

BETHANY  
BEACH  
VOL. FIRE CO.  
STATION 70

ESTABLISHED  
1948



# OUTLINE

- Call Volume: Fire and EMS
- Population
- Mutual Aid / Response
- Budget
- Role of Career Staff & Volunteer Members
- Efforts to Recruit New Members
- Needs of the Fire Company



# CALL VOLUME

- Fire Alarms

- 2021 – 406
- 2022 – 425
- 2023 – 483
- 2024 – 475
- 2025 – 578

- EMS Calls

- 2021 – 1,009
- 2022 – 1,003
- 2023 – 1,035
- 2024 – 1,051
- 2025 – 1,054





# TOTAL CALLS BY MONTH - 2025

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEPT</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total Fire Calls*	31	34	31	39	43	75	93	66	47	45	34	40	578
Percentage	5.36%	5.88%	5.36%	6.75%	7.44%	12.98%	16.09%	11.42%	8.13%	7.79%	5.88%	6.92%	100.00%
Total EMS Calls	55	54	55	63	77	138	201	146	80	69	55	61	1054
Percentage	5.22%	5.12%	5.22%	5.98%	7.31%	13.09%	19.07%	13.85%	7.59%	6.55%	5.22%	5.79%	100.00%

\* Includes Fire Police Calls



# CALL VOLUME SEASONALITY

## FIRE & EMS

	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
Number of Calls	213	294	212
Percentage	13.0%	18.0%	13.0%

June, July and August account for 44% of our yearly calls.

# Population (estimates)

- Year Round:
  - 3,300 Permanent
  - 5,000 Visiting
- In Season
  - Weekly – 20,000
  - Weekends – 50,000
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> – 75,000+



# FIRE DISTRICT – MUTUAL AID PARTNERS

- Local – Millville, Roxana, Frankford, Rehoboth Beach & Ocean City
- Others – Dagsboro, Selbyville, & Indian River (Bay Water Rescue), US Coast Guard, Millsboro (Hazmat), Tech Rescue, DNREC and Del DOT.
- Paramedics – Medic 105 & 109; 104, 114 & 103; EMS 100 & Ocean City
  - **Delaware State Police Helicopter (Trooper 2)**



# WE STRIVE TO NEVER MISS A CALL

- Career Staff Prevents this
  - Handle the emergency in the district
    - Fire or EMS
  - Volunteers come into supplement calls
- Fire
  - We have at least one unit respond to all calls
  - Includes when we have a Mutual Aid Company Handling
- EMS
  - 1054 EMS Calls
    - 9 were handled by outside agencies
    - 99.1 % Success Rate



# BUDGET – 2026

- \$2,893,060 – Budget Alone
- \$1,676,500 Fire Budget
  - \$807,513 Employee Costs
- \$1,216,560 EMS Budget
  - \$1,032,880 Employee Costs
  - \$69,360 Goes Into LTR



# CURRENT PERSONNEL

- Career
  - 16 Total
    - 14 Firefighter / EMTs, 1 Supervisor & 1 Administration Secretary
- Volunteers
  - 45 active on the roll
    - 15 SCBA qualified firefighters
    - We have an average of 5 that come out regularly per call



# COST OF DOING BUSINESS (2026)

- Employees (2026) - \$1,840,393
- Approximately \$1,000,000 for everything else
- Cost of an ambulance - \$425,000
- Cost of a fire engine (Quint) - \$1,800,000
- Cost of an aerial apparatus - \$3,500,000 (2032 Est.)
- Cost to outfit a firefighter - \$4,500 (coat and pants, helmet, gloves, boots)



# FUNDING: PRESENT (FIRE)

- 62% State of Delaware
- 8% Sussex County
- 7% Annual Fund Drive
- 7% Capital Fund Drive
- 8% Fundraising (Auxiliary) and Donations
- 4% Parking Lot
- 3% Verizon Cell Tower
- 1% Bethany Beach



# FUNDING: PRESENT (EMS)

- 16% Delaware
- 10% Sussex County
- 25% Transport & Refusal Billing
- 6% Donations
- 14% Bethany Beach Residents
- 5% Fenwick Island Residents
- 11% Sea Colony Residents
- 7% South Bethany Residents
- 5% HOAs
- 1% Individual Subscribers

43% Ambulance subscriptions:



# FUNDING: THE FUTURE

- State of Delaware
  - DVFA Committee on New Ideas
  - Red Light Cameras
  - Speed Cameras
- Sussex County
  - County Providing each Fire Company a New Ambulance Every 7 Years (Waiting for Approval)
- Streamline Billing Services Through the County (Waiting for Approval)
  - Better Return
- Fire Fund (Tax)
  - 2027
- Additional Plans in the Works for 2027



# ROLE OF CAREER STAFF VS. VOLUNTEERS

- We remain a “volunteer” fire company run by elected volunteer (non-paid) members.
  - Even so, our career staff responds to approximately 95% of all fire and EMS calls.
- Volunteers set policy
  - Our career staff primarily executes and responds to emergencies.
  - Major Emergencies = All Hands-on Deck



# WHY VOLUNTEER RESPONSE HAS DECLINED

- Pressure on the individual's time
- Pressure on personal finances
- Working more hours or jobs to support their families
- **High housing cost within our district; lack of affordable housing**
- Travel time to respond to a call especially with summer traffic



# RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- Recruitment & Retention Team
  - We encourage volunteers to join
- Open House – June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - 12 noon to 3 pm



# FIRE COMPANY NEEDS: PRESENT

- New Ambulance
  - Ordered
  - \$475,000
    - Saved Enough Funds
  - Delivery (October 2027)
- New Engine (Quint)
  - Pre-Ordered (Designed Phase)
  - \$1.4m to \$1.6m
  - Saved \$700,000 towards this apparatus
  - Fund Raiser Starting Next Year
  - Delivery 3 Years+ Once Ordered
  - Due to State Standards



# FIRE COMPANY NEEDS: FUTURE

- Additional Staffing
  - Next 3 to 5 Years
  - Goal is 4 Total
  - Maybe Sooner
  - \$100,000+ Per Person
- New Tower Truck
  - \$3,000,000+
  - 2032 – 2034
- New Engine
  - \$1.6 - \$1.8+
  - 2034 – 2036
- \$5,200,000 Additional Funding



# FIRE COMPANY NEEDS: FUNDING

- State & County
  - Regular Funding
    - Unknown Amount
      - Can Increase & Decrease
  - Fire Tax



# FIRE COMPANY NEEDS: FUNDING

- Local (Citizens & Towns)
  - Fund Drive (Fire)
  - Capital Campaign
    - Focus on our Apparatus Purchases
  - EMS Drive
  - EMS Contract / Subscriptions
  - Additional Support from Our Town Governments



# OUR ONLY PURPOSE

To serve the community 24/7



QUESTIONS  
PLEASE

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

