



Marshalltown Fire Department

Annual Report 2022

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Message from the Chief

The members of the Marshalltown Fire Department (MFD) are pleased to offer you this annual report for the year 2022. This working document addresses your fire departments daily activities and accomplishments. It is our goal to offer the highest level of service possible for the citizens and to the business community of Marshalltown.

The trend of increasing requests for service continued in 2022 as the department responded to 3,423 calls for service. This represents a 7.85 % increase from 2021. The primary cause of the increase is 9-1-1 calls for medical emergencies. This is not a trend exclusive to Marshalltown. In speaking with other Fire Chiefs in Iowa, many are experiencing 15 to 20 percent increases in department responses.

After an active 2021 with retirements and resignations, 2022 was a stable year in terms of employment as no staff changes occurred. 2023 has a similar forecast as no staff retirements are anticipated.

Beginning in the last quarter of 2021 and continuing into the middle of 2022 the City experienced a considerable number of arson fires, primarily in vacant structures. With help from the Marshalltown Police Department, two arrests were made and the individuals were charged with Arson 2nd Degree. Additional charges of trespassing were filled in relation to another intentional fire. While this does not account for all the arson fires, it shows dedication to solving them and sends a message that we will not quit trying to find the individuals responsible.

2022 was not without challenges. Increasing costs ranging from supplies to fuel have affected an already tight budget. Additionally. Supply chain issues have extended normal delivery times for essential supplies and equipment significantly.

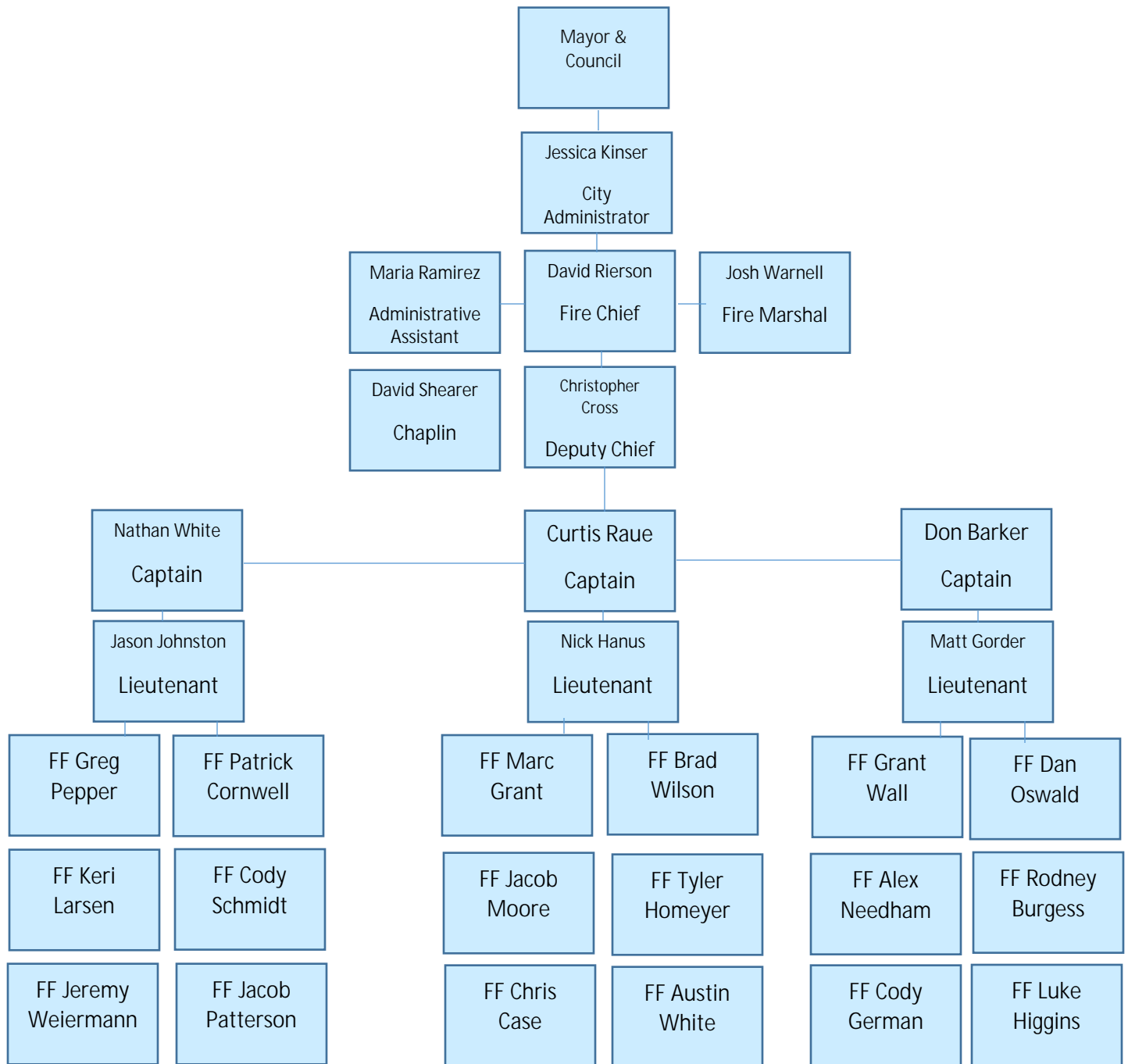
We are fortunate to have a community that supports and appreciates us and 2022 was no exception. We certainly do not do this job for the accolades, but many members of our community take the time to thank us and let us know we are appreciated.

Sincerely,

David Rierson

David Rierson - Fire Chief

Organizational Structure



Administrative Staff & Officers



David Rierson – Fire Chief



Christopher Cross – Deputy Chief



Joshua Warnell – Fire Marshal



Nathan White - Captain



Curtis Raue - Captain



Don Barker - Captain



Jason Johnston - Lieutenant



Nick Hanus - Lieutenant



Matt Gorder - Lieutenant

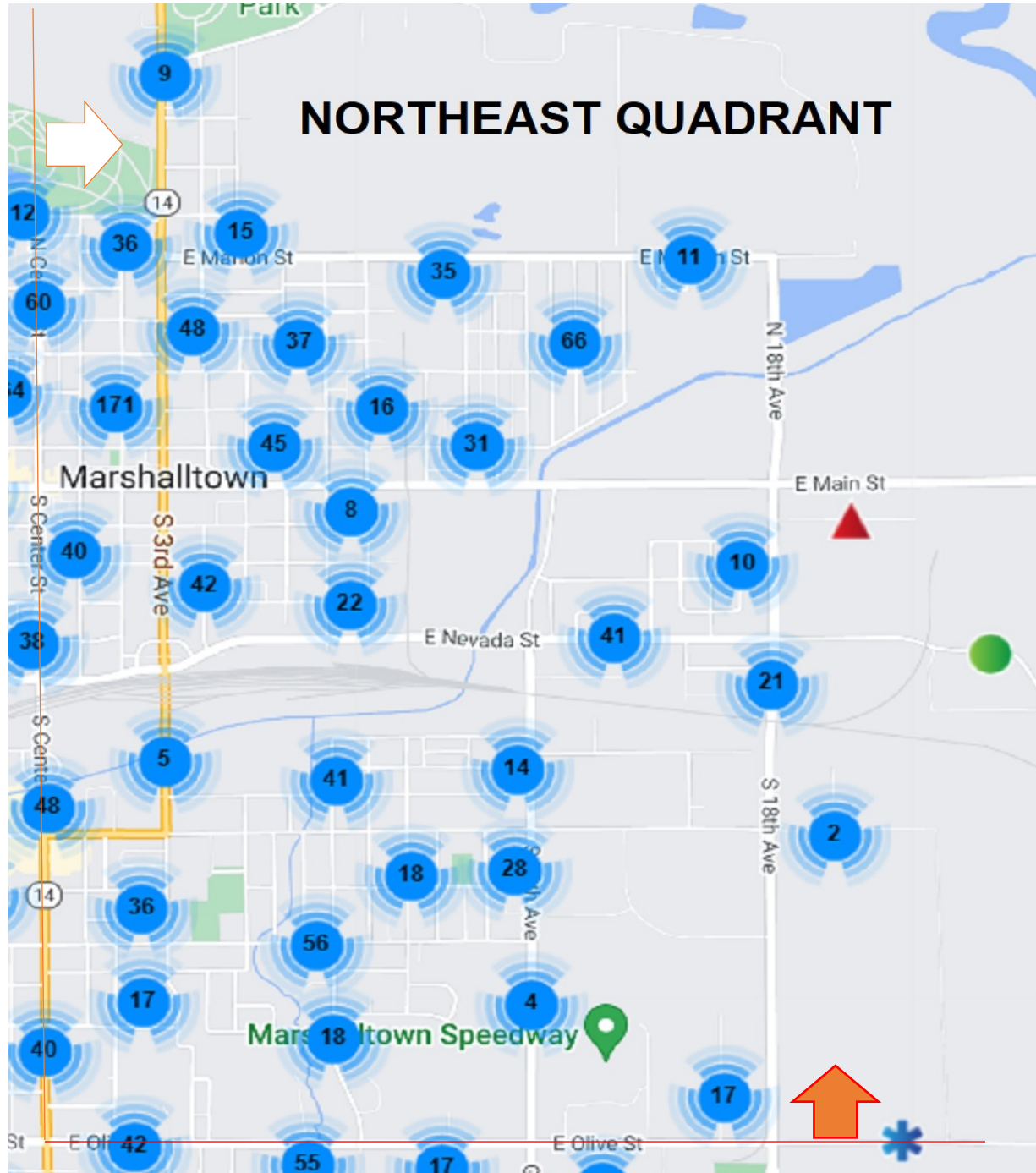
Reports and Statistics

Incident Breakdown

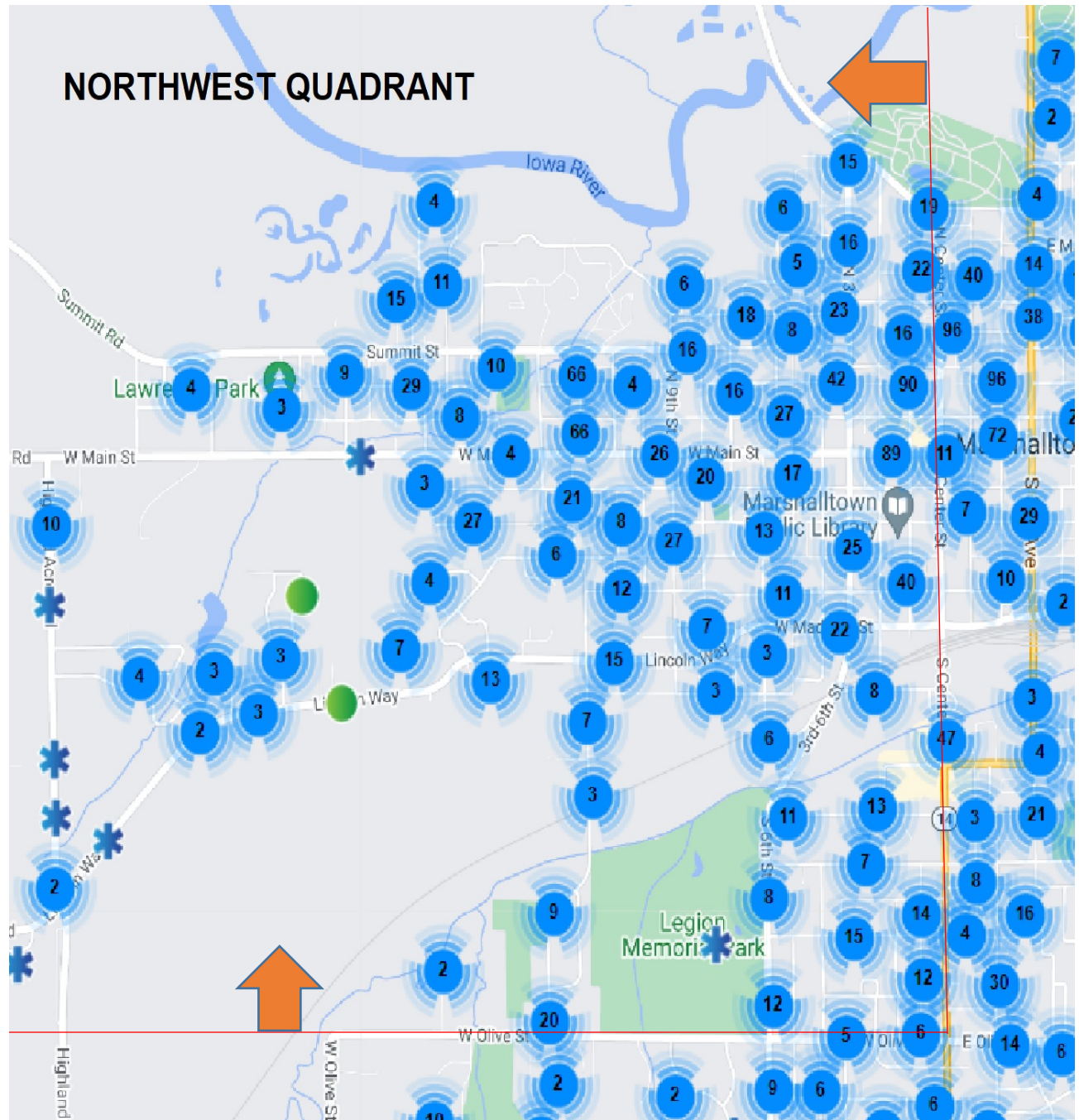
As an all-hazards department, Marshalltown Fire Department responds to emergencies that include fires, emergency medical calls, hazardous materials incidents, water and ice rescue, trench and confined space rescue, and vehicle extrication. In 2022, the department responded to 3,423 requests for service, which represents an increase of 7.85% percent over 2021 (3,174). Listed below are explanations of the categories and a chart breaking down fires by type and other calls for service as well as maps showing distribution of calls throughout the City.

1. EMS: Includes emergency medical calls and extrications.
2. Hazardous Condition-No Fire: Includes arcing or shorted electrical equipment, electrical wiring issues, power lines down, and overheated motor.
3. Fires: Includes structural, vehicle, brush and weeds, and rubbish.
4. False Alarm: Includes accidental alarm trips.
5. Service Calls: Includes Smoke or odor scares, animal rescues, water problems, and public assistance.
6. Hazardous Materials: Includes release, containment, and mitigation of a hazardous substance.

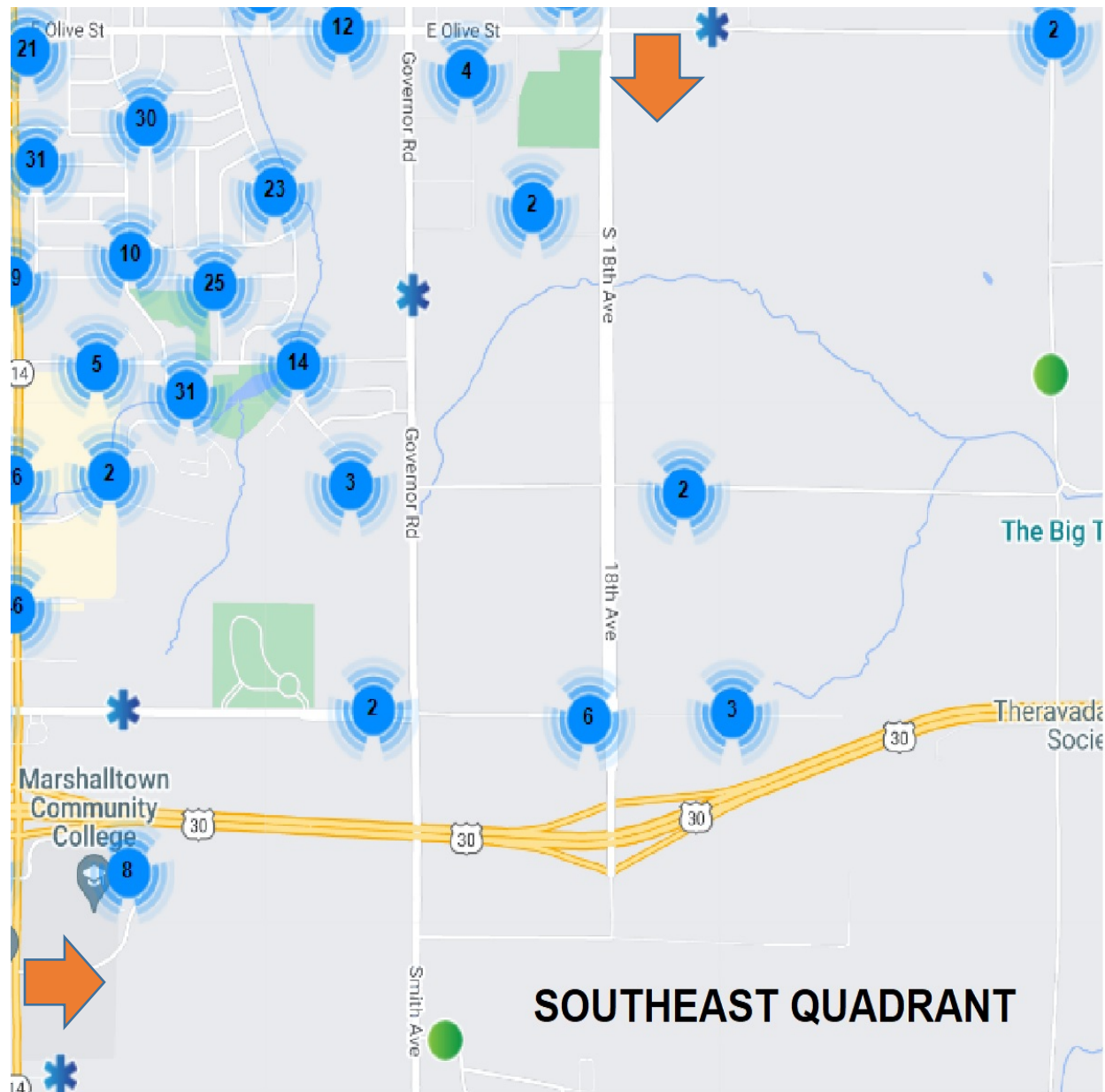
Distribution of Calls – 2022



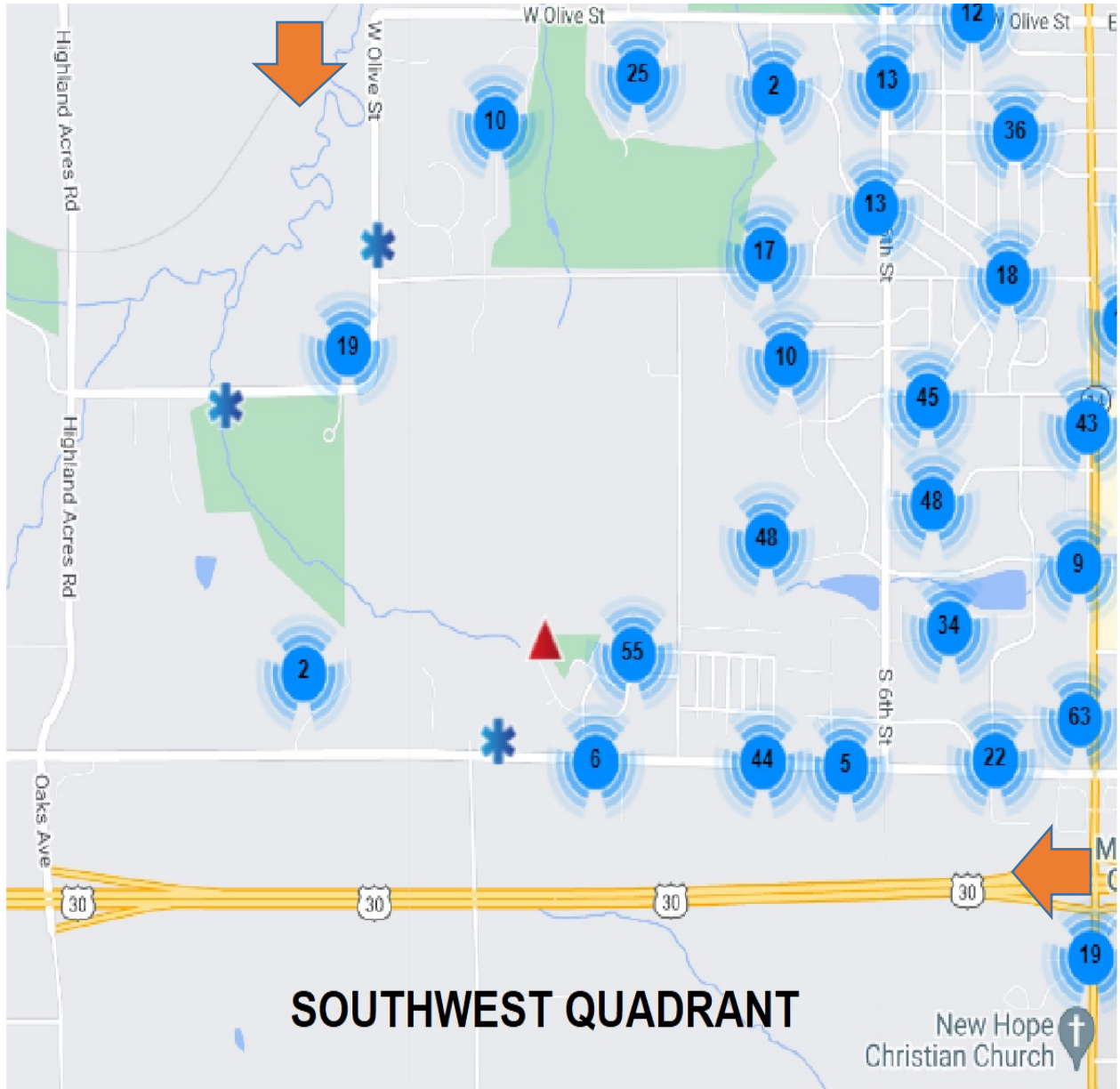
Distribution of Calls – 2022



Distribution of Calls – 2022



Distribution of Calls – 2022



2022 Fires By Incident Type	Number
Building Fire	39
Cooking Fire (contained)	10
Chimney/Flue Fire (contained)	0
Outside Storage	3
Outside Rubbish, Trash, Waste Fire	6
Dumpster Fire	8
Passenger Vehicle Fire	10
Mobile Property Fire	3
Grass Fire	2
Brush or Brush/Grass Mix Fire	6
Overheated Motor/Equipment Failure	3
Total Fires	80

Fire Loss

In 2022, property fire loss is valued at \$449,320 which is a 12% increase from 2021 (\$400,950). With a pre-incident value of property involved at \$2,629,661 the department saved \$976,121 worth of property. Property content loss for 2022 totaled \$339,750.

Fires





EMS

Marshalltown Fire Department responds with UnityPoint EMS on specific medical calls. In some instances, the department arrives on scene prior to the ambulance and begins patient care. EMS calls responded to include cardiac arrest/CPR, difficulty breathing, seizures, diabetics, strokes, and traumatic injuries. Additionally, there are times when the fire department crew, depending on patient condition, help either render patient care in the ambulance or drive it for the EMS crew to the hospital. In 2022, the department responded to 2,445 medical calls, assisted in patient care 19 times (0.78%) and drove the ambulance for the EMS crew 76 times (3.1%). At times, the responding fire crew finds itself waiting on scene for an ambulance. In 2022, responding crews waited on scene for an ambulance for greater than 10 minutes 67 times (2.76%).

Operations

To fully understand our operation and to ensure the best service delivery possible, specific factors related to our service are analyzed. These factors include response time performance, requests by time of day and day of week, overlapping calls, and calls by month. The definition of “response time” depends on the perspective from which one approaches the data. Response time components include call processing and dispatch, turnout time, and drive time to the scene. Call processing time is measured from the time the 9-1-1 call is received to dispatch of the department. Turnout time is measured from dispatch of the department to the time the apparatus leaves the station. Drive time starts when the apparatus leaves the fire station and stops when the apparatus is on location of the incident. Drive time is affected by traffic patterns, time of day, weather patterns, and distance to the incident. For 2022, our department numbers were as follows:

Average Response Times for EMS Runs: 5:51

Average Response Times for Fire Runs: 7:21

Average Response Time for All Runs: 6:02

Average Turnout Time for EMS Runs: 1:40

Average Turnout Time for Fire Runs: 3:10

Average Turnout Time for All Runs: 1:53

Overlapping Calls:

Overlapping calls are those times when the department has more than one call for service occurring at the same time. This is an important statistic to track as it could result in either delayed or no response. In 2022, we experienced a 16.8% increase in overlapping calls (841 vs. 720), which represents 24.55% of our total calls. A visual graph of the overlaps is located below.

Calls by Day of Week:

Calls By Hour of the Day:

As in previous years, the department remains busiest between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm. Calls for service between the hours of 12:00 am and 8:00 am have steadily increased.

Training and Activity

As an all-hazards department, training is an important part of our annual activity. Department training is provided through a combination of in-house instruction, online classes, and outside classes and training. 8,267 person-hours were spent training in the areas of EMS, fire, hazmat, OHSA, physical fitness, and specialty (confined space, ropes, and water rescue). Additionally, 4,747 person-hours were spent answering calls for service, providing station tours, and maintaining facilities and equipment. Total activity time for 2022 is 13,014 person-hours. Below is a breakdown of the hours.



Fire Marshal's Office

In 2022 inspection numbers increased to 308, up from 164 in 2021. Each year, the department focuses inspection activities on occupancies that required an annual operational permit. This includes restaurants, churches, bars, repair garages, body shops, and hazardous processes. Business occupancies were not being inspected consistently, if at all. To help the inspection process, the department contracted with Iowa Inspections LLC to inspect business occupancies in the City. In 2022, they completed 97 inspections. The department continued its association with the Compliance Engine. The Compliance Engine sends notification to property owners who have fire protective systems (sprinklers, hood systems, alarm systems) when service is due, as well as when there are deficiencies in need of correction. In 2022, the Compliance Engine reported 726 system inspections of which 61 were non-compliant (8.4%). In addition to inspections, Fire Investigators conducted 14 fire investigations of which three were determined to be arson.

Fire Prevention & Education

Each year the fire department conducts learn not to burn training, provides station tours, and participates in community activities. In 2022, the total number of events was 25.





Retirements, Deaths, New Employees, Promotions, and Anniversaries

For those of us in the fire service, the people we work with become our second families. As such, we celebrate members who have reached milestones in their careers and honor those who are no longer with us. Fortunately, there were no deaths to report. Additionally, there were no retirements.

Significant work anniversaries include:

Don Barker – 25 years.

Jacob Moore – 10 years

Jeremy Weiermann – 5 years

Department Staff



Oswald



Grant



Schmidt



Larsen



Pepper



Weiermann



Wall



Cornwell



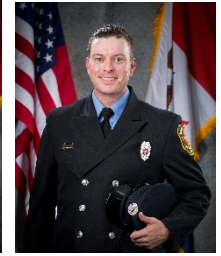
Moore



Wilson



Homeyer



Needham



Burgess



German



Patterson



Case



A. White



Higgins

Department Improvements/Updates

In 2022, the department initiated an officer Professional Development Program. This process included a 360-degree survey of all officers. The surveys were designed to identify strengths and weaknesses of our officers, which is important as areas for improvement will vary between them. Based on the surveys, each officer (Captain – Lieutenant – Deputy Chief) received a personalized development plan. In 2023, surveys will be completed again to measure improvements. Additionally, the department is adding job shadowing to the Professional Development Program. Each officer will spend time with the Fire Marshal, Deputy Chief, and Fire Chief to learn what those jobs entail.

Also in 2022, the department took the initial steps in implementing a new records/report management system. The implementation will continue into early 2023 with an estimated start date of March 1. The new system provides the department with a more robust analytics and fire inspections module. Additionally, the system combines our building pre-planning with the fire inspections module so when an entry is made in one module it automatically updates the other. This provides the officer-in-charge with immediate information about an occupancy while enroute to the scene.

A public-private partnership was initiated with Iowa Inspections LLC to assist the department with fire code inspection, specifically business occupancies. This classification of occupancies had not been inspected consistently for many years. Businesses will be inspected by Iowa Inspections every other year, allowing the department to focus on permitted occupancies that require annual inspections.

The past year has also presented the department with some challenges. Increasing prices for fuel, supplies, and equipment have impacted an already tight budget and it appears this will carry over into 2023. Supply chain issues have created lengthy wait times for important equipment. For example, our personal protective gear, which used to take 2 months for delivery, is now 14-16 months. In addition to the delivery time increase, we have taken a \$500 a set price increase.

The Future

In 2023, the Fire Department will continue to look for ways to improve services. We will continue the public-private partnership with Iowa Inspections LLC for the inspection of business occupancies.

The department is training a member as a Fire Education Specialist to work with the schools and kids on fire safety. This person will also receive Juvenile Firesetter training and work with our younger citizens who have or have the identified propensity for starting fires.

Fire Officers will continue work on their development plans, meeting with the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief quarterly to check progress. Additionally, officers will be provided the opportunity to job shadow the administrative officers as a part of development.