

January 26, 2025

Honorable Mayor Dan Agnew  
City Manager Russ Behrens  
Grinnell City Council



Contained herein is the annual Report of the Grinnell Fire Department for the year 2024.

Listed below is a breakdown of all incidents responded to, by the Grinnell Fire Department, in 2024.

<b>Type of Call</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Fires</b>	
<i>Building Fires</i>	34
<i>Car/Truck Fires</i>	8
<i>Rubbish Fires</i>	6
<i>Grass/Crops/Brush Fires</i>	20
<i>Outside Equipment</i>	8
<b>Total Fires</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Rescues</b>	
<i>Medical Calls</i>	931
<i>Motor Vehicle Crashes</i>	61
<i>With Injuries</i>	31
<i>No Injuries</i>	30
<i>Special Rescues</i>	5
<i>EMS Stand by</i>	12
<b>Total Rescue Calls</b>	<b>1009</b>
<b>Hazardous Materials &amp; Conditions</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Special/Public Service</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Burning Complaints</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Investigation</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Fire Alarms</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Storm Spotting</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Calls 2023</b>	<b>1385</b>

Of the 1385 calls for service 1215 were in the City District, 146 were in the Rural District, and 24 were Mutual Aid calls. There was 1 civilian fire death, 1 civilian fire injury and 2 firefighter injuries this past year. The total dollar loss to fire was estimated at \$976,000.

The Grinnell Fire Department is comprised of 12 full-time, 3 part-time and 25 volunteer firefighters, and the following is a list of them all;

Daniel Sicard	Chief	Full-time
Patrick Duffey	Assistant Chief of EMS	Full-time
Todd Pollock	Captain/Vol Vice Pres	Volunteer
Carl Eggermont	Lieutenant	Volunteer
Jason Pollock	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Volunteer
Brian Paul	Lieutenant/Safety Officer/Paramedic	Part-time
Scott Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Dave Byers	Firefighter	Volunteer
Mike Groves	Firefighter	Volunteer
Todd Zell	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time
Jed Petersen	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time
Curtis Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Doug Ernsperger	Firefighter	Volunteer
Kyle Esrey	Firefighter/Paramedic	Part-time
Wade Robeson	Firefighter	Volunteer
William Gruman	Firefighter	Volunteer
Brent Smith	Firefighter	Volunteer
Christian Williams	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time
TJ Pinkerton	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time
DJ Beck	Firefighter/Paramedic	Volunteer
Kelly Fosse	Firefighter/Vol Assoc President	Volunteer
Brandon Merrill	Firefighter	Volunteer
Blake Pearson	Firefighter	Volunteer
Benjamin Bock	Firefighter	Volunteer
Zared Sittig	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
Vince Lukehart	Firefighter/Paramedic/ Assoc Sec	Full-time
Keagen Richmond	Firefighter	Volunteer
Joshua Stepanek	Firefighter/Vol Assoc Treasurer	Volunteer
Mathew Innis	Firefighter	Volunteer
Steven Kibbee	Firefighter	Volunteer
Matt Moretz	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
Devin Phillips	Firefighter	Volunteer
Mathew Dickey	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time*
Erick Pagan	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time*
Katya Lackey	EMT	Part-time*
Tyler Beam	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time*
William Gastreich	Firefighter	Volunteer
Colin Moline	Firefighter	Volunteer*
Jennifer Klinefelter	Firefighter	Volunteer*
Klaire Thompson	EMT	Volunteer*

\*new in 2024

## Ambulance Service

The first full year of ambulance transport was completed in 2024. The breakdown of the 1038 Calls requiring EMS reports are as follows;

357	ALS transports	Paramedic care provided.
5	ALS 2 transports	Advanced paramedic procedures required.
354	BLS transports	EMT level care only needed.
314	Non transports	Patient refusals, lift assists, standbys, no patient found.

- Paramedic Tyler Beam, Firefighter/EMT Mathew Dickey and Firefighter/EMT Erick Pagan were hired at the beginning of the year.
- Firefighter/EMT TJ Pinkerton was moved from part-time to full-time.
- Two new ambulances were put into service on August 1.
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- Firefighter Dickey completed his training and was certified as a paramedic in November.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Moretz, Firefighter/EMT Todd Zell and Firefighter/EMT TJ Pinkerton earned their 'stork pins' for assisting with an out of hospital childbirth.
- Katya Lackey was hired part-time as the first 'EMS only' position.

## Notable Calls in 2024

Below are some of the notable calls from 2024, it should be noted that we are many times assisted on scene by Grinnell Police Department, Poweshiek & Jasper County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State Patrol and our Mutual Aid partners.

January 4<sup>th</sup> Responded to assist Malcom Fire Department with a fire at the top of a feed mill.



January 12<sup>th</sup> Responded to assist Gilman and six other departments with a hog confinement fire. Firefighters worked in freezing temperatures for 4 hours to control the fire.

February 1<sup>st</sup> Responded and shut down an anhydrous ammonia leak on Ogan Ave.

February 13<sup>th</sup> Workers at the interstate Kum & Go were affected by a carbon dioxide leak in their store. GFD members isolated the leak and ventilated the store.

February 18<sup>th</sup> A large barn was destroyed, and the house was saved on 410<sup>th</sup> Ave. Firefighters from Kellogg, Malcom and Searsboro were called to help.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Firefighters used a donated property for live fire training. When they were done, the building was allowed to burn down. This type of training is instrumental in keeping our firefighter's skills up to date.



April 3<sup>rd</sup>

A 4<sup>th</sup> Ave property fire was a total loss of their chick coop.



April 12<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters were able to quickly douse a house fire on Center Street. There were no injuries. Later that day they responded to Berman & Son's for a scrap yard fire.



April 13<sup>th</sup>

An unattended burn barrel led to the destruction of a shed and damage to a house.

April 21<sup>st</sup>

Firefighters responded to just one of the many grass fires during the season. Drought conditions made the season more challenging than usual.



April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Responded with several other agencies to the rural area east of Baxter for a structure and grass fires. GFD members operated for over 3 hours assisting in getting the fires under control.

April 25<sup>th</sup>

A fire in the roof structure of a 80<sup>th</sup> St auto body shop was quickly contained and prevented too much damage.



April 27<sup>th</sup>

Malcom Fire requested an ambulance mutual aid. GFD members assisted with extrication of one of three patients.

April 29<sup>th</sup>

An improperly marked material dropped at the City Shop resulted in a dangerous mixture of chemicals. GFD members were able to neutralize the hazard.



May 4<sup>th</sup>

Responded to Highway 6 and 385<sup>th</sup> Ave for a motor vehicle crash. Three people were transported to the hospital.



May 7<sup>th</sup>

Responded for a tree down on the back of a house on Center St. Tree had taken down power lines and caused electrical problem in the house. Firefighters made entry into the house and found several areas where wiring had burnt. Animals were removed to safety and homeowners were notified.

May 21<sup>st</sup>

Firefighters were kept busy with severe flooding on the west side of our district as well as responding to help Kellogg FD.

June 14<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters removed an elderly woman from a house fire on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Unfortunately she was pronounced dead on scene. Some firefighters were on scene for 4 ½ hours extinguishing hot spots and assisting the State Fire Marshal with the investigation.

June 25<sup>th</sup>

A gas leak at Renfrow Hall, while under construction, took and 1 ½ to shut down and ventilate.



July 10<sup>th</sup>

A two car accident on Highway 146 required 1 person to be extricated with rescue tools and transported to the hospital. A second crash later in the day, also on Highway 146, required 2 to be transported to the hospital.



July 28<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters rescued a cat from a home on fire on Hobart St. Extensive fire damage to the house, but no one was injured. Kellogg Fire assisted on scene.



August 26<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters were called to the station lobby to extricate a person from a pair of old handcuffs.

September 9<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters responded to assist Sully FD with a large barn fire full of hay.



September 12<sup>th</sup>

An outside fire spread to a pile of hay bales on Highway 146. Warm temperatures made work difficult for the firefighters who were on scene for 4 hours. Gilman and Kellogg FDs also assisted



September 19<sup>th</sup>

A Montezuma school bus was involved in an accident on I-80. All 3 Grinnell ambulances and 1 from Kellogg responded. 11 students and 5 adults were transported to safety off the Interstate. 1 student was transported to the hospital.

October 7<sup>th</sup>

An ATV roll over on 385<sup>th</sup> St injured 4 children. 3 were transported by Grinnell Ambulances to the hospital.

October 13<sup>th</sup>

Grinnell's ladder truck responded mutual aid to assist Montezuma with a house fire.

October 19<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters made quick work of extinguishing an attic fire on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, keeping the damage to a minimum.



November 1<sup>st</sup>

Firefighters responded back to back to two separate small fires. The first was a small fire in the backroom of the Craft Brew House which had been extinguished by a fire extinguisher. Firefighters cleared the smoke. The second was a small fire on a patio. Firefighters used a water extinguisher to make sure it was out.



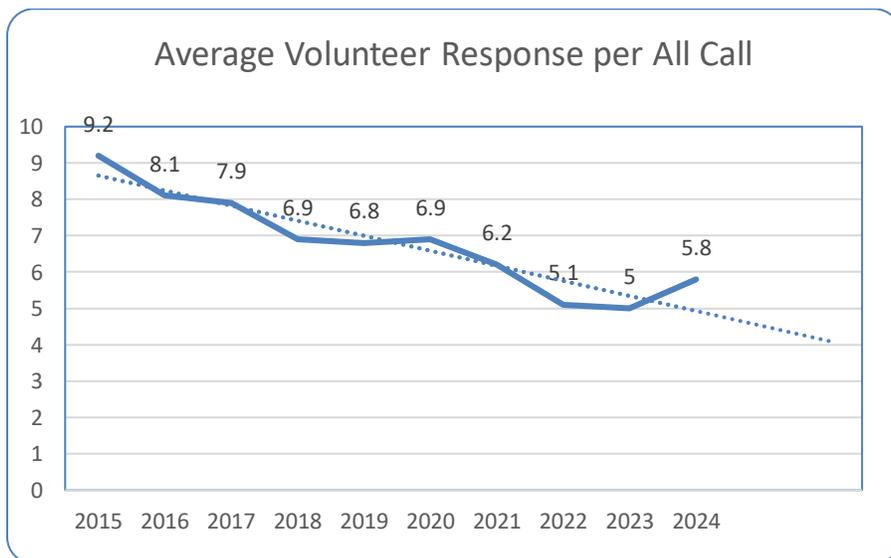
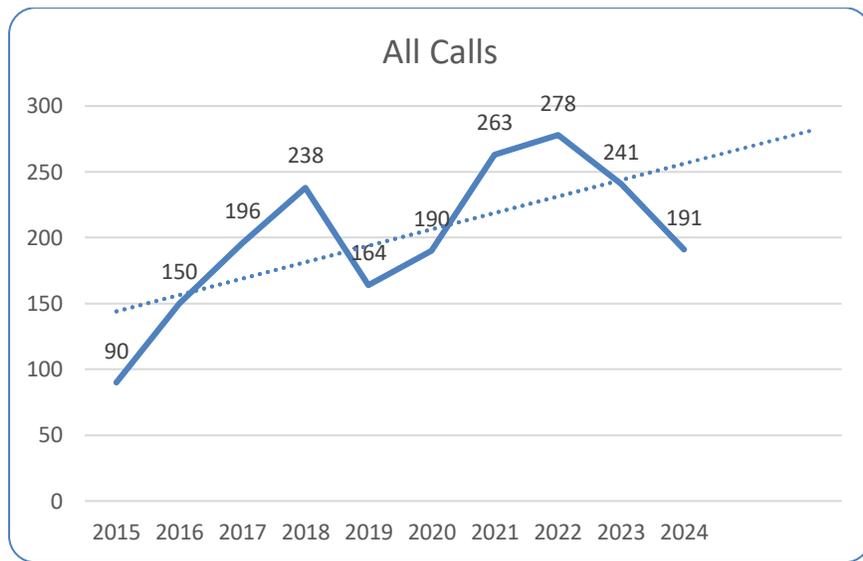
December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Firefighters responded to a fire in a house on Reed Street. The fire had burnt up one bedroom in the basement, ran out of oxygen and put it self out. Heavy smoke damage occurred throughout the house.



## Increasing Use of Volunteers

Following up from the last couple years of reports on decreasing volunteer response. With the added full-time members, we were able to cut back on All Call pages. The most significant reduction was by using on duty personnel only to respond to automatic fire alarms. As anticipated, this has had a positive effect on our per call response. It is hoped we can continue this trend and continue to raise this average volunteer response per call up to around 8 members.



# Awards

An awards ceremony was held this year and the following awards were given out;

Scott Sieck	35 Years of Service
Michael Groves	30 Years of Service
Jason Pollock	10 Years of Service
Todd Pollock	10 Years of Service
Wade Robeson	10 Years of Service

David Byers retired at the end of 2024 having served 37 years as a volunteer, reaching the rank of Assistant Chief of Operations. Craig Sieck retired with 24 years of service to Grinnell and several with Malcom Fire. Both firefighters were a large part of this department, and their contributions will be missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Sicard  
Fire Chief  
Grinnell Fire Department