



CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION AGENDA

Monday, August 10, 2026

4:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, a Worksession meeting of the Grand Rapids City Council will be held on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 4:30 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL:

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT:

- [1.](#) Fire Department - Travis Cole

REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA:

ADJOURN:

Attest: Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk

Grand Rapids Fire Department 2025 Report

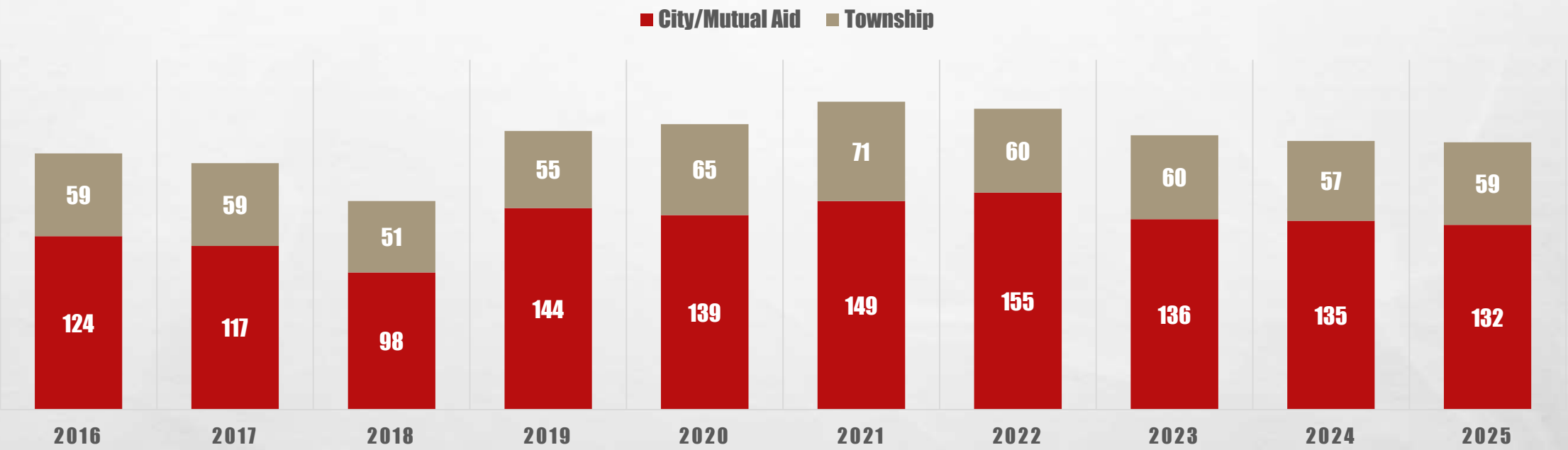


Item 1.

10 YEAR CALL VOLUME FROM



CITY/MUTUAL AID COMPARED TO TOWNSHIP CALLS

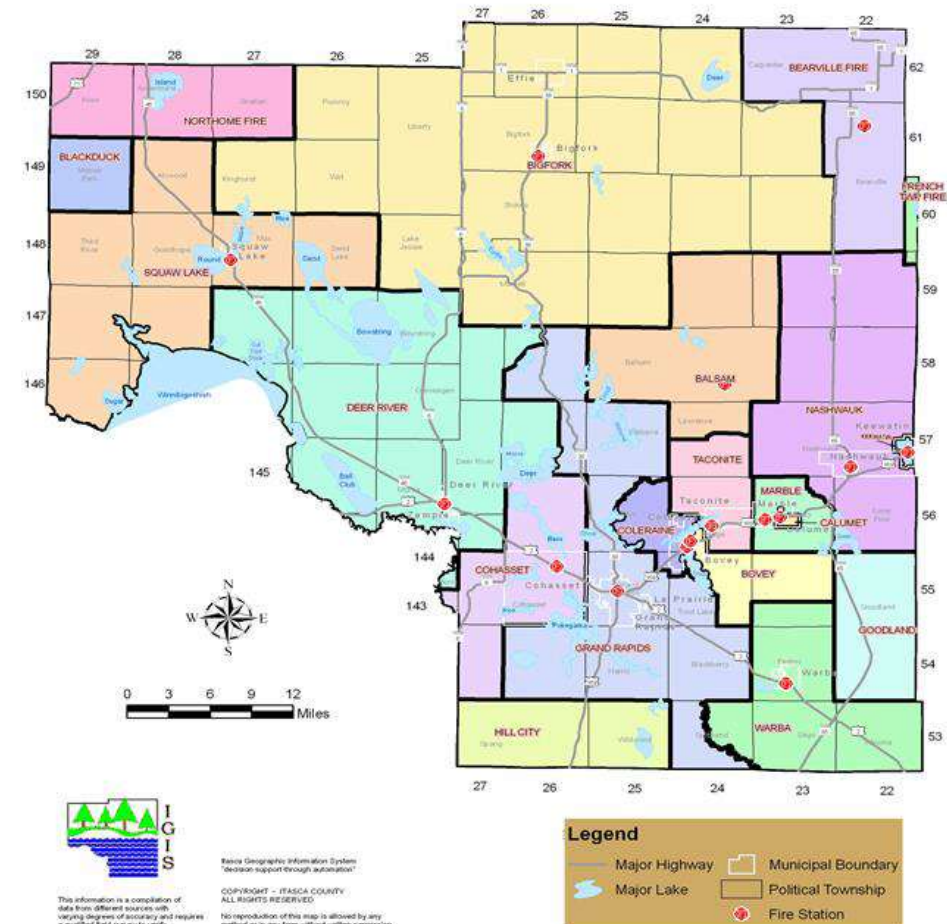


COMPARISON OF CITY TO TOWNSHIP CALLS FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS

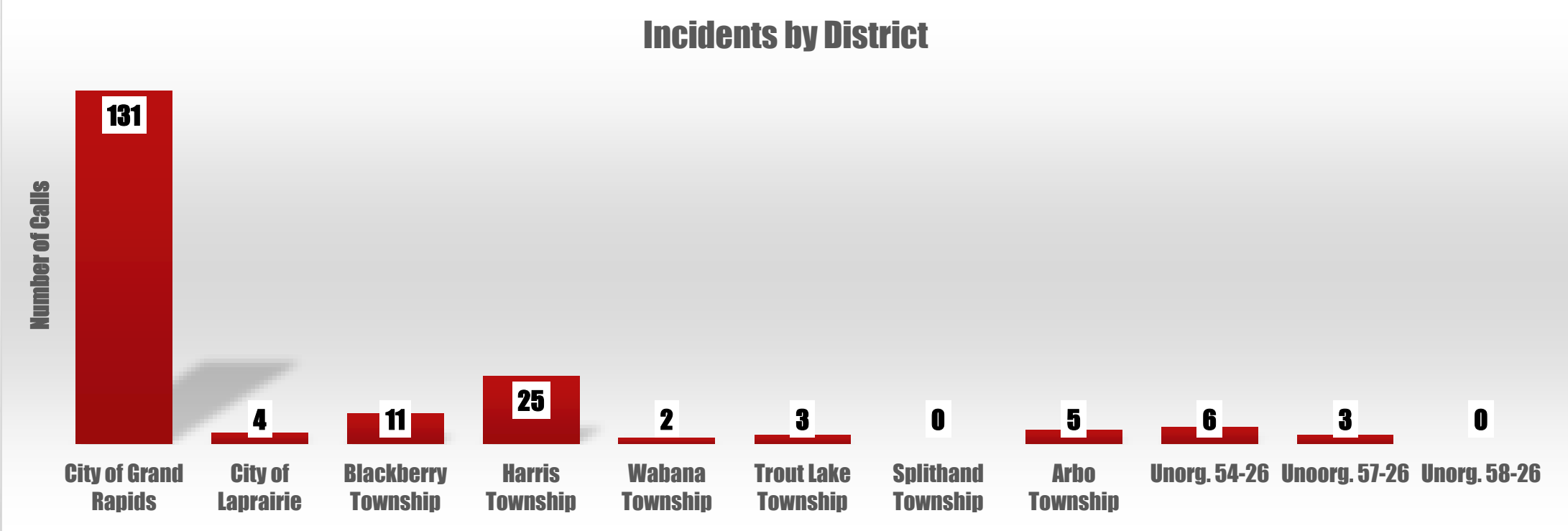
CITIES AND TOWNSHIPS SERVED

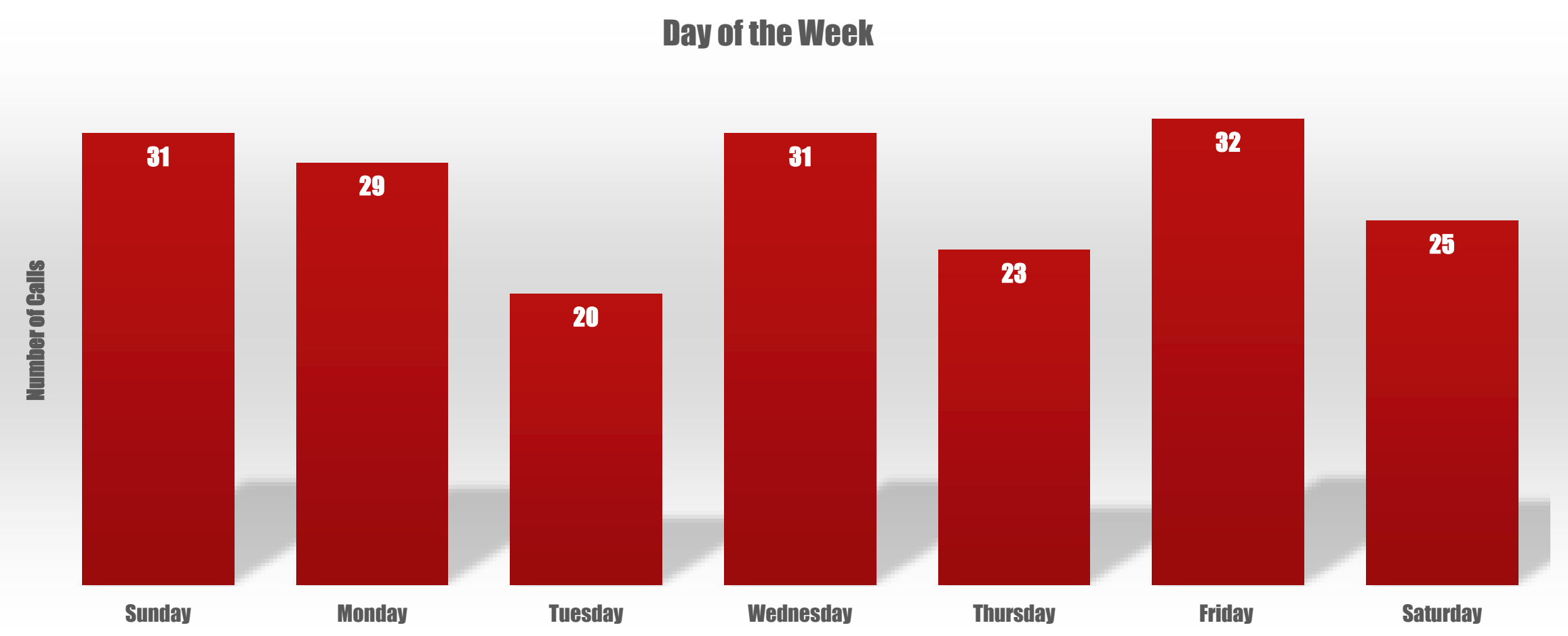
- CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
- CITY OF LAPRAIRIE
- BLACKBERRY TOWNSHIP
- HARRIS TOWNSHIP
- WABANA TOWNSHIP
- TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP
- SPLITHAND TOWNSHIP
- ARBO TOWNSHIP
- UNORG. 54-26
- UNORG. 57-26
- UNORG. 58-26

Itasca County Fire Department Coverage Areas

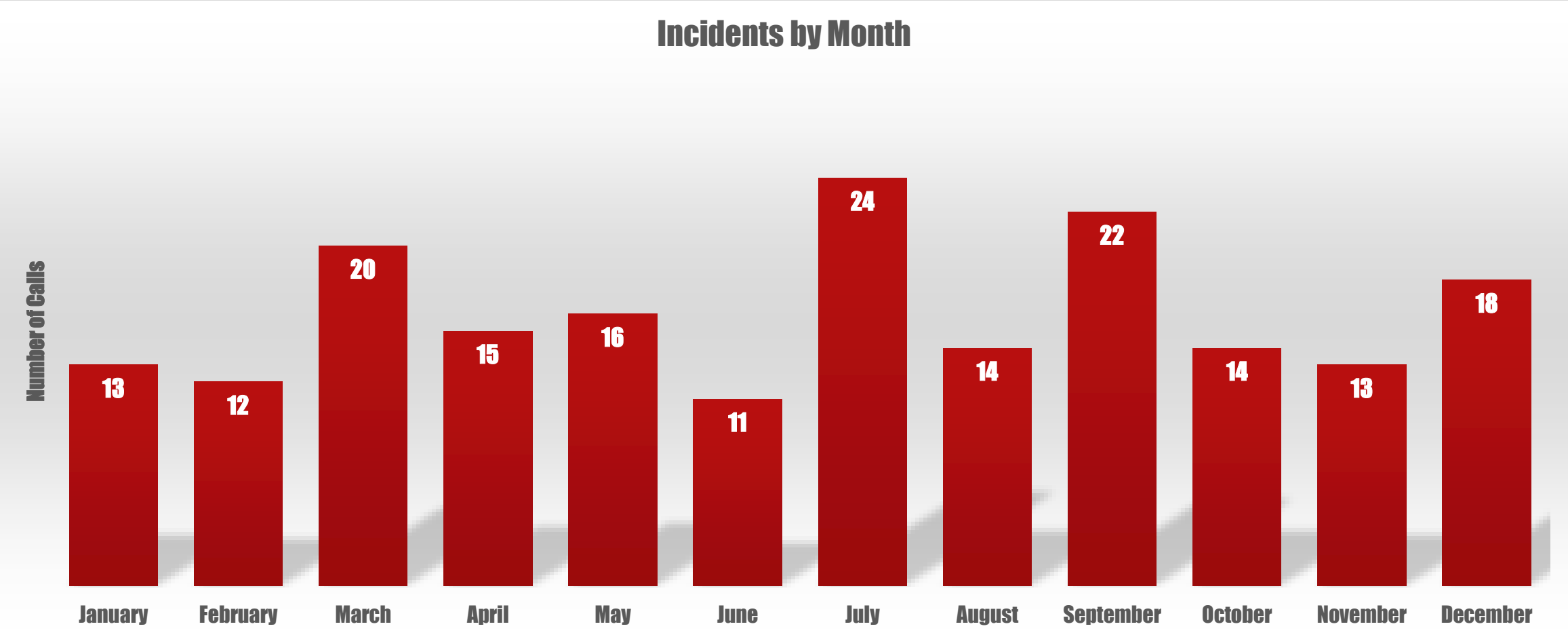


INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT





INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK



INCIDENTS BY MONTH

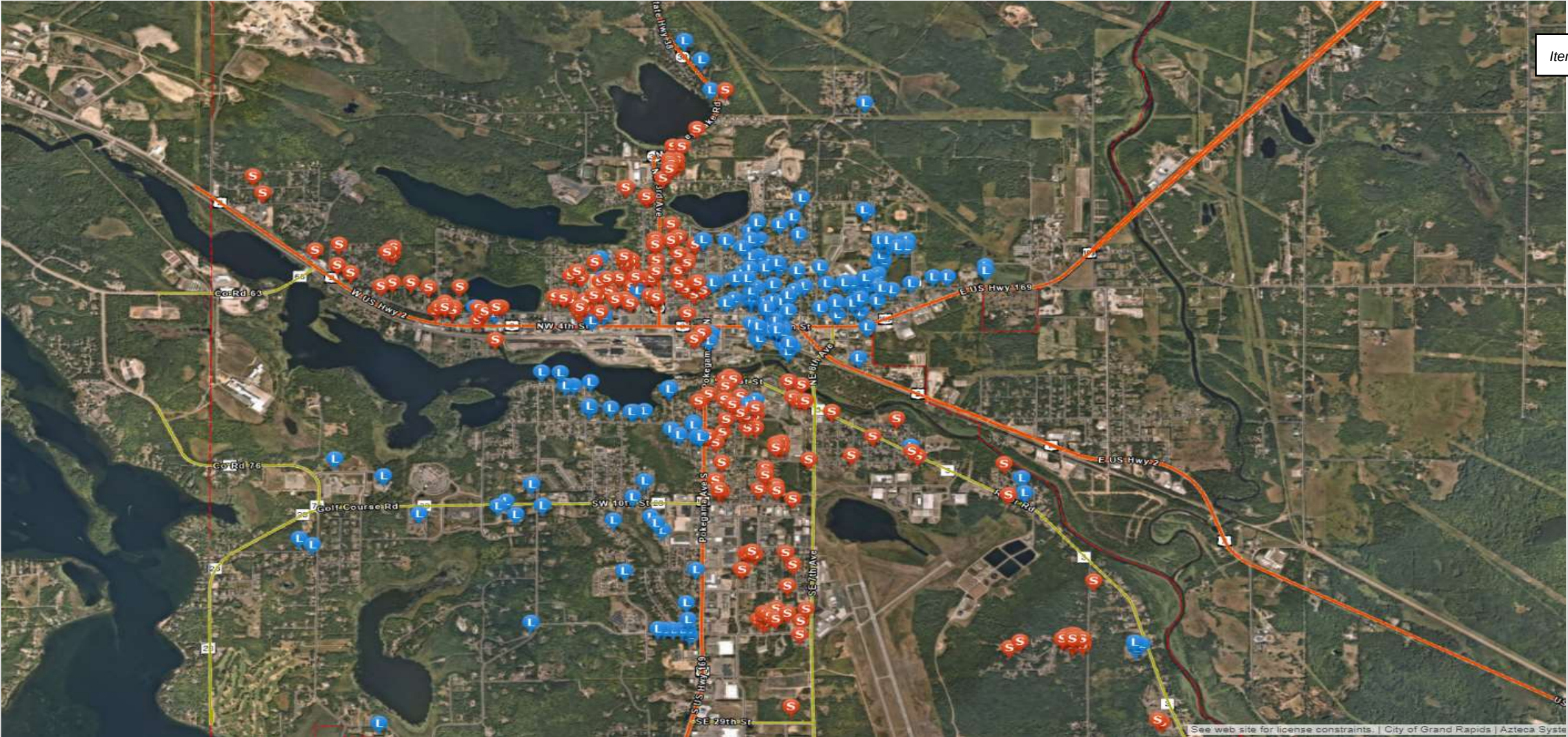
RENTAL / FIRE FIGHTERS

- **TWO PRIMARY FUNCTIONS ARE RENTAL INSPECTIONS AND RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY CALLS.**
- **CURRENTLY APPROX 435 REGISTERED STRUCTURES WITH APPROX. 2483 RENTAL UNITS.**
- **167 TOTAL INSPECTIONS IN 2025.**
- **LANCE AND SHAWN ALSO ASSIST WITH FIRE INSPECTIONS OF DAYCARES, HOTELS, AND GENERAL FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS.**
- **LANCE KUSCHEL AND SHAWN ALSO HELP ISSUE BUILDING PERMITS AND BUILDING INSPECTIONS.**
- **RENTALS INSPECTORS WILL NOW ALSO ASSIST WITH BLIGHT INSPECTIONS MOVING FORWARD.**



Item 1.





Location of Rental Licenses

5 Sets of new Gear

- Pants-\$1731
- Coat-\$2431
- Structural Gloves-\$140
- Extrication-\$80
- Nomex Hood-\$120
- Leatherman-\$150
- Flashlight-\$100
- Helmet- \$600
- Boots-\$550
- Total to outfit new FF- \$5,902





10,923
tested
2,550'
Failed

Replaced with:
16 lengths
13/4'
12 length LDH
8 lengths 2 1/2"

Total Cost
\$23,000



Item 1.

DRILLS....

- UTILIZED MBFTE TRAINING DOLLARS
- ROPE RESCUE
- CONFINED SPACE
- EXTRICATION DRILLS
- LIVE HOUSE BURN
- PUMP TRAINING
- PHYSICAL AGILITY COURSES
- OVER 110 HOURS PER YEAR OF DRILLS AND MEETINGS PER FF. 3 HOURS EVERY 2ND, 3RD, AND 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.



Item 1.



HAZMAT TEAM

- **FIRST TECH CLASS IN YEARS**
- **INCREASE TO BASE BUDGET FROM 60K TO 85K**
- **HAZMAT REFRESHER CLASS**
- **COLD ZONE**
- **ROAD SHOW (OTHER DEPARTMENTS)**
- **MORE FUN**



FIGHTER OF THE YEAR AND CHIEF MERITORIOUS AWARDS

- **TRAVIS COLE VOTED BY FIRE MEMBERSHIP AS THE 2025 FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR.**
- **CONNOR GRIGSBY VOTED BY CHIEF OFFICERS AS THE 2025 CHIEF MERITORIOUS AWARD WINNER.**



Item 1.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **2025 OPEN HOUSE**
- **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AND CITY OF LAPRAIRIE**
- **NUMEROUS SCHOOL VISITS**
- **PARADES**
- **HIGHSCHOOL STATE TOURNEY ESCORTS**

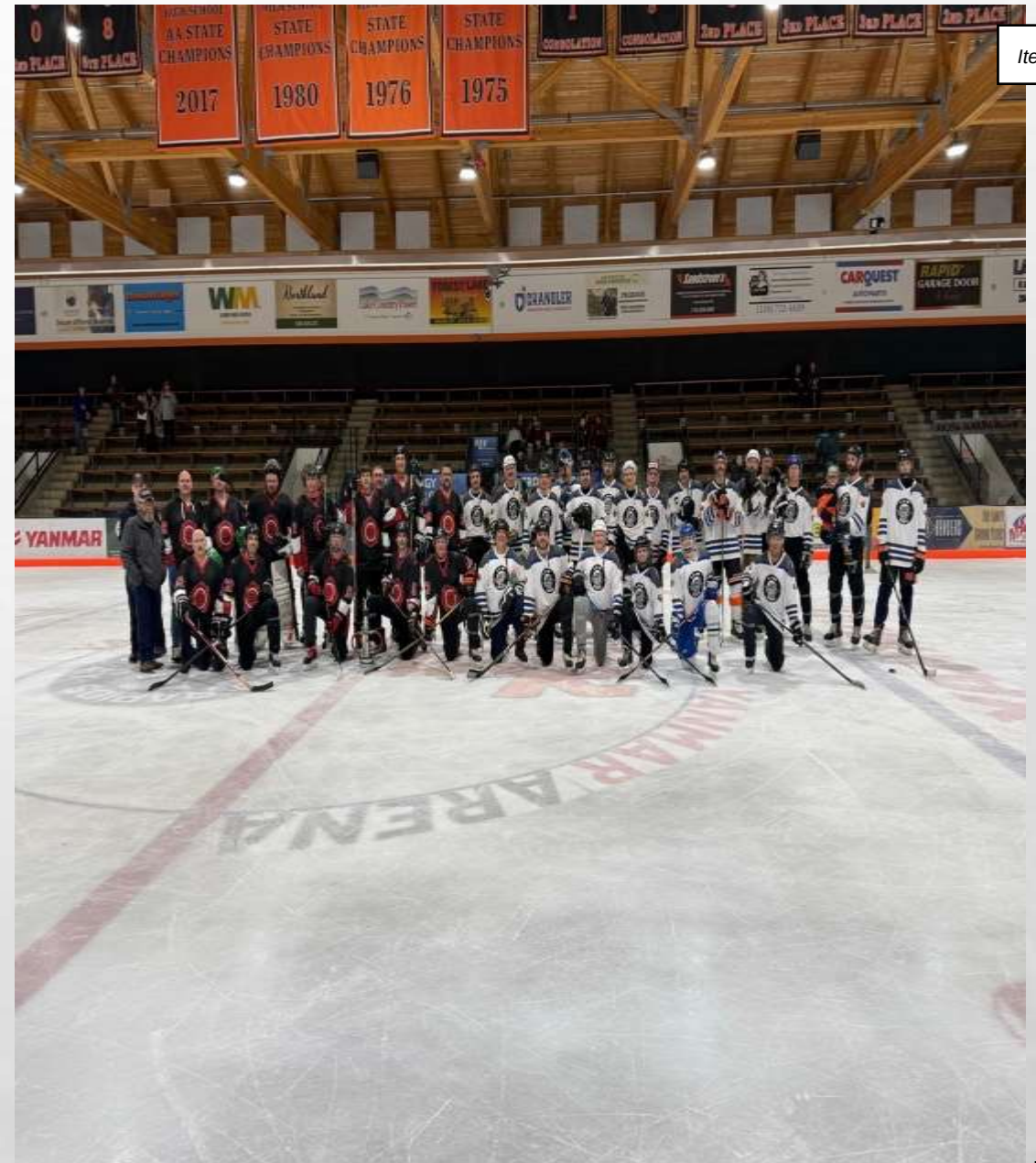


Item 1.



FIRE VS LAW HOCKEY GAME 2025

- **COMMUNITY HOCKEY GAME BETWEEN ITASCA FIRE DEPARTMENTS VS ITASCA LAW ENFORCEMENT.**
- **FREE WILL DONATION WITH MONIES RAISED GOING TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WHO RELATIVES SERVED AS AN ITASCA COUNTY FF.**
- **ITASCA FIRE BEAT ITASCA LAW BY ONE GOAL WITH 1 SECOND LEFT IN THE GAME!**



Item 1.

SAFTEY

- **2025 REVIEW**
- **191 PAGED CALLS – 1 INJURY**
- **25 TRAININGS – 2 INJURIES**
- **TO DO LIST**
- **GEAR CHECKS**
- **GEAR WASH SCHEDULE**
- **DECON**
- **ONGOING**
- **BASIC FIREFIGHTING TASKS SAFELY**
- **TEAMWORK**
- **SPEAK UP**



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- **CAMP HOUSE FIRE**
- **CITY OF BEMIDJI STATION RESPONSE**
- **WILL RICHTER NEW SAFETY OFFICER**
- **JAIME TURNBULL NEW FIRE HALL CUSTODIAN**
- **MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL**
- **PENSION INCREASE BRING AMOUNT TO 10K PER YEAR OF SERVICE**
- **ZACH MORSE AND JACK HOOVER EARN BLACK HELMETS**
- **RETIREMENT OF TOM FOSS, JAKE BARSNESS, AND PATRICK FLAHERTY**
- **DEPARTMENT HAD A RESCUE OF TRAPPED FEMALE STILL INSIDE A STRUCTURE FIRE**

2026....

- **SQUAD ROTATION**
- **HIRE 4 NEW FIRE FIGHTERS – OWEN LINDER, RILEY O'BRIEN, JOHN KINZER, AUSTIN JAEGER**
- **NEW HMRT HAZMAT TRUCK BUILD**
- **WILDLAND FIRES (FLANDERS, STEWART, AND CAMP FIRE)**
- **DNR GRANT (WILDLAND BOOTS)**
- **BUDGETS**
- **WORK ON NEW HAZMAT TRUCK AND TRAILER**
- **EAGLE EXTRAVAGANZA 2026**

THANK YOU TO MY STAFF...



Grand Rapids Fire	Department	Years of Service	As of	8/10/2026
				Item 1.
Name	Rank	Hire Date	Years of Service	
Kortekaas, Adam	Firefighter	7/10/2001	25 years 1 months 0 days	
Graeber, Shawn	2nd Asst Chief	1/15/2002	24 years 6 months 26 days	
Linder, John	1nd Asst Chief	1/13/2004	22 years 6 months 28 days	
Gibeau, James	Firefighter	7/12/2005	EOW-15 years 8 months 12 days	
Keech, Chad	Firefighter	5/1/2007	19 years 3 months 9 days	
Cole, Travis	Chief	8/12/2008	17 years 11 months 29 days	
Baird, Bruce	Captain	8/12/2008	17 years 11 months 29 days	
*Ingle, Jeff	Firefighter	8/15/2009	16 years 11 months 26 days	
Gaalaas, Karl	Firefighter	5/15/2012	14 years 2 months 26 days	
Troumbly, Chad	Hazmat Lead	1/29/2013	13 years 6 months 12 days	
Clafton, Tony	Firefighter	2/15/2015	11 years 5 months 26 days	
Kuschel, Lance	Captain	3/3/2015	11 years 5 months 7 days	
Thayer, Bill	Firefighter	11/10/2015	10 years 9 months 0 days	
Richter, Will	Firefighter	6/9/2016	10 years 2 months 1 days	
Smith, Heath	Firefighter	8/1/2016	10 years 0 months 9 days	
Morlan, Nate	Maintenance	8/24/2016	9 years 11 months 17 days	
Cook, Jeff	Firefighter	4/11/2017	9 years 3 months 30 days	
Martinson, Sean	Firefighter	6/13/2017	9 years 1 months 28 days	
Moran, Ashley	Firefighter	6/13/2017	9 years 1 months 28 days	
Grigsby, Connor	Firefighter	8/29/2017	8 years 11 months 12 days	
Gambill, Jeremy	Hazmat Assistant	4/9/2018	8 years 4 months 1 days	
Martinetto, Paul	Firefighter	4/9/2018	8 years 4 months 1 days	
Haucke, Cody	Firefighter	10/9/2018	7 years 10 months 1 days	
Karkela, Sam	Firefighter	5/27/2019	7 years 2 months 14 days	
Kubeczko, Kevin	Firefighter	7/14/2020	6 years 0 months 27 days	
Arford, Matt	Firefighter	2/15/2022	4 years 5 months 26 days	
Turnbull, Jaime	Firefighter	2/15/2022	4 years 5 months 26 days	
Zach Morse	Firefighter	11/28/2023	2 years 8 months 13 days	
Jack Hoover	Firefighter	11/28/2023	2 years 8 months 13 days	
Owen Linder	Firefighter	1/1/2026	0 years 7 months 9 days	
Riley O'Brien	Firefighter	1/1/2026	0 years 7 months 9 days	
Austin Jaeger	Firefighter	1/1/2026	0 years 7 months 9 days	
John Kinzer	Firefighter	1/1/2026	0 years 7 months 9 days	