



Public Safety Commission

# AGENDA

---

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

**7:00 p.m.**

This meeting includes in-person and virtual participation.

Albany Fire Department Station 11

611 Lyon St SE, The Ralston Room

Or join the meeting here:

<https://council.albanyoregon.gov/groups/saf/zoom>

Please help us get Albany's work done.

Be respectful and refer to the rules of conduct posted by the main door to the Chambers and on the website.

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of April 3, 2024, minutes. (Pages 1-4)
4. Department reports
  - a. Police- Jerry Drum
  - b. Fire- Chris LaBelle
5. Business from the members
6. Next meeting date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at the Albany Police Department
7. Adjournment

*This meeting is accessible to the public via video connection. The location for in-person attendance is accessible to people with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify city staff at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at: [rochelle.james@albanyoregon.gov](mailto:rochelle.james@albanyoregon.gov) 541-917-7564*

*Testimony provided at the meeting is part of the public record. Meetings are recorded, capturing both in-person and virtual participation, and are posted on the City website.*

[albanyoregon.gov](http://albanyoregon.gov)





## MINUTES

April 3, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Community Room, Albany Police Department/VIRTUAL

Draft:

### Call to Order

Erik Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

Members present: Pat Kidd, Erik Rau, Evan Church, Kevin Kreitman, Erik Anderson,

Members absent: Cynthia Greene, Nicholas Fowler, Adam Brenneman

Staff present: Marcia Harnden, Police Chief; Shane Wooton, Fire Chief;  
Rochelle James, Administrative Assistant I

February 7, 2024, Minutes were approved as submitted.

### Staff Updates

#### **Police Update – Chief Marcia Harnden**

Chief Harnden discussed the current crime statistics, noting that person crimes increased slightly and auto thefts and car break-ins remain elevated. The police department is trying to troubleshoot several areas, such as Eads Park, Simpson Park, and Talking Water Gardens. Growth and new construction areas are suffering some ongoing criminal activity. The department is attempting to address those with current available resources. APD noted no significant changes in statistics. Calls for service are up slightly. Overdoses are trending where expected, indicating this year will be another challenging year for overdose deaths in the city, beginning with the first death recorded on New Year's Day in 2024. The department is trying to increase the availability of Narcan to prevent overdose deaths.

HB402 was signed by the Governor yesterday. The law enforcement aspects of the bill do not become laws until September 1, 2024, to allow courts, jails, parole and probation, and departments to prepare. Chief Harnden discussed the number of officers without experience arresting someone for drug possession. She also discussed the difficulties associated with the enforcement of these drug crimes, such as a lack of resources, the drain on the criminal justice system, facilities to deal with drug dependency, and mental health issues. These much-needed resources will not be available by September 1, 2024. Chief Harnden discussed the possibility of implementing a deflection program. Currently, there is no deflection program in Linn County. Linn County does have a drug court with a diversion program in place. APD will discuss what enforcement will look like with the DA and Linn County. Benton County does not have any deflection program or diversion program available. Chief Harnden said she did not expect an immediate change in livability issues.

Due to retirements and a couple of unexpected departures, APD is hiring for several positions. Efforts to fill those positions are ramping up. Two to three other retirements are expected towards the end of the year. Chief Harnden discussed upcoming promotions and promotional processes, vacancies to be filled, hiring, testing, and background checks for potential candidates.

The East side substation is up and running. Chief Harnden discussed the impact of having that facility available and its proximity to major retailers, the number one users of APD services. Officers have been utilizing the locations. Having a regular presence on that side of the city is very important.

Chief Harnden discussed the current overdose trend and her expectation that overdose deaths will continue and potentially rise. She discussed the Narcan Leave Behind program and its potential impact on saving lives from overdose deaths. She also discusses community organizations handing out clean needles to reduce harm; however, the department cannot condone drug activity on public property. She also discussed participating in a sequential intercept mapping exercise in Benton County, bringing together law enforcement, courts, jail, probation, care providers, and mental health to examine what a person dealing with drug addiction and or mental health issues navigating the criminal justice system experience. The exercise examines what avenues are available to a person in those circumstances to get them into services, what is available, and where there are gaps. There was also discussion regarding the roles other organizations play in helping with addiction and mental health issues and the need for treatment facilities in the area.

Chief Harnden also noted the Albany Police Department annual report for 2023 is completed and available on the Albany Police Department page of the city website.

Chief Harnden also explained the assessment process for candidates in the promotional process. The process consists of peer surveys, a written assignment, an inbox exercise, a role-playing exercise, and an oral interview panel. Chief Wooton compared this process to the process for apparatus operators with the fire department, noting that the process is very similar. Also, it includes a driving test overseen by an APD officer.

### **Fire Update – Chief Shane Wooton**

Chief Wooton provided a copy of the monthly report and the Albany Fire Department Annual Report for 2023. Chief Wooton highlighted several items in both reports. Calls for service have slowed. All the other categories have remained constant.

Chief Wooton discussed AFD's response to two fatal fires within ten days, which is atypical for Albany. Albany Fire Department and Albany Police Department are investigating both fires. The details will not be known until all the reports are complete. In both cases, there were no active smoke detectors in either home. Chief Wooton emphasized the importance of an active working smoke detector. Both fires were smaller, put out with less than 100 gallons of water, and isolated to a small area, but if you are sleeping, you need to be alerted to the fire. Smoke detectors save lives. AFD has been partnering with The Red Cross in the Stop the Smoke campaign. Volunteers canvassed some manufactured homes parks, and 70 residences signed up for smoke detectors to be installed on April 13, 2024. Also, on April 13, 2024, AFD will be having a "Burn to Learn" event to train in real fire scenarios. The location is behind the Boys and Girls Club. AFD will announce the event on social media.

Chief Wooton discussed clearing brush behind the fence lines of the 53rd Avenue neighborhood through a community partnership and grant funding from the Oregon State Fire Marshall Office for wildfire

fighting projects. The project is complicated because it must address the many concerns of interested parties in the area, such as the ecological impact or the impact on wildlife. Chief Wooton advised that there is a lot of support from the community.

Chief Wooton advised that Battalion Chief Jamie Smith has retired. He also discussed recognizing community and department members at the March 13, 2024, City Council meeting for their efforts at the fire on Green Acres Avenue. AA Towing and AFD members were recognized for their assistance in a technical rescue effort in which a car was upside down in the canal on Vine Street. AA Towing employees practice with AFD on technical rescues.

Albany Fire Department received a grant to purchase a new fire truck. The truck should be in service by July 2024.

Hiring is ongoing and there are multiple processes in varying stages occurring. Many new employees will be coming on board due to retirements and separations.

Chief Wooton discussed the possibility of building a training facility behind Station 12 on 34th Avenue. It will have a training structure but not a full four-story tower. AFD is considering upgrading the way dispatching tones are received to more current technology with a computerized voice that dispatches members. The stations will receive the information and then use escalating tones and lights to alert members to an incoming call for service. Bids are being accepted for these investments, and those decisions will be made shortly. Chief Wooton discussed the capital outlay at the dispatch center as a shared cost between Albany, Lebanon, and Corvallis. He discussed the changes and how the implementation will affect the Linn County Sheriff's Office dispatch center. He also discussed the changes to the five fire department stations.

Chief Wooton briefly reviewed the annual report and highlighted the work of various individuals and programs. He noted work done by Hillary Kosmicki with the Housing Empowerment Action League and the work of Deputy Fire Marshal Alfredo Mendez as a liaison to the Latino community. Last year, AFD hosted its first all-Spanish CPR class. AFD will receive a tactical water tender through a State Fire Marshals office grant. The truck can go off-road in more rural areas. New turnouts for all firefighters were purchased in June 2023. Payments can now be accepted online for ambulance billing. The Albany Fire Fighters Community Assistance Fund Gold Tournament has been raising money and has \$46,000.00 in available funds. AFD received a new medic unit in July 2023. AFD received a \$500,000.00 grant from Samaritan Health to expand the community paramedic program, and the AED loaner program was launched in September 2023.

Chief Wooton advised that this would be his last Public Safety Commission meeting. He will be retiring on June 28, 2024. June will be a transition month as Chief Labelle takes over the duties of Fire Chief. Chief Wooton thanked all those who had participated in the commission, participated in an essential function of local government, and provided guidance.

There was additional discussion regarding possible guest speakers for upcoming Public Safety Commission meetings.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at the Albany Fire Department Station 11.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Erik Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Rochelle James  
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewer's Name  
Reviewer's Title

*\*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing [cityclerk@cityofalbany.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofalbany.net).*



# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION DEPARTMENT REPORT APRIL 2024



CRIME SNAPSHOT						
Selected Group A Offenses	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	% Chg	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	% Chg
<b>Person</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>	<span style="color: red;">●</span> 48.00%	<b>60</b>	<b>79</b>	<span style="color: red;">●</span> 31.67%
Homicide	0	0	● N/C	3	1	● -66.67%
Rape	1	1	● 0.00%	1	3	● 200.00%
Ag Assault	3	3	● 0.00%	6	11	● 83.33%
Assault - Other	18	25	● 38.89%	45	52	● 15.56%
Sex Crime	3	8	● 166.67%	5	12	● 140.00%
Human Trafficking	0	0	● N/C	0	0	● N/C
Domestic (subset of above)	6	4	● -33.33%	16	10	● -37.50%
<b>Property</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>123</b>	<span style="color: red;">●</span> 4.24%	<b>266</b>	<b>260</b>	<span style="color: green;">●</span> -2.26%
Robbery - Residence	0	0	● N/C	0	0	● N/C
Robbery - Business	0	0	● N/C	0	0	● N/C
Robbery - Other	1	0	● -100.00%	2	1	● -50.00%
Robbery 3 (subset of above)	1	0	● -100.00%	1	1	● 0.00%
Burglary - Business	3	3	● 0.00%	6	10	● 66.67%
Burglary - Other	3	2	● -33.33%	4	3	● -25.00%
Burglary - Residence	4	5	● 25.00%	9	6	● -33.33%
Stolen Vehicle	10	6	● -40.00%	23	11	● -52.17%
Larceny - From Vehicle	13	7	● -46.15%	35	14	● -60.00%
Larceny - Shoplifting	27	36	● 33.33%	59	78	● 32.20%
Larceny - Other	30	35	● 16.67%	61	63	● 3.28%
Arson	0	0	● N/C	1	1	● 0.00%
Vandalism	14	6	● -57.14%	30	15	● -50.00%
Fraud - Credit Card	1	2	● 100.00%	3	7	● 133.33%
Fraud - ID Theft	4	10	● 150.00%	10	26	● 160.00%
Fraud - Other	8	11	● 37.50%	23	25	● 8.70%
<b>Society</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>45</b>	<span style="color: red;">●</span> 95.65%	<b>58</b>	<b>75</b>	<span style="color: red;">●</span> 29.31%
Animal Cruelty	1	1	● 0.00%	1	3	● 200.00%
Drug Laws	6	8	● 33.33%	11	10	● -9.09%
DUII	5	23	● 360.00%	18	39	● 116.67%
Weapons Laws	11	13	● 18.18%	28	23	● -17.86%
<b>Livability</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>50</b>	<span style="color: red;">●</span> 47.06%	<b>85</b>	<b>104</b>	<span style="color: red;">●</span> 22.35%
Abandoned Vehicle	32	42	● 31.25%	79	91	● 15.19%
Junk/Trash	1	8	● 700.00%	3	13	● 333.33%
Overnight/Prohibited Camping	1	0	● -100.00%	3	0	● -100.00%
<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>Feb 2023</b>	<b>Feb 2024</b>	<b>% Chg</b>	<b>2023 YTD</b>	<b>2024 YTD</b>	<b>% Chg</b>
Call Source	2489	2783	● 11.81%	5198	5745	● 10.52%
Dispatched Calls	1373	1474	● 7.36%	2913	2989	● 2.61%
Self-Initiated Calls	1116	1309	● 17.29%	2285	2756	● 20.61%
<b>Response Time (Minutes)</b>						
Priority P & 1	5.00	5.40	● 7.96%	4.45	5.28	● 18.47%
Priority 2 & 3	8.59	11.72	● 36.44%	9.15	10.74	● 17.35%
Priority 4+	5.50	4.97	● -9.59%	5.20	7.53	● 44.87%

*Changes in small numbers can result in large percentage changes and must be viewed with caution.*

03/26/2024 12:38



Albany Police Department								
Narcan	Year	ODs	OD Death	Heroin	Fentanyl	Meth	LSD	Marijuana
10	2019	21	2	12	2	3	1	3
20	2020	29	1	14	4	6	2	2
39	2021	50	4	21	15	7	1	1
72	2022	91	11	14	63	18	0	8
155	2023	126	18	5	104	22	1	5
21	2024	21	3	0	17	2	0	1

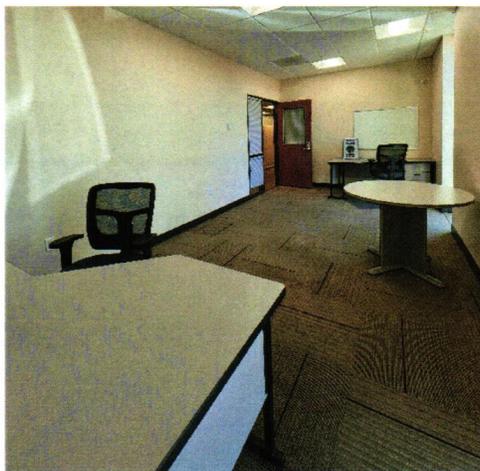
\*Year to Date



**HIRING**

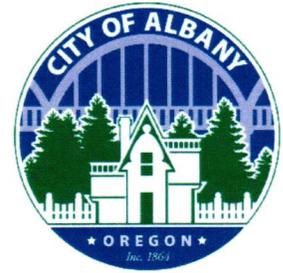
2024 HIRING	
2024 total hires	3
PENDNG HIRES	1 POLICE OFFICERS
VACANCIES	4

East Substation





**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
DEPARTMENT REPORT  
April 3, 2024**



Albany Fire Department Total Responses				
Month	FY 21 Total	FY 22 Total	FY 23 Total	FY 24 Total
July	858	1,070	992	1,001
August	884	1,048	968	1,018
September	893	1,010	920	862
October	866	958	972	957
November	824	941	970	891
December	876	945	1158	970
January	883	911	1007	1118
February	817	829	914	816
March	795	853	880	936
April	926	864	905	
May	905	896	891	
June	922	936	924	
Total	10,449	11,291	11,495	8,569
Fiscal Year 24 Projection 11,425				

Fire & Life Safety Evaluations				
Month	FY 21	FY 22	FY23	FY24
July	126	142	79	65
August	113	98	97	51
September	113	88	60	98
October	123	69	54	82
November	144	85	31	70
December	114	95	83	86
January	107	172	72	52
February	86	132	72	52
March	117	110	102	76
April	145	92	54	
May	205	73	57	
June	175	175	75	
Total	1,568	1,083	836	

Community Paramedic Activity				
Month	FY 21	FY 22	F23	FY24
July	24	40	47	28
August	33	50	29	45
September	16	45	26	24
October	46	46	38	40
November	70	13	40	53
December	35	14	23	39
January	42	30	58	56
February	16	21	19	
March	17	14	54	
April	9	33	33	
May	24	29	64	
June	38	44	46	
Total	370	306	477	285

Average Response Times City of Albany Calls Only 911 Call Received to Arrival Time				
	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24 (Average)
Emergent Responses	7:15	7:10	7:18	7:07
Structure Fires	6:08	6:18	6:09	6:36

CUSTOMER SERVICE · DIVERSE ORGANIZATION · INTEGRITY ·  
HEALTH & WELFARE · PROFESSIONALISM & TEAMWORK

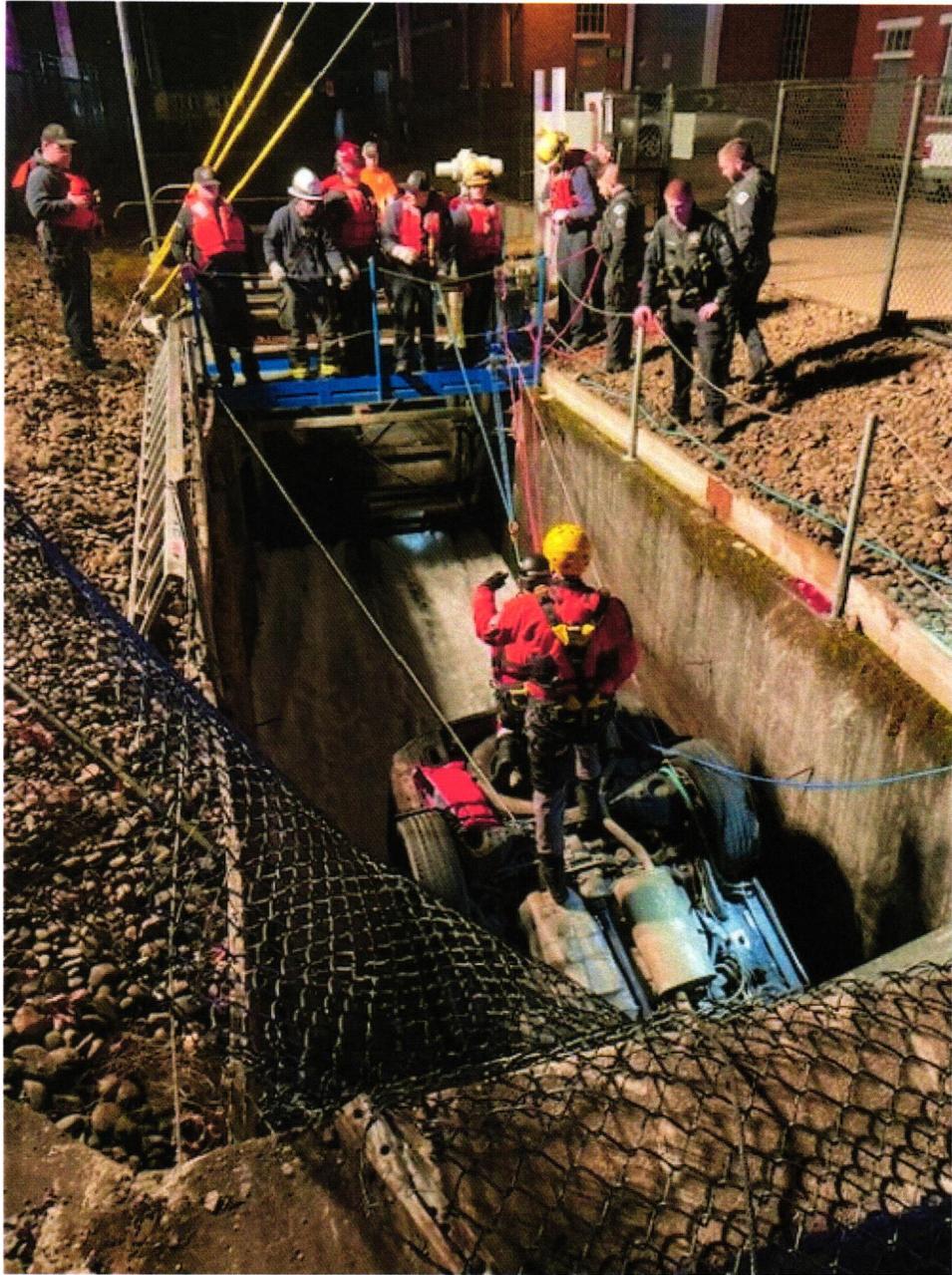
Top 25 Responses	Count
SICK PERSON	1293
FALL	802
LIFT ASSIST	667
BREATHING PROBLEMS	625
UNKNOWN MEDICAL PROBLEM	442
CHEST PAIN	432
FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION	417
UNCONSCIOUS FAINTING	398
TRANSFER	395
MVC INJURY	386
OD INGESTION POISONING	209
SEIZURE	173
STROKE CVA TIA	167
HEMORRHAGE BLEED	161
DIABETIC PROBLEM	141
ABDOMINAL PAIN OR PROBLEMS	140
EMERGENCY TRANSFER	124
SMALL MISC FIRE	117
HEART PROBLEMS AICD	115
PSYCHIATRIC SUICIDE ATTEMPT	110
FIRE MOVEUP ONLY	110
CARDIAC OR RESPIRATORY ARREST	106
TRAUMA INJURY	97
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	95
STRUCTURE FIRE	81

Concurrency	
# of Calls	Frequency
1	3224
2	2955
3	1509
4	624
5	174
6	59
7	12
8	6
9	3
10	3

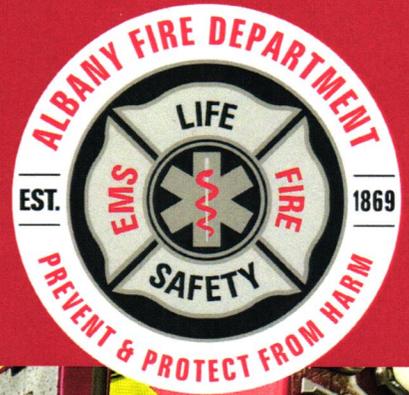
Row Labels	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Grand Total
00	35	40	39	24	33	25	34	230
01	35	32	22	32	22	25	40	208
02	37	20	27	27	35	24	33	203
03	31	24	27	19	25	27	21	174
04	34	20	24	27	19	16	22	162
05	26	33	23	31	34	23	21	191
06	31	35	35	32	43	28	35	239
07	44	39	45	50	46	44	29	297
08	45	53	53	60	64	48	41	364
09	59	70	64	71	77	73	44	458
10	59	82	76	80	55	60	64	476
11	47	74	71	67	52	57	67	435
12	70	77	75	95	69	72	65	523
13	66	75	87	85	77	68	58	516
14	74	71	72	72	71	43	60	463
15	51	57	67	65	69	70	51	430
16	66	69	64	76	68	85	50	478
17	71	64	60	76	65	73	60	469
18	63	61	78	75	94	72	68	511
19	64	49	60	54	51	72	59	409
20	60	49	63	59	65	62	54	412
21	47	55	67	55	40	51	49	364
22	45	35	35	39	45	53	38	290
23	39	36	46	38	28	41	39	267
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1199</b>	<b>1220</b>	<b>1280</b>	<b>1309</b>	<b>1247</b>	<b>1212</b>	<b>1102</b>	<b>8569</b>

CUSTOMER SERVICE · DIVERSE ORGANIZATION · INTEGRITY ·  
HEALTH & WELFARE · PROFESSIONALISM & TEAMWORK





# 2023



# Year In Review



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the professional and dedicated members of the Albany Fire Department, it is my honor to present our 2023 annual report.



**Chief Shane Wooton**

The past year was filled with impactful items that may not draw headlines, but significantly moved us towards our department's mission of *Prevent and Protect from Harm*.

In 2023 we received and implemented the federal Staffing

for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant and hired three new members for our department. In turn, we began staffing four firefighters on our truck company in the evening hours when the risk to life safety from fire is at its highest.

An additional firefighter on the truck allows us to be more effective when performing fireground activities, as evidenced by a recent fire in North Albany where enough firefighters were present early enough in the incident to rescue a citizen who was trapped in their home.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

---

In addition, because of funding from the Ground Emergency Medical Transport program (GEMT) the department stood up a single role EMT program. We noticed that due to high demand for EMS services, additional capacity was needed to meet the needs of the community. Additional first responders were hired to staff a peak activity ambulance.

The department also made strides towards improving our fleet and equipment. We completed the specification and purchasing process for a new fire truck using the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant. The truck is anticipated to arrive in Spring of 2024. The department also purchased a refurbished ambulance to add to the fleet, saving our community a significant amount of money and adding ambulance fleet capacity to our busy EMS system. To cap things off, the department received a grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office for a "Mobile Attack Tender" to augment our fleet and ensure adequate water supply can be transported to non-hydrated service areas. The tender is also slated to arrive in the Spring of 2024.

In recent years, difficult budget shortages halted the purchase of new turnouts for assigning two full NFPA-compliant sets of turnouts to our first responders. Due to an aggressive savings plan, the department was able to purchase a new set of turnouts for each responder, ensuring their primary and back-up turnouts were compliant to the highest standards.

**“[With] funding from the Ground Emergency Medical Transport program (GEMT) the department stood up a single role EMT program ... due to high demand for EMS services.”**

As you'll see in this report, significant progress was also made in preventing harm to our community this past year. The department received funding to expand the community paramedic program to help address the houseless situation affecting Albany citizens and the local health care system. In response to our community's growing Latino population, we offered our first free CPR training conducted all in Spanish.

We also conducted our free Youth Cardiac Screening event, which manifested itself by identifying an adolescent in our community who was predisposed to having a significant cardiac event. The teenager was able to get surgery and avoid a potential life ending event at a young age. We also partnered with local Rotary clubs and the Albany Safety Foundation to implement an AED Loaner

program that allows community members to check out an AED for gatherings and events.

As Fire Chief, I'm amazed and blessed to witness the members of our department work tirelessly to provide a high level of service in a busy department. They do so with an unparalleled dedication to professionalism, empathy, and a desire to be the best version of themselves.



**Chief Shane Wooton**

# JANUARY

At the beginning of 2023, recruit **Davis Blackmon** graduated from academy 2022-B and started on his shift.



**Budgeting** for the biennium began in earnest as we geared up to plan the next two years beginning July 1. North Albany Rural Fire Protection District provided the budget for purchase of a new HVAC unit for Station 14, which is expected to be delivered in 2024. Another purchase was made by Palestine Rural Fire Protection District, who provided a new treadmill to help keep Albany's firefighters in top shape. These partnerships with our fellow fire districts are very important to AFD and we appreciate and value their contributions to the department.

Community Paramedic Hillary Kosmicki established **HEAL (Housing Empowerment Action League)**. This group connects medical professionals, police, fire, and local shelters along with organizations and agencies dedicated to addressing homelessness in the city. The group has been instrumental in helping reduce reliance on 911 calls and emergency room visits for non-emergent problems (which strain an already tight system) and providing services to help those experiencing homelessness. The group meets monthly to discuss ways in which available services can best be matched to those in need of them.



# FEBRUARY



Albany Fire continued its **8th grade CPR** training program (funded by the Albany Public Safety Foundation). The location of Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests (OHCA) most often occurs in homes/residences (73.4%), followed by public settings (16.3%). According to the American Heart Association, if CPR is performed immediately, the chance of survival can double or even triple. This program has trained over 6,000 Albany children so far.



AFD was excited to resume its in-person **Annual Recognition (Awards) Banquet** for the first time since the start of COVID.

Retirees and active-duty personnel and their families gathered at Sybaris Bistro, who very generously hosted AFD to an excellent meal to celebrate as we awarded our 2022

**Performers of the Year:**



**OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**  
LT BRADY HALLOCK



**APPARATUS OPERATOR OF THE YEAR:**  
AO KEITH GILLESPIE



**EMS PROVIDERS OF THE YEAR:**  
FF CHAD JONES (LEFT) AND  
FF JACKSON MEHL (RIGHT)



**FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:**  
FF HANS REERSLEV



**HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR:**  
AO MICHAEL HURLEY

# MARCH

The Training Division held **Advanced Cardiac Life Saving (ACLS) training** for the department.

AFD welcomes Christopher Kinkade, Gavin Larson, Graham Steffen, Anthony Temple, and Griffin Whitney into **Recruit Academy 2023-A**. These new recruits, three of whom were hired under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response – or SAFER grant, started their 10-week academy and trained hard to work up to the AFD standard. Their presence increases operational efficiency throughout the department by ensuring that AFD operates at a safe level of staffing.

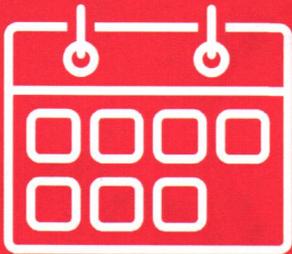


Senior DFM Alfredo Méndez and a group of the department's Spanish speakers presented the **first ever all-Spanish CPR training** to parents in the South Albany High School Spanish Parent Group. Cardiac survivability is greatly enhanced by the application of CPR and defibrillation in a timely manner, and these parents stepped up to learn how to perform CPR correctly for the benefit of the community.



# APRIL

The department received an **Oregon State Fire Marshal Engine Program Grant**. This grant is funded by OSFM using monies dedicated during the last State of Oregon biennial budget process. The grant program made available a limited number of pre-specified Type 3, Type 6, and Mobile Attack Tenders to all fire departments in the state. AFD made the decision to apply for a Mobile Attack Tender due to the age of our current tender (1994) and its frequent age-related issues. OSFM received 192 applications, and 76 departments were granted the award. AFD will take possession of the new tender in 2024.



**A new two-day on, three-day off schedule** begins for the department. This new schedule will be for an 18-month trial period.

AFD personnel, under the guidance of APD Mental Health Intervention Specialist Kiersten Glaeser, learned about the city's **Crisis Intervention Program and methods to aid people experiencing a mental health crisis**. This included ways to approach a person in crisis, as well as de-escalation methods for when things start to get out of hand.

AFD hosted a **S-270 Basic Air Operations course** for attendees from around the state. The course, which was funded by a grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal and put on through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, covers aviation management, tactical and logistic uses of aircraft, and requirements for helicopter operations, including take-off and landing areas. Students attended from districts and departments throughout the state.

A graphic of a calendar page with the word "MAY" written in large, bold, red capital letters on a white background. The calendar has two white rings at the top.

# MAY

Community member and balloon enthusiast Tim Gale presented **hot air balloon safety training** to ensure the department knows what the correct safety procedures are in the event of a hot air balloon fire or accident. AFD personnel were glad to review this timely knowledge ahead of the Art & Air Festival in August.





# JUNE

AFD crews were fitted for **new turnouts**. These replace existing turnouts, some of which were over 10 years old. This will ensure that our firefighters have the requisite gear to fight fires and stay safe while doing so.

All first responders in the department **recertified their EMS credentials**. This occurs every other year, and department EMS personnel must undergo between 24 to 48 hours of continued education in each of five different categories, depending on their level of certification. This is in addition to the experience they demonstrate while on the job. Last year 89 percent of all AFD calls were medical calls; that represents a lot of experience! Our top EMS trainees LT Shane Castle, Division Chief Scott Cowan, FF Ronnie Garcia, AO Tom Henke, FF Chad Jones, FF Christian Metzger, FF Graham Steffen, and EMS Chief Ray Wooldridge all logged over 100 hours of EMS training in the last biennium.



The **Willamette Valley Heart Screening**, funded by AFFCAF and the Albany Fire Department, and conducted in conjunction with the Cody Stephens Foundation and Albany schools, uses ECGs to screen school-age children for cardiac risk. These ECGs are then read by licensed cardiologists who notify parents in the event of any irregularities. This year at the event, the program identified a cardiac anomaly in a child who later underwent surgery for a rare heart condition. This discovery was a great success for the program.

Albany Fire took a step into the future with a **new online payment portal** for FireMed and ambulance bills, offering a much more convenient way for customers to pay.

**Conflagrations:** Lt. Mark Bernt deployed as a task force leader to the Hat Rock Fire.



# JULY

AFD's Technical Rescue Team conducted **Confined Space Tech Rescue training** with Department of Energy-National Energy Technology Laboratory (DOE-NETL). It is important to train with our local agencies and businesses where there might be extra risk in case of an accident. DOE-NETL included AFD personnel in their collapse exercise to help train in confined space rescue – one of the most dangerous types of rescue.

**NW Natural Gas provided training** for line crews for what to do in cases of a pipeline fire. There are several pipelines in the area, so it is critical that crews know what to do if something goes awry. The Training Division also held **standpipe drills at LBCC.**



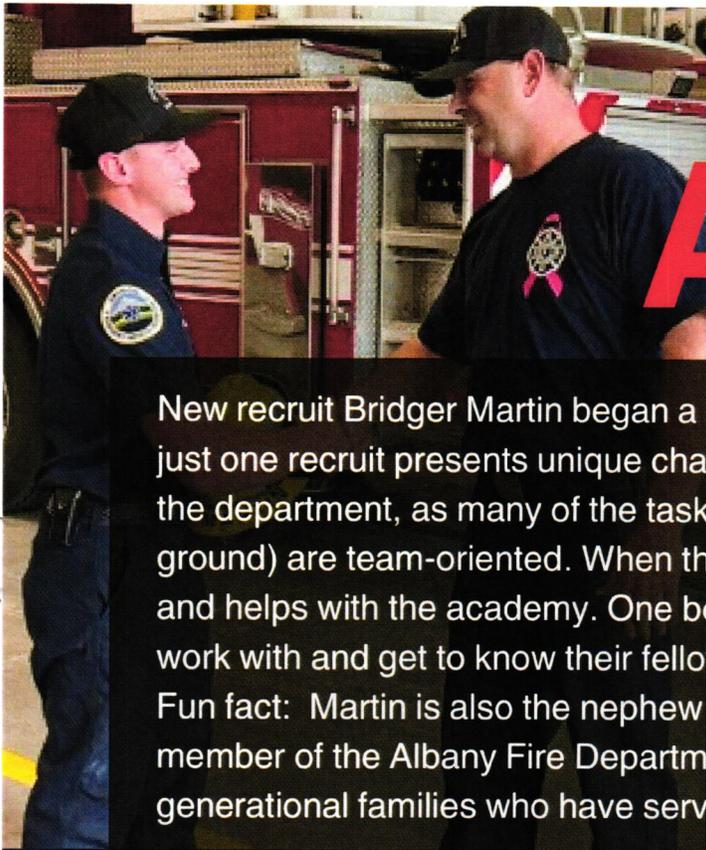
**Conflagrations:** Lt. Ray Wooldridge deployed to the Moon Mountain Fire as an assistant task force leader, and Deputy Chief Chris LaBelle deployed to the Golden Fire on the incident management team.



Players from around the area gathered for the friendly **Annual AFFCAF Rick Rebel Golf Tournament**, named in honor of long-time benefactor Rick Rebel. This year's tournament raised almost \$11,000 for the Albany Fire Fighters Community Assistance Fund which goes toward providing bicycle helmets, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, life vests, and other needs to the community.



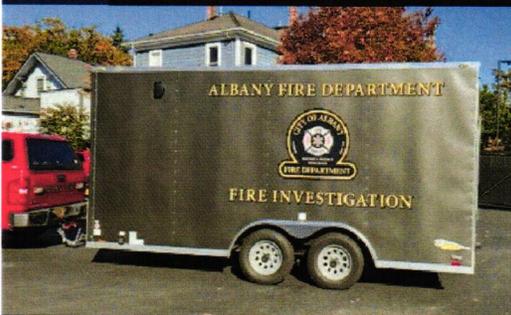
**AFD purchased a new (to us) medic unit** from Hughes Fire Equipment with a used "box" and a new chassis, which was a significant cost savings from purchasing an all-new unit. This makes seven ambulances for the department. This ambulance was needed with the re-start of the Medic 10 program so that AFD can have adequate reserve units, and it allows the department to remount other ambulances that have high mileage.



# AUGUST



New recruit Bridger Martin began a **solo Academy 2023-B**. An academy with just one recruit presents unique challenges for both the incoming firefighter and the department, as many of the tasks performed in academy (and on the fire ground) are team-oriented. When this happens, the entire department pitches in and helps with the academy. One benefit to this is that the new recruit is able to work with and get to know their fellow crew members prior to going on the line. Fun fact: Martin is also the nephew of firefighter Damon Martin, a long-time member of the Albany Fire Department. Albany is proud of the many multi-generational families who have served in the department.



AFD purchased a **new trailer for the Albany Fire Investigation Group**. The department budgeted carefully to buy the trailer for the ongoing needs of fire investigations. This 7' x 16' trailer holds all the tools, materials, and personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary for fire investigators to perform their duties.

The probability of large fires west of the Cascades is a new grim reality and this has caused a paradigm shift throughout Linn County as departments around the county refocus on the issue of wildfires closer to home. Both fires required evacuation notices and a request to the Oregon State Fire Marshal for additional task forces from outside the geographic area. All told, both fires consumed over 500 acres, but most importantly no lives or homes were lost.

Lt. Shane Castle spearheaded Fire Studio (fire simulation program) training for the department. It uses computer modeling of actual fire behavior overlaid on photos of real locations to train firefighters in strategy and tactics. The program can be used to pre-plan and review different incidents.

**Conflagrations:** Lt. Ray Wooldridge, Lt. Levi Lindsey, and Deputy Chief Kyle Romey deployed the Tye Ridge Fire on task forces and the incident management team. Deputy Chief Chris LaBelle deployed to the Smith River Fire on the incident management team. We also supplied mutual aid to two large incidents over multiple periods: the Piceboro Fire (Harrisburg) and Wiley Fire (Sweet Home).

# SEPTEMBER

**Antiques in the Streets** drew crowds from around the state to display their antique and restored vehicles. Active and retired department staff proudly displayed the Steamer engine and the newly restored Seagraves engine. Every year, Antiques in the Streets selects a worthy charity to donate proceeds to; this year, they made a generous donation of \$9,000 to AFFCAF.



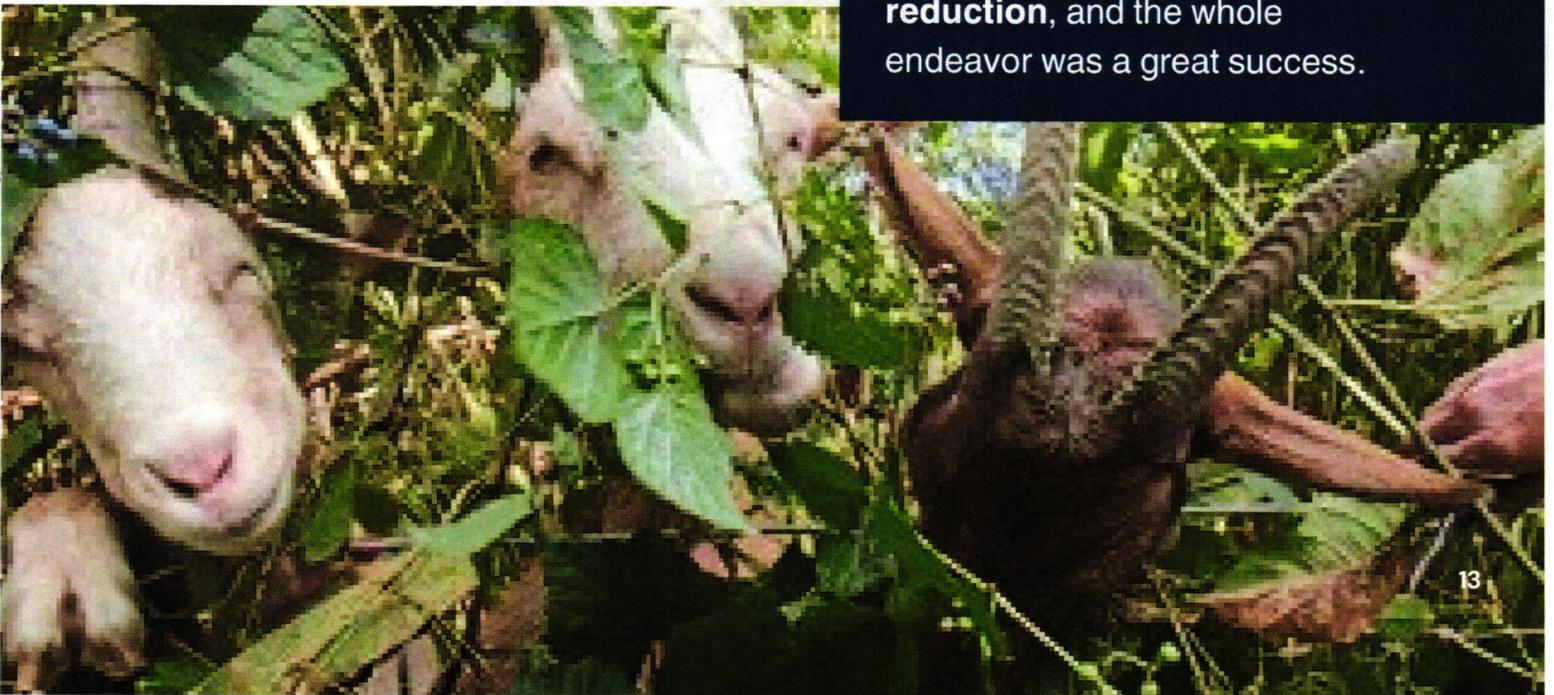
The third annual **AFFCAF Cornhole Tournament** brought together teams from the public safety fields and raised over \$1,900 for AFFCAF.

Albany City Council approved the acceptance of the **\$500,000 Samaritan Health Plans – InterCommunity Health Network grant** which will go toward growing the Community Paramedic program by 0.5 FTE for the next two years. This program, originally directed toward helping patients recently released from the hospital, has proven instrumental in helping, among others, the houseless and those recently released from incarceration. Deputy Chief Kyle Romey will transition into a half-time position in this program, working alongside current Community Paramedic Hillary Kosmicki.



Cardiac survivability is an important focus for the department because sudden cardiac arrest can happen at any time, to anyone, at any age. In addition to the speedy performance of CPR, using an AED can give a patient the best possible chance to survive. The **new AED Loaner program** makes an AED available to the public for special events. The public can sign up to borrow the AED online through the Albany Fire Department website; training is provided.

AFD was awarded a \$10,000 fire prevention grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal to be used for defensible space/fire fuel reduction in North Albany (removing shrubs and brush from around buildings to lessen the chance of fires). After determining that hiring contractors to remove the brush would be too expensive, DFM Sandy Roberts (with approval from residents in North Albany) hired a herd of goats which ate up all the brush and climbing ivy without destroying the stability of the soil. The goats cheered up everyone, used a **novel approach to fuel reduction**, and the whole endeavor was a great success.





Representatives from **Life Flight** air medical transport came to AFD to train personnel in the hazardous process of landing a helicopter and loading patients into it. Air medical transport is especially useful in cases of critical patients who have experienced severe trauma or burns, when transport by a ground ambulance will take too long to reach the necessary hospital or burn unit. This valuable training was also attended by members of the Jefferson and Scio fire departments.

Every year AFD personnel gather to help teach local youth about firefighting and fire safety as the kids travel from station to station collecting stamps on a special passport created for the occasion. **The annual Treasure Hunt** also gives community residents valuable information on things like bike helmet fittings, car seat safety, cooking safety, and smoke alarm education with help from APD and Tangent FD.



AFD learned about **local midwife services**, discussed labor and delivery practices, and the differences in scope of practice from Mid-Valley Birth Midwives.

# NOVEMBER

## New EMS Division Chief Ray

**Wooldridge** was promoted effective November 1. Chief Wooldridge is a former Field Training Officer for the department and is a paramedical instructor at Chemeketa College, so he comes to the position with a strong background in medical operations. This promotion is in line with former Deputy Chief Romey's transition into Battalion Chief, Community Health, heading the Community Paramedic program. The department is gearing up for significant transitions as several chiefs will be retiring or getting promoted in the coming year.



Five new personnel joined AFD in a **single role (EMS) academy** to staff the Medic 10 program to help accommodate the growing number of medical calls and transports the department experiences each year. AFD is pleased to welcome Lawrence Allise, Lindsay Lowen, Austin McDowell, Jared McMurren, and Micaiah Sode to the department.



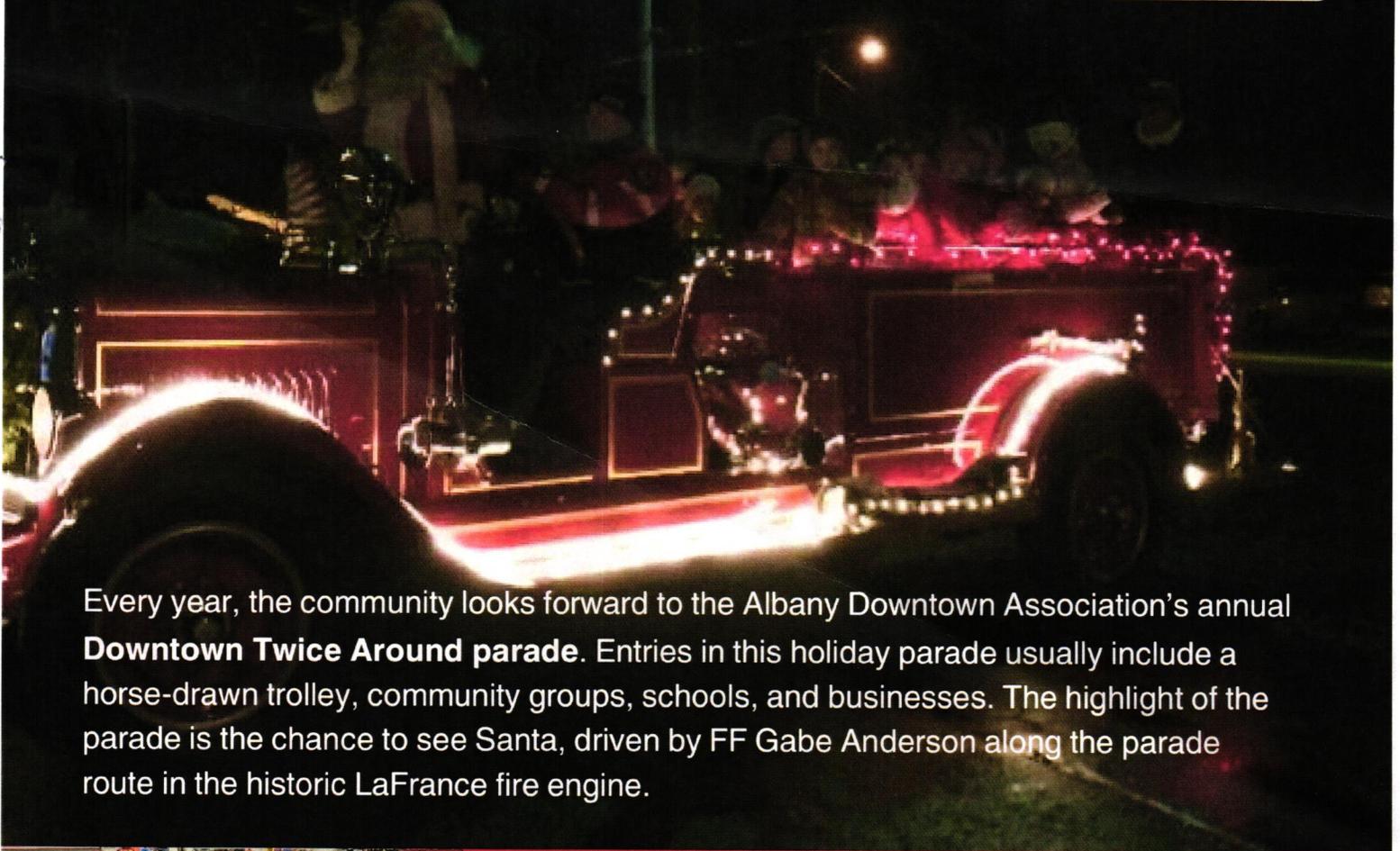
# NOVEMBER (CONTINUED)

AFD purchased new hose to replace the entire fleet of 2.5" hose. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends replacing hose every 10 years and AFD has 2.5" hose still in service from the 1980s. We also had no hose in reserve. This hose is a new, smaller size, allowing us to flow the same volume of water with more maneuverability and a lighter weight; it is also far more kink-resistant and easier to grip due to the smaller diameter. The new hose will go into service in 2024.

Internal candidates were interviewed for company officer openings on the line. This process generated a two-year list to draw from in anticipation of several imminent retirements and transitions. **FF Hans Reerslev** was selected as the newest lieutenant for the department.



# DECEMBER



Every year, the community looks forward to the Albany Downtown Association's annual **Downtown Twice Around parade**. Entries in this holiday parade usually include a horse-drawn trolley, community groups, schools, and businesses. The highlight of the parade is the chance to see Santa, driven by FF Gabe Anderson along the parade route in the historic LaFrance fire engine.

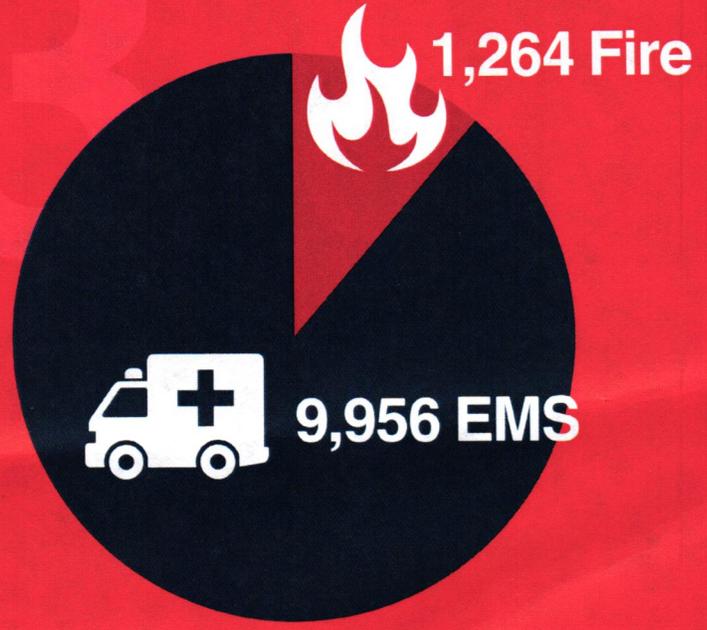


This year the department put on the annual toy drive in conjunction with AFFCAF, the City of Millersburg, and Margin Coffee. This drive partners with DHS to solicit toys for children within the DHS system. In addition to donations of toys, the department also receives monetary donations which the crews use to shop for even more presents for needy children and young people.

As a direct result of AFD starting its SAFER staffing plan on Truck 11 earlier in the year, there were sufficient personnel on-hand early enough to perform a critical rescue at a fire in mid-December. This rescue saw AFD personnel using their training to convert a window to a door in order to extricate the victim of a house fire, saving that victim's life. 17

# 2022

## 11,220 Calls



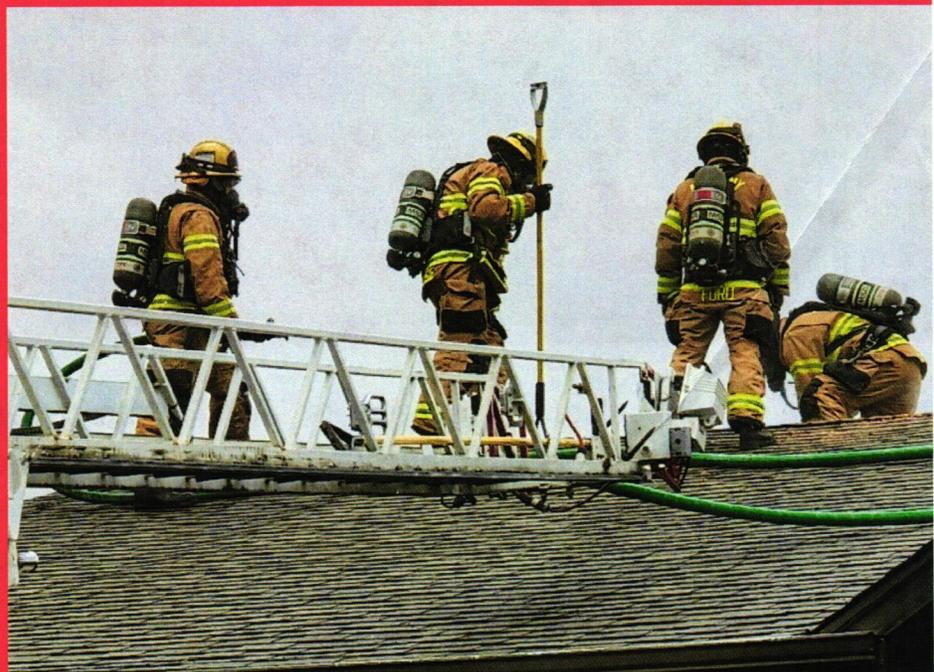
## 900 Inspections

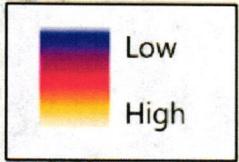
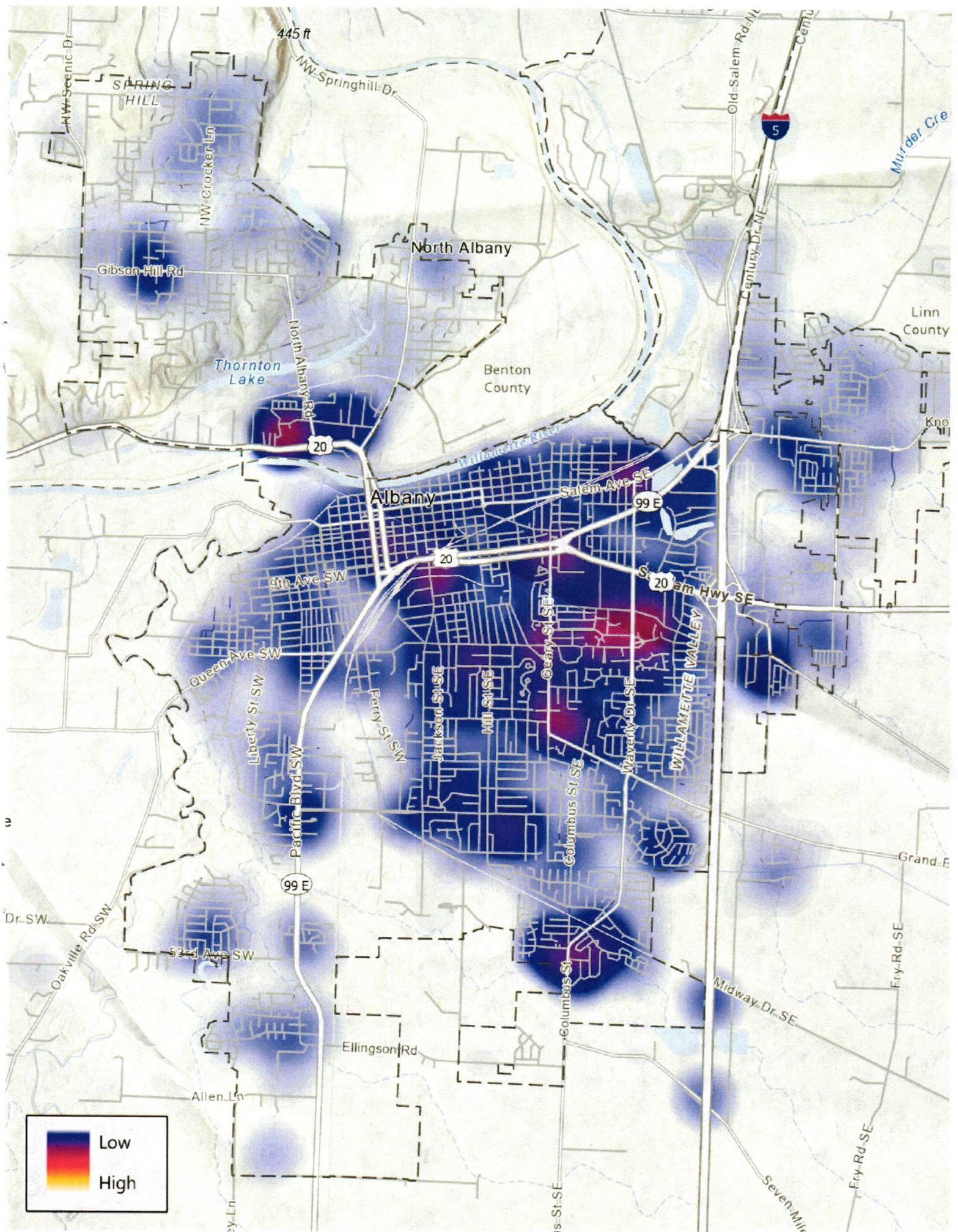
## 808 Cited Violations



## 10,222 Training Hours

The training division also completed Academy 2022-B and staged Academies 2023-A and 2023-B, all including a live-fire training component. They also facilitated the single role EMS Academy 2023-C.







# [fire.albanyoregon.gov](http://fire.albanyoregon.gov)

## **Professional Affiliations:**

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training; International Association of Arson Investigators; International Association of Firefighters Local #845; National Fire Protection Association; Oregon Department of Forestry; Oregon Fire Chiefs Association; Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators; Oregon Fire Marshals Association; Oregon Health Authority; Oregon State Fire Marshal; Oregon State Marine Board

## **Community Partners:**

Albany Chamber of Commerce; Albany Firefighters Community Assistance Fund; Albany Public Safety Foundation; Antiques in the Streets; Costco; Greater Albany Rotary Club; Home Depot; Life Flight; Lowe's; Margin Coffee; NoDinx; North Albany Supermarket IGA; Rotary Club of Albany; Samaritan Health Services; Sybaris; Tradewinds

## **Government Partners:**

City of Albany, especially the Albany Police Department; City of Millersburg; Linn County, especially Linn County Public Health and the Linn County Sheriff's Office; Albany Rural Fire Protection District; North Albany Rural Fire Protection District; Palestine Rural Fire Protection District