

# Norwood Park Fire Protection District



## 2022 Annual Report



Serving Norridge, Harwood Heights and Norwood Park Township



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## Chief's Statement

Residents of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District,

Board of Trustees,

Board of Fire Commissioners

Dear Stakeholders of the District,

It is with great pride we submit the 2022 Annual Report. This report provides a detailed review of our department's activities for the past year.

Providing outstanding service to those who live, work, invest, and visit our fire protection district is the shared goal of the staff, administration, and elected officials of Norwood Park Fire-EMS.



*Fire Chief David C. Blondell*

In 2022, crews responded to 4,526 calls. Norwood Park Fire-EMS has seen a 24% increase in call volume in just the past 2 years and a 52.9% increase over the last decade.

In June of 2022, the residents of our district voted for a small tax rate increase to properly equip and staff the department commensurate with the increase in call volume. The additional revenue will be used to increase full-time staff and pay for emergency apparatus and maintenance.

The Fire District took delivery of our new 2022 100' aerial tower purchased from Pierce Manufacturing. The new tower replaced our 28-year-old Pierce aerial which was donated to a fire district in South America. Recent advances in technology have made it possible to deploy the tower to a residential roof, high rise balcony, or even a below grade rescue in under 90 seconds.

The flu-shot program was a huge success again. All the vaccines were donated to the residents by The Norwood Park Township. There were two changes to the program to help accommodate our residents. "Super-Flu shots" (often prescribed for elderly and immunocompromised patients) were offered, and the "walk-in" format was reinstituted for those who prefer to come into the station rather than the "drive-thru" option.

In May, The Board of Trustees voted to restructure our staff with full-time civilian medics (replacing contract paramedics) to mitigate challenges created by the nation-wide paramedic shortage. The change has helped stabilize, recruit, and retain well-qualified paramedics.

I want to personally thank our staff and their families for their dedication to the Norwood Park Fire Protection District. Whether they are saving someone's life, battling a house fire, extricating a trapped victim from a car wreck, managing a hazardous material incident, or compassionately working with a patient dealing with mental health issues, they are committed to the highest level of service 24/7/365.

As your Fire Chief, I pledge to continue to advocate for the resources and equipment essential to provide quality services to those in need.

## Mission and Vision Statements

### **Norwood Park Fire Protection District Mission Statement**

The **primary** mission of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District is to professionally deliver emergency services with commitment and compassion, treating your family like ours.



### **Vision**

**Professional**

**Respectful**

**Integrity**

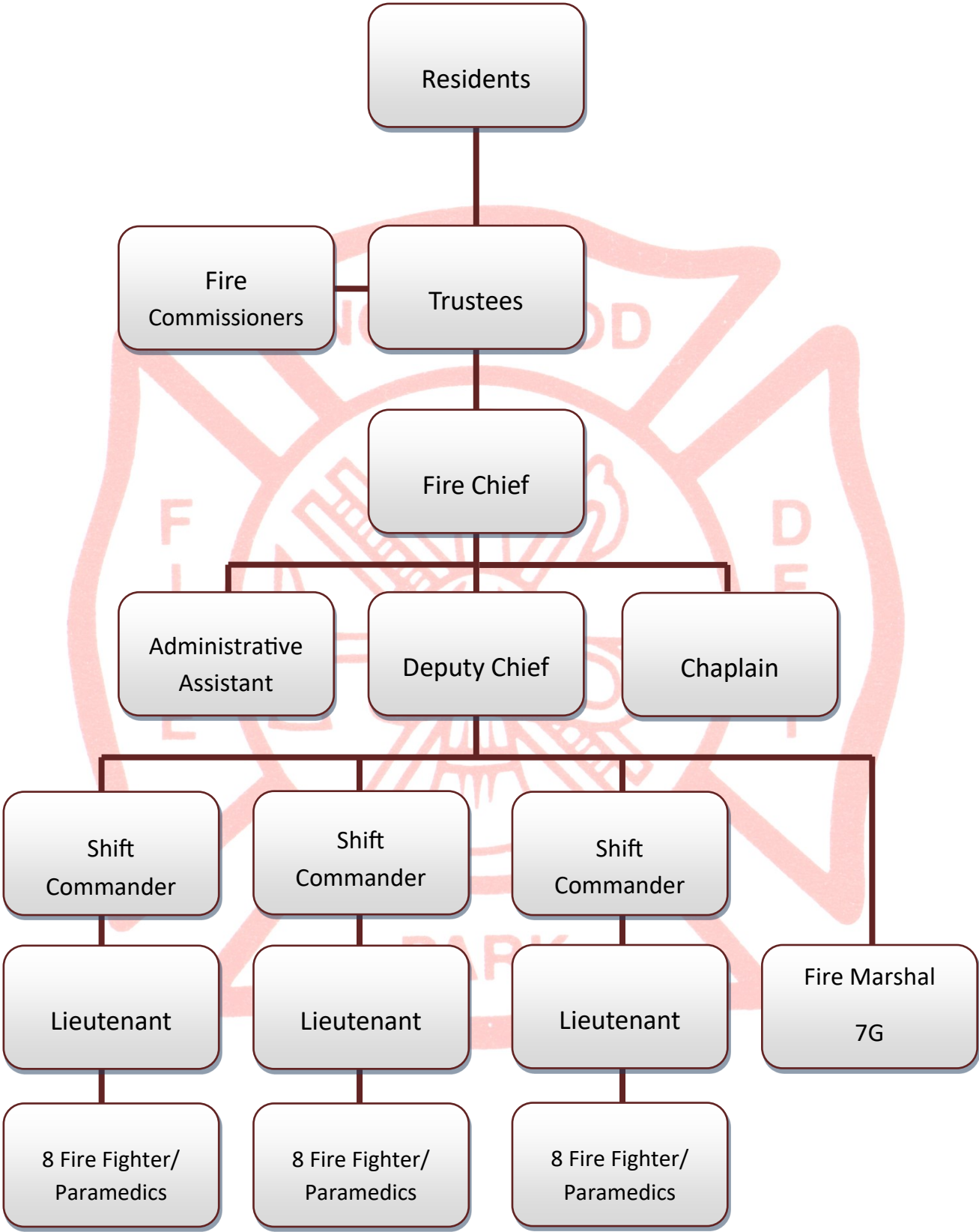
**Dedication**

**Excellence**

**= P R I D E**



Organizational Chart



## Department Familiarization

The Norwood Park Fire Protection's District comprises a 3.5 square mile area consisting of the Village of Norridge, the Village of Harwood Heights, and the Norwood Park Township (in unincorporated Cook County).

The Norwood Park Fire Protection District serves approximately 25,000



residents in a mix of residential and commercial occupancies (with a variety of light manufacturing, religious, and educational facilities).

It is the mission of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District to serve these communities and their residents with prompt and professional services such as fire suppression, emergency medical services, motor vehicle accidents, fire prevention (through fire investigation, inspections, and public education), and rescue/response to hazardous material incidents.

We provide our citizens with a well equipped and highly trained emergency response team that is capable of mitigating the effects of disasters, tragedies and other threats to life and property while ensuring the utmost safety of our members.

Starting July 1, 2022, Norwood Park Fire Protection District restructured their staffing. The Fire District serves our communities with a full-time staff of 33 (24 civil service firefighter/paramedics and 9 full-time civilian paramedics). There are also 7 part-time paramedics. The department is organized with 3 shifts arranged on a 24/48 hour schedule (with the exception of the Chief, Deputy Chief, and Administrative Assistant). Each of the shifts are organized with a Shift Commander, Lieutenant, and a crew of 8 Firefighters / EMT/Paramedics.

## Department Personnel– December 2022

### **Board of Trustees**

President Andrew Cichon

Treasurer Kathy Evans

Secretary Joanne Rybak

Trustee Andy Skyba

Trustee Jerome Kolaski

Trustee Gina Santoro

Trustee Lou Mezzano



### **Fire Commissioners**

Andrew Golebiowski

Demetrios “Jimmy” Mougolias

Nicolas Fabian

### **Chiefs**

Fire Chief David C. Blondell

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Peistrup

### **Pension Board**

Deputy Chief Jeff Peistrup– President

Stephen Swank– Secretary

Randy Davis– Retiree

Kathy Evans– Board Treasurer

Andy Skyba– Board Member

### **Administrative Assistant**

Cyndi Stec

### **Black Shift**

Commander Daniel Davila

Lieutenant Ronald Schneider

Stephen Swank

Simon Christensen

Ryan Nieva

Frank Stec

George Pappas

Ashley Horner

Hyra Witter

### **Red Shift**

Commander Stanley Koy

Lieutenant Larry Curran

Leigh Unger

Jimmy Cotiguala

Mark Blondell

David Sanchez

Mark Taubensee

Zully Delia

Ethane Rivera

### **Gold Shift**

Commander Arthur Koszczuk

Lieutenant Matt Mattio

Steven Henmueller

Zachary Schullo

Marty Lupo

Dominick Grano

Jimmy Keating

Brian Krueger

Neci Rivera

**Part-time Civilian Paramedics:** Sheza Admani, Chelsi Dennis, Phil Goldman, Jayme Jensen, Zachary Missen, Osana Yousif, Paula Zalazar-Paz.



## Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

### MABAS

The Norwood Park Fire Protection District is part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) in the state of Illinois. MABAS, in partnership with IEMA (Illinois Emergency Management Agency), has established a statewide, non-discriminatory mutual aid response system for fire, EMS and specialized incident operational teams. This system provides an effective and efficient mutual aid response when the incident is beyond the capabilities of the affected communities.

The MABAS system in Illinois is split into geographical areas called divisions and Norwood Park belongs to Division 20.

Division 20 Departments include: Bellwood, Berkeley, Broadview, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Hillside, Leyden Township Fire Protection District, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake Fire Protection District, River Grove, Rosemont, Schiller Park, and Westchester.

MABAS also offers specialized operations teams for hazardous materials, underwater rescue/recovery, technical rescue and incident management teams. Our agreement with Division 20 allows us to have the resources and personnel of 14 departments, if a situation calls for the need. Our Fire District benefits in that we are able to have access to resources that we would never be able to afford if we did not belong to MABAS. In return, this allows our Fire Department to be prepared and ready to handle any situation which may arise. There was a total of 54 Box Alarms for MABAS Division 20 throughout the year 2022.



## Car Safety Seat Installation

In 2022, we completed 49 Child Safety Seat checks by appointment, and maintained the supplemental phone and internet assistance created during the pandemic. In addition we hosted two Car Seat Technician certification courses, one four-day Technician Skill Builder course, and several one-day events with Northwestern Medical, which included a regional Car Safety Seat Check day on November 11th.



The Norwood Park Fire Protection District has maintained a Child Passenger Safety Program since 2000. This program allows community members to have their child safety seats checked by trained technicians, as well as become educated on their proper installation and the best safety practices for their children while driving.

The Certified Technicians inspect the child safety seat, check it for recalls, and ensure that the seat is installed correctly. They also confirm the child is properly secured.

In order to become a Certified Technician, department members complete a 40-hour course on Child Passenger Restraint construction, installation, and law. The techs must recertify every two years, this is done by both in and out of district continuing education courses, as well as attending Child Passenger Safety events. *-Submitted by Commander Stanley Koy*

### ***Norwood Park's Car Seat Technicians***

Cmdr. Stanley Koy

Lt. Ron Schneider

Stephen Swank

Simon Christensen

Dominick Grano

## Specialized Teams

### CPR and First Aid



## **CPR & First Aid**

The District serves under the Addison Fire Protection District Community Training Center. It is the district's goal to teach effective CPR to as many people as possible. The more people with the ability to perform CPR, the safer our communities are as a whole. In 2022 we taught over 30 classes totaling over 150 students learning or recertifying in CPR. We will be continuing our regular monthly CPR classes. Updated information can be found at <https://www.norwoodparkfire.org/public-education/>. We look forward to continuing to educate people in the life-saving techniques of CPR. Norwood Park currently teaches the following American Heart Association courses:

- Heartsaver CPR/AED
- Heartsaver First Aid
- BLS Provider CPR



### ***Norwood Park's CPR Instructors***

Marty Lupo— Site Coordinator

Cmdr. Art Koszczuk

Cyndi Stec

*-Submitted by Marty Lupo*



## Fire Investigation Team

In 2022 the Norwood Park Fire Investigation Team welcomed Fire Marshall Leigh Unger to the team and he immediately made contributions assisting fire investigations in Division 20. Unfortunately, the team lost the experience of Deputy Chief Erlewein when he retired late in 2022. The team currently still has 5 members. Our Fire Investigators assisted in

12 Fire Investigator Box Alarms in Division 20, helping 8 different towns. Our investigators help our counterparts in Division 20 with photography, sketches, interviews, evidence collection, scene reconstruction, burn patterns and the cause and origin of fires. Investigators log and record their fire investigations for the district through the federal agency ATF's Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS). During 2022 our team had no active structural fire investigations. There were 5 car fires in district in 2022, some of which were recorded and investigated by our team.

The Fire Investigation Team was able to obtain equipment to help with our investigations and safety. We were able to purchase respirators for investigators to use in IDLH atmospheres while on fire scenes. Also, through the work of Leigh Unger and the support of Chief Blondell, the team obtained coveralls, boots, hardhats with lights, flashlights, eye protection and backpacks to help aid in their duties.



### **Norwood Park's Fire Investigators**

Lt. Ron Schneider— Team Leader

James Cotiguala

Simon Christensen

Dominick Koss

Leigh Unger



*- Submitted by Lieutenant Ron Schneider*

## Fire Prevention Bureau

The Norwood Park Fire Prevention Bureau experienced another interesting year in 2022, in which we began work on our multi-family inspections within the District. This brings with it a unique set of challenges, but we are progressing as planned. There are over 400 multi-family dwellings to inspect with limited resources and time. Each inspection will ensure the fire and life safety of its occupants, and it will be the building owner's responsibility to make the necessary repairs and/or upgrades. This will include verifying that all common area doors are self-closing and latching, there are 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms on each floor, there are proper extinguishers near mechanical rooms, exit paths are properly illuminated, and those exit paths are



also unobstructed and free of combustibles. This is an extremely important project that will require community and building owner support. This project will continue through the end of 2023.

Also, we would like to welcome our new Fire Marshall Mark Blondell. Mark brings with him over 20 years of firefighting experience and a great skillset to this position. He is eager and willing to make the necessary changes to ensure that the Norwood Park Fire Department becomes the benchmark for Fire Prevention Bureaus in the area. We are extremely excited about the coming year and honored to serve the residents and business owners in the best way possible. We would like to thank all our partners in this journey to improve the safety of everyone in our community.

*-Submitted by Fire Marshal Leigh Unger*

### M.A.B.A.S. Division 20 Honor Guard



#### **MABAS Division 20 Honor Guard Team**

Leigh Unger

Leigh Unger carries the rank of Guardsman on the MABAS Division 20 Honor Guard.

The Division Honor Guard has the humbling duty of posting casket guard when there is a Line of Duty Death, but also serves in other capacities. They hold monthly drills where they practice basic/advanced marching, posting/retrieval of colors, casket carry, flag folding, and presentation, bell service, retirement service, and

manual of arms.

In 2022, the Honor Guard had nine requests for service.



### Workers' Compensation



For 2022, there was one reported illnesses that required days off of work .

### MABAS Division XX EMS Box Alarm

There were 12 EMS Box Alarms throughout MABAS Division 20 in 2022.





## Specialized Teams

### Trench Rescue/High Angle Team



There are a variety of technical rescue calls that our Technical Rescue Team (TRT) responds to. These include structural collapse, trench collapse, confined space entrapment, high angle rescue, and water rescue.

MABAS Division 20 has a TRT Vehicle, which is housed at Norwood Park. It has the equipment and supplies needed to make a technical rescue possible. MABAS Division 20 responded to two incidents in 2022.



#### **Norwood Park's Trench Rescue/High Angle Team**

Lt. Larry Curran— Division 20 TRT Coordinator  
Cmdr. Dan Davila, Lt. Ron Schneider, Lt. Matt Mattio,  
Mark Blondell, Zach Schullo



*- Submitted by Lieutenant Larry Curran*

## Urban Search and Rescue (US&R)

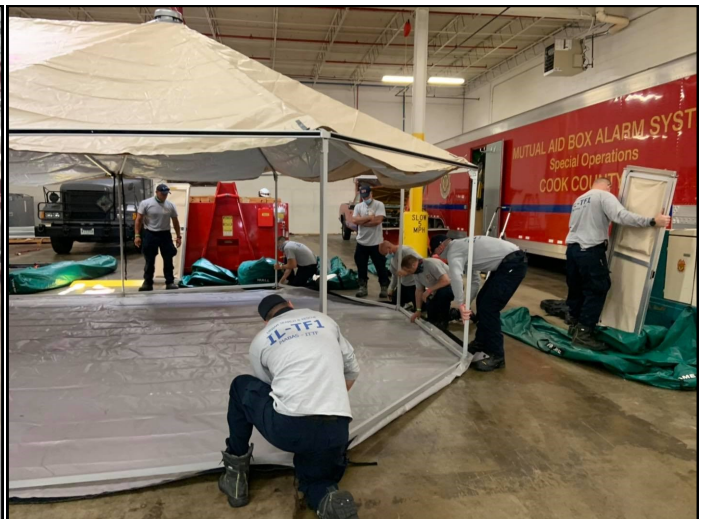


IL-US&R TF-1 is an asset of MABAS-IL and serves as the State of Illinois' Urban Search & Rescue Taskforce. IL-TF-1 is a Type I US&R team which is modeled after and in compliance with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) US&R system. As a US&R team, they are equipped and prepared to respond to all hazard emergencies and disasters, both natural and man-

### **Norwood Park's US&R Member**

Firefighter/Paramedic Zachary Schullo

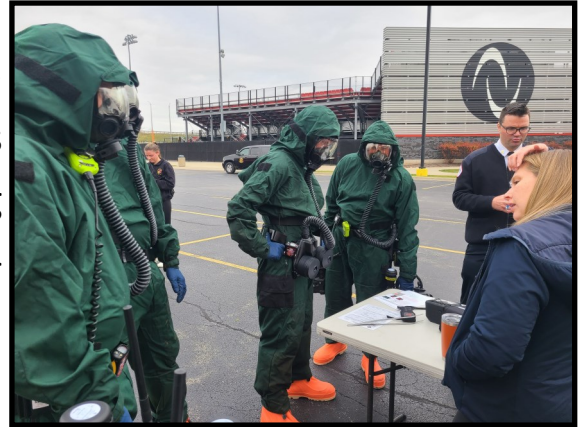
made, which involve significant collapse of multiple, large and/or heavy-weight constructed structures.





## Specialized Teams

The Norwood Park Fire Protection District Hazmat Team handles any hazardous material situations that may occur, including terrorism or chemical incidents. Our Divisional Team is a state recognized team and is available 365 days a year.



In 2022, the Hazmat Team responded to incidents in Franklin Park, Schiller Park, and Northlake.

MABAS Division 20 has a Hazardous Materials Vehicle that is equipped to assist with almost any situation that may occur.

Training is held monthly, which consists of full scale drills and refresher classes. There are also monthly coordinator meetings.

Chief Blondell is the MABAS Division HazMat Chief and oversees budget and operational duties of the team.

### **Norwood Park's Hazardous Materials Team**

Chief Blondell– Division 20 Haz Mat Chief

Cmdr. Dan Davila– Division 20 Hazmat Coordinator

Lt.. Ron Schneider

Stephen Swank

David Sanchez

Martin Lupo



*-Submitted by Cmdr. Davila*



## **Juvenile Firesetter Intervention**

The Norwood Park Fire Protection District offers families a beginning intervention or people who are at risk for developing firesetting problems. State certified Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialists interview the family and review incidents with them in a non-hostile environment. The goal of this team is to mitigate fire setting behaviors through education and to recommend, as necessary, outside sources of help for families needing more assistance.



### **Norwood Park's Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialists**

Lt. Stanley Koy

Steven Henmueller

## **Designated Infectious Control Officer (DICO)**



The Norwood Park Fire Protection District has a Designated Infectious Control Officer. This is due to Public Law 101-381 which was enacted in 1990, commonly known as the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act. The law requires medical facilities to report the disease status to the DICO and determine if an exposure occurs to one of the District's personnel.

### **Norwood Park's Designated Infectious Control Officer**

Marty Lupo

For 2022, there were ZERO exposures reported.

## Medical Officer & Paramedic Preceptors

### Medical Officer

Since the beginning of 2020, Deputy Chief Jeff Peistrup has served as our medical officer. He has played a significant role in navigating all the challenges that have gone along with the COVID-19 pandemic the past 3 years. He continues to manage all EMS operations for the department, including the staffing of personnel, ensuring that all personnel maintain the appropriate licenses and certifications needed to provide top of the line service to our residents, procuring EMS equipment and supplies, attending regular meetings with our resource hospitals and fellow medical officers and chiefs, and helping to create policies that will best serve the communities that we serve.

#### **Norwood Park's Medical Officer**

Deputy Chief Jeff Peistrup

#### **Shift Representatives**

Ryan Nieva

Martin Lupo

David Sanchez

### Paramedic Preceptors

In 2022, we welcomed a handful of paramedic students from Advocate Lutheran General. We have a minimum of two preceptors per shift in order to accommodate these students. This is a valuable service that we provide to our resource hospitals and, in turn, we can evaluate these paramedic students while they are spending time learning skills from our current paramedics. Over the years, we have hired numerous paramedic students once they have received their paramedic licenses. This program has proven to be an excellent training ground for the future of this department.

#### **Norwood Park's Paramedic Preceptors**

Brian Krueger

Mark Taubensee

Stephen Swank

David Sanchez

Martin Lupo

Ryan Nieva

Ashley Horner

Dominick Grano

Frank Stec

Zully Delia

## Norwood Park Fire-EMS

During the course of the year in 2022, Norwood Park decided to embark on a re-branding of our name and mission statement. We changed our logo to Norwood Park Fire-EMS, bringing to the forefront the high level EMS services that our department provides to our residents.



As part of this evolution, Norwood Park Fire-EMS entered into a long term lease agreement with the company that provides our cardiac monitors, Zoll. As part of this lease agreement, we will be utilizing the most recent and state-of-the-art medical devices that are on the market today. These monitors are a vital part of the survivability of patients that are in cardiac arrest, and they will provide real time valuable data that gets transmitted to our resource hospitals while we are on the scene and enroute to the hospital.

In addition to the upgrades in life-saving equipment that we are equipped with, we also made important staffing changes within our department throughout the year. These changes will ensure that there are additional EMS professionals accompanying our ambulances to a variety of serious medical calls that occur within our district on a regular basis. We are always looking to hire the most qualified individuals who will best serve our community.

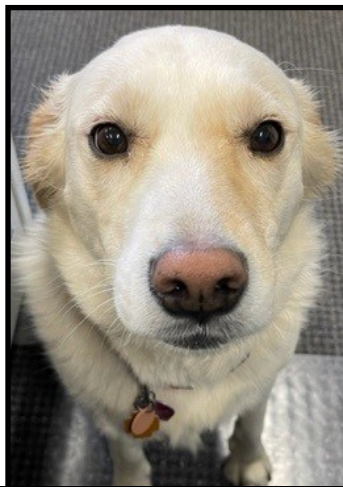
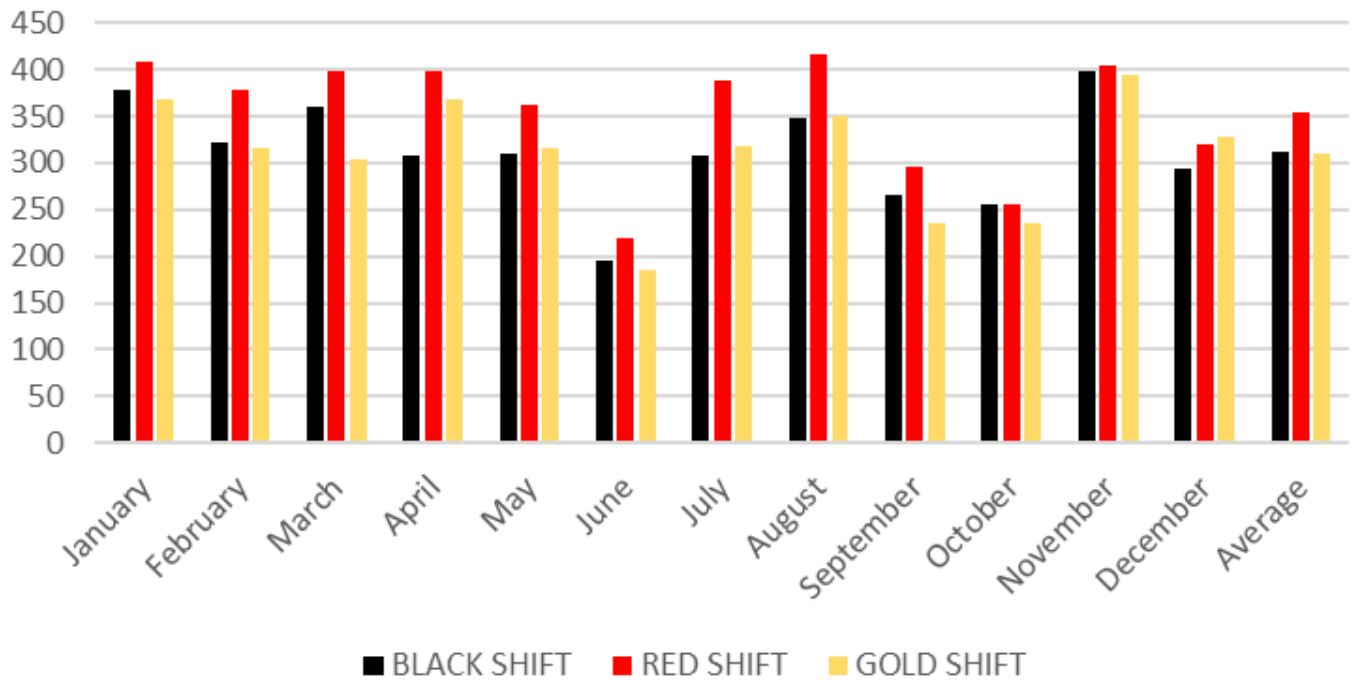


*-Submitted by D/C Peistrup*



## Training

### Training Hours By Month



## Summary of Vehicles

### Ambulances

Vehicle Identification	Year	Vehicle Description
105	2018	Ford E450 Ambulance
106	2018	Ford E450 Ambulance
107	2015	Ford Horton Ambulance



### Engines

Vehicle Identification	Year	Vehicle Description
101	2012	Pierce
102	2001	Pierce

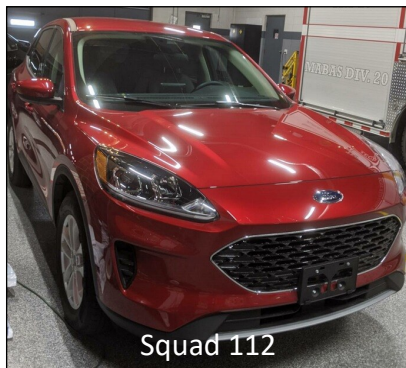




## Summary of Vehicles

### Squads

Vehicle Identification	Use	Year	Vehicle Description
108	Chief	2021	Ford Expedition
109	Deputy Chief	2015	Ford Expedition
110	Utility/Plow	2019	Ford F250/Plow
111	Command	2021	Ford Expedition Max
112	Fire Prevention	2020	Ford Escape



### Truck

Vehicle Identification	Year	Vehicle Description
103	2021	Pierce Mid Mount Tower Ladder





February 2022

## Tower 103 arrives at Norwood Park!



March 2022

Mental Health Appointments for  
Norwood Park Employees began.





## Year in Review

### April 2022



Chief Blondell accepting Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Diamond Award (left).



Chief Blondell giving one of his referendum talks (right).

### May 2022



Memorial Day Honor Guard and D/C Erlewein (left).

RHS Art Students create the mural in NPF boardroom.





## May 2022 Cont.



Firefighter/  
Paramedic  
Schullo at  
Pennoyer  
School's  
Career Day.



## June 2022



Tower 103 attended the Village of Norridge Car Show.

Lt. Curran and shift members participated in Flag Burning Ceremony.

Truck 104 left Norwood to travel to its new home in Paraguay.



## Referendum Approved

Norwood Park passed a limited rate tax referendum!





**July 2022**

Members of NPFD at RFT training in Rosemont (left).

Weiner Mobile visited the Fire House!



## Civilian Paramedics

Norwood Park transitioned from Private Contract Paramedics to Civilian Paramedics.

**BLOCK PARTY**





## August 2022

Year in Review

National Night Out at Norridge Park District



Candidate Jimmy Keating, Candidate Frank Stec, and Candidate James Newsome.



Candidate George Pappas



## September 2022



Members participated in Boot Day to raise money for burn survivors





Swearing in of Deputy Chief Jeffrey Peistrup, Commander Daniel Davila, Lieutenant Matthew Mattio, and Candidate Joshua Hobbs.





## October 2022 Cont.

Year in Review





## October 2022 Cont.

Deputy Chief Claude Erlewein retired after 26 years of service.

**RETIRED**



## November 2022



FF Jimmy Keating graduated Romeo-ville Fire Academy.

FF George Pappas graduated NIPSTA Fire Academy.





## December 2022



Chief Blondell at a Senior talk about winter fire safety.



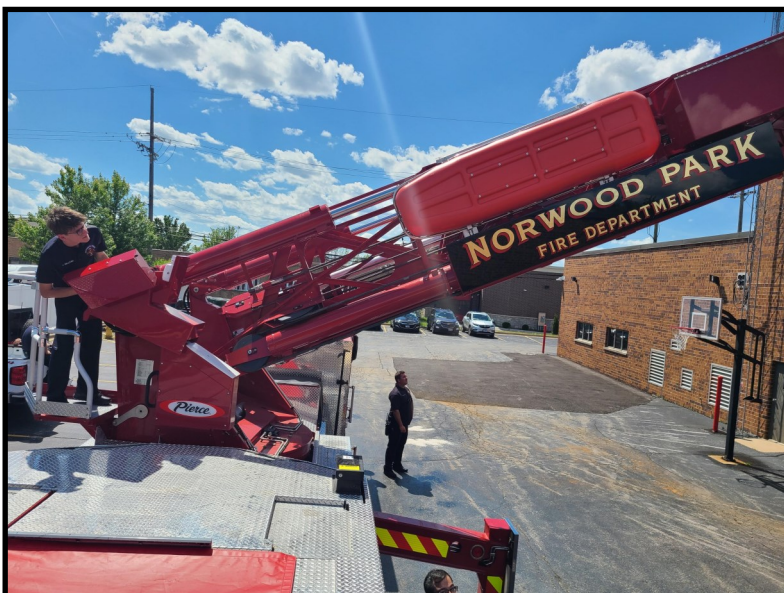
Christmas at Norwood Park!



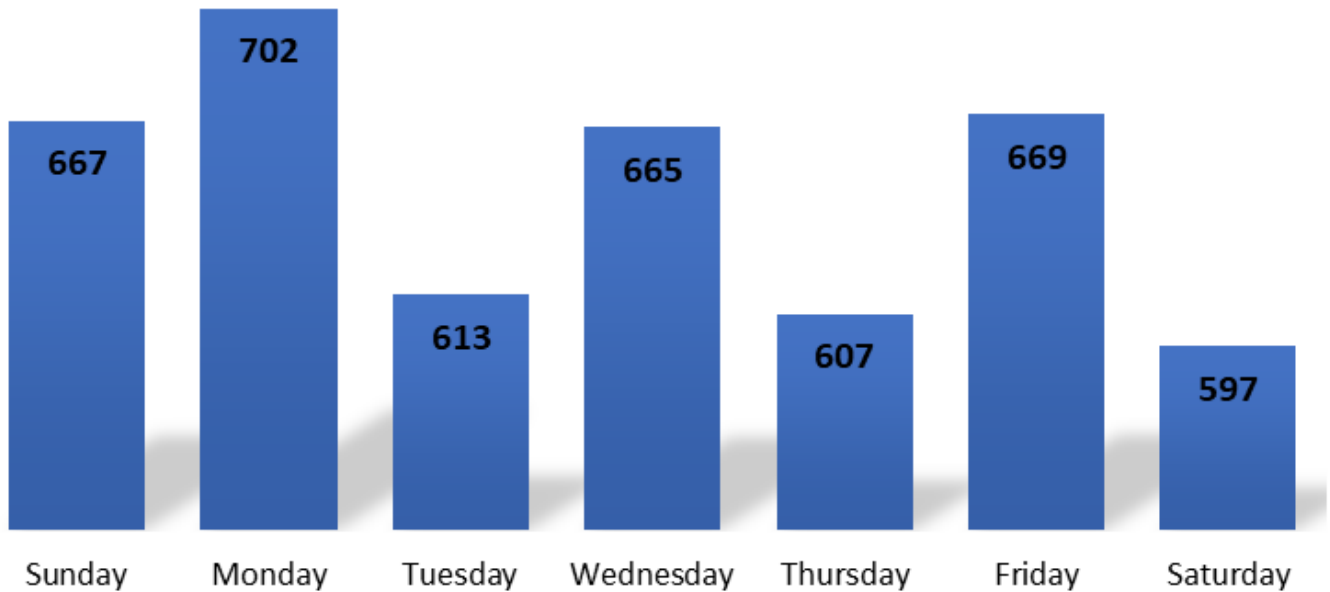


## Exchange Student

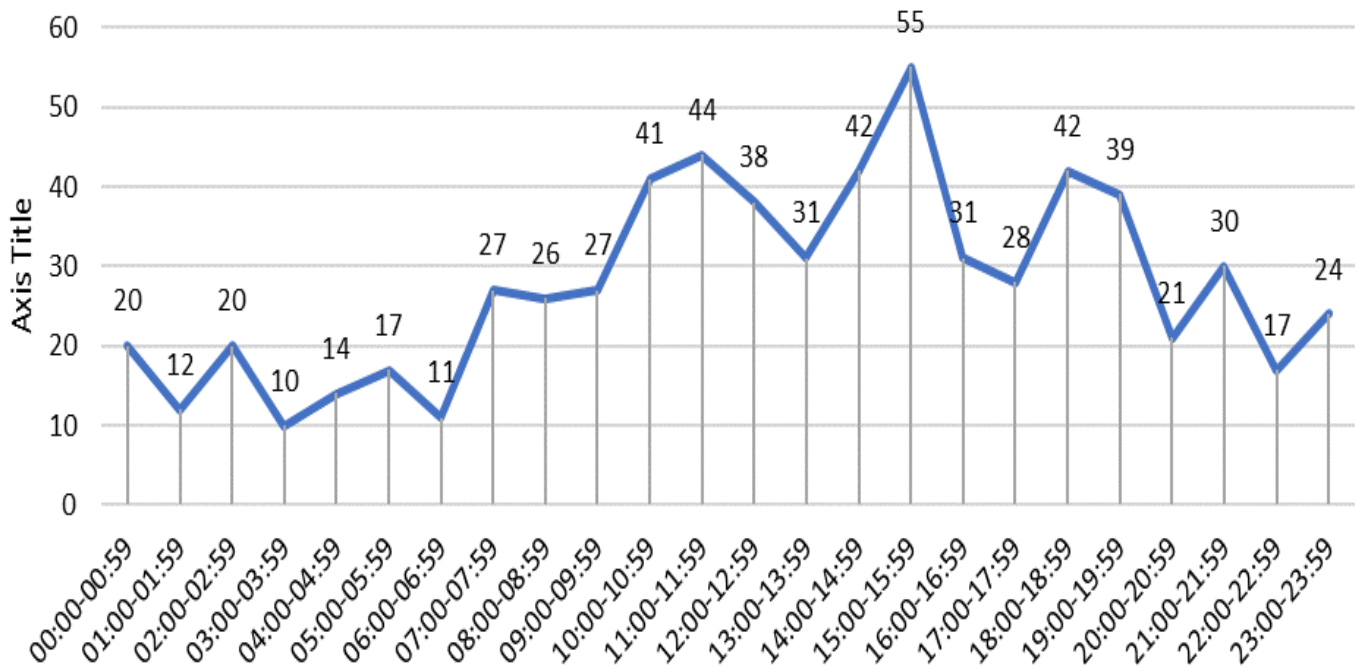
From June 6, 2022 through July 29, 2022, Norwood Park Fire/EMS was selected to host a foreign exchange student from Germany. Sponsored by the ACA Summer Educational Program, the 18 year old student (Jonas) learned about fire service operations, trained on fire equipment, and along with the crew, responded to calls within the district. He also shared his knowledge of German fire and rescue techniques.



## Incidents By Day of Week

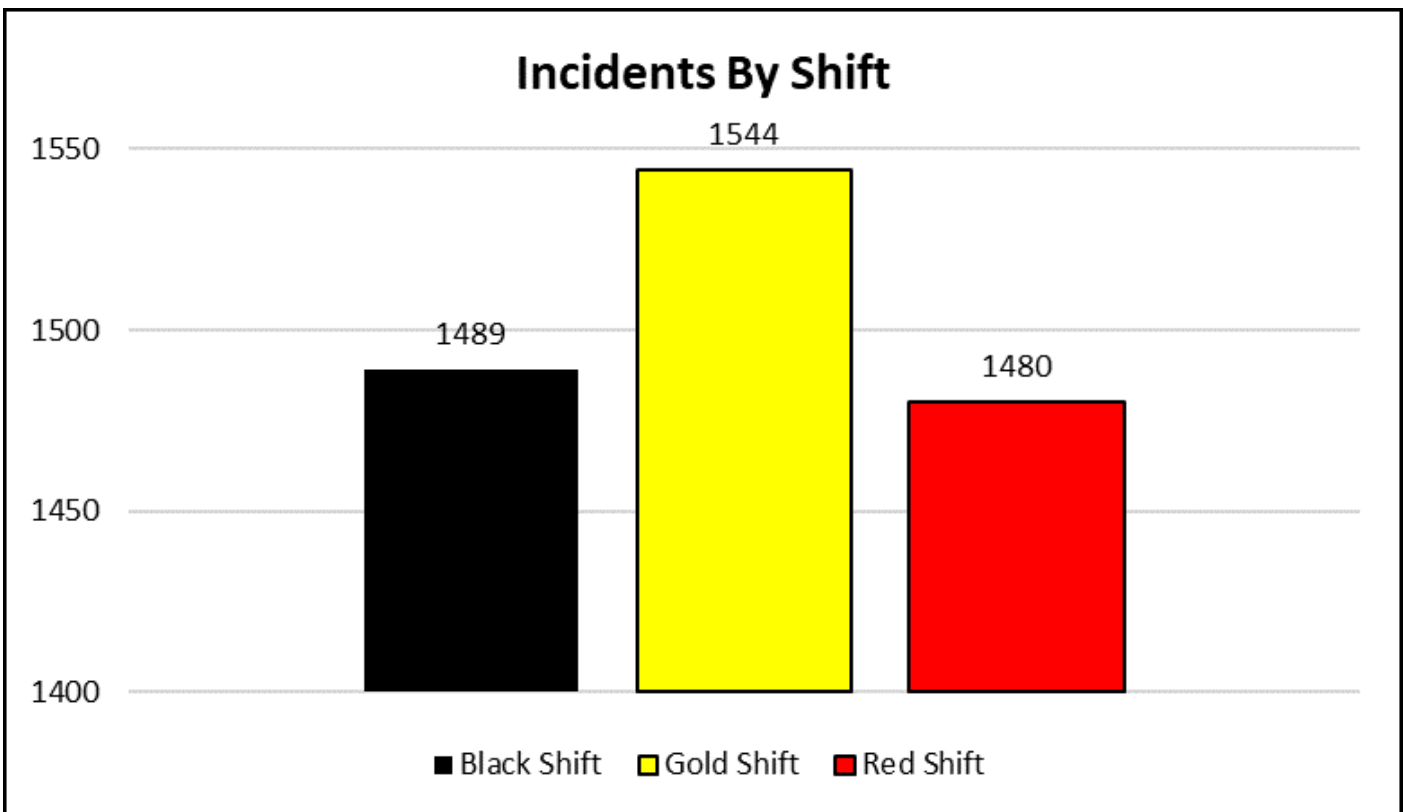
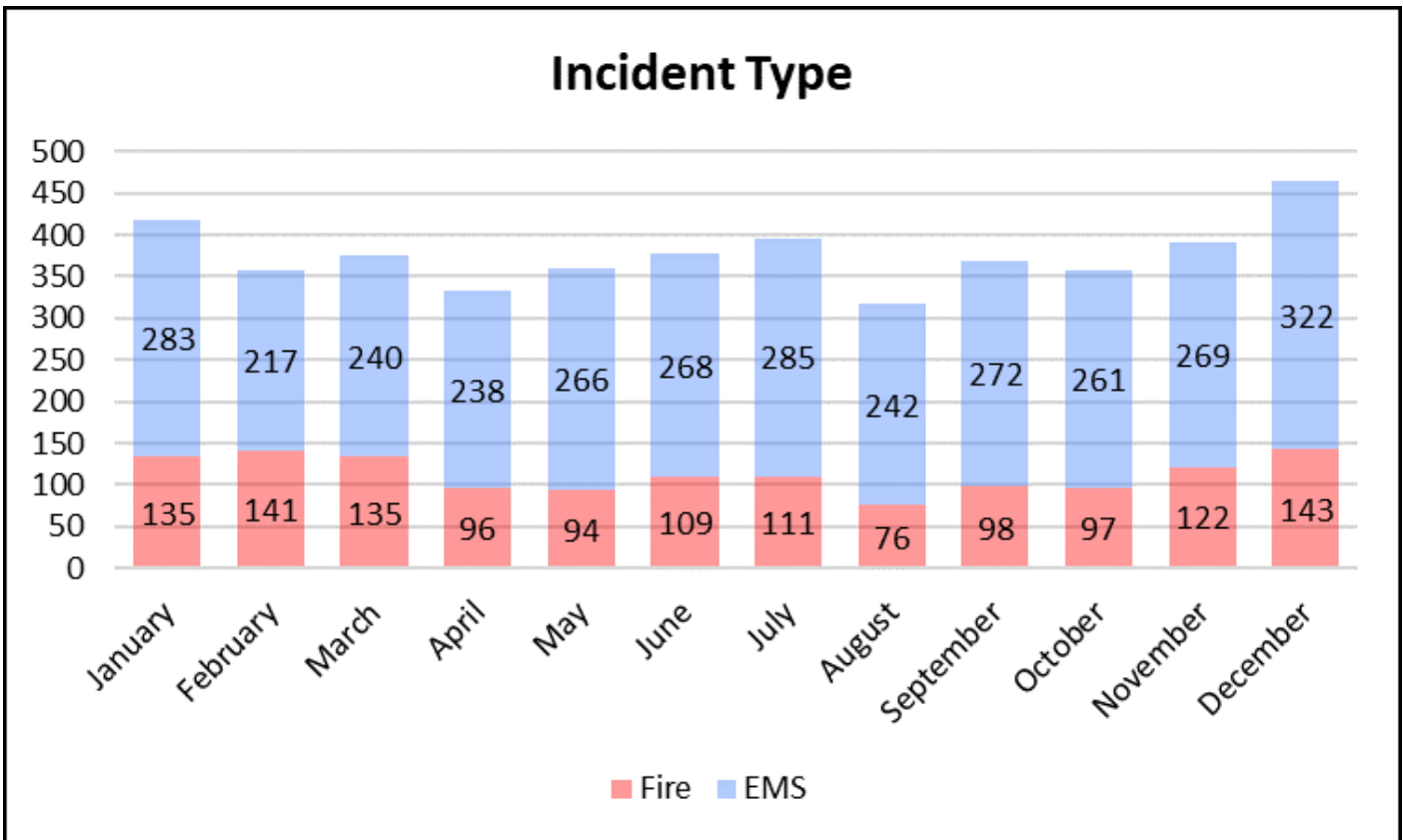


## Incidents By Time Of Day

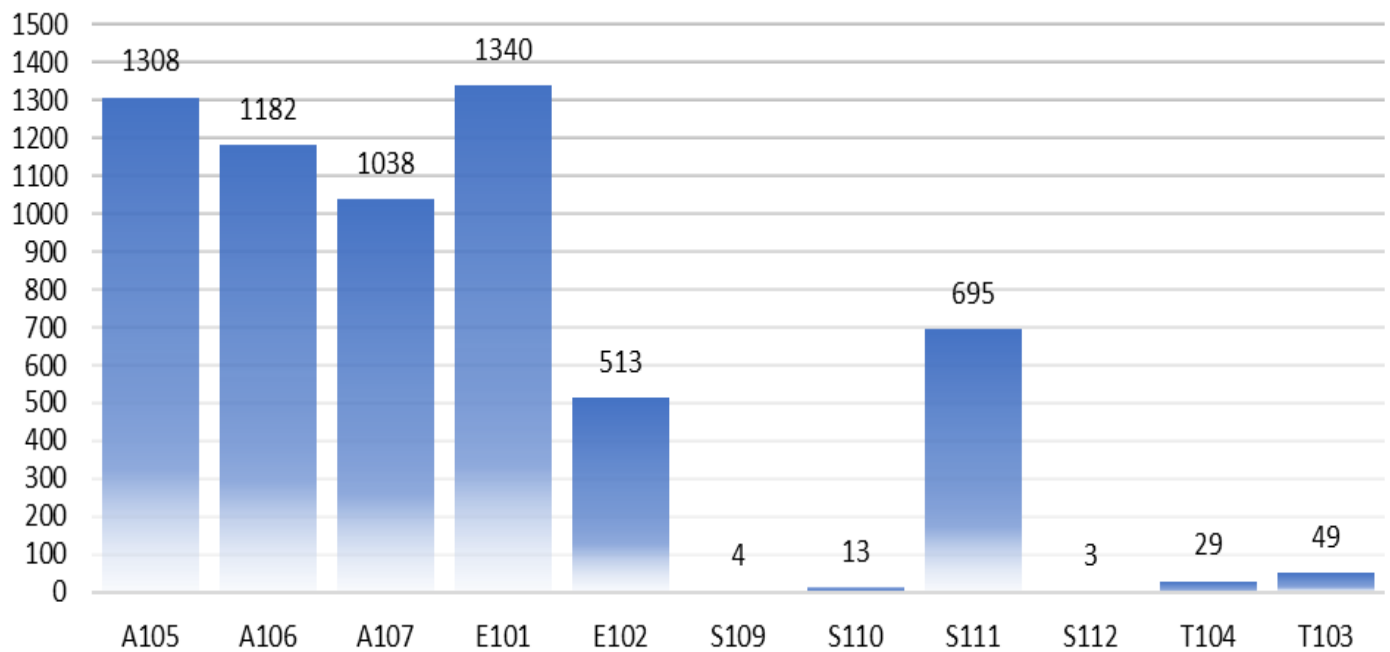




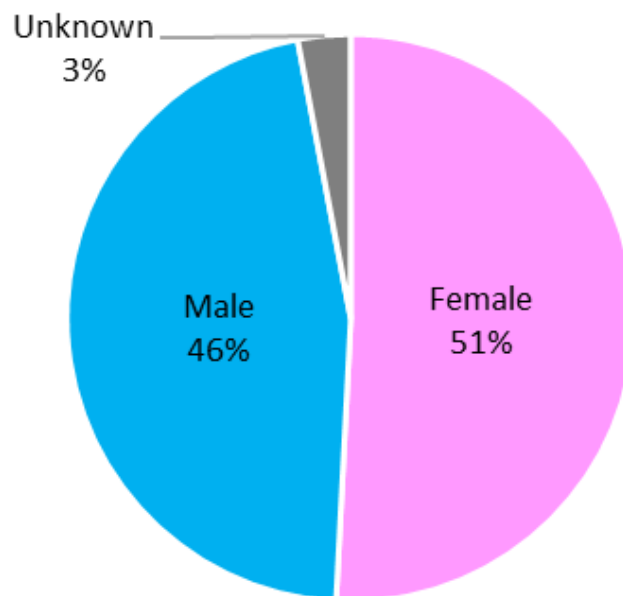
## Summary of Calls



## INCIDENT BY APPARATUS



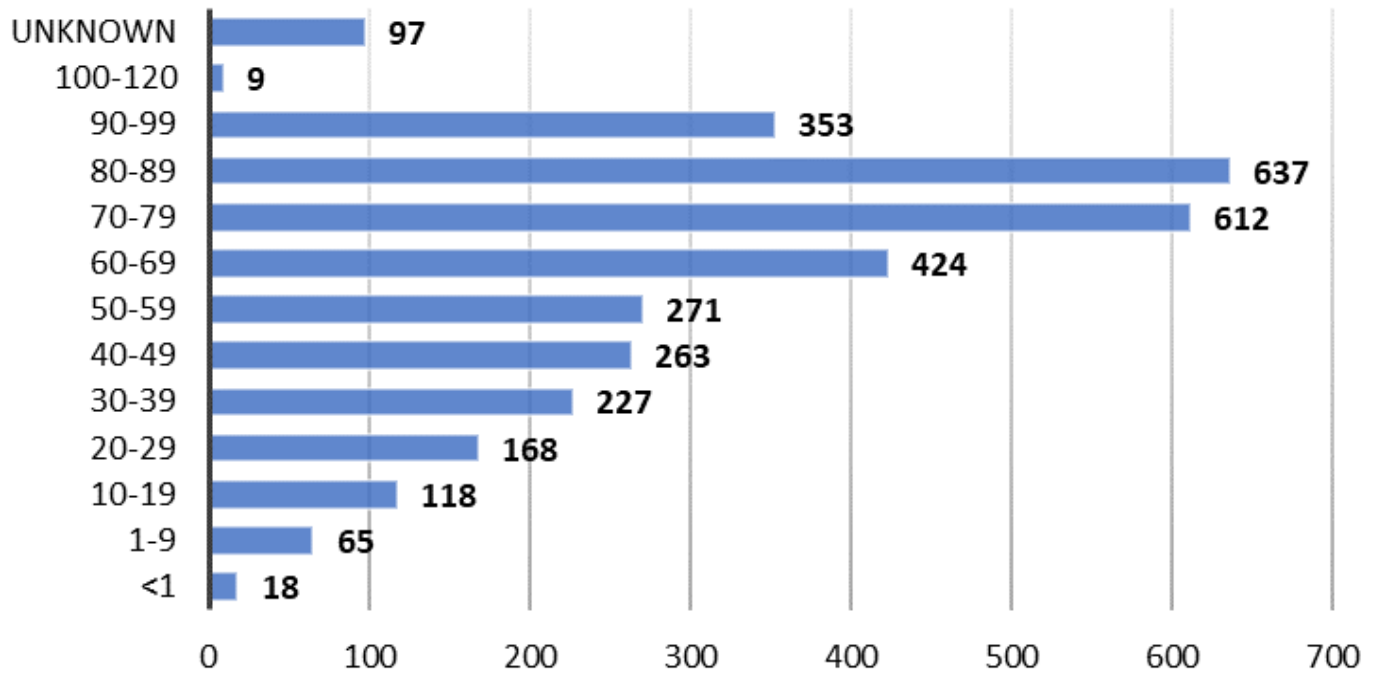
## Ambulance Calls By Patient Gender



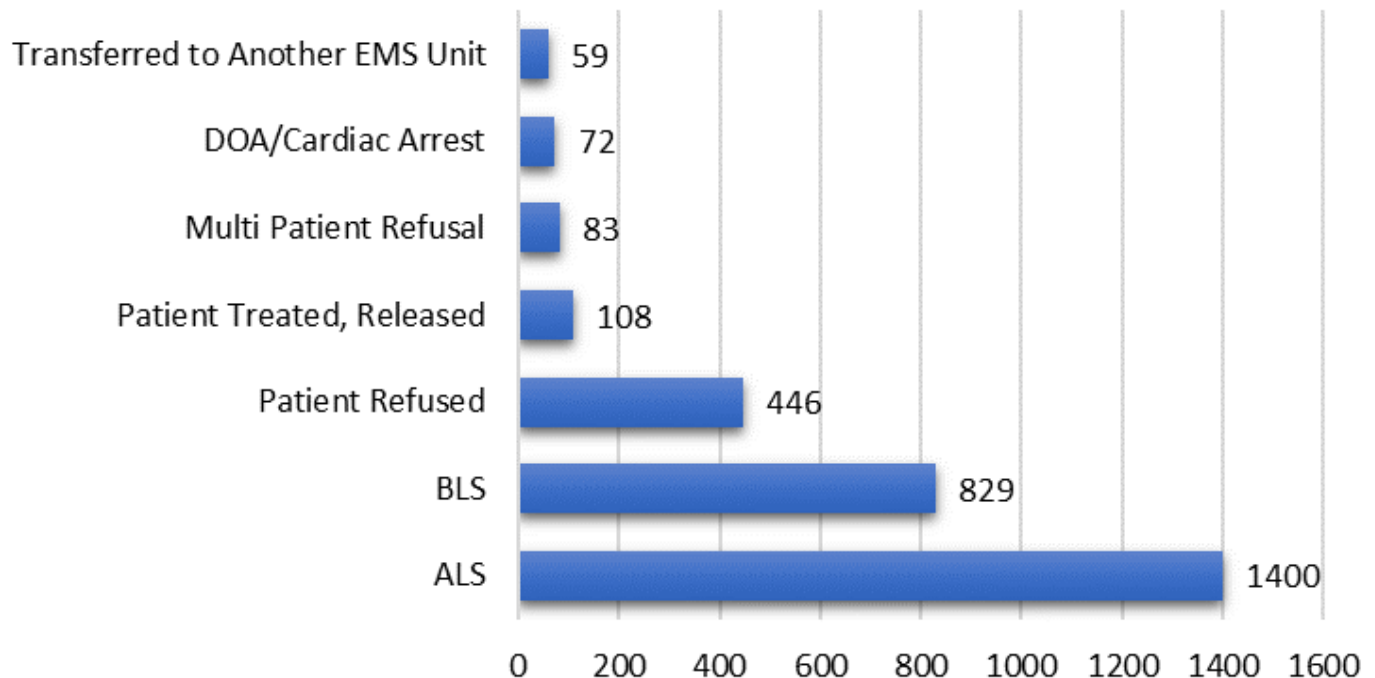


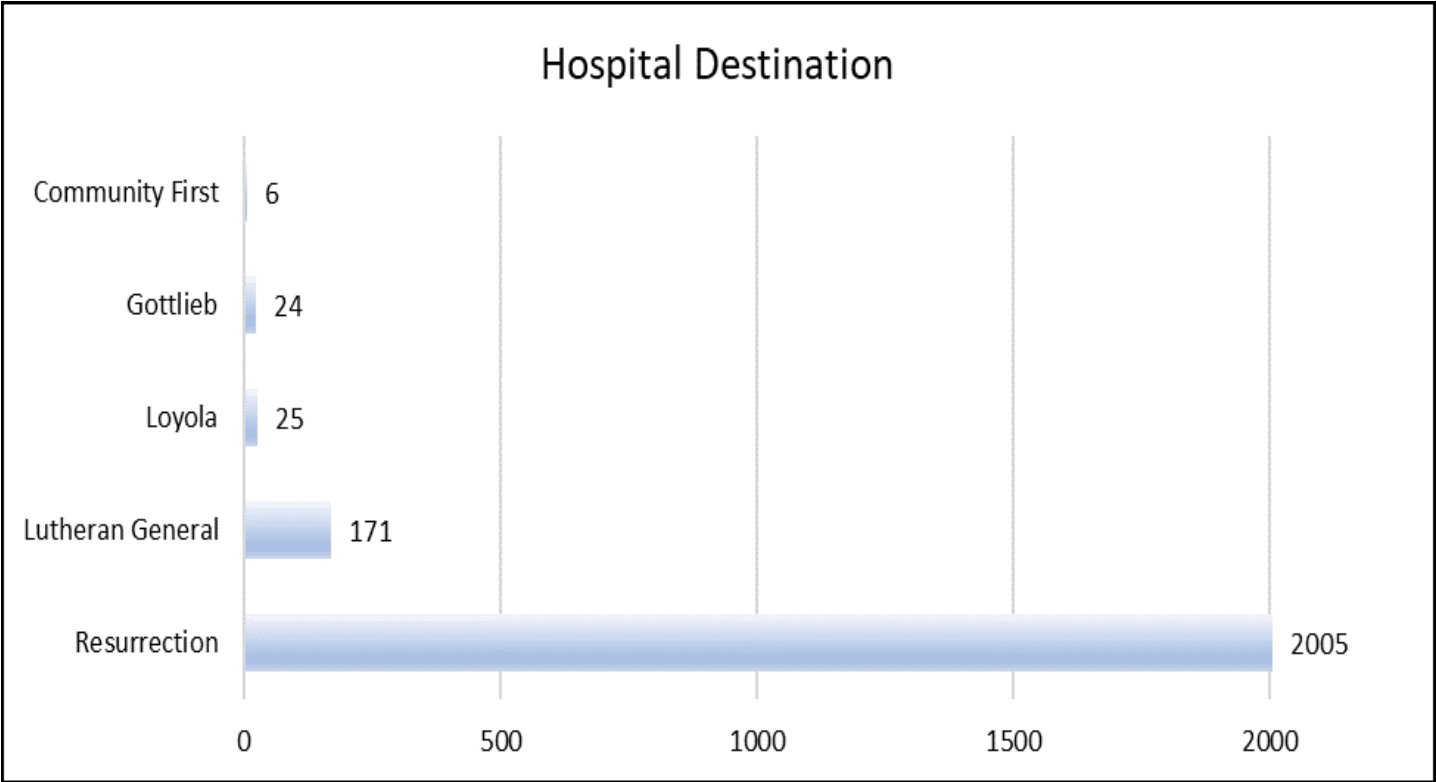
## Summary of Calls

### Ambulance Calls By Patient Age



### Ambulance Incidents By Deposition



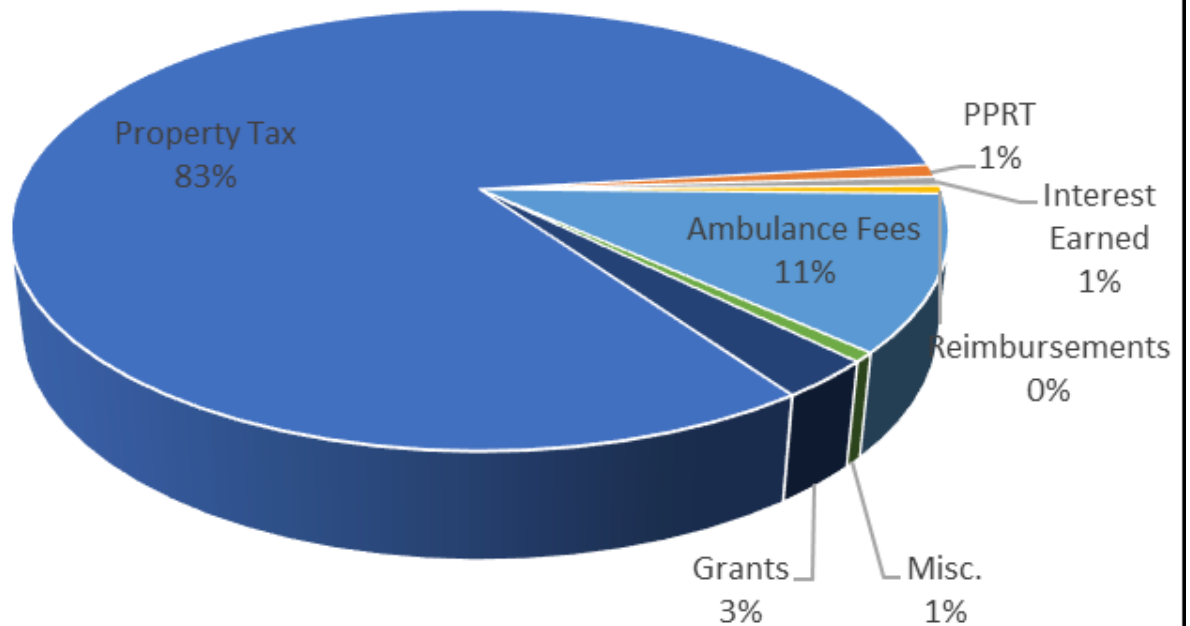


Miscellaneous Pictures

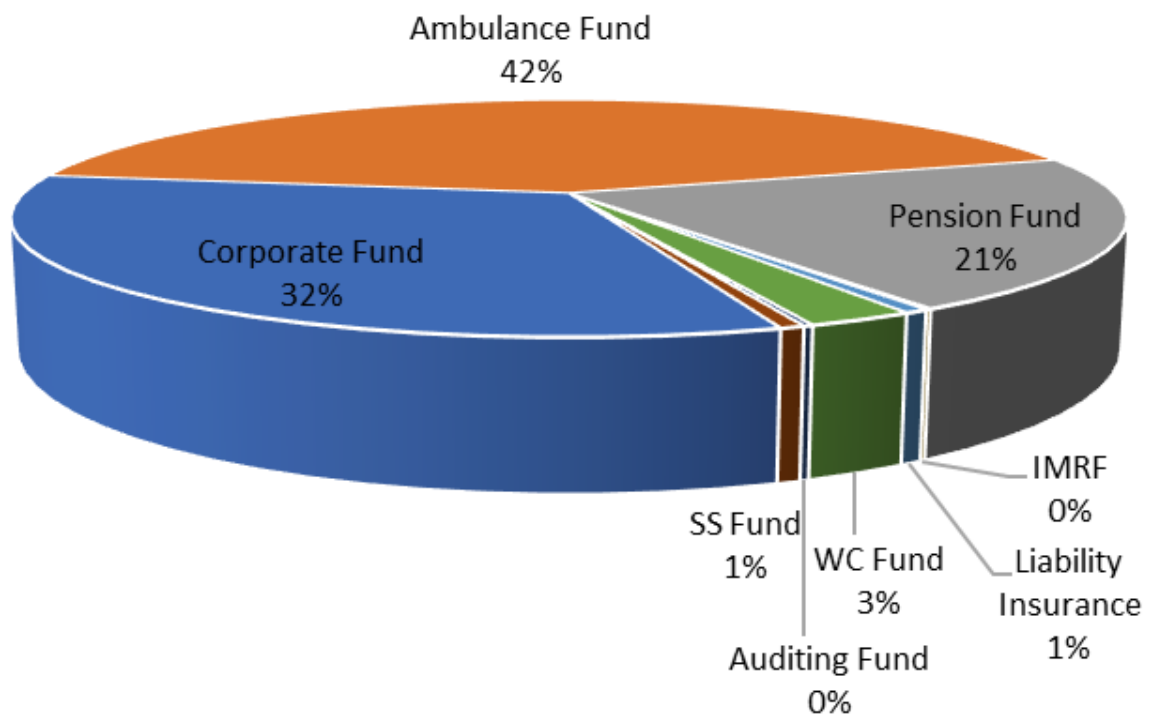




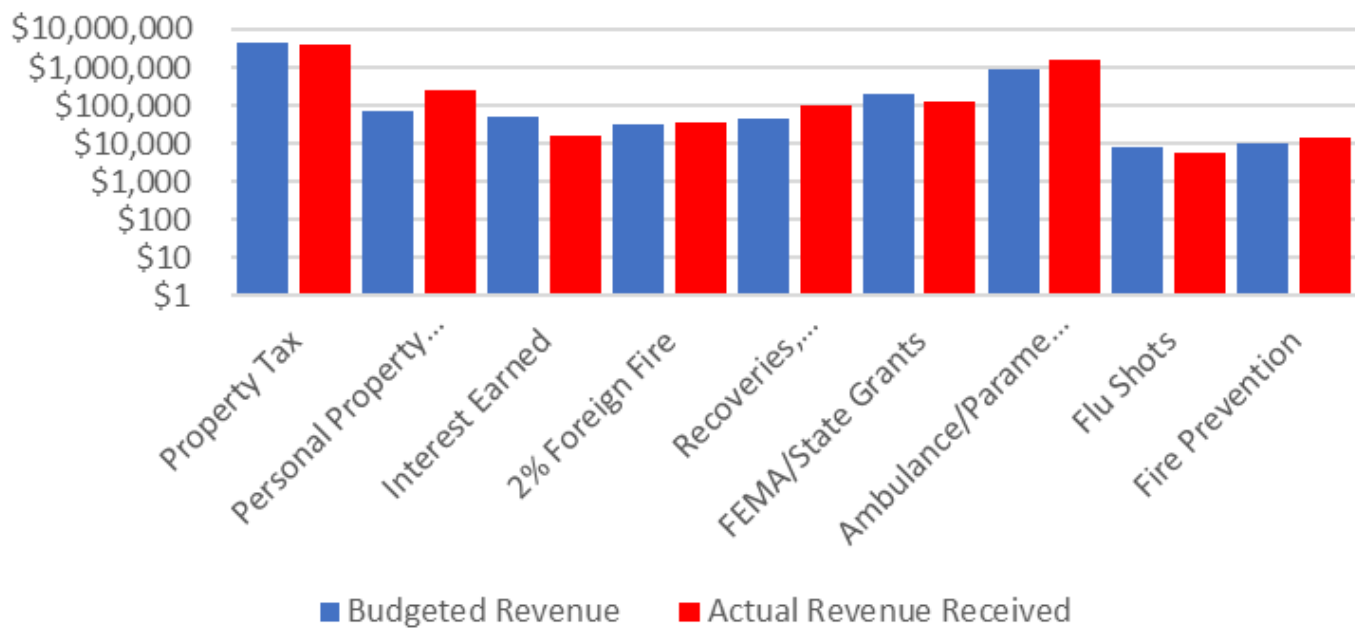
### 2022 Budgeted Revenue by Source as of 06-30-22



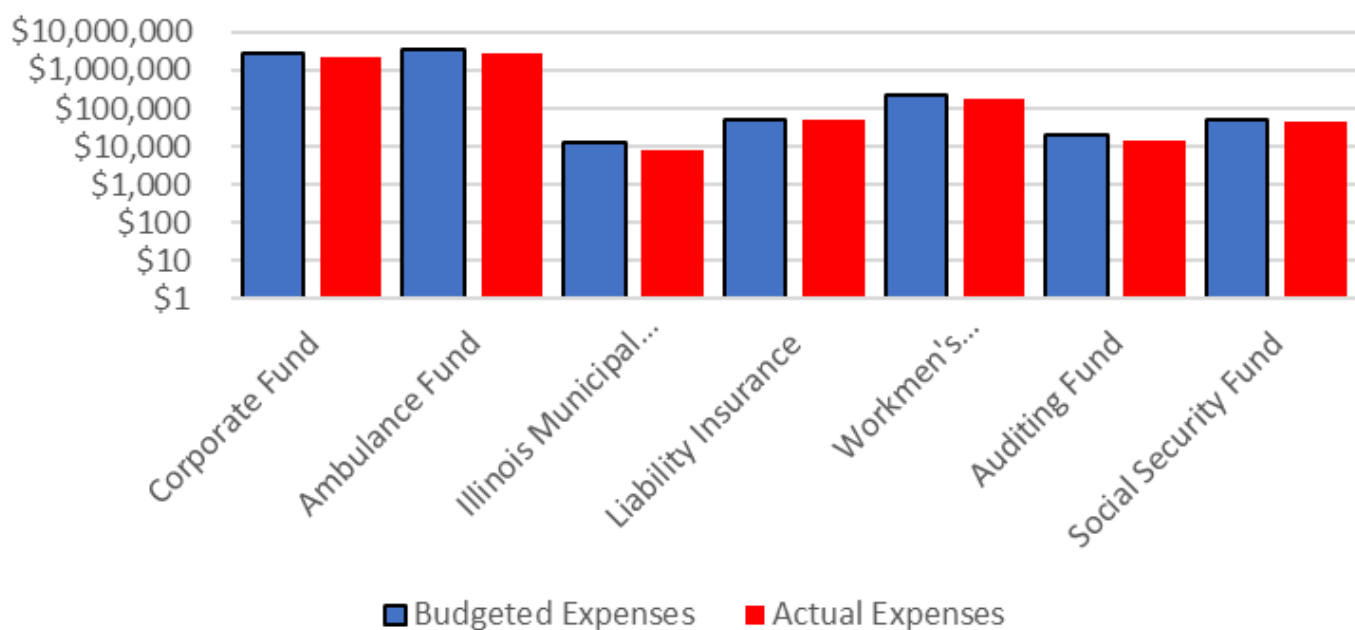
### Budgeted Expenses by Type as of 06-30-2022



### 2022 Budgeted to Actual Revenue Received (Pension revenue is not included)



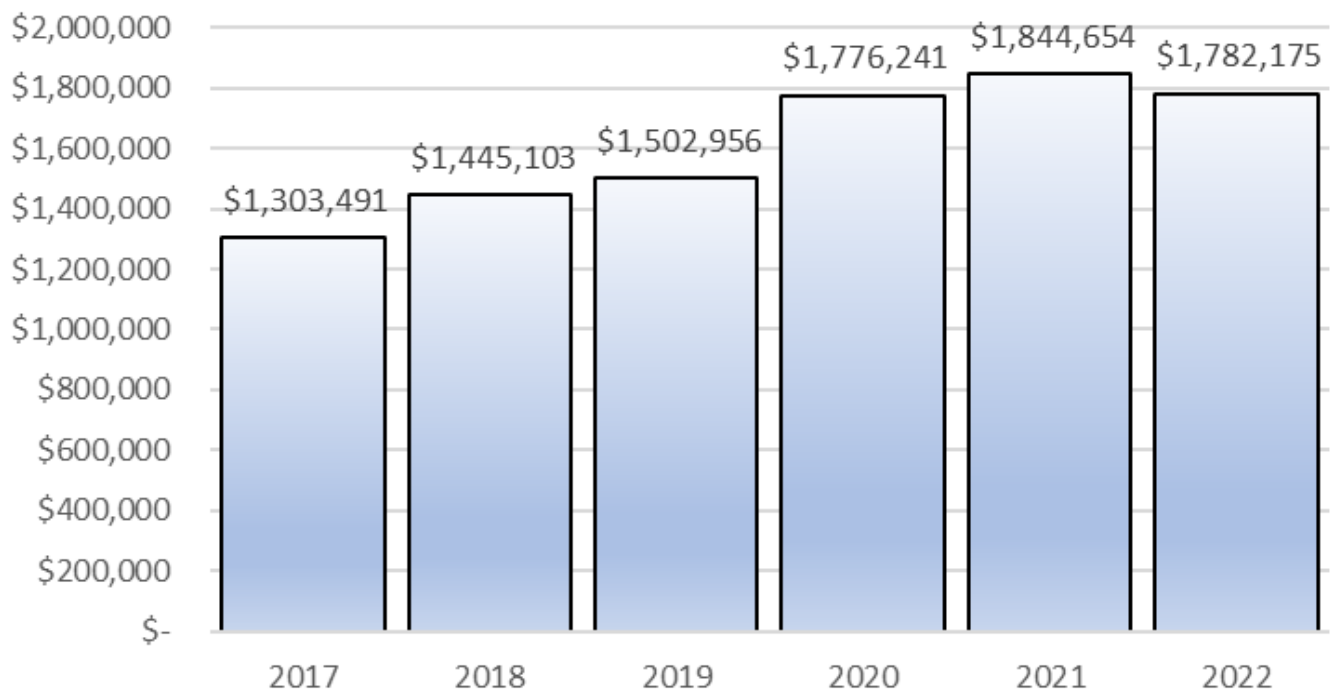
### 2022 Budgeted Expenses by Type as of 06-30-22 (Pension expense is not included)





## Financial Information

### Pension Funds Collected from Tax Revenue



### Capital Expenses

3 New Desktop Computers	\$	2,613.78
Bunk Room Windows	\$	3,360.00
Hurst Cutter and Tool Maintenance	\$	9,525.00
Hurst Spreader Package	\$	9,525.00
Misc. Equipment for Tower 103	\$	12,119.00

## Norwood Park Fire Protection District's Commander and Lieutenant Assignments

