

# Sparta Fire Department



2018 Annual Report

## **2018 Chiefs Report**

It is my pleasure to present the Sparta Fire Department 2018 Annual Report. You will find within this report interesting facts about the department events, trainings, and statistical information for the incidents we responded to this year.

The fire department has seen some major changes in last year. It's my pleasure to have been appointed the new Fire Chief in October of 2018, replacing Chief Jerry Bolen after 15 years of dedicated service to the community. With this change there were some promotions from within to fill the vacancies that were created. Carl Wood was promoted to the Deputy Chief's position and Andrew Good was promoted to a Lieutenant's position and placed in charge of the departments training. In addition the department has seen some turn over in the past year, with some department members landing full time fire jobs at other agencies and some having moved out of the response area.

This last year, with the assistance from the Kent County Fire Commission, the department was able to purchase a 2014 Spartan Aerial to replace to the 1989 LTI Ladder. This piece of equipment will provide service to the community for several years to come.

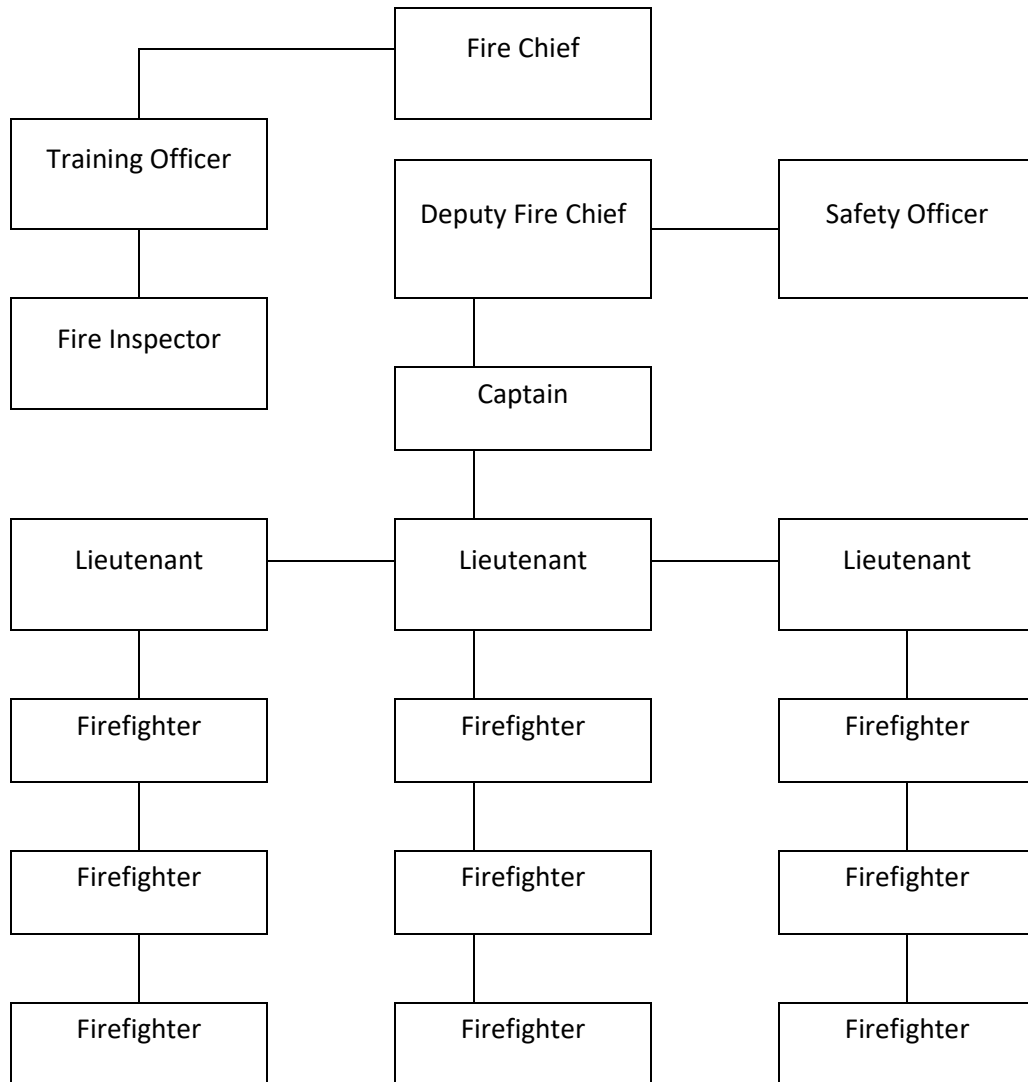
As we move forward into 2019, the department will continue to focus on training to provide the best possible service to the community we serve. As with every paid on call department across this country staffing is a concern. Currently the department is looking to hire a couple of more people to replace the members that were lost this last year. However this process can takes up to 18-months to get an individual fully trained. We are also reviewing how our daytime staffing can be increased or adjusted to continue providing adequate staffing to handle calls.

I would like to thank the men and women of the Sparta Fire Department for their dedicated services to the Sparta Community. Without their dedicated service throughout the years we would not have the Fire Department that we have today.

Daniel Olney  
Fire Chief

## Fire Department Organization

20 - Uniformed personnel



This is a general layout of the department's organizational chart. Positions and assignment can be expanded or reduced depending on the departments needs at the time.

## 2018 Roster

PERSONNEL	RANK	START DATE	DURATION
Wood , Carl	Deputy Chief	02/01/1983	36 Years, 0 Months
Morton, Shawn	Captain	07/01/1997	21 Years, 7 Months
Olney , Daniel	Chief	07/11/1999	19 Years, 7 Months
Fodor , Dan	Mechanic	08/15/2003	15 Years, 6 Months
Rettig, Daniel	Lieutenant	01/01/2005	14 years, 0 months
Peck, Randy	Firefighter	03/26/2006	12 Years, 11 Months
Swendrowski, John	Firefighter	05/17/2007	11 Years, 9 Months
Svoboda , Corey	Lieutenant	08/03/2007	11 Years, 6 Months
Buchanan, Eric	Lieutenant	11/03/2009	9 Years, 3 Months
Fitzpatrick, Kyle	Firefighter	10/28/2011	7 Years, 4 Months
Jones , Zach	Firefighter	12/15/2011	7 Years, 2 Months
Good , Andrew	Lieutenant	12/07/2012	6 Years, 2 Months
VanSyckle, Chad	Firefighter	03/13/2013	5 Years, 11 Months
Ganczewski, Rachel	Firefighter	02/13/2015	4 Years, 0 Months
Carter , Jake	Firefighter	09/03/2015	3 Years, 5 Months
Klaasen, Ben	Firefighter	10/28/2015	3 Years, 4 Months
McKellar , Kellie	Firefighter	12/10/2016	2 Years, 2 Months
Pant , Paul	Firefighter	01/08/2017	2 Years, 1 Months
Ellis, Mitchell	Probationary Firefighter	03/30/2017	1 Years, 11 Months
Fairchild, Todd	Firefighter	03/27/2017	1 Years, 11 Months
Knauf , Noah	Firefighter	09/04/2017	1 Years, 5 Months
Horter , Andrew	Firefighter	06/01/2018	0 Years, 8 Months

**AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT LONGEVITY:**

**8.8 Years**

## Personnel Information

The organization has seen it turn over in the past year with people moving out of the area, retiring, and moving onto full time fire departments. The national average for the longevity of someone in the volunteer fire service is about 5.5 years. Our average employment longevity is at 8.8 years.

### The following members left the department in 2018:

Chief Jerry Bolen – retirement after 15 years of service

Daniel Rettig – full time for the City of Wyoming Fire Department – 14 years of service

Nancy Bolen – retired after 13 years of service

Tom Cook – resigned for unknown reasoning after 10 years of service

Jim Wehler – full time for the City of Grand Rapids Fire Department – 4 years of service

Sabrina Wheeler – moved out of the area – 2 years of service



## Apparatus:

Engine #3 – 1996 HME pumper with 1000 gallons of water. This is the first out machine on all residential structure fires and the second out machine for all accidents.



Rescue #6 – 2013 Spencer/Spartan Rescue with 750 gallons of water. This is the first out machine on all accidents and second out of all residential fires. This machine also provides mutual aid to area departments for accidents.

Platform #5 – 2014 Spartan with a 100' Crimson aerial. The platform carries 300 gallons of water and can flow 2000 gpm. This is the first out apparatus on all commercial structure fire calls and first out for an auto/mutual aid calls.





Tender #8 – 2008

International/Water master tender.  
This truck carries 4000 gallons of water and responds to all calls in the non-hydrant area. This truck is also one of the first most auto/mutual aid requests for water.



Medic #10 – 2009 Chevy  
Suburban that is the first out on all medical calls.

Brush Truck #7- 2010 Chevy  
3500 Brush Truck. This truck is used for all grass/field fires and is the our back up medical unit if Medic #10 is tied up on another call.



## Fire Prevention:



This year the department had the chance again to visit with the students at White and Ridgeview Elementary students to discuss fire safety. Our department spends a couple of hours with the student explaining fire safety, smoke alarm, and show them the equipment we have and hand out coloring books and fire helmets. On average we see about 1200 students in a 4 day period.

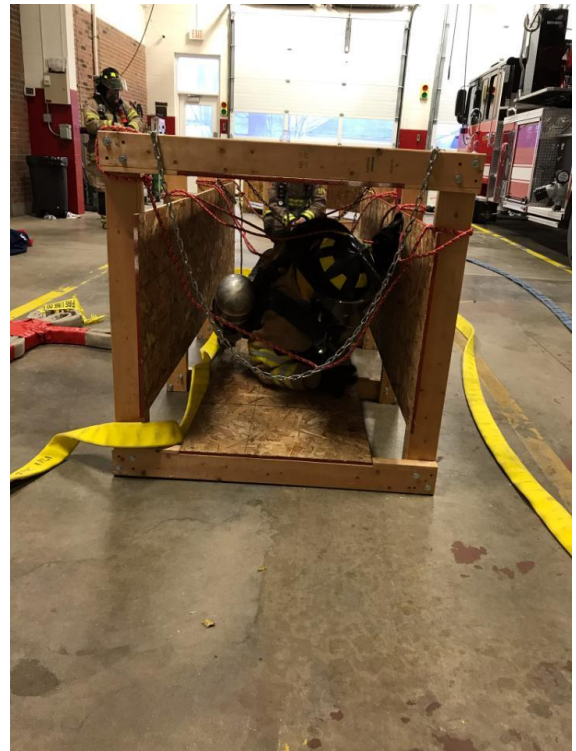




## Training:

The department provides about 4 hours of fire training on a monthly bases, and 2 hours of additional medical training every other month. This means that on average our department members receive about 60 hours of total training a year.

This training does not include additional trainings that the department has put on to get the aerial truck in service for operation or classes that department members have attended to further enhance their skill set.



This past year we had 5-members of our department further their medical skill levels by upgrading their medical licensures from a Medical First Responder (MFR) to and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)



## Incidents:



The department responded to 892 incidents in 2018 this is a reduction from the 1251 calls the department ran in 2017. A large reason for this reduction was in the way the department responds to Med 3 medical calls. In the beginning of 2018 the department no longer responded to all Med 3 request. We only respond for medical alarms, falls and at the request of the ambulance. This change accounted for about a 30% reduction on the number of medical calls we responded to in 2018.

Listed below are the various response type of calls we respond to according to our NFIRS classifications:

INCIDENT TYPE	2017	2018
False Alarm & False Call	33	24
Fire	43	44
Good Intent Call	111	88
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	36	38
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	968	652
Service Call	54	44
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	2	
Special Incident Type	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>892</b>

- False alarm & false call – are fire alarms or incident that we were cancelled prior to arrival (example – auto aid assignment, medical where ALS cancelled us, etc.)
- Fire – include all our fire calls (including house fires, cooking fires, vehicle fires, trash fires, grass fires, and auto/mutual aid calls)
- Good Intent calls – are calls where there are no cause for the incident (odor investigations, smoke in the area, etc.)
- Hazardous Conditions – are where our wires calls come into play, gas leaks, CO alarms
- Rescue & Emergency Medical - are all of medical responds and vehicle accident calls for the year
- Service calls – are calls for lock-outs, smoke detector issues, etc.
- Special Incidents – are hazardous materials calls, water rescues, etc.

### Calls per zones:

Zones	% of calls
Township	39.13
Village	55.72
Other (Auto Aid/Mutual Aid Request)	5.16
Total	100

The department provided some form of either auto aid or mutual aid to area departments 34 times in 2018.

We received some form of aid from neighboring departments 22 times 2018.

### Medical Response Breakdown

MED LEVEL DISPATCHED	# of calls
Med 1	431
Med 2	171
Med 3	100

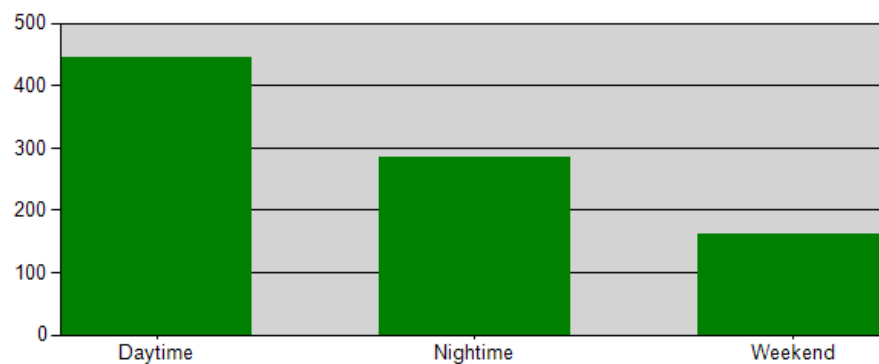
### Response Times:

RESPONSE TIME	EMS	FIRE	AVERAGE
From Time of Dispatch to Time of Enroute	1:46	2:16	1:50
From Time of Dispatch to Time of Arrival	5:52	8:30	6:17

### Cost Recovery:

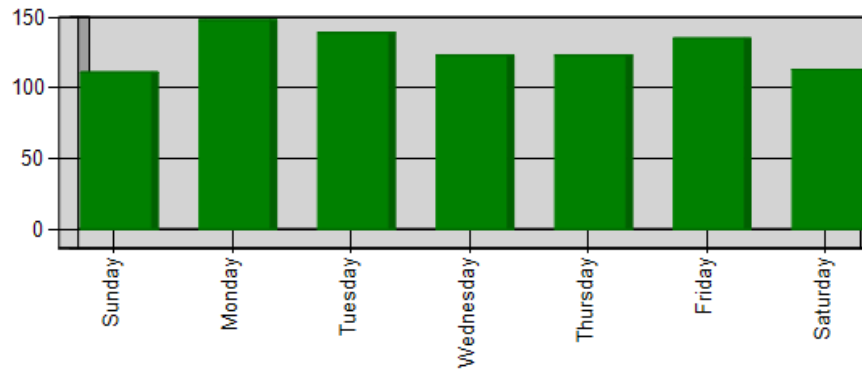
There were 8 alcohol related incidents in 2018 that were submitted to the 63<sup>rd</sup> District Court for cost recovery.

### Call volume by shift:



SHIFT	# INCIDENTS
Daytime	444
Nighttime	286
Weekend	162
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>892</b>

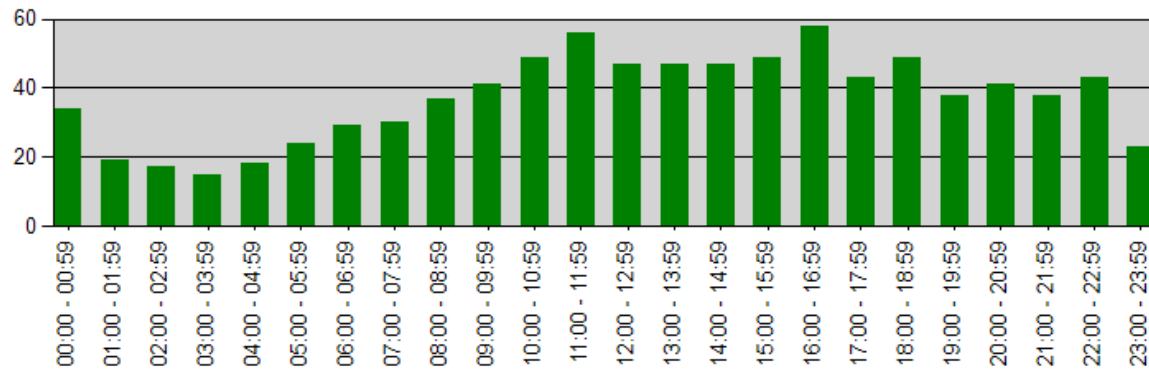
### Call volume by the day of the week:



DAY OF THE WEEK	# INCIDENTS
Sunday	111
Monday	148
Tuesday	139
Wednesday	123
Thursday	123
Friday	135
Saturday	113
TOTAL	892



### Call Volume by time of day:



HOUR	# of CALLS
00:00 - 00:59	34
01:00 - 01:59	19
02:00 - 02:59	17
03:00 - 03:59	15
04:00 - 04:59	18
05:00 - 05:59	24
06:00 - 06:59	29
07:00 - 07:59	30
08:00 - 08:59	37
09:00 - 09:59	41
10:00 - 10:59	49
11:00 - 11:59	56
12:00 - 12:59	47
13:00 - 13:59	47
14:00 - 14:59	47
15:00 - 15:59	49
16:00 - 16:59	58
17:00 - 17:59	43
18:00 - 18:59	49
19:00 - 19:59	38
20:00 - 20:59	41
21:00 - 21:59	38
22:00 - 22:59	43
23:00 - 23:59	23
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>892</b>

## Response by Apparatus

APPARATUS	# of Calls	# of Auto/Mutual Aid Calls
Engine #3	74	2
Rescue #6	101	4
Platform #5	21	11
Tender #8	34	14
Medic #10	670	
Brush #7	132	

## **Special Events:**

### Freedom Cruise

We had the distinct honor of having the 2018 Freedom Cruise make its way through the Sparta area. With the assistance of Kent City Fire and the Sparta Police Department we escorted several hundred motorcycles and cars through the downtown area to honor Army Cpl. Nick Roush who was killed by an IED while fighting in Afghanistan in 2009. Cpl. Roush was only 22 years old and from Middleville.



### Town and Country Day.

Every year we assist with several events during the Town and Country weekend. We start off by assisting with the Kids Parade and Big Wheels events on Friday. Follow that up by showcasing our equipment in the parade on Saturday. We also host a water ball event and provide medical and fire stand-by for the Truck and Tractor Pull event.

### Sparta Football Stadium

The department was honored to provide our aerial to fly the American Flag for the National Anthem for the first home football game at the new Spartan Stadium. In addition, we provided a landing zone for a Blackhawk Helicopter landing to honor former members of the Sparta Schools that are currently serving our country.



### Annual Halloween Event:



Every year the Sparta Fire Association hosts a Halloween event at the department for the kids. We have games, face painting, bounce houses, and fire safety information. This event has about 1000 kids and adults coming through our station in about a 3 hours period.

### Toys for Tots

This year the Sparta Fire Association provided about \$750.00 worth of toys to the Kent County Toys for Tots program. A special thanks goes out to the Rockford Meijer Store for facilitating our department for this event.





In Honor of Those Who Paid the Ultimate Sacrifice on September 11, 2001

***"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"***