



2024  
Annual Report

# Chief's Report

During 2024, the Bellevue Community Fire Department saw yet again, a rise in our calls for service. As our community's population ages, we will continue to receive more requests for help. The label of "Fire Department" is somewhat misleading, as fire related calls only make up approximately 30 percent of our incidents, with most being of an EMS nature. This department was established to aid our neighbors and visitors and I believe that it is our responsibility to adapt and meet the needs of our community as we are able. This increase in calls for service warranted staffing the station on weekdays during business hours, when personnel were working out of town. The amount of support and appreciation from community members concerning this endeavor has been refreshing. There is seldom a day when a resident does not stop by the station or call to set up a smoke alarm or address sign installation, ask questions or obtain medical help. They are comforted in knowing that they will have a prompt response to their emergency.

We were also able to put into service all of the equipment and gear that we received through grants in 2023. This in service took a considerable amount of time in regard to inventorying, training until members were confident and competent with its function, and fabrication of holders and mounts to efficiently stow it on our apparatus. All of this was done in-house, by our own members. We were also able to place into service a portable master stream device capable of flowing 500 gallons of water per minute. This device, much like the "deluge guns" on the top of our fire engines, allows us to flow a high volume of water with portability. This nozzle was placed on Engine 112, our lead structure fire engine, and mounted and pre-connected for rapid deployment by 1 - 2 firefighters. This nozzle is deployed to knock down large fires quickly by delivering up to 500 gallons per minute of water in order to rapidly cool the fuel off gassing, which feeds the fire. We were fortunate to purchase this equipment with a credited fund balance from a different purchase, costing the local taxpayers nothing.

We were also extremely fortunate to add four personnel to our roster. They have started their training as Firefighter / EMT's. All four have recently completed their coursework through Kellogg Community College and Marshall Area Firefighters Ambulance Authority, obtaining their Medical First Responder certification. They plan to continue on with their education to complete EMT Basic, as well as Firefighter I & II, in 2025 / 2026. I am most pleased with the amount of training that our personnel complete both in-house and with other Emergency Services agencies.

Another highlight of 2024 was the initial planning phase of a new fire station. This station will be large enough to house the current trucks, with additional room for others in the future as we increase the level of EMS care that we provide to the community. The new facility will have plenty of storage and room to expand to meet future needs of the department and our community, such as space for offices, a small kitchen and adequate storage. A second floor loft will be utilized for training and additional storage. The station will have a classroom, allowing us to hold all of our medical continuing education in - house, as well as hold EMS classes to provide affordable training to our members as well as our neighboring agencies.

While we did not receive very much in funding in the terms of grants during 2024, we have started applying for 2025, with the goal of acquiring more EMS equipment and training aids to better prepare our personnel for their duties. We will continue to focus on relevant, dynamic training and developing our members in fire and EMS.

I appreciate the trust and support that the members, Fire Board and their respective Townships, as well as the community have given me while leading this Organization.

Sincerely,

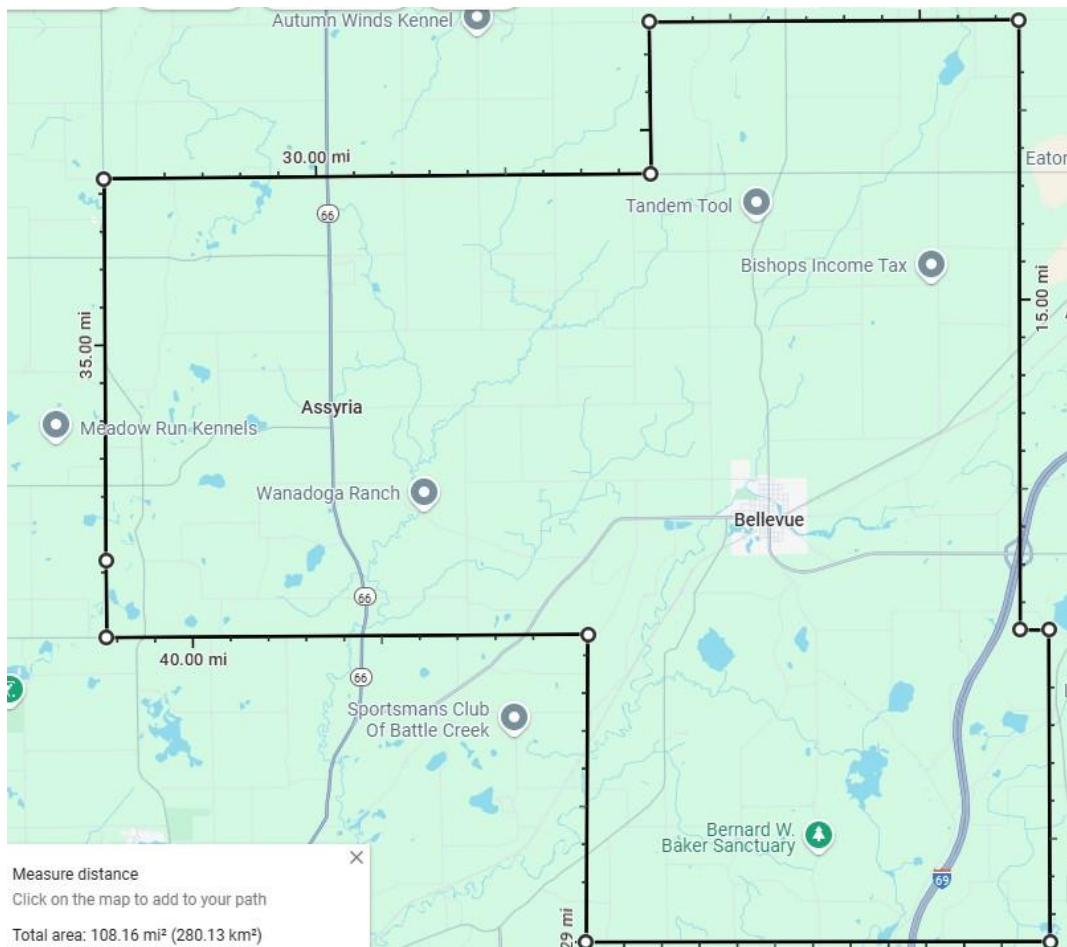
Jacob Jackson, Fire  
Chief

# Our Fire Department

Our fire department is a foundation of the community and members work hard to protect lives and property every day. Whether rivers, roads, or rails, they know the nooks and crannies of our service area from corner to corner. The members of our fire department help residents prevent emergencies and they are equipped to respond when the need arises.

## Coverage Area

- 106 Square Miles
- 3 Counties (Barry, Calhoun, Eaton)
- 4 Townships (Assyria, Bellevue, Convis, Kalamo)
- 1 Village (Bellevue)



# Firefighters & EMT's

The Bellevue Community Fire Department is made up of 28 paid on call personnel. These personnel include Firefighters, Medical First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. The department staffs 1 Firefighter/ EMT Monday-Friday from 08:00-16:00.

## Bellevue Fire Control Board

The Bellevue Community Fire Department is governed by the Bellevue Fire Control Board, which was established in 1955 when the Townships of Assyria, Bellevue and Convis joined with the Village of Bellevue to share the responsibility of providing fire protection. The Township of Kalamo continued to be served on a contractual basis. In 2023, the Village of Bellevue withdrew from the joint operation. They are now served contractually as well.

### Fire Control Board 2024:

Mike Jones, President	Bellevue Township
Ryan Harvey, Vice President	Convis Township
Tom Wing, Treasurer	Assyria Township
Randy Barnes, Trustee	Convis Township
Heather Wing, Trustee	Assyria Township
Cyndee Jones, Administrative Assistant	

# Apparatus



Engine 111 (2003 Spartan)



Engine 112 (2013 Spartan)



Tanker 115 (2010 International)



Brush 118 (1995 Ford)



Rescue 119 (2008 Ford)



Antique (1933 Chevrolet)

# Calls for Duty

The Bellevue Community Fire Department responded to 550 calls in 2024. This is an increase of 4% from 2023. These calls include a wide range of types from medicals to fires to special rescues.

<b>2024 Total Calls:</b>	<b>550</b>
Average calls per day:	1.5
A Shift Calls (unstaffed):	368
B Shift Calls (staffed):	182
Average Turnout time A shift (unstaffed):	4.39 Minutes
Average Turnout time B shift (staffed):	1.02 Minutes
Structure Fires:	15
Vehicle Fires:	6
Brush Fires:	24
Car accidents:	55
Special Rescues:	4
Wires Down:	29
Cardiac Arrest:	11
Medicals other than Cardiac Arrest:	357



## Mutual Aid Given:

Charlotte Fire:	0
Johnstown Fire:	1
Marshall City Fire:	0
Marshall Township Fire:	7
Nashville Fire:	0
Olivet Fire:	11
Pennfield Fire:	3
Vermontville Fire:	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>22</b>

## Mutual Aid Received:

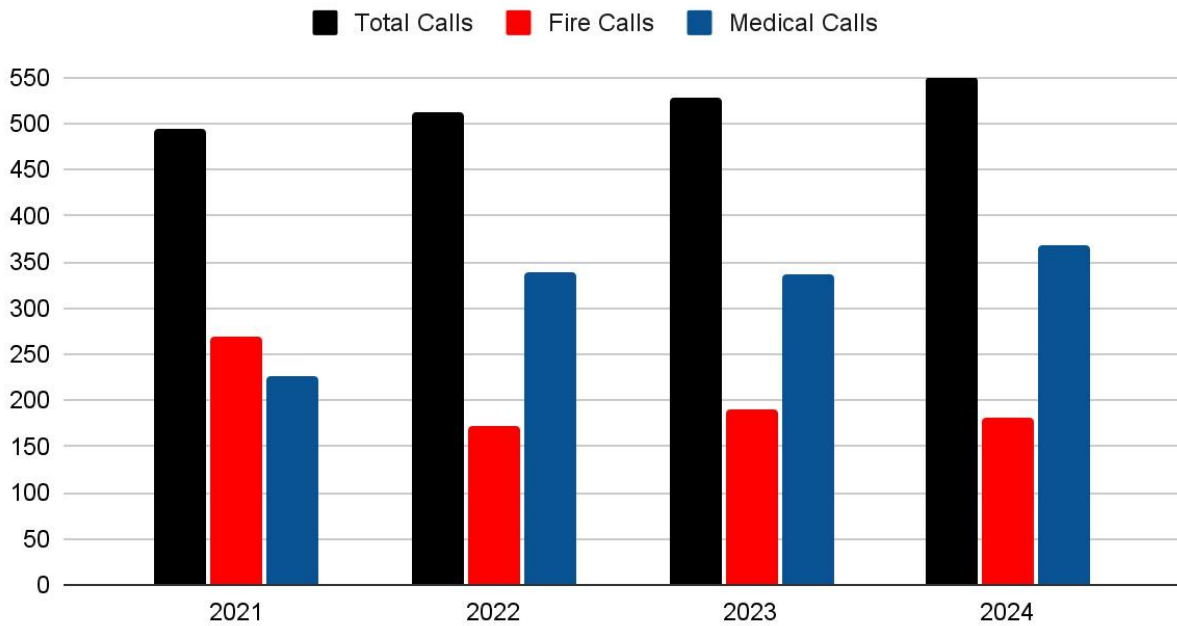
Charlotte Fire:	3
Johnstown Fire:	5
Marshall City Fire:	1
Marshall Township Fire:	3
Nashville Fire:	3
Olivet Fire:	9
Pennfield Fire:	5
Vermontville Fire:	3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>32</b>



# Comparison

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Calls:	495	512	527	550
Structure Fires:	15	24	19	15
Vehicle Fires:	5	12	8	6
Brush Fires:	24	12	7	24
Car Accidents:	46	32	56	55
Medicals	226	340	337	368

## 4 Year Run Volume



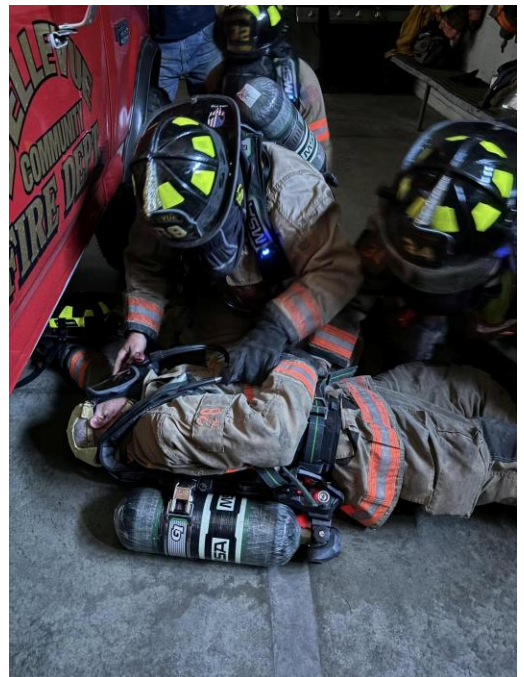
Calls by Quarter 2024				
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Fire Calls	42	42	33	62
EMS Calls	94	94	82	101
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>163</b>

Calls per Entity 2024				
	Fire Calls	EMS Calls	<b>Total</b>	% of Total
Assyria Township	42	32	<b>74</b>	13.5%
Bellevue Township	54	112	<b>166</b>	30%
Convis Township	41	45	<b>86</b>	15.6%
Kalamo Township	7	33	<b>40</b>	7.3%
Village of Bellevue	24	138	<b>162</b>	29.6%
Mutual Aid	15	7	<b>22</b>	4%
Total	183	367	<b>550</b>	100%

# Training

Our training consists of a mix of hands- on and online courses to meet our requirements for Fire and Medical continuing education. We are extremely fortunate to have members that take turns to put on the monthly training, as well as supplemental training that involves our neighboring departments. Listed below are some of the topics that we covered in 2024.

- Mayday Training
- Pump Training
- Drafting Training
- Consumers Gas and Electric Training
- TIC Training
- RIT Training
- New Pack Break in
- Cheney Limestone PIP
- Driving Course
- Firefighter Survival
  
- CPR/BLS
- IGEL
- Barry/ Eaton/ Calhoun Protocol Update
- Cold Weather Emergencies
- Respiratory Emergencies
- Down Firefighter CPR
- LVAD
- EPI Review
- Cardiac Emergencies



# EMS Report

Over the past year, the Bellevue Community Fire Department's Medical First Responder (MFR) program has experienced a transformative and productive period. Through advancements in protocols, ongoing education, equipment upgrades, and community-focused initiatives, the department has strengthened its ability to deliver exceptional pre-hospital care.

One of the most significant achievements has been the ongoing development of our personnel. Several members of the department have pursued higher education levels, made possible through grant funding. This initiative not only highlights the dedication of our team but also elevates the department's collective expertise. While our current level of service remains at the Medical First Responder standard, the presence of four paramedics—and the addition of more in the near future—greatly enhances our ability to provide the highest level of pre-hospital care. The brainpower and advanced training these paramedics bring to the team bolster our capacity to respond to complex medical emergencies.

In addition to personnel development, we have made significant strides in upgrading life-saving equipment. This year, we acquired three new automated external defibrillators (AEDs) from grants, and with the fire board's approval, have purchased four more to replace the older R119 and E111 units. These updates ensure that our responders are equipped with reliable and state-of-the-art tools to address cardiac emergencies effectively.

Our training efforts have also reached new heights, thanks to increased attendance and commitment from our members. Regular and well-attended training sessions are crucial to maintaining and improving our skills, ensuring we are always prepared to serve our community in times of need. With the acquisition of high-quality training equipment at competitive prices, we can now enhance the depth and realism of our training scenarios, further preparing our responders for real-world challenges.

Looking to the future, we have begun the groundwork for a training consortium, which will support our plans to offer Medical First Responder (MFR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Advanced EMT (AEMT) courses at the new station. This initiative is aimed at advancing the knowledge and skills of our team while providing a pipeline for new talent to join the department.

Another major milestone is our certification as an American Heart Association training facility. This allows us to teach life-saving courses to the general public, enhancing community awareness and preparedness. By empowering citizens with the skills to

respond to out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, we increase survival rates and build stronger partnerships with the community we serve.

In reflecting on the past year, it is evident that the Bellevue Community Fire Department has made remarkable progress. Through advancements in education, equipment, and training, we continue to improve our capacity to provide exceptional emergency medical services. These efforts would not be possible without the unwavering commitment of every member of our team. Your dedication and passion are the foundation of our success, and together, we are ensuring a safer, healthier community for all.

Thank you for your hard work and contributions to this transformative year. Let us continue striving for excellence in the service we provide. Thank you all so much for allowing me the opportunity to achieve my paramedic license by covering calls, training and any other issues that arose.

Looking forward to the year 2025.

Dustin May  
Paramedic, EMS Director

## CPR Save

### Cardiac Arrest

**In** February, 2024 Lt. Josh Houghtaling heard a neighboring agency get toned for a cardiac arrest in Assyria Township. He immediately proceeded to the scene a mile away and requested Bellevue Fire's response. An AED was applied and CPR performed. Additional personnel arrived from Bellevue, Johnstown, Life Care EMS and Barry County Sheriff's Dept. The patient was revived and transported to the hospital where he was stabilized and later released. This was possible from the quick action on behalf of the patient's family, Barry County 911 Dispatch, and the other agencies listed above. Instances like this are why we have invested so much into providing our personnel with medical kits including AED's, to start patient care before the fire trucks arrive.

# Community Impact

**2024** was another great year when it came to Fire Prevention and Community outreach. Aside from the time we dedicate to the fire/EMS calls we run, we never fail to have members dedicate more time outside of that for other events. It was a group effort as we had multiple events that we took part in throughout the year. With everything we have going on in our daily lives it was encouraging to see everyone come together to make sure the needs of the community were met. With all the events we attended or held, we did not host our Fire Prevention Open House but we will aim to begin hosting that event again in 2025. Another thing we did this year for outreach is our smoke alarm and CO alarm installations. We began this program back in 2004 and it has been a great addition to the services we offer to residents. We installed smoke detectors and CO alarms in homes that are in our service area at the request of the residents.

Goals for 2025 would include continuing to install smoke alarms and CO alarms. Additionally, I would like to secure some funds through grants. The money would be used to further fire prevention and education within the community. I would like to see us brainstorm on other ideas on how we could do more fundraising rather than just our annual car show fundraiser to help offset some cost for other things that come up throughout the year or for additional training/schooling for those who have expressed interest in continuing education. All together, 2024 was a busy year for us. We had a great presence in the community and attended more events than we have historically. The time the members put in I feel does not go unnoticed and is appreciated by the community we serve. I look forward to 2025 and what we will accomplish together.

Travis M. Sparks,  
Lieutenant

- 9/11 Stair Climb
- Bellevue Car Show
- Halloween
- Calhoun County Fair
- School Fire Prevention
- Christmas Parade
- Homecoming Parade
- Homecoming Bonfire Standby
- Football Midnight Run
- Memorial Day Parade



- Football Standby
- Smoke alarm install
- Address sign install
- National Night Out -Marshall
- Calhoun Fire Prevention Open House
- High School Career Day
- School Scavenger Hunt
- 4th of July Fireworks



# Special Considerations

In September of 2024, Tom Duckworth announced his retirement from the Bellevue Community Fire Department. Tommy served with the department as a Firefighter for 35 years. Of those 35 years, Tommy was a Captain for 20 years. Tommy was a very active member of this department participating in every school fire prevention day, training, and every call he could make. He was known for his mystery meat which he would bring to meeting nights and for grilling steaks at the annual Firemen's Christmas party. Tommy always had the passion to help others, learn as much information as he could gather, and teach the new and upcoming firefighters. We will miss seeing him around and hope he is not a stranger to this department. The door is always open for you Captain Duckworth, enjoy your retirement!



## Other Special Considerations

- Jason Morgan 5 Years of Service
- Anothony Aber 5 Years of Service
- Jeff Land 5 Years of Service





