

GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD FIRE-RESCUE  
DEPARTMENT

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

On behalf of the Grand Bay-Westfield Fire-Rescue Department, I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report.

This Annual Report outlines the activities and accomplishments for the Grand Bay-Westfield Fire-Rescue Department for 2024.

2024 saw the delivery of new a new off-road rescue vehicle with a forestry firefighting trailer, purchase of new Jaws of Life Rescue tools, and the completion of the refurbishment of Rescue 1. Both projects continue the critical value of ensuring our firefighters have the necessary equipment to complete the work asked of them.

The emergency response section of this report highlights a couple of notable trends:

- For the first time since the Department began responding to medical rescue calls, the number of those calls has fallen below 50% of the total number of calls. While this may appear to be a positive, the concern is that the number of medical emergencies in Grand Bay-Westfield is not down, rather the number that we are being dispatched to is. This is directly attributable to an inefficient provincial 911 dispatching system.
- There was a more than doubling of person hours in responding to emergencies. In 2023, firefighters dedicated 1,105 hours responding to calls, for 2024 this skyrocketed to 2,467 hours. This indicates that the types of calls responded to were more complex in nature and required higher numbers of firefighters to respond. The availability of more firefighters to respond to calls may also have contributed to this increase, indicating higher participation by the members of the Department.

The activities listed in this Report represent the outstanding commitment of the volunteers and Staff, as they continue to meet the Department's mission.

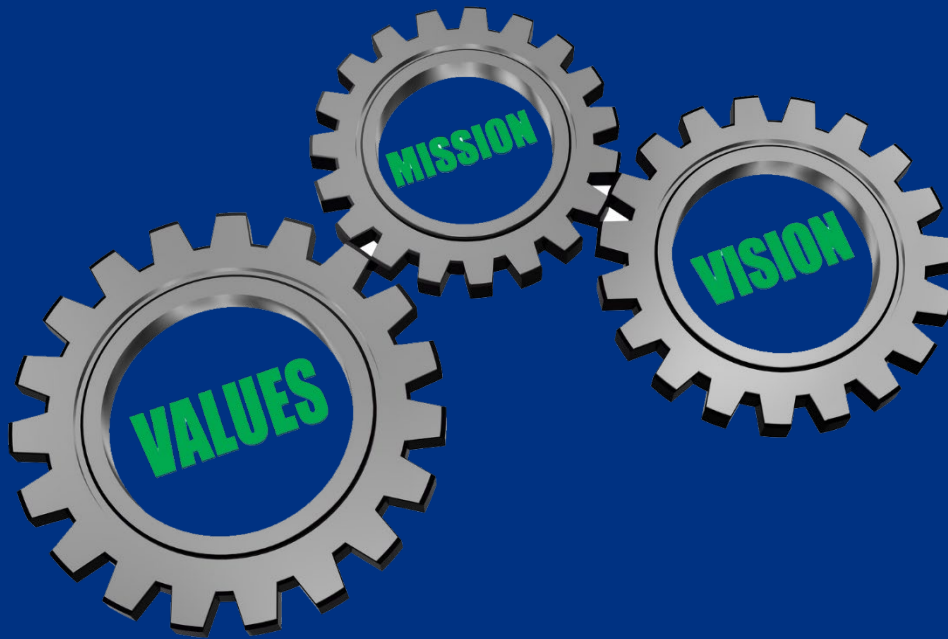
I would like to extend appreciation to the Department Members for providing high quality emergency response services through responsible and professional leadership, continuous development, training, and volunteer dedication.

Thank you, for taking the time to review our Annual Report.

**Troy Gautreau**

Fire Chief





#### **Mission Statement**

Provide high quality emergency response services through responsible and professional leadership, continuous development, training, and volunteer dedication.

#### **Vision Statement**

We strive to be a leading emergency response department with a consistent focus on improvement and evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

#### **Values Statement**

Service with respect, integrity and professionalism.

## PRESENT ORGANIZATION

Department membership is maintained between 40 and 50 members, including a full-time Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and Training Officer. The three (3) full-time Staff work weekdays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Fire Station #1. For 2024, Fire Station #1 included 26 volunteer Officers and Firefighters, and Fire Station #2 included 15 Officers and Firefighters.

Grand Bay-Westfield Fire-Rescue is currently comprised of two (2) Fire Stations housing ten (10) response units as follows:

Apparatus	Model	Primary Use	Pump Capacity	Water Capacity (Gallons)
<b>Engine 1</b>	2024 Spartan Metrostar, manufactured by Metalfab Fire Trucks.	First due response Engine for District 1	1,050 GPM pump with compressed air foam system	1,200
<b>Engine 2</b>	2014 Spartan Metrostar, manufactured by Carl Thibault Fire Trucks	First due response Engine for District 2	1,050 GPM pump with compressed air foam system	1,200
<b>Engine 3</b>	2021 Freightliner M2-106 manufactured by Carl Thibault Fire Trucks	Water supply tanker and back-up to Engines 1 & 2	1,050 GPM pump	1,500
<b>Tanker 2</b>	2007 Sterling Acterra, manufactured by Metalfab Fire Trucks	Water supply tanker	420 GPM pump	1,500
<b>Rescue 1</b>	2012 Spartan Metrostar, manufactured by Carl Thibault Fire Trucks	Heavy Rescue with basic firefighting support	1,050 GPM pump with compressed air foam system	800
<b>Command 1 / Rescue 5</b>	2015 Dodge Ram 2500	Command and utility service	N/A	N/A
<b>Rescue 5 trailer</b>	2012 American Hauler	Ice and Off-Road Rescue	N/A	N/A
<b>Unit -5</b>	2024 Yamaha Wolverine	Off-Road Rescue	111 GPM Pump with forestry trailer	200 with forestry trailer
<b>Fire 3</b>	2019 Dodge Ram 1500	Deputy Chief / Utility	N/A	N/A
<b>Fire 1</b>	2017 Ford Explorer	Fire Chief	N/A	N/A



## SERVICES PROVIDED

### FIRE SUPPRESSION

- Structural
- Wildland

### HAZMAT

- Response to the Operations Level (2nd of 3 levels)

### MEDICAL FIRST RESPONSE

- Firefighters trained to First Responder Level

### TECHNICAL RESCUE

- Auto Extrication
- Ice Rescue
- Off-road Rescue

### MUTUAL AID

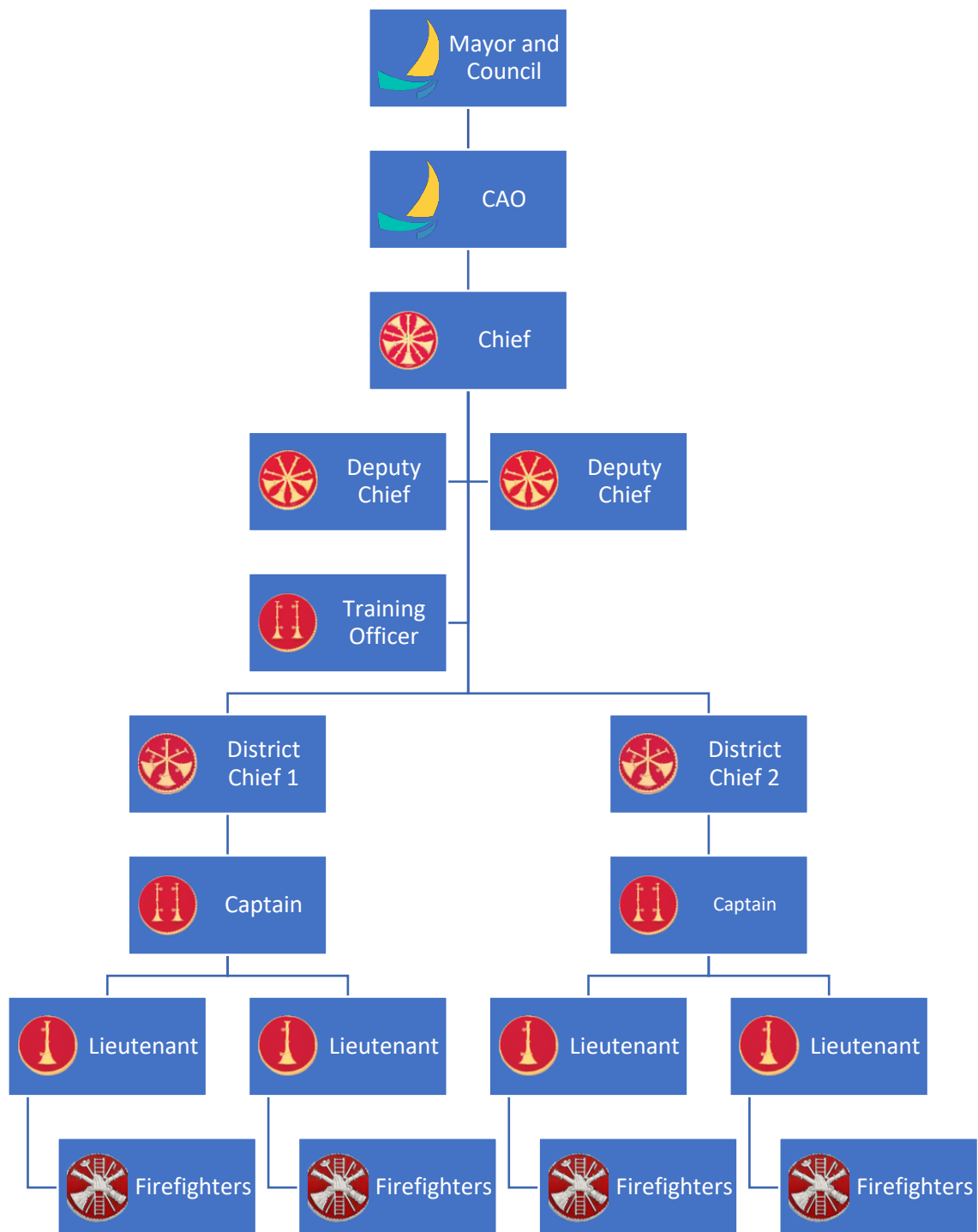
- Zone 2 Regional partners.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Open House
- Station Tours
- School Visits
- Special Events
- Operation Christmas Miracle

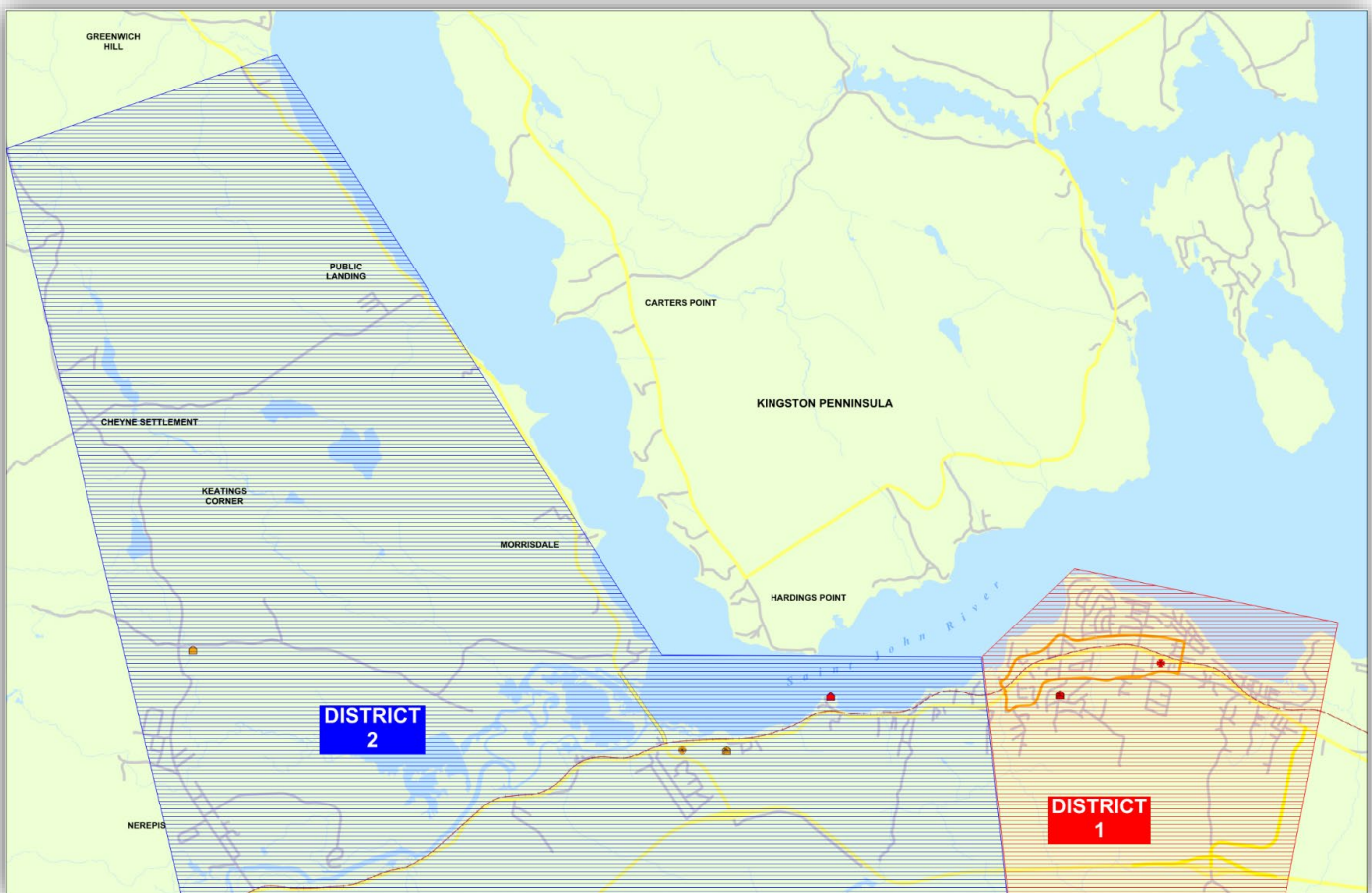


# 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART







## RESPONSE DISTRICTS

Grand Bay-Westfield Fire-Rescue provides emergency response service to the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield and a portion of the Fundy Rural District under contract with the Province of New Brunswick. The total coverage area includes a population of 7,400 residents and 126 square KM of land. This is broken into 2 Districts. District 1 covers from the Saint John border to the northern intersection of River Valley Drive and Woolastook Drive. District 2 covers the remaining Northern portion of the Town as well as the portion of the Rural District.





## 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

<p>Refurbished Rescue</p>	<p>In January 2024, refurbishment and conversion of what was previously known as Engine 1 into a Rescue Apparatus was complete.</p>	
<p>Donation of Narcan</p>	<p>To help address the rising number of drug overdose calls, the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy donated doses of Narcan valued at \$1,000.00. Narcan is a medication used to reverse the life-threatening effects of a narcotics overdose.</p>	
<p>New Off-Road Rescue unit and Forestry Firefighting trailer</p>	<p>A new off-road rescue unit was placed in service to replace and aging existing unit.</p> <p>A forestry firefighting trailer equipped with 200 gallons of water, a pump, hose and assorted hand tools was purchased and placed in service to help address wildland fires in remote areas.</p>	
<p>New Jaws of Life Rescue Tools</p>	<p>On July 18, the Department placed its new Jaws of Life extrication tools in service.</p>	

## EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Department responded to 213 emergency calls in 2024, down 14 from 2023. Of note: For the first time since the Department began responding to medical emergencies, the number of medical calls fell below 50%.

The average response time was 9 minutes and 50 seconds. This meets the goal of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1720 standard as recommended in the Fire Service Review conducted by TSI.

Firefighters committed a total of 2,467 person hours responding to calls in 2024. Of particular note is that this is more than double the hours of 2023.

### Calls by apparatus:

Apparatus	Number of Responses
Engine 1	148
Engine 2	99
Engine 3	40
Rescue 1	61
Tanker 2	25
Command 1	56

### Calls by type:

Call Type	# of Calls	Call Type	# of Calls
Chimney Fire	0	Mutual Aid	11
Electrical Problem	2	Non-Medical Rescue	2
Fire Alarm Activated	25	Odour/Fumes	0
General Service	3	Off Road Rescue	2
Grass/Woods Fire	5	Outside Fire	8
Level 1 HAZMAT	2	Power Line Down	5
Medical	98	Structure Fire	9
Mobile Property Fire	6	Water Rescue	4
Motor Vehicle Accident	31		
Total			213





## TRAINING

In 2024, Firefighters committed 5,451 person hours to training with the following accomplishments:

- 2 Firefighters completed the Firefighter I training bringing the membership to 35 of 40 Firefighters being frontline status (i.e. have received required training to respond to all call types and conduct interior fire and rescue operations)
- 3 Firefighters were trained to ICS 100 level bringing the membership to 36 of 40
- 9 Firefighters were trained to ICS 200 level bringing the membership to 18 of 40
- 3 Firefighters completed the Firefighter II training bring the membership to 35 of 40
- 6 Firefighters completed Medical First Responder training, bringing the membership to 39 of 40 members certified Medical First Responders





## AWARDS

On May 11, 2024 the Department held its annual Fire Service Awards Ceremony. Awards and recognitions included:

- Completion of Firefighter I certificates were presented to 4 Firefighters
- Completion of Incident Command System Instructor was presented to 1 Firefighter
- 4 Firefighters advanced to Class 3
- 3 Firefighters advanced to Class 2
- 1 Firefighters advanced to Class 1
- Firefighter Michael Shannon was awarded Rookie of the Year
- Firefighter Alex Curran was awarded Firefighter of the Year
- Chief's Special Service Award for Training was presented to 23 Firefighters
- 13 Firefighters received the Chief's Special Service Award for shifts
- Years of service awards were presented:

5 Years Service	3 Firefighters
10 Years Service	2 Firefighter
25 Years Service	2 Firefighter



## SPECIAL EVENTS

The Department took part in numerous special events throughout the year. These included, however, are not limited to:

On February 27, the Department joined Weslford Fire Department for the second annual Pond Hockey Tournament in Welsford.



In April, Firefighters attended the Westfield School Wellness Fair.





In April, Firetronics 2000 Inc. donated 200 smoke alarms. The smoke alarms will be available on the Department's Engines, to provide to residents throughout the community, when needed.



During the week of June 17-21, firefighters took part in 3 end of year school fun days and the Westfield Elementary School graduation parade.



On June 16, Firefighters hosted a Charity Car Wash. \$500 was raised for the Compassionate Grief Centre.



Firefighters attended the annual Canada Day festivities on July 1.





On August 11, Grand Bay-Westfield Fire-Rescue Department hosted the Second Annual Firefighters Softball Game vs Welsford Volunteer Fire Department at the River Valley Lions Field.

Grand Bay-Westfield was the winning Department of the Axe Trophy - for the second year in a row.



On August 17, Fire-Rescue Department members joined the Mayor and members of Council at the Saint John Pride Parade.



As part of the Town's Fall Fest, an Open House was held on October 26 at Fire Station #1.

Members were also at Station #1 on Halloween to give out candy to the trick or treaters.



Members took part in the annual  
Dirt Road Christmas parade.

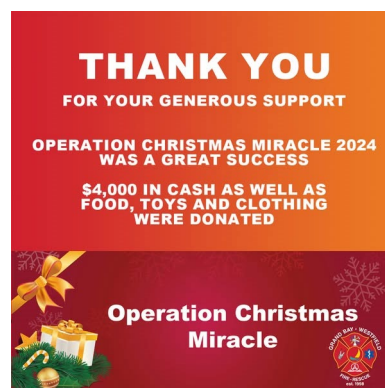
Members took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Annual Grand Bay-Westfield  
Christmas Parade.



Two (2) members' children took  
part in Take Our Kids To Work  
Day.



The Firefighters Association  
delivered a cheque for \$4,000  
and food to the River Valley Food  
Bank from the 2024 Operation  
Christmas Miracle. Clothing was  
donated to Cozy Corner, and  
Toys donated to Salvation Army.





## CONCLUSION

As the Department looks forward to 2025 and beyond, it does so building on the successes of 2024. These successes support the goals of the Strategic Plan, and the approved Level of Service Policy.

The Department continues to develop as a strong, healthy Department. This is possible due to the extraordinary dedication of the Firefighters and Officers of the Department.

The Department also acknowledges the support from Town Council and Town Administration.

A Fire Department's success is directly related to the support it receives from Council and Administration.







**Grand Bay-Westfield Fire-Rescue Department**  
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