

GALESBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

2025 Annual Report



Fire Department



MISSION

With unique skills and training, the Galesburg Fire Department proudly provides professional and compassionate emergency medical and fire suppression services to our citizens with quick thinking, intelligence and dependability.

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF

I feel like I say this every year, but 2025 has come and gone and we are jumping right into 2026 with both feet. 2025 was another year of change, challenge and further movement ahead in achieving long planned goals. We asked the Battalion Chiefs to submit a year end report summarizing the work that took place on each shift. We included those responsible for areas within our operations in the budget process starting in April. These involve multiple inter-department and administrative meetings throughout the year.



Two of our biggest accomplishments in 2025 was the addition of a Deputy Chief position and the completion of the Central Station Dorm Project. We added this project to the Capital Improvement Plan for the past five years. City Manager Hanson saw the importance of both and allowed us to budget for them. We also completed the much needed infrastructure repairs to Fremont, Brooks and further development at the Training Site.

Unfortunately, we were forced to back off our recruitment activities to increase diversity due to our overtime being extremely over budget. We did attend a couple local events that on duty staff were able to handle.

We look forward to another productive year in 2026.

Respectfully,


Randy Hovind
Fire Chief



FLEET MAINTENANCE

GFD's fleet is in excellent shape. The Chief and Deputy Chiefs worked closely with Finance to develop a realistic timetable and actual replacement costs that adjust annually based on the CPI. This increased our contributions to the Vehicle Replacement Fund, but will allow the department the ability to purchase newer apparatus before they are broke down and no longer work.

Another forward thinking project was the decision use smaller vehicles to respond to EMS calls. GFD obtained a 2025 Ford Explorer (Unit 59) to utilize as a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV). After extensive research, GFD located a provider that could design and build a custom slide out for our QRV. The QRV was ready to roll the end of 2025.

GFD also replaced three staff vehicles in 2025.



Fire Department



OPERATIONS *continued...*

RETIREMENTS

The department did not experience any retirements in 2025.

PROMOTIONS

✱ Brock Schmitt - Deputy Chief

✱ Matt Cain - Battalion Chief

👑 Kyle Harms - Fire Captain

👑 Josh Lenz - Fire Captain

NEW HIRES

Beau Lehnhausen

Kyle Shaw

James Nelson



LtoR: Lehnhausen, Nelson, Shaw



LtoR: Cain, Harms, Hovind, Lenz & Schmitt

1ST ANNUAL FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS CEREMONY

In May, 6 of GFD's finest were recognized at the OSFM's 32nd Annual Firefighting Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony. Captain Harms, Firefighters Webber and McGee received the OSFM Firefighter Unit Citation Award for their actions in rescuing individuals from a balcony and an apartment that were on fire in 2024.



LtoR: Harms, Webber, McGee

Captain Moffitt, Firefighters Brackett and Morrissey all received the OSFM Firefighter Excellence Award for their actions in rescuing a woman who was trapped in the basement of a residential structure fire in 2024.



FF Morrissey & Brackett



(L to R): McGee, Moffitt, Schmitt (white hat), Webber, Morrissey, Hovind and Harms

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



FF Morrissey

Nick Morrissey was selected as the 2024 Firefighter of the Year Award for his actions on the 2024 structure fire mentioned above, for his dedication to maintenance and training of the water and ice rescue program, training of RIT skills to the department that he learned while attending outside training, his membership on the pension board, and his dedication to the training of new Galesburg Fire recruits and the betterment of the shift that he is assigned to. Firefighter Morrissey exemplifies what all fire departments hope to see in their members.

Fire Department



OPERATIONS *continued...*

RECRUITMENT

Staff are continuously at work sharing with the area youth of the possibilities of a career in the fire service. Our recruitment team visits local colleges and high schools for career fairs and other related events to show case how they can become a firefighter.

GFD held Entry Level Testing in 2025. We received 36 applications. Of those, 4 dropped out before the agility test, 10 did not show up to the agility test and 5 failed the run portion. That left us 17 candidates for the Written Test. For the first time, we utilized an online exam. Most departments have moved to this type of testing situation. Of the 17, 4 candidates did not take the test and 3 failed. We had 10 candidates that made the Final List that is effective from 12/9/2025 - 12/10/2027.



Captain Brignall, Captain Cain & Firefighter Stevenson



FIRE FACILITIES

Old Training Tower: The old training tower foundation and several of the containers were determined to be unsafe and had to be removed from the facility. Four of the containers were salvaged to create a new two storey training facility. The additional training tower will be completed in 2026.

Paint Shop: The old brick paint shop was in a state of disrepair and was also demolished. A shipping container was purchased for use as a temporary storage area.

Brooks Station: The apron at Brooks received much needed concrete and storm sewer repairs. Additional work was done to repair concrete in the employee parking area. The fifty year old station generator was replaced with a new generator that meets current electrical codes.

Fremont Station: Concrete repairs were made to several sidewalks and the rear apron.

Central Station: Repairs were completed on several areas of bricks that were falling off the building. This has been an ongoing issues for several years. The new HVAC and lighting project was completed.





OPERATIONS *continued...*

FACILITIES...

Central Dorm Remodel: The renovation of the Central Station Dorm remodel kicked off with GFD crews relocating all the beds to the Day Room, Cardio Room and the Duty Office. The washer and dryer were moved to the apparatus bay. The lockers were relocated to the Chief's Garage which was repurposed into the locker room for the duration of the project.

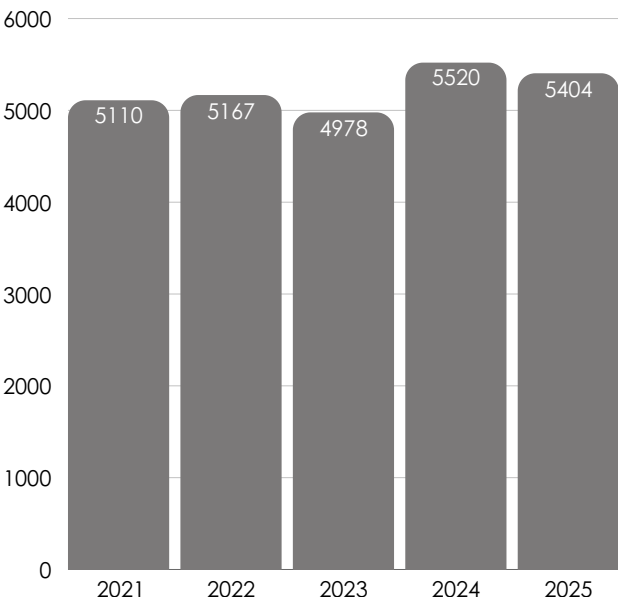
On Monday, August 11th, the contractor began the asbestos removal process. On December 23rd, the project was completed.



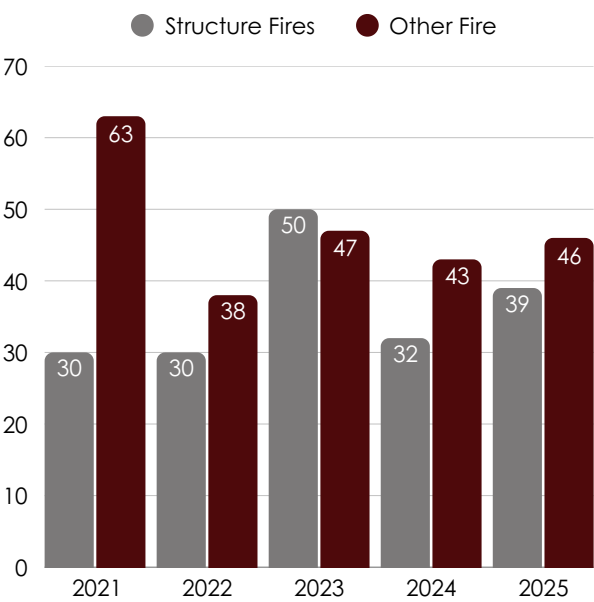


OPERATIONS *continued...*

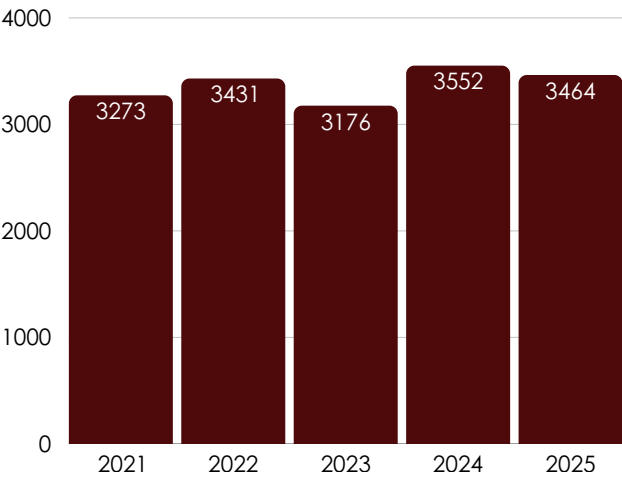
Total Calls



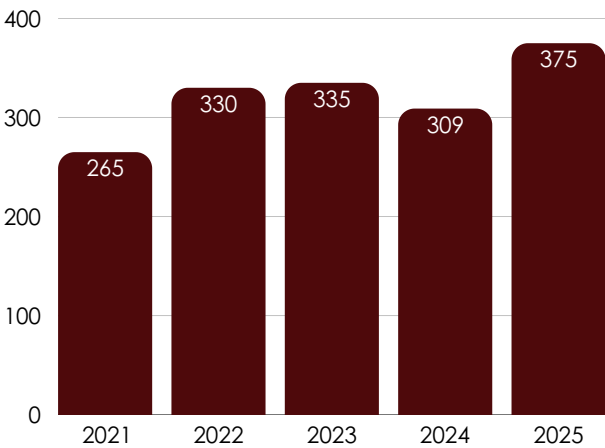
Fire Calls



EMS Calls



False Alarms



GFD Response

11

Minimum Staffing Level

Average Response time
for 1st unit on scene

3 38

min. seconds

Fire Department



OPERATIONS *continued...*

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

The Galesburg Fire Department completed over 400 hours of Hazardous Materials training in 2025. The MABAS 31 Hazmat Team is composed of twenty one hazardous materials technicians from the Fire Department. The MABAS 31 Hazmat Team is the primary response team to hazmat incidents for a large portion of western Illinois. There are thirty one MABAS Hazmat teams in Illinois with a majority of them located in the Chicago- Metro Area. The MABAS 31 Hazmat Team has been validated and is capable of deployment anywhere in the United States.



TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

Firefighter Pedigo reported GFD crews responded to nine calls for service that required technical rescue.

Staff received more training in rope access rescue. GFD also held cross department training with Monmouth Fire in confined space rescue. Four quarterly cross-training events were held in conjunction with MABAS 36's TRT members.





PREVENTION

	2025	2024	2023
Fire Investigations:	18	20	36
Inspections:	187	367	197

PERMITS ISSUED

IFC Permits:	270	252	226
Fire Alarm System Permits:	7	10	7
Sprinkler System Permits:	8	4	3
Hood System Permits:	3	1	2
Pyrotechnics Permits:	2	3	2
Tent Permits:	3	2	3

PLAN REVIEW

Life Safety Building Plans:	32
Solar Farms Plans:	1
Fire Alarms Plans:	6
Sprinkler Plans:	7

SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

Captain Caruana reported that GFD installed 211 alarms in 96 residences throughout Galesburg in 2025.

GFD partnered with the Red Cross to help get smoke alarms to all our residents.



Galesburg residents can sign up here for **FREE** smoke detectors.

Fire Department



PREVENTION *continued...*

HYDRANTS

Hydrants were renumbered again so the numbers in all systems (First Due and Field Maps) will match. All the revised information was moved to First Due in the Fall of 2025.

Hydrants in the southeast quadrant of the city were serviced in 2025. Crews discovered 29 hydrants that needed maintenance.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The FPW focus was on lithium-ion batteries. DC Seitz had GFD crews focus on smoke detectors and escape plans for the schools. All the information was added to GFD's pages on the city website.



SOFTWARE

With the switch from NFIRS to NERIS reporting, the escalating issues the department was having with the reporting software we had, the decision was made to move to First Due.

Significant changes were made to our website presence. Attempts were made to offer a more user friendly layout and provide additional information for residence and vendors. The biggest change was moving to an online permit portal. This change has been well received by contractors.

Jenni worked with Captain Caruana and the City's IT department to set up an online form for residents requesting Smoke Alarms. The form gathered the needed information for the Red Cross and made it possible for staff to set up appointments for the installations.

KNOX BOXES

Firefighter Nelson completed maintenance on the Knox Boxes, it was noted at several properties there were no keys, no box, keys were not working, etc.

Captain Lenz spearheaded the purchase and installation of 6 new key secure devices. These replaces the older devices.

MISC

Fire Prevention worked with City Administration to complete the Galesburg City Hall Emergency Operations Plan.

Fire Department

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

GFD prides ourselves in community involvement.





COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *continued...*

MDA

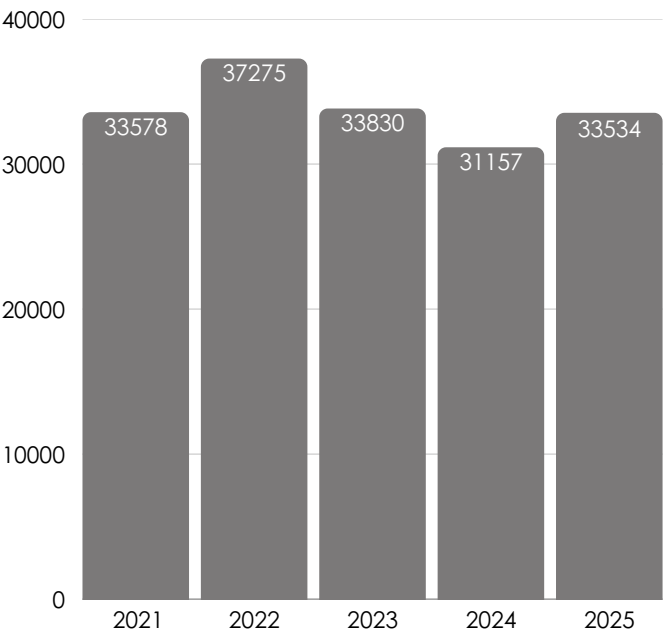
GFD raised \$33,534.34 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. A huge part of our continued successful fundraising goes to our community and the support they continue to show for MDA each year. This is the first time in three years that GFD beat our prior year amount raised!

Crews hit the streets for three days, collecting **\$27,604.23** from the Galesburg residents. Our thanks to our residents for their support!

We are projected to rank **second** in the state for donations collected by fire departments. Only Chicago Fire Department is expected to have raised more.



LtoR FFs Scott, FF Shaw Lily & FF Morrissey



Fire Department



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2025

With the assistance of Deputy Chiefs Schmitt and Seitz, Captain Grodjesk and Firefighter O'Daniel we have moved closer to achieving all the necessary benchmarks for FEMA and IEMA accreditation for 2026.

Achievements this year have been:

- Meeting with Navigator Pipeline to discuss safety and response concerns and the development of a Carbon Dioxide Distribution Line ERP.
- Cyber Security TTX involving the City of Galesburg Administration, IT Department, Police Department, and Legal Department, meeting core capability objectives for accreditation.
- Participating in a Drill/Exercise with Henry Hill Correctional Center with local partners.
- Mass Care TTX involving Galesburg Police, Galesburg Fire, GHAS, and OSF St. Mary's, meeting core capability objectives for accreditation.
- Knox College Full Scale Active Shooter Drill with Knox College Administration Staff, Security Staff, Galesburg Police Dept., Knox County Sheriff's Dept., Galesburg Fire Dept., GHAS, IEMA Staff, and OSF St. Mary's Staff to meet core capability objectives for accreditation.
- Critical Infrastructure TTX involving City of Galesburg Public Works, Water Dept., Oquawka Staff, IT Staff, Administrative Staff to meet core capability objectives for accreditation.



IEMA GRANT FUNDING

Staff closed the EMPG grant application for 2024. Receiving a total of \$23,416.90. The 2025 EMPG grant application (normally completed in the fall), still has not been released for us to apply.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The LEPC maintained inventories for all EHM located in Knox County. Chairman Schmitt attended multiple meetings with agencies storing EHM

The LEPC held an annual meeting on April 22.

Fire Department

IN MEMORY OF...



Ron Patterson, Firefighter
Service: 4/1/1962 - 12/23/1964



Don Phillips, Firefighter
Service: 9/7/1975 - 7/7/1979 and 8/24/1982-11/21/2003



Thomas Baughman, Firefighter
Service: 6/16/1980-11/30/2018

When I am called to duty, God,
wherever flames may rage,
give me strength to save some life
whatever be its age.



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