



FIRE DEPARTMENT

TO: Mayor Stephanie Erickson and City Council Members
CC: City Manager Ben Reeves
FROM: Fire Chief Gregory M. Chia
DATE: 02-14-2023
RE: Annual Report 2022

2022 Annual Report:

Indianola Fire experienced a significant increase in requests for emergency services throughout the year. The department responded to 2897 request for emergency services during 2022. This is an 11% increase from the previous year and shows a continued rise in the request as the city grows. The department was and is still experiencing SARS-CoV-2 patients, exposures, and transports. This is an added risk to all members who provide emergency services in our community. I want to acknowledge and praise the members of this department for providing an exceptional service to the community through unusual environmental risk. I hope we have seen the end of this global pandemic, but the department is better prepared through procedural modifications, increased awareness, and new equipment to act in response to all emergencies in our community. The personnel have accepted those challenges and continue to provide the best professional service. Please review the attached reports, note the percentage of overlapping calls which occurred. The response times for EMS and Fire calls continue to be lower and identifies improved efficiency. This is the result of several changes in department make-up such as increased full-time staff, daily communications with staff, and the quality of employees that are members of this department. Included in that data it identifies the total request for emergency services in Warren County, Indianola Fire and Indianola Police respond/resolve over 46% of all request.

The increase in requests for services in this growing community identifies the necessary changes in the organizational structure of the department. The department's structure has been flat organizationally since 2015. The addition of three Fire Captains in January of 2023 will assist in correcting communication avenues and provide a span of control that is manageable. This supports the organizational changes needed to become more efficient and supportive of internal growth for department members.

In the past year Indianola Fire experienced a decrease in applicants for job vacancies. The fire service has seen a progressive shift in interest by those entering the job market beginning around 2015,



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at the same time calls for service continue to increase due to a shift in aging population and the demand for emergency services by the public in general. Delays created by the pandemic with the usual attrition, which further exacerbated the need for personnel. As a result, our local region has realized a competitive market for applicants. Indianola has responded by joining the Central Iowa Consortium to expand the applicant pool and has expanded recruiting efforts by proactively promoting our hiring process through the colleges and universities throughout the state and bordering states.

The department continued to train internally, and as external opportunities began to be offered again department members took the opportunities to attend. Department members completed a total of 5040 hours of training last year. While restarting the public education components multiple training sessions such as CPR, Stop the Bleed, station tours, Public Safety Open House and fire extinguisher training classes were hosted by the department. The Junior Fire Academy resumed last year hosting 25 young members of the community. It is two days of class and hands on exposure to what a firefighter career is like.

Recent Accomplishments

- Continued receiving funds from the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program to capture Medicare patient cost.
- Reformatted and updated Department Guidelines
- Received and placed and in-service new Medic Unit 246, this will maintain a fleet of 4-medic units.





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- Received and placed in-service 4-Life Pak 15 Cardiac Monitors.
- Hired new full-time personnel from our part-time staff (firefighter/paramedic vacancies)
- Promoted 3 internal members to the rank of Fire Captain
- Ordered replacement for Engine 332 which is 24 years old, it has a 19-month build time before it will be received and put in service as part of fleet.



Future Goals

- Promote 2 internal candidates to Fire Marshall/Captain and EMS/ Fire Captain positions, the positions will provide the subject matter expertise to improve the needed service for this community.
- Continue to build the department structure and provide a working organizational chart for the department.
- Continued improvement of communications within the organization.
- Hire 3 additional firefighter/paramedics (SAFER Grant).
- Continue to work with the City Manager, Mayor, Council, and consultants to replace existing public safety facilities.
- Develop specifications for replacement of 23-year-old fire engine 331.
- Order chassis for next medic unit, replacement (Medic 247, purchased in 2014).
- Restart Commercial Inspection program for businesses.
- Submit applications for grants as listed below.
 1. SAFER: Add 3 Full-Time FF/Paramedic positions.
 2. AFG: Replacement apparatus Fire Engine 331.
 3. Prairie Meadows: 3 Extrication Combi-Tools & 2 Rams.



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4. Warren County Philanthropic: Replacement of Rescue Boat & Motor.
5. Fire House Subs: Personnel Protective Equipment Dryer (8-person dryer).
6. Wal-Mart: Additional Stryker Stair Chair.

