

# City of Fairfax Fire Department Annual Report 2024



JOHN O'NEAL  
FIRE CHIEF

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# Message From Chief O'Neal

FEBRUARY 25, 2025



Dear Residents of the City of Fairfax,

On behalf of our dedicated, compassionate, and service-oriented members of the City of Fairfax Fire Department, it is an honor to share with you our 2024 Annual Report that highlights many of our accomplishments and services provided to the community.

In the past year, our team has worked tirelessly to enhance our emergency and non-emergency services, deepen community engagement, and adapt to the evolving needs of our city. The city and department also took great strides to address capital projects and enhance emergency medical service delivery.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members, I would like to highlight a few of our successes:

- In partnership with our Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD) partners, we transferred ownership of Fire Station 3 to the city.
- The city purchased property for the future Fire Station 3.
- Implemented the whole blood administration program for traumatic injuries and other severe blood loss victims.
- With city-elected leadership support, developed and initiated implementation of the EMS in-house pharmacy program to comply with federal and state pharmacy regulations.

While we cannot list every accomplishment, significant event, or challenge from last year, this report shares many of our successes, statistics, and accomplishments for our stakeholders to review. I am truly honored to serve our city and the men and women of our department, which provides life-safety emergency services and community risk-reduction activities to protect life and property.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our career and volunteer members for their service, the mayor, city council, and our citizens for their continued support, and the city leadership team for great collaboration to help us to accomplish our mission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John O'Neal".

Fire Chief

# Mission, Vision, & Core Values



**Vision:** Preparing today to provide a safer tomorrow.

**Mission:** To protect our community through risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery.

## P.R.I.D.E. ...in action



## General Information

The department delivers both emergency and non-emergency services to the city and surrounding areas through a robust automatic aid system, operating from two strategically located fire stations. Services include fire suppression, emergency medical response, technical rescue, building and fire code enforcement, disaster preparedness, and hazard mitigation.

With a full-time equivalent (FTE) staff of 85 personnel, the department maintains daily staffing for two specialized engine companies, one tower ladder, two advanced life support transport units, and one battalion chief. The department is divided into three major cost centers: fire administration, operations, and code administration.





# Fire Administration

The fire administration division is responsible for and coordinates budgeting, strategic planning, performance measurement, operational policy development, EMS protocol development, human resources, training, disaster preparedness, employee health, safety, and wellness.

## \$18,614,192 FY-25 Adopted Budget

### Administration Accomplishments

- Recognized by the American Heart Association for achieving the Lifeline Gold Plus standard for providing outstanding cardiac care for a fifth consecutive year.
- Maintained Commission on Fire Accreditation International, Inc. (CFAI) accredited agency status through annual compliance reporting.
- Completed the peer team site visit for a second five-year term for CFAI accreditation (with the commission hearing set for 2025).
- Continued the feasibility study to replace Fire Station 3 in partnership with the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (FVFD)
- Transferred ownership of Fire Station 3 to the city.
- The city purchased land for the future Fire Station 3.
- Completed the peer team site visit for the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. (Commission hearing set for 2025)
- Conducted 19 emergency management exercises, drills, and training sessions.
- Updated 46 emergency plans, checklists, and operations policies.
- The EOC monitored 61 weather and other public events for reporting and awareness.
- Sought and implemented a new EMS billing contract.

#### 2024 Mission: Lifeline® EMS Recognition

The American Heart Association proudly recognizes

**City of Fairfax Fire Department**  
Fairfax, Virginia

Mission: Lifeline®-EMS - GOLD  
Achievement Award

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recognizes this prehospital provider organization for demonstrating continued success in using the Mission: Lifeline® program. Thank you for applying the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes in the community you serve.\*

*Nancy A. Brown*

Nancy A. Brown  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Heart Association

*Joseph C. Wu, MD, PhD, FAHA*

Joseph C. Wu, MD, PhD, FAHA  
President  
American Heart Association

\*For more information, please visit [heart.org/MissionLifeline](https://heart.org/MissionLifeline)



### Social Media Highlights



Impressions rose 19.2%

Reactions increased by 15.3%

Followers across all  
platforms grew by 9.6%



@cityoffairfaxfiredepartment



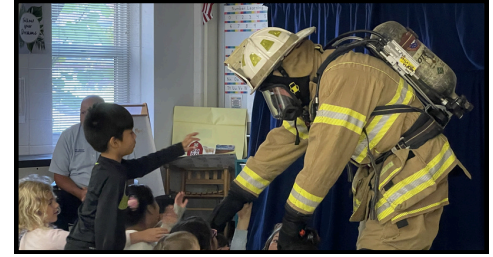
*Pictured above: Station 3, FVFD President Sullivan accepting a check from Mayor Catherine Read for Station 3, Chief O'Neal with Sparky at Fall Festival, and Chief O'Neal welcoming Chief Dunstan to the position of Assistant Chief.*

*Pictured left: Assessment peer team site visit.*



CFAI Category 1 Governance, Category 4 Finance, and Category 9C, Administrative Support & Office Systems

# Community Risk Reduction



The fire department is strategically positioned to mitigate risk in the City of Fairfax. Our firefighters, medics, and inspectors engage with the community daily, gaining valuable insights through medical calls, inspections, and emergency responses. These real-time assessments guide our educational programs and prevention initiatives, allowing us to proactively address safety concerns and reduce potential hazards.

## Overall Accomplishments

- The city council presented public proclamations for CPR awareness, mental health awareness, emergency preparedness, and fire prevention months.
- Hosted our annual Fall Festival open house in conjunction with fire prevention month activities.
- For a third year, provided hands-only CPR training to over 1,100 students and faculty at Katherine Johnson Middle School, in collaboration with Gwyneth's Gift Foundation and the Fairfax City School Board.
- Taught hands-only CPR to St. Leo the Great Catholic School students and assisted in their Heartsafe recognition.
- Participated in National Night Out events with our police department partners throughout the city.
- Participated in numerous neighborhood Halloween parades and Santa rides.

### Code Administration Public Education

- 78 School Programs
- 26 Public Programs, Including FVFD Programs
- 33 Public Safety Trailer Use
- 84 Smoke Alarm Installations
- 276 Number of Adult Contacts
- 1,675 Child/Adolescent Contacts



### Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department

- Held six combined hands-only CPR/AED, stroke recognition, stop the bleed, and fire safety classes for a total of 70 attendees.
- Conducted 69 multi-family building fire safety inspections.
- Provided hands only CPR training to 22 Girl Scouts.
- Installed and/or changed smoke detector batteries in nine residences.

### Office of Emergency Management

- 225 attendees at the Fairfax Village Home for Life Expo.
- Over 150 attendees at the City Preparedness Fair held at the Sherwood Center.
- Published two preparedness newsletters.



### Community Paramedic Outreach

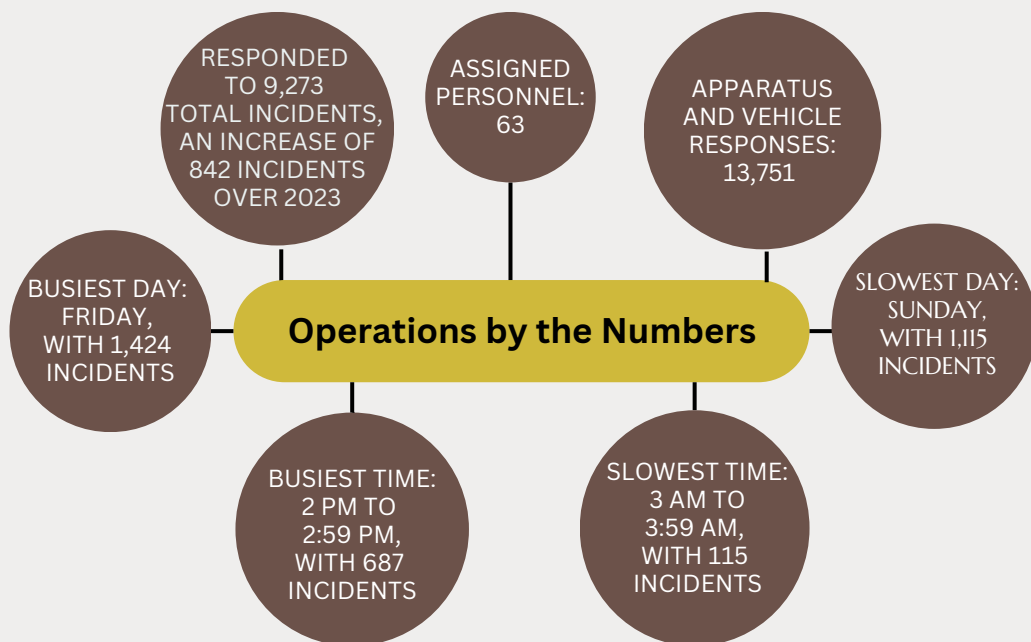
- Conducted 45 in-home fall assessment surveys.
- Presented fall prevention and fire safety information for Fairfax Village - Life Expo.
- Presented three fire safety training events targeting older adults.
- Conducted seven hands-only CPR classes and four stop the bleed courses for the community.
- The community response team responded to 365 calls for service.



# Operations

## Training Achievements

- Completed annual rope training drills for each shift.
- Conducted annual live burns for each shift.
- Eight students completed rescue engine school.
- Seven rescue engine members completed minimum staffing requirements.
- Completed driver task books: one rescue engine, three foam engine driver books, and one tower ladder driver task book.
- Completed tasks books for the following disciplines: seven for fire minimum staffing, one tower officer in charge (OIC), one rescue engine OIC, two foam engine OIC, and two command OIC.
- Completed seven advanced life support (ALS) minimum staffing task books and two medic OIC task books.
- Completed three swift water technician task books.
- Four completed ALS mini school.
- Delivered the department's annual continuing medical education program maintaining state and national certifications.



Personnel completed **more than 30,238** hours of fire, rescue, and EMS training.



## Fire Statistics

- Responded to 207 fire incidents in the city & county.
- 90th percentile first unit response time: 6 min 19 secs
- Completed 582 pre-incident building plans.
- Fire loss from fire: \$218,550
- Property value: \$280,055,250
- Busiest engine: Foam Engine 403 with 2,850 responses



## Operations Accomplishments

- The swiftwater rescue team was part of a joint task force that responded to catastrophic flooding in southwestern Virginia.
- Five firefighters/EMTs attended and graduated from paramedic school.
- One paramedic graduated from firefighter school.
- Three fire-medics completed the critical care paramedic program.
- A foam committee was formed to work toward green foam implementation and the development of a new foam engine platform.
- Implemented the EMS whole blood administration program.
- Conducted cardiac monitor, defibrillator, and ventilator product trials for future implementation.
- Made significant progress towards establishing the EMS in-house pharmacy program.





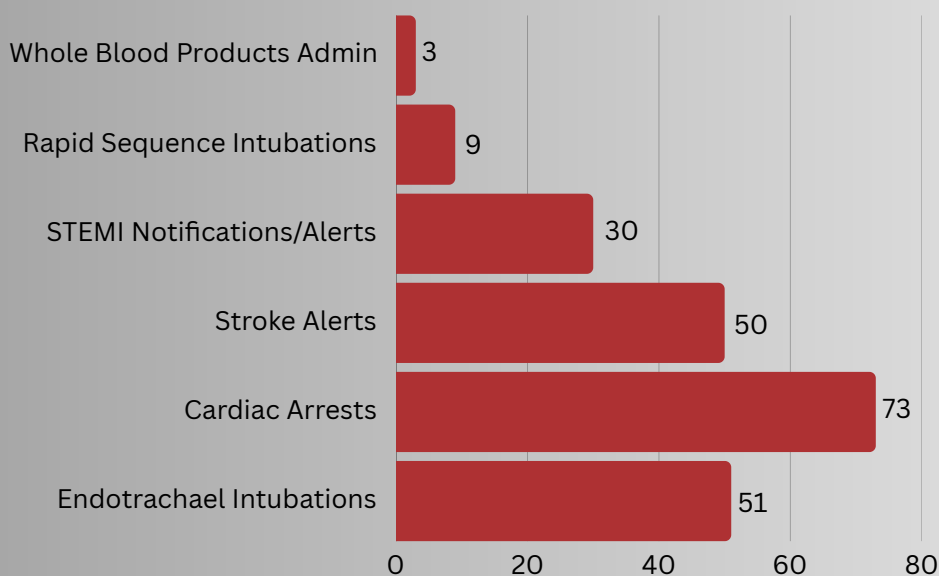
# Operations



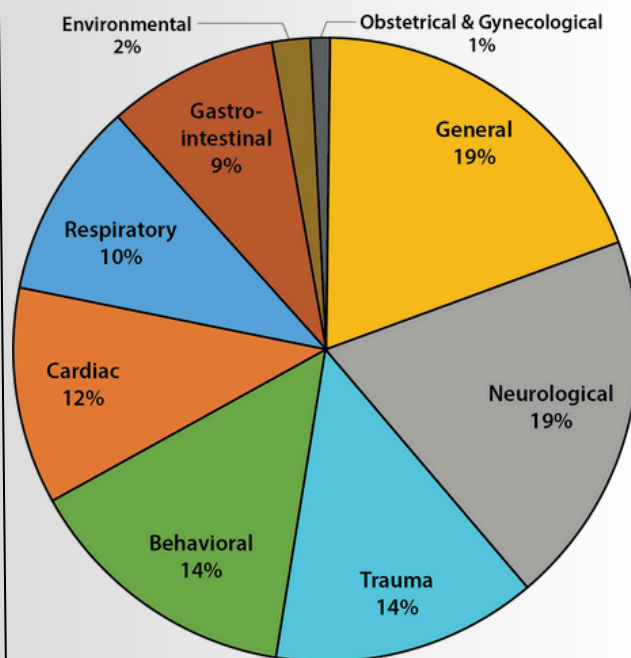
## Rescue & EMS Statistics

- Responded to 6,278 Rescue & EMS incidents
- 90th percentile, first unit response time: 7 min 53 secs
- Treated and transported 3,385 EMS patients
- Average EMS transports per day: 9.27
- Busiest medic unit: Medic 403 with 2,715 responses

## Critical Medical Event Alerts



## EMS Calls by Provider Impression



## Cardiac Arrest Detailed Breakdown

Total Cardiac Arrest Incidents: 73  
 Average Cardiac Arrest Age: 67  
 Percent of Witnessed Arrest: 49.8%  
 Percent of AED by Bystander: 36.9%  
 Cardiac Arrest Incidents with R.O.S.C.: 43.8%





# Code Administration

## Issued Construction Permits

Residential		Commercial
312	Building Permits	193
39	Certificate of Occupancy (CO)	34
1	Temporary COs	1
217	Mechanical Permits	80
329	Gas Permits	93
267	Plumbing Permits	132
339	Electrical Permits	200

Fire Protection Permits: 227  
Total Permits Issued: 2,429  
Plans Reviewed: 998



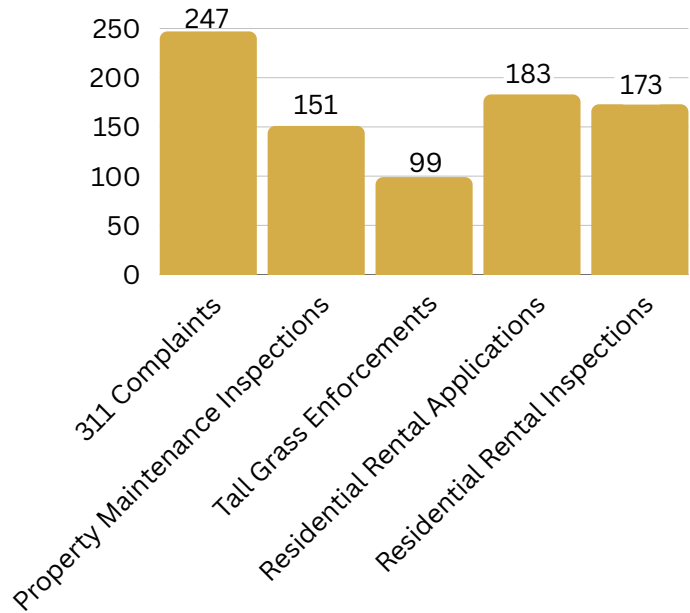
## Inspections Associated with Issued Permits

Residential		Commercial
910	Electrical	528
361	Gas	205
624	Plumbing	547
381	Mechanical	216

Fire Protection: 795  
Stop Work Orders: 31  
Amendments: 103

Total Inspections: 4,670

## Property Maintenance



## Fire Prevention Code

FPC Permits Issued - 1,672  
FPC Inspections - 1,336  
Use Inspections  
(new businesses with/without an FPC) - 164  
Tank Farm Inspections - 48  
Childcare Inspections - 14  
Fire Safety - Multifamily Inspections (FVFD) - 68



## Investigations (Fire and Hazmat)

- Fire Investigations - 13
- Fire Investigations with Arrest - 3
- Fire Investigation Cause**
  - Accidental - 7
  - Electrical - 2
  - Incendiary - 3
  - Undetermined - 1
- Haz-Mat Investigations - 2
- Haz-Mat Investigations with Arrest - 0
- Illicit Discharge Investigations - 2
- Fire Lane Tickets Issued - 42



Our Code Administration Division promotes life and property safety through code compliance and public education. The division is organized into three sections: Fire Marshal's Office, New Construction, and Property Maintenance.



# Physical Resources



## FLEET BY THE NUMBERS

52 total pieces of fleet

412 work orders produced

\$15,790,000 fleet replacement value

\$456,042 motor pool expense

1,655 labor hours for repairs & maintenance

11,720 total downtime hours

96.5% fleet availability

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Completed hose, ladder, and pump testing of all apparatus

Ordered a replacement medic unit

Completed wear trials on extrication gloves and special operations coats

Cleaned and inspected over 140 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Purchased 22 sets of PPE

## Health Wellness and Safety

All operational members completed NFPA 1582-compliant medical physicals.





# Human Resources Activities

## Department Highlights

- Captain Robert Stout attended the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for the Lead, Educate, and Develop (LEAD) program.
- Master Fire Medics Gerald Calaway and Benjamin Hankins graduated from NOVA's Fire Service Leadership Development Institute.
- Lt. Tyler McLaurin graduated from NOVA's Fire Service Leadership Development Institute's Strategic and Tactics course.
- Lt. Thomas Stribling completed the Investigator 1033 certification course.
- Lt. Tyler McLaurin received the NOVA EMS Council Award for Outstanding EMS Leadership.
- FVFD President Bryan Sullivan was recognized by the Inter-Service Club Council as our Volunteer of the Year.
- Swiftwater 443 received a unit citation from The Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards; Battalion Chief John Jeniec, Captain Scott Trottmann, Master Technician Chris Cabbage, and Master Technician Derek Slusher.
- Rescue Engine 433, Medic 403, and Battalion 443 received a unit lifesaving award from The Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards; Assistant Chief Shawn Dunstan, Captain Jon Brantley, Master Tech Skylar Turnbull, Master Fire medic (MFM) Cory Gillespie, MFM Tre Benefield, Lt. Tyler McLaurin, Fire Medic Eric Ransom, and Fire Medic Conor Ryan.



### New Hires

Firefighter Dillion Bennett  
Firefighter Andrew Dennison  
Firefighter Vernon Stuart  
Fire Medic Hunter Smootz  
Fire Medic Lucas Oblaender  
Permit Technician Abagale Bramble  
Building Inspector Fatima Rosemond  
Plans Reviewer Christopher Conroy  
Administrative & Program Manager  
Maria Rice

### Promotions

Assistant Chief Shawn Dunstan  
Battalion Chief John Jeniec  
Battalion Chief Patrick MacKay  
Captain Jonathan Bullock  
Captain Robert Stout  
Lieutenant Jared Cheifetz  
Master Technician Derek Slusher  
Plans Reviewer David Levy  
Senior Building Inspector Joe Selby



### Retirements

Assistant Chief Andrew Vita  
Battalion Chief Page Whitacre

### Resignations

Master Fire Medic Alexx Dahl  
Fire Medic Lucas Oblaender  
Fire Medic Nicholas Cervi  
Fire Medic Justin Barden  
Firefighter Andrei Turets  
Paramedic Thomas Moriarty  
Management & Billing Analyst  
Roseanne Liska



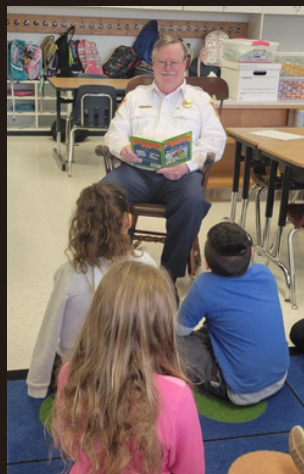




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This publication is dedicated to the memories of Firefighter Joe Altorelli, FVFD Past President and CFFD retired Battalion Chief Joe Mellender, and FVFD Board Member Joe McDonald.

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## City of Fairfax Fire Department

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To request this information in  
another format,  
call 703-385-7940, TTY 711

