

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



A Message From **the Chief**



Chief Brendan Parker
May 2023 - Present

Serving as Fire Chief of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District continues to be both a responsibility and a privilege. Each year brings new challenges, opportunities, and moments that remind me why this work matters and why this organization is so important to the community we serve. The past year was one of growth, transition, and meaningful progress, driven by the dedication of our members and the continued trust placed in us by our residents.

In 2025, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District experienced a record year for total call volume. This increase reflects a growing community and an increasing demand for emergency services. Our firefighters and paramedics met that demand day after day with professionalism, adaptability, and teamwork. Whether responding to routine calls or complex emergencies, our members continued to show resilience and a commitment to serving others, even under difficult circumstances.

Preparing for the future remained a priority throughout the year. The Board of Trustees approved a five-year Strategic Plan covering 2025 through 2029, providing clear direction for growth, staffing, facilities, and service delivery. To support those long-term efforts, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association was retained to conduct a comprehensive fire station feasibility study. We also enhanced our operational capabilities by placing a fifth ambulance into service and bringing a new ladder truck online, while successfully retiring and selling the previous ladder truck.

The past year also included important moments within our organization. We recognized the retirements of Lieutenant Keefe and Firefighter/Paramedic Danielle Reid, whose years of service made a lasting impact on this District. Lieutenant Biederer was officially sworn in, and we proudly launched our first Cadet Program, an investment in the future of the fire service. In addition to daily operations, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District hosted visiting Bomberos from Mexico as part of an international exchange and training opportunity, and members participated in the annual 9/11 Stair Climb.

Throughout the year, our members responded to numerous high-risk and high-visibility incidents, including serious vehicle crashes and an arson fire at the local Walmart. What continues to stand out is the way our team supports one another and steps up when it matters most.

As we look ahead, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District remains committed to thoughtful planning, continuous improvement, and providing the highest level of service possible. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our personnel and the trust of the community we serve. Thank you for taking the time to review this year's Annual Report and for your continued support of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District.

Brendan Parker
Fire Chief Brendan Parker



Board Of Trustees

The Woodstock Fire/Rescue District is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees. The Board serves as the District's policy-making body, and is responsible for providing financial oversight and strategic policy direction.



Fred Spitzer
President



Robert Kristensen
Secretary



Patrick Burke
Treasurer



Scott Ritzert
Trustee



Kim Mueller
Trustee

Board Of Fire Commissioners

Fire Commissioners are responsible for testing, appointing, and promoting sworn full-time personnel. The board also conducts disciplinary hearings.



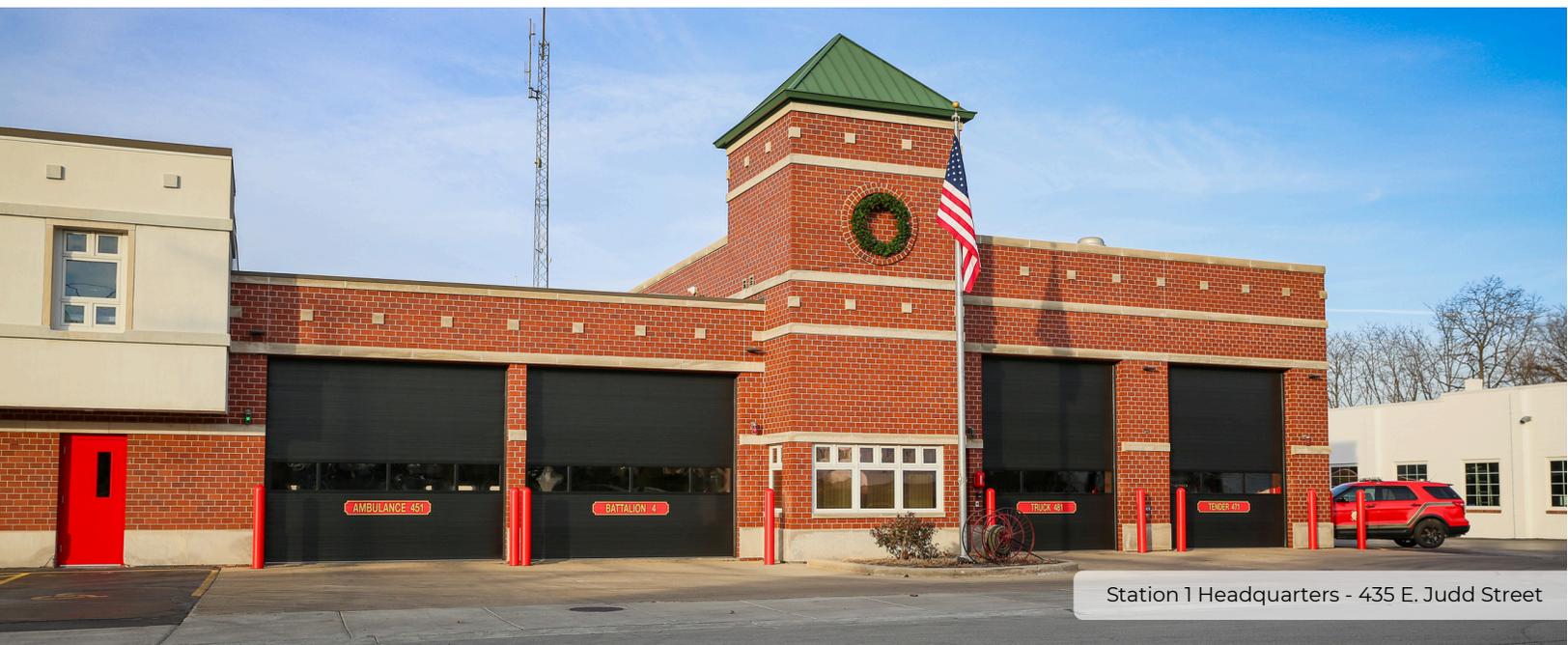
Steve Zimmerman
Chairman



Brian Lopprino
Secretary



Bill Kulinski
Commissioner



Station 1 Headquarters - 435 E. Judd Street

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

The WFRD Administration serves as the backbone of the district, ensuring efficient operations and thoughtful planning to meet the needs of the community. This dedicated team manages daily operations, budgeting, payroll, personnel matters, and long-term initiatives, providing essential support to both emergency responders and the residents they serve.

Composed of individuals with specialized expertise, the administration oversees key areas including training, communications, fleet maintenance, and overall district management. Their collective efforts help ensure personnel are prepared, equipment remains reliable, and the community stays informed and engaged. Through strong partnerships, innovation, and a continued focus on excellence, the administration supports the district's mission while adapting to the evolving needs of the community.



Brendan Parker
Fire Chief



Matt Hedges
Deputy Chief



Chad Williams
Battalion Chief
Training Officer



Scott Nieman
Battalion Chief
Red Shift



Zachary Beatty
Battalion Chief
Gold Shift



Jeffrey Lesniak
Battalion Chief
Black Shift



Kalene Nebert
Executive Administrator



Deann Miller
Office Assistant



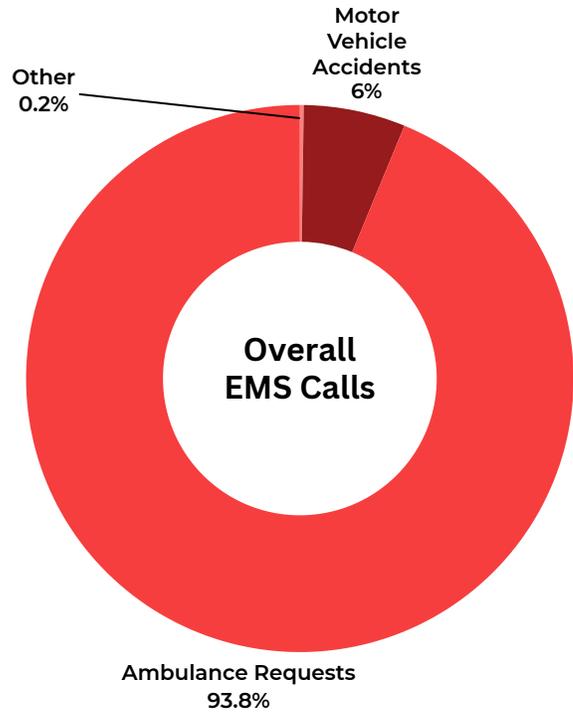
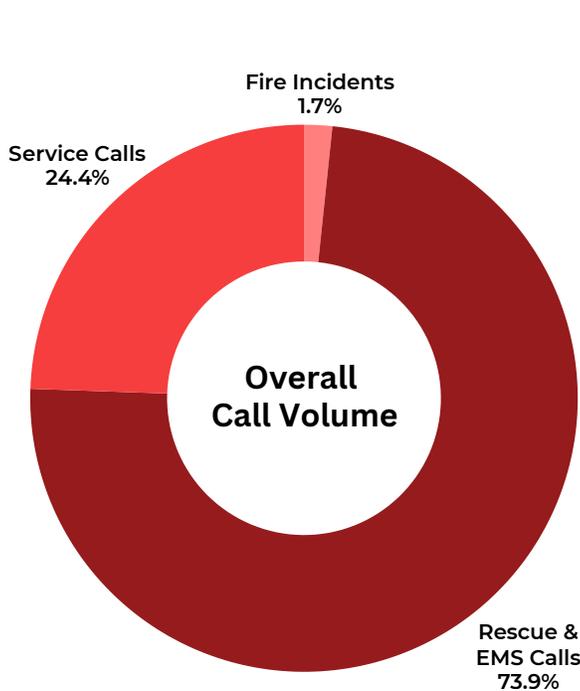
Alexander Vucha
Public Information Officer



Michael Shannon
Fleet Mechanic

CALL STATISTICS

In 2025, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District responded to **5,898 calls for service**. This represents a 4.02% increase over the prior year and reflects nearly a 30% increase in call volume over the past five years. This sustained upward trajectory underscores the community's evolving needs and the district's ongoing commitment to delivering effective and efficient emergency services.

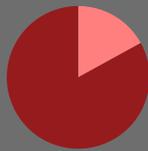


Overall Fires In 2025



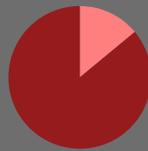
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Structures



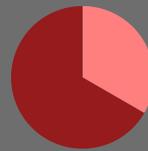
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Vehicles



9

Appliances



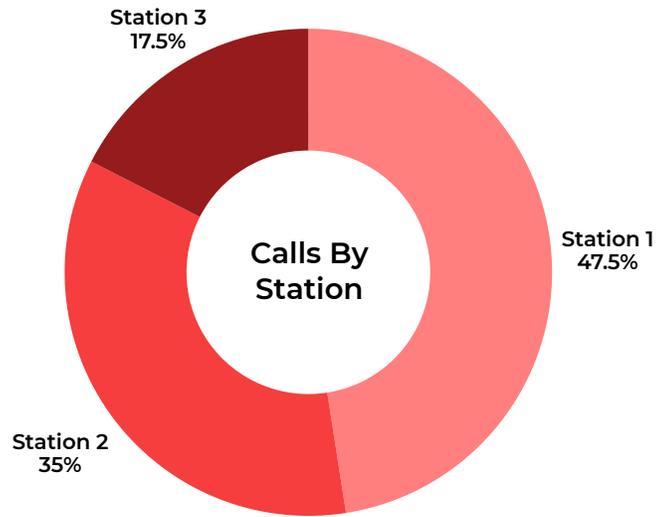
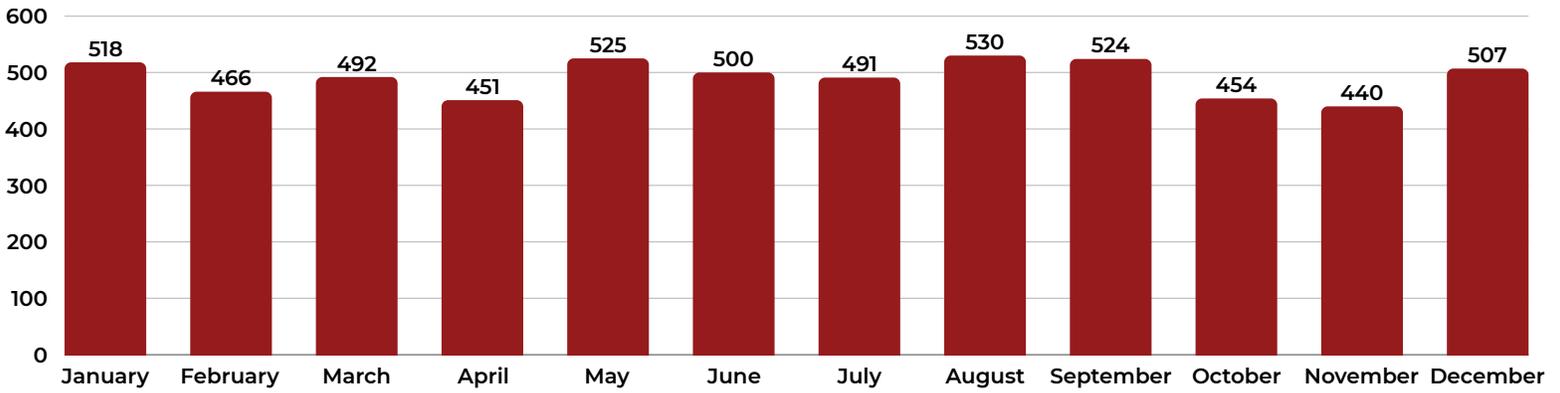
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Other

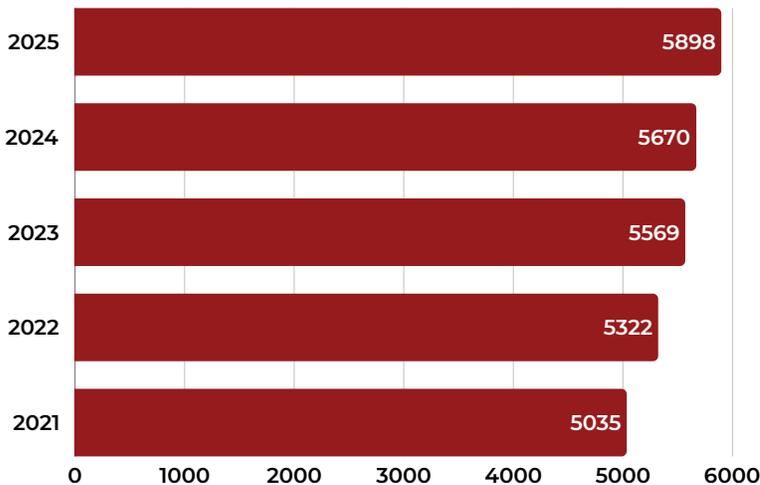


CALL STATISTICS

2025 Calls By Month

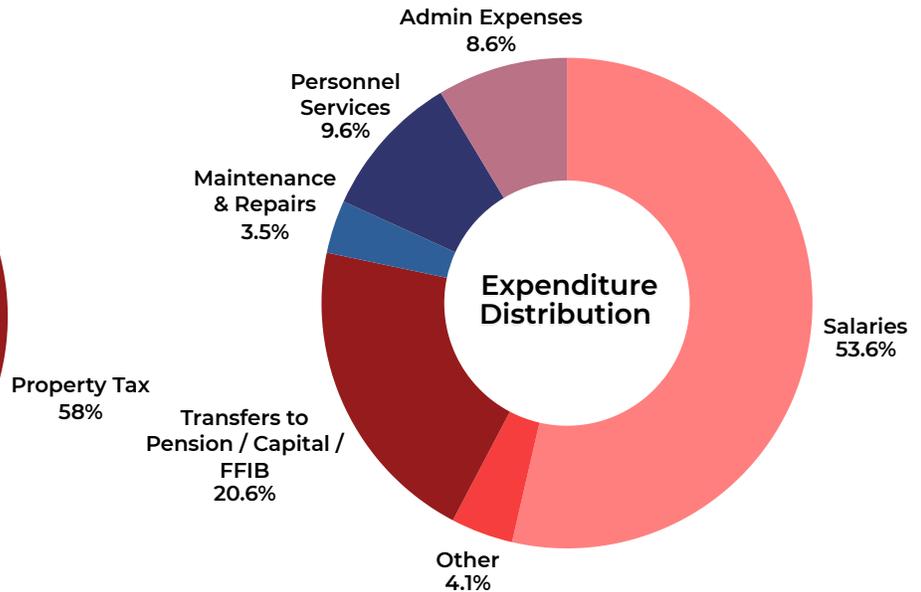
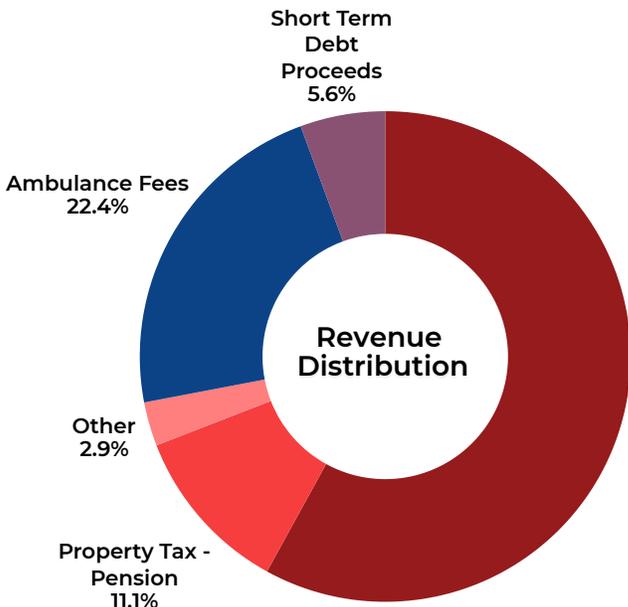


5 Years Of Call Volume



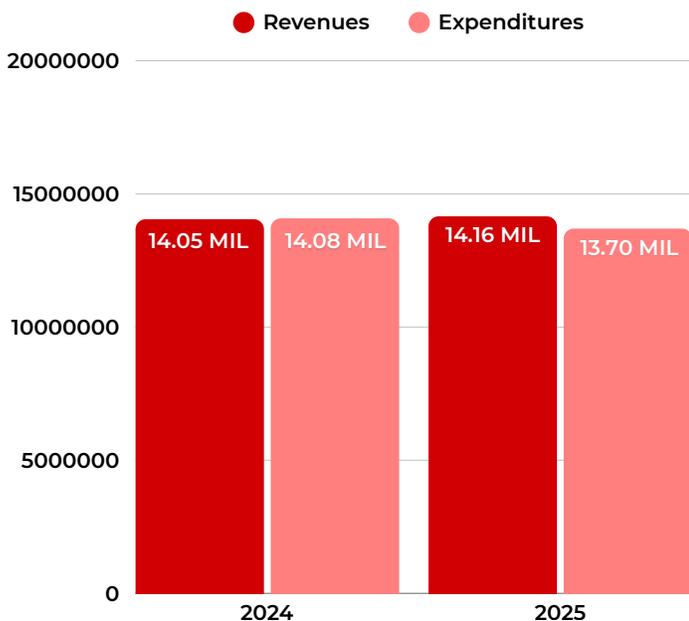
BUDGETS

For the 12 Month(s) Ended April 30, 2025



During FY2025, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District continued to demonstrate sound financial management while supporting daily operations and long-term planning. Revenues remained strong across multiple categories, and expenditures were closely aligned with the approved budget, allowing the district to maintain service levels and invest in equipment and facilities. As call volume continues to increase and operational demands grow, the district remains focused on planning for anticipated future expenditures while maintaining fiscal responsibility, transparency, and the effective use of taxpayer resources.

Revenue & Expenditure



FY2025 Budget at a Glance

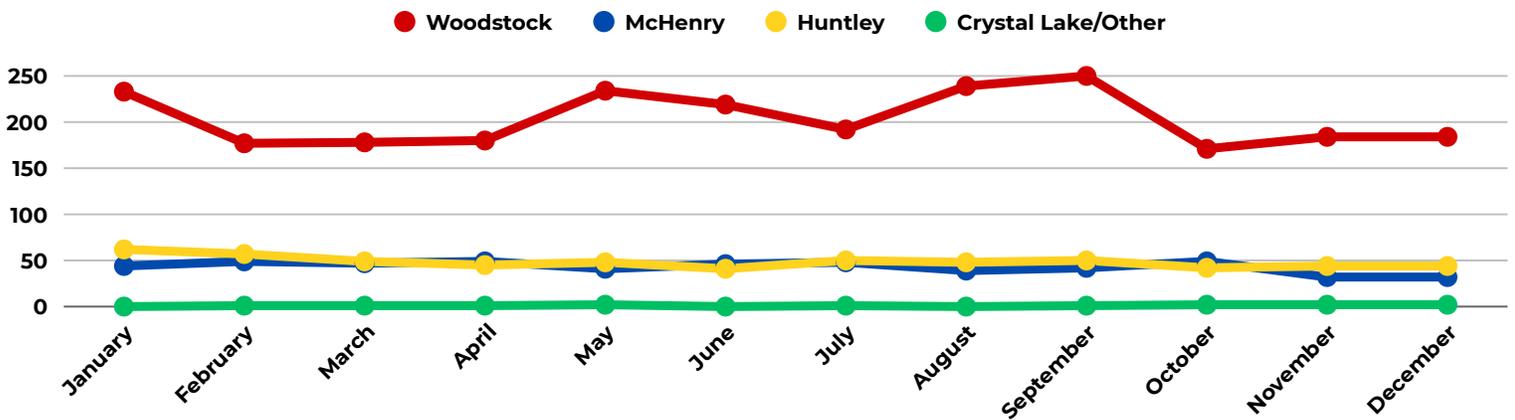
- Revenues were achieved at or near projected levels across major funding sources
- Personnel and operational costs remained the largest expenditure categories
- Capital and debt service investments supported apparatus, facilities, and infrastructure
- Financial planning continues to account for increasing call volume and service demands
- Expenditures were managed to balance daily operational needs
- Financial decisions continued to prioritize reliability of service, equipment readiness, and responder safety

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) continues to be a primary function of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District, accounting for **nearly 74% of all calls for service** in 2025 and placing significant demand on frontline ambulance resources. Paramedics and EMTs provided advanced and compassionate care across a wide range of medical emergencies, with Northwestern Medicine Woodstock Hospital remaining the most frequent transport destination. As EMS demand continues to grow, the district remains focused on response readiness, ongoing training, and high clinical standards to meet the evolving needs of the community.



Transport Destinations



APPARATUS/VEHICLES



Although similar at first glance, the new Truck 481 (Right) reflects significant advances in technology, safety, and capability since its predecessor was placed into service more than 16 years ago.

The Woodstock Fire/Rescue District relies on a diverse fleet of vehicles to serve the community, making routine maintenance a critical priority. In-house Mechanic Michael Shannon oversees nearly all fleet maintenance and modifications, ensuring staff vehicles and fire apparatus remain reliable and ready for emergency response.

In 2025, **1,060 fleet work orders were completed**, reflecting the ongoing demands placed on district vehicles. Having an in-house mechanic enhances fleet reliability while also providing significant cost savings, ensuring district resources are used efficiently.





PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Public information support for the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District focused on providing timely, accurate, and consistent communication throughout 2025. This included on-scene response to significant incidents, coordination with incident command, development of formal news releases, and ongoing communication with local media partners. Public information efforts also supported proactive messaging through social media, community outreach, and public safety education, helping ensure residents received clear and reliable information during emergencies and routine operations alike.

75+

Formal News Releases Issued

Verified incident and event summaries distributed to media partners.

130+

Incident Scenes Supported

On-scene public information and incident command support

MAJOR NEWS INCIDENTS

Multiple Serious Crashes

June 23 - June 24, 2025

Within a 24-hour period, area fire and EMS agencies responded to multiple serious crashes across western McHenry County, including three fatal incidents. Two of those fatal crashes occurred in Woodstock and resulted in two deaths, creating a significant impact on the community and the responders involved. These incidents occurred during periods of extreme summer heat, further increasing the physical and operational demands placed on personnel.

Resources were shared across nearly all responses, with apparatus, personnel, and command staff moving between scenes to provide support wherever it was needed. The pace of these back-to-back incidents highlighted the strength of regional partnerships, mutual aid coordination, and the critical role of dispatchers, air medical teams, and neighboring agencies in sustaining effective emergency response under challenging conditions.





Several Dogs Rescued During Extra-Alarm Fire

August 8, 2025

In August, Woodstock Fire/Rescue District crews responded to an extra-alarm house fire on South Queen Anne Road in unincorporated Woodstock that fully engulfed a large two-story home shortly after 7:50 a.m. Firefighters arriving within minutes found heavy smoke and flames with portions of the structure already collapsed and quickly called for additional mutual aid. During firefighting operations, crews were able to rescue four dogs through a basement door; the animals sustained smoke inhalation and minor burns but were reported in good health. Six other dogs believed to have been on the upper floors remain unaccounted for and are presumed lost. The fire was brought under control within approximately 90 minutes, but the home and its contents were considered a complete loss, and assistance was provided to the displaced homeowners through the American Red Cross.



New Year's Eve Fire at Walmart

December 31, 2025

On New Year's Eve, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District responded alongside the Woodstock Police Department to a deliberately set fire inside the Walmart on Lake Avenue after surveillance footage showed a woman allegedly using an accelerant to ignite merchandise within the store. Fire crews arrived to find the building evacuated and the fire already controlled by the automatic sprinkler system. Firefighters remained on scene for more than two hours conducting ventilation operations and monitoring conditions. The incident caused an estimated \$5 million in damage and forced the temporary closure of the store. No injuries were reported, and the incident underscored the importance of fire protection systems and coordinated interagency response.



PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

From parades and trick-or-treating to visits with senior citizens, our members attend numerous events in the community. Each year, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District hosts the Fire Safety Festival at Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center, where dozens of young students are taught essential fire safety skills. Additionally, WFRD proudly participates in initiatives like the Fill the Boot campaign, supporting individuals and families in need. Through these efforts, WFRD works tirelessly to improve the health and safety of our residents, their guests, and the community as a whole.



2.7 Million

Social Media Views

The number of times our content was played or displayed. (videos, posts, stories and ads.)

\$6,416

Donated to Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)

through the Fill the Boot campaign.

1,000+

Young Students Taught Fire Safety

after attending our annual Fire Safety Festival.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Risk Reduction remains an important focus of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District, emphasizing prevention, education, and early intervention to reduce emergencies before they occur. Throughout 2025, WFRD worked proactively with residents, schools, and community partners to address local risks and promote safer behaviors across all age groups. These efforts included the **installation of 44 smoke detectors, car seat installation assistance for 24 families, and CPR training for 118 community members**, providing residents with practical tools and lifesaving skills.

In addition to these programs, the district offers a variety of ongoing Community Risk Reduction initiatives, including reflective address sign installations to improve visibility for responding crews and fire and fall prevention programs for older adults focused on safety within the home. Firefighters also identify hazards encountered during emergency responses and provide follow-up education when appropriate. By combining hands-on assistance, education, and proactive outreach, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District continues to reduce risk, enhance preparedness, and support the long-term safety and resilience of the community.



CADET PROGRAM

The Woodstock Fire/Rescue District sponsored Cadet Program is a vital community initiative designed to inspire and shape the next generation of firefighters and civic leaders. Aimed at young individuals aged 14 to 18, the program offers hands-on experience in fire safety, emergency medical services, and rescue operations. Cadets develop essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and responsibility while being encouraged to become active members of their community.

RECRUIT PROGRAM

As a member of the WFRD Recruit Program, participants gain an understanding of the fire service as a whole while experiencing the day-to-day responsibilities of a firefighter/paramedic. Recruits are able to train alongside firefighters and participate in ride-alongs as observers during incident responses, providing valuable exposure to both emergency operations and station life.



Together, the Cadet and Recruit Programs provide hands-on experience, mentorship, and real-world insight, helping prepare the next generation for a career in the fire service while fostering a strong foundation of service to the community.

TRAINING DIVISION

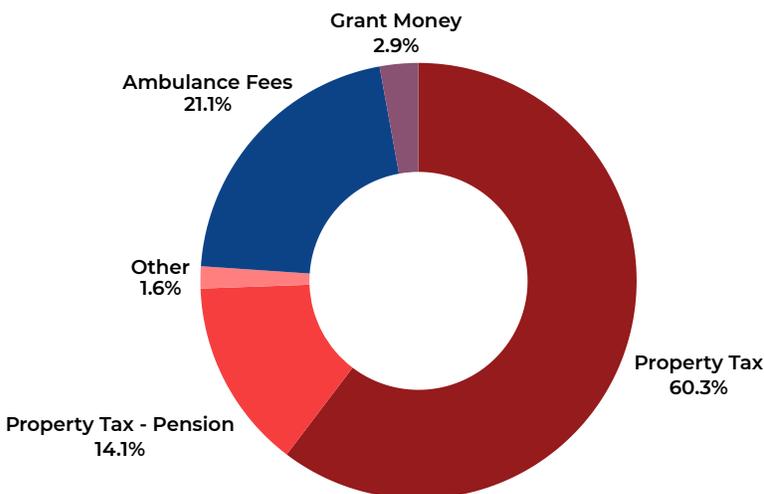


17,256

TOTAL HOURS OF FIRE & EMS TRAINING



Training remains a year-round priority for the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District, with members at every level committed to maintaining and advancing their skills. In 2025, district personnel completed a **total of 17,256 hours of fire and EMS training**, encompassing fire suppression, rescue operations, emergency medical care, and specialized disciplines. This ongoing investment in training ensures responders remain prepared for a wide range of emergencies and reflects the district's continued commitment to safety, professionalism, and high-quality service for the Woodstock community.



Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Certifications



Advanced Technician Firefighter

- Joseph Bendewald
- Gage Duszak
- John Leu

Basic Fire Prevention Officer

- Eric Kristensen

Basic Operations Firefighter

- Jessica Borucki
- Christopher Calderisi
- Arturo Flores-Gonzalez
- Alan Herrera
- Adam Konopka
- Ruben Melgarejo
- Joseph Miskiewicz
- Jacob Mobeck
- Derek Richardson
- Friday Ruiz
- Zach Schau
- Austin Silva
- Jessie Wood

Chief Fire Officer

- Zachary Beatty

Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue

- Daniel Jagman
- Clair Patrick
- Sandra Valdez

Fire Department Health and Safety Officer

- Brandon Teresi
- Tyler Webster

Fire Department Incident Safety Officer

- Eric Kristensen

Fire Inspector I

- Joseph Brunetti
- Adam Mass
- Brandon Teresi

Fire Service Instructor I

- Maxwell Batton

Fire Service Vehicle Operator

- Jessica Borucki
- Alan Herrera
- Adam Konopka
- Ruben Melgarejo
- Derek Richardson
- Friday Ruiz

Hazardous Materials Operations

- Jessica Borucki
- Christopher Calderisi
- Arturo Flores-Gonzalez
- Alan Herrera
- Adam Konopka
- Ruben Melgarejo
- Joseph Miskiewicz
- Jacob Mobeck
- Derek Richardson
- Friday Ruiz
- Zach Schau
- Austin Silva
- Jessie Wood

Hazardous Materials Technician

- Maxwell Batton

Heavy Vehicle Rescue

- Gregory Antor

Trench Technician

- Adam Mass

Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Specialist

- Eric Kristensen

SPECIALTY TEAMS

WFRD maintains a diverse range of specialized teams equipped to respond to unique and challenging emergencies. From tactical medics embedded with law enforcement to fire investigators, highly trained rescue divers, hazardous materials technicians, and surface water rescue specialists, these teams provide advanced skills and expertise in support of the community and surrounding areas.

Fire Investigations

The Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) requires that all fires in Illinois be investigated to determine their origin and cause. At WFRD, every team member is a Fire Investigator (FI), equipped with extensive training to conduct professional and scientifically based fire investigations.



Commercial Structure Fire on Nelson Road - 04/15/2025



House Fire on Queen Anne Road - 08/08/2025

Honor Guard

The WFRD Honor Guard was established in 2010 and consists of 9 members devoted to properly displaying the pride and colors of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District and our country. The Honor Guard projects a positive image of the District and its members by performing as a well-trained professional team at local, state, and national events.

*Woodstock Little League Challenger Opening Day
- 05/04/2025*



Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS)

Through a collaborative partnership, four WFRD paramedics have joined the McHenry County SWAT team as Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) medics, providing critical support to law enforcement. These highly trained TEMS members are deployed in scenarios where traditional EMS or firefighter responses are not feasible, ensuring medical expertise is available in high-risk situations.

SPECIALTY TEAMS



Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)

WFRD's certified technicians are highly trained to handle complex emergencies involving hazardous materials and dangerous goods. Equipped with advanced skills, they excel in tasks such as product identification, risk assessment, containment through plugging or patching, and decontamination. Whether responding to incidents within the district or providing support to neighboring communities in Lake and McHenry Counties, the team is always prepared to tackle challenging situations.

Fuel spill after Kishwaukee Valley Road crash - 06/24/2025

Dive & Water Rescue

WFRD boasts a highly skilled team specializing in surface rescue, underwater rescue and recovery, boat operations, and line tending. The team's rescue divers are trained to operate in diverse and challenging environments, including zero visibility conditions and ice diving. In addition to serving the local community, this team extends its expertise to other communities across northern Illinois through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), reinforcing regional collaboration and support during emergencies.

Technical Rescue (TRT)

The Technical Rescue Team is comprised of three highly trained firefighters who perform rescues in special situations, including rope rescue, trench collapse, structure collapse, and confined space rescues. In 2023, WFRD added one new member to the TRT team. Team members are also subject to deployment through the MABAS Divisions 4 & 5 Specialized Response Teams.





Woodstock Fire/Rescue District

Station #1 Headquarters

435 E. Judd Street, Woodstock, Illinois 60098

(815) 338-2621

www.WFRD.org