



OAK ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report 2024



OAKISLANDNC.GOV/FD

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Oak Island Fire Department is to preserve the lives and protect the property of its residents and visitors through Fire Prevention & Education, Fire & Rescue Response, Emergency Medical Care Service, Support and Dedication to the Citizens, Town, and our Families



Vision Statement

We provide an elevated level of customer service through aggressive, offensive firefighting tactics, support a safe, healthy, and diverse workspace that is open to change, provide emergency medical services and environmental protection and establish a strong community relations program, specifically in fire prevention, injury prevention, and emergency preparedness.

As a core service of the Town, we are committed to protecting our citizens, families, visitors, and guests, and preserving our profession in the delivery of these services



Leadership Team

Fire Chief
Lee Price



Deputy
Chief
Chris Sillings



Asst. Chief
David Wagoner



Hot Topics

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the Chief

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Message From the Chief

Citizens and Visitors of Oak Island,

As Fire Chief of the Oak Island Fire Department, I am honored to serve and protect this wonderful community. Our dedicated team of firefighters, both career and volunteer, are committed to providing the highest level of fire protection, rescue services, and emergency medical response to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in Oak Island.

We understand the unique challenges that come with serving a barrier island community, particularly the significant population increase we experience during the tourist season. Our department works diligently to prepare for these fluctuations, maintaining readiness and ensuring we can effectively respond to any emergency, whether it's a fire, medical emergency, or other critical incident.

Public safety is our top priority. We not only respond to emergencies, but we are also actively engaged in fire prevention and public education. We believe that proactive measures, such as fire safety inspections and community outreach programs, are essential to minimizing risks and preventing tragedies. We encourage you to take advantage of the resources we offer, including fire safety tips and educational programs, which can be found on our website OakIslandNC.gov/FD or by contacting our department directly.

We are proud of the strong partnerships we have with other local agencies and organizations. Collaboration is key to effective emergency response, and we are committed to working together to ensure the best possible outcomes for our community.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated men and women of the Oak Island Fire Department. Their commitment, courage, and professionalism are truly commendable. I am also incredibly grateful for the support we receive from the community.

Your generosity and appreciation motivate us to continually strive for excellence.

We are your fire department, and we are here for you. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Together, we can make Oak Island a safer place for everyone.

Kenan Lee Price

Kenan Lee Price

Fire Chief

Significant Events 2024

RUN OK!

Mardi Gras By the Sea

Smoke Alarm Install and Program for Deaf Citizens

Badges Boats and Boots Soft ball Game

May 4th House Fire on 54th st

May 8th house fire on E Yacht Dr

Smoke Alarm Donations from Better Beach Rentals

First Drone deployed Rescue Tube on May 16th

May 31st House Fire on E Yacht Dr and 59th

Public Safety Kids Camp 2 groups this year!

New Beach flag lighted warning signs

June 20th, Ocean Rescue of paddle boarders

June 27th, Drone drops a radio to stranded boater to talk with rescuers

July 1st Beach Day! Fireworks

July 16th House Fire on 42nd st



Town Hall meeting with Chief, July 19th

CBS Eye on America comes and does interview with Fire Department on Drone Program

August 7th Tropical Storm Debbie

Ocean Rescue of 4 people, August 12th

Hire new members on August 19th

August 23rd, missing Juvenile, found with drone within 5 minutes more than a mile down the beach

Sunset on Summer!!

PTC #8

Insurance Commissioner Causey comes and checks out the drone program

See you at the Station!

Big Toy Day!

Banding Together!!!

20 Acre woods fire off Middleton, October 26th

Spooktacular!!

Christmas By the Sea

Toys for Tots Award



Strategic Plan

Define Vision and Mission
Conduct a SWOT Analysis
Performance Measures

Identify Strategic Goals and Objectives
Develop Strategies and Action Plans

Implement the Plan
Monitor and Evaluate Performance



S.W.O.T

Strengths

Very Community
Oriented
Highly Trained Personnel
Updated Equipment
Dedicated Personnel
Growth

Opportunities

Education to the Public
Reduction of Response
Times
Efficiencies
Improved ISO Rating

Weaknesses

Staffing Levels
Response Times to outlying Town Areas
Budget Constraints (Cost of equipment
and personnel)
Growth

Threats

Environmental (Weather Events)
Budget Restraints (Economy, Revenue)
Staffing Shortage
Retention and Recruitment

Department Performance Measures

Performance measures are quantifiable indicators used to evaluate the success of an organization, individual, project, or program in achieving its objectives. They provide concrete data that helps track progress, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions. Essentially, they answer the question " *how well are we doing* ?"

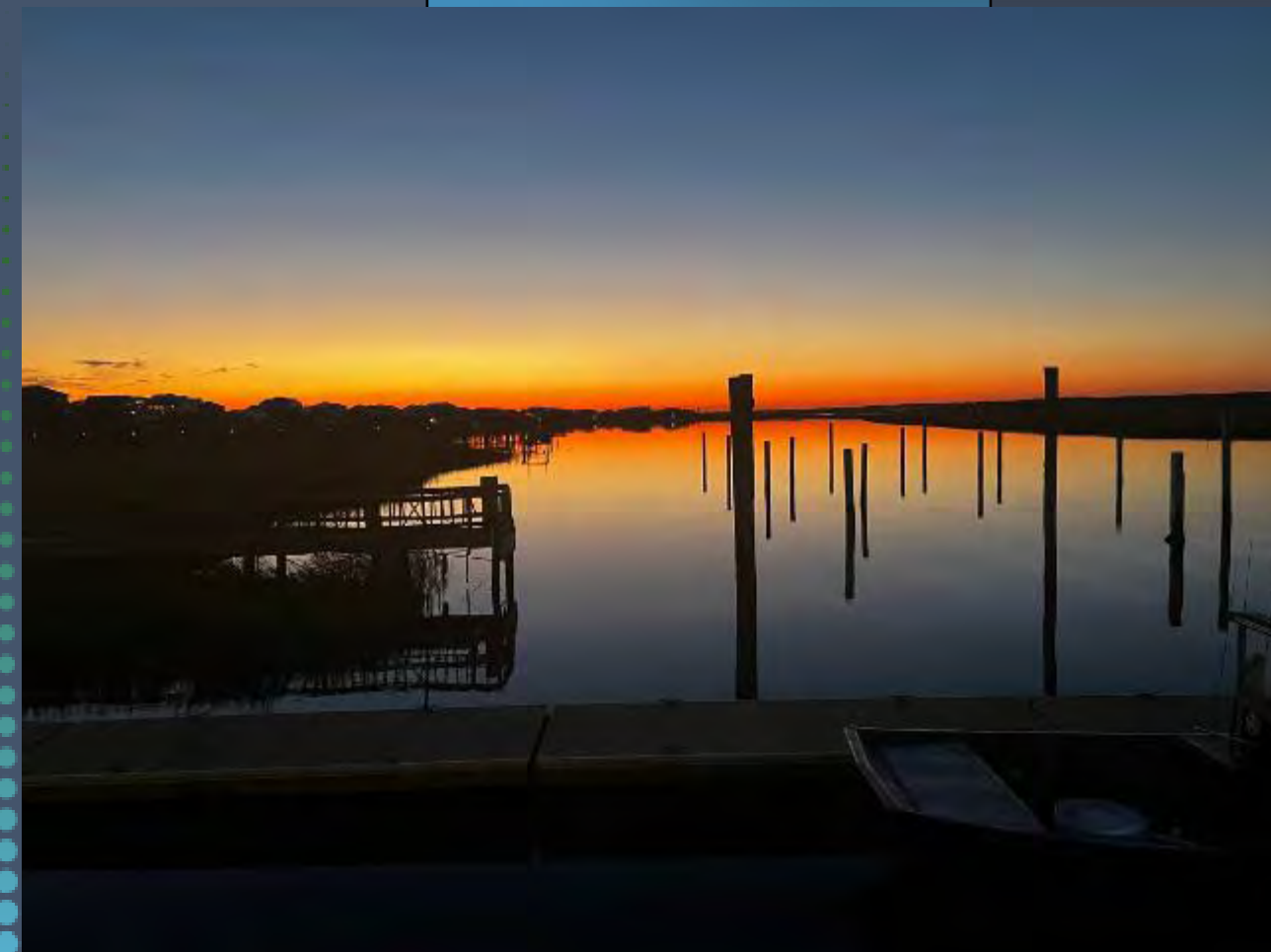
● Response Time *Slightly Above*

● Number of Responses *Above*

● Staffing Levels *Below*

● Budget *Below*

● Services Provided *Above*



Response Times

■ Average Arrival for Structure Fires

5 Min 17 seconds

■ Average Response for EMS Calls

4 Min 5 seconds

■ Average Arrival for Ocean Rescues

4 Min 10 seconds

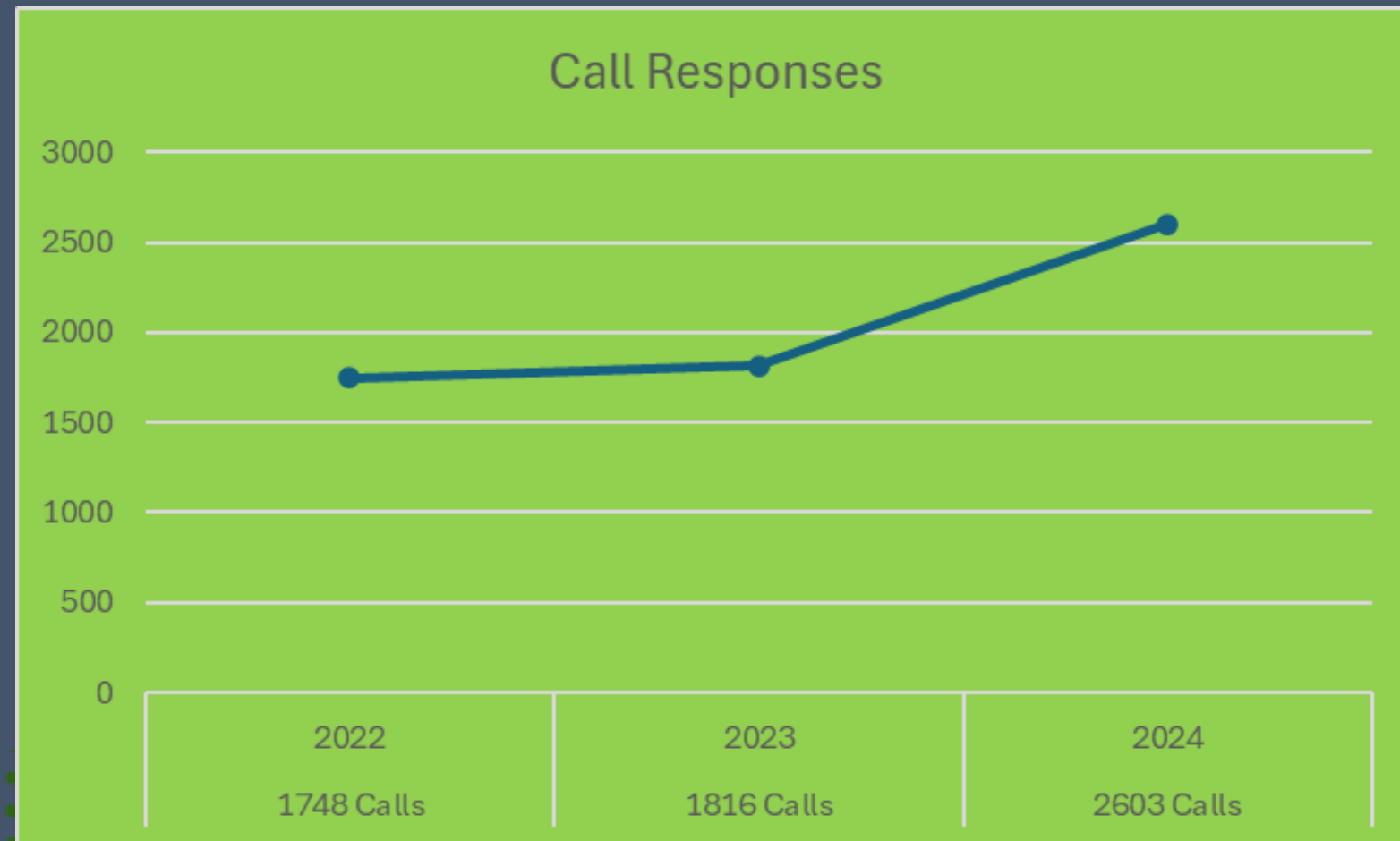


Number of Responses

TOTAL DEPARTMENT UNIT RESPONSES	2605
DISPATCHED STRUCTURE FIRES IN OAK ISLAND	30
MEDICAL CALLS	719
CARDIAC ARREST	11
OCEAN RESCUE SAVES	17
LIFT ASSIST	259
SERVICE CALLS	315



Data Analysis



Responses

We have had a **44%** increase in from 2022 to 2024



2022

Total responses 1748
House Fires 40

2023

Total Responses 1816
House Fires 60

2024

Total Responses 2603
House Fires 60

Staffing Levels

TOTAL STAFF FULL-TIME

26

TOTAL STAFF EACH SHIFT

8

ENGINE 171

3

TOWER 161

2

ENGINE 173

3

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

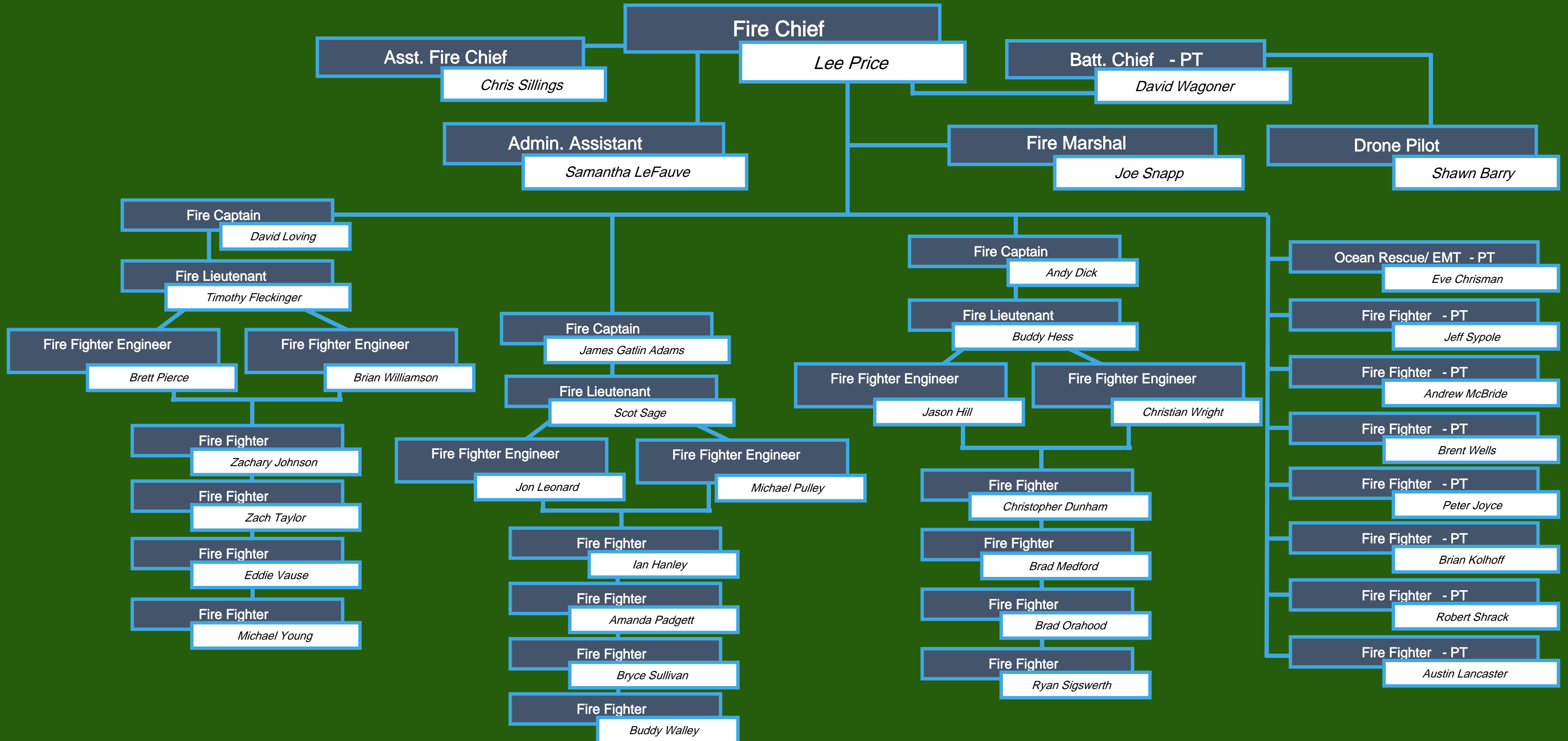
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Town of Oak Island

Organizational Chart

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Services Provided

FIRE PREVENTION / INSPECTION

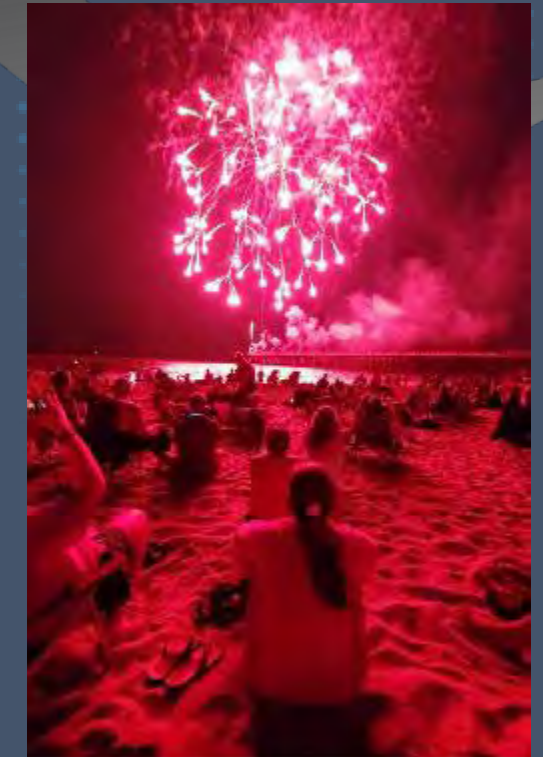
FIRE SUPPRESSION

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE

OCEAN RESCUE RESPONSE / EDUCATION

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES



Services Provided

PRE-PLAN BUSINESSES / FIRE INSPECTIONS

CAMPS - PROGRAMS - EVENTS

EMS STANDBY FOR EVENTS

CPR CLASSES & FIRE EXTINGUISHER

CHILD SEAT INSTALLATION

COMMUNITY CONNECT THROUGH FIRST DUE



First Due is the records management software we utilize. see our website for more information on
Community Connect

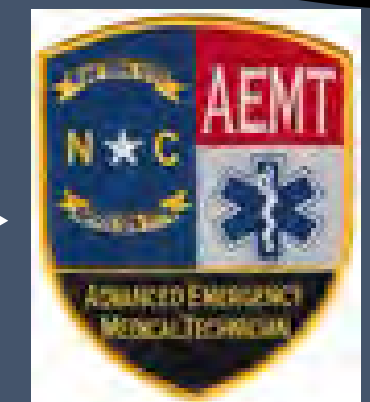
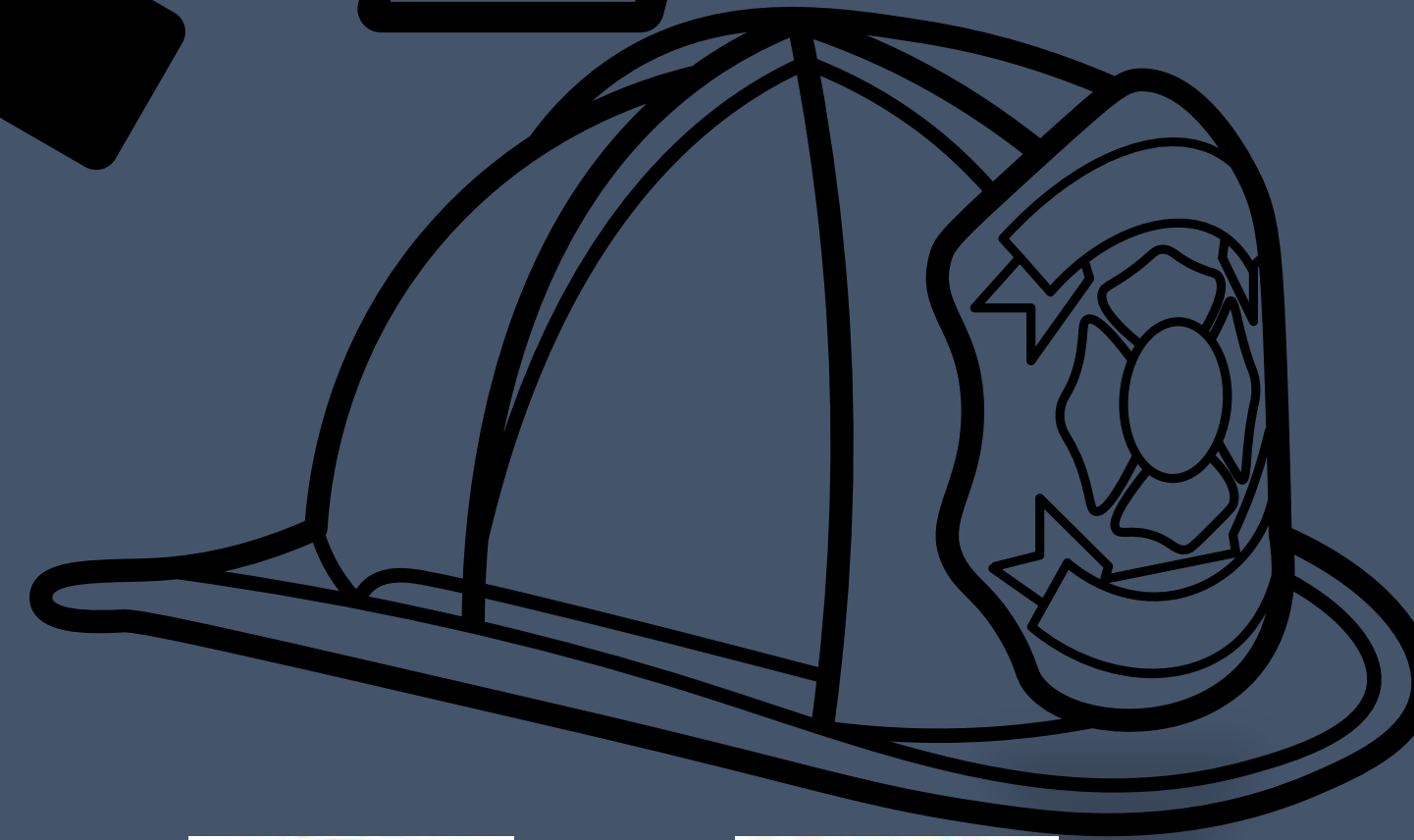
ENHANCED SERVICES

EMS RESPONSE AT ADVANCED LEVEL

ENHANCED OCEAN RESCUE PATROLS

LEVEL III, LEVEL II, & LEVEL I INSPECTORS

IMPROVED ISO RATING



ISO Evaluation

Since December 2024 we have been working on our ISO (Insurance Services Office) evaluation. We just completed the evaluation March 3rd. We were graded on the following areas:



Staffing

The ISO grade looks at how many staff we are recommended to have and how many we currently have.

Recommendation 24 per shift

Currently staff 8 per shift

Stations

The ISO grade looks at how many stations we have to cover the district.

Recommendation 4 stations

Current 3 Stations

Apparatus

ISO looks at what equipment we have and the inventory of each unit.

Recommendation 3 Engines 1 Tower

Current apparatus 3 Engines 1 Tower

Water System

ISO looks at and grades our water system

Communications

ISO looks at the Brunswick County Comms Center

ISO Evaluation

Since December 2024 we have been working on our ISO (Insurance Services Office) evaluation. We just completed the evaluation March 3rd.

We were graded on the following areas:



Training

ISO looks at how many training hours each person has and what area of training

2024 Hours 15,548

Administrative

ISO looks at our administrative personnel, officers, policies and any contracts we currently have

Houses and Businesses

ISO looks at how many houses, business, and the sizes. This calculates into “fire flow” and the needed “fire flow.” It also looks at the height of houses and businesses.

Equipment

ISO looks at and grades our equipment

Community Risk Reduction

Fire prevention, Inspections, investigations

ISO Evaluation

What is our next ISO rating looking like?



Things happening in 2025

Consolidation of BSU (Beach Services Unit) and ORU
(Ocean Rescue Unit)



Oak Island Ocean Rescue/Beach Services
Division

Combining BSU and ORU to continue to provide beach
enforcement while enhancing safety and efficiencies.

Things happening in 2025

Consolidation of BSU (Beach Services Unit) and ORU (Ocean Rescue Unit)

The consolidation/restructure of the Town of Oak Island Ocean Rescue and Beach Services Unit will provide an enhanced service level for our residents and guests that attend our beach.

This enhanced service level coupled with a reduction of apparatus on the beach strand provides an enhanced level of safety patrols while also enhancing our education to those that utilize the beach along with continued enforcement when required.

Objectives – Priorities

Safety - Education - Response -
Enforcement

Things happening in 2025

Consolidation of BSU (Beach Services Unit) and
ORU (Ocean Rescue Unit)

Objectives – Priorities

**Safety - Education - Response -
Enforcement**

- Provide a safe environment for residents and visitors that utilize our beach
- Provide education to residents and visitors
- Provide sufficient patrols for a rapid response to emergency situations on the beach strand
- Provide, when necessary, enforcement of the Town Ordinances when education does not provide a satisfactory result

FIRE FEE vs FIRE TAX

Fire fees are charges for fire services, while fire taxes fund fire departments and other services.

Fire fees

- Charged to properties within a fire district
- Used to pay for fire department operations, such as equipment, supplies, and personnel training
- Calculated based on property size, not tax value
- May be billed on property tax bills
- Are NOT tax deductible

Fire taxes

- Fund fire departments, emergency medical response, and rescue services
- May be included in property taxes
- Based on property tax value both homes and personal property
- ARE tax deductible

FIRE FEE vs FIRE TAX

The Fire Fee system has reached a point of
diminishing returns
and is an inadequate source of funding.

County Manager Steve Stone

The need for a change from the Fire Fee System to a
Fire Tax system is upon us.

Brunswick County is the last county in North Carolina
utilizing the Fire Fee system.

To better prepare for the future, to place consistent
revenue growth assumptions and to allow for
appropriate funding, the Town of Oak Island needs to
consider switching from Fire Fees to a Fire Tax system

FIRE FEE vs FIRE TAX

Fire fees generated by the Town of Oak Island Fire District 2024

- \$2,824,345.00

Additional funding provided by the General Fund

- \$1,359,570.00

Total funding appropriation for the Fire Department

- \$4,183,915.00

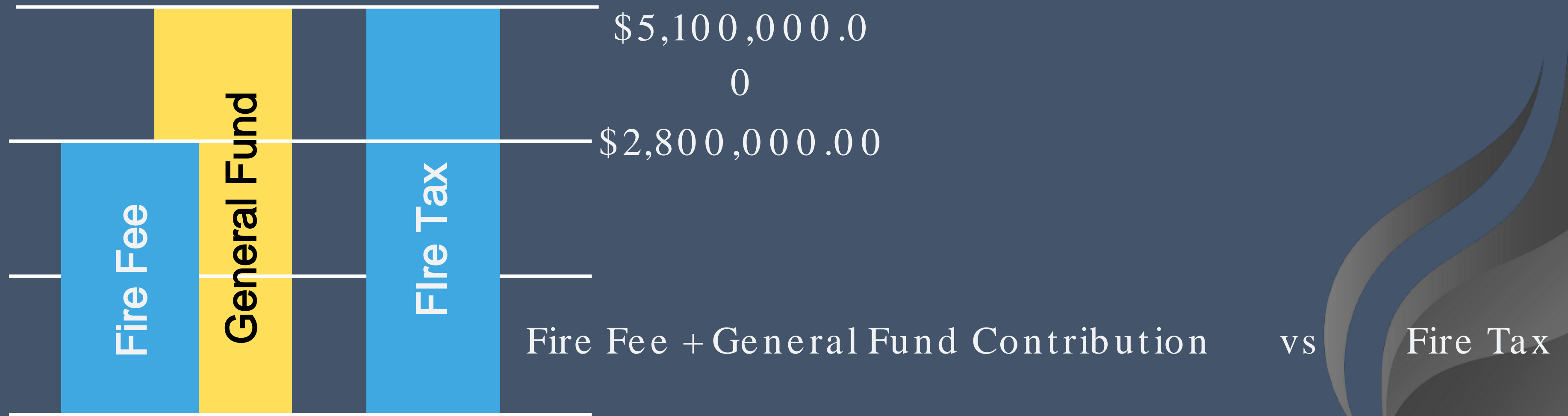
Funding Breakdown

- Personnel \$2,575,600.00
- Operations \$954,001.00
- Capital \$ 654,314.00

FIRE FEE vs FIRE TAX

What does the revenue neutral rate look like
converting from a fire fee to a fire tax

We are currently calculating the revenue neutral rate



FIRE FEE vs FIRE TAX

Why make this change?

Objectives

Accurate Consistent Revenue Assumptions

- Clear

Revenue Projections

- Efficient Budgeting

Adequate Funding Source

- Ability to make clear revenue assumptions based on values
- Ability to have clear revenue projections for budgeting
- Provides for more efficient budgeting by having better information
- Current Fire Fee system is an inadequate funding source

Strategic Plan Results

Staffing

Complete Staffing Plan:
Obtain staffing to comply with NFPA 1710 and OSHA

Funding

Convert Fire Fees Schedule to Fire Tax

Facilities

Complete Station design and construction:
2025 - Planning
2026 - Construction
2027 - Opening



Q&A Session

Thank You!

Let's move forward together

*The only people we have to be better
than are the people we are right now.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION



910-278-1000



OakIslandNC.gov/FD



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