

FIRE DEPARTMENT YEAR END REPORT 2023



2023 ANNUAL FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT



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Mission Statement

The Champion Township Fire Department is dedicated to protecting and serving the residents of Champion Township and our surrounding communities in need. This mission is accomplished with the greatest commitment to professionalism and service excellence.

Vision Statement

The Champion Township Fire Department will strive to build upon and maintain our commitment to safety, training, and customer service. This will be accomplished by constant evaluation of our operation and seeking out the needs of our community in order to best serve those who we are entrusted to serve and protect.

Organizational Values

The core organizational values of the Champion Township Fire Department are:

Pride: *Pride in the job we do, and Pride in helping our customers.*

Honor: *Serve the department and the community we serve with honor at all times.*

Respect: *Always have respect for your fellow employees and for our customers.*



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Board of Trustees

I am proud to present to you the annual Fire Chief's Year End Report for 2023. Thank you for your continued support to the men and women of our department. We look forward to a new year and new goals to keep moving our department in the direction of enabling our members to give the highest level of service that meets our community's needs.



Community Highlights

The fire department opened its doors to the community for our post Covid open house. This was a tremendous success, and we are looking forward to the 2025 open house. We also participated in the Champion Pride Council in their

winter coat drive program, which was a tremendous success as well. CPR classes are taught throughout the year to residents by calling and scheduling classes with the department. We have also started a partnership with the American Red Cross to provide and install smoke detectors to our community. Along with that program residents are provided with fire safety education material and firefighters will identify hazards within and around their homes to help prevent fires. These are just some of the ways we are working to give back within our community.



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Training Highlights

Members have scheduled training each month. Three consecutive days of EMS training that is provided by University Hospital System instructors and three consecutive days the following week of fire training which is



completed in house by our fire instructors. Last year we partnered with Bazetta Fire Department and have begun joint training to enhance both of our operations. Due to the staffing shortfalls of our area, we believe training together on short-staffed company operations will allow us to fulfill the mission of our departments. The first Mondays of the month for each turn



completes building familiarization and conducts walk throughs of various buildings within the township. We will



be working more with our mutual aid partners this coming year on various training courses to assure the success of fireground operations.



training, training operations brought in



taught extrication techniques, high voltage power lines and dedication to training has not perform their duties while in high stress situations, it is also growing them into seasoned firefighters and paramedics. This has also proved to benefit and progress our ISO scoring evaluation.

Beyond the normal scheduled shift captains still conduct with their crews on and tactics. This year we also specialty instructors who electric vehicle operations, active shooter training. Our only help our members to



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STAFFING HIGHLIGHTS

2023 has been filled with many changes and challenges within our fire department. Starting with the failure of the levy, our members are still committed, and our community expects perfection with every single alarm that comes in. Moving forward we need to provide the tools and the workforce to be able to answer the alarms safely and effectively in a prompt and professional manner. I believe we must return to the voters and place a fire department levy on the ballot. This will enable our department to be properly staffed and equipped.

Our part-time ranks still stay stagnant, with 95% of our part-time members already having full-time career positions elsewhere, family commitments and many members starting new families it has become difficult for them to manage extra time for part-time work. This has not changed in 2023, nor do I see this trend improving. This is the current state we are all in over the entire State of Ohio.

The Ohio Fire Chief's Association performed studies to follow these trends and to find a conclusion to staffing shortages that many departments like ours are facing. The abundance of job openings and limited candidates has made this a employee driven market rather than an employer driven market as it once was. It was once a competition for those who were seeking jobs, now it has shifted to departments competing against one another. We must be current and competitive. A significant factor in retaining and attracting members is their pay and benefits. It is not lost that our department lacks funding, but it is nonetheless of importance. We need to stay competitive with departments of comparable size and make up.

I still believe in the very near future our members will not be able to sustain the workload that they have. The recent economic development opportunities within the township, an aging population, and the need for emergency medical services, the trends we see with call volume will only keep rising. 2023 is another record setting year. High call volume and minimal staffing is creating the potential for injuries, accidents, and burnout. This has the making for catastrophic outcomes. We need to financially support this department not just now, but well into the future.



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Apparatus Highlights



M20

2014 Type I Wheeled Coach

102,486 Miles

Fair Condition

Second out Medic Unit

Ready for replacement /

Applying for Grant to replace.

M21-1

2014 Type-II Osage

46,133 Miles

Very Good Condition

Used for special events as well as
third out Medic Unit



M21

2017 Wheeled Coach

52,444 Miles

Good Condition

First Out Medic Unit

Body work scheduled for spring.



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Tanker 21

1996 KME-International

32,430 miles

Good Condition

Primarily used in non-hydrant areas for suppression.

1. Pump Testing completed and passed
2. Ladder testing completed and passed
3. Upgraded emergency lights.



Engine 21

2019 Supphen Monarch

6432 miles

Excellent Condition

Primarily used for suppression / Auto Extrication.

1. Pump Testing completed and passed
2. Ladder testing completed and passed



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Apparatus Highlights



Brush21
2019 Polaris UTV
55.9 Hrs
Excellent Condition
Primary use brush fires /
Off road capabilities for patient
extrication



Truck 21
2020 Chevy Silverado
21,074 miles
Excellent Condition
Multi-Purpose Vehicle



Chief 21
2021 Ford Explorer
Command Vehicle
11,000 Miles
Excellent Condition



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2024 ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

- Staffing
- Replace Squad 20
- Body Work Squad 21
- 3 Sets of Turnout Gear
- iPad's For Apparatus
- Replace Station Computer
- Update Bathrooms
- 600' hose 1.75
- Multi Gas Monitor
- Digital Dashboard
- Dual Purpose Turnout Gear
- Under Coating Eng 21 / Tnk 21
- Farm Rescue Class
- Oil Well Training
- Replace Entry Door
- Training With PD
- Station Repairs
- LED Entry Lights
 - Flag lights
 - Front sign
- Ventilation Saw



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Grant Awards for 2023

BWC Safety Grant –	\$25,250.54
BWC Exposure Grant -	\$4,580.83
ODPS EMS Grant-	\$3,415.50
OTARMA Grant-	\$1,000.00
MARCS Grant-	\$21,372.00
Ohio Ambulance Transportation -	\$20,024.87
ODPS Grant retention of staffing –	\$ 23,489.66
Red Cross Smoke Detectors Program – 50 Smoke Detectors (\$ 1249.50)	

Total Awards \$100,383.90

Still have AFG, County ARPA, Chevrolet, Lowes and Leary Foundation Grants Pending

Grants Applying for in 2024

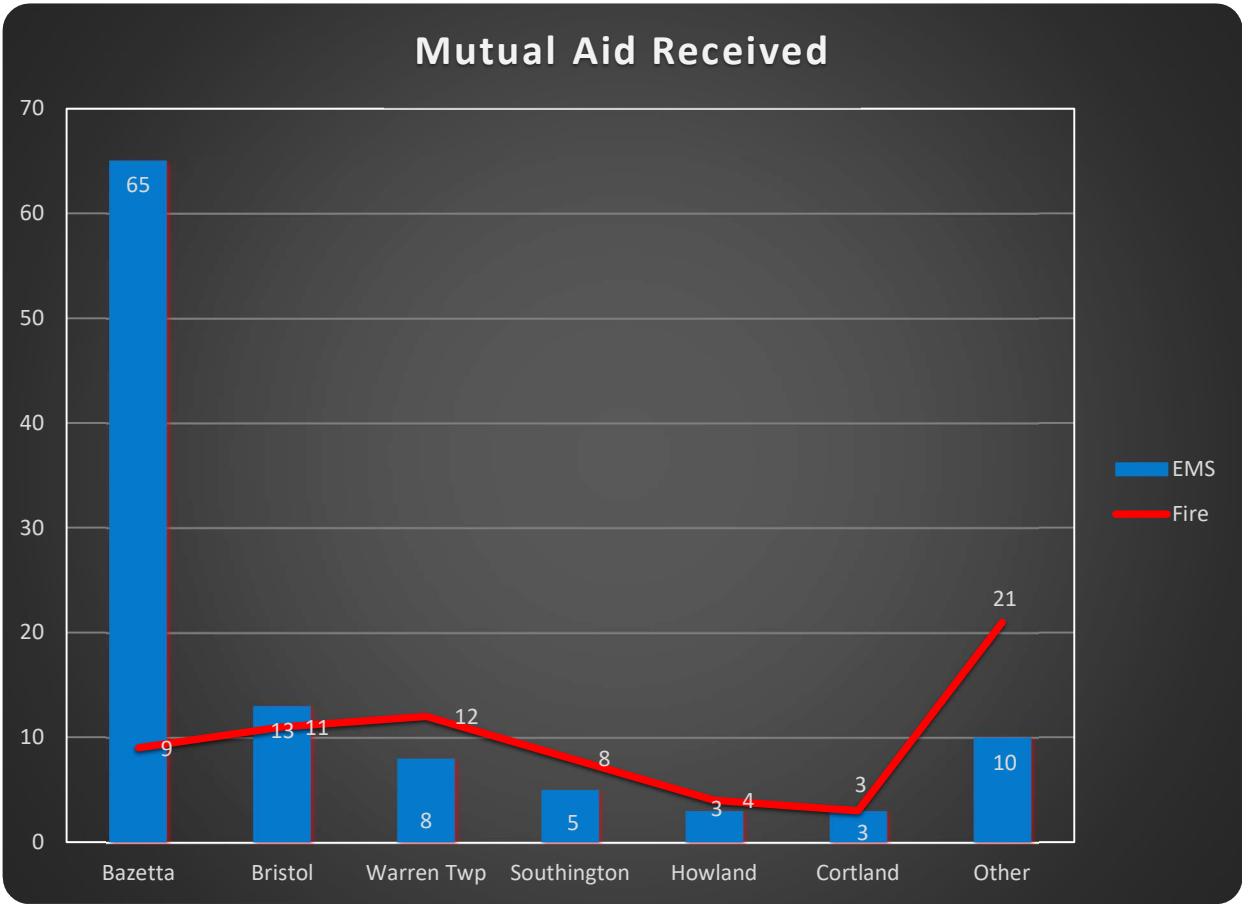
OSFM Equipment Grant –	Equipment
ODPS EMS Grant -	Equipment
OTARMA Grant-	Equipment
FEMA Grant -	Ambulance
ODNR Grant –	Public Education
MARCS Grant-	Radios/Fees



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We are always looking for alternative funding sources to help support our department.

Mutual Aid Received Detail



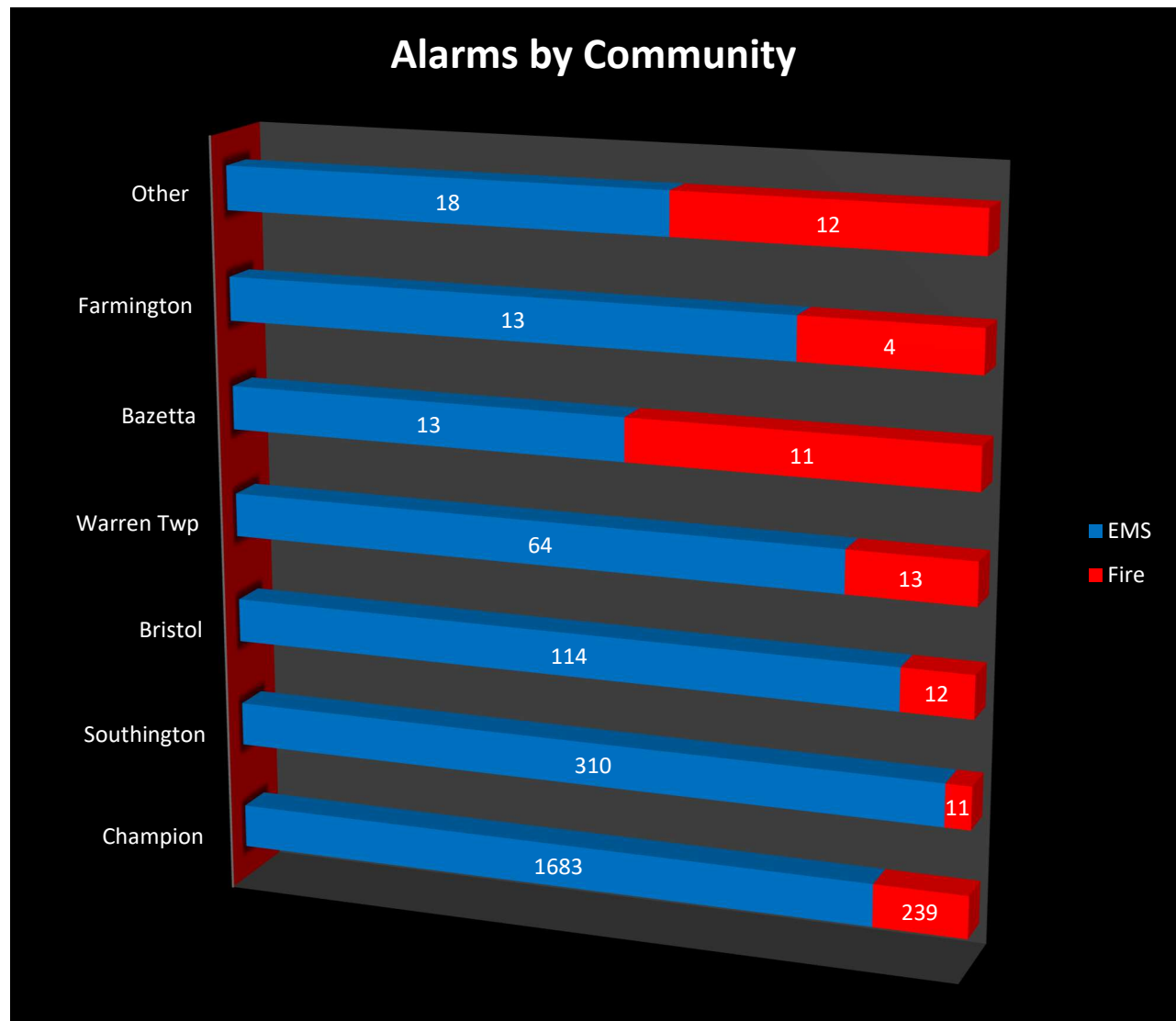
Total Mutual Aid Received 165



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Total Call Volume

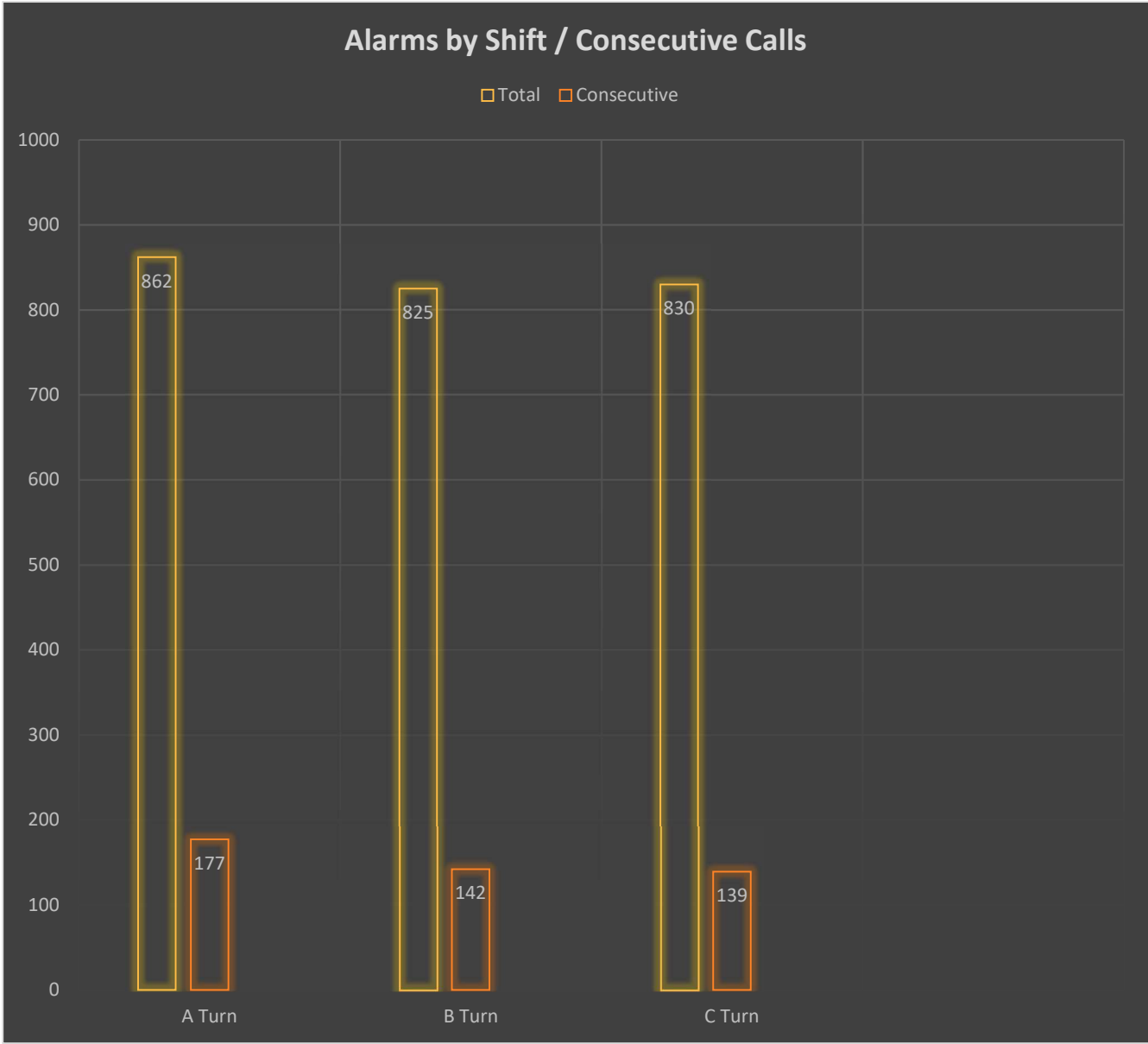
2,517 Total Alarms increase of 90 Alarms from 2022



*Other includes – Braceville, Cortland, Mecca, Mespo, Newton Falls,

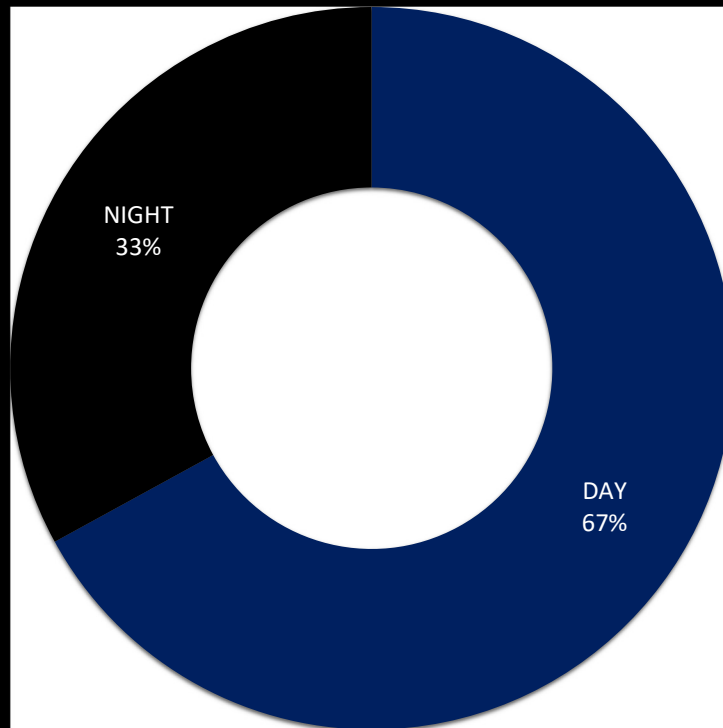


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2023



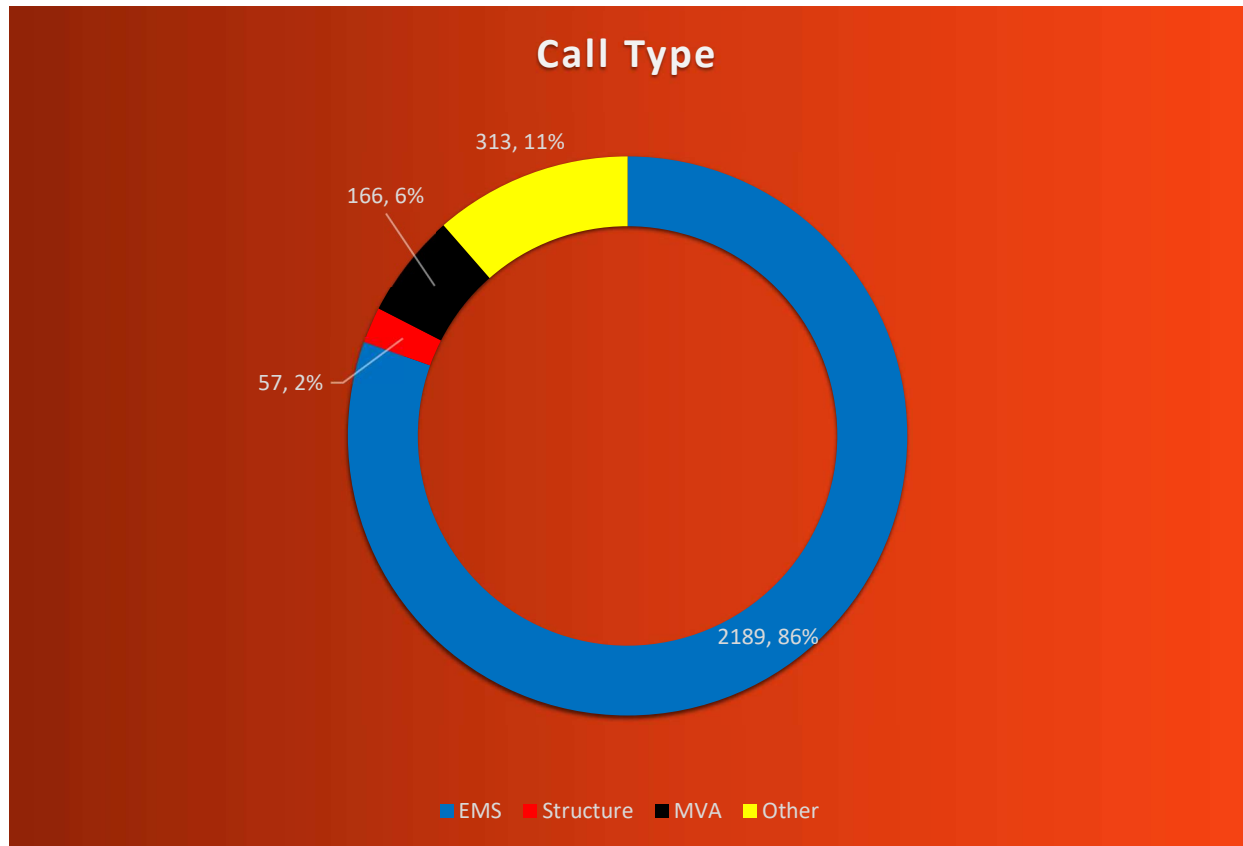
Day 8am to 8pm

Night 8pm to 8am

Day Alarms 1717 – Night Alarms 710



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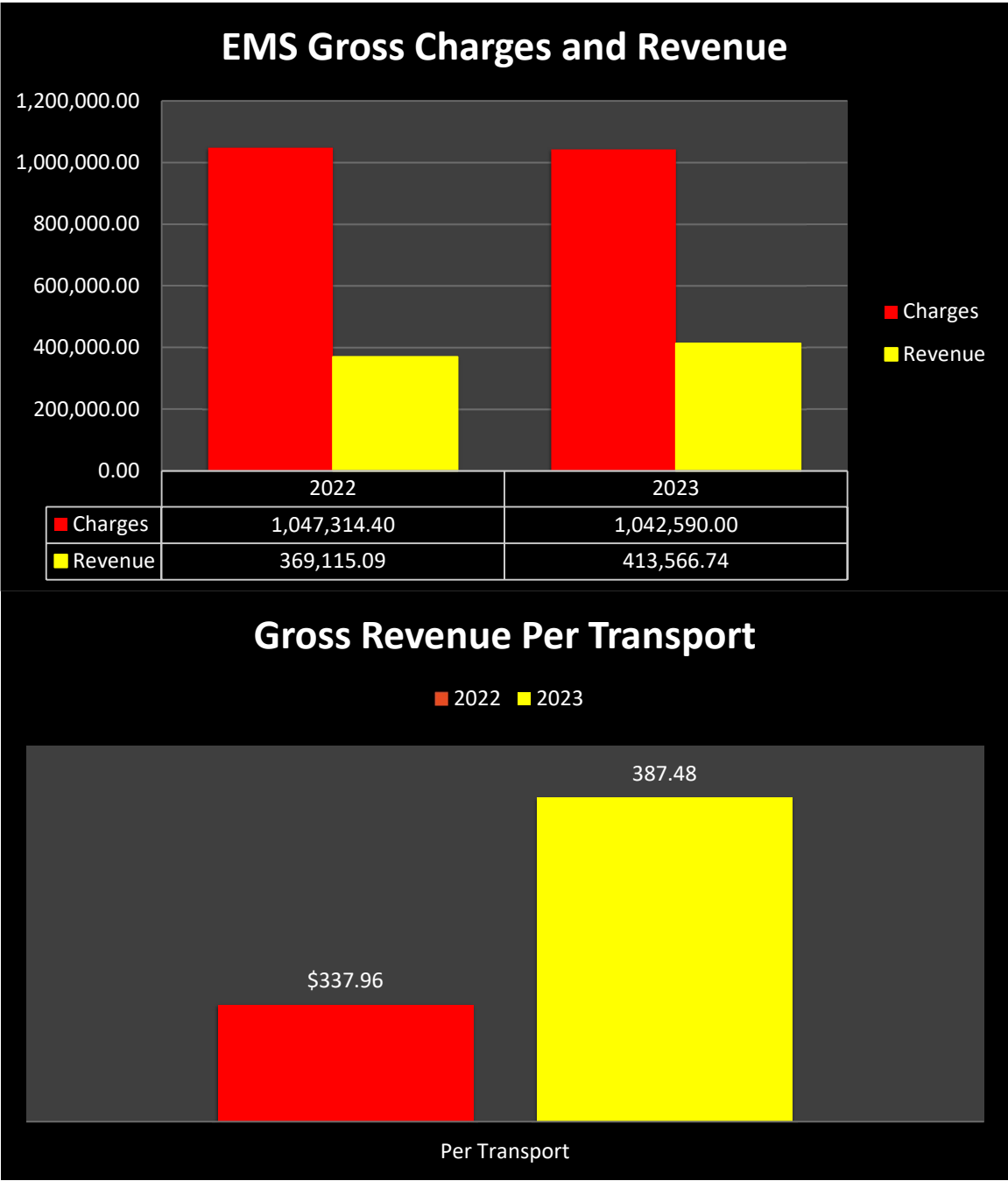
EMS and MVA crossover in call volume for the purpose of this chart.

Other call types include but limited to:

- CO Check
- Wires/Trees
- Gas Leaks
- Investigations
- Fire Alarm



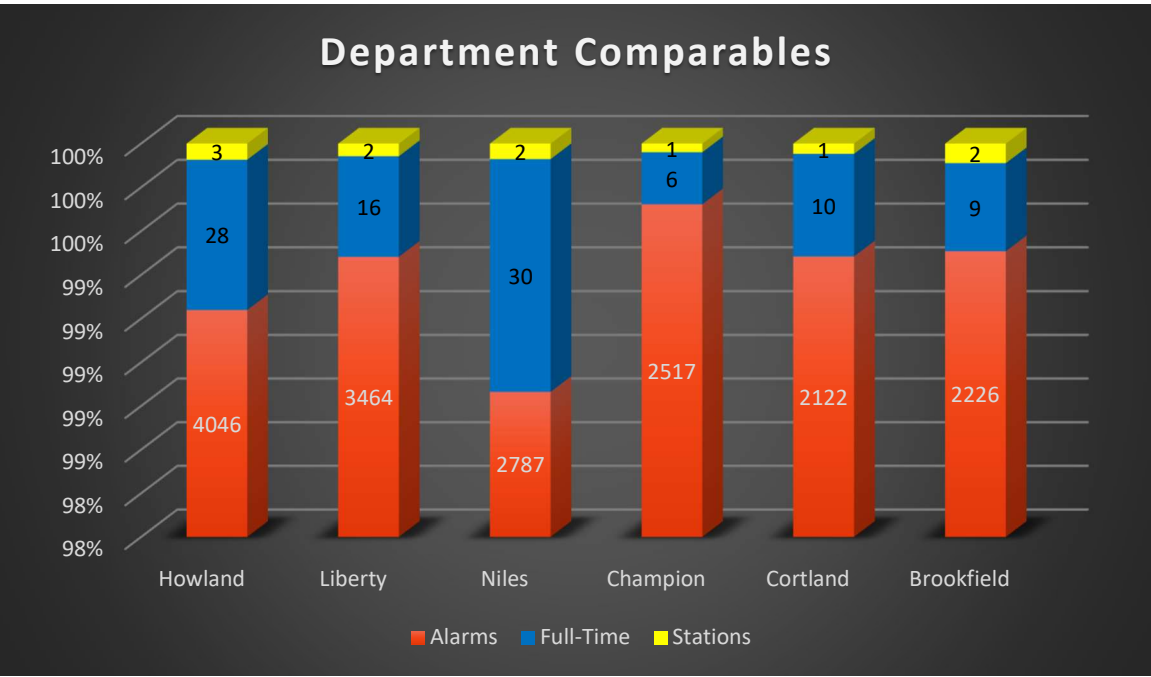
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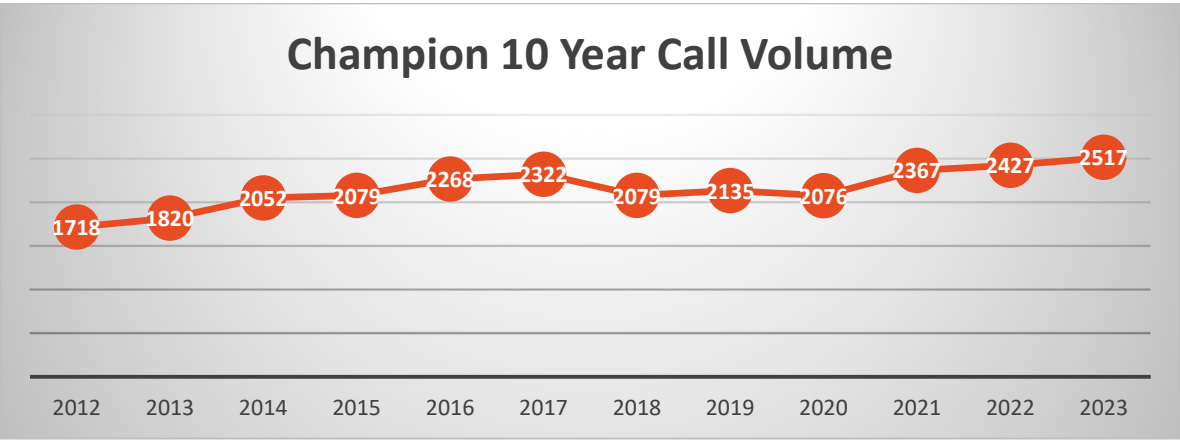
2022 Collection Rate 97.6% 2023 Collection Rate 98.5%



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The chart above shows call volume, manpower and how many stations each community has. Champion Township is severely lacking adequate protection of fire and EMS services. The men and woman pride themselves on being able to provide the best professional services. We have reached a point that if we don't act now, we are jeopardizing not only public health but also the well being of our members.



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Looking Forward

We have set yet another record again in the fire department with 2517 alarms. I believe factors contributing to the highest than ever call volume were an aging population, private ambulance availability, and staffing. With the population aging the more dependent our community will be on emergency services, particularly emergency medical services. Private ambulance companies that once served our long-term care facilities in the township have either shifted their companies to bigger city contracts or have closed their doors. For example, Med Star, LifeFleet, Clemente, AWS are no longer in business. EMT Ambulance now has the City of Youngstown contract and Lanes is providing coverage for Austintown, Boardman, Niles, and Girard. This has also put a strain on their system, which affects their ability to respond to these facilities. This has led to an increase of EMS alarms to these facilities in our township. Every department in our area is facing staffing shortages and increase or steady call volume. When departments don't have the appropriate personnel on station to handle the call volume, the need for mutual aid increases. The once abundant number of firefighter-paramedics who worked part-time that were seeking full-time employment is at this time, a thing of the past. They have either found that full-time position or have moved onto another career path. I believe our organization is moving in the correct direction, but we can't stop and become stagnant. We have a highly motivated group of firefighters who have absorbed the busiest workload in the county. We must revisit the levy options and finally staff this department efficiently to ensure the safety of our residents and our firefighters.

As I reflect on the success of this year, I credit these men and women who have worked extremely hard. Our commitment to the vision and mission statement we share will let us succeed much further into the future. We strive to be well-trained, well-organized and a role model not only for other departments but also for our community. Each of us plays a critical role in the operation of this fire house, from top to bottom. We are very fortunate to have the support from the Board of Trustees and our community as well. We are looking forward to another great year in 2024 and thank you for your continued support.

Thomas Dempsey, Fire Chief
Champion Township Fire Department



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