

Barberton Fire Department

2025

Annual Report



Message from the Fire Chief



Having been sworn in as the Chief this past May, it truly is an honor to present this annual report.

The Barberton Fire Department continues to serve our community by providing emergency fire and EMS services. As we strive to provide excellent care for our citizens and visitors, we are constantly seeking ways to meet and exceed the expectations of those that we encounter.

Training our members is a focal point for the next few years. The various aspects encountered in the emergency field continue to change and evolve. Preparing our department to meet these challenges is very important and constantly evaluated.

Leadership development, as well as personal development, will have a lasting effect in the future for our department. Depth in regards to our specialty teams; Hazmat, Technical Rescue, Swat, Public Education, Inspection, Fire Investigation, Dive Rescue and Emergency Vehicle Operators training team, will ensure that knowledge and training will be passed along to younger members as retirements occur.

As the leader of the Barberton Fire Department, I am privileged to work with our department personnel, and we are looking towards the future in all aspects of the emergency services.

Grateful to serve,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Polacek". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David M. Polacek

Chief of Fire

Mission Statement

Our mission is to be responsive to the needs of our customers by providing prompt, professional services essential to the health, safety and well-being of the community.

Vision Statement

We will strive to become a fire service leader in the delivery of the highest level of care to the people we serve by utilizing a team of highly trained, dedicated professionals and state of the art resources.

Core Values

In order to adhere to our Mission and Vision Statements, we believe the following Core Values to be an essential part of our commitment to the community:

Loyalty

Having true allegiance to the community and department.

Integrity

Always doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

Respect

Always treating people as they should be treated.

Dedication

Having a passionate belief in our mission as a fire department.

Professionalism

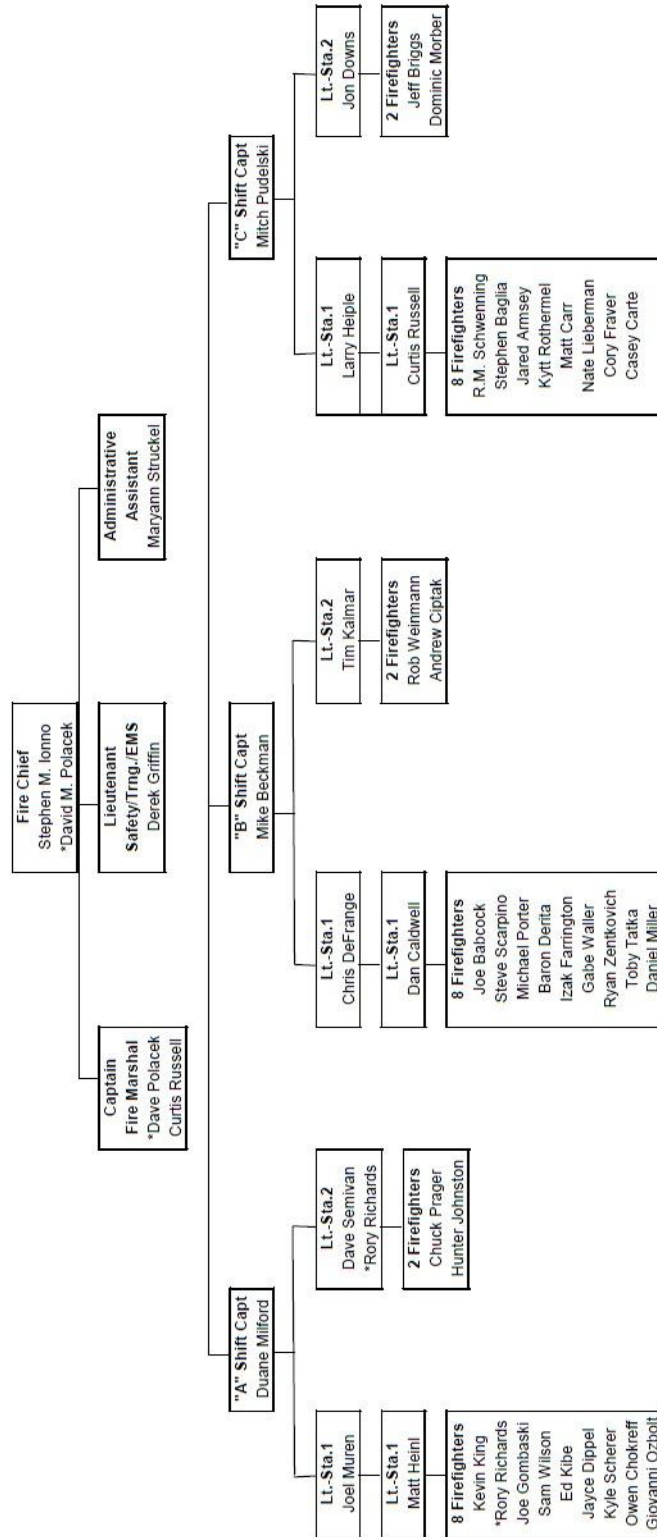
Commitment to the quality of service and pride in our work.

Fire Personnel & Apparatus

<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Facilities</u>
<p>The Barberton Fire Department has an authorized staff of 46 regular full-time employees. All positions are vital to the overall success of the department’s operations. These positions consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <u>Fire Chief</u>: The Fire Chief reports to the Director of Public Safety and is responsible for the overall operation and administration of the Fire Department. 1 <u>Captain/Fire Marshal</u>: The Captain/Fire Marshal is responsible for and manages all aspects of fire prevention, including inspections, plan reviews, public education as well as fire investigations. 1 <u>Administrative Lieutenant</u>: The Admin. Lt. functions as the EMS Coordinator for the department and serves as Safety Officer on large incidents. He also assists the Fire Marshal with inspections and investigations. 1 <u>Administrative Assistant</u>: The Administrative Assistant works directly under the Fire Chief with direction from the other Officers in the department. 3 <u>Captains</u>: Captains are Shift Commanders that supervise and lead the fire crews at both stations. Captains are responsible for scene management at emergency incidents and the overall readiness of the personnel on their shift. 9 <u>Lieutenants</u>: Lieutenants function as Company Officers and are responsible to direct the personnel assigned to their trucks including training and job function assignments. 30 <u>Firefighter/Paramedics</u>: Fire/Medics are responsible to know and provide all aspects of emergency response to the public. 	<p>Station #1 – 580 Wooster Rd. W.</p> <p>Station #2 – 93 E. State St.</p> <p><u>Apparatus</u></p> <p>Chief 1: 2021 Chevy Tahoe, Fire Chief</p> <p>Prevention 1: 2021 Chevy Pick-up</p> <p>Med 1: 2016 Chevrolet Ambulance</p> <p>Med 4: 2015 Chevrolet Ambulance (reserve)</p> <p>OIC: 2021 Chevy Tahoe, Shift Commander</p> <p>Tower 1: 2001 Emergency One 75' Aerial</p> <p>Med 2: 2019 Freightliner Ambulance</p> <p>Med 3: 2023 Ford Ambulance</p> <p>Engine 2: 2023 Pierce Engine</p> <p>Engine 4: 2001 E-One Pumper (reserve)</p> <p>1126: 2007 Ford Expedition</p> <p>Engine 3: 2016 Sutphen Pumper</p> <p>Rescue 3: 2010 Hackney Heavy Rescue</p> <p>Safety 1: 2018 Ford F-250 Super Duty 4x4</p>

2025 Organizational Chart

2025 Organizational Chart



* Mid-Year Promotion

Fire Department Budget

Barberton, OH, is a community where the effects of the recession are still substantial. Stagnant tax revenues, decreased property values, increased personnel costs, and on-going capital expense obligations remain a real problem. Consequently, the financial need of the BFD is genuine despite our best attempts to be fiscally responsible.

The BFD is funded through the city's income tax-based General Fund for operations and a 0.75 mill levy specifically for capital expenses.

Compounding our financial outlook are the years of depreciating property values, which have resulted in the continual decline in property tax revenue and our 20-year capital plan becoming unsupported. The BFD has aggressively sought grant funding through the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant program, Ohio's EMS grant program and other private foundations and corporate donors to fund mission-critical capital expenses.

Barberton Fire Department 2025 Budget

Account #	Description	2025 approved
1110	All Salaries	\$4,371,721.00
1111	Administrative Assistant (Now in 1110)	
	Part Time Wages	
1210	Health and Life Insurance	\$848,898.00
1220	Medicare	\$65,273.00
1230	OPERS	\$8,016.00
1231	Fire Pension	\$879,072.00
1250	Severance Pay Contribution	\$89,411.00
1260	Workers' Compensation	\$77,500.00
1280	Retired Life Insurance	\$11,500.00
1290	Clothing Allowance	\$63,800.00
1292	Gym Membership Reimbursements	\$800.00
	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 6,415,991.00
2320	Training/Travel	\$25,000.00
2330	Professional Services	\$81,500.00
2427	Laundry Service	\$15,000.00
2430	Repair and Maintenance	\$85,000.00
2442	Vehicle Collision Repair	
2433	Copier Lease	\$2,700.00
2434	Radio Supplies and Repairs	\$20,000.00
2435	Small Equipment and Furnishings	\$14,000.00
2520	Auto Insurance	\$28,000.00
2521	Property Insurance	\$7,500.00
2522	EMT Malpractice Insurance	\$1,000.00
2530	Telephone	\$11,000.00
2540	Advertising	
2560	Memberships	\$1,500.00
2610	Turn out gear replacement	\$40,000.00
2611	Office Supplies/Other	\$1,650.00
2612	Operating Supplies	\$25,000.00
2636	Tools & Equipment	\$14,500.00
2613	Repair & Maintenance Supply	\$14,000.00
2642	Annual Service Agreements	\$55,000.00
2652	Safety Equipment & Supplies	\$7,500.00
2662	Air Mask Repair/Upgrade MSA	\$20,000.00
2654	EMS Supplies	\$53,150.00
2648	EMS Grant Expenditures	
2621	East Ohio Gas	\$10,000.00
2622	Electric Power	\$35,000.00
2626	Gasoline and Oil	\$30,000.00
2628	Radio Contract	\$15,000.00
2650	Postage	\$400.00
	OPERATING COSTS	\$ 613,400.00
	BUDGET TOTAL	\$ 7,029,391.00

Fire Prevention & Investigation



Captain/Fire Marshal Curtis Russell

The Captain/Fire Marshal is responsible for and manages all aspects of fire prevention, including inspections, plan reviews, public education as well as fire investigations.

Inspections

The Inspection Bureau conducted approximately 650 activities. These activities included:

- Business inspections and re-inspections
- Sprinkler / Alarm Activities and Test
- Daycare / Foster Care Inspections.
- 4 Festival Inspections and 1 Fireworks Inspection

Investigations

- The Fire Investigation Unit Conducted 28 fire investigations.

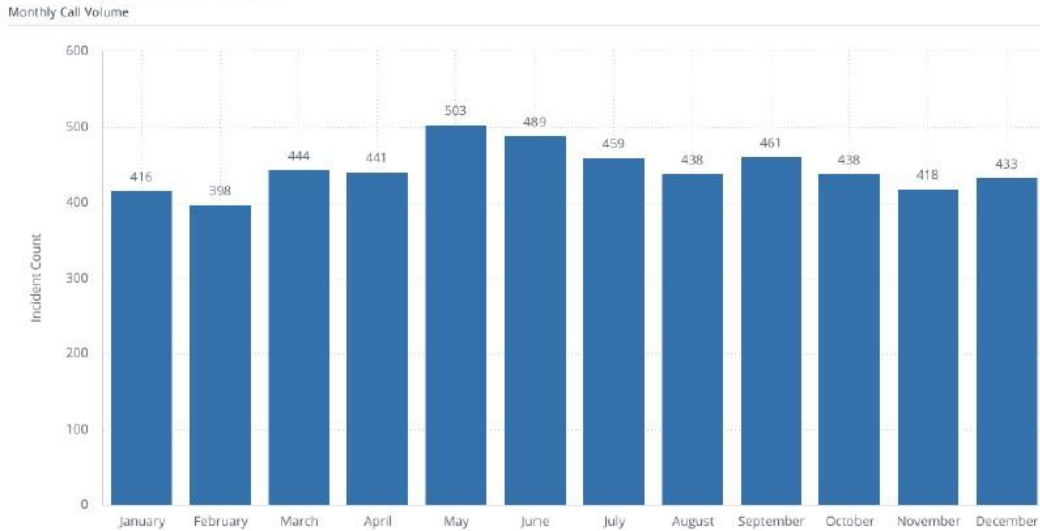
Public Education

- The Public Education Personnel trained 3 local businesses in fire extinguisher use.
- Barberton Fire, with assistance from the City of Barberton Safety Director and the Mayor's Office, conducted approximately 8 CPR training classes throughout the year for the general public, local businesses and City employees.
- Approximately 1950 students participated in a public education program
- Approximately 500 adults participated in a public education program
- Over 50 hours were donated by BFD members to assist the Barberton Schools with their 7th Grade Outdoor Education Camp
- Community Outreach was achieved through various events including;
 - Purple Paw Pet Party
 - Barberton Farmer's Market
 - BCSD Outdoor Education Camp
 - Various Touch a truck events
 - Magic City Kiwanis
 - Learning under the Lights
 - ACBC Fire truck Day

Overall Call Data

In 2025, the BFD responded to 5,338 requests for service. These requests included EMS, fires, hazardous conditions, and non-emergencies. (see graph below). Average response time was 6:02.

Monthly Call Volume



EMS Services

Emergency medical services are the most requested calls from the Barberton Fire Department Personnel. Our certified State of Ohio Paramedics work under the medical direction of Dr. Douglas Gallo from Summa Health. Our paramedics are trained and equipped to treat and transport everything from basic injuries and illnesses to advanced medical emergencies (heart attacks, cardiac arrests, strokes, major trauma etc.). In 2025, our department responded to approximately 4,172 EMS calls.

Special Operations

- Summit County Hazmat Team
- Summit County Technical Rescue Operations Team (TROT)
- South Summit Dive Rescue Team
- BFD SWAT (SWAT Medics)
- BFD Drone Team
- Fire Inspector Unit
- Peer Support Team

Newly Hired Firefighter/Paramedics in 2024

Daniel Miller – 3/10/2025



Giovanni Ozbolt – 5/12/2025



Promotions in 2025

Lt. Rory Richards – 2/24/2025



Lt. Rich Schwenning – 7/22/2025



Chief David M. Polacek – 5/05/2025



Retirements & Resignations

- Lt. David Semivan – Retired 2/14/2025
- Chief Stephen Ionno – Retired 5/02/2025