

Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District

# Annual Report



2024



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# MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF MIKE HUNEKE

As Fire Chief it is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the 2024 Annual Report of the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District. As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride for the accomplishments of this organization and the dedicated individuals who make our success possible. From our frontline first responders to our Trustees and Commissioners, every member of our team embodies a commitment to excellence, service to others, and innovation.



**I am filled with immense pride for the organization and the dedicated individuals who make our success possible**

At ECFPD, we believe in empowering our team to address challenges at the lowest level of the organization through the exception principle. This approach ensures that no one is ever more than two people away from an answer, fostering collaboration, efficiency, and trust. It is this philosophy that allows us to remain leaders in our industry while preparing the next generation of public safety professionals. Succession planning remains a cornerstone of our strategy, as we invest in developing talent at every level to ensure the continued strength and resilience of our organization.

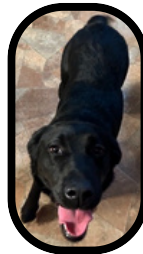
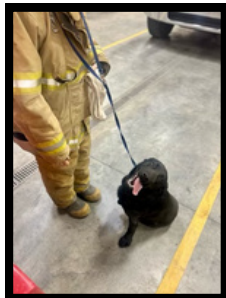
In 2024, we have made remarkable strides in service delivery, training, and community engagement. From the reestablishment of our Fire Investigation Team to the continued success of our Community Risk Reduction programs, we have maintained our focus on protecting lives and property while building meaningful relationships with the community. Highlights of the past year include the successful execution of our annual Fire Academy, the expansion of our Cadet Program, and the integration of cutting-edge equipment to enhance our response capabilities.

Looking ahead, we are excited about several key initiatives for 2025. In August, we anticipate the delivery of a new Tower Ladder, a project made possible through a federal funding grant from Congressman Foster's office and the hard work of our team. In April, we will see the arrival of a new ambulance as well as two new command/utility vehicles, ensuring enhanced reliability and readiness for emergencies. Additionally, we are thrilled to welcome Cinder (Badge #73), our new crisis response station dog, who will bring comfort and support to both our members and the community. These advancements reflect our unwavering dedication to meeting the evolving needs of our community while remaining at the forefront of the fire service industry.

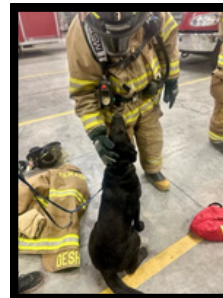
I am deeply grateful for the trust and support of our community, as well as the passion and dedication of our ECFPD team. Together, we have built an organization that not only meets, but exceeds expectations, setting a standard of excellence that serves as a model for others.

As we celebrate the successes of 2024 and look forward to the opportunities of the year ahead, I encourage you to explore this report and learn more about the incredible work being done across our District. It is an honor to serve as your Fire Chief, and I remain committed to leading this organization with integrity, vision, and a focus on service to others.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to what we will accomplish together in 2025 and beyond.



CINDER  
Badge # 73



# ABOUT ECFPD

Welcome to the 2024 Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District Annual Report. This report highlights the efforts undertaken by our organization to protect you and your community. Additionally, this report now includes new information and data to help you understand more about our organization, as part of our continued commitment to keeping those we protect informed through direct communication and transparency.

The Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District exists to serve you through the provision of fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue, and risk reduction services to the residents and visitors to our jurisdiction, which includes the following communities (or portions thereof) and surrounding unincorporated areas:

- Village of Elburn
- Village of Lily Lake
- Village of Virgil
- Village of Campton Hills
- Batavia Township
- Blackberry Township
- Campton Township
- Geneva Township
- Sugar Grove Township
- Virgil Township

As well as large subdivisions such as:

- Mill Creek (Geneva Twp.)
- The Windings (Campton Twp.)

In addition to all-hazards emergency services, ECFPD also offers Community Risk Reduction services and programs, which include (but are not limited to):

- Fire prevention
- Public education (tours, CPR, car seat safety, and more)
- Rural water supply preparedness
- Cadet Program (Ages 14 – 19)
- Basic Operations Firefighter Academy (BOF)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Program
- Miscellaneous other community-related events/classes.





# STATIONS AND APPARATUS

ECFPD operates out of three stations across our 61 square mile District

## STATION ONE 200 E Route 38

Engine 301 – Medic 351 – Battalion 300  
Tender 301 – Investigations  
Hazardous Materials Team – Technical Rescue Team  
Staff: 4 Personnel + Administration



## STATION TWO 39W950 Hughes Rd

Engine 302 – Medic 352 – Tower 302  
Staff: 5 Personnel



## STATION THREE 5N276 Wooley Rd

Medic 353 – Tender 303  
Staff: 3 Personnel



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

ECFPD is governed by a Board of Trustees of five elected members, each with a six year term. The Board of Trustees has the power to supervise, control, regulate and manage the District, and to make and enforce all necessary ordinances, and rules and regulations for the proper management and conduct of the business of the Board. Current Trustees are: President Thomas Reynolds, Secretary Lisa Engberg, Treasurer Michael Anderson, Trustee Alan Lee, and Trustee Jeffrey Armesy. Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm.



A separate board, the Board of Fire Commissioners, is made up of three members appointed by the Trustees to establish policies for recruiting, testing, selection, and promotion of members. Commissioners include Commissioner Christian Thomas, Commissioner Peter Panagakis, and Commissioner Stephen Herra. Meetings are held quarterly.



# MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY CHIEF MATT HANSON

Thank you for reading our 2024 Annual Report. Each year we have so many points and initiatives to highlight and share as our membership continues to grow and achieve. This will be evident as you read the reports following this letter where each of our Program Managers share their particular area of responsibility and plans for the future.



**The addition of Battalion Chiefs was not only a necessary step to ensure crew accountability and success, but also to provide a level of leadership with mentorship opportunities.**

The sheer talent at our Fire Department has been compared to a Professional Athletic Organization by our area partners. Every day we have a stacked roster of starting athletes as well as a deep bench of exciting talent, including a farm-team of our own in-house recruits and cadets. We are seeing outstanding numbers of individuals who are pursuing Elburn Fire as their department of choice for full-time employment. This is due to the culture our people have built, fostered, and defend.

We continue to utilize our Strategic Plan, completed in partnership by our members and the Northern Illinois University Governmental Studies group as a road map. We have now enjoyed a full year with the restructuring of our leadership team. The addition of Battalion Chiefs was not only a necessary step to ensure crew accountability and success, but also to provide a level of leadership with mentorship opportunities. This summer, our leadership team was invited to be the first fire department to participate in a leadership assessment by Joshua Leaders Forum. Although on-going, this opportunity has provided genuine areas of growth potential for all participants. We hope to continue to utilize this relationship with our advisor, Ret. Fire Chief Chris Truty, to continue to make each other and our team stronger.

This year, I was fortunate to have an article, Rural Water-Supply in a Long Lane Setting, featured in the October Issue of Fire Engineering. This article is particularly significant because it showcases the effort our members put into redesigning our long lane water supply tactic. This tactic has been adopted by many of our area Fire Departments, which is another testament to our people.

Personally, I feel humbled to once again serve this organization as its Deputy Chief. I continue to serve as the Treasurer of the Kane County Fire Chiefs, a director of the Elburn Lions Club Park Board, and as an Instructor with the Chief Fire Officer Program through the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. It is my pleasure to represent our fire district in these situations, demonstrating and speaking about the professionalism and advancements of our fine organization in the State.

Please, enjoy reading each report that follows, and continue to expect only the very best from your Elburn Fire Department!

# THE INTRODUCTION OF BATTALION CHIEFS TO ECFPD

As our Fire District continues to grow and develop, so has our response force creating essential responsibilities of each member and officer. Identifying this need and opportunity for development, a proposal to our Board Of Trustees allowed us to implement a more traditional command staff position, adding the of position of Battalion Chief(BC) for the first time to the ECFPD. Battalion Chiefs share administrative tasks with the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief, however they remain on shift with their crews, each day. One BC each day assigned to a shift provides essential person-to-person leadership and oversight for the Lieutenants and Firefighters at our three stations. The addition of Battalion Chiefs was not only a necessary step to ensure crew accountability and success, but also to provide a level of leadership with essential mentorship opportunities.

In order to identify the ideal Lieutenant(s) to offer this promotion to, we were excited to allow 8 candidates to enter into a mentorship period. With the support of the Board of Trustees and Local 4749, each candidate was mentored and evaluated during a twelve (12) week structured leadership experience. Eligible candidates immersed themselves into the new role and assumed command responsibilities on scene(s), as well as leadership opportunities with firefighters each day. Working closely with the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief each candidate showed tremendous potential, ensuring our leadership vales and culture will stay strong long into the future.

We are proud to introduce the following promotions and specific areas of responsibility

## BATTALION CHIEF TREVOR HALL, SUPPORT SERVICES

- BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES
- FLEET AND MAINTENANCE
- TOOLS, HOSE, LADDERS, EQUIPMENT, CAR SEAT SAFETY
- ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (IDOL) COMPLIANCE



## BATTALION CHIEF DAN CZARUK, OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

- TRAINING
- OFFICER DEVELOPMENT
- FIRE ACADEMY AND CADETS
- SPECIAL TEAMS(TECHNICAL RESCUE & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM)

## BATTALION CHIEF CHRIS SPITZOCK, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) AND SAFETY

- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) TRAINING PROGRAM
- WELLNESS AND FITNESS
- TURNOUT GEAR AND UNIFORMS





# LOCAL 4749 & HONOR GUARD

## LT. MIKE DIDENKO

### LOCAL 4749

Elburn & Countryside Local 4749 had a remarkable 2024. Our continued success stems from the strong collaboration between our membership, Chiefs, Trustees, and Battalion Chiefs. This teamwork has allowed us, as a Local, to strengthen and grow our organization.

In 2024, we welcomed five new full-time members, all of whom will complete their probation early in the new year. Additionally, we celebrated the promotion of Lt. Bryon Ferguson earlier this year. As we look ahead, we aim to continue growing our ranks, further solidifying the foundation of our team.



One of the highlights of this year was our partnership with the department to form a local chapter of the Fire Buddies program. This initiative has enabled us to deepen our impact within the community, particularly with children and families battling illness. By forming connections that go beyond caregiver and patient, we are building lifelong friendships and creating a meaningful presence in their lives. In the upcoming year, we will host and participate in charity events to support the Fire Buddies organization, which does so much for so many.

Local 4749 remains committed to enhancing the already exceptional programs our department provides. In 2025, we are excited to expand this commitment by introducing a new event focused on mental health awareness—not only for our members but also for the community we serve.

We are proud of what we accomplished in 2024 and look forward to building on this success in the year ahead. Together, we will continue to serve, support, and strengthen our team and our community.

### HONOR GUARD



As 2024 comes to a close, the Elburn & Countryside Professional Firefighter Local 4749 Honor Guard proudly reflects on a year filled with service, tradition, and dedication. Throughout the year, our members represented Local 4749 and the fire service with professionalism and honor at various events across the community and beyond.

This year, the Honor Guard participated in key events, including Promotional Ceremonies, the Elburn Days Parade, and the Recruit Graduation. Each event served as an opportunity to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to upholding the values of honor, respect, and tradition within the fire service.

The Honor Guard continues to train countless hours dedicated to perfecting our drill movements, flag presentations, and ceremonial details. This training ensures that each member is prepared to represent Local 4749 with precision and professionalism during every occasion.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to welcome two new members to the AFFI Honor Guard roster. Their addition will strengthen our team and ensure that the proud traditions of the Honor Guard continue for years to come.

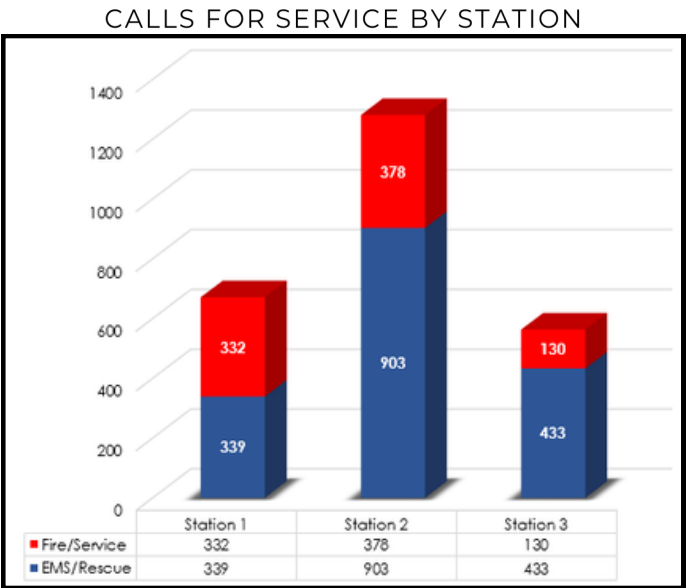
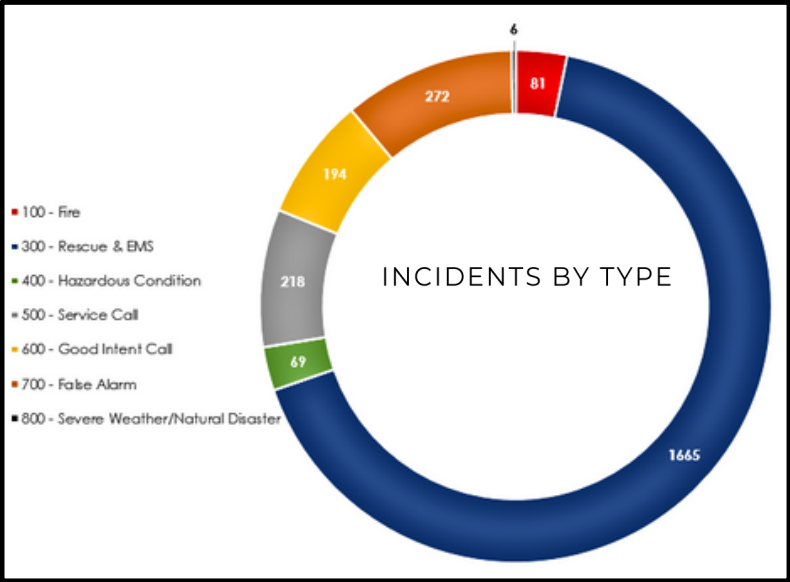
We extend our gratitude to the members of Local 4749, our families, and the community for their continued support. The Elburn & Countryside Professional Firefighter Local 4749 Honor Guard remains committed to honoring those we serve and those who have served before us.

# DATA SPECIALIST MAGGIE WALSH

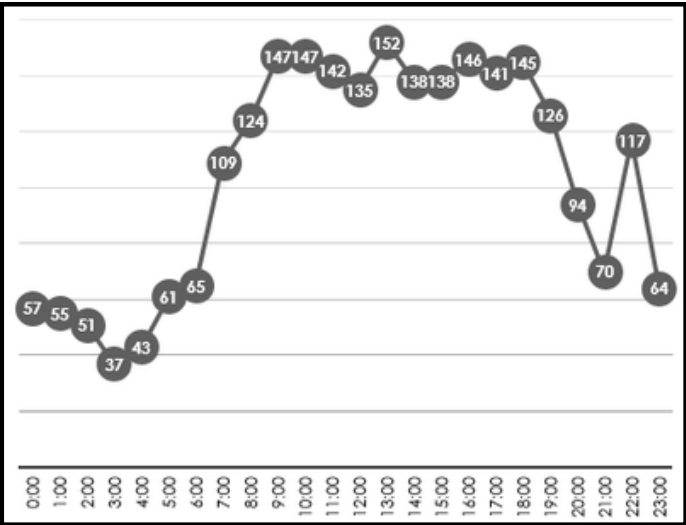
The Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District is continually measuring its response performance as part of our commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. By analyzing response times, resource allocation, and operational efficiency, it aids us in providing timely, effective, and life-saving services. This ongoing evaluation helps us identify areas for improvement, adapt to emerging challenges, and maintain the highest standards of emergency response excellence. Highlighted below are some of our incident statistics from 2024:



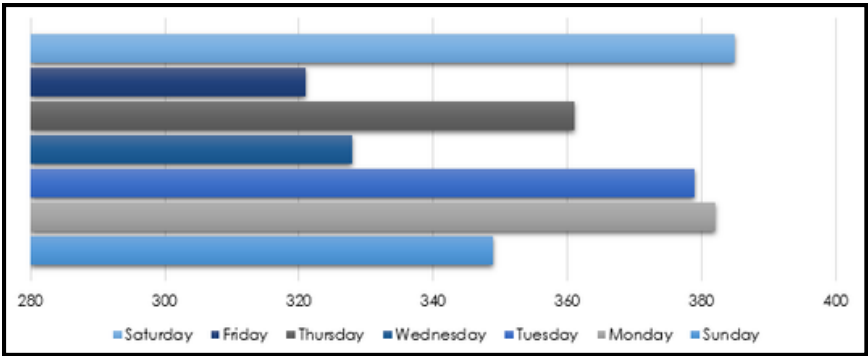
## 2024 INCIDENT STATISTICS



INCIDENTS BY TIME OF DAY



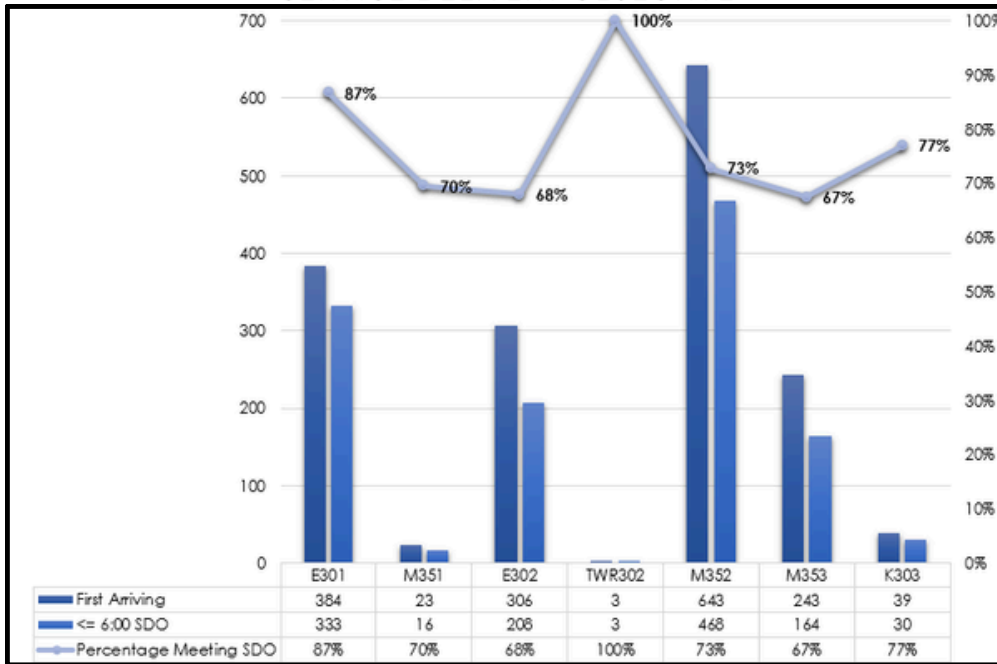
INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK





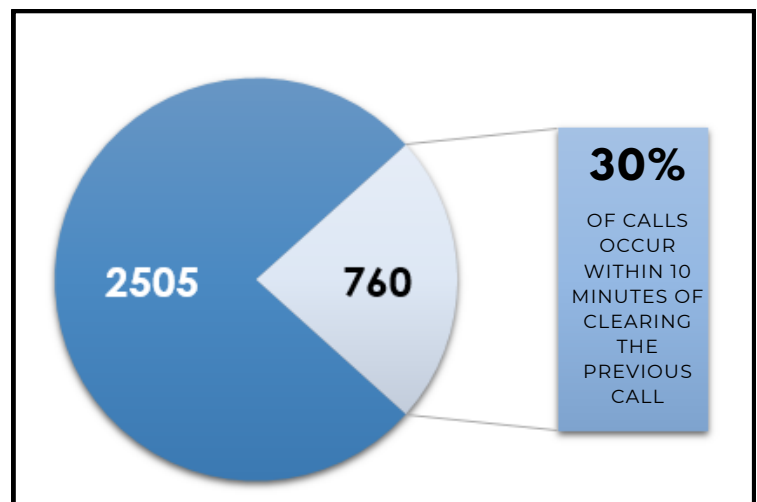
# 2024 INCIDENT STATISTICS

FIRST ARRIVING UNITS MEASURED BY  
SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVE



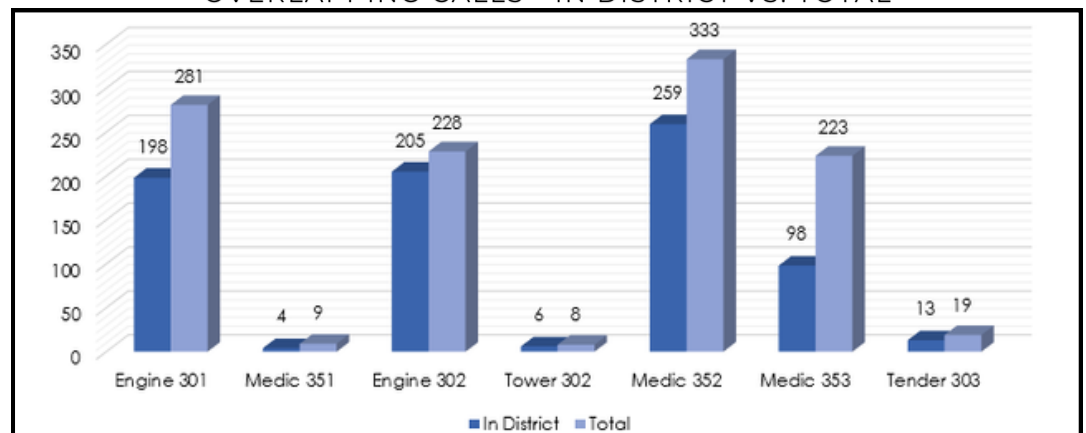
The ECFPD desires to have, an Initial Arriving Response Force, on scene in 6 minutes or less 80% of the time, to all areas of our district. The priority of the Initial Arriving Response Force will remain Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, Property Conservation and ALS intervention

One statistic we continuously monitor is the frequency within which calls occur. ECFPD has found that we have a high instance of calls for service dispatched within 10 minutes of clearing the previous incident. Monitoring this statistic enables us to anticipate the community's service demands while maintaining the exceptional emergency response that ECFPD is known for.



Understanding that there is a high frequency of calls that occur within minutes of each other, we further look at this by unit and then by location to ensure that resources are allocated properly. This allows us to not only plan for today, but also for the future needs of the District.

OVERLAPPING CALLS - IN DISTRICT VS. TOTAL



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION FIRE MARSHAL LISA SCHOPP



## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION (CRR) BY THE NUMBERS

1646



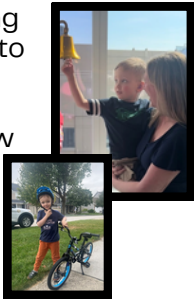
## CRR INSPECTIONS & TASKS COMPLETED IN 2024

CRR Inspections and Tasks Breakdown	
468	Inspections Completed
1141	Hydrants Inspected
19	Permits Issued
18	Fire Drills Conducted

## PROJECT FIRE BUDDIES

Project Fire Buddies is a Nationwide charity that connects firefighters with children fighting critical illnesses and their families. The purpose is to offer joy, gifts and relationships to help them through their battles. Elburn Fire is a local chapter of Project Fire Buddies, and we currently have three very special, “buddies” who have become part of our fire department family.

5 year old Leif, who rang his bells in September to signify the end of his treatment! Leif and his brother, loved their new bikes and helmets.



9 year old Joey, who was ecstatic with his gift of tickets to see his favorite musician, Billie Eilish!



16 year old Lillian with her new Bearded Dragon



# CRR EDUCATION

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The 2024 Fire Prevention Week theme of “Smoke Alarms: Make them work for you” emphasizes the critical role of smoke alarms in fire safety. Three essential actions with smoke alarms are: Install, Test and Replace.

**Install:** Choosing the right smoke alarm and sensors. Installing smoke alarms on every level and room of your home and workplace. For optimal performance, mount on ceilings or high on walls since smoke rises.

**Test:** Test and inspect smoke alarms monthly. Clean smoke alarms at least once a year by using a vacuum to remove dust and debris.

**Replace:** Smoke alarm should be replaced every ten years, or soon if they fail to operate during testing.

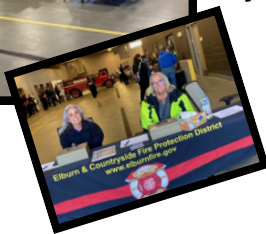
Fire prevention week training programs were held at Blackberry Creek Elementary School, Fabyan Elementary School, Kaneland John Stewart Elementary School, Lily Lake Elementary School, and Mill Creek Elementary School.

Fire prevention demonstrations were also held at Creative Beginnings Preschool School and Greenfields of Geneva( a Senior Living Community in our Fire District).

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST



The Pancake Breakfast on 9/8/24 raised \$8,564.73, which was split 25% to ECFPD Cadet Program and 75% to Project Fire Buddies.



Nick Engel, an Executive Officer with Project Fire Buddies accepted the donation check of over \$6,400.00 for Project Fire Buddies.

## CRR Education Interactions by Age



Children  
9869



Adults  
3126



Seniors  
545

# GRAND TOTAL - 13,540



# SOCIAL MEDIA

## LT. ALEX POYNOR

Our social media platforms have been instrumental in spreading our message, with more than 100,000 views. This has allowed the community an additional avenue to connect with the members of ECFPD and enabled the organization to share the accomplishments and daily activities of the Fire District.



Social Media Posts from 2024



Looking ahead to 2025, our team plans to further enhance our social media presence, continue expanding our community outreach, and introduce new programs and events. Thank you for your ongoing support and for helping make our community a safer place.



# FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

## LT. BRYON FERGUSON

In 2024, the Fire Investigation team was proud to add new members under the leadership of Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp. Newly certified, by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, investigators Lt. Bryon Ferguson, FF/PM Zak Martinez, FF/PM Joe Miller, FF/PM Andrew Oliver, FF/PM Steve Walter, FF/PM Josh Kuefler, FF/EMT Julie Contesso, and FF/EMT Connor Lenz all were added to the team roster!

Our Fire Investigation team is tasked with identifying the origin and cause of fires, safeguarding lives and property, and preventing future incidents. We aim to understand the circumstances behind fires, to prevent recurrence and ensure accountability for those responsible.

ECFPD's Fire Investigators also serve on the Kane County Fire Investigation Task Force, where we assist other departments in Kane County, as needed, with investigations. We are proud to have a such a strong representation on this important task force.



ECFPD Investigator Class

# PREPLANS

## FF/PM TRAVIS LANGE

The Preplan Division is in charge of creating drawings of the commercial buildings in our fire district. These drawings are a vital piece of a property pre-incident plan. Drawings are beneficial during both the planning and fire scene operations at properties. They are used by both officers and firefighters to locate building access, fire protection equipment, utility shut-offs and special hazards. In 2024, 22 preplans drawings were created or updated for buildings in our Fire District



# HYDRANTS

## LT. KRISTY SURIANO

The Elburn Fire District works efficiently to help maintain and keep important records on both our municipal water supply systems (village and surrounding neighborhood hydrants) as well as our rural drafting hydrants. As much of our fire district is rural in nature, keeping these drafting hydrants in operational condition, along with the necessary records, allows us to maintain our impressive Insurance Services Office Rating (ISO). This translates to lower insurance premiums for our residents.

Looking toward the future, we are researching new identification systems for our hydrants. Previously, we have used identification tags, which are sometimes missing and challenging to read. In the future, we are looking to replace these tags with an identification sticker. This will make our logging system more proficient and easier for the crews.



## CAR SEATS & INSPECTIONS

### FF/PM JOE HOMON

#### CAR SEATS

Our Car Seat Safety Check program has assisted one hundred sixteen caregivers in our surrounding community by educating them on the proper use and installation of car seats. Citizens participating in our program receive hands on training and the knowledge required to safely install car seats and appropriately harness their loved ones.

In 2024, Firefighters Dan McHale, Kim Wiegert, Zach Martinez, Josh Kuefler, and James Konen successfully obtained their Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician certificates and have joined our Car Seat Safety Program.

Information on car seat safety services can be found on our website.



## INSPECTIONS

Another important key to the safety of our residents, firefighters, and our ISO ratings is the completion and recording of fire inspections. Our district currently inspects 490 commercial occupancies. In 2024, the total number of inspections and re-inspections reached 611.

Occupancies inspected per station are as follows:

Station 1: 260  
Station 2: 146  
Station 3: 73

# FIRE SIGNS & CPR

## FF/PM JOE MILLER



### FIRE SIGNS

For many of our residents, the most visual aspect of our Department is the fire sign at the end of their driveway. Several years ago we began replacing Fire Signs to ensure that in all weather, both day and night, our signs can be located and read.

We currently have 3,457 fire signs in the district with new buildings being added on a routine basis. All of these signs are graded and evaluated on a regular schedule and replaced as needed by the on-duty crews. This is done while still running calls, completing training and any other tasks throughout the day, which not only completes a necessary task, but also helps keep our overtime costs down.



### CPR

Throughout the year your Elburn Fire Department offers: American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider and Heart Saver CPR/AED/First Aid classes. These classes are taught to the general public and many businesses within our District. On top of the public we also recertify our entire department each year.

This past year, we have administered 71 BLS CPR cards and 66 Heart Saver CPR cards. We are also offer "skills only" testing. This is a blended option where students will do online CPR classes at home then come in to get signed off on skills and obtain certification. This has become a more popular option as it saves time for all parties involved.

Information for these classes can be found on our website.



# TRAINING & OPERATIONS

## BC DAN CZARUK

2024, like the years before it, presented us with challenges, gave us memorable moments, and offered us opportunities for growth both as individuals and as a department. As we move forward into 2025, I am enthusiastic to tackle future challenges together with this team.

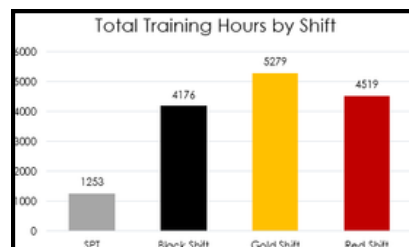
As Battalion Chief of Training and Operations, I intend to continue growing our culture, shaping our members into value-driven firefighters, emergency medical professionals, leaders, and mentors. We are focused on dedication to our community, support for each other, and continuous efforts to improve every day.



## TRAINING

### LT. STEPHEN COOMES

2024 was a very good year for training in our department. This is the fifth year that we have training data for ISO Compliance for job specific classifications. The 3 job specific categories are Firefighter, Driver/Operator, and Officer. We strive for 100% compliance in each category.



In 2024 your Elburn Firefighters completed:

- 4,967.15 hours of ISO Officer Training
- 8,431.16 hours of ISO Driver/Operator Training
- 3,203.56 hours of ISO Firefighter Training

**TOTAL TRAINING HOURS**  
**16,601.87**

In addition to our in-house department training, we also participated in training events with our surrounding fire departments, we hosted an in-house Fire Apparatus Engineer Class in June 2024. We also hosted the Romeoville Fire Academy in January of 2024 for an Advanced Fire Officer Class, the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) for a Fire Investigation Class in May of 2024, and many other outside training opportunities that our members attended.

I am very excited for this upcoming year as the Training Division has many unique training opportunities to look forward to, including our annual Leadership and Officer Development Program, and the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis.

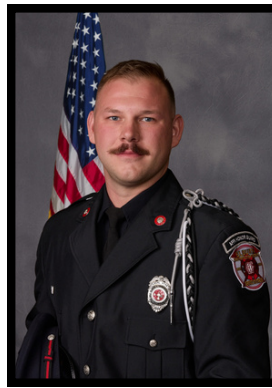
We are also in the planning phases of hosting an in-house Advanced Technician Firefighter Class later in 2025. Our training division is always working to provide the best instruction and training for our members to help us maintain our commitment to excellence with our emergency service delivery.



# FIRE ACADEMY

## FF/PM SEAN DARLAK

The 2024 Fire Academy brought together 12 exceptional recruits for the challenging Basic Operations Firefighter (BOF) Academy. Over five intensive months, these recruits engaged in a rigorous training program combining classroom instruction with hands-on exercises in key areas, including firefighting techniques, hazardous materials (Hazmat) response, Fire Service Vehicle Operations (FSVO), and "Courage to Be Safe" initiatives. The basic objectives are dictated by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). One highlight of the program was the live fire evolutions conducted at the Huntley Fire Protection District's burn tower, providing invaluable real-world experience.



To ensure these recruits met our department's high standards, personnel invested significant time in advanced training.

As we look to the future, the academy is ready for another exciting chapter. In 2025, we are preparing to welcome 17 new recruits to our program. With a renewed focus on streamlining the teaching process and incorporating hands-on practical training, we will enhance student engagement and readiness for real-world challenges.

In alignment with the Illinois Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) and the OSFM, the BOF curriculum has been updated to include critical topics such as mental health, substance abuse, and Traffic Incident Management Systems (TIMS). These enhancements reflect our commitment to addressing evolving community needs and advancing the profession.

On a personal note, I transitioned to the Lead Academy Director, and am thrilled to welcome FF/PM Zakary Martinez as the new Assistant Academy Director. Together, we are dedicated to fostering a culture of excellence and innovation within our academy.

We look forward to another year of growth, success, and the privilege of training the next generation of fire service professionals.

# COMPANY OFFICER DEVELOPMENT

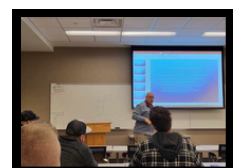
## LT. RYAN SEGGEBRUCH

Annually we continue to host our Officer Development Program. Last year, this program was led by Lieutenants Coomes and Linden, consisting of members working on their skills to become company officers and current officers working in "out-of-rank" situations in which they assumed command roles.

The program started with a special guest speaker, retired Deputy Chief Scott Spencer from Geneva Fire who spoke on firehouse leadership. It was a privilege to have Deputy Chief Spencer with us for the day! Another special session involved our hosting Chief Bob Hoff, who is the retired Fire Commissioner for the City of Chicago as well as past Fire Chief of Carol Stream Fire Protection District. Chief Hoff gave his presentation on "Old School Leadership". Spending time with both Chief Spencer and Chief Hoff is an excellent experience and opportunity.

In the weeks that followed the program covered our unique Initial Arriving Response Force (IARF). Guests Fire Chiefs from St. Charles Fire, North Aurora Fire, and Batavia Fire attended and observed our members as they demonstrated skills in simulated structure fire situations. During these simulations members using active simulators and given limited information, would make tactical decisions in a safe classroom setting. The area Chiefs would act as proctors and critique our members, giving valuable advice to our candidates in making decisions for real incidents. Members also participated in simulated counseling sessions with employees.

At the end of the program, the participating members took leadership roles in live fire evolutions, gained valuable experience as company officers, and built upon their foundation of skills.



# CADETS

## FF/PM CECE ZEPEDA

We currently have thirteen (13) cadets in our program. Throughout the year our cadet program has gained a lot of new members, along with a few transitioning from “cadets” into “recruits” in our Fire Academy.

Our cadets have a in depth experience, setting them up for success if they desire to move forward in this career. Elburn cadets complete aggressive training such as: donning and doffing of air packs, search and rescue, deploying ladders, hydrant hook ups, basic pumping operations, hose deployments, rig familiarization, brush truck operations, tool knowledge, forcible entry, EMS vital signs, and medical and trauma scenarios.

We also maintain physical fitness by doing group workouts the first meeting of the month. The cadets were given the opportunity to attend The State Fire Academy, Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) in Champaign over the summer. This was a great live fire training opportunity for them and they also learned rope operations and repelling from buildings. We hope to continue attending IFSI next year.

Once again, our cadets were active with Public Education events and volunteering at Elburn Days as well as sponsoring local families with support during the Holiday Season. Eligible Cadets have been able to do ride-a-longs with our duty crews. This is another great opportunity for the cadets to see what it is like going on emergency calls and daily shift operations in the firehouse.



# RADIOS & PAGERS

## FF/PM AUSTIN SHINGLEDECKER

Receiving an alarm is critical to our response. This is an exciting time for us in technology development. In order to ensure working crews receive proper notifications when emergency calls come, we have in house alerting systems.

New systems were installed in each of our three (3) stations earlier in the year. The dispatch will be faster, with an automated voice providing the address of the emergency to help alert the crews earlier, as the initial 911 call is still in progress.

We are also evaluating different applications for smart phones that will replace old and expensive pagers, saving important money in our budget!





# TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

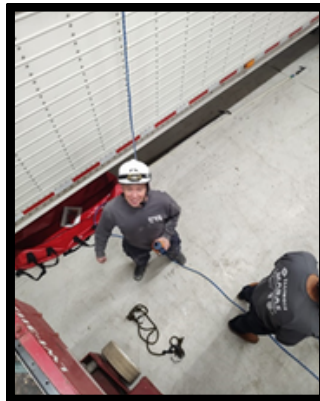
## LT. MATT LINDEN

Elburn Fire belongs to the Illinois State Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). Our team is part of a regional team (Division 13) through MABAS made up of highly trained members, who may be sent anywhere in the State when a technical rescue incident occurs. This past year, the Elburn Technical Rescue Team members were 100% compliant with all training requirements.

The division team deployed to support the Democratic National Convention held in Chicago. We acquired more updated gear that will enable us to deploy faster, be more efficient, and switch between different rope rescue systems when called into action. Any outdated or end-of-life equipment was replaced with current-in-date equipment, including our life safety rescue rope. These expenses are all budgeted for.

The Division drills this year covered grain bin rescue tools and technique review. We also participated in trench rescue training and rope rescue scenarios. These opportunities for our team allow us to train in a variety of scenarios. The last drill of the year was to simulate a collapsed parking garage, in which members had to stabilize and breach into different areas to gain access and provide care to trapped victims.

The team is making strides to expand our abilities and membership, and with the District's continued support, we can continue to be ready. We look forward to what 2025 is going to bring.



## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

### FF/PM CHRIS MULVIHILL

MABAS Division 13 (explained above) also has a Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) Response Team. Elburn maintains a strong position on this specialized team as well!

We had the opportunity this past year to train with our partners in Division 2, which covers the Northern half of Kane County. We were also pleased to have the Kane County Sheriff's Bomb Squad there as well.

We were very pleased to welcome FF/PM Steve Kish to our HazMat team. In the coming year, we hope to expand our team by hosting an in-house advanced Haz-Mat class.

# EMS & SAFETY

## BC CHRIS SPITZOCK

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for their hard work over the past year. It's an exciting time of growth for our department, and each and every member of ECFPD has played an integral role in driving us forward. The dedication and commitment our members demonstrate in their roles is truly appreciated, and efforts never go unnoticed.



Taking on the role of Battalion Chief of EMS Health and Safety has been a seamless transition, thanks to the incredible team around me and their unwavering passion for serving Elburn. Our program managers have hit the ground running, and I'm excited to see where their leadership and dedication will take our department in the future.

I firmly believe that our department is the best when it comes to EMS, consistently providing top-notch patient care. That being said, I have challenged our members to continue pushing their education and experience to further benefit patient care, which I know we will accomplish.

Thank you all for your continued efforts and passion. I look forward to what we will achieve together in the coming year.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Health and Wellness has become a top priority at ECFPD, with numerous positive changes introduced over the past year.

In collaboration with Local 4749, we've implemented a mandatory 1- hour workout each shift day to help keep our team fit and healthy. Additionally, we're enhancing our annual physicals to include more comprehensive screenings, including pre-cancer ultrasound screenings, and a stronger focus on cardiovascular health.

To support employees in preparing for these physicals, we've invested in a Vo2 Master, a tool that helps assess cardiovascular fitness and track progress. Staff can schedule a session to use this equipment and get personalized insights into their health!

Be on the lookout for exciting upcoming events and fitness challenges!



## EMT-B CLASS

### LT. KRISTY SURIANO

The enrollment for the Emergency Medical Technician Basic (EMT-B) class has drastically increased to twenty-two (22) students this past year. Surrounding fire departments have showed great interest by sending their students to our EMT- B program. The participation and learning opportunities for these students have been grand.

I am proud to announce two of our members obtained their Level 1 EMS Instructor certification:

- FF/PM Sam Ferris
- FF/PM Jeremiah O'Brien



# EMS

## LT. BRYON FERGUSON

Elburn Fire is licensed through the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to provide both Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) care. All firefighters here at Elburn are either a licensed:

- Emergency Medical Technician Basic (EMT-B)
- Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P)

All full-time Firefighters on this department are licensed Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedics (EMT-P), capable of providing the highest level of ALS care to our community.

2024 was another year in which we have seen an increase in our departments medical call volume. To insure we meet the needs of the community, our department members continue to train on essential life saving techniques and events such as Strokes, Airway Management, Trauma, and Cardiology. Members are also required by the State to complete on-going education. This is provided through the Southern Fox Valley EMS System, located in Northwestern Delnor Hospital.



## EDUCATION

We are proud that we had five students complete this year's paramedic school curriculum, Below are the following students and their primary preceptors:

- FF/EMT Matthew Thomas and his Primary Preceptor FF/PM Sam Ferris.
- FF/EMT Sierra Johnson and her Primary Preceptor FF/PM Josh Kuefler
- FF/EMT Kylie Hanks through St. Joseph Hospital.
- FF/EMT Joshua Beaman through Central DuPage Hospital.
- FF/EMT Behn Ballis and his Primary Preceptor FF/PM Chris Meyers

We currently have seven additional students enrolled in the 2025 medic program through Delnor Hospital and Kishwaukee Hospital.



## EQUIPMENT

One advanced life saving skill our Paramedics are trained in is Intubation. Intubation is an advanced life saving procedure, in which a tube is placed into a patient's airway to help them breath. New advances in technology and technique are providing higher success rates for our paramedics with this skill. The EMS team is working to effectively budget for the replacement of our current intubation equipment tools with the McGrath Laryngoscopes. The McGrath devices provide a high resolution picture of the airway, which helps our crews intubate in the field. This is another example of our teams working in a fiscally responsible manner to provide exceptional emergency care.





# SUPPORT SERVICES BC TREVOR HALL

The year 2024 for Support Services was undoubtedly unique, marked by leadership transitions throughout our Battalion Chief mentorship process. During these mentorship periods, it was important to maintain consistent oversight of our facilities and grounds to avoid any neglect of ongoing maintenance.



I was honored to accept the promotion to Battalion Chief in August and assume the Support Services position. Each program is supported by dedicated assistants who ensure that the programs run smoothly, and the needs of each area are consistently met. These employees take great pride in their additional responsibilities, and their contributions are crucial in maintaining the high standards of the department.



## WATER & ICE RESCUE LT. KRISTY SURIANO

Last year, our members attended and participated in training on the Fox River with the surrounding departments. Crews expanded their knowledge base and assisted with victim removal and recovery. While attending this training, members were oriented to the different watercraft and resources within the area.

Over the course of the year, members had the opportunity to use our ice rescue suits on a variety of calls. In the upcoming months, we will host a training opportunity with surrounding departments that will involve surface ice rescue. We look forward to more training opportunities like this in the future.



# BUILDING MAINTENANCE

## LT. MATT LINDEN



Ensuring our buildings and grounds are maintained appropriately, allows us to operate efficiently and long in to the future. Maintenance is an on-going expense that we constantly evaluate to ensure fiscal responsibility. When selecting potential vendors for projects, we utilize a competitive bidding process allowing us to spend the least amount of money for the highest quality outcome.

As in any working home, our three fire houses have on-going projects.

### STATION 1 PROJECTS AND UPDATES

- Water Infiltration Project – The Water Infiltration Project addressed issues on the second-floor mezzanine above the EMS Conference Room, the south-east stairwell, and the brickwork above the hose tower. IWS, Inc. (Injection & Waterproofing Systems, Inc.) was contracted to fix the affected areas. This project has been successfully completed.
- The long-awaited repairs to roof top HVAC Units (following a lightning strike) were completed. We are also addressing issues caused by hail damage, by installing hail guards.
- Concrete Repairs – Eagle Concrete completed necessary repairs around the manholes in the parking lot and to the curb by the sign at the front of Station 1.

Future Ideas/Plans: The team is working with a vendor to update the apparatus floor lights to LED lighting. This initiative is possibly supported through a grant from the energy assistance program, making the upgrade cost-effective and contributing to energy savings.

### STATION 2 PROJECTS AND UPDATES

- Frozen Pipes and Emergency Repairs – At the start of the year, during a cold snap we experienced frozen pipes above the bathroom and bunk room on the east side of Station 2. Emergency repairs were made to address the issue promptly.
- Flooring Upgrade – The kitchen, dayroom, and hallway at Station 2 received an upgrade with vinyl plank flooring, which is easier to disinfect and maintain while providing a more modern look.
- Relocation of the Workout Area – The workout area was moved from the mezzanine to what was previously the training room. This relocation ensures the crew now has a climate-controlled space.
- Concrete Repairs – Eagle Concrete made repairs to the center section of the concrete apron at Station 2.

Future Ideas/Plans: Some future ideas being discussed for Station 2 includes the purchase and installation of a gear washer, rehabilitation of the gear/hose dryer, upgrades to lighting, and the sealing and striping of the asphalt parking lot.

### STATION 3 PROJECTS AND UPDATES

- Outside Light Repairs – The outside lights at Station 3 were repaired.
- Dishwasher Replacement – The dishwasher at Station 3 was replaced.
- Automatic Gas Shutoff Valve Replacement – The automatic gas shutoff valve was replaced at Station 3.

Future Idea/Plans: Some future ideas being discussed for Station 3 includes purchasing and installing a gear washer, purchasing and installing a gear/hose dryer, sealing and striping the asphalt parking lot.

### LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the next year, the Building Maintenance team will continue to focus on addressing ongoing issues and working on future projects.

# FLEET MAINTENANCE

## LT. ERIC DAFFRON

Our Fleet Maintenance team strives to maintain our fleet safely and efficiently. We continue this process by managing what our fleet needs today and planning for what we will need in the future.

Over this past year, we have continued to work on several multi-year projects. One of the largest was the acquisition of a new tower ladder. Chief Huneke and Lieutenant Daffron worked to complete the required specifications needed to place the order with E-One and Fire Service Inc. at the beginning of the year. We currently have an anticipated delivery date of August 2025. Fleet Maintenance could not have made this happen without the hard work of Data Analyst Maggie Walsh, Chief Huneke, Deputy Chief Hanson, and the Tower Spec Committee. With their collective work, federal funding was secured by Congressman Bill Foster. We are very fortunate to have received this assistance and believe we are building an essential vehicle that will serve and protect our community for decades to come. Having our own ladder truck in service is also a key component to our low ISO ratings, again saving insurance dollars for our tax payers!

We are also nearing completion of our 2025 Horton ambulance, anticipating delivery in May 2025. This delivery will take our fleet from four to five ambulances and add extra reliability and redundancy as we prepare to staff an additional ALS Ambulance, that will respond from Station #1. Deputy Chief Hanson and Lieutenant Daffron began researching remounting ambulance patient compartments from aging chassis to new modern chassis. Our members have taken excellent care of our current ambulances, and this option may have a great cost-benefit and provide an opportunity to recycle an asset.

Two identical Ford F-150s have been budgeted for and ordered and we anticipate a spring 2025 delivery. These vehicles will replace our current 2012 Battalion 300 Tahoe and 2010 Utility 303 Pick-up truck..

Our team has grown to include Josh Kueffler as our black shift liaison. Josh is excited and looking forward to learning and building professional relationships with our service partners. Travis Lange continues to work as the gold shift liaison and is a great asset to Fleet Maintenance. Having a liaison on each shift has proven to be vital in keeping open lines of communication. Our team looks forward to what 2025 brings.



Presentation of Funds from  
Congressman Foster



## TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

### FF/PM TRAVIS LANGE

The following purchases were made in 2024:

- Battery-powered rotary saws to frontline engines along with rescue blades.
- Electric vehicle movement disabling plug. This tool provides safety to rescuers and occupants by disabling the vehicle involved in a motor vehicle crash rescue
- Electric vehicle fire blankets. Designed to stop the spread of an EV vehicle fire where thermal runaway from burning batteries hinders extinguishment.
- Replaced aging hydrant bags and toolboxes on frontline Fire Apparatus

#### 2025 TOOL REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL

- Replace aging and/or damaged hand tools on fire apparatus.
- Purchase Hurst Strong Arm Forcible Entry Tool or Hurst Rabbit Tool for Engine 301(Station 1) and Tower 302(Station 2).

# FOREIGN FIRE INSURANCE BOARD

## LT. ERIC DAFFRON

The Foreign Fire Insurance Board consists of seven members. The District Fire Chief, who holds office by virtue of rank; and six members who are elected at large by the members. It is the mission of the Foreign Fire Insurance Board to receive and account for revenues from the tax on fire insurance policies sold by foreign (out of state) insurance companies, and to use such funds for the maintenance, use, and benefit of the Elburn and Countryside Fire Protection District.



The Foreign Fire Insurance Board continued to stay productive in 2024. We've purchased items to benefit our members in equipment, training, fitness and household items.

2024 Notable purchases include:

- Four refurbished Commercial Grade Treadmills (pictured)
- Streamlight Helmet Lights for all employees (pictured)
- RASP Search and Rescue Rope and Bag (pictured)
- TVs and Audio Equipment for Workout Rooms
- Fitness Shoes for all employees.





# NEW HIRES – PROMOTIONS



Swearing In of Daniel McHale  
FF/PM  
February 3, 2024



Swearing In of Kimberly Wiegert  
FF/PM  
February 3, 2024



Swearing In of James Konen  
FF/PM  
February 3, 2024



Swearing In of Zachary Martinez  
FF/PM  
February 3, 2024



Promotion of Bryon Ferguson  
Lieutenant  
March 16, 2024



Swearing In of Daniel Cluchey  
FF/PM  
May 13, 2024



Promotion of Chris Spitzcock  
Battalion Chief  
August 3, 2024



Promotion of Dan Czaruk  
Battalion Chief  
August 3, 2024



Promotion of Trevor Hall  
Battalion Chief  
August 3, 2024

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District would like to thank all of our members who contributed to making 2024 another successful year.



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We thank you for your continued support  
of the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District

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