

ANNUAL REPORT

Whitecourt Fire Department




Whitecourt

20
24

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FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Whitecourt Fire Department, we are proud to present this year's annual report, which highlights the dedication, resilience, and commitment of our department to the communities we serve.

Founded in 1958, the Whitecourt Fire Department has a long history of providing exceptional fire protection and emergency services to both the Town of Whitecourt and Woodlands County. Over the years, we have seen growth and change in our service areas, but our mission has remained constant: to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents and visitors, infrastructure, and environment through effective fire prevention, education, and emergency response.

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the hard work and professionalism of our firefighters, support staff, and volunteers who continuously go above and beyond to serve our communities. Their efforts, along with the support of our local leaders, have allowed us to respond to emergencies effectively and adapt to the evolving needs of our residents.

Thank you for your continued trust and support in our department. As we look to the future, we remain committed to providing the highest level of fire and emergency services and keeping our communities safe.

Aaron Floyd

Aaron Floyd
Fire Chief
Whitecourt Fire Department

Taya Green

Taya Green
Deputy Fire Chief/Safety Coordinator
Whitecourt Fire Department



CHIEF WYNN'S RETIREMENT

As we reflect on another year of progress and growth for the Whitecourt Fire Department, it is with both gratitude and bittersweet emotions that we bid farewell to Fire Chief Brian Wynn, who retired on December 20, 2024, after 32 years of dedicated service to our community.

Chief Wynn's journey with the Whitecourt Fire Department began in 1993, and over the course of more than three decades, he has shown an unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of the people in Whitecourt and Woodlands County. Serving as Fire Chief since 2013, Brian led the Department through numerous challenges, transformations, and successes, always prioritizing the development of our personnel and the safety of the communities we serve.

Brian's leadership, expertise, and passion for the fire service have left a lasting impact on the department. His ability to inspire and guide others, his tireless work ethic, and his compassion for those in need have set a standard for excellence that will continue to shape the future of the Whitecourt Fire Department.

We are truly grateful for his years of service, and while we will miss his leadership and presence, we wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter in his life. Chief Wynn's legacy of service and dedication will never be forgotten.

On behalf of the entire Whitecourt Fire Department, we thank you, Chief Wynn, for your extraordinary contributions to our community and the department. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

With deepest appreciation,

Whitecourt Fire Department



BRUCE PARRENT FIRE TRAINING FACILITY

It is with deep respect and gratitude that we honour the legacy of Fire Chief Bruce Parrent.

From 1992 to 2013, Chief Parrent led the Whitecourt Fire Department with unwavering dedication, courage, and compassion. He embodied the Department's values of pride and professionalism. Bruce always considered Whitecourt to be home, and our community's Emergency Services First Responders his family. His commitment to excellence and service left an indelible mark on the community, and those fortunate enough to work alongside him.

Chief Parrent's leadership and vision continue to inspire us all. In recognition of his lasting impact, The Whitecourt Fire Department held a ceremony on October 1, 2024 to dedicate the fire training facility to him. The Bruce Parrent Fire Training Facility will serve as a reminder of a Fire Chief whose memory will continue to burn brightly in Whitecourt for generations to come, and serve as the training facility for many future generations of Firefighters for the Whitecourt community.

Thank you for your service, Bruce. We will take it from here.

Whitecourt Fire Department





MISSION STATEMENT

“With pride and professionalism, we provide emergency services and education to Whitecourt and surrounding area.”

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Founded in 1958, the Whitecourt Fire Department has proudly served the community for over six decades, providing essential fire protection, emergency response, and life-saving services. Located at 5205 51 Street in Whitecourt, we are dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents, businesses, and visitors.

Our team of skilled and compassionate firefighters are committed to delivering fast, effective, and professional services, whether responding to fires, medical emergencies, or other urgent situations. With state-of-the-art equipment and ongoing training, we are always prepared to face any challenge to protect and serve our community.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

The Whitecourt Fire Department consists of three full-time staff (Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief/Safety Coordinator, and Training Officer), a part-time Fire Clerk, six volunteer Officers, a Health & Safety Officer, and 42 volunteer Firefighters.

In addition, the Department has local volunteers that provide operations support (a Chaplain, three Operations Support Members, a Fire Prevention Assistant, a Photographer, and a Videographer).



RETIREMENTS

Nine members retired (including two with over 30 years of dedicated service to the Department).

PROMOTIONS



Garrett King was promoted to Lieutenant .



Dustin Jendrick was promoted to Health and Safety Officer.

RECRUITMENT



The Whitecourt Fire Department welcomed one new member in July 2024.
Desire de Jong was recruited as part of the Operations Support Team.



AWARDS NIGHT

Each year, the Whitecourt Fire Department hosts an annual Awards Night ceremony to recognize the dedication of our Firefighters to our communities.

Congratulations to all 2024 recipients:

5 Years of Service:

- Joshua Kuscmierz
- Alex Corley-Smith

10 Years of Service:

- Nathan Kison
- William McNaughton (Retired)
- Christopher Green (Retired)
- Anthony Bain

30 Years of Service:

- Dan Janke

Alberta Emergency Services Medal:

- Denis Beaudoin (12 Years)
- Chad Hagen (12 Years)

Pete Heck Award:

- Samantha Robb

Larry Lopes Memorial Fire Prevention Award:

- Jessica Brown
- Terry Corke

Rookie of the Year

- Mark de Jong

Officer of the Year:

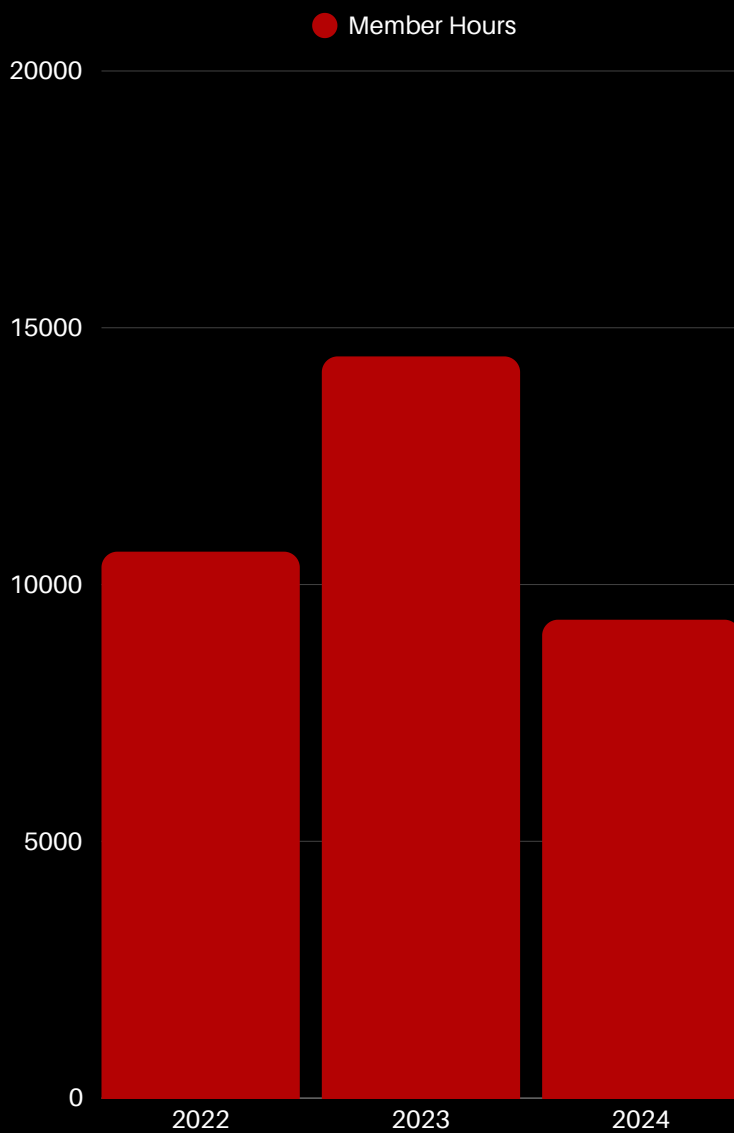
- Garret King

Firefighter of the Year:

- Jessica Brown



MEMBER COMMITMENT



In 2024 , the Whitecourt Fire Department committed a total of 9,315 hours to serving our communities.

The hours were spent as follows:

- Incident Response: 3,459
- Meetings: 675
- Training: 4,216
- Work Parties: 577
- Public Education: 388

2024 saw consistent numbers with prior years due to a milder fire season compared to 2023.



INCIDENT RESPONSE

In 2024, the Whitecourt Fire Department committed a total of 3,459 hours responding to incidents.

The hours were spent as follows:

- Town of Whitecourt: 1,431
- Woodlands County (Within District 1): 983
- Woodlands County (Outside of District 1): 127
- Out of District: 918

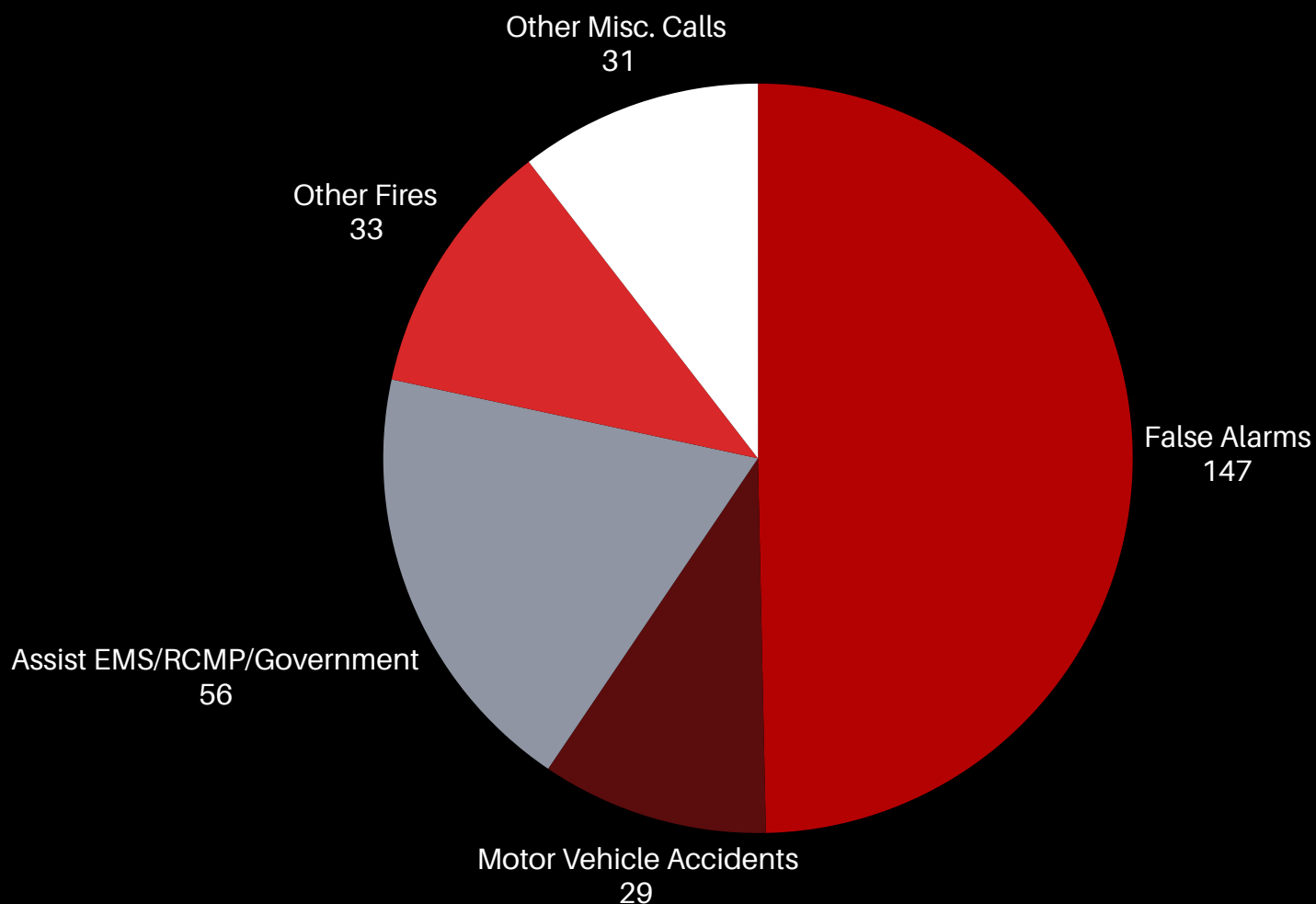




INCIDENT RESPONSE CONTINUED

The Whitecourt Fire Department responded to 296 calls in Whitecourt, and 86 calls in Woodlands County (total of 382 calls), in 2024.

The charts below reflect the types of calls responded to in Whitecourt.

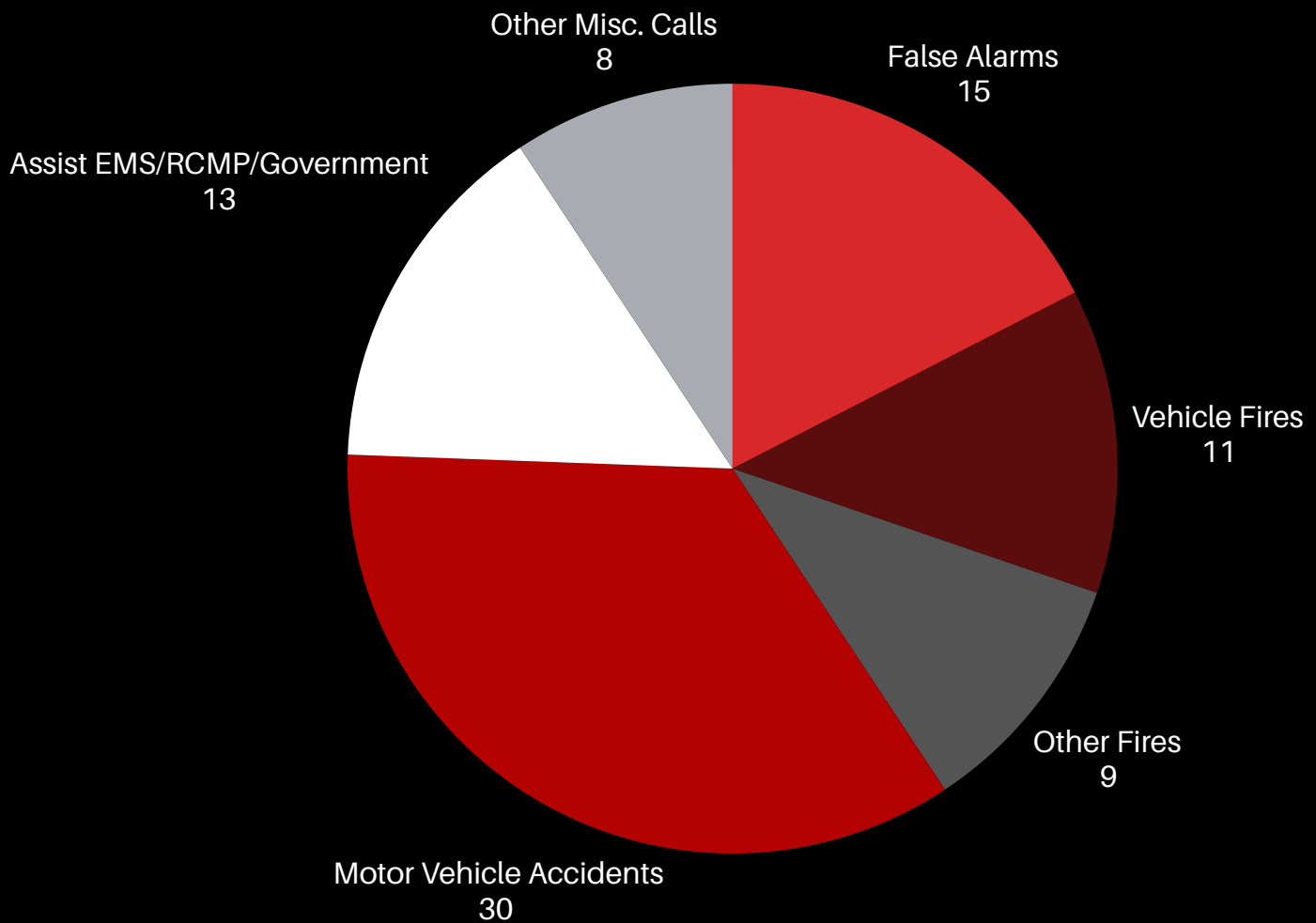




INCIDENT RESPONSE CONTINUED

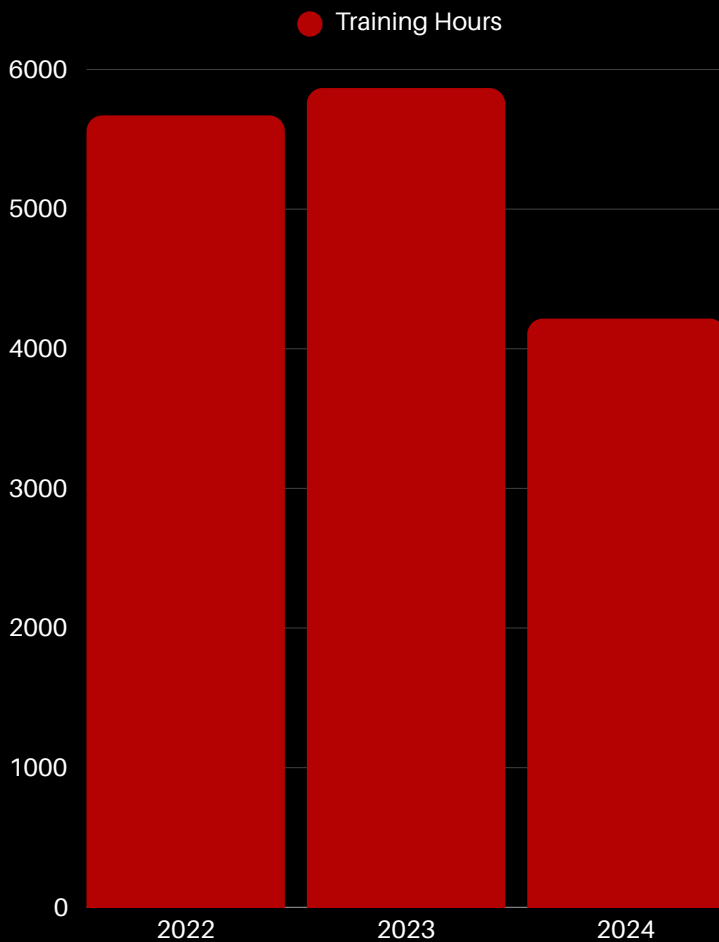
The Whitecourt Fire Department responded to 86 calls in Woodlands County - Fire District 1 in 2024.

The charts below reflects the types of calls responded to in Whitecourt.





TRAINING



Whitecourt Fire Department Members spent 4,216 hours training in 2024. The Department did not have Firefighter vacancies to fill in 2024, and focused advancing the training of already existing Firefighters, resulting in less time needed to be spent in training. Training included vehicle extrication, water rescue, and wildfire interagency training.





DEPLOYMENTS

In 2024, the Municipality of Jasper had a wildfire complex that burned in the National Park. Fires started north and south of the town, and grew out of control, and on July 22, 2024, the fires forced a mass evacuation of 25,000 residents, workers, and visitors.

The Municipality of Jasper requested mutual aid assistance from Whitecourt to mitigate the wildfire. Between July 24 to August 8, the Whitecourt Fire Department deployed 11 Firefighters, Tower 1 (for 6 days), and Engine 4 (for 11 days).





PUBLIC EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Whitecourt Fire Department attend numerous community events, and spent time with students between K-12 to educate them on fire prevention.

Some of the events/initiatives include:

- 2024 Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce Annual Trade Fair
- 2024 Career and Education Expo/Job Fair
- Whitecourt Farmers Market
- Domino's Pizza Delivery & Fire Education Event
- RISK Program (Presented to Grade 9 and 12 Students)
- School Presentations (Presented to 1,154 Students in Every K-6 Class in both Northern Gateway Public Schools and Living Waters Catholic School divisions)
- Texas 4000 for Cancer
- Remembrance Day
- Hilltop High School Pancake Breakfast
- Run 4 Fun
- Christmas Parade
- Canada Day Celebration
- Whitecourt Christmas Hamper



2024 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- FC1 replacement and outfitting
- Purchase of two thermal imaging cameras
- Purchase of two water crafts
- SCBA cylinder testing
- Purchase of Medical Skid for Side by Side – special thank you to Embridge for its contribution
- Psychological Health Grant Projects – used to develop a resource guide and workshops

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2025

As we look ahead to 2025, the Whitecourt Fire Department is focused on growth, preparedness, and continued service to our community. One of the most exciting developments in the year to come is the arrival of a new class of recruits, who will bring fresh energy and help fill key vacancies within our team. We remain committed to ongoing training and expanding our operational support to ensure we meet the demands of a growing and dynamic region.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Whitecourt and Woodlands County Councils for their continued support and investment in public safety. Their commitment allows us to move forward with confidence and the resources we need to protect Whitecourt and the surrounding region effectively.

We are proud of what we've accomplished and energized by the road ahead. Our dedication to serving with pride, professionalism, integrity, and care remains as strong as ever.

