



# BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT





# FROM THE CHIEF

As you will see in this report, the fire department continues to receive tremendous support from the town manager and town council which allows us to operate some of the safest and most reliable fire apparatus available in today's fire service. But with that said, it is important to recognize that this equipment is useless without properly trained apparatus operators and firefighters to operate and staff them. Our men and women are our greatest resource and their commitment to the organization is what makes the department one of the most well-known and respected in the state.



Like society as a whole, our department was faced with challenges never before seen during 2020. The COVID-19 Pandemic forced our department to make changes to our daily operations which included daily temporal monitoring, internal social distancing, new personal protective guidelines, and several other operational policy changes. Even through the global pandemic and national shut-down we continued to provide emergency services; answering every call for service again for the 132nd year in a row.

The fire department continues to adapt, adjust, and improve as we strive to provide the highest level of service to our community. On behalf of the entire Bedford Fire Department, thank you for taking time to review our organizational highlights from FY2020.

It is my pleasure to serve as the fire chief. If you have any questions concerning your fire department, please contact me at (540) 587-6099 or via email at [bcreasy@bedfordva.gov](mailto:bcreasy@bedfordva.gov).

Respectfully,

L. Brad Creasy  
Chief of Department



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# MISSION STATEMENT

The Bedford Fire Department is committed to preserving life and property through rapid emergency response, public education, organizational preparedness, and planning.



# HISTORY

The need for organized fire protection in the then Town of Liberty became most evident on the morning of October 12, 1884 when a fire began in a store operated by J.N. Early on the southeast corner of Bridge Street and Railroad Avenue. When the fire was discovered in the early morning hours very little could be done, as there was no organized fire department and a meager water supply. When daylight came, only two buildings were left standing, and the scene was one of desolation. In the years to follow several important events contributed to the growth of this small town. When owners began rebuilding their downtown businesses they used more permanent materials such as brick and heavy timber. The town also began installing a municipal water supply and had installed twenty-five fire hydrants by 1886. Area business men met in the fall of 1887 to discuss the need for an organized fire company to protect area businesses and homes. Several months later in early 1888, the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department was organized with a membership of twenty-five volunteer firemen; most of whom were downtown merchant owners.

Originally located on Court Street near the intersection of East Main Street, the Town of Bedford constructed a new firehouse for the fire department on West Depot Street in 1927. To accommodate larger and growing membership, the City of Bedford built the current fire station on Bedford Avenue in 1974.

Today, the Bedford Fire Department is responsible for more than just protecting life and property from the ravages of fire through fire suppression. It also provides a broad range of services that include emergency medical services, hazardous material responses, special and technical rescue, and fire e prevention through public education.



Andrew Sanders photograph



# DEPARTMENT ROSTER

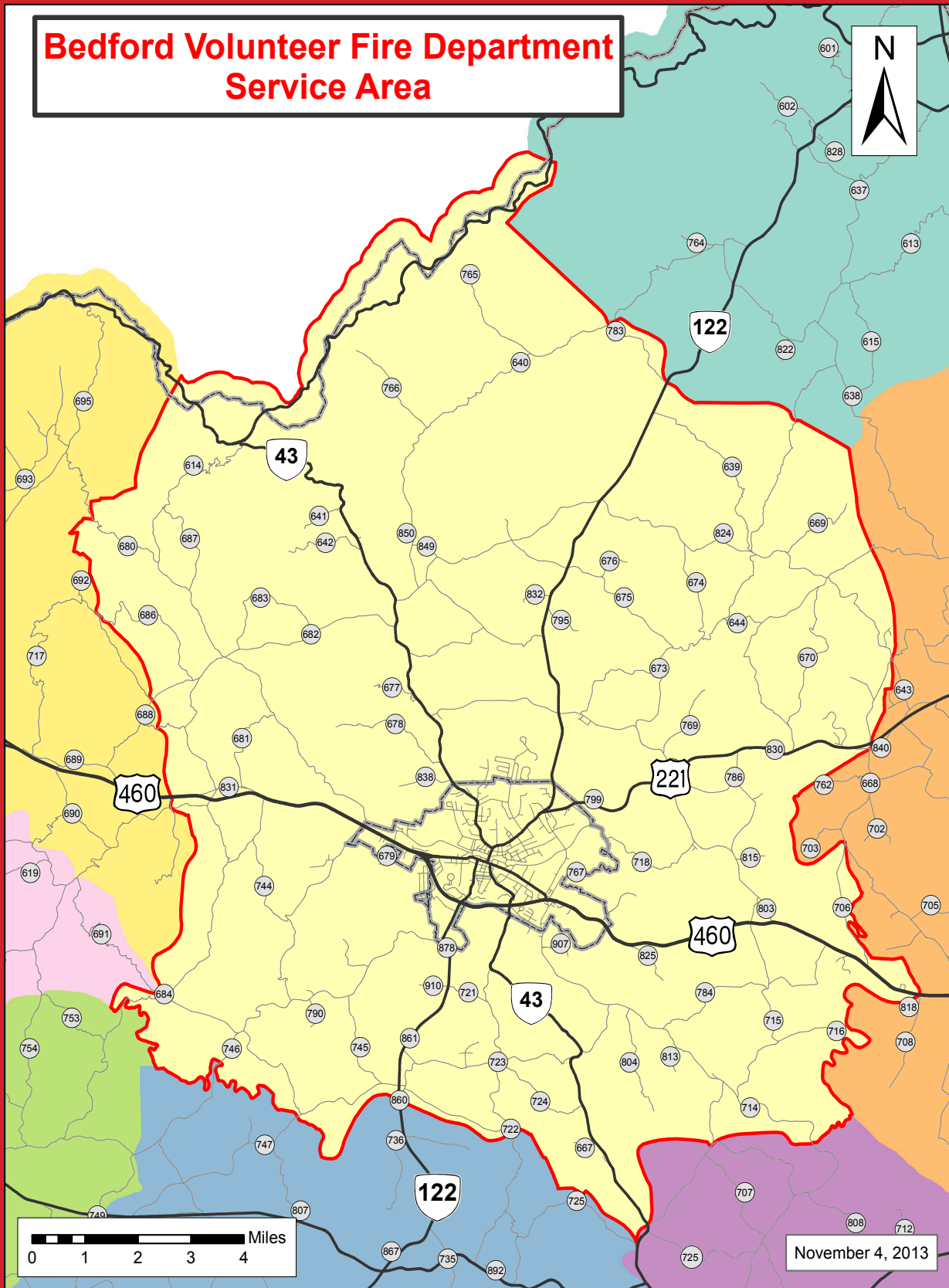
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE
Stevens	Russell	46 Years
Parker	James	42 Years
Fulton	Greg	32 Years
Musgrove	Gordon	29 Years
Stone	Todd	24 Years
Creasy	Brad	23 Years
Long	Brandon	20 Years
Cunningham	Zeph	18 Years
Garten	Jeremy	17 Years
Creasey	Billy	16 Years
Baker	Chad	16 Years
Overstreet	Jason	15 Years
Ohlinger	Jon	15 Years
Marshall	Curtis	14 Years
Shutt	Matt	14 Years
Mckinney	Alex	14 Years
Crumpacker	William	13 Years
Scott	Matthew	12 Years
Moore	John	12 Years
Gardner	Chris	11 Years
King	Ryan	11 Years
Crouch	Brandon	10 Years
Wills	Stacey	10 Years
Cornett	Barry	8 Years
Beisser	Jacob	7 Years
McGinnis	MJ	7 Years
Rice	Nick	7 Years



Neas	Taylor	6 Years
Martin	Kincaid	6 Years
Allen	Matt	6 Years
Elston	Mike	6 Years
Walters	Willie	5 Years
Overstreet	Jake	5 Years
Hoback	Giles	3 Years
Hall	Andrew	3 Years
Schacter	Thomas	2 Years
Cervi	Nicolas	2 Years
Hodgin	Garrett	1 Year
Bradshaw	James	1 Year
Brown	Brandon	1 Year
Ghobrial	Joseph	1 Year
Mansueti	Bob	1 Year
Croft	Olivia	1 Year
McCarthy	Brent	1 Year
Palmore	Austin	1 Year
Reitz	Brandon	1 Year
Mason	Paul	8 Months
Mann	Evan	8 Months
Beard	Matt	6 Months
Ziegler	Noah	6 Months
Tuck	Eli	6 Months
Creasy	Brycen	1 Month
Crumpacker	Caleb	1 Month



# RESPONSE AREA



# RESPONSE SUMMARY

TOTAL CALLS	955
AVERAGE FIREFIGHTERS PER CALL	10
DEPARTMENT STAFFING	53
FULL MEMBERS	36
JUNIOR MEMBERS	5
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	8
COLLEGE INTERNS	3
PRIMARY RESPONSE AREA	182 SQUARE MILES
POPULATION PROTECTED	22,000
RESIDENTIAL HOMES	8,487
COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES	648







# RESPONSE BREAKDOWN

WORKING FIRES	42
CHIMNEY FIRES	14
BRUSH FIRES	26
VEHICLE FIRES	20
FALSE ALARMS	91
MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH	163
ALS/CRITICAL	174
SERVICE CALLS	61
TOTAL PROPERTY LOSS	\$2.8 MILLION

# SUMMARY



## APPARATUS BREAKDOWN

STATIONS	1
TOTAL APPARATUS	10
ENGINES	2
AERIAL TRUCKS	1
TANKERS	1
RESCUE TRUCKS	1
UTILITY VEHICLES	2
BRUSH TRUCKS	2
COMMAND VEHICLES	1

## SALARIES

CHIEF	\$120,000
DEPUTY CHIEF	\$110,000
ASSISTANT CHIEF	\$105,000
CAPTAIN	\$85,000
LIEUTENANTS	\$71,000
AVERAGE SALARY OF OFFICERS IN THE VICINITY	\$98,200

## NUMBER OF CAREER PERSONNEL NECESSARY

OFFICERS	12
FIREFIGHTERS	18
DRIVERS	6
MEDICS	-
ADMINISTRATIVE	-

## COST BREAKDOWN

SAFER FUNDING, INCENTIVES,  
STIPENDS, CASH-PER-CALL EXPENSE \$62,000

CAREER FIREFIGHTER COSTS \$1,178,400

CAREER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS -

**TOTAL CAREER COSTS \$1,240,400**

INFORMATION BASED ON NATIONAL STANDARDS/AVERAGES



# COST OF SAVING LIVES

**TOTAL COST: \$15,950**





# COVID-19 RESPONSE

The federal government announced on March 1, 2020 that a respiratory virus known as the Coronavirus, believed to have originated in China, was now in the United States with twelve confirmed cases on the west coast. COVID-19 as it became known is caused by a severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus ("SARS-CoV"). The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has listed SARS-CoV as a potentially life-threatening infectious disease. COVID-19 spreads via respiratory droplets that are produced when an infected person talks, coughs, or sneezes. These droplets are relatively heavy and are thought to travel no further than 6 feet; they will then fall and deposit on the floor or other surfaces which spurred the 6ft "social distancing" rule.

This highly contagious virus caused public safety departments to react quickly in order to reduce the risk to both providers and patients. The Bedford Fire Department rolled out a face covering policy in late March that mandated all firefighters to wear N95 mask and eye protection on all EMS calls and any fire incidents that did not require SCBA or involve any type of IDLH atmosphere. A SEEK Scan temporal monitoring station was purchased and placed at the main entrance where all firefighters were mandated to check his or her temperature upon entering the firehouse each day. Each firefighter was also issued a personal cloth mask to wear when in public and not on an actual dispatched incident. The policy also mandated our firefighters to practice social distancing inside of the firehouse and the use of facial coverings when social distancing could not be practiced. A number of other preventative measures were also taken to include daily disinfectant spraying with electromagnetic sprayers, UV air purification system installation, and disinfecting bombs inside apparatus. In total, fourteen firefighters were quarantined and five positive cases occurred within the department from March to December. None of the five cases could be traced back to on the job exposures.



# TOP RESPONDERS



1. Matthew Scott - 506 runs
2. Brandon Crouch- 460 runs
3. Matt Allen- 358 runs
4. Nick Rice- 342 runs
5. Alex McKinney- 319 runs

6. Zeph Cunningham- 305 runs
7. Nick Cervi- 296 runs
8. Bob Mansueti- 291 runs
9. Chris Gardner- 270 runs
10. Brent McCarthy- 251 runs





# AWARDS & MILESTONES

## **LIFE SAVING AWARD**

ASSISTANT CHIEF NICK RICE  
FF/EMT JOHN MOORE

## **PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

FF/EMT ELI TUCK

## **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

FF GILES HOBACK

## **20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

FF BRANDON LONG

## **15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

FF/EMT JASON OVERSTREET  
FF/PM JON OHLINGER

## **10 YEARS OF SERVICE**

FF/PM STACEY WILLS  
FF BRANDON CROUCH

## **5 YEARS OF SERVICE**

FF/EMT JACOB OVERSTREET  
FF/PM AUSTIN PALMORE  
FF/PM ADDISON WIECKING  
FF/PM KINCAID MARTIN





# BEDFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRE

On January 23, 2020 at 2:52 a.m. Bedford Communications alerted the Bedford Fire Department to 503 Longwood Avenue “the old Middle School” for a reported structure fire. Chief 1 was the first to arrive at 2:56 a.m. and found heavy fire showing from the second floor of the two-story masonry educational building.

Engine 1 (w/four) arrived at 2:57 a.m. and was assigned to protect the exposure (old yellow school building) on the delta (right) side of the involved structure. A 2.5” hand line was deployed by Engine 1 who was assigned the exposure group while E1’s chauffeur secured his own water supply from a hydrant in front of the school. Ladder 1 (w/six) set up on the A/D corner and raised its aerial device to begin suppression with their elevated master stream. Tower 5 and Engine 5 from the Forest Volunteer Fire Department were assigned to the Charlie (rear) side of the building to begin fire suppression with the tower ladder.







Bedford County Fire & Rescue's Medic 14-6 was assigned to assist with fire attack while Medic 14-2 was given the assignment of medical sector. Wagon 1 reverse laid to a nearby hydrant on Peaks Street to relay pump to Engine 1 in an attempt to increase hydrant pressure. Multiple calls to command reported low hydrant pressure, most likely because all hydrants in the area were on the same water main. Engine 5 reverse laid to Westview Avenue to supply Engine 1 additional water while Engine 8 from the Moneta Volunteer Fire Department relay pumped from Avenel and Peaks Street. Fire quickly began showing on the bravo (left) side of the building which caused command to request Ladder 10 from the Saunders Volunteer Fire Department as the third truck company.

Stewartsville-Chamblissburg Volunteer Fire Department back-filled the Bedford Firehouse with Engine 13-1 until companies began clearing at 2pm. Wagon 1 and Ladder 1 remained on scene putting out hot spots until 10 p.m., almost 19 hours after the initial report came in. No injuries were reported but the building suffered heavy damage throughout and was considered a total loss.

The fire investigation was led by the Bedford County Fire Marshal's Office and supported by the Bedford Police Department. Apparatus operating on scene included: 5 Engines, 3 Ladders, 1 Heavy Rescue, 2 Command Vehicles, 2 Mobile Air Units, 3 Medic Units, 5 police officers, and 2 fire investigators.







On February 19th the Bedford Police Department announced the arrest of 21-year-old Daniel Flint who was charged with two felony counts of arson in connection to the January 23rd fire. The police department has video/photo evidence of Flint inside the building the morning of January 23rd from cameras that were mounted earlier in the year after the vacant school was vandalized. Flint remains incarcerated while he awaits trial.







# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

May 2, 2020- At approximately 6pm units from the Bedford Fire Department (1st due), Moneta Volunteer Fire Department (2nd due), and Stewartsville-Chamblissburg Volunteer Fire Department (RIT) to 2560 Joppa Mill Road for a reported structure fire. Engine 1 arrived to find heavy fire showing from the Alpha/Delta corner and began stretching a line into the basement as Fire Attack Group 1. As Company 8 units arrived, crews were sent into the first floor to extinguish fire that had extended into the first floor. Medic 14-1's crew paired up with Engine 8 and began making a push into the first floor interior. Met with high heat and zero visibility, the crew decided to back out.

During their attempt to exit the structure the medic/firefighter from Medic 14-1 became disoriented and a "Mayday" was declared. Ladder 1's crew had just entered the structure to conduct the primary search and quickly jumped into action after the Mayday was transmitted. Within seconds, Assistant Chief Nick Rice (riding as the Ladder 1 officer), located the downed firefighter who was unconscious and without a mask and helmet. Ladder 1's Tillerman, Firefighter John Moore, was right behind his officer and together they pulled the unconscious firefighter to safety. The firefighter was flown to Wake Forest Burn Center with suspected burns to their airway. Two other firefighters from the first floor interior crew were transported to local hospitals with non-life threatening injuries. The firefighter/paramedic transported to Wake Forest was released 24 hours later and returned to work after a month of rehabilitation. Chief Rice and FF Moore were recognized by the Bedford County Board of Supervisors for their heroic efforts that saved one of their own.





# GOALS ACCOMPLISHED

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- Replaced 2000 HME/M&W 1250 gallon pumper-tanker with a 2020 Pierce 2000 gallon pumper-tanker. The new “Tanker 1” was placed in service the morning of September 6, 2020 and responded to a working fire later that night just before 11pm.
- Improved department communications through Google calendar sharing and digital dashboards.
- Secured funding for pay-per-call program through a \$286,000 SAFER grant. This program will pay members monthly for calls ran and for standby time to encourage participation and supplement members who would otherwise work part-time jobs.
- A new station alerting system that will be interfaced with the 911 CAD was purchased through CARES funds. This system uses ramping tones to wake firefighters rather than the traditional bells or buzzers that lead to cardiac problems in responders.
- Hydrant flow testing was completed in coordination with the Bedford Water Authority to obtain the most recent hydrant flow data. A number of new hydrants have been installed within the town on new/improved water lines that increased volume in several locations.
- A junior program was implemented in April 2020. This program allows the department to take on up to five 16/17 year olds who can participate in a number of different non-hazardous duties around the firehouse as they work to obtain the VDFP Firefighter I certification. Once trained, junior members can participate in fire suppression activities just like our adult members.

# APPARATUS

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Wagon 1  
2014 Seagrave Pumper  
15,000 GPM/1,000 Gallons

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Ladder 1  
2007 Seagrave 100' TDA

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Engine 1  
2007 Seagrave Pumper  
15,000 GPM/750 Gallons

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Rescue 1  
2015 Pierce Walk-In  
Heavy Rescue

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Brush 1  
2009 Ford F450  
300 GPM / 300 Gallons



Brush 1A  
2006 Ford F550  
300 GPM / 300 Gallons



Utility 1  
2017 Chevrolet 2500  
EMS Response Vehicle



Support 1  
2018 Chevrolet 2500  
Hydrant Maintenance Vehicle



Command 1  
2017 Chevrolet Tahoe  
Chiefs Vehicle

# NEW DELIVERIES



## **Tanker 1 2020 Pierce Enforcer 1,500 GPM/2,000 Gallons**

After a year and a half of planning and construction, a 2020 Pierce Enforcer 1500/2000 pumper tanker was delivered in August. Placed in service on September 5, 2020, the unit responded a first-due house fire just eight hours after being placed in service.

The Pierce Enforcer cab and aluminum body were specifically designed by the apparatus committee with features like an "L" shaped tank and low hose bed to allow firefighters easy access for hose line deployment when operating as a pumper. The committee also added many well thought out options such as electric side chutes, rear jet dump, and hydraulic dump tank storage on the drivers side to make the unit a user-friendly tanker when operating in that capacity.



## TRAINING















## CONNECT WITH US

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WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.BEDFORDFD.COM/](http://WWW.BEDFORDFD.COM/)

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