



2025



Annual Report for Service Year 2024

June 2025



Andover Fire-Rescue Annual Report
Andover, KS

MISSION STATEMENT:

Upholding core values of **RESPECT, INTEGRITY, HONOR, DUTY** and **UNITY**, the Andover Fire-Rescue family is committed to providing exceptional fire protection, emergency services, and positive interactions to our community.

ANDOVER



VISION STATEMENT:

Andover Fire-Rescue will become the foremost leader in the fire service and our community through professionalism, strength and trust while defending our core values.

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Message from the Chief



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our neighbors and the incredible dedication of your Andover Fire-Rescue team. The past year was one of growth, progress, and continued commitment to excellence in service, training, and firefighter wellness.

One of the most significant milestones was the completion of the **re-model of Fire Station 1, which reopened in April**. Following the historic opening of your second fire station, this renovation ensures that both of your firehouses are fully equipped to serve our neighbors with efficiency and readiness. Transitioning to a true two-station operation has been a tremendous undertaking, and I commend your firefighters for their adaptability, dedication, and commitment to providing seamless service during this transition.

1

Training remains a cornerstone of our preparedness, and last year's **Relief Officer Academy and active threat training sessions** further enhanced your team's capabilities. Your firefighters continually push themselves to be ready for any emergency, and this commitment to excellence is what makes Andover Fire-Rescue stand out.

We were also fortunate to secure funding to improve our operations. **A generous \$1,000 donation from Southern Star** helped us acquire a new four-gas monitor, enhancing our hazardous materials response capabilities. In addition, we continued applying for Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and successfully received a **Kansas State Firefighters Association (KSFFA) grant**, further investing in the safety and efficiency of your department.

Engaging with our community is one of our greatest priorities, and our **fire prevention and public education initiatives** reached new heights last year. Whether through school visits, safety presentations, or hands-on training like CPR, we remain committed to ensuring our residents are well-prepared in case of an emergency.

A highlight of the year was our first-ever **Battle of the Badges Blood Drive**, where friendly competition between Andover Fire-Rescue and the Police Department made a life-saving impact. I'm proud to say that the **fire department came out on top**, but the real victory was the overwhelming participation from our community, making this event a tremendous success!

Beyond response and prevention, we remain steadfast in our **commitment to firefighter wellness and mental health**. Firefighting is a physically and emotionally demanding profession, and ensuring your personnel have the resources and support they need is a top priority. This past year, we continued expanding our wellness initiatives, focusing on mental resilience, peer support, and overall well-being, recognizing that a healthy firefighter is a more effective firefighter.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to serving our entire fire district with professionalism, dedication, and compassion. Thank you for your ongoing support, trust, and partnership. It is truly an honor to serve this great community, and we look forward to another year of progress and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad Russell'.

AFR Organization



The Andover community is proudly served by **38** uniformed personnel. Of those, **21** are full time career members plus **1** administration, **7** are part time and **9** are volunteer reserves.

Each shift contains 6 firefighters and is now divided between two fire stations.

Station 1 is located at 911 N. Andover Road and Station 2 is located at 650 S. Andover Road.

Meet Your AFR Members

Administration



Fire Chief
Chad Russell



**Deputy Chief/
Fire Marshal**
Mike Roosevelt



Division Chief
Andy Saville



Training Captain
Chris Matson



Admin. Assistant
Felicia Massey

A Shift

2



Captain/EMT
Stephen Cullinane



Lieutenant/AEMT
Frank Shaw



Firefighter/AEMT
Steve Plantz



Firefighter/EMT
Matt Pippin



Firefighter/EMT
Zack Engelbrecht



Firefighter/EMT
Ryan Haag

Meet Your AFR Members

B Shift



Captain/EMT
Zach Lindsey



Lieutenant/EMT
Dennis Smith



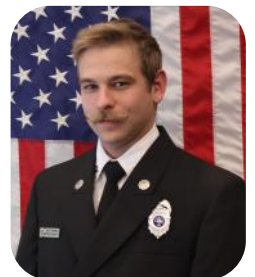
Firefighter/EMT
Jeremy Tuxhorn



Firefighter/EMT
Ben Johnson



Firefighter/EMT
Bailey Norris



Firefighter/EMT
Levi Stark

C Shift

2



Captain/EMT
Chad Cheslic



Lieutenant/AEMT
John Gabriel



Firefighter/EMT
Jeremy Helsel



Firefighter/EMT
Jason Emley



Firefighter/EMT
Skyler Aikens



Firefighter/EMT
Kevin Taylor

Meet Your AFR Members

Part Time



Firefighter/AEMT
Cory Mattke



Firefighter/EMT
Justin Luinstra



Firefighter/AEMT
Caleb Fistler



Firefighter/EMT
Derrick Burl, Jr.



Firefighter/EMT
Malachi Mosier



Firefighter/EMT
Stephanie Rowe

2



Meet Your AFR Members

Reserves



Firefighter/EMT
Gary Elliott



Firefighter/EMT
Jay Robertson



Firefighter/EMT
Jace Guerrie

3



Firefighter/EMT
Shane Frey



Firefighter
Brian Legrow



Firefighter/EMT
Jonathan Smith



Firefighter/EMT
Nate Cook



Firefighter/EMT
Noah Stevens



Firefighter/EMT
Devin Wactor

FF Aaron Parker Retires



FF Aaron Parker
29 Years of Service

On March 22, 2024, Andover Fire-Rescue honored Firefighter Aaron Parker as he retired after an incredible 29 years of dedicated service to the department.

FF Parker began his career with AFR as a Reserve Firefighter in April of 1995

bringing with him a deep sense of duty and commitment to both his community and country. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army Reserves, Aaron exemplified the values of service, leadership, and integrity throughout his career.



Beyond his firefighting duties, FF Parker was a devoted

member of the AFR Honor Guard and actively participated in the annual 9/11 Stair Climb, paying tribute to the fallen heroes of that tragic day. He was also a passionate advocate for fire safety education, making a lasting impact on Andover Public Schools by teaching elementary and middle school students about fire prevention and safety.



In addition to his work with AFR, FF Parker served as a CPR instructor through the American Heart Association, leading numerous classes and taught thousands of individuals in the Andover community with lifesaving skills.

To celebrate his remarkable career, family, friends, and colleagues gathered in the new Fire Station training room, where Captain Lindsey and his crew presented Aaron with a commemorative axe and leather shield as a token of appreciation for his years of unwavering dedication.



Andover Fire-Rescue extends its heartfelt congratulations to Firefighter Parker on his well-earned retirement. We thank him for his invaluable contributions and wish him all the best in this next chapter of his life.





01

Vehicle Replacement Plan



Vehicle Replacement Plan

Since launching the Vehicle Replacement Plan (VRP) in 2014, Andover Fire-Rescue (AFR) has remained dedicated to ensuring a safe, healthy, and economically sustainable community. To uphold this commitment, AFR enlisted an external team of certified emergency vehicle technicians to conduct a comprehensive fleet assessment. Their findings underscored the critical need for a strategic approach to maintaining and upgrading AFR's emergency vehicles.

A well-maintained fleet is essential to AFR's mission of protecting lives and property. Emergency response capabilities rely on having safe, functional, and up-to-date apparatus. While personnel costs are a significant portion of fire department expenditures, vehicle replacement is also a major financial consideration.

To enhance firefighter effectiveness and reduce the risk of injury, it is crucial that fire apparatus feature the latest safety technology and operational advancements. Timely fleet upgrades help ensure AFR can provide uninterrupted, high-quality emergency response services. Given the vital role of these vehicles, AFR conducted an in-depth fleet evaluation to assess equipment conditions, align apparatus needs with departmental goals, and establish a sustainable replacement schedule.

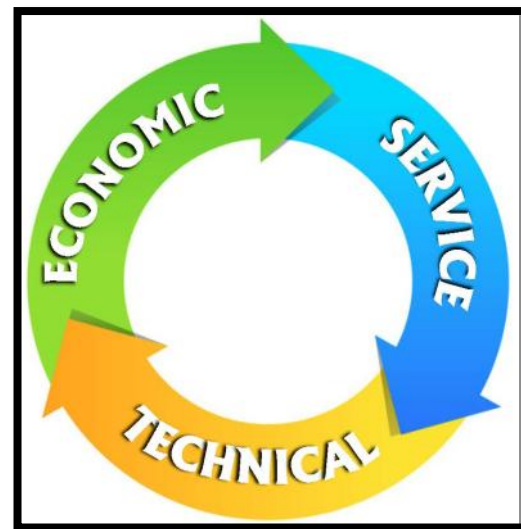
This study included:

- ◆ A full inventory and condition survey of fire apparatus
- ◆ An analysis of AFR's service demands and organizational objectives
- ◆ A comparison with fire departments in similar jurisdictions
- ◆ The development of a strategic, phased replacement plan

Like all mechanical equipment, fire apparatus

have defined life cycles, encompassing service, technological, and economic considerations. Service life determines whether a vehicle can still perform its duties effectively. Technological life assesses how older apparatus compare to newer models, particularly in safety and efficiency. Economic life evaluates long-term costs, factoring in depreciation, maintenance, fuel, repairs, and training expenses.

Historically, AFR based its vehicle replacement timelines on estimated aging effects. However, the department has since adopted the American Public Works Association



(APWA) formula to conduct objective annual assessments. This data-driven approach enables more informed financial planning and ensures that apparatus are replaced at the right time to optimize performance and cost-efficiency.

Recent acquisitions under the VRP have strengthened AFR's fleet, equipping firefighters with modern, reliable vehicles to support emergency operations. As AFR continues to invest in state-of-the-art apparatus, the Vehicle Replacement Plan remains a cornerstone of the department's commitment to safety, readiness, and service excellence.

Vehicle Replacement Plan

In the chart below, the Vehicle Replacement Plan, (VRP), is based on replacement points and rates the apparatus in (4) different categories: **Condition 1: Excellent, Condition II: Good, Condition III: Qualifies for Replacement and Condition IV: Needs Immediate Consideration.**

Currently, (5) apparatus show they are a Category IV needs immediate consideration. Two of the replacements are on order now. Your AFR firefighters commit to regular service checks and maintenance to keep our apparatus running efficiently so we are ready in your time of need. Our priority is to provide safe and effective apparatus to service our community while also minimizing costs, repairs and premature replacement.

Andover Fire-Rescue										
Vehicle Replacement Plan 2025										
Apparatus	Year	Age	Mileage	Engine Hours	Hour mileage	Replacement Points	Maintenance Cost to Date	Desired Replacement	Scheduled Replacement	Anticipated Replacement cost
Car 2	2020	5	39,451	2,155	129,300	16.79	\$ 3,502.82	2028	2028	\$ 83,200
Car 4	2021	4	40,900	1,083	64,962	18.2	\$ 4,336.84	2026	2027	\$ 66,550
Rescue 35	2013	12	84,748	8,610	516,600	44.7	\$ 41,192.58	2020	2025	\$ 400,000
Brush 11	2020	5	3,732	411	24,660	11.7	\$ 482.20	2035	2035	\$ 171,563
Brush 12	2020	5	3,331	399	23,940	11.6	\$ 1,133.91	2035	2035	\$ 171,563
Tender 11	2002	23	17,223	1,485	89,100	35.5	\$ 43,190.65	2022	2027	\$ 402,500
Tender 12	2002	23	9,460	1,841	110,448	35.08	\$ 29,291.00	2022	2029	\$ 423,500
Engine 1	2007	18	61,253	5,981	358,860	46.94	\$ 81,686.26	2027	2028	\$ 1,045,175
Engine 16	2017	8	45,262	4,220	253,200	29.81	\$ 29,235.00	2037	2037	\$ 1,060,800
Ladder 15	2016	9	13,919	1,709	102,540	21.10	\$ 37,330.23	2041	2041	\$ 1,593,750
Engine 10	1998	27	47,915	4,315	258,900	45.29	\$ 39,530.53	2018	2025	\$ 1,100,000
Point Ranges										
0-19	Condition I	Excellent					Code = Exc.			
20-25	Condition II	Good					Code = Good			
26-29	Condition III	Qualifies for replacement					Code = QFR			
30-	Condition IV	Needs immediate consideration					Code = NIC			



In Memoriam



Lt. Doug Crumrine



With deep sadness, we honor the memory of former Lt. Doug Crumrine, who served with dedication from the early 1990s to 2002 in what was then Butler County Fire District #1. A committed volunteer and leader, Doug recruited members, mentored cadets, and played a key role in department initiatives, including the Fire Department Benefit Rodeo and the design of AFR Engine 10, still in service today.

Beyond firefighting, Doug's expertise as an aviation electrician helped improve apparatus safety and functionality. He was a driving force behind the department's first personnel accountability system. Doug returned to the Wichita area in 2011 and worked in electrical construction until his passing on January 20, 2024, after a battle with cancer.

Doug's dedication, leadership, and firehouse humor left a lasting impact.

RIP Doug – We'll take it from here, Brother.





02

**Training/
Brandy's Ice Rescue/
Fire Prevention**



Message from the Training Specialist

Dear Andover Community,

As Andover's Training Specialist, I am committed to ensuring your firefighters receive the latest training and education needed to provide exceptional emergency services. Overseeing training hours and skill development is a responsibility I take seriously, and I am incredibly proud of our team's accomplishments.

Below is a breakdown of the training hours completed by your firefighters:

- ♦ **618 hours** – Medical Training
- ♦ **3,295 hours** – Other training, including Physical Fitness, Specialty Rescue, etc.
- ♦ **6,909 hours** – Training meeting ISO (Insurance Services Office) standards

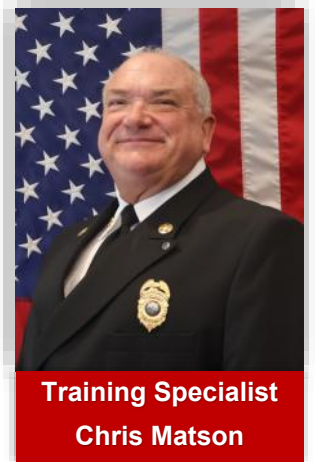
Your firefighters have participated in various fire schools, including the State Capitol Area Firefighters Association (SCAFFA), National Fire Academy (NFA), and Labette County Fire School. Additionally, they have gained hands-on experience in live fire conditions at Butler Community College's burn facility and through training with the Wichita Fire Department.

Andover Fire-Rescue (AFR) has also hosted numerous on-site training drills that combine classroom instruction with hands-on practice. Many of these drills were conducted in collaboration with neighboring fire departments such as Wichita, Rose Hill, Sedgwick County, and Benton Fire, strengthening our team's readiness and cohesion.

A major focus of our 2024 training has been the **Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)**, which addresses the intersection of open grasslands and structures, particularly homes. As our community grows, these areas present unique fire risks. Your crews have dedicated extensive training hours to developing strategies for combating grassland fires while protecting homes. While we cannot prepare for every possible scenario, your firefighters are confident in their ability to respond safely and effectively to WUI incidents.

Many of your firefighters actively seek opportunities for self-improvement, contributing to the ongoing enhancement of our department. Their dedication and expertise ensure that Andover Fire-Rescue remains prepared for any emergency. I am immensely proud of their commitment and confident in their readiness to serve our community.

Sincerely,



Training

(Pictured Right) - This graphic shows the hours/percentage of training accrued in 2024.



(Pictured Below) - This list is a detailed break-down of the training/hours earned in 2024.

TRAINING DESCRIPTION	HOURS
ISO Live Fire/Facilities Training	6
ISO Company – Level Training	4,373
ISO Officer Training	803
ISO Officer Certifications	125
ISO Driver/Operator Existing	387
ISO Driver/Operator New	277
ISO Hazardous Materials	54
ISO Recruit Training	594
ISO Building Familiarization/Pre-Incident Planning/ Company Level Inspections	290
Medical Training	618
Misc. (NIMS, SCBA, Specialized Rescue, Active Threat, WUI, Ropes & Knots, NFPA Standards & Extrication)	3,295
Training Hours	10,822

A Rescue with a Happy Ending

Against the Odds:

Brandy's Remarkable Rescue and Recovery

Special thanks to Janell Jessup and BuCART for the documentation of the incident and photography.

This summary was submitted to Dr. Rebecca Husted who used "the Brandy rescue" as a case study she is working on for a Cornell University textbook.

On a frigid January morning in rural Butler County, Kansas, a desperate call came in—Brandy, a three-year-old, 1,800-pound Percheron/Belgian mare, was down on the ice and unable to get up. She had last been seen the night before, meaning she had spent nearly 16 hours exposed to the brutal

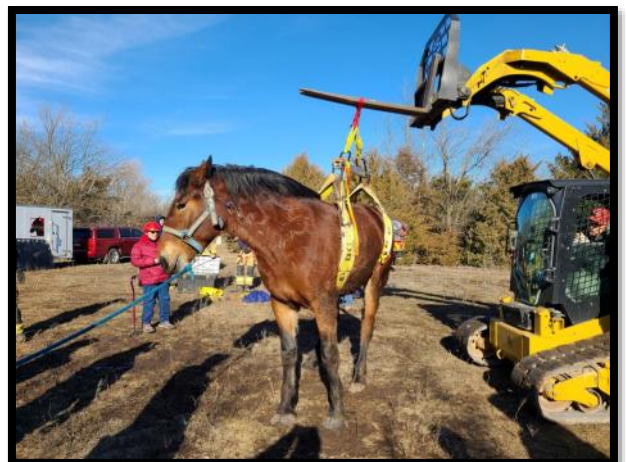


winter elements. The situation was dire, and time was running out.

Chief Russell of Andover Fire-Rescue (AFR) immediately reached out to the Butler County Emergency Management Agency for reinforcements, requesting deployment of the Butler County Animal Response Team (BuCART). These specialized responders,

trained in large animal rescue operations (LARO), brought not only their expertise but also the equipment necessary for such a challenging mission.

Even before BuCART arrived, Chief Russell and the Andover Fire-Rescue crew began strategizing. Brandy needed to be moved from the ice to solid ground as quickly as possible to prevent further loss of body heat. With careful precision, rescue webbing straps were secured around her massive frame, and she was carefully maneuvered to the shoreline. There, she was placed in a sternal position and blanketed to combat the cold, while Butler County EMS provided warming blankets to stabilize her temperature.



A Rescue with a Happy Ending *(cont.)*



Once BuCART was on the scene, the team devised a plan to move Brandy to higher, drier ground. The arrival of a veterinarian proved crucial—Brandy was sedated, her head was protected, and she was carefully secured onto a rescue glide. Using a brush truck's winch, rescuers gradually pulled her to safety. Warm IV fluids and medications were administered, but Brandy was still too weak to stand.

With the Becker Sling—a specialized large animal lifting device—set up, Brandy was gently raised with the help of a skid steer. Supported by the sling, she was given time to regain her strength. However, multiple attempts to get her to support her own weight were unsuccessful. After consulting with her owner, veterinarian, and responders, the decision was made to let Brandy rest overnight. Her dedicated owners ensured she was kept warm with heaters, electric blankets, food, and fluids throughout the night.

The following morning, hope flickered once again. AFR, BuCART, and the veterinarian returned to try lifting Brandy again. This time, she managed to bear some of her own weight but struggled to walk. The rescue sling remained attached, and slowly, step by step,

Brandy was guided toward the safety of her barn. Volunteers laid hay along the slick path to provide traction, and with unwavering determination, Brandy—supported by AFR, BuCART volunteers, and her owners—made the several-hundred-yard journey home.

For the next few weeks, Brandy still required lifting assistance. Her devoted owner even obtained equipment to continue helping her stand when necessary. Against the odds, and after months of veterinary care and relentless support, Brandy made a full recovery.

But her story didn't end there. On November 3, 2024, nearly ten months after her harrowing ordeal, Brandy gave birth to Nicki, a healthy palomino filly. A true testament to resilience and teamwork, Brandy's survival—and the new life she brought into the world—stands as a heartwarming reminder of what can be accomplished when a community comes together for the love of an animal.

Pictured Right:

*Brandy and
Nicki in Nov
2024.*



Pictured Left:

*Latest photo of
Nicki taken in
Feb 2025.*

Training

Forcible Entry Training

AFR demonstrated their skills by effectively utilizing the forcible entry prop that AFR has acquired and set up in the mezzanine floor of Station 2. This prop is designed to mimic both residential and commercial doors, with the



latter often being more fortified and challenging to breach.

By practicing forcible entry techniques in low-light conditions, AFR personnel honed their skills in accessing a wide range of secured entry points. This type of training is invaluable as it prepares firefighters to handle real-world sce-

narios where quick and efficient access is crucial for saving lives and minimizing property damage.

The utilization of specialized props like the forcible entry simulator demonstrates AFR's commitment to continuous improvement and readiness for various emergency situations.



WUI Training

In March 2024, the Andover Parks Department partnered with Andover Fire-Rescue to conduct the city's first documented prescribed burn in recent history.

The goal was to explore fire as a natural alternative to chemical herbicides for managing invasive weeds and promoting native plant growth in Central Park.



FF Pippin conducting a training plan for the control burn site in Andover Central Park.



Three acres along Yorktown Road were selected for the burn. The Parks team prepared the area, while FF Matt Pippin lead the AFR team and provided wildland fire training and safely carried out the operation. The training included safety protocols, fire behavior, and ignition techniques—many participants used a drip torch for the first time.

The burn was completed without incident, offering valuable hands-on experience and minimal public disruption. This initiative supports both ecological health and community wildfire resilience. Results will be monitored to evaluate future use of prescribed fire in park management.



Training

Vehicle Extrication

AFR conducted extrication training at Fire Station 1, providing firefighters—especially our Reserves and new hires—with valuable hands-on experience using our vehicle rescue equipment. The purpose of this training was to build confidence and proficiency with tools such as spreaders, cutters, and stabilization equipment, all in a controlled, realistic setting.



By training at our own station, crews gained greater familiarity with our apparatus layout and tool setup, ensuring faster, safer response times during real-

world incidents. This session reinforced key techniques for patient access and removal while emphasizing teamwork, communication, and scene safety.

Relief Officer Training

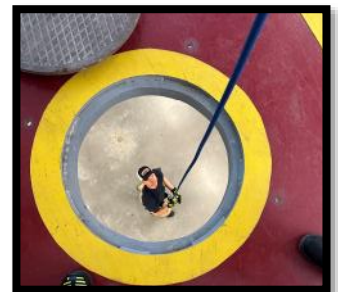
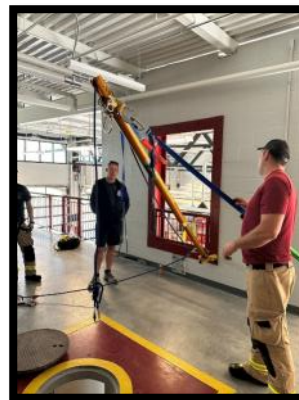
Andover Fire Rescue hosted its first-ever Relief Officer Training to prepare firefighters for leadership roles when a company officer is off duty. In these situations, a "relief officer" steps in to fill the role. To qualify, members must meet minimum requirements and successfully

complete this academy. The training focused on decision-making, scene management, and crew safety—building confidence and ensuring consistent, effective emergency response.



Ropes & Confined Space Training

In June '24, AFR hosted a specialized training session focused on ropes and confined space rescue, with an emphasis on using a monopod system. This single-leg anchor is a compact and adaptable solution for confined space operations where traditional tripods or larger systems may not fit—such as man-holes, tanks, and vertical shafts.



Under the instruction of Capt. Lindsey of AFR, participants reviewed critical skills including proper monopod setup, stabilization using guy lines, and integration with mechanical advantage systems and safety belays. The training highlighted key principles such as load distribution, anchor integrity, and compliance with NFPA and OSHA safety standards.



AFR was joined by Station 38 from Sedgwick County Fire Department, adding valuable interagency collaboration to the training. This joint effort not only strengthened our technical rescue capabilities but also reinforced regional teamwork and operational consistency for future responses.

Training

Denver Drill Training

Line-of-Duty Death Case Summary:



On September 28, 1992, Firefighter Mark Langvardt responded on Denver Fire Department Truck 16 to a fire at a two-story commercial printing business. Upon arrival, DFD crews found fire in multiple locations throughout the building.



While conducting a search on the second floor, FF Langvardt became separated from his partner. He attempted to exit via the interior stairwell but was blocked by advancing fire conditions. The Incident Commander noticed a light shining from a second-story window and directed a crew to investigate.



A ladder was raised to the window, where the crew located FF Langvardt. However, due to the confined space and the high windowsill, immediate rescue was not possible. The rescue operation lasted over an hour, with multiple strategies attempted without success. FF Langvardt was

eventually removed and transported to the hospital, where he later succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Training Prop Description:

The training prop is designed to simulate a confined-space rescue scenario similar to the conditions faced during the incident. It



measures 28 inches wide by 8 feet long, with a windowsill height of 42 inches from the floor.

This prop emphasizes the challenges of operating in extremely restricted spaces and reinforces the critical need for both education and hands-on experience in confined-space firefighter rescues.

Andover Fire-Rescue Integration and Acknowledgment:

Andover Fire-Rescue has incorporated this scenario into its training program to honor the memory of FF Mark Langvardt and to better prepare crews for real-world confined-space rescue situations.

For this training, AFR was joined by Sedg. Co. FD 1 – Station 38. It was a great opportunity to work together and learn from each other.

Special thanks to FF Jeremy Helsel for his craftsmanship and dedication in constructing the training prop, giving AFR members a realistic and valuable training experience.



Training

Trench Rescue Training

In September '24, AFR conducted trench rescue training at the City's Wastewater site, with Capt. Lindsey leading crews through scenario-based exercises. Trench rescue is



essential for preparing your firefighters to respond to incidents where

individuals are trapped in collapsed excavations, requiring specialized skills and teamwork.



A special thanks to the Wastewater team for providing their field area for this critical training. The site was reinforced to ensure the safety of our team, creating a secure environment for the exercises.

FD Admin Training x 2



FD Admin Conference—May 2024

AFR's Admin Asst., Felicia Massey represented your department at two Fire Department Administrative Conferences in 2024—one held in May and another during the KSAFC Conference in October. These events brought together FD

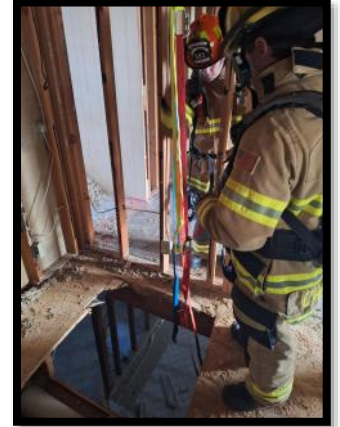
admins from across Kansas, representing over 20 fire departments. The conferences provided valuable opportunities for networking, sharing best practices, and participating in specialized training to strengthen administrative skills in the fire service.



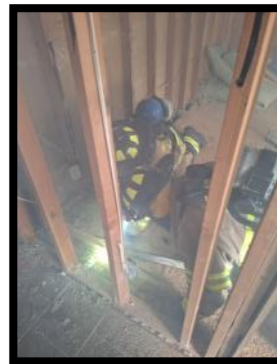
FD Admin Conference—Oct 2024

Rapid Intervention Crew Training

Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Training prepares firefighters to respond quickly and effectively when one of their own is in trouble. It focuses on critical skills such as firefighter survival, locating and removing downed personnel, air management, and the use of specialized rescue tools.



In a recent training exercise, our firefighters utilized a vacant house to simulate a realistic Mayday scenario. The drill involved rescuing a downed fire-



fighter trapped in a basement with no access to stairs. Crews were challenged to locate the firefighter and cut a hole in the floor above to perform a vertical rescue. This hands-on scenario tested their ability to stay calm, work efficiently in confined spaces, and use teamwork to execute a safe and successful rescue.

Training like this builds confidence and sharpens decision-making under pressure—ensuring that when the real call comes, your team is ready to bring everyone home safely.



AFR FIT Academy

AFR FIT Academy: Preparing Firefighters for Every Challenge

The AFR Firefighter in Training (FIT) Academy plays a crucial role in preparing firefighters to meet the demanding physical and mental challenges of their jobs. This rigorous training program ensures that firefighters not only meet the physical standards required for the job but are also fully equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to handle a wide range of emergency situations.

Physical Fitness Standards

Firefighters in Andover must meet specific physical fitness requirements to be eligible for duty. These standards are set to ensure that each firefighter has the physical strength, endurance, and agility needed to perform high-stress tasks like extinguishing fires, responding to emergency medical calls, and handling firefighting equipment safely and effectively. The physical demands of firefighting make it imperative for firefighters to be in top physical condition at all times.

Rigorous Training

The FIT Academy includes both classroom learning and hands-on training, totaling approximately 100 hours. Classroom instruction covers essential topics such as the **History of Andover Fire-Rescue**, **AFR Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)** and **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**, **Building Construction**, and **Firefighter Safety**.

In addition to the classroom work, firefighters undergo extensive hands-on training, which includes practical drills in critical firefighting and emergency response skills. Key training elements include:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Operations
- Hoseline Deployments
- Forcible Entry
- Vehicle Extrication
- Search and Rescue

- Firefighter Mayday
- Water Supply
- Apparatus Familiarization
- Physical Fitness
- Radio Operations
- Live Fire Operations
- Ground Ladders

This combination of theoretical and practical training ensures that firefighters are not only knowledgeable but also prepared to apply their skills in real-world emergency situations.

Graduation and Tradition

Once a candidate has successfully completed the FIT Academy, a special graduation ceremony is held to celebrate their achievement. The ceremony is rich with tradition, including the symbolic "walking of the ladder" and the ringing of the bell. These time-honored rituals mark the successful completion of the academy and signify the candidate's official induction into the Andover Fire-Rescue team. This momentous occasion acknowledges their hard work, commitment, and readiness to serve the community. (See Pg. 43 for FIT Graduation recognitions).

The FIT Academy ensures that the men and women of AFR are ready to respond swiftly and efficiently, providing the highest level of service and protection to their community.

Want to Be an Andover Fire-Rescue Firefighter?
Join Our F.I.T. Academy!
(Firefighter In Training)

Andover Fire-Rescue is always looking for good people to become Reserve Firefighters. We offer a 24 Week / One Day a Week Firefighter in Training (FIT) Academy. During your time in the Academy, you will become proficient at many firefighting tasks. Upon successful completion of the Academy, you will become part of AFR's Reserve staff.

To be considered for the FIT Academy, the following requirements must be met:

- Live within 7 miles of Andover city limits
- Pass an interview panel
- Pass a physical fitness agility course
- Pass a criminal background

Do you have what it takes to become an AFR Firefighter?

Go to: HIRepartners.com and fill out an application for Andover Fire-Rescue.

For more information, contact:
Capt. Chris Watson
Training Specialist, Andover Fire-Rescue
Phone: (978) 735-1863 OR Email: cwatson@andoverfrs.com

ANDOVER

AFR FIT Academy

The following photos highlight key aspects of the 2024 FIT Academy training, showcasing the various exercises and skills required for successful completion of the program. These images provide a glimpse into the practical training that prepares firefighters for real-world emergency situations.



PPE Training



SCBA Operations Training



Hoseline Deployment Training



Forcible Entry Training



Ground Ladder Training



Search and Rescue Training



Vehicle Extrication Training



Ropes Training



Mayday Training



Live Burn Training



Message from the Fire Marshal

Spotlight on Safety 2024

Moving IS Progress . . .

Most of our community is aware that AFR moved back into our renovated Fire Station 1 at 911 N. Andover Rd. in late spring of 2024. Along with the completion of Fire Station 2, these projects were essential in ensuring that our fire department can effectively serve the community with modern facilities tailored to the specific needs of Andover residents.

The renovations incorporated advanced fire safety features, including NFPA 13 fire sprinkler systems throughout the stations, and implemented "Fire Wise" principles for wildfire prevention in the building's exterior and landscaping.

Fire Station 1 also houses our medical partners, Butler County EMS. The remodel included updated crew quarters and resources for this vital partner agency. There are now four dedicated bunk rooms, a secure day room, and space for a second ambulance and crew in the future.

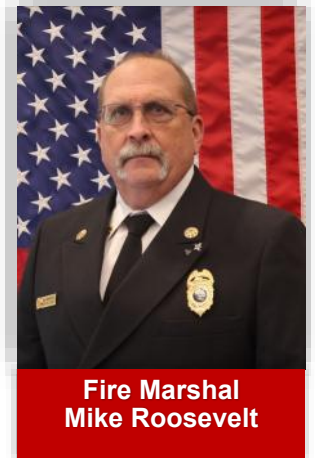
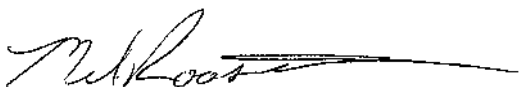
During the latter part of 2023, all AFR personnel temporarily relocated from Station 1 to Station 2. Half of our team was fortunate to move back into the newly renovated Station 1, now enhanced with critical safety and efficiency upgrades. Despite these transitions, our emergency response times remained strong. Our turnout times never dropped below our 95% goal of responding within two minutes. In fact, with the efficiencies gained at both stations, we are now achieving response times of two minutes or less 98% of the time.

Community Engagement and Service: Throughout construction and the transition between stations, our fire crews remained committed to community engagement and education. We conducted fire safety visits to local schools, YMCA camps, Scout groups, and civic organizations, spreading awareness and promoting fire safety practices across all age groups. These efforts were instrumental in fostering a safer community and strengthening our relationships with the public.

Future Initiatives: Looking ahead, our Fire Prevention Office is preparing to adopt updated fire codes in early 2025 to enhance safety standards citywide and align regulations across south-central Kansas. Through strong partnerships with Wichita and Sedgwick County Fire Departments, as well as new collaborations with MABCD, we aim to streamline construction and renovation processes while prioritizing safety for residents and visitors alike.

Key initiatives include stricter criteria for mobile food vendors and comprehensive inspections of assembly occupancies such as restaurants, churches, and sports venues to ensure proper safety measures and emergency preparedness. These efforts underscore our ongoing commitment to protecting the Andover community and effectively mitigating fire risks.

Safety is what you make of it.



Fire Prevention

Teaching fire prevention in elementary schools equips children with life-saving skills and fosters a culture of safety. Early education on fire hazards, emergency procedures, and prevention strategies—such as stop, drop, and roll and smoke alarm awareness—ensures students know how to react in emergencies.

Each October, AFR visits elementary schools to provide hands-on Fire Prevention education, reinforcing these critical lessons. The 2024 campaign slogan, **"Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You,"** emphasized the importance of

properly maintaining smoke alarms to ensure home safety. Interactive activities like fire drills, firefighter visits, and poster contests make learning engaging and memorable. By partnering with schools, AFR helps children understand the role of first responders and build confidence in seeking help.

Fire prevention education not only protects students but also strengthens community safety, ensuring these essential lessons extend beyond the classroom.



Pictured Right: Chief Roosevelt talks with KWCH regarding an incident of an unsecured trampoline getting tangled in city power lines.

Coloring Contest Winners

In April 2024, AFR invited the students of Prairie Creek Elementary to participate in a Coloring Contest as part of our Open House event. To ensure fair competition, students were grouped by age, with younger participants receiving age-appropriate coloring sheets and students in grades 1 through 5 designing Fire Prevention posters.

We extend our gratitude to Prairie Creek Elementary for joining in the fun and touring our new fire station! Below are the contest winners for each category. A special thank you to Sandy Archibald of PCE for providing AFR with photos of the winners.

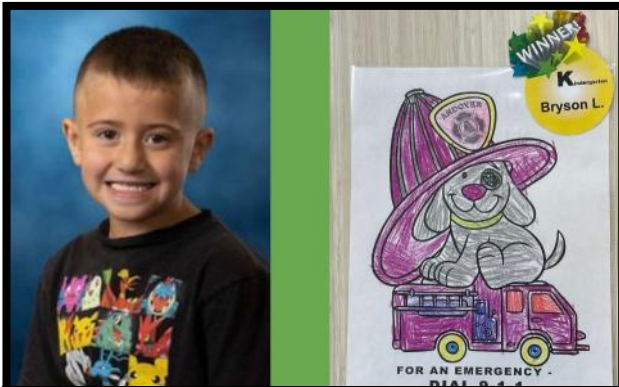
Congratulations to our winners



Pre-K and Early Childhood Winner



3rd and 4th Grade Winner



Kindergarten Winner



5th Grade Winner



1st and 2nd Grade Winner



The contest winners' artwork was on display during the AFR Open House in April '24.



03

Department Budget/ Equipment Costs



Department Budget

Operating a fire department is a significant expense for the communities we serve. While we do not charge for our services, there is no direct income to offset these costs.

However, the value of ensuring the safety and well-being of our district is immeasurable. We manage entrusted funds with the utmost care, recognizing our responsibility to the community.

Beyond expenditures, our efforts also focus on cost savings for residents. A well-staffed and properly equipped fire department helps reduce fire insurance premiums.

The table below outlines the department's budget, including Total Activity in 2023, as well as the Approved Budget and Year-to-Date Activity for 2024.

Account Number	Account Name	2023 Total Activity	2024 Total Budget	2024 YTD Activity Through Adjusting
Personnel				
001-07-9110000	FIRE PAYROLL	\$ 1,309,428.68	\$ 1,794,415.41	\$ 1,433,490.41
001-07-9120011	NEW HIRE PHYSICALS	\$ 580.58	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,057.05
001-07-9120012	ANNUAL PHYSICALS	\$ 10,083.09	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,825.53
001-07-9170000	PAYROLL TRSF TO DIST #1	\$ (910.34)	\$ (269,528.41)	\$ (790.49)
PAYROLL TOTAL:		\$ 1,319,182.01	\$ 1,539,387.00	\$ 1,448,582.50
Contractual				
001-07-9200000	MISC CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 11,519.30	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 18,789.57
001-07-9200007	SOFTWARE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
001-07-9210015	ELECTRIC-FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 7,916.71	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 25,066.22
001-07-9210020	GAS/PROPANE SERVICE-FIRE DEPT. I	\$ 4,332.17	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,590.44
001-07-9210030	WATER SERVICE-FIRE DEPT.	\$ 2,231.12	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 5,610.50
001-07-9210040	PHONE SERVICE-FIRE DEPT.	\$ 7,399.13	\$ 10,700.00	\$ 18,554.19
001-07-9215000	POSTAGE	\$ 200.49	\$ 750.00	\$ 511.50
001-07-9220001	MILEAGE/AIRFARE	\$ (26.79)	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 190.59
001-07-9220003	MEALS	\$ 4,680.10	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,694.49
001-07-9220004	HOTEL/LODGING	\$ 3,635.58	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,291.46
001-07-9220005	PRINTING	\$ 767.65	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,357.20
001-07-9220020	VEHICLE TAGS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 117.25
001-07-9220030	WORKSHOP/SCHOOLING	\$ 10,747.50	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,456.98
001-07-9220031	TARGET SOLUTIONS	\$ 4,490.30	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,992.20
001-07-9220040	PERIODICALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
001-07-9220041	MEMBERSHIPS	\$ 2,260.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,072.69
001-07-9220042	TENZINGA - PMS	\$ 2,520.00	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 2,520.00
001-07-9220043	TYLER TECH	\$ 5,167.13	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 4,489.97
001-07-9220044	POWER DMS	\$ 5,052.91	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,407.23
001-07-9230001	PUBLIC/GENERAL LIABILITY	\$ 12,857.85	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 15,455.83
001-07-9230002	VEHICLE INSURANCE	\$ 17,357.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 17,193.75
001-07-9260000	MISC EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Department Budget

Account Number	Account Name	2023 Total Activity	2024 Total Budget	2024 YTD Activity Through Adjusting
001-07-9260001	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,357.05	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 3,836.54
001-07-9260002	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$ 74.07	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
001-07-9260003	SCBA MAINTENANCE	\$ 3,966.75	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,951.39
001-07-9260004	GENERATOR MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,230.97	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 443.63
001-07-9260005	COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	\$ 46.98	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
001-07-9260006	RADIO MAINTENANCE	\$ 775.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 837.18
001-07-9260007	DIGITAL SIGNAGE	\$ 1,770.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,200.00
001-07-9260008	BREATHING AIR COMPR MAINT	\$ 1,563.97	\$ 2,450.00	\$ -
001-07-9260009	COPIER MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,140.46	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,481.31
001-07-9265000	MISC VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$ 132.60	\$ 750.00	\$ 280.94
001-07-9265021	R35 MAINT (2000 FORD F550)	\$ 429.90	\$ -	\$ -
001-07-9265023	E11 MAINT (90 FORD CARGO 8000) I	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
001-07-9265050	FLEET VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,769.73
001-07-9270000	CONTRACTUAL TRSF TO DIST #1	\$ (17,569.97)	\$ (30,299.00)	\$ (18,521.18)
CONTRACTUAL TOTAL:		\$ 101,025.93	\$ 173,051.00	\$ 149,641.60
Commodities				
001-07-9310000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 932.40	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,294.95
001-07-9310002	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	\$ 1,966.90	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,036.58
001-07-9310003	CLEANING SUPPLIES	\$ 985.17	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,096.12
001-07-9310004	BUILDING SUPPLIES	\$ 1,128.70	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,861.49
001-07-9310005	GROUNDS SUPPLIES	\$ 79.17	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
001-07-9310007	TRAINING SUPPLIES	\$ 247.62	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,448.17
001-07-9310008	FIRE PREVENTION PROMOTIONAL	\$ 656.82	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 966.54
001-07-9310016	TORNADO EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
001-07-9320023	UNIFORM PT FIREFIGHTERS	\$ 786.00	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 639.00
001-07-9320025	MISC. UNIFORM	\$ 420.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,359.38
001-07-9320026	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	\$ 43,748.39	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 19,593.88
001-07-9320069	NEW HIRE UNIFORMS	\$ 1,236.89	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,335.96
001-07-9320100	UNIFORM #100	\$ 185.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 210.79
001-07-9320102	UNIFORM #102	\$ 396.70	\$ 400.00	\$ 289.34
001-07-9320103	UNIFORM #103	\$ 95.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 194.00
001-07-9320104	UNIFORM #104	\$ 387.82	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.30
001-07-9320106	UNIFORM #106	\$ 321.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 391.25
001-07-9320107	UNIFORM #107	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -

Department Budget

Account Number	Account Name	2023 Total Activity	2024 Total Budget	2024 YTD Activity Through Adjusting
001-07-9320108	UNIFORM #108	\$ 261.71	\$ 400.00	\$ 125.00
001-07-9320109	UNIFORM #109	\$ 248.09	\$ 400.00	\$ 268.00
001-07-9320110	UNIFORM #110	\$ 346.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 382.00
001-07-9320111	UNIFORM #111	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 150.00
001-07-9320112	UNIFORM #112	\$ 338.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 266.00
001-07-9320113	UNIFORM #123	\$ 488.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 879.05
001-07-9320114	UNIFORM #114	\$ 395.49	\$ 400.00	\$ -
001-07-9320115	UNIFORM #115	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -
001-07-9320116	UNIFORM #116	\$ 392.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 937.66
001-07-9320118	UNIFORM #118	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 291.00
001-07-9320119	UNIFORM #119	\$ 400.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 846.05
001-07-9320120	UNIFORM #120	\$ 391.35	\$ 400.00	\$ 123.00
001-07-9320121	UNIFORM #121	\$ 396.47	\$ 400.00	\$ 362.83
001-07-9320123	UNIFORM #123	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 179.00
001-07-9320125	UNIFORM #125	\$ 376.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 691.82
001-07-9320126	UNIFORM #126	\$ 376.29	\$ 400.00	\$ 355.77
001-07-9320127	UNIFORM #127	\$ 111.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 78.00
001-07-9320128	UNIFORM #128	\$ 242.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 395.00
001-07-9320131	UNIFORM #131	\$ 337.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -
001-07-9320134	UNIFORM #134	\$ 329.14	\$ 400.00	\$ 385.13
001-07-9350005	EQUIPMENT UNDER \$5000	\$ 10,965.58	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 5,162.90
001-07-9355000	PHOTO SUPPLIES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
001-07-9360000	MISC COMMODITIES	\$ 4,080.24	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 5,215.02
001-07-9360005	FIRE HOSE COMMODITIES	\$ 3,674.43	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,413.29
001-07-9360006	RADIO COMMODITIES	\$ 7,463.02	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 20,150.63
001-07-9365000	MISC VEHICLE COMMODITIES	\$ 17,212.11	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 2,623.88
001-07-9365010	STAFF VEHICLE	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
001-07-9365020	CAR 4 COMMODITIES (17 CHEVY TAHOE)	\$ 192.95	\$ 500.00	\$ 40.78
001-07-9365021	R35 COMMODITIES(2012 FORD F550)	\$ 32.79	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 392.42
001-07-9365022	E10 COMMODITIES(2000FRTLNRFL80 I	\$ 828.14	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,424.17
001-07-9365023	E16 COMMODITIES (17 PIERCE PUMPER)	\$ 6,828.47	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 10,975.37
001-07-9365024	BR11 COMMODITIES (20 FORD F550)	\$ 63.58	\$ 500.00	\$ -
001-07-9365025	BR12 COMMODITIES (20 FORD F550)	\$ 70.57	\$ 500.00	\$ -

Department Budget

Account Number	Account Name	2023 Total Activity	2024 Total Budget	2024 YTD Activity Through Adjusting
001-07-9365026	T11 COMMODITIES(02FRTLNR FL70) I	\$ 12,744.48	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,329.64
001-07-9365027	T12 COMMODITIES(02FRTLNR FL70) I	\$ (6,370.96)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,055.36
001-07-9365028	CAR 3 COMMODITIES (11 CHEVY PU)	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
001-07-9365029	L15 COMMODITIES (16 PIERCE AERIAL)	\$ 12,043.64	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,932.96
001-07-9365030	CAR 2 (2020 FORD F250)	\$ 406.23	\$ 500.00	\$ 263.15
001-07-9365031	CAR 1 COMMODITIES (2021 TAHOE)	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
001-07-9365032	E1 COMMODITIES (08 PIERCE)	\$ 5,046.17	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 39,010.93
001-07-9365050	TIRES	\$ 2,088.26	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,193.82
001-07-9365051	GASOLINE	\$ 25,506.54	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 24,583.76
001-07-9370000	COMMODITIES TRSF TO DIST #1	\$ (23,612.19)	\$ (29,234.00)	\$ (15,165.83)
COMMODITIES TOTAL:		\$ 138,266.17	\$ 166,966.00	\$ 160,435.31
Capital Expenditures				
001-07-9410000	AUTOMOTIVE & MACHINERY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,029.46)
001-07-9420000	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
001-07-9440000	BUILDING	\$ 34,381.89	\$ -	\$ (0.03)
001-07-9470000	CAPITAL TRANSFERS TO DIST #1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,974.71)
001-07-9610000	REIMBURSEMENTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES TOTAL:		\$ 34,381.89	\$ -	\$ (3,004.20)
Transfers				
001-07-9720001	TRANSFER TO RESERVE	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 131,250.00

Investing in Safety: 2024 Grant Award Boosts Firefighter Protection

In 2024, Andover Fire-Rescue received another critical investment in firefighter safety!

Thanks to the SAFER Grant, awarded through the Kansas State Firefighters Association (KSFFA), AFR secured **\$12,706.60** for new bunker gear. This essential equipment ensures firefighters remain protected while serving the community.



This latest grant adds to AFR's impressive track record of securing funding to enhance fire safety and emergency response. Since 2015, AFR has been awarded **\$672,529.60** in Federal, State, and Local grants. These funds have supported fire prevention efforts, upgraded firefighting equipment, provided bunker gear, funded three full-time firefighters, strengthened volunteer recruitment and retention, and invested in health and wellness programs.

AFR would like to acknowledge Lt. Dennis Smith for his invaluable contributions as the department's grant writer — not only to the safety of our firefighters but also for securing crucial funding that supports AFR's budget. Lt. Smith's efforts have had a lasting impact on both firefighter safety and the financial stability of the department. GREAT JOB!

Department Budget

Strengthening the Fire Service: Key Actions for the Year Ahead

As highlighted in an article from the **January 2024** edition of *Firehouse Magazine* by Editor **Peter Matthews**, fire departments must take proactive steps to address staffing shortages, budget constraints, and increasing emergency demands.

- ♦ **Partner Locally:** Collaborate with neighboring agencies to tackle staffing challenges, share training resources, and establish regional leadership networks. Joint efforts enhance mutual aid effectiveness and help departments maximize limited resources.
- ♦ **Advocate for Federal Grants:** AFG and SAFER grants are set to expire in **September 2024**. Engaging local politicians, hosting station visits, and participating in national advocacy efforts are crucial to securing continued funding for staffing, equipment, and emergency preparedness.
- ♦ **Invest in Education:** Attending conferences, workshops, and leadership programs exposes firefighters to new technologies, operational strategies, and best practices, strengthening both individual skills and department capabilities.

By working together, advocating for resources, and prioritizing education, fire departments can build a more resilient and well-equipped service for the future.

To read the article in its entirety, the link is below:

<https://www.firehouse.com/operations-training/article/53079179/how-fire-departments-must-prepare-for-a-challenging-2024>

About the Author



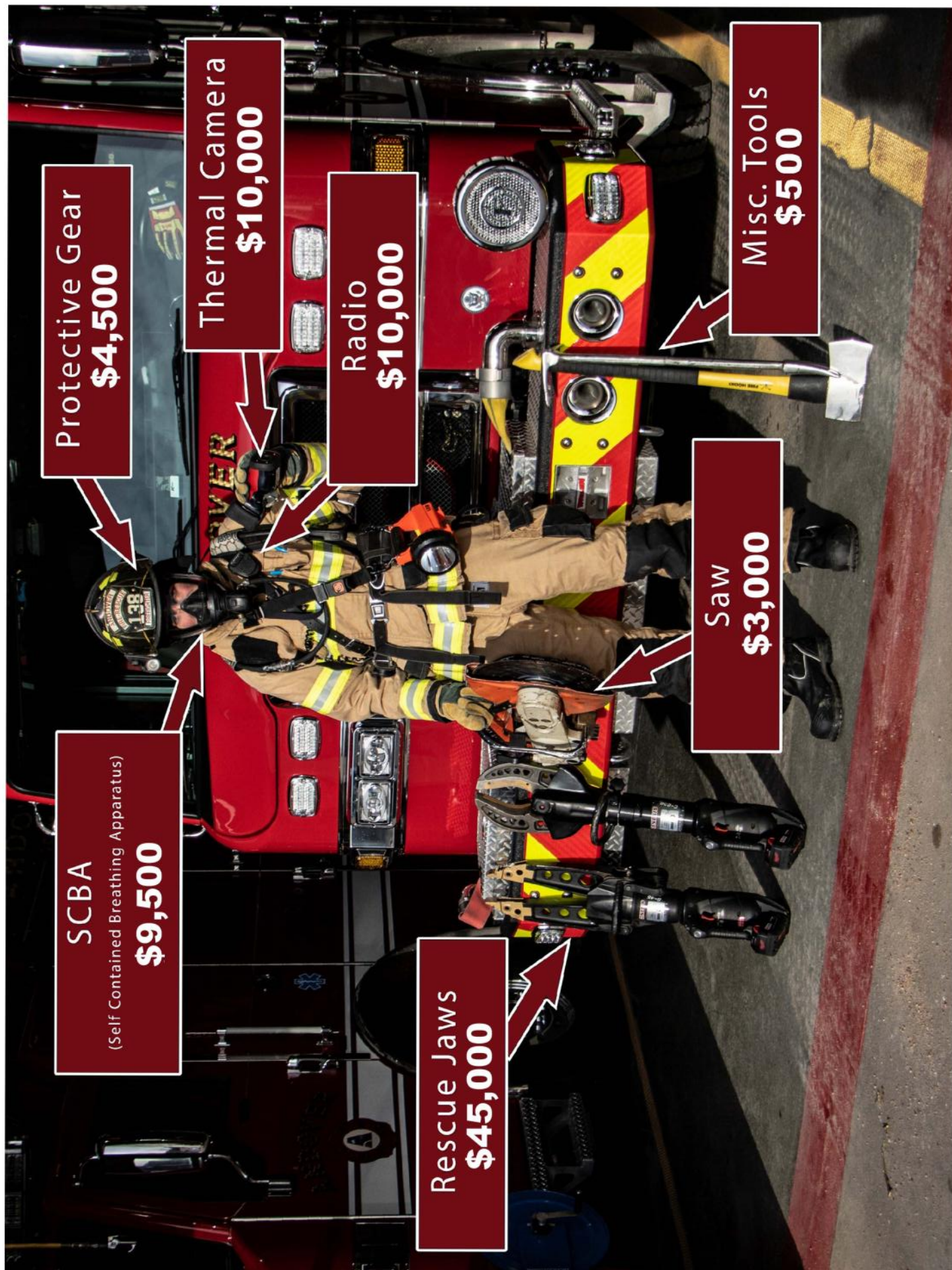
Peter Matthews | Editor-in-Chief/Conference Director

Peter Matthews is the conference director and editor-in-chief of Firehouse. He has worked at Firehouse since 1999, serving in various roles on both Firehouse Magazine and Firehouse.com staffs. He completed an internship with the Rochester, NY, Fire Department and served with fire departments in Rush, NY, and Laurel, MD, and was a lieutenant with the Glenwood Fire Company in Glenwood, NY. Matthews served as photographer for the St. Paul, MN, Fire Department.

Fire equipment and protective gear are costly but essential to our mission. Rapid response is critical, as delays increase damage and risks. Your safety depends on having trained personnel, reliable equipment, and functional vehicles.

The following pages, (Pg. 35-36), outline the costs of maintaining the tools and apparatus needed for daily emergencies—an investment in protecting lives and property.





SCBA

(Self Contained Breathing Apparatus)

\$9,500

Protective Gear
\$4,500

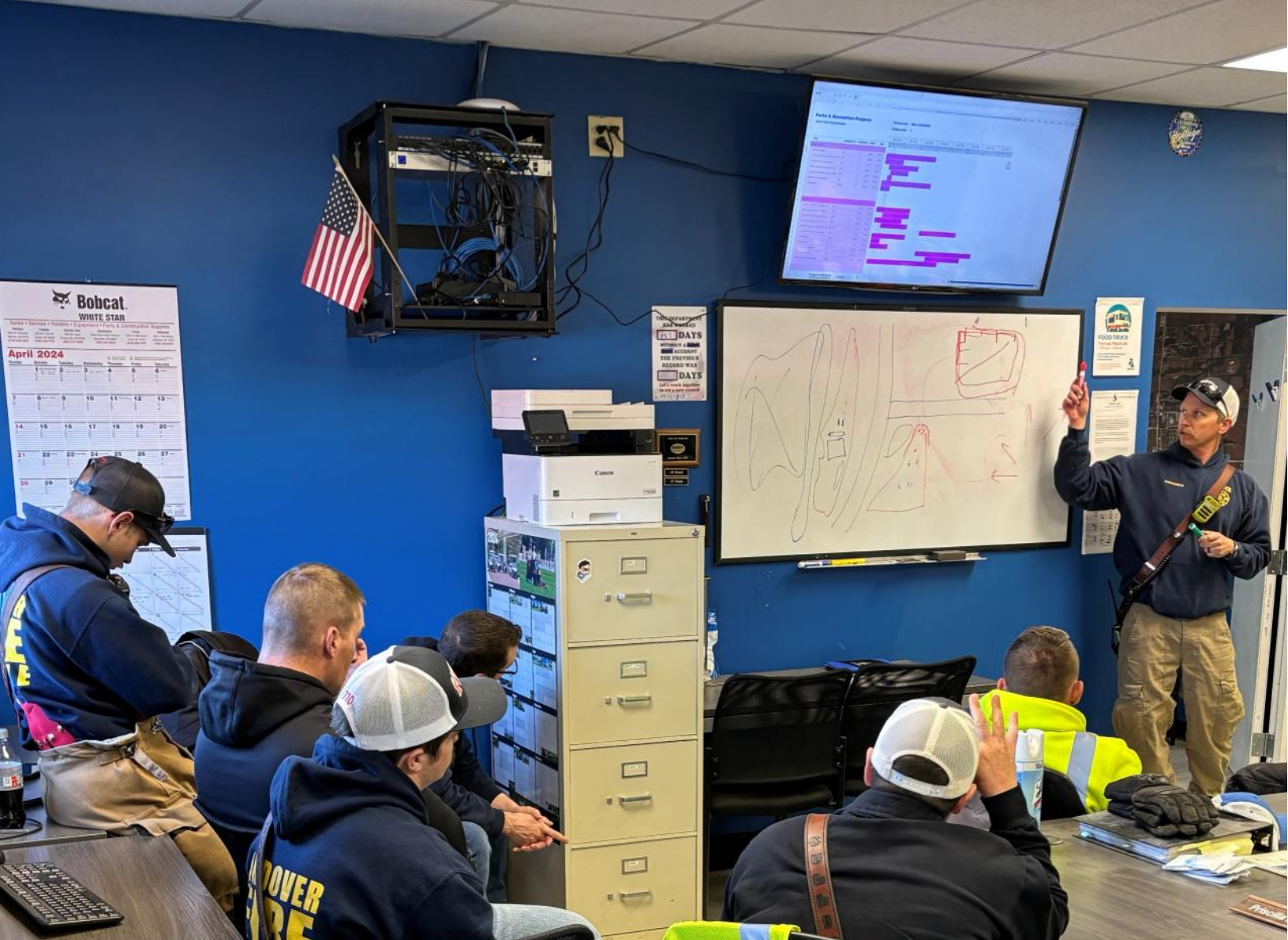
Thermal Camera
\$10,000

Radio
\$10,000

Rescue Jaws
\$45,000

Saw
\$3,000

Misc. Tools
\$500

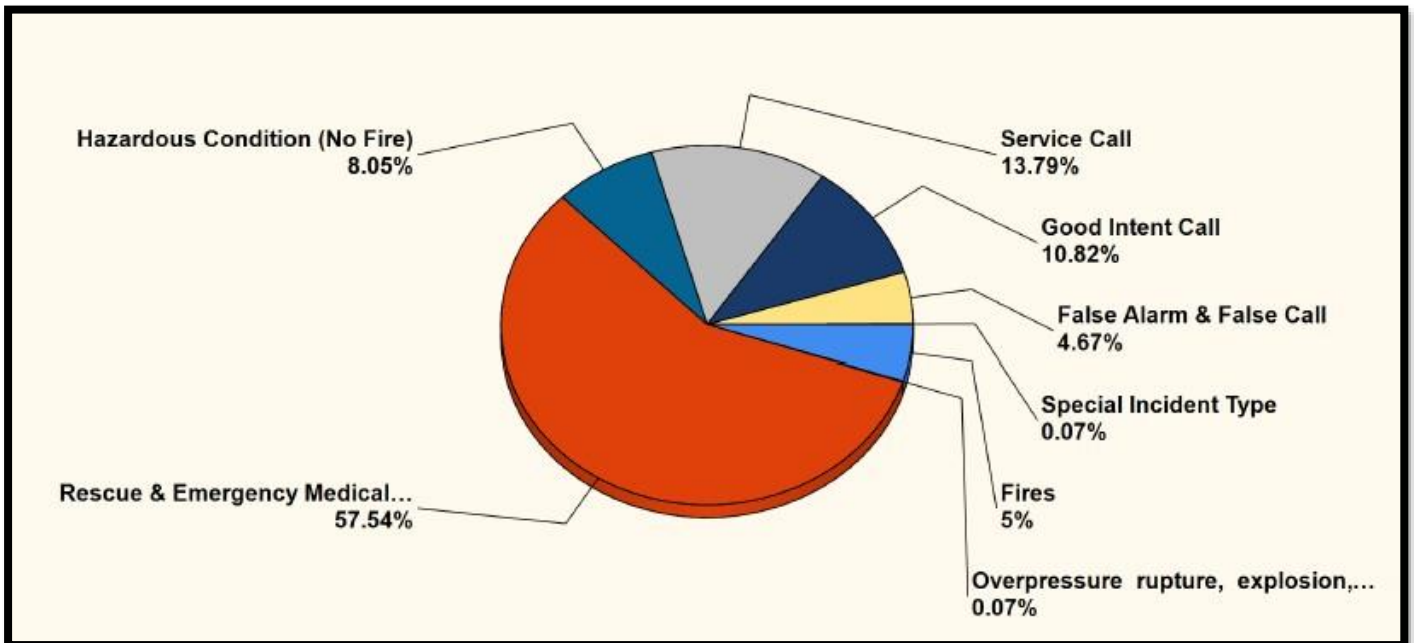


04

Statistics & Data



2024 Incidents



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	74	5%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	1	0.07%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	851	57.54%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	119	8.05%
Service Call	204	13.79%
Good Intent Call	160	10.82%
False Alarm & False Call	69	4.67%
Special Incident Type	1	0.07%
TOTAL	1479	100%

In 2024, AFR made **851** medical related calls and **628** fire calls. Both EMS and Fire calls increased in 2024. EMS calls increased by 2.65% and Fire calls increased by 6.08%. Due to the higher number of EMS calls, it is imperative that our firefighters also be certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or higher. Your firefighters are well trained in both medical and emergency service needs.



2024 Incidents

2024 Mutual Aid Given



Andover Fire-Rescue has Mutual Aid agreements with neighboring departments to ensure coordinated emergency response across jurisdictions. In 2024, AFR provided mutual aid 51 times, supporting our neighbors with a range of incidents and reinforcing our commitment to regional cooperation and public safety.

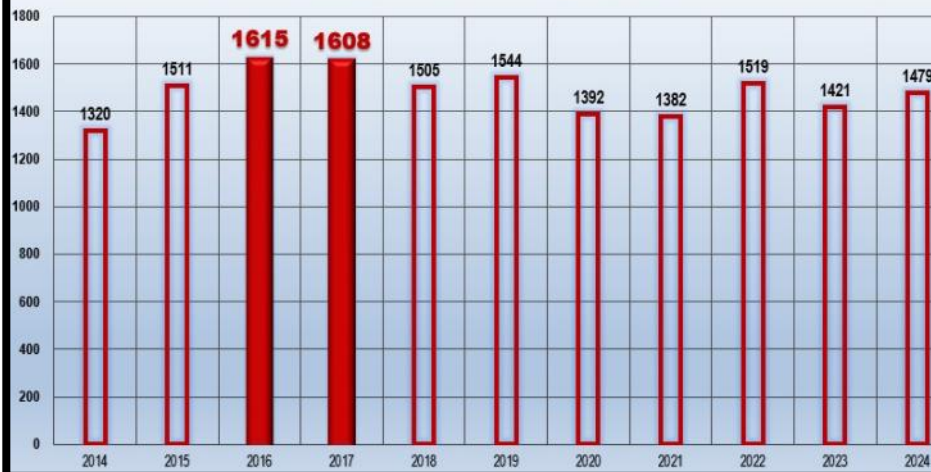
During 2024, our neighbors extended mutual aid to the Andover area on 48 occasions, underscoring the vital role Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreements play in the fire service. These agreements are essential to ensuring timely, effective responses and delivering the highest level of protection for both people and property.

2024 Mutual Aid Received



Over the past 10 years, (2014-2024), AFR's call volume has been statistically steady despite tremendous population growth. 2016 continues to reign as the highest number of incidents with 1,615 calls followed by 2017 with 1,608 calls. In 2018, AFR proposed exempting certain level calls to nursing facilities to reduce call volume and improve time management. Mid-year 2019 saw the enforcement of Covid-19 protocols, which contributed to a decrease in calls in 2020 and 2021. Increased calls began to climb as AFR moved past the pandemic. The steadiness in call volume is a testament to AFR's efficiency and prevention efforts.

2024 Incidents by Year



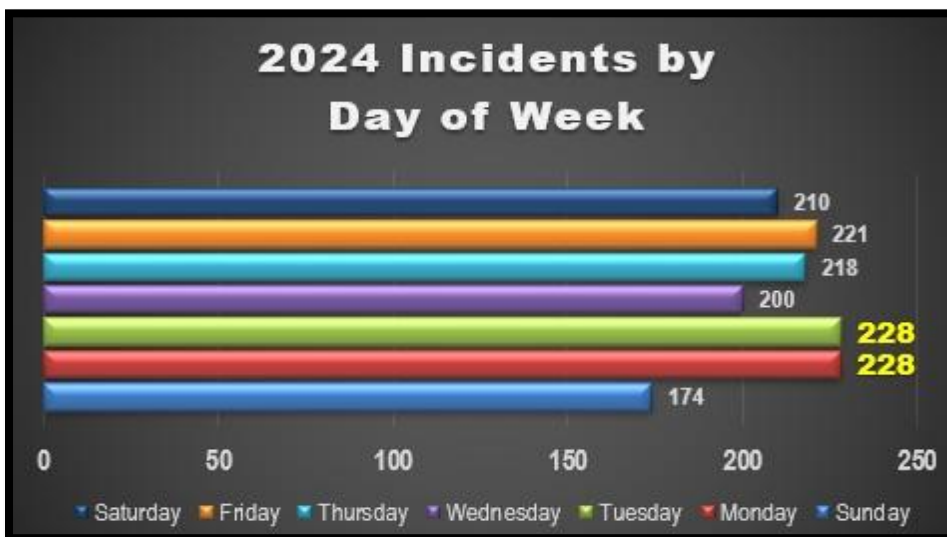
YEAR	INCIDENTS
2014	1320
2015	1511
2016	1615
2017	1608
2018	1505
2019	1544
2020	1392
2021	1382
2022	1519
2023	1421
2024	1479

2024 Incidents

AFR strives to enhance safety, health, and economic viability in our fire district. However, we face challenges with overlapping calls, reaching 450 instances in 2024. AFR is dedicated to developing innovative solutions and service levels to reduce strain on our resources.

OVERLAPPING CALLS	
# OVERLAPPING	% OVERLAPPING
450	30.43

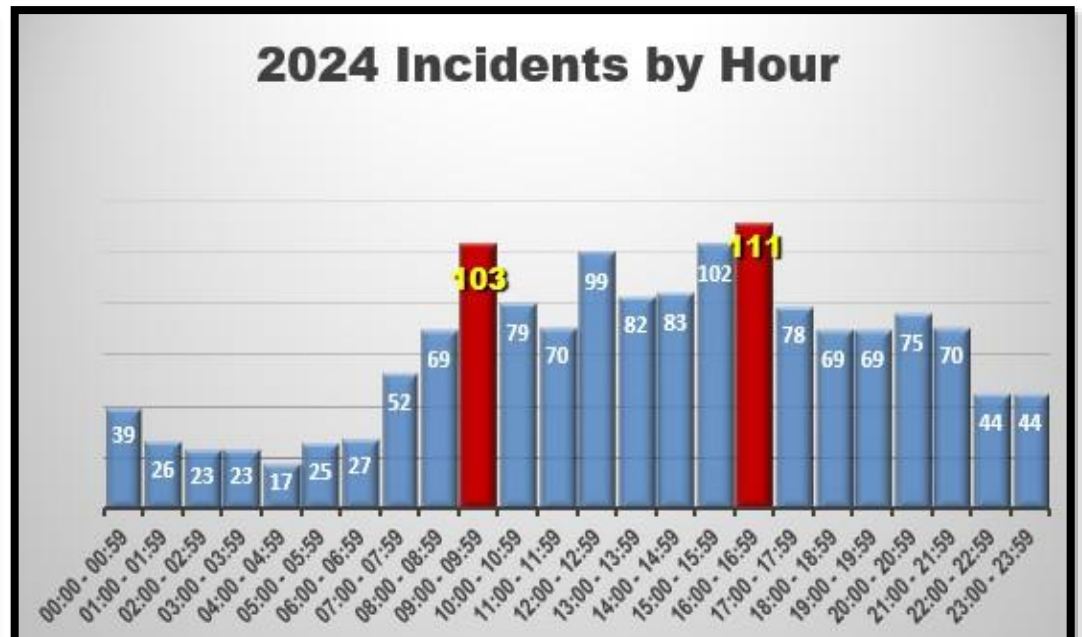
Andover Fire-Rescue operates 24/7. In 2024, both Monday/Tuesday tied for the busiest day of the week with 228 calls throughout the year. Friday followed closely with 221 calls in 2024.



DAY OF THE WEEK	# INCIDENTS
Sunday	174
Monday	228
Tuesday	228
Wednesday	200
Thursday	218
Friday	221
Saturday	210

In 2024, the timeframe for the highest call volume was between the hours of 16:00-16:59 (4-5 PM) with 111 calls. Following closely with 103 calls was the hours between 09:00-09:59 (9-10AM).

HOUR	# of CALLS
00:00 - 00:59	39
01:00 - 01:59	26
02:00 - 02:59	23
03:00 - 03:59	23
04:00 - 04:59	17
05:00 - 05:59	25
06:00 - 06:59	27
07:00 - 07:59	52
08:00 - 08:59	69
09:00 - 09:59	103
10:00 - 10:59	79
11:00 - 11:59	70
12:00 - 12:59	99
13:00 - 13:59	82
14:00 - 14:59	83
15:00 - 15:59	102
16:00 - 16:59	111
17:00 - 17:59	78
18:00 - 18:59	69
19:00 - 19:59	69
20:00 - 20:59	75
21:00 - 21:59	70
22:00 - 22:59	44
23:00 - 23:59	44



ANDOVER



BBA

05

Awards/ Special Recognitions

Awards/Special Recognition

AFR Climbs 110 Flights for the 343

In September 2024, AFR firefighters once again gathered at the Epic Center for the Annual 9/11 Stair Climb. AFR was represented by nine firefighters, along with retired SCFD Capt. Michael Hebert, who joined them in climbing 110 flights of stairs in honor of the 343 firefighters lost in the World Trade Center attack. This event serves as a tribute to their courage and sacrifice, ensuring their legacy is never forgotten. AFR proudly recognizes these firefighters for their dedication, and their efforts are deeply appreciated by both the community and those they honor.

We climb to remember—We climb because we will NEVER forget!



(Back): FF B. Norris, Ret. FF A. Parker, FF J. Guerrie, Ret. Capt. M. Hebert, FF B. Johnson, FF D. Burl
(Front): FF M. Pippin, FF R. Haag, FF Z. Engelbrecht, Capt. S. Cullinane

Awards/Special Recognition

FIT Academy Graduation: AFR's Newest Reserves

After weeks of intensive classroom and field training, AFR proudly graduated three firefighters from the Firefighter in Training (FIT) Academy. Ten candidates began the program, and three successfully met all the requirements to graduate.

Family, friends, and colleagues attended the ceremony

to recognize the hard work and commitment of the graduates.

AFR congratulates Firefighter Nathaniel Cook, Firefighter Noah Stevens, and Firefighter Devin Wactor on their achievement. These Firefighters are now prepared to serve the Andover community with skill and dedication as new AFR Reserves.

Welcome to the AFR Family!



Nathaniel Cook
Radio # 142



Noah Stevens
Radio # 129



Devin Wactor
Radio # 137

Awards/Special Recognition

The City of Andover proudly recognizes the recipients of the 2024 Service Awards. This year, four AFR personnel were honored for their dedication and commitment to serving the community. Their contributions and service exemplify excellence and are greatly appreciated in keeping Andover safe.



FF Jason Emley receives 5 yr City Service Award from Chief Russell.



Fire Chief Russell receives 10 yr City Service Award from City Administrator, Jenni McCausland.



Capt. Stephen Cullinane receives 10 yr City Service Award from Chief Russell.



Capt. Chad Cheslic receives 15 yr City Service Award from Chief Russell.

Years of Service

AFR wishes to recognize our team members who have served 5 or more years with the department. Your service and dedication is greatly appreciated. Thank You!



5 years

Derrick Burl, Jr.—2016
Felicia Massey—2016
Jason Emley—2017
Caleb Fistler—2019
Steve Plantz—2019

10 Years

Stephen Cullinane—2010
Justin Luinstra—2010

10 Years (cont.)

Jeremy Helsel—2011
Jay Robertson—2013
Chad Russell—2014
Jeremy Tuxhorn—2014

15 Years

Cory Mattke—2006
Chad Cheslic—2006

20 Years

Chris Matson—2000
Frank Shaw—2000
John Gabriel—2004

25 years

Andy Saville—1996

30 years

Gary Elliott—1991
Mike Roosevelt—1991
Dennis Smith—1992

Awards/Special Recognition

Preserving Tradition, Honoring Service

Andover Fire-Rescue takes great pride in recognizing the dedication and commitment of our Honor Guard. These firefighters voluntarily take on the responsibilities of the Honor Guard in addition to their regular duties, demonstrating unwavering professionalism and respect in every role they fulfill.

AFR Honor Guard plays a vital role within the Fire Service, serving as a distinguished representation of the firefighting profession at funerals, memorials, and formal ceremonies. Their precision and reverence pay tribute to fallen firefighters, provide comfort to their families, and uphold the rich traditions of the fire service. Beyond ceremonial duties, the Honor Guard also fosters community engagement, strengthening relationships and exemplifying the core values of honor, integrity, and dedication that define AFR.

Throughout 2024, AFR Honor Guard members attended numerous events, often with little notice. While we may not always send a full team, AFR ensures that a Guard member is present whenever possible, representing our department with the highest level of respect and professionalism.

Currently, AFR has five dedicated members serving in this prestigious role.

AFR Honor Guard



Lt. John Gabriel
Commander
Member Since 2008



FF Jason Emley
Honor Guard
Member Since 2020



Lt. Frank Shaw
Honor Guard
Member Since 2001



FF Steve Plantz
Honor Guard
Member Since 2022



Capt. Stephen Cullinane
Honor Guard
Member Since 2015

Our Mission:

“To honor the fallen, stand by their families, and uphold fire service traditions with dignity and respect.”

AFR extends our deepest gratitude to these firefighters for their commitment to preserving the traditions and values of the fire service.

Awards/Special Recognition

The AFR Honor Guard exemplifies the highest standards of respect, professionalism, and dedication. Whether standing watch at memorials, presenting colors at ceremonies, or honoring fallen heroes, their presence brings dignity and honor to every occasion.

Below is a timeline highlighting the many events throughout 2024 where either our full Honor Guard or representatives proudly served. Also included are photos capturing some of these moments.

Thank you to the members of the AFR Honor Guard for your unwavering commitment and for representing our department with such distinction across the state.

HONOR GUARD TIMELINE 2024

- Jan 25 Doug Crumrine Service – Casket Guard
- Jan 26 Doug Crumrine Funeral Service –
Assisted by WFD Honor Guard
- Jan 27 Dignified Transfer for Adam Tebben –
Honor Guards Posted on Bridges from
Oklahoma to Emporia, KS.
- Jan 31 Adam Tebben – Flight Nurse Funeral Service
- Feb 29 Honor Guard Training at FS2
- May 21 Greg Rausch (Emporia FD) Funeral Service
- Aug 9 Ty Voth LODD Funeral (WFD) – Park City
Arena – Full AFR Honor Guard
- Sep 3 IAFF National Fallen Firefighters Memorial –
Colorado Springs, CO (Lt. Gabriel/Lt. Shaw)
- Oct 2 FIT Academy Graduation – AFR Fire Station 2
(Lt. Gabriel/FF Emley)
- Nov 9 Cuffs and Axes Event at Park City Arena –
Presented Colors
- Dec 12–13 Dignified Transfer & Soft Watch for
FF Brian Wolgamott
- Dec 19 Capt. Gail Futhey, BuCo FD #3 – Visitation
- Dec 20 Capt. Gail Futhey Funeral & Graveside Services
- Mar 1 (2025) Police & Fire Gala – Posting Colors



Awards/Special Recognition

2024 Fire Awards Presented at City Hall

AFR proudly congratulates the 2024 award recipients:



2024 TrackIT Leadership Legacy Award

At the City Council meeting on 2-25-25, Capt. Cullinane made his final presentation as two new Legacy Leadership Award winners were announced. Lt. John Gabriel and FF Jason Emley were honored as the recipients of the TrackIT (formerly Tenzinga) Legacy Award.

Both John and Jason have been elected by their peers more than three times, earning them this prestigious recognition. Congratulations to them both! Lt. Gabriel and FF Emley will have the honor of presenting next year's awards.

2024 Community Service Award

The 2024 Community Service Award has been proudly awarded to Crossland Construction, as voted on by AFR team members. We extend our sincere gratitude to Evan Malloy, Doug Garon (pictured right), and the entire Crossland Construction team for their outstanding customer service and support during our transition to the new fire station. Your assistance has been invaluable as we adapt to our new facility. Thank you!



2024 Fire Chief's Big 4 Award

The 2024 Fire Chief's Big 4 Award is proudly presented to FF Matt Pippin. Since joining AFR in January of 2023, Matt has brought expertise in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and a commitment to excellence. This prestigious award, voted on annually by AFR team members, recognizes an individual who embodies the **BIG 4** principles:

Do Your Job—Treat People Right—Give All-Out Effort—Have an All-In Attitude

Congratulations, Matt! This honor is well deserved!



2024 Firefighter of the Year

The 2024 Firefighter of the Year award was proudly presented to FF Kevin Taylor. Since joining AFR in 2021, in addition to his firefighting duties, Kevin has been a trusted expert in fire apparatus mechanics, playing a vital role in keeping our equipment in top condition. This honor, awarded by a vote of his peers, reflects his dedication, expertise, and invaluable contributions to the AFR team.

Congratulations, Kevin! Your hard work and commitment have not gone unnoticed.



Awards/Special Recognition

AFR Receives Gold Key Award 2023-2024 School Year

In April 2024, AFR was honored with the district's Gold Key Award, presented annually to an individual, business, or organization that has made outstanding contributions to Andover Public Schools. AFR was recognized for their exceptional partnership and ongoing commitment to student and school safety.

In the nomination, Richard Bell, Executive Director of Operations, praised AFR for their swift emergency responses, annual fire safety assessments, and hands-on assistance during winter pipe leaks. He also highlighted their role in student learning through fire safety education and station tours.



"AFR is top notch," Bell wrote. "They go above and beyond to support our schools and community."

AFR truly appreciates the recognition, and we are honored to support Andover Public Schools.

2024 Police and Fire Founder's Award



Felicia Massey
Admin Asst.

AFR proudly recognizes Administrative Assistant Felicia Massey as a 2024 Founder's Award winner for the Police and Fire Foundation. Since joining AFR in March 2016, Felicia has been an integral part of the Police and Fire Foundation, representing the PFF at events such as Jingle Mingle, Police and Fire Cookout and the Police and Fire Galas. Felicia's dedication and commitment to the foundation's mission have made a lasting impact.



AFR also extends congratulations to former Admin. Assistant Becky Page, who was also honored as a 2024 Founder's Award winner.



Congratulations to both Felicia and Becky on this well-deserved recognition!

Three for the Team: A Warm Welcome and a Welcome Back

AFR is proud to welcome three outstanding individuals to our team—two familiar faces returning home and another bringing fresh experience and energy.



Ryan Haag

Firefighter/EMT Ryan Haag originally joined AFR in May 2022. In December of that year, he accepted a position with Overland Park Fire Department. After some time away and a desire to be closer to family, Ryan returned to AFR in July 2024. AFR is excited to have FF Haag back—his experience and commitment make him a strong asset to the team.



FF Haag being sworn in by City Clerk Dana Engstrom.



Shane Frey

Firefighter/EMT Shane Frey joined Andover Fire in March 2023 after graduating from the AFR FIT Academy. FF Frey accepted a full time position with Wichita FD and recently returned to AFR after a leave of absence to complete his probationary period with WFD. FF Frey returned in May 2024 as a Reserve FF.



Stephanie Rowe

Firefighter/AEMT Stephanie Rowe joined Andover Fire in September 2024 as a Part-Time Firefighter. Stephanie brings valuable experience from her ongoing work with Fire & EMS at Spirit and has already made a positive impact within the crew. Her energy and professionalism are a welcome addition to the AFR family.

Please join us in welcoming FF Haag, FF Frey and FF Rowe as they continue to serve the Andover community with pride and dedication.



06

Community Events

Community Events

Open House At AFR's New Fire Station 2

On April 18, 2024, Andover Fire-Rescue (AFR) had the pleasure of hosting a successful Open House event at your newly constructed Fire Station 2, located at 650 S Andover Road. This event provided an exciting opportunity for the community to get a firsthand look at your state-of-the-art facility and learn more about the services AFR offers.



The day's festivities began earlier in the day with special tours for students from Prairie Creek Elementary School. Over 285 students, accompanied by staff members and parent volunteers, toured the new station.



Due to the large number of students, AFR organized two separate sessions to ensure a smooth flow and an enriching experience for all participants.



That evening, AFR opened the doors of Fire Station 2 to the public. The turnout was fantastic, and we deeply appreciate everyone who took the time to visit. The event was a team effort, with AFR



staff stationed throughout the facility to provide information and answer questions from visitors.

The evening's program kicked off outside the station of the public entrance with

speeches from key community leaders, including Mayor Price, Councilman Berry, and Fire Chief Russell. In lieu of a traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony, AFR hosted a hose coupling ceremony—a unique and fitting symbol of the



connection between the Fire Department and the community. Once the ceremony concluded, the public was invited inside to explore the new station.

Guests were treated to light refreshments, and the event included a raffle and a group photo to commemorate the occasion. The success of the Open House would not have been possible without the support of many dedicated individuals and organizations. We would like to express our gratitude

Community Events

to Mayor Price, the Andover City Council, senior administration and staff, the Police and Fire Foundation committee members, Crossland Construction, and Tessere.



A special thanks goes to the many local businesses that generously donated raffle prizes and refreshments for the event. We would also like to

extend our heartfelt appreciation to Dillons for their warm welcome and for surprising us with a beautiful cake, which was shared with our neighbors. Additionally, we thank Cuppa Yo for

providing frozen yogurt, adding a delightful touch to the festivities.

AFR is profoundly grateful to the community for their support in voting for the Sales Tax initiative, which made the construction of Fire Station 2 possible. This new facility is a direct reflection of AFR's ongoing commitment to providing a safe, healthy, and an economically viable community. The addition of this second fire station will significantly enhance our ability to serve and protect the people of Andover for years to come.

We look forward to continuing to work together with our community partners to ensure a safe future for all.



Community Events

Hands2Serve 2024



Pictured Above: Lt. Gabriel, FF Helsel and Capt. Cheslic, work to cut and clear tree limbs for a neighbor with Hands2Serve.

Hands2Serve is a respected community organization that AFR is honored to collaborate with.

Annually, H2S teams engage in community projects to provide assistance to Andover residents who may require support.

We are grateful to H2S for involving our AFR team in this meaningful event each year, as it allows us to actively contribute and give back to our community members.

AFR—Ride to School



At the .27K event held at Spaulding's to support the Police and Fire Foundation, AFR proudly contributed a one-of-a-kind silent auction item—a "Ride to School" on an AFR fire truck! The lucky winners enjoyed an unforgettable experience, arriving in style on their last day at Prairie Creek Elementary.

We are incredibly grateful to Spaulding's for their ongoing support of PFF, and due to the success of this auction, we're excited to continue offering this special experience in the future!



Police & Fire Cookout



June 2024, the Annual Police and Fire Community Cook Out, hosted by the Andover KS Police Department and Andover Fire-Rescue, is a fantastic

opportunity for the community to come together and engage with local law enforcement and fire personnel.



This event is held the first Saturday in June and has given the community a chance to meet your police officers and firefighters in a relaxed and social setting.



Unfortunately, a decision was made to discontinue the annual event.

The Police and Fire Foundation along with AFR and APD appreciate all our neighbors' support of this event throughout the years—THANK YOU!

Summer & Lemonade



AFR stopped by a local lemonade stand to support their money-making efforts. Summer and Lemonade are always a great combination!

AFR is always

happy to help out our young neighbors and supporting their efforts. Of course, it's always good to stay hydrated during the hot months of summer too!



Community Events

July 4th Neighborhood Parades



Thank you so much to all the neighborhoods who continue to invite AFR to share in the Independence day parades! Your AFR firefighters participated in over 5 neighborhood parades around the community.

AFR is honored to be included in your events celebrating our great Country. God Bless the USA!

BuCART Dog Wash



In July, AFR was proud to host BuCART (Butler County Animal Rescue Team) at AFR Fire Station 1 for the annual Dog Wash.

Proceeds from these Dog Washes at Butler County fire departments help provide es-

sential rescue equipment for animals in need. While attendance wasn't as high as in past years, we still raised \$105 and microchipped six dogs, making a direct impact on pet safety in our community!

We were also excited to welcome KSN, who came out to cover the event and interview the BuCART team. Though the segment didn't make it to air due to breaking news coverage, we appreciate their support and interest.

Thank you to everyone who participated—we look forward to an even bigger event next year!



Battle of the Badges



And the Winner is . . . AFR!

Andover Fire-Rescue. In a close race, AFR won by just two votes and was awarded the traveling trophy at the August 13 City Council meeting.

Thank you to Andover Fire-Rescue, Andover Police, and the community for making this event a success!

The Andover Community Blood Drive, hosted by the American Red Cross on July 18 at Fire Station 2, collected 41 units of blood. As part of the friendly "Battle of the Badges" competition, participants voted between Andover Police and



Chief Russell donating at Battle of the Badges Andover

Greater Andover Days



This year, our team went all in, even appearing in a GAD video and bringing their own unique flair. AFR is grateful to celebrate with our community and can't wait for next year!

Greater Andover Days (GAD) is a yearly highlight, bringing the Andover community together for fun and celebration. AFR is proud to take part—whether it's showcasing our trucks in the parade or joining in special events.



Community Events

AFR Supports SCMH

In September, AFR proudly wore purple and teal for World Suicide Prevention Day, supporting South Central Mental Health (SCMH). With 28 employees participating, the City of Andover donating \$140 to their vital work. Grateful for SCMH's impact—thank you for all you do!



Snake Rescue Team



FF Haag, Capt. Cullinane, and FF Plantz wrangled this fella and secured him back in his habitat.

Engine 1 slithered into action to help out a resident in the city, whose 4-foot Ball Python found itself in a reptile dilemma! The slippery little guy got stuck in a wire shelf in its enclosure—talk about getting caught in a real squeeze!

After assessing the scale of the problem, our crew, with a great amount of teamwork, carefully cut the shelf to set the snake free without any harm. The pet owner held the snake steady while we made sure no one got rattled.

The python was placed safely back in its enclosure and the owner was grateful for our efforts.

Remember, whether it's fires or snakes, your fire department is always ready to scale any challenge!

Paws & Ladders



Several AFR members took part in the First Responders 5K Run & Walk, supporting the Andover Police & Fire Foundation and the Butler County Sheriff's Office K9 Program.

We're not looking to start any friendly rivalries... but let's just say FF Pippin may have crossed the finish line *a paw or two* ahead of the BuCo Sheriff's Department's four-legged officer!



AFR had a fantastic time and we look forward to racing again next year! We're always here when you need us, whether sprinting to the finish or racing to the next call!

AFR Christmas Party



Our Ugly Sweater Contest Winners

AFR wrapped up the year bringing firefighters and their families together for food, fun, and celebration. The night featured favorite homemade snacks, a gift exchange and the annual Ugly Sweater contest.

Congrats to Skyler Aikens taking 1st place, Derrick Burl with 2nd and Derrick's Lil buddy Nolan Vaught took 3rd place. The team had lots of fun as everyone took a well-deserved break to celebrate the year's accomplishments and the strong bonds that make AFR a family—on and off the job!



Showing off a QT gas card AND Customized Air Freshener of Chief!

Community Events

National Night Out



AFR teamed up with the Andover Police Department for National Night Out, a nationwide event that brings first responders and the community together. AFR crews enjoyed connecting with residents, showing kids the

fire trucks, and sharing important fire safety tips.

National Night Out strengthens relationships between emergency services and the community, fostering trust, communication, and a sense of safety. Events like these give families a chance to meet their local firefighters and police officers in a fun, relaxed setting. AFR is proud to take part in building a stronger, safer Andover!



Hometown Christmas



Each year, Andover City Hall and Central Park come alive for Hometown Christmas, a festive celebration bringing the community together. AFR proudly hosts the beloved S'mores Station, where families gather to enjoy a sweet treat by the fire—a tradition so popular, we run out every year!

AFR is grateful to everyone who takes time to celebrate with us. Sharing holiday cheer (and s'mores!) with our community is a highlight of the season. See you next year!

Caring and Sharing 2024



Caring and Sharing is a unique event in our community that assist families in need while keeping recipients' identities confidential. Hometown Christmas set ahead of C&S, allows the community an opportunity to donate canned goods for families facing hardships. In 2024:

- Assisted **208 children, 80 families, and 5 seniors.**
- **50% of children** were middle or high school students.
- Each child received: A requested gift (art supplies, Legos, body lotions, etc.).
- A full school outfit, plus 3 pairs of socks and 5 sets of underwear.
- Coats and shoes if requested.

City employees, family and our neighbors generously contributed by donating gifts and raising funds, ensuring local families felt supported during the holidays. Thank you to all those that contributed and continue to support this

wonderful cause that allow those in need an assurance that WE as a community are there for them in their time of need.

THANK YOU!



ANDOVER FIRE-RESCUE

We are so proud to have been given the opportunity to serve our neighbors. This is our life's work.

We see our mission as providing excellent service to our neighbors and visitors. We do this to protect the safety, health and economic viability of our community. At the core of our existence, we strive to **DO THE RIGHT THING** every day!

2026—A Look Ahead to the Future

As we move forward into 2026, AFR will continue to strive to be good neighbors. We would like to thank you all so much for your continued support.

Please let us know if we may be of service to you at any time.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

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www.AndoverKS.gov

Follow us on Facebook at:

Andover Fire-Rescue



AFR — Protecting your safety, health, and economic viability daily!

