



100th Anniversary
1923 - 2023

WEST MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Clifton Laughman
Township Fire Chief

David Markle
Deputy Chief

Roy Gentzler
District Chief

Robert Sells
District Chief



75th Anniversary
1948 - 2023

“Preparing for the Future, while preserving the past.”

TO: West Manchester Township Board of Supervisors
Kelly Kelch, Township Manager

FROM: Clifton Laughman, Fire Chief

DATE: March 22, 2024

SUBJECT: February 2024 Monthly Report

The WMTFD continues to have a busy start to the year. Call volume continues to rise, and we are currently 13% ahead of where we were at this time last year. We have also had a lot of projects under way within the stations and are very excited as some of these projects have been years in the making.

Please find below the February 2024 report for the March 2024 meeting of the West Manchester Township Board of Supervisors.

TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Type of Response	Total	Percentage	YTD
Fire	12	13.19%	22
Over Pressure, Rupture, Explosion	0	0.00%	0
Rescue & Emergency Medical	32	35.16%	55
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	14	15.38%	27
Service Call	12	13.19%	27
Good Intent Call	8	8.79%	17
False Alarm & False Call	12	13.19%	40
Severe Weather	0	0.00%	0
Special Incidents	1	1.1%	2
Totals	91	100.00%	190

- There was a total of 737 personnel that responded to the incidents with an average of 11 per incident. (Average does not include Duty Officer & Fire Police Only Calls). This is a 37% increase from last month.
- Year to date, a total of 1,336 personnel responded to the incidents.
- We are at a 13.77% increase in call volume from this time last year.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

- Over the past few weeks, I have been conducting One on One's with the officers to check in and gauge how they feel things are progressing. We also discussed the recent survey of the Operational Members and addressed the good, as well as the concerns that some of the members have raised during the survey. Once all One on One's are completed we will incorporate those results into our goals for 2024 as well as our strategic plan.
- The department has been doing very well with the recruitment of new members over the past few years. We have raised our membership by more than 50% since 2016 and our average member response continues to remain around 7 to 8 per call. However, we are starting to see a decline in the availability of our daytime responders during the week. This is a result of work schedules, new job opportunities, and life changes of our members. I feel it may be time to look at applying for grant funding to start hiring part-time drivers/firefighters for the daylight hours Monday thru Friday. I don't think that this is something that needs to be done this year, but certainly something that we need to start by the end of 2025. I think we need to take the balance of this year and the first half of 2025 to start doing research on how this would look. I would like to have a discussion further regarding this matter.
- The department looked at enhancing our Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) but providing enhanced benefits for our members. If you remember the LOSAP program is a "pension like" program for our volunteers. It provides a monthly payment upon reaching age 65 until the date of their death. The payments is based on the number of years of service prior to reaching 65. Currently the maximum years of service a member could earn is 30 years. Also once a member reaches age 65 they can no longer earn years of service as they are now receiving monthly payments. This also means any member who joins that is over the age of 65 is not eligible for the benefit at all.

We looked at raising the maximum years of service from 30 years to 40 years. We currently have 4 members who have reached 30 years of service but still have a lot of years to give. These members joined the department when they were Juniors (age 14-17) and are now only in their late 40's early 50's. Because they reached 30 years of service, they can no longer continue to earn years of service on their LOSAP. So, by raising the maximum years of service to 40 this would give them a little more benefit for their service. The maximum per LOSAP laws someone could earn is 50 years of service, but we felt that would be too costly. Likewise, we looked at allowing members who are 65 and over and "entitled" to allow them to continue to receive years of service and get a raise in their monthly payment each year. We currently have 6 members who are still very active in the department that are over the age of 65 and while they are receiving their pension benefit every month, they can't earn any additional years of service.

With all of that said, based on the current program our annual contribution is \$54,000.00. With the changes the annual contribution would rise to \$91,000.00. This amount is 70% funded by the Township and 30% funded by the department. Currently the department feels this is just too costly to make any changes to the program. However, we wanted the Township to be aware of the research we did about possible changes to the LOSAP program.

- This month two of our members were hired by Career Departments. Firefighter Ethan Six was hired by York City Fire Department and Firefighter AJ Vail was hired by Chambersburg Fire Department. Both gentlemen started the HACC Fire Academy on March 5th and are doing very well. We wish both of these guys well as they enter these new careers.



- Back in November, the department was approved for a \$45,000.00 Assistance to Firefighter Grant for the purchase of new washers and dryers specifically designed to wash and dry our turnout gear. I am proud to say that this week the washers and dryers were delivered and installation is wrapping up as of this report. We are excited to have this new equipment to help better clean our gear to help with the fight of cancer in firefighters.



- As you may know, the Shiloh area utilizes Shiloh Water for its water. Shiloh Water is known for its very hard water. The water has been causing issues at our Shiloh station primarily with the apparatus. The hard water has been causing issues with the paint, metal, and pumps. As a result, we did some research and testing of the water and the best option was to install a water softener. This week Bortner Bros. installed a new softener with the help of Guardian Engineering Solutions for Water Management. The plumbing is complete, and the softener should be operational this coming Monday.



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

There were no new members brought into membership for the month of February. There is one application in process for the month of March.

VIOLATIONS

There were no warnings/violations for false fire alarms for the month of February.

COMMUNITY RISK & REDUCTION

- February 14th – Fire Safety Walkthrough at Magnestia
- February 27th – Fire Station tour and Fire Safety Presentation for Home School students
- February 28th – Fire Safety Walkthrough and Fire Drill with Autism Rehab Clinic on Westgate Dr.

MAINTENANCE

No maintenance beyond normal everyday maintenance was performed during the month of February.