

2024 Lawrence Fire Department Annual Report



April 1, 2025

Town of Lawrence Town Board and Town Administrator

On behalf of Lawrence Fire Department, the Town of Lawrence, and the dedicated staff of the department, I am honored to present you with the 2024 Annual Report.

The past year has been a year to prepare for the future. The report reviews many of these initiatives and provides details of response statistics as well as outlines the plans for the department.

In 2024, the Lawrence Fire Department with its EMS partners from De Pere Fire Rescue responded to a combined total of 526 fire and emergency medical calls. This is an increase from the previous year.

Moving forward to 2025, the Fire Department will continue to strive to deliver the highest level of service to the community in the most efficient manner with the available resources. The department will maintain, as its highest priority, the safety of both the residents and department members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Luke F. Pasterski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Luke" and last name "Pasterski" clearly legible.

Luke F. Pasterski, Fire Chief

Executive Summary

The purpose of the annual report is to report on events, accomplishments, and services of the Lawrence Fire Department. Information is compiled from the Fire Department's data management and reporting software (Image Trend Elite), as well as from the County's 911 dispatch software and the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

The firefighters have been busy this past year and continue to adapt well to all the challenges that come with new initiatives and changes. We have an excellent group of firefighters that work hard to serve the community.

The Lawrence Fire Department has a membership of 30 members. The Fire Department has had resignations but has also been able to recruit new members.

The Fire Department protects 16 sq. mi. within the Town of which approximately one quarter of the Town has hydrants, and the remaining three quarters are non-hydrant areas. The Fire Department protects an estimated population of 6,936. The Town has seen significant growth in the last year. Growth is projected to continue exponentially for the foreseeable future.

Lawrence Fire Department will face challenges in the future which include staffing, building needs, vehicle replacement and the need for a long-term strategy to match the growth of the Town.

The Lawrence Fire Department, through its dedicated members, is committed to providing the highest level of public safety services for our community. We protect lives and property through fire suppression, emergency medical response, disaster management, fire prevention and public education.

Vision

The Lawrence Fire Department will prepare members to competently perform all duties of the job to serve the community. Each member will be well-trained in the most current practices of firefighting and emergency medical services as well as personal safety and health.

The Lawrence Fire Department will provide consistent, reliable, and efficient emergency services to the community. The Lawrence Fire Department will serve the community by working as partners with businesses to provide fire code enforcement assistance and pre-planning to reduce the chance of loss of life and property. The Lawrence Fire Department members will also serve the community through education by sharing fire safety information, injury prevention messages and act as positive community role models.

Each member of the Lawrence Fire Department will pass on their training and experience to other members, thereby improving the ability and effectiveness of the department to serve the community. Members of the Lawrence Fire Department will treat employment in the department with honor and respect by appreciating that it is a privilege and not a right.

Department

The Lawrence Fire Department was established in 1956 and was originally located in a small two stall garage in unincorporated Little Rapids. Since then, we have grown into a well-respected and efficient department. In 2009, the Lawrence First Responders were formed. In 2022, the Lawrence First Responders became members of the Lawrence Fire Department.

In 2016 The Lawrence Fire Department entered into an auto aid agreement with several neighboring fire departments creating the Fox River Fire District. Fire Departments included in this auto aid agreement are De Pere, Ashwaubenon, Hobart, Ledgeview, Bellevue, and Lawrence. These departments assist each other with structure fires by simultaneously being paged to respond to each other's structure fire calls.

The Lawrence Fire Department is also a member of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Division 112, which includes all fire departments in Brown County. Using MABAS, box cards are created to efficiently dispatch pre-determined resources for specific types of incidents. These incidents include structure fires, mass casualty incidents, water/ice rescue, brush fires, technical rescues, and hazardous materials incidents.

We currently operate seven apparatus out of two stations. One of the apparatuses is a command vehicle assigned to the duty chief.

- Station 1 is located at 2595 French Road and houses four apparatus.
- Station 2 is located at 1780 Crimson Court and houses two apparatus.

Our services include fire prevention, fire suppression, rescue, EMS, and public education.

The fire department meets a minimum of twice a month. Training consists of fire suppression, vehicle extrication, and EMS, just to name a few.

Firefighters/First Responders

The Lawrence Fire Department currently has 30 members.

- All the members are trained in CPR/AED.
- 29 members are trained in fire and rescue.
- 17 members are trained in EMS at the following levels:
 - 6 - Paramedics
 - 1 – Advanced EMT
 - 6- EMT-Basic
 - 4 – Emergency Medical Responder

We also have a Medical Director, who first responds to calls, as needed to support our staff.

These men and women attend hundreds of hours of training so they can bring these professional services to our residents.

2024 Personnel Changes

<u>New Hires</u>	<u>Retirements/Resignations</u>
Bill Tews	Jacob Kane
Stephen Haas	Brady Schomaker
Doug Mc Donough	Eric Woodke

Training

Department training is conducted twice a month as a group. Staff also attend other training opportunities as they are offered. Topics include:

- Fit Test and Gear Inspection
- SCBA Drill
- Radio Ops/Scene Size Up/IC
- Engine Company Ops
- Pump Ops
- Tender Ops
- Ladder Ops
- VEIS/Mayday/RIT
- Drone
- Water Rescue
- Apparatus Driving Course
- Extrication
- Standpipe
- Hazmat
- EMS
- CPR/AED
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Report Writing
- SOG Review

Total 2024 Agency Training Hours: 764

Training

A fire department's risk is high, and a training program must be designed to match that risk. The 2024 fire training program was designed to better detail training tailored to the Town's risk. The Lawrence Fire Department trains a minimum of twice per month, with additional members training more often on specialty items. Total hours dedicated to training in 2024 were department training, mandated refresher, and new hire training. Specialized training in 2024 included pump ops, EMR, and officer development. Based on attendance, this resulted in 764 training hours.



Demographics

The Lawrence Fire Department protects about 16.1 square miles and approximately 6,936 residents of the Town of Lawrence, a small portion of Hobart, and the Fox River Fire District. Of the Town of Lawrence, about 25% have fire hydrants, the rest do not.

Calls for service are shown below but have grown tremendously in recent years and are continually trending upwards.

2024 Incidents

Total Calls	526
Total Fire Calls	216
Total EMS Calls	310
Total Calls LWFD not dispatched to nursing home	86
Total Calls LWFD responded to	339

2024 Incidents by Type



2024 Incident Response

The Town of Lawrence had 526 calls for service. Of those total calls, 216 were fire and 310 were EMS. Of those calls, 86 were calls to a nursing home in which the Lawrence Fire Department is not dispatched. Those calls are handled solely by our ambulance provider. There were also 101 EMS calls, for which no Lawrence Fire Department member was able to respond. Those calls were also handled solely by our ambulance provider. It is important to note that all calls were responded to by Lawrence Fire Department personnel or our ambulance provider. The Lawrence Fire Department responded to 339 calls in 2024, which is a decrease from 413 calls in 2023 but an increase from 215

calls in 2022 and 139 calls in 2021. This is partially due to a change in reporting processes and responding to more EMS calls. Auto Aid and Mutual Aid were received and given through the MABAS system. A large majority of the calls are still good intent calls, which include cancelled en route.

When determining Lawrence’s efficiency and/or addressing future resource needs, it is required to examine the historical occurrences of emergencies. Call volume classification is defined by the National Fire Incident Reporting System and is based on the initial complainant call to the 911 dispatch center as well as the situations discovered upon arrival. In Lawrence, fire call volume is the single largest aspect of overall 911 requests. The national average for EMS calls is 64.2%. Incidents by hour are trending in Lawrence in parallel with the state and national averages. With more people working at home, the daytime call volume has increased. This trend has been consistent for the last ten years in Wisconsin.

2024 Response Time Data

The standard for turnout time for a Fire Department is included in the NFPA 1710 and 1720: Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments. NFPA 1720 4.3.2 Staffing and Response Time does not include a time from which the member is notified; rather, when the first piece of apparatus leaves the station. NFPA 1720 does provide standards for response times based on the population within a square mile as illustrated in table below.

Table 22: NFPA 1720 Staffing & Response Times

NFPA 1720 Staffing & Response Times (2014 Edition)				
<i>Demand Zone^a</i>	<i>Demographics</i>	<i>Minimum Staff^b</i>	<i>Response Time^c</i>	<i>Meet Objective</i>
Urban Area	>1,000 people/Sq. Mi.	15	9 Minutes	90% of the time
Suburban Area	500-1,000 People/Sq. Mi.	10	10 Minutes	80% of the time
Rural Area	<500 People/Sq. Mi.	6	14 Minutes	80% of the time
Remote Area	Travel Distance ≥ 8 Mi.	4	Based on Travel Distance	90% of the time
Special Risks	As Determined by AHJ	Based on Risk	AHJ	90% of the time

These times ranging in NFPA 1720 from 9 minutes to 14 minutes should be met 90% of the time. Lawrence Fire Departments data below is reflective of only emergent calls, and not non-emergency Goodwill, Service, and certain false alarm calls. Lawrence falls into the rural area with an average of 430 people per square mile.

In 2024 Lawrence Fire Department had a response time from time of dispatch to time of arrival of the first arriving apparatus of 9 minutes and 1 seconds, which is consistent from past years. These times are much better than the NFPA recommendations. With the continuation of the Paid-on-Premise model of day staffing, we should continue to meet this standard.

Response times and staffing are two anchors in data that reflect the ability to save lives, and data that needs improvement. The likely real cause is Firefighter Turn Out Time. This is defined as the time to come from home, load the fire apparatus, and respond out the door. Lawrence’s turnout time for the calendar year 2024 was 4 minutes and 1 second. In other words, if staff were in the station, the overall response time in 2024 to emergency calls would result in response time averages of less than 5 minutes for the first arriving mitigation unit. This would, of course, be ideal.

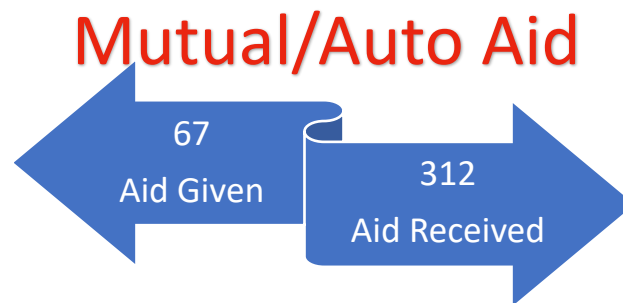
Incident Response Staff

As outlined above, the Lawrence Fire Department was dispatched to 440 calls for service in 2024. Not all calls receive the same response in terms of workforce, apparatus, etc. The dispatch and thus responses are tailored to risk. Certain individuals over others respond to more calls and this is a result of occupation, proximity to a fire station, and other availability factors.

Mutual Aid

In 2016, the Lawrence Fire Department entered into an auto-aid agreement with several neighboring fire departments creating the Fox River Fire District. Fire Departments included in this auto-aid agreement are De Pere, Ashwaubenon, Hobart, Lawrence, Ledgeview, and Bellevue. We assist one another with structure fires by simultaneously being paged to respond to each other's structure fires.

The Lawrence Fire Department is also a member of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Division 112, which includes all fire departments in Brown County. Using MABAS, box cards are created to efficiently dispatch pre-determined resources for a specific type of incident. These incidents include structure fires, mass casualty incidents, water/ice rescue, brush fires, technical rescues, and hazardous materials incidents.



Most of the Auto Aid received calls were for EMS calls.

Mutual and Auto Aid is essential for fire ground safety.

The suggested number of fire service personnel by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) is as follows:

Single-Family Dwelling —The initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical 2,000 sq. ft. (186 m²), two-story, single-family dwelling without a basement and with no exposures must provide for a minimum of 14 members (15 if an aerial device is used).

Open-Air Strip Mall —The initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical open-air strip shopping center ranging from 13,000 ft² to 196,000 sq. ft. (1203 m² to 18,209 m²) in size must provide for a minimum of 27 members (28 if an aerial device is used).

Garden-Style Apartment — The initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical 1200 sq. ft. (111 m²) apartment within a three-story, garden-style apartment building must provide for a minimum of 27 members (28 if an aerial device is used).

The above recommendations are for hydrant areas, so areas without hydrants require more staff to supply water. No one department in Brown County other than the Green Bay Metro Fire Department can comply with this standard, so all other municipalities rely on neighboring departments to comply with this standard. This also helps maintain competency in staff since their training is put in place more often, which also increases firefighter safety.

2024 Fire Inspections

Fire inspections are completed twice a year for each occupancy in the Town by our team of fire inspectors.



These include inspections in the first half and in the second half of the year.

Inspectors also work directly with the building inspector to assist with new building review, occupancy inspections, and to address any Planning and Development issues that need attention.

In addition to inspections, fire investigation functions were conducted in 2024.

Fire Prevention Education



To reduce the loss of life, injury, and property loss, the Lawrence Fire Department provides education to the public as part of its mission. As the hazards presented to the public change, so will the program offerings to the public. It is the department's intent to keep the education of our firefighters current to better offer training to the public about the hazards faced by members of the public and how to better avoid them.

While it is a core mission of the Lawrence Fire Department to respond to and mitigate incidents in Lawrence, it is also the department's mission to reduce the number and severity of those incidents by proper code development and enforcement, effective and efficient response, and ongoing public education. It is through this continuous and comprehensive program of education that the department maintains a culture of safety in the community. This general program area of public education is vital to the success of the fire department's mission. In 2023, services included educational activities, including demonstrations, fire education, and fire extinguisher training.

ISO Audit

In July, the Lawrence Fire Department participated in an ISO audit. This audit is conducted by Insurance Services Office, Inc.

Introduction

ISO collects and evaluates information from communities in the United States on their structure fire suppression capabilities. The data is analyzed using our Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), and then a Public Protection Classification (PPC®) grade is assigned to the community. The surveys are conducted whenever it appears that there is a possibility of a PPC change. As such, the PPC program provides important, up-to-date information about fire protection services throughout the country.

The FSRS recognizes fire protection features only as they relate to suppression of first alarm structure fires. In many communities, fire suppression may be only a small part of the fire department's overall responsibility. ISO recognizes the dynamic and comprehensive duties of a community's fire service and understands the complex decisions a community must make in planning and delivering emergency services. However, in developing a community's PPC grade, only features related to reducing property losses from structural fires are evaluated. Multiple alarms, simultaneous incidents and life safety are not considered in this evaluation. The PPC program evaluates fire protection for small to average size buildings. Specific properties with a Needed Fire Flow in excess of 3,500 gpm are evaluated separately and assigned an individual PPC grade.

A community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Statistical data on insurance losses bears out the relationship between excellent fire protection – as measured by the PPC program – and low fire losses. So, insurance companies use PPC information for marketing, underwriting, and to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire

insurance. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC grade is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC grade, assuming all other factors are equal. ISO is an independent company that serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments, insurance regulators, and others by providing information about risk. ISO's expert staff collects information about municipal fire suppression efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data and assigns a PPC grade – a number from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

ISO's PPC program evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria, incorporating nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association. A community's PPC grade depends on:

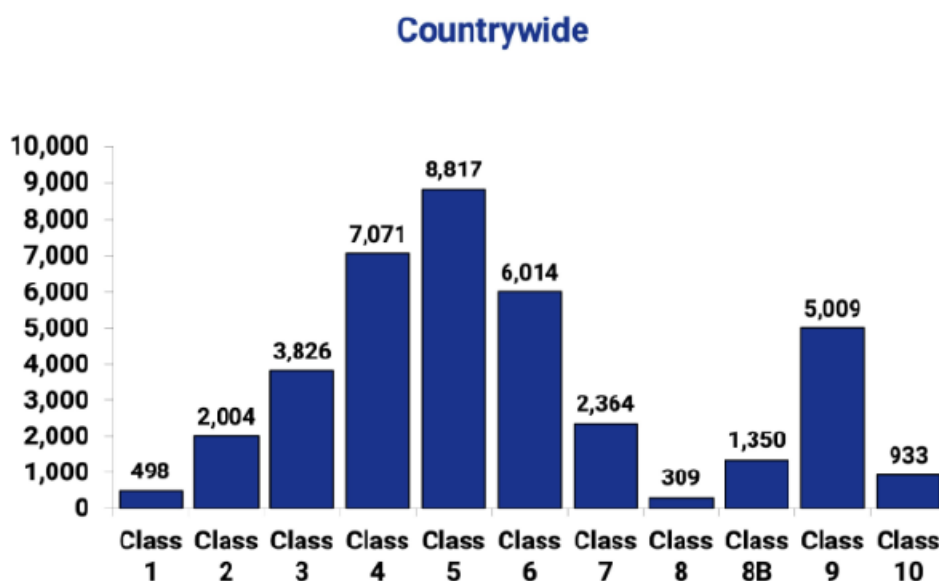
Needed Fire Flows, which are representative building locations used to determine the theoretical amount of water necessary for fire suppression purposes.

Emergency Communications, including emergency reporting, telecommunicators, and dispatching systems.

Fire Department, including equipment, staffing, training, geographic distribution of fire companies, operational considerations, and community risk reduction.

Water Supply, including inspection and flow testing of hydrants, alternative water supply operations, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires up to 3,500 gpm.

After the audit was completed, the hydrant area remained at an ISO rating of 3, and the non-hydrant area improved to a rating of 5. This was an increase from the previous ISO rating. We were able to do that by providing our department's training and our auto aid and mutual aid agreements.



As you can see from the chart above, the Lawrence Fire Department is far above the national average. This is of benefit to our residents because this is one of the things factored in for insurance premiums.

Fire Loss

Structure fire dollars loss in 2024 was estimated at approximately \$321,000. This is from two residential fires. Vehicle fire loss was greater, and we do not have accurate pre-fire valuation records.

<u>24LW00244</u>	<u>24LW00280</u>
06-25-24	07-25-24
1839 Misty Moon Way	2949 Gentle Hills Drive
Property Loss of \$25,000	Property Loss of \$231,000
Contents Loss of \$5,000	Contents Loss of \$60,000
17 Staff, 2.25 hours	11 staff, 4 hours
Cause lighting strike	Cause combustible chemical



Significant Events

- 05/11/24 Fox Cities Duathlon
- 05/27/24 Memorial Day Parade
- 06/25/24 Misty Moon Way fire
- 06/30/24 Food Truck Rally, \$6,016.62 total donations
- 07/25/24 Gentle Hills fire
- 07-29-24 24LW00249 Manure tanker spill, Reimbursed \$3812 for clean-up.
- 08/26/24 National Night Out, Participated with HLPD at Hemlock Creek School
- 10/04/24 School Fire Safety Talks
- 10/05/24 Hemlock Fun Run
- 10/17/24 24LW00412 I 41 crash with five vehicles, multiple injuries and vehicle fire, occupant rescued by tow truck driver.





Completed Action Items

- Standard Operation Guideline updates and additions
- Implementation of new records management program
- Several radio grants applied for
- Received new command vehicle
- Placed order for new engine
- ISO Audit
- Equipment replacement plan
- Yearly report
- Web site updates
- 2025 and nine-year department budget
- Monthly apparatus check forms
- Station monitors
- Pressure washers
- Sawzall and cut off tools
- SCBA bottle rack
- Apparatus tires replacement
- 2024 Sling scheduling
- IT Elite forms
- Driver Operator Training
- Portable Radio Purchase



Future Capital Item Proposal Requests

- New Station
 - As noted in the McGrath study, there is a need for station upgrades such as: Fire alarm and protection system, exhaust removal system, and just more space. A space needs study was completed by 5 Bugels, which should give the Town a better understanding of what the recommendations are moving forward.

Future Action Items/Major Initiatives and Activities/Goals for 2025.

The 2024 calendar year was both exciting and challenging. The new organizational structure added emphasis on training and duty shift implementation created challenging but rewarding results. The fire department, its officers and staff remain committed to delivering expected services to the citizens and businesses of Lawrence. Goals for 2025 include the following key items:

1. Complete open action items from 2024.
2. Completing the plans for new station need.
3. Switch from NFIRS to NERIS national reporting.
4. Address opportunities that may arise from WI Act 12, including partnering, functional consolidations, fire district formation or other non-determined collaboration.
5. Prepare Lawrence Fire Department for 2026

Conclusions

In closing, we would like to thank the Town staff, Town Administrator, and the Town Board for your continued support.