

# Bath Township Fire Department 2018 Annual Report



**Bath Township Fire Department  
Annual Report  
January, 2019**

**Brief Overview / Introduction:**

The Bath Township Fire Department (BTFD) was established 7/30/1929 and formally organized by Board action 6/30/1941. Around 1945, the Township purchased the first fire truck, a 1945 Ford with 500 gallon water tank and a John Bean high pressure pump. BTFD still owns this truck although it is not currently operational.

**Department History**

The BTFD existed for many years as a quasi-governmental agency run by a group of firemen appointed by the Township Board. The firemen in turn elected a fire chief. No further oversight or supervision of the agency by township officials or board members occurred. For many years the department was funded by township funds in combination with fundraising activities such as barn dances, pancake breakfasts, and donkey basketball games. Over time, this model has evolved and the fire department is now an authentic government agency funded by township general funds and the Police and Fire Millage with formal reporting relationships to township administration and the Police and Fire Board. All fire department employees are now hired through the township's employment processes.

**Staffing**

The BTFD has 22 of thirty roster positions filled. This includes a 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Chief position and 0.5 FTE firefighter position with remaining positions classified as part-paid/on-call. Department leadership is provided by Chief Dave Snider, Assistant Chief Ben Zeeb, Captain Kevin Douglas, and Lieutenants Jed Asher, Don Fuller and Luke Lafargue. Paid/on-call employees are paid an hourly rate when they work which includes responding to emergency calls, attending required trainings, meetings or carrying out tasks directed or assigned by department leadership. Officers receive an additional stipend.

**Delivering service**

The service delivery model tasks the Fire Chief with administrative responsibility for the department including making policy, hiring personnel, carrying out disciplinary functions, planning and monitoring department budget(s), and ensuring compliance with regulations directed toward fire service. The Fire Chief also represents BTFD at local and regional meetings and workgroups involving other jurisdictions' public safety agencies and operations. The Fire Chief additionally responds to emergency calls as required for efficient operations. The Assistant Chief and other officers have primary responsibility for responding to emergency calls as availability dictates and are assigned limited tasks and responsibilities. Department officers work an average of twelve hours per month including required monthly meetings. The part-paid/on-call firefighters train and work an average of six hours per month responding to emergency calls as available around work, school, family and other obligations. The normal response on medical assist calls is 1-4 responders while fire response ranges 4-12.

## **Cooperating agencies**

The Township has designated Lansing Mercy Ambulance of Dewitt to provide automatic advanced life support response and transportation. When Lansing Mercy Ambulance is unavailable, mutual aid agreements provide advanced life support response and transport from neighboring agencies. Dewitt Township Fire Department assists BTFD on an automatic basis for fire calls. Further, all Clinton County Fire Departments have signed a mutual aid agreement to help each other when need arises and resources are available. BTFD also provides rescue and fire protection for several thousand acres of State of Michigan Department of Transportation and Department of Natural Resources land with no state funding or assistance.

## **Run Volume**

The call volume for BTFD has increased significantly as the Township's population has grown since 1980. For the year of 2018, Bath Township Fire Department responded to 1120 calls for service. This included our medical and fire runs. These calls ranged from medical first responder calls to fire calls and even the rescue of baby ducklings from a storm drain. This is an increase over 2017 in which the department responded to 1050 calls.

## **Personnel**

For the year of 2018, Bath Township has had gains and losses. We unfortunately had to say goodbye to Captain Milt Sivak who moved out of the area. With losing him, we lost 18 years of experience. We also had other members who left due to various personal issues. We were also able to recruit new hires to our department as well. We hired 2 different personnel with either Fire or EMS training and 2 Personnel with no training. We are still always looking to actively add members to our roster.

## **Training**

Our department spent many hours this year training. We had one member who completed Firefighter 1&2, along with Hazmat Operations. We had two members who also completed Emergency Medical Responder. Captain Douglas completed his EMS Instructor Coordinator class and became a license EMT I/C and can now provide Continuing Education for our License Personnel. With the completion of that, Douglas is now both a Fire Instructor and EMS Instructor/Coordinator. Our department was fortunate to have residents who donated a house for members from our department as well as neighboring departments to practice with. We were able to do live sets and let personnel see fire grow and then extinguish it. To end the day the house was burned down. Bath Township Fire trains twice a month and for the year 2018, our members trained for over 1400 hours combined.

## **Fire Station Utilization/Maintenance**

In addition to providing an environment for firefighters to exercise study and socialize with each other, the Fire Station is also available to other township employees to visit, work and at times share a meal. Having the firefighters and other township staff in and around the station more frequently results in more timely maintenance of the facility and its equipment. More importantly, the department can improve response times by providing a setting in which firefighters may gather.

## **Equipment**

The department was able to continue our work on upgrading our equipment so that we can have the most up to date equipment to protect our members and our community. Upgrades included buying two new Thermal Imaging Cameras, 2 new Self Contained Breathing apparatus and also 4 sets of turnout gear. We also upgraded and bought 8 more new pagers. We were able to purchase a new ground monitor for one of our engines so that we can deliver more water for larger fires without having to commit personnel to that hose line.

## **Community Involvement**

The Fire Department spent numerous hours out with the community this year. We took part in multiple community picnics in which we were able to meet members of our community and show off our equipment. We took part in the Memorial Day Parade, Bath Days Parade and the Bath High School Homecoming Parade. We also presented Fire Prevention for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Classes at Bath Elementary School during Fire Prevention Week.

## **Department Goals:**

1. Increase the number of personnel on the roster. It is sometimes difficult to assemble a crew to respond to calls. Increased numbers of staff may ensure a better chance at adequate staffing and distribute the work load to more individuals.
2. Continue to develop the multi-year replacement and budget plans.
3. Continue to work on apparatus replacement and updating department apparatus
4. Helping to make the public aware of all that it takes to be apart of the Fire Department

In closing, 2018 was a very good and busy year for our department. Although we lost some members, we also gained new members to our family. We hope to carry on the professionalism and excellence our department has into 2019. We also look forward to celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Snider  
Fire Chief  
Bath Charter Township