successful completion of multiple projects this year, including:

- Re-opening of Station #3
- Hosting the Citizens Fire Academy
- Organizing the Annual Awards Banquet
- Coordinating the Annual OFPD Family Gathering
- Coordination of the 1st Annual Guns & Hoses Softball Game



### Special Operations & Grant Utilization

Through the 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), we were able to enhance our capabilities with the following acquisitions and certifications:

- Purchase of an **INMAR 12.5' inflatable boat** and **12' INMAR Banana boat**
- Expansion of swift water rescue equipment
- Certification of **8 members as Dive Rescue International (DRI) Rescue Swimmers**
- Certification of **2 members to DRI Instructor level**
- Acquisition of a rescue manikin
- Ongoing efforts to build a stronger regional asset for special operations.

### Looking Ahead

As we move forward into 2025, the Training Division remains dedicated to advancing firefighter education, enhancing operational readiness, and fostering inter-agency collaboration. Our focus will be on integrating new training methodologies, increasing participation in specialized rescue programs, and ensuring our personnel are well-equipped to serve the community effectively.

We extend our gratitude to the dedicated members of the Ozark Fire Protection District for their commitment to training and excellence. We also appreciate the community's continued support, whose trust and partnership enable us to fulfill our mission.



## 2024 BUDGET REVIEW

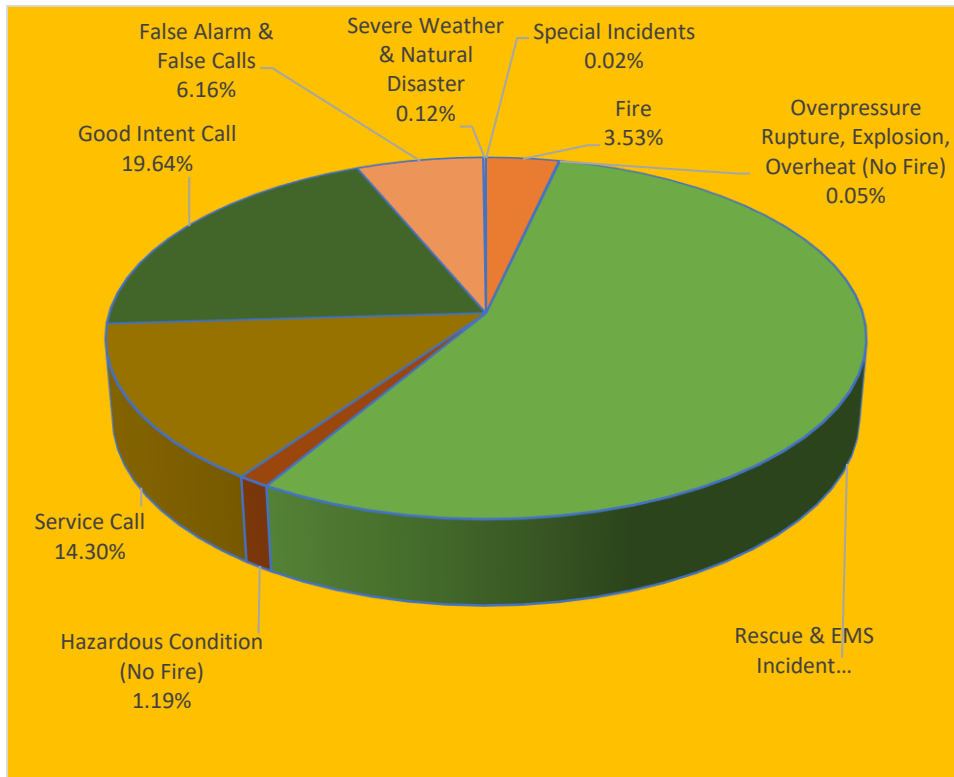
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Notes
<b>Income</b>				
Tax Revenue	4,242,022	4,257,021	(14,999)	0.5870 Tax Levy
Interest Revenue	123,541	-	123,541	
Grant Revenue	136,096	-	136,096	
Other Revenue	40,497	-	40,497	Fees, Donations, Surplus Equipment
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,542,157</b>	<b>4,257,021</b>	<b>285,136</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee Expenses	3,659,064	3,624,769	(34,295)	
Professional Fees	28,817	49,600	(20,783)	
Property/Liability Insurance	39,726	39,000	726	
Administration	67,248	75,600	(8,352)	
Professional Development	41,387	61,000	(19,613)	
Fire Prevention	7,965	7,000	965	
Uniforms & PPE	48,144	44,000	4,144	
New Tools and Equipment	5,046	22,000	(16,954)	
Maintenance & Repairs	158,954	135,000	23,954	
Facilities	68,249	76,000	(7,751)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,090,307</b>	<b>4,168,264</b>	<b>(77,957)</b>	
<b>Net Operating Income/Expense</b>	<b>451,850</b>	<b>88,757</b>	<b>363,093</b>	
<b>Bond Revenue</b>				
Tax Revenue	(1,022,012)	(1,275,680)	(9,074)	(0.1700 Tax Levy)
Interest and Expenditures	1,106,044	-	-	Applied to Bond Debt
<b>Bond Expenses</b>				
Station 3 Fund	405,849	-	-	Project Completed
Apparatus Fund	4,950	-	-	Misc. Equipment
Station 1 Fund	115,243	-	-	Professional Services
<b>Total Bond Expenses</b>	<b>1,632,086</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	

**\*Important Notes:**

- Balance in Reserves and Bonds as of 2/14/2025:
  - Operating Reserve: \$1,103,285 (25% of Employment and Operating Budget)
  - Building Reserve: \$100,000 (Used for Unplanned Building Repairs)
  - Equipment Reserve: \$300,000 (Used for Unplanned Apparatus Purchase/Repair)
  - Capital Reserve: \$85,000 (Used for purchasing Capital Equipment)
  - General Reserve Balance: \$3,526,025 (Uncategorized Fund Balance)
  - Station Project Bond Fund: \$6,546,169
  - Apparatus Project Bond Fund: \$82,941.96



## CALLS FOR SERVICE



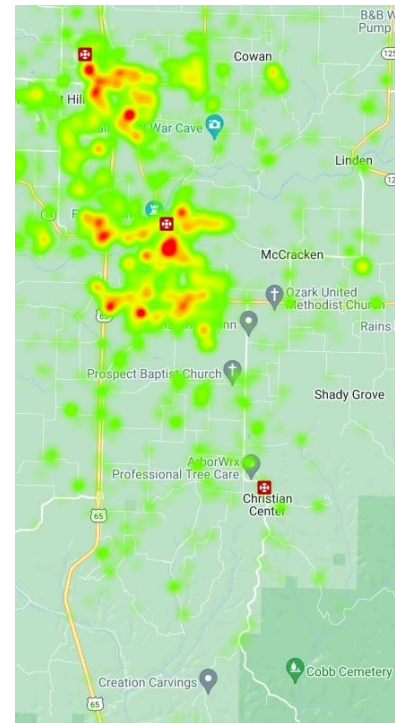
The Ozark Fire District responded to 4,302 calls throughout 2024. The following is a breakdown of the basic categories of calls that were responded.

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fire	152	3.53%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	2	0.05%
Rescue & EMS Incident	2366	55.00%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	51	1.19%
Service Call	615	14.30%
Good Intent Call	845	19.64%
False Alarm & False Calls	265	6.16%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	5	0.12%
Special Incidents	1	0.02%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4302</b>	<b>100%</b>



## CALLS FOR SERVICE (cont.)

- Station Responses
  - Station 1 – **2,214 Calls for Service (51.46%)**
  - Station 2 – **1,541 Calls for Service (35.82%)**
  - Station 3 – **400 Calls for Service (9.3%)**
  - Outside District - **147 Calls for Service (3.42%)**
- Overlapping Calls for Service
  - **1559 Incidents (36.24% of the incidents)**
  - **597 instances with 2 calls overlapping.**
  - **97 instances with 3 calls overlapping.**
  - **12 instances with 4 calls overlapping.**
  - **4 instances with 5 calls overlapping.**
  - **1 instance with 6 calls overlapping.**
  - **294 times when we had no apparatus available due to all being assigned.**
  - **1,133 times when 2 stations were unavailable due to being assigned.**
- Average Response Time = **8 minutes.**







## 2024 NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Hired 4 new firefighters that created 4 new positions.
- Began the process of building Fire Station 1 by accepting bid from architects.
- Approved bid from Buxton Kubik Dodd Design Collective to design Fire Station 1
- Had the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Guns & Hoses Softball Game between Ozark Fire Protection District and Ozark Police, which raised \$20,000 to be split between both agencies for public education and other outreach event.
- Ordered a 2024 E-One 75-foot Aerial Apparatus to add to our fleet.
- Appointed Jim Price as Board of Directors member to fill vacancy.
- Expanded our water rescue team by purchasing a second boat for responses.
- Expanded our technical rescue resources by purchasing more rescue equipment.
- Accepted bid from DANKO to up fit Brush 12





## FUTURE OF THE DISTRICT

The Ozark Fire District continually strives to uphold the Mission Statement of the district “We are a strong team with the duty to aggressively serve our community with integrity and excellence”. The future of the district will be aggressive and full of changes that will continue to support the community.

In 2025, expect many changes to be happening within the district. Here is a list of things that will be in the works:

- Beginning construction of the new Fire Station 1
- Placing our newest aerial apparatus in service
- Ask the citizen to approve a “No Rate Increase” bond to finish projects and purchase apparatuses.



As the district that we serve grows, we will continue to work on the goals and objectives that were implemented in 2020 through our Strategic Initiatives that were identified.

1. Contribute to our community’s safety by providing services to identify and reduce risk while engaging citizens, business owners, and other local stakeholders.
2. Enhance the effectiveness of our organization through proper communication and data-driven decision-making.
3. Ensure preparedness and competency through training, safety, and health programs that address the risks to our community and firefighters.
4. Identify and plan for the capital needs of our organization while balancing fiscal responsibility.
5. Invest in our employees for the purpose of succession planning, organizational stability, and ongoing competitiveness.

We also thank the community for the continued support that we receive.