

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**BEDFORD FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**



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FROM THE CHIEF

“It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report which summarizes the fire department’s activity for the calendar year of 2021.”

The department faced many challenges throughout the year as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to relentlessly affect our nation, our community, and our own personnel. But, as we have throughout history, our men and women remained resilient and committed to providing the best service possible. The department responded to over 1,100 calls for service and just as it has for the past 133 years, we answered every single call with adequate staffing and equipment without a single turnover.

In September, the Insurance Services Office (ISO), which provides property data to insurance carriers for the purpose of establishing fire insurance rates, performed an on-site evaluation to determine the communities risk rating. This rating is based on a community’s dispatch capabilities, fire department and water supply and is evaluated every five years. Working with our partners in the emergency communications center and water authority, our departments have made several improvements and changes over the past couple of years that helped improve our overall score which should ultimately lower our rating to lower insurance premiums (new rating is expected to be announced in May 2022).

We appreciate the support that we continue to receive from the community, town council, and board of supervisors. We pride ourselves in delivering the highest quality of service to our community and it wouldn’t be possible without the appropriate funding and equipment provided by these elected officials. It is my honor to serve alongside the men and women of the Bedford Fire Department as we strive to make a positive and lasting impact on our community.

L. Brad Creasy, CFO  
Chief of Department





DEPARTMENT 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 Company was organized with a membership of twenty-five volunteer firemen; most of whom were downtown merchant owners. To be properly equipped to protect life and property from the damage of fire, the company purchased its first piece of firefighting equipment, a hand drawn hose cart, known still today as “Hubb’s Baby.”

Because of lost or damaged records, it is unclear what events took place within the fire company between 1888 and 1906. Although un-documented, it is believed that these records were damaged by fire just after the turn of the century. The original location of the fire station is another item that is not documented; “Sandborn” maps of the Town of Liberty in 1891 show a two story “hose house” located on Court Street between East Main Street and Depot Street. Sandborn maps were drawn every five years for insurance purposes to show building locations, the type of building material used in each, and the number of stories each building stood. These maps offer important information such as the following taken exactly from the index of the 1907 map: “Fire Department-no hand, steam or chem’l eng’s, two independent hose carts, no hook and ladder truck, 1000’ 2 ½” hose, 1 Vol. Co, 25 men, Fire Alarm by bell over Court House.” The Sandborn maps show that the company had moved to its West Depot Street location by 1913 where the company shared the old “Market Building” with the mayor’s office and a dispensary. According to these maps the company moved to 807 West Main Street beside the Bedford Presbyterian Church in 1922 while a new firehouse was being built at the site of the old market building. The new two-story brick, two-bay Firehouse was constructed facing Depot Street and offered the company room for apparatus, equipment, and a meeting room. Although several modifications were made to the building over the years to make room for more apparatus, the company remained at their Depot Street location until 1973 when the present day firehouse was constructed.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

The Bedford Fire Department serves an estimated population of 22,000 within the 12 square mile Town of Bedford as well as a 170 square mile area of Bedford County. Primary response areas include the communities of Bedford, Thaxton, Kelso, and Lowry.

The Fire Department is comprised of 51 volunteer firefighters, one part-time apparatus mechanic, and a part-time Fire Chief. The Fire Department’s core services include fire suppression, technical rescue, emergency medical services, and risk reduction through public education.

The Bedford Fire Department provides county-wide service through automatic aid for all reported building fires as well as technical rescue through the Bedford County Special Operations Command. Operating from one central fire station, the Bedford Fire Department operates three engines, one heavy rescue, one tractor-drawn aerial, and two brush trucks.





2021 GOALS

- Complete ISO evaluation & score a rating of 3 or lower- **Accomplished**
- Complete OIC Task Books for officers and senior members- **On Going**
- Secure funding through CIP for new Station Alert system- **Accomplished**
- Secure CIP funding for apparatus bay floor coating- **Accomplished**
- Develop new member/spouse video- **In progress**
- Develop and Implement sidewalk CPR program- **On Going**
- Research and complete bunk room remodel- **Needs Assessment TBD**
- Secure Non-Transport EMS license & develop QA-QI- **In progress**
- Install Mobile Data Terminals in front-line apparatus- **Accomplished**
- Replace 2006 Brush Truck with 4-door Unit - **On Order**



CURRENT OPERATIONS

OPERATIONAL

CHIEF  
BRAD CREASY

DEPUTY CHIEF  
MATT SCOTT

ASSISTANT CHIEF  
NICK RICE

CAPTAIN  
CHRIS GARDNER

1ST LIEUTENANT  
ALEX MCKINNEY

LIEUTENANT  
MATTHEW ALLEN

ADMINISTRATIVE

PRESIDENT  
CURTIS MARSHALL

VICE PRESIDENT  
JAKE BEISSER

SECRETARY  
AMBER BLAIR

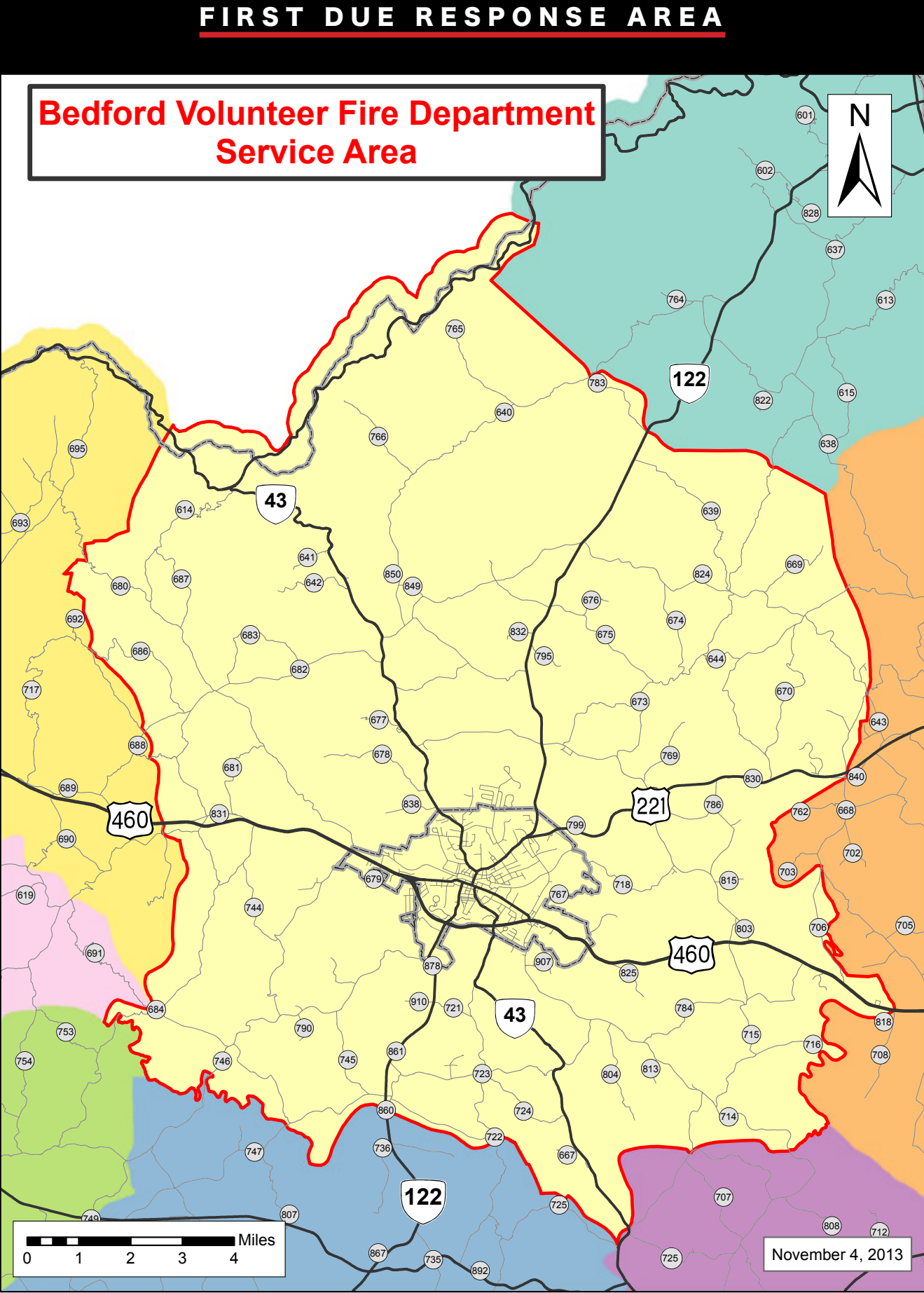
ASST. SECRETARY  
OLIVIA CROFT

TREASURER  
RUSSELL STEVEN

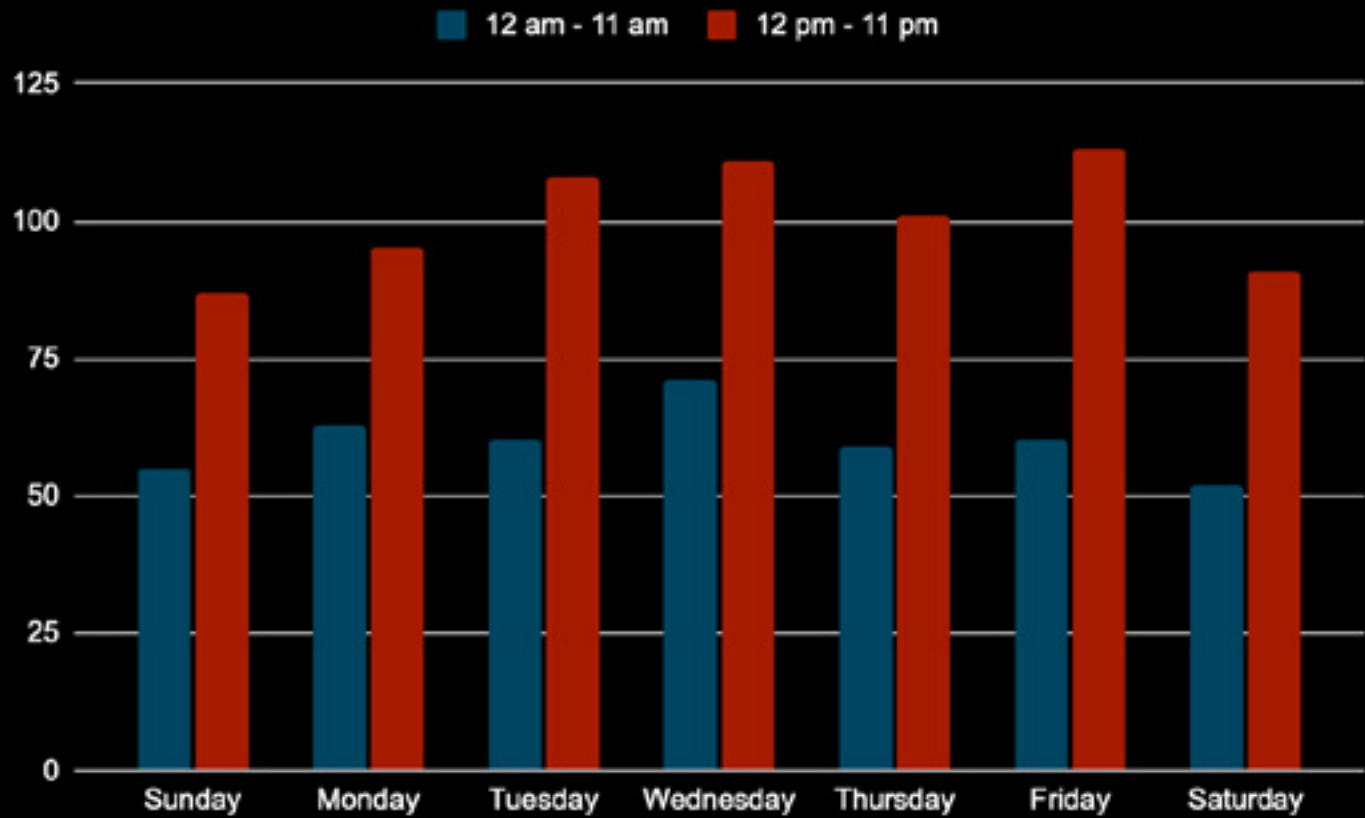
ASST. TREASURER  
GILES HOBACK

CHAPLAIN  
MATTHEW BEARD

NAME	RANK
BRAD CREASY	CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT
MATTHEW SCOTT	DEPUTY CHIEF
NICHOLAS RICE	ASSISTANT CHIEF
CHRIS GARDNER	CAPTAIN
ALEX MCKINNEY	1ST LIEUTENANT
MATTHEW ALLEN	LIEUTENANT
MATTHEW BEARD	FF/PARAMEDIC
JAKE BEISSER	FIREFIGHTER
AMBER BLAIR	FF/EMT
JOEL BRADLEY	FF/AEMT
NICHOLAS CERVI	FF/EMT
BENJAMIN CLARK	FF/EMT
BRYCEN CREASY	JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER
OLIVIA CROFT	FF/EMT
CALEB CRUMPACKER	JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER
WILLIAM CRUMPACKER	FF/PARAMEDIC
BARRY CORNETT	FF/EMT
BILLY CREASEY	FF/EMT
BRANDON CROUCH	FIREFIGHTER
GREG FULTON	FF/EMT
JOSEPH GHORBRIAL	FF/PARAMEDIC
RYAN GORE	JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER
QUENTIN GRAY	FF/EMT
GILES HOBACK	FIREFIGHTER
RYAN KING	FIREFIGHTER
BRANDON LONG	FIREFIGHTER
EVAN MANN	FIREFIGHTER
ROBERT MANSUETI	FF/EMT
CURTIS MARSHALL	FF/PARAMEDIC
KINCAID MARTIN	FF/PARAMEDIC
COLTON MAURER	FF/EMT
PAUL MASON	FIREFIGHTER
BRENT MCCARTHY	FF/EMT
MARVIN MCGINNIS	FF/AEMT
JOHN MOORE	FF/EMT
JON OHLINGER	FF/PARAMEDIC
JACOB OVERSTREET	FF/EMT
AUSTIN PALMORE	FF/PARAMEDIC
JAMES PARKER	FF/EMT
DECKLYN POWELL	FF/PARAMEDIC
BRANDON REITZ	FF/PARAMEDIC
MIRANDA RIPLEY	FF/EMT
THOMAS SCHACTER	FF/EMT
RUSSELL STEVENS	FIREFIGHTER
TODD STONE	FF/EMT
BENJAMIN SWEENEY	FF/PARAMEDIC
ELI TUCK	FF/EMT
JOSEPH WHITESELL	FF/EMT
ADDISON WIECKING	FF/PARAMEDIC
STACEY WILLS	FF/PARAMEDIC
NOAH ZIEGLER	FF/EMT

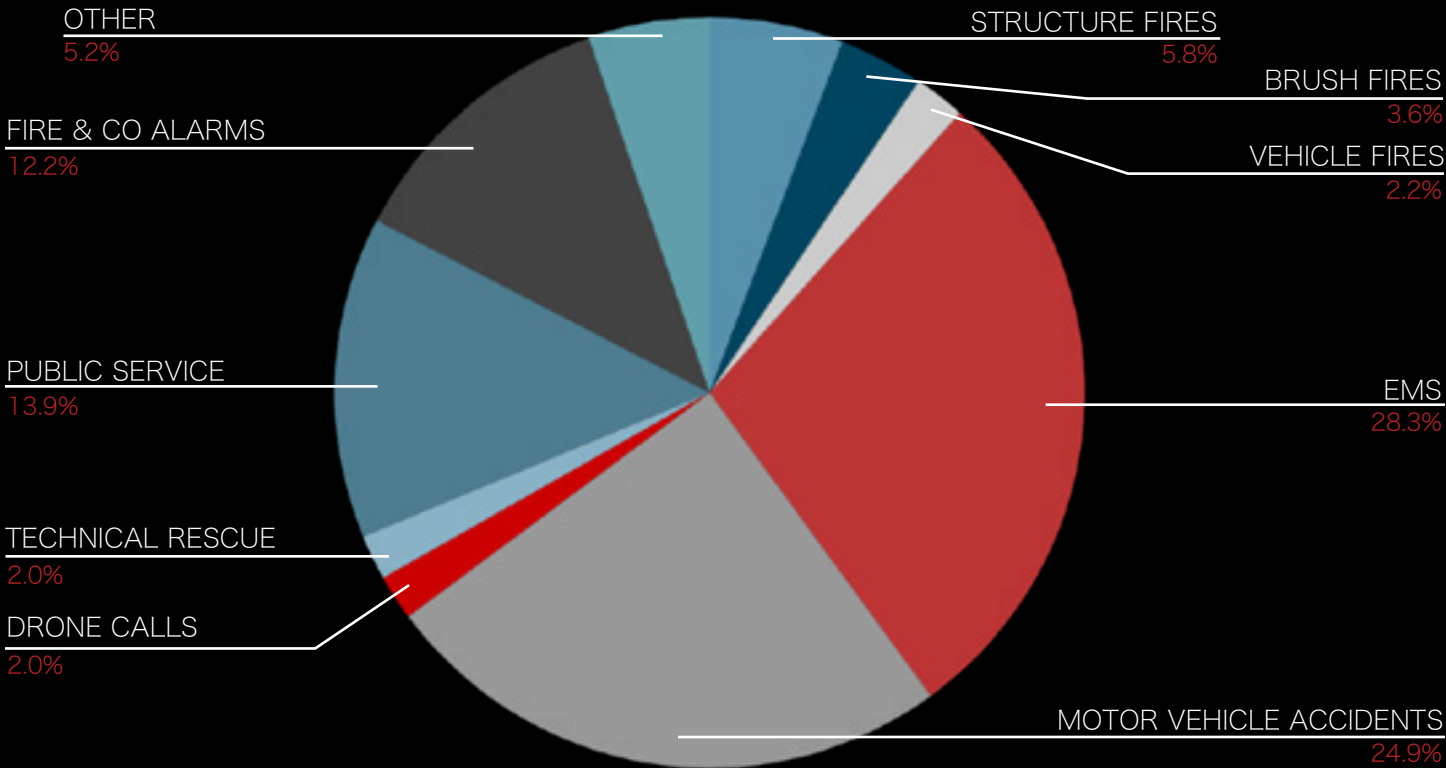


NUMBER OF CALLS BY  
TIME & DAY OF WEEK



DAY OF WEEK	12 AM - 11 AM	12 PM - 11 PM
SUNDAY	55	87
MONDAY	63	95
TUESDAY	60	108
WEDNESDAY	71	111
THURSDAY	59	101
FRIDAY	60	113
SATURDAY	52	91
TOTAL	420	706

PERCENTAGE OF CALLS BY INCIDENT TYPE



NUMBER OF CALLS BY INCIDENT TYPE

STRUCTURE FIRES (BUILDING FIRES, COOKING FIRES, CHIMNEY FIRES, ETC.)	65
BRUSH FIRES	41
VEHICLE FIRES	25
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE	319
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	280
DRONE CALLS	22
TECHNICAL RESCUES	22
PUBLIC SERVICE	156
FIRE & CO ALARMS	137
OTHER	59
TOTAL	1,126



AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**  
DEPUTY CHIEF MATTHEW SCOTT

**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**  
FIREFIGHTER EVAN MANN

**ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR**  
FIREFIGHTER/EMT COLTON MAURER

**INTERN OF THE YEAR**  
FIREFIGHTER/EMT JOSEPH WHITESELL

**JUNIOR OF THE YEAR**  
FIREFIGHTER BRYCEN CREASY

TOP 10

- MATTHEW SCOTT - 763 RUNS
- ELI TUCK - 574 RUNS
- JOSEPH WHITESELL - 417 RUNS
- BENJAMIN CLARK - 411 RUNS
- MATTHEW ALLEN - 369 RUNS
- GILES HOBACK - 350 RUNS
- MATTHEW BEARD - 336 RUNS
- TODD STONE - 326 RUNS
- ZEPH CUNNINGHAM - 322 RUNS
- ALEX MCKINNEY - 304 RUNS

YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

- 25 YEARS - BRAD CREASY
- 20 YEARS - ZEPH CUNNINGHAM
- 15 YEARS - CURTIS MARSHALL
- 10 YEARS - ALEX MCKINNEY & BARRY CORNETT

PUBLIC EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Several Public Service Announcements (PSA) were filmed and produced by Watts Creative Studios. PSA topics included holiday cooking safety, free smoke detector program, and the Close Before You Doze campaign.
- The fire department handed out candy and glowing necklaces on Halloween to ensure children and parents were visible while crossing streets.
- The fire department promoted fire safety and education at Centerfest by handing out fire safety coloring books, and helmets.
- The fire department participated in the touch-a-truck event at Liberty Lake Park.
- Engine 1 attended a basketball camp sponsored by Bedrock Church to wet down participants on their last day of camp.
- Pre-fire surveys were conducted at several local businesses.
- CPR / AED classes taught to several civic organizations.
- Personnel conducted extinguisher training to several commercial businesses including hospital staff.
- With COVID precautions still in place, numerous school groups and clubs came to the firehouse for fire safety programs and station tours.



Smoke/CO Detectors Installed - **11**  
Community Events - **9**  
Senior/General Education Programs - **4**  
Apparatus Visits - **17**  
Station Tours - **29**



## 1958 GMC "TANK TRUCK" REFURBISHMENT



A piece of department history was salvaged in 2016 when a 1958 GMC "tank truck" that was originally purchased by the department was returned by a private owner. The chassis was originally purchased from Murray Chevrolet and the body was purpose built by Truck Body Corp of Lynchburg. The Bedford Fire Department donated the tank truck to the Montvale Volunteer Fire Department in 1972 after taking delivery of a 1971 Chevrolet/Oren 1000 gallon tanker.

The truck was sold to a private owner in 1988 and remained on a farm until 2015. After several years in storage, a donation from an estate provided the company a small budget to refurbish the truck in 2019. The truck received new paint, tires, chrome trim, and original emergency equipment that Montvale VFD donated back. Vinyl graphics replaced the original hand-painted letters but mirror the original font and size. The antique truck will not only make appearances in parades but will also be used during public education and fire safety events. A special thanks to FF James Parker and FF Greg Fulton for their work to see this project through.

## JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

The Junior Firefighter Program was implemented in April 2020. The program is designed for young adults between the ages of 15 – 18 who are interested in learning about the fire service and volunteering to help the community. It provides opportunities to learn about the job of a firefighter, with an emphasis on teaching teamwork, community involvement, pride, leadership and respect for the environment. Participants are afforded the same benefits as full members with regards to training opportunities, pay per call benefits, and enrollment in LOSAP. With the parents approval, junior firefighters can enroll in the Firefighter I course that is offered annually within the county. Once a junior member completes the 190 hour course and successfully passes the written and practical tests, he or she can participate in fire suppression activities just the same as adult firefighters. The program has proven that it can expose youth to the rewards of volunteering but also educate youth on the opportunities of a career in the fire service.





APPARATUS



Engine 1  
2007 Seagrave Marauder II  
1,500 GPM/750 Gallons



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



Wagon 1  
2014 Seagrave Marauder II  
1,500 GPM/1,000 Gallons



Ladder 1  
2007 Seagrave Marauder II  
100' Tractor Drawn Aerial



Rescue 1  
2015 Piece Arrow XT Walk-In  
Heavy Rescue



Brush 1  
2009 Ford F450  
300 GPM/300 Gallons



Utility 1  
2017 Chevrolet 2500  
EMS Response Vehicle



Support 1  
2018 Chevrolet 2500  
Rehab / Hydrant Maintenance Vehicle



Command 1  
2017 Chevrolet Tahoe  
Chiefs Vehicle



Remote Access Vehicle 1 (RAV-1)  
2013 Polaris Ranger 900 Diesel



## TRAINING







**CONNECT WITH US**

 BEDFORD\_FIRE

 BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

**WEBSITE:** [HTTP://WWW.BEDFORDFD.COM/](http://www.bedfordfd.com/)

**PHONE:** (540) 586-3433

