

# KINGSPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# **Kingsport Fire Department**

## **A Brief History 1916-2024**

The Kingsport Fire Department was organized June 23, 1916 as a self-supporting volunteer organization consisting of 48 men divided among four companies. The apparatus consisted of four hand-drawn hose reels, 2,000 feet of hose, one hand-drawn hook and ladder truck, (which had one 20' and one 30' ladder an 18' wall ladder, and axes, poles, and lanterns), six nozzles, and one hand drawn chemical engine with two 35 gallon chemical tanks. Fire alarms were sounded by a wildcat whistle at the Extract Plant. The City assumed financial responsibility of the department when it was incorporated in 1917. The first pumper, purchased in 1917, is still owned by the department and is displayed at Station One. The department started operating under the leadership of Chief Tom Warrick. They responded to calls with one paid driver until 1930, when four paid firefighters and the second pumper were added to the force.

J. Roy Pyle was chosen for the office of Chief in 1935 and served until 1945. During Chief Pyle's term, Fire Station 2 at Crescent and Ft. Henry was built and a ladder truck was added to the list of vehicles. C.M. Kenner was named Chief in 1945 and served until his retirement in 1978. During Chief Kenner's term, operations continued as a part paid and part volunteer until 1950, when the last of the volunteers were phased out. Fire Station 3 on Memorial was constructed in 1965 and Fire Station 4 on West Stone in 1969. A replacement for the Watauga Street station was built in 1971 on Island Street to protect the central business district. This building now is designated as Station One, and houses the Administrative Offices, the Fire Marshal's Office, and the Safety/Training Office.

In 1978, C. L. Caldwell was appointed to the office of Fire Chief and held the office until his retirement in 1994. During Chief Caldwell's term, Kingsport's growth continued and Fire Station 5 in Lynn Garden opened in 1990 and Fire Station 6 in Colonial Heights on Ft. Henry Dr. opened in 1992. A hazardous materials response unit was added and a number of personnel were trained as hazardous material technicians. Also during his term, the Paramedic training was initiated and the first class of approximately 20 KFD members received their paramedic licenses. In August of 1995, the department implemented Advanced Life Support (ALS) and currently 28 members are Paramedics.

In 1994, J. C. Moser was appointed Chief and held the office until his retirement in 2001. During Chief Moser's term, the department received accreditation by the Commission of Fire Accreditation International in the year 2000. Only 312 departments in the world currently hold this honor, with Kingsport being one of the first 25 departments to be accredited. Specialized Haz-Mat and Tactical Rescue Teams were begun consisting of five personnel from each shift. The Kingsport Fire Department Training Facility was also constructed during Chief Moser's tenure built completely by Fire Department Members.

The position of Safety/Training Officer and Public Education Officer was also created to enhance and coordinate the training of all personnel.

In 2001, Charles A. White was appointed to the office of Fire Chief. During this year a new Deputy Chief of Operations position was created. Robert Sluss was appointed to the position of Fire Marshal. The special teams were increased from 5 per shift to 7 and most Haz-Mat team members updated their certification through TEMA to Specialist level. A future site for a fire station was purchased at the Airport Parkway exit off I-81 and an equipment replacement program was initiated for the new budget. Upon the retirement of Deputy Chief Larkins, Craig Dye was appointed to Deputy Chief of Operations. Chief C.A. White retired in December of 2003.

In 2004 Craig Dye was appointed Fire Chief. During his term the Kingsport Fire Department has grown to 122 career personnel. The property lease for the new training ground was signed by all parties in 2011. The department was accredited for the third 5 year term under Chief Dye. The Haz-Mat team was also re-accredited in 2010 as Level II CBRNE team by TEMA. The USAR Team has grown and takes in several entities in East Tennessee and is working on accreditation by TEMA. The City also attained a population of over 50,000 in 2011 and is continuing to grow through annexation. In the spring of 2012 Fire Station 8 opened in the East Stone Drive area. Three fire engines were purchased during 2012, one for station 8 and two to replace older equipment. The department provides protection to approximately 57 square miles with eight stations and 13 staffed pieces of equipment.

All suppression personnel are certified by the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Standards to the highest level available and are licensed by the regulatory board of the Department of Health with the minimum required certification being EMT-A. All personnel in the Fire Marshal's office are certified through the state Fire Marshall's office and the codes that they enforce. During the year of 2013 two more employees received the Fire Inspector 1 certifications bringing the total to five International Code Council certified Fire Inspectors. Two employees also received their Fire Investigator Technician certifications.

On October 27, 2014 the Insurance Service Organization lowered Kingsport's Public Protection Classification for the city to a class II. The rating system ranges from 1-10, with one being the best rating and 10 indicating no fire service. Diligent work to improve services by the Fire and Water Departments lowered our rating from a class III to a class II. A lower class rating helps to reduce insurance rates for the citizens and businesses within the city limits.

A joint venture between The City of Kingsport and Tennessee Eastman Company, to develop and build a fire training facility located on Horse Creek Lane, has been ongoing. Completion of Phase One occurred in 2014. That project is now in Phase Two. The live burn/training structure was completed in December of 2015.

In December of 2016 a 105 foot E-One platform was purchased and placed in service at Fire Station 1. At that time Ladder 3, housed at Station 3 on Memorial Boulevard, was

commissioned to compliment fire and rescue operations on the east end of Kingsport due to a growing commercial and residential population. The Hazardous Materials Response Team was reaccredited as a Level II CBRNE team by TEMA.

In November of 2017 Chief Craig Dye resigned after 34 years of service. Assistant Chief Scott A. Boyd was appointed as the interim Fire Chief at the time which he served until appointed as Fire Chief of the Kingsport Fire Department on January 21, 2018. During this calendar year Chief Boyd will appoint an Assistant Chief, add a new position of Assistant Training Officer, and place into service a new 1250 gpm E- One engine.

James Everhart, a 30-year veteran of the Kingsport Fire Department, was appointed to the rank of Assistant Chief in March of 2018. The Assistant Training Officer position was created and filled in December of 2018.

Darryl Hayes was appointed to Assistant Chief in May of 2019. Chief Hayes has served with the department beginning in April of 1992. Public Education Officer Barry Brickey was named the 2019 National Fire Protection Association Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year. He received the award at the National Fire Protection Association Conference in June of 2019 in San Antonio, TX. Brickey was also the 2018 Bruce Womack Award Tennessee's Fire Educator of the year.

The Insurance Services Office re-evaluated the department in the spring of 2020 and a Class II rating was issued. Funding was secured and architectural design started on the classroom and offices being constructed at the Fire Training Facility. The department developed a response plan for the Covid 19 pandemic. We worked closely with Sullivan County Health Department, TEMA, local agencies and local governments to respond to all emergency calls safely and effectively.

Construction began on a new training building and offices for the training division in June of 2021. Two Pierce Velocity 1750 gallon per minute pumpers were purchased in October of 2021 and delivery is expected in the fall of 2022. The fire marshal's office took delivery of a new 2021 Dodge Ram 1500 in June. Fire Marshall Robert Sluss retired in October after 26 years of service. Inspector Chris Vandergriff was promoted to Fire Marshall in November. The department was reaccredited by the CPSE (center for public safety excellence), for the fourth consecutive time since 2001.

Assistant Chief Darryl Hayes retired in January 2022 after 30 years of service. Deputy Chief Terry Arnold was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief in February of 2022. The Training Facility was completed in the fall of 2022 and is operational. Training Officer Senior Captain Joel Jones retired in 2022 after 31 years of service. Captain Wes Jennings was promoted to Senior Captain and heads the training division. Captain Max Bear transferred to the training division as the assistant training officer.

The Hazmat Unit is being replaced with a Pierce Freightliner custom body apparatus, which was purchased in the fall of 2022. A Pierce Enforcer 100 foot Ladder Truck was

purchased in October of 2022. Both units are expected to be delivered in 2024. Two Pierce Velocity Engines have been delivered and are being put into service.

Plans have begun to replace and rebuild Fire Station #2 at Crescent Drive. The property adjoining the current location has been secured and architectural plans are being developed to build a new station.

The Technical Rescue Team received an Assistance to Firefighter grant from the Department of Homeland security in the summer of 2023. This grant allowed training and certification of the team members. Training hours exceeded more than 240 hours per team member. The Technical Rescue Team along with other agencies in district received Swiftwater Accreditation from TEMA.

The Hazardous Materials Team received reaccreditation with TEMA to be recertified as a Level II CBRNE team in the fall of 2024.

A natural disaster occurred in the counties of Unicoi and Washington on September 27, 2024. Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida on September 26 and moved quickly inland degenerating into a post-tropical cyclone over Tennessee. There was massive widespread flooding in the affected areas.

Kingsport Fire Department sent 77 firefighters for assistance in Technical Rescue, Swift Water, Hazardous Materials, and firefighting operations to the affected areas. Those firefighters continued their efforts well into October. 2144 man hours were tracked for the relief efforts. The hurricane claimed 18 lives in Tennessee and damages were estimated at 1.35 billion dollars

We at the Kingsport Fire Department continue to strive and train to be the premier and most progressive department in the State of Tennessee. We extend our sincere appreciation to the citizens, businesses, and other City of Kingsport personnel for their support of Emergency Services, Prevention and Public Education.

## Kingsport Fire Department Management Philosophy Statement

The Chief Officers of the Kingsport Fire Department have adopted a philosophy to use for the execution of our responsibilities. In pursuing organizational goals and objectives and when dealing with personnel and each other, we will strive to use:

**Honesty**

**Trust**

**Integrity**

**Fairness**

**Consistency**

**Commitment**

The Chief Officers recognize that the success of the organization depends upon the success of the individual. We will provide the resources needed for individual achievement while recognizing the individual must also be committed to accomplishing the department's goals. We also recognize that we should not become complacent and continually strive for excellence. We pledge to act in a professional manner, accepting the responsibilities and accountability associated with resource management while committing ourselves to the accomplishment of the department's mission.

## 2024 Achievements

- The fire department has continued its partnership with the Dobyys Bennett High School Fire Science program. This has included helping with instruction and the development of a work based learning program for a student in the program.
- The department took delivery of a new HazMat Unit to replace the old HazMat 7. The apparatus was paid for by funding from the city and Sullivan County.
- The Kingsport City Schools continued conducting its mandatory active shooter drills. These drills were a joint effort between the city schools, Kingsport Police Department, Sullivan County EMS, and Kingsport Fire Department. The primary focus this year was the reunification process at the Tribe Athletic Complex.
- The department closed out the Assistance to Firefighters Grant of \$353,000. This grant provided Technical Rescue Training in Rope, Trench, Swiftwater, Confined Space, Search, and Structural Collapse. \$82,000 of the grant was used for the purchase of new equipment.
- Three employees were deployed to South Carolina as part of the District 1 Swiftwater Team due to Hurricane Debby. They were gone for a total of eight days.
- Gear Washers were installed at Station 1, Station 5, and Station 6. This provided our personnel the ability to wash gear after exposures to help with cancer mitigation. Dryers were also placed at Stations 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8 to help dry gear quicker to get it back in service.
- A new Pierce engine was ordered to replace one of the older engines.
- Our department responded to Washington County, Unicoi County, and Carter County for Technical Rescue and Hazardous Material Response as a result of Hurricane Helene. Our personnel spent 27 days and accounted for 2144 man hours of operations to assist during this disaster.

**Kingsport Fire Department**  
**Goals and Objectives for FY 25-26**

**Annual**

- Continue to pursue revenue under routes such as grants and permits
- Maintain Accreditation from Center Public Safety Excellence
- Maintain Hazardous Material Team Accreditation from Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
- Complete annual State of Tennessee fire in-service training
- Perform promotional testing for department promotions
- Perform entry level assessments and testing for potential new hires
- Perform Citizens Fire Academy and assist with Model City 101 classes
- Maintain ALS service for citizens
- Recruit and retain highly motivated and trained employees
- Pump, Hose, and Aerial test are performed on equipment to assure regulation compliance
- Maintain community risk reduction programs
- Assure that KFD are good stewards of city funds
- Developing and construction of new Fire Station # 2
- Evaluate and implement study for department restructure and staffing levels

**1 – 5 Year Goals**

- Maintain fire facilities plan for department Capital Improvement Projects
- Evaluate levels of service and adjust to meet the community expectations
- Work to improve the ISO rating from a 2 to 1.
- Secure Architect to develop a plan for design and construction of Fire Station # 9
- Work on placing processes in place to assure ALS response is place long term.
- Assure the development and implementation of a department succession plan
- Improve props for the fire training facility
- Develop and implement training for job specific positions including special teams.

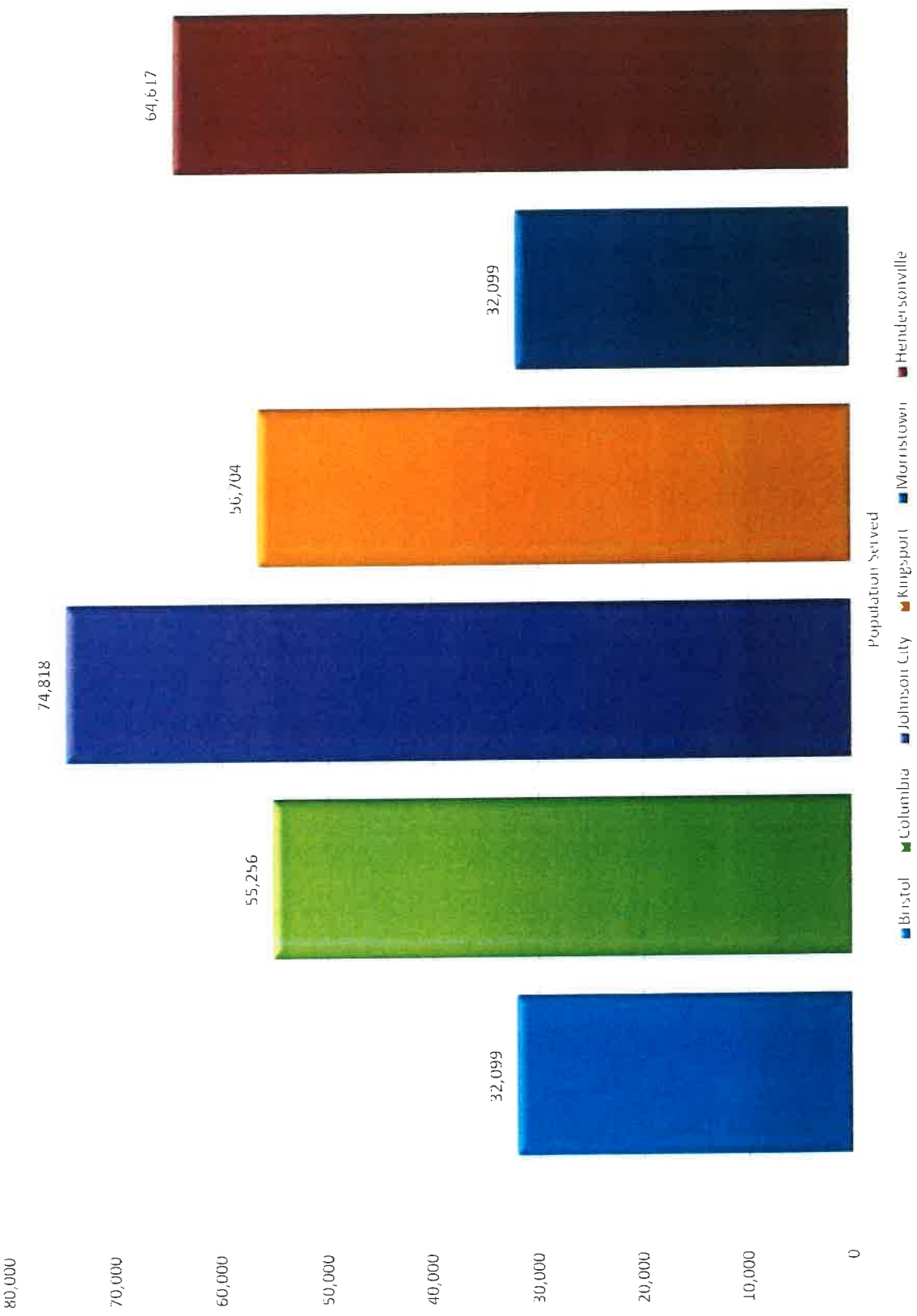
**5 – 10 Years Goals (Long – Range)**

- Update department strategic plan
- Evaluate and implement replacement plan for deterioration fire stations (50 year life expectancy)

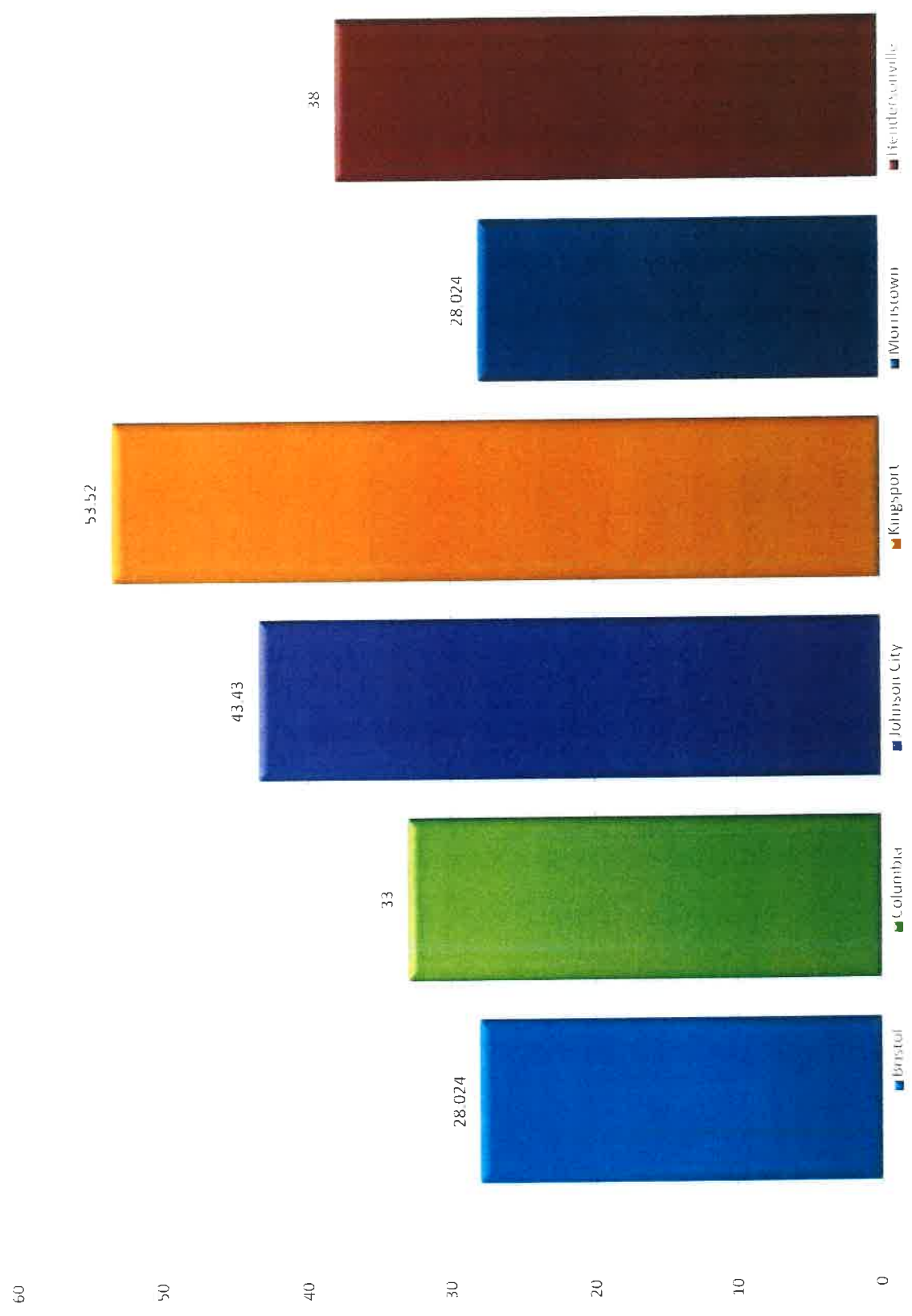




# Population Served



# Square Miles Served



# 2024 Budget

\$16,000,000

\$14,000,000

\$12,000,000

\$10,000,000

\$8,000,000

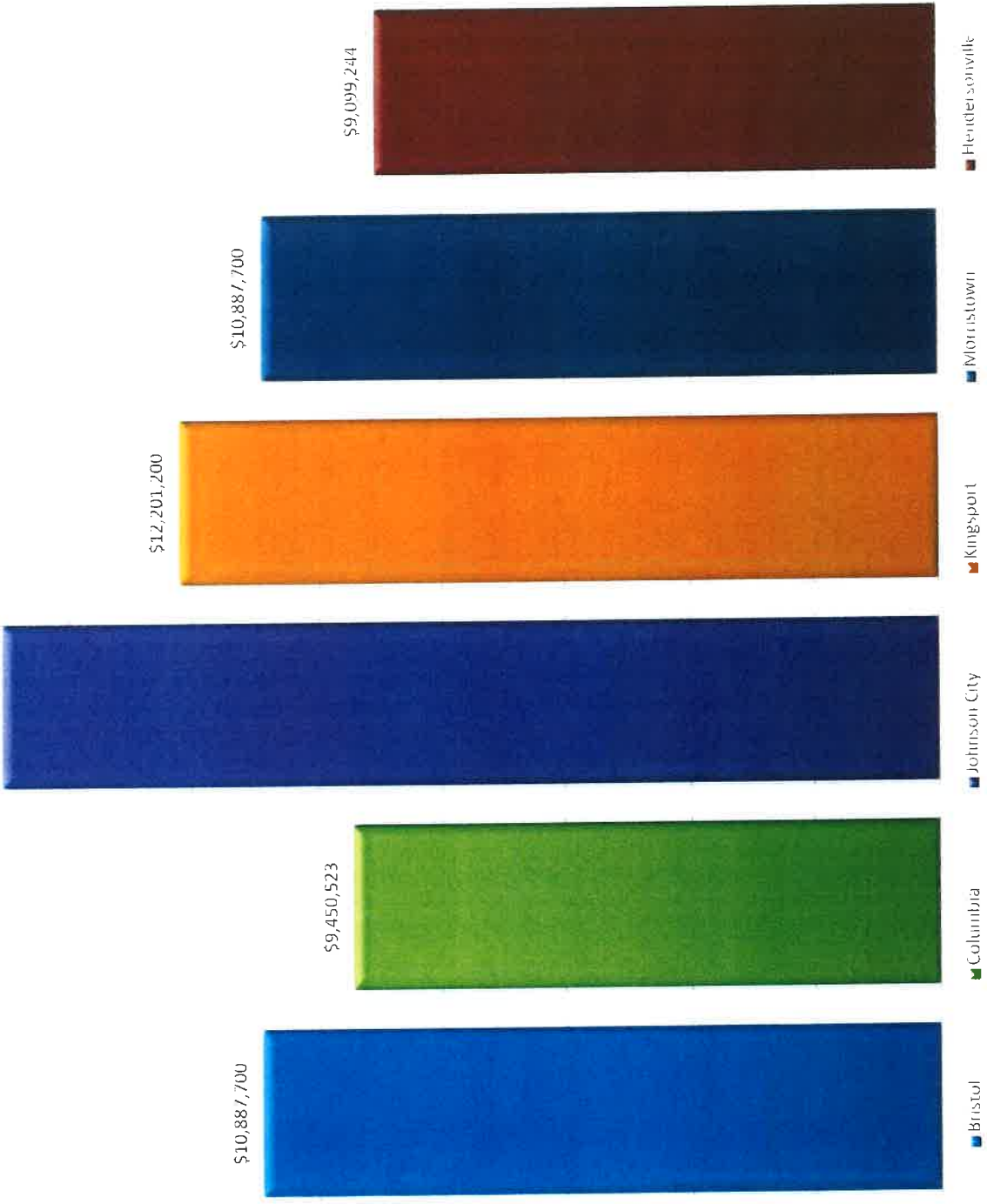
\$6,000,000

\$4,000,000

\$2,000,000

\$0

\$15,052,770



\$10,887,700

\$9,450,523

\$12,201,200

\$10,887,700

\$9,099,244

■ Bristol

■ Columbia

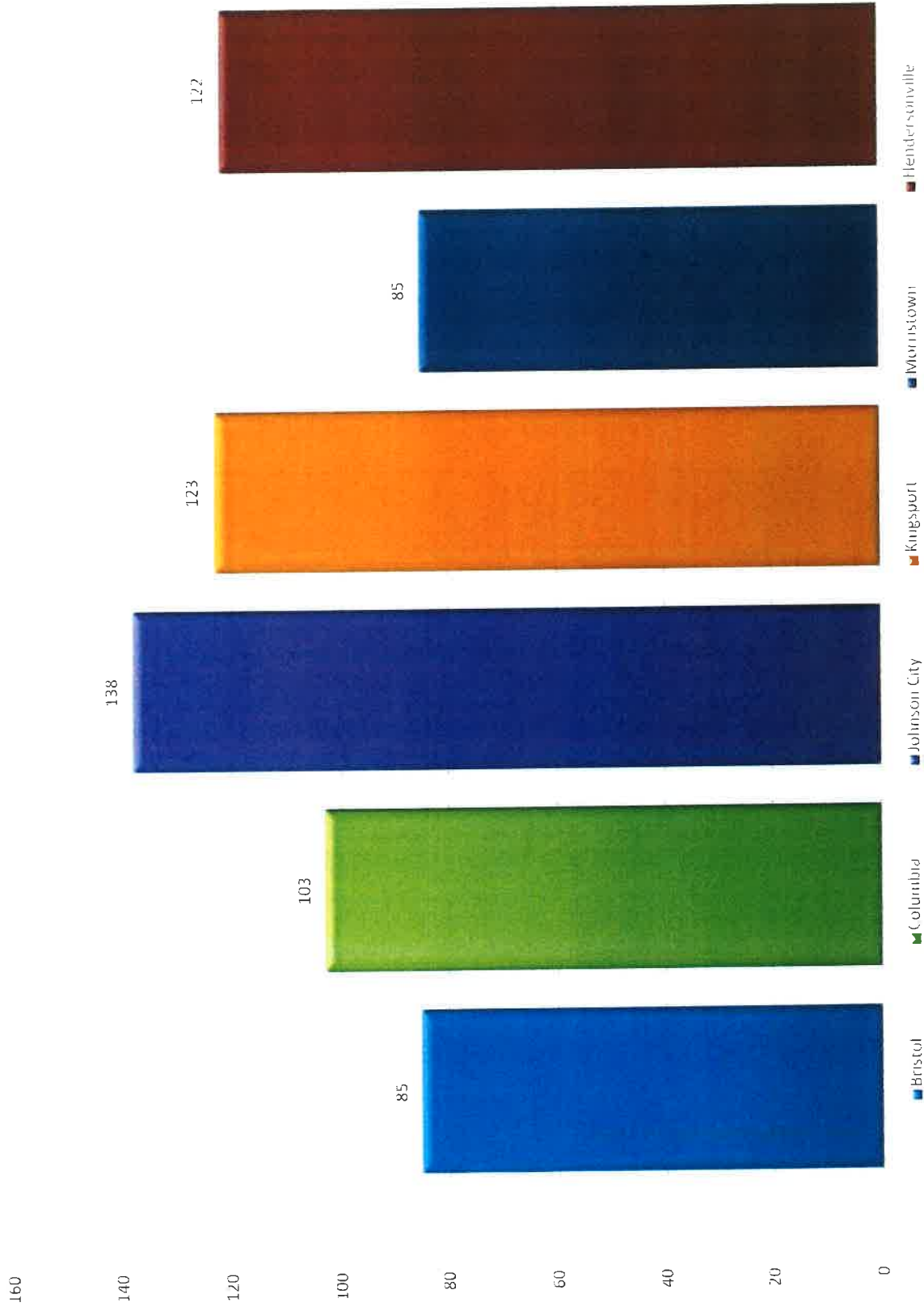
■ Johnson City

■ Kingsport

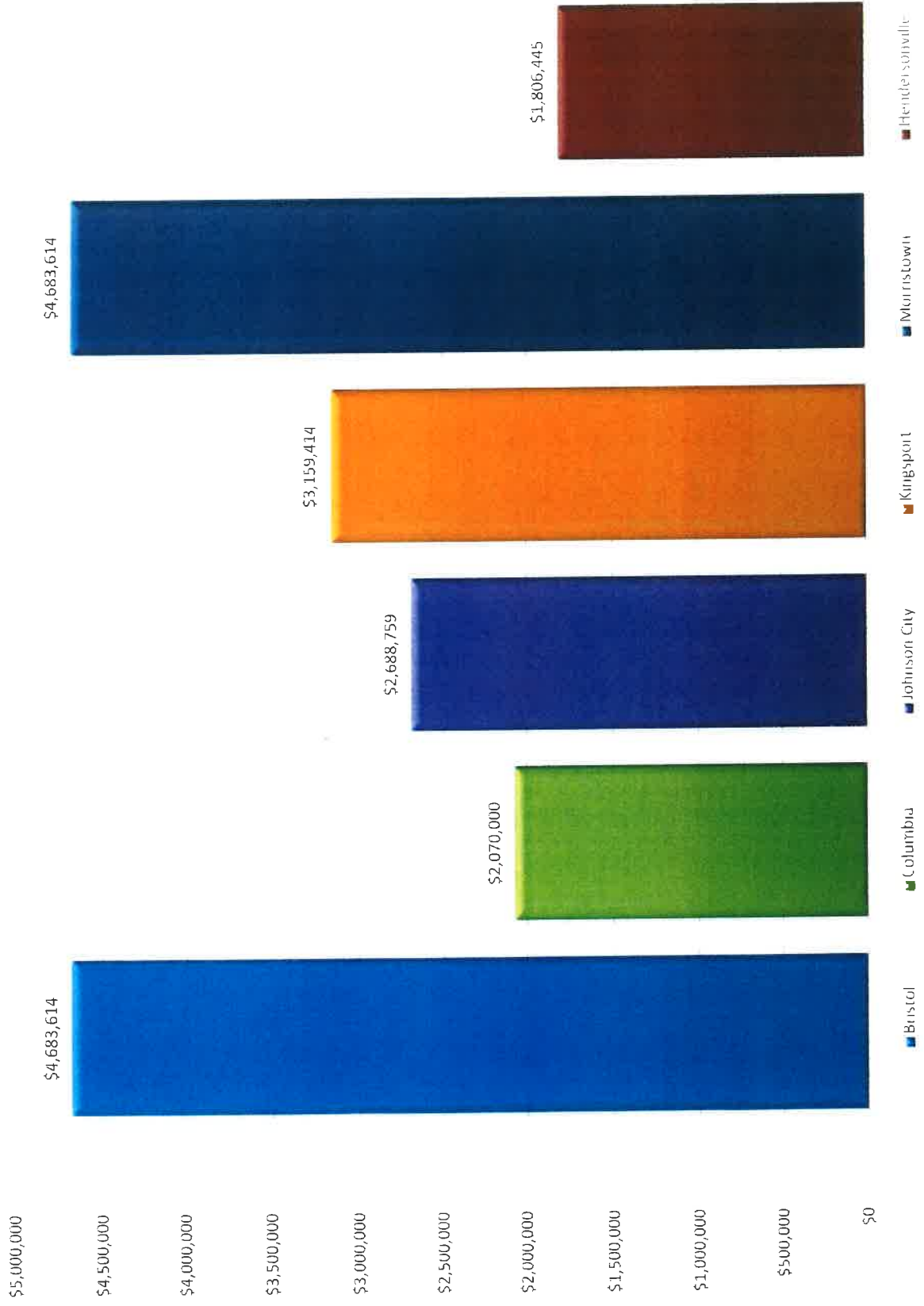
■ Morristown

■ Hendersonville

# Number of Employees



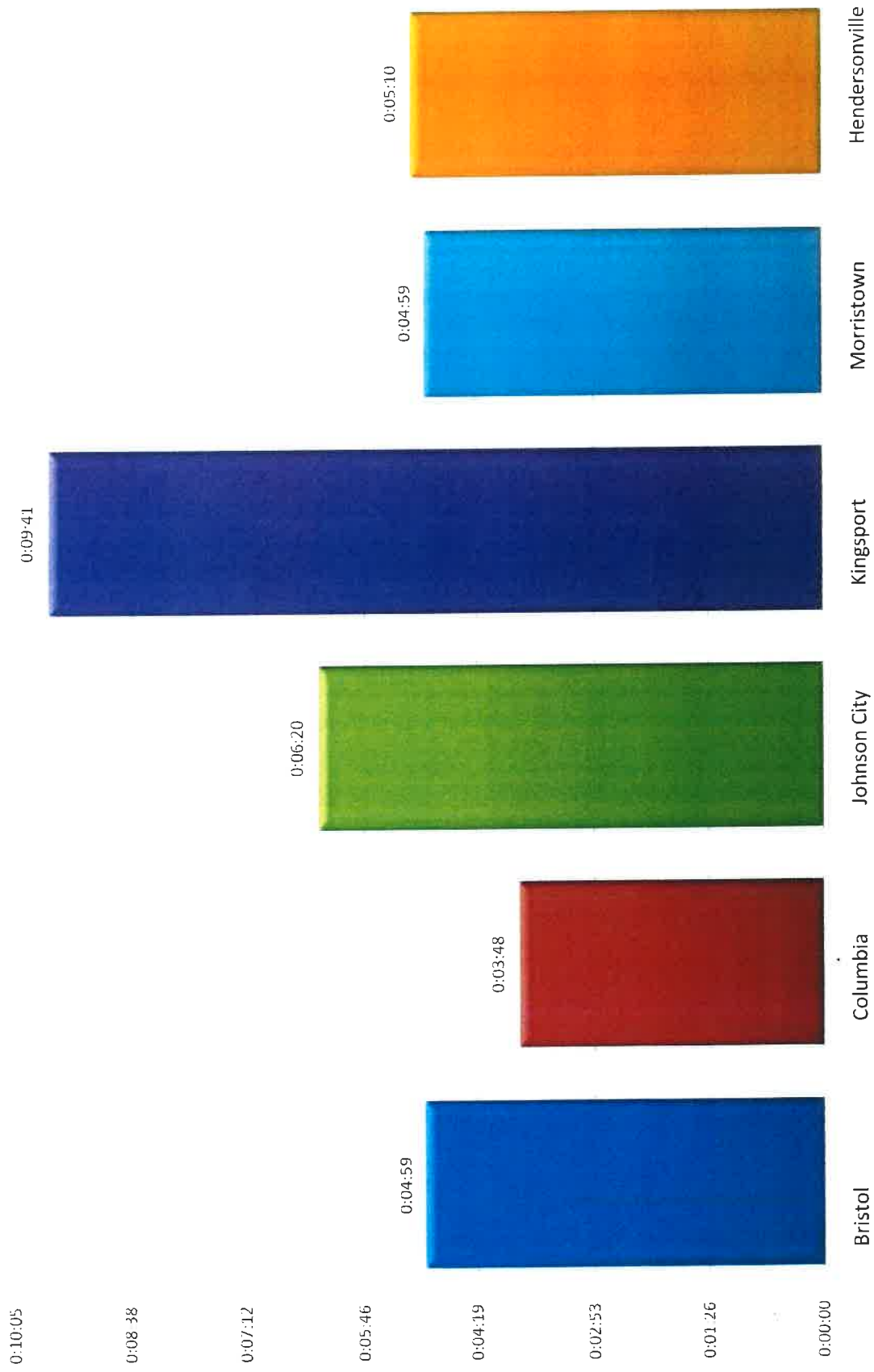
# Fire Loss 2024



0411 31

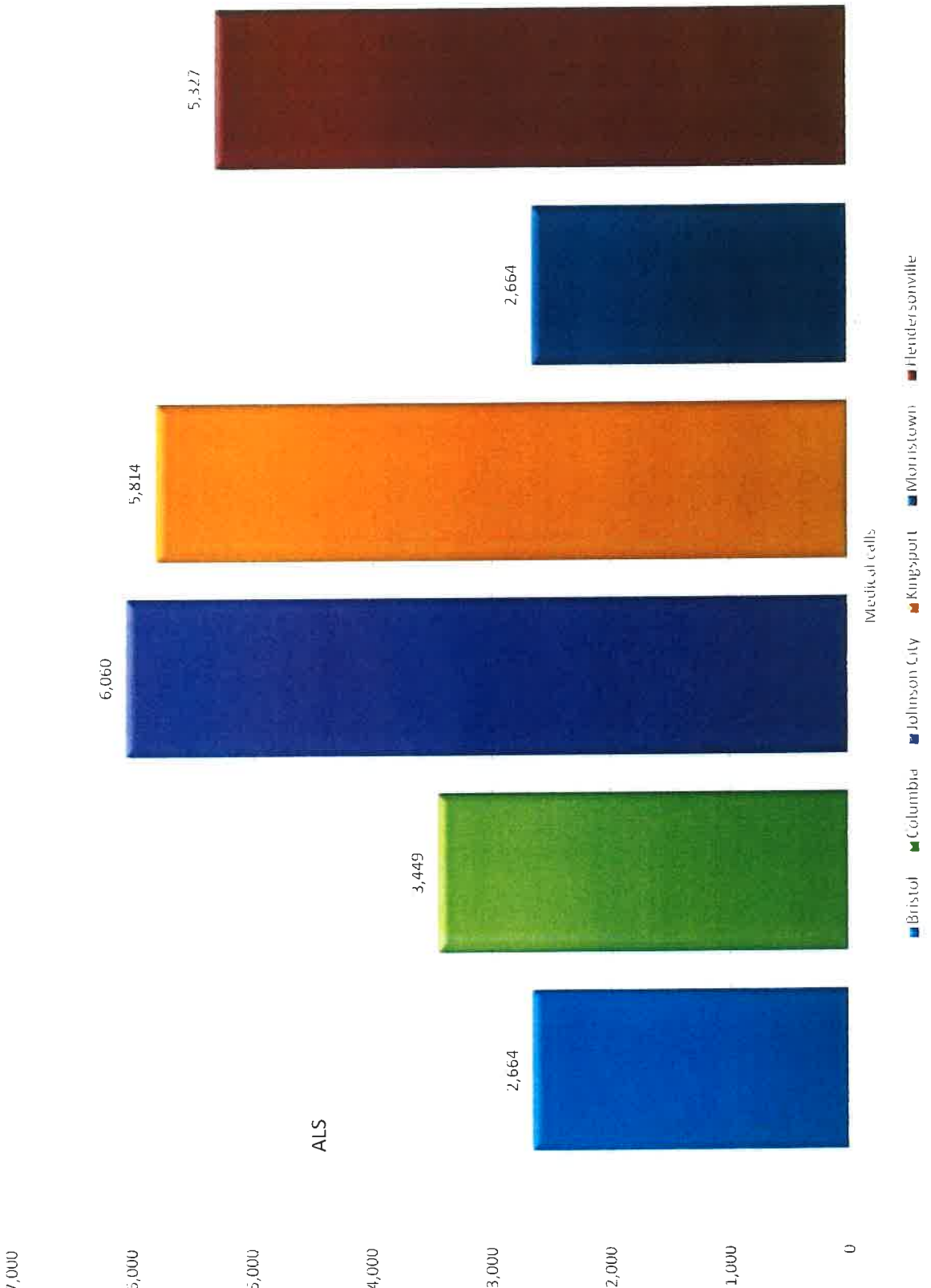
# 90% Fractile Time

Average Response Times  
\* does not include dispatch time



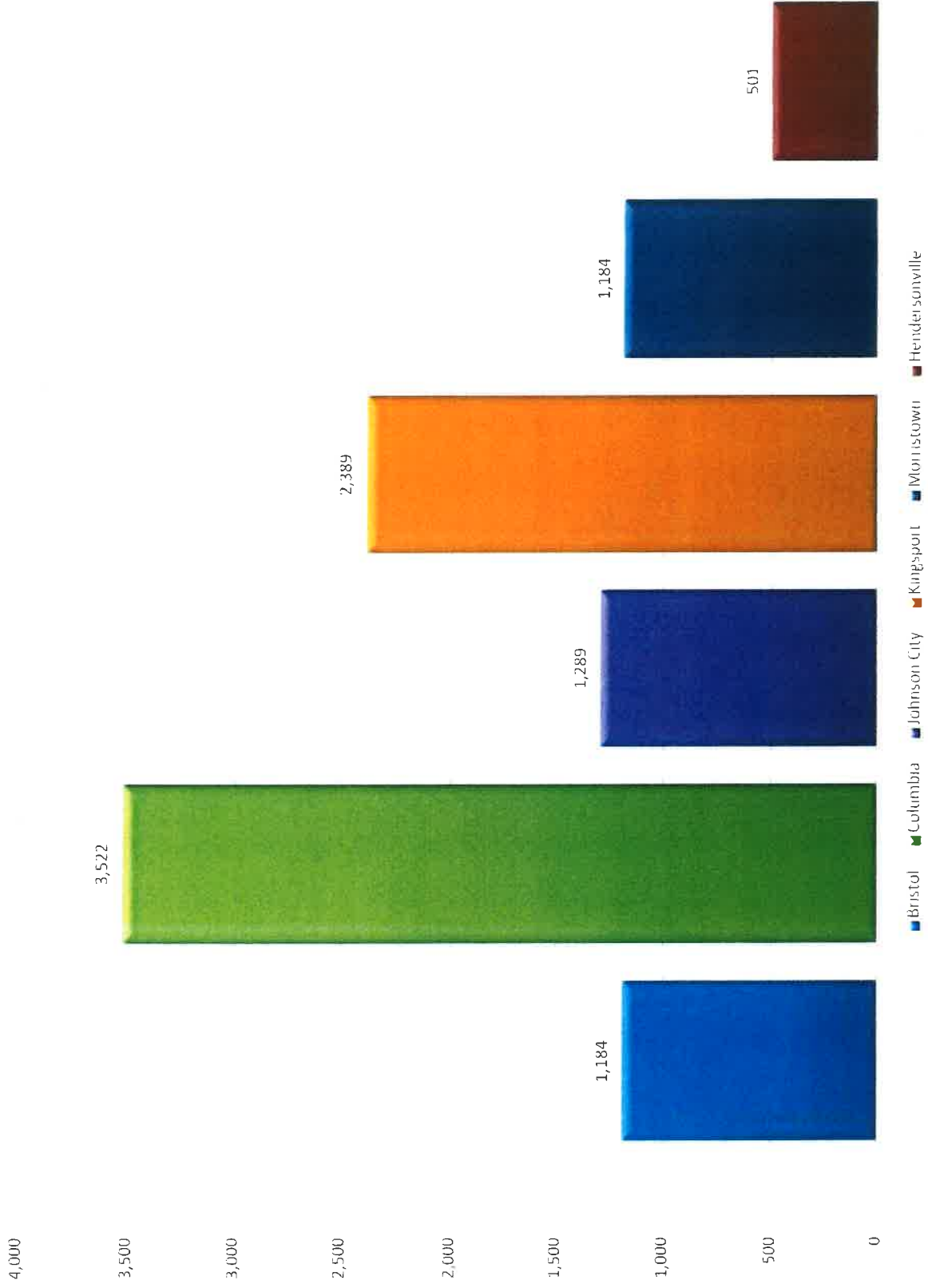
ALS = Advanced Life Support  
BLS = Basic Life Support

### Medical Calls

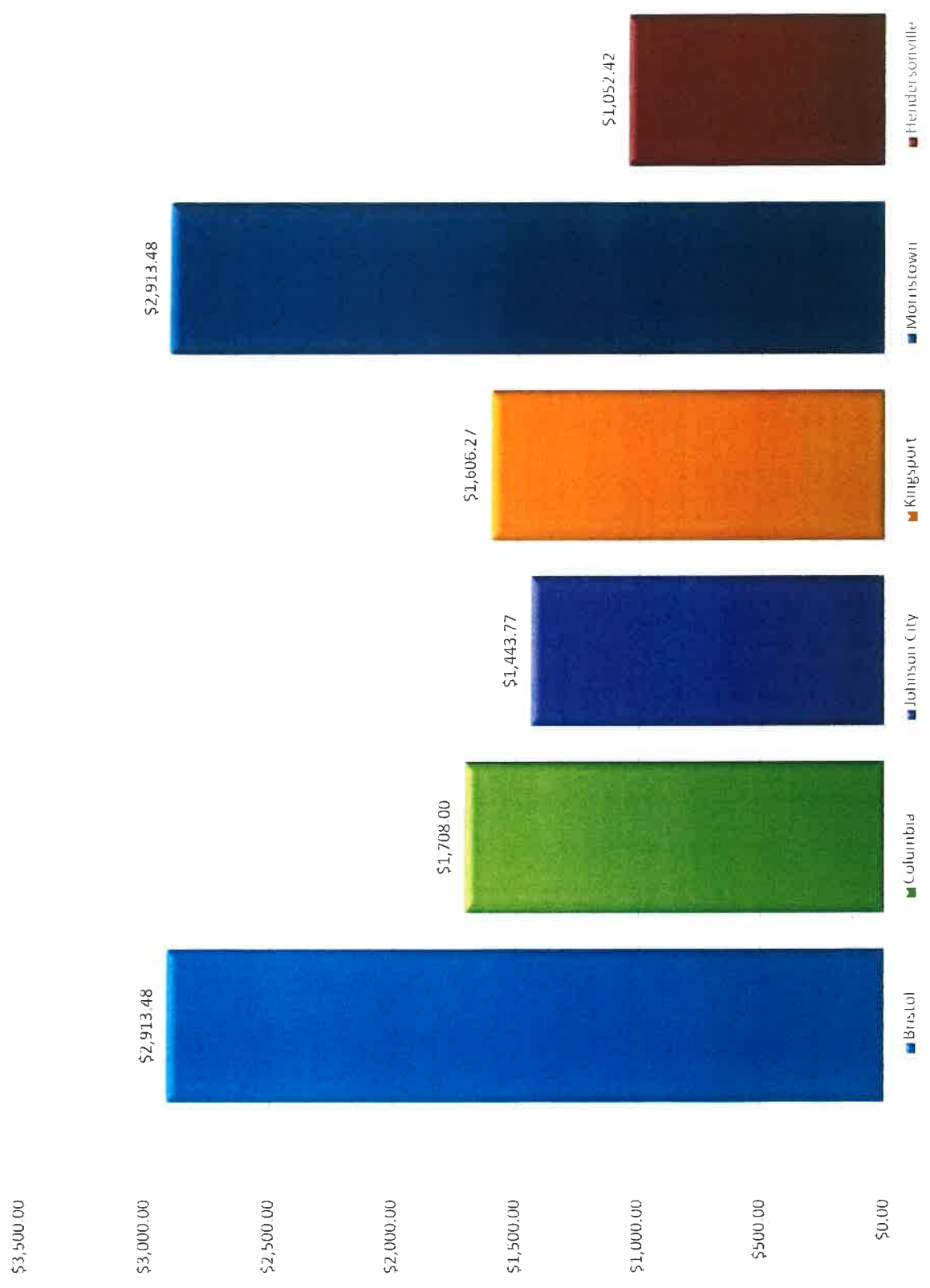




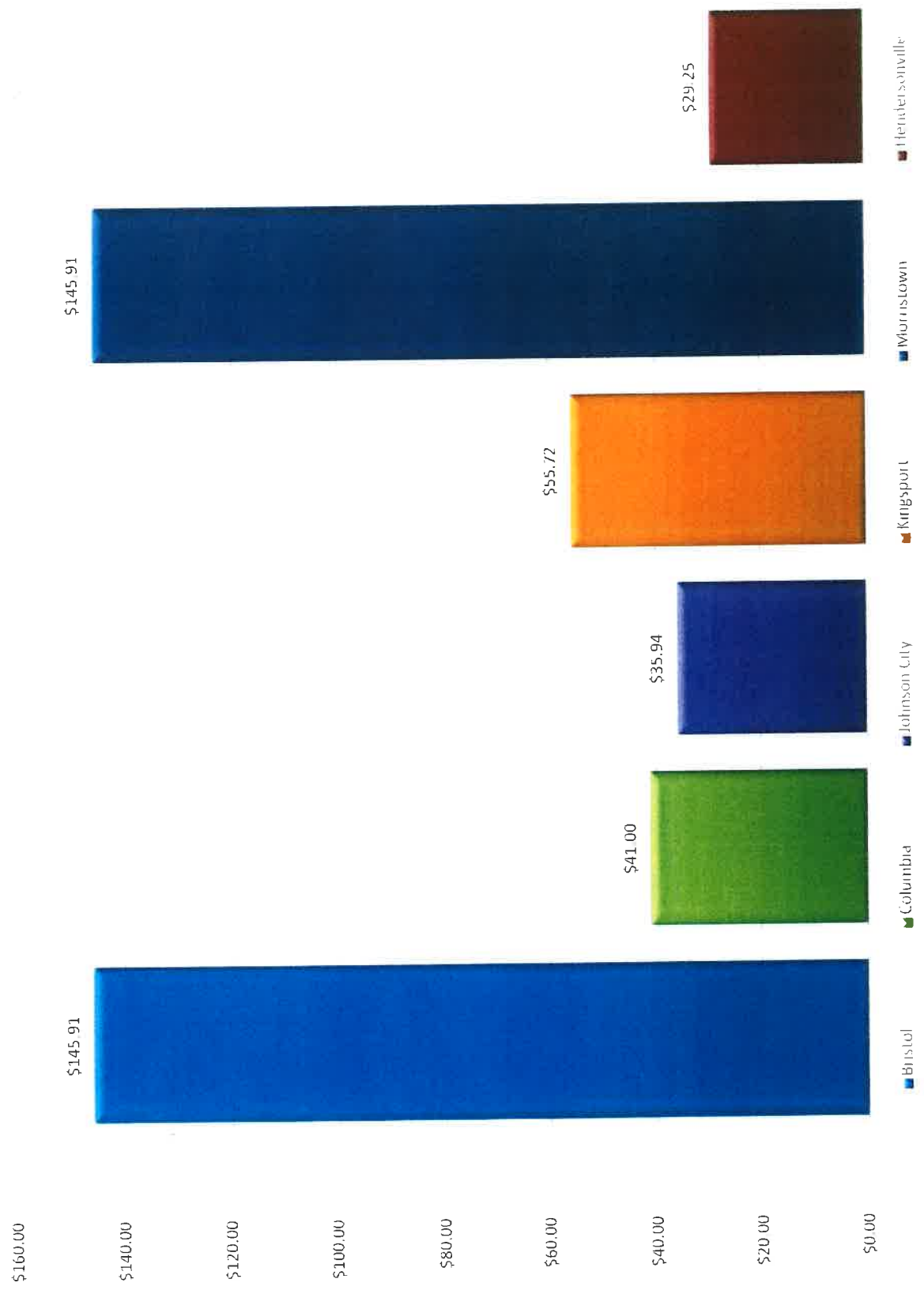
# # of Inspections 2023



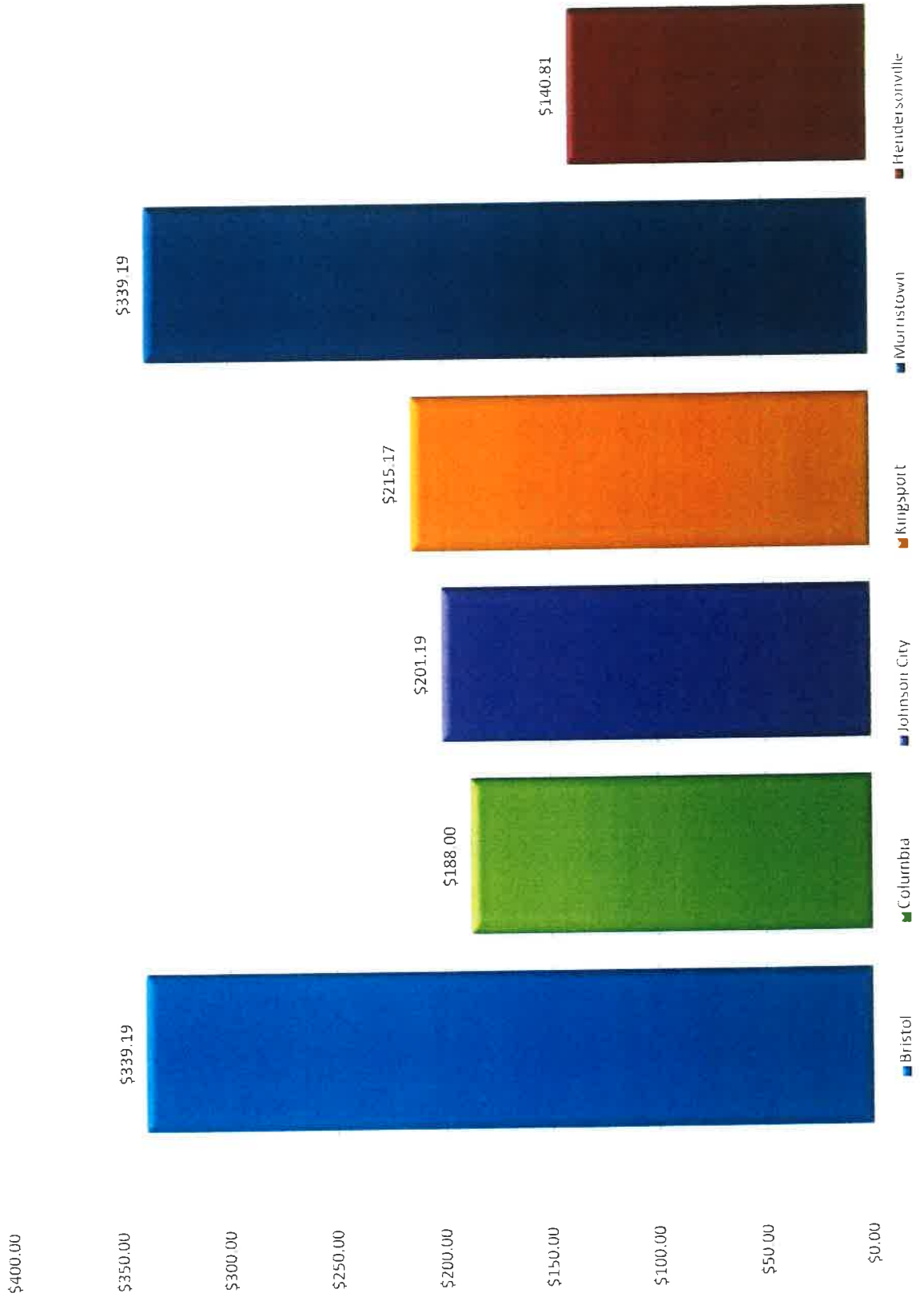
# Cost Per Call



# Fire Loss Per Capita



# Cost Per Capita



**Kingsport Fire Department 2025**

Equipment in service

**Primary Equipment**

2024 Freightliner M112 HazMat	HM7	#2784	Sta 7
2023 Pierce 1750 GPM Pumper	E-1	#2691	Sta. 1
2023 Pierce 1750 GPM Pumper	E-12	#2690	Sta. 1
2017 E-one 1250 GPM Pumper	E-7	#2381	Sta. 7
2016 E-One 100 ft. Platform (2000gpm)	L-1	#2313	Sta. 1
2012 E-One 1250 GPM Pumper	E-6	#2057	Sta. 6
2012 E-One 1250 GPM Pumper	E-2	#2058	Sta. 2
2011 E-One 1250 GPM Pumper	E-8	#1989	Sta. 8
2010 Seagrave 1250 GPM Pumper	E-4	#1922	Sta. 4
2008 Seagrave 1250 GPM Pumper	E-3	#1859	Sta 3
2002 Pierce 105 ft. Ladder (2000gpm)	L-3	#1551	Sta. 3
2000 E-One 1250 GPM Pumper	E-5	#1473	Sta. 5
2000 Freightliner Technical Rescue Unit		#1426	Sta. 2

**Reserve Equipment**

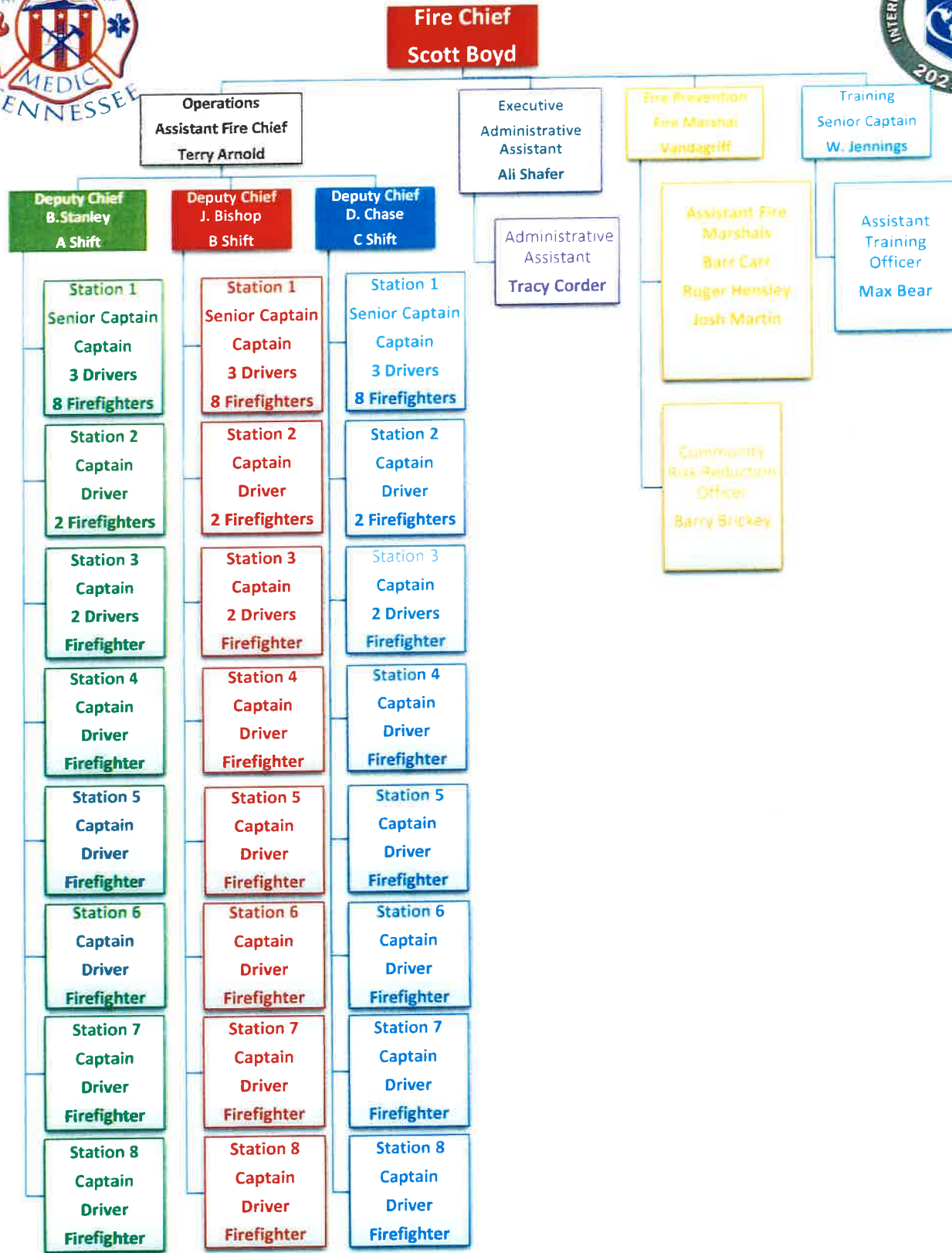
2007 Seagrave 1250 GPM Pumper	E-23	#1782	
2000 Chevrolet 3500 Rehab Unit	Rehab	#1429	
1997 Pierce 1250 GPM Pumper	E-21	#1337	
1996 Pierce 1250 GPM Tele- Squirt	E-22	#1297	
1993 Pierce 100 ft. Platform (2000gpm)	L-31	#1158	
1917 American LaFrance 350 GPM Pumper		#0001	

**Other Automotive Equipment**

2021 Ram 1500	FM-2	#2606	2008 Ford Expedition	FM-1	#1831
2021 Dodge Durango	C-2	#2602	2006 Ford F-150	FM-4	#1736
2019 Ford F-350	C-3	#2466	2005 Kubota RTV900		
2019 Ford F-350	Safety	#2465	2005 Kubota RTV900		
2017 Ram 2500	FM-3	#2307	1993 Ford F-350 Breathing Air Unit		#1154
2014 Dodge Durango	C-1	#2192	1992 Timberwolf Utility H/M Trailer		#2223
2014 Utility Trailer 6'X12'					
2011 Ford F-450	Utility	#1936			



# Kingsport Fire Department Organizational Chart



## Overview of Kingsport Fire Department

### Station Locations

- Station 1 – 130 Island Street
- Station 2 – 1804 Crescent Drive
- Station 3 – 3828 Memorial Boulevard
- Station 4 – 2105 West Stone Drive
- Station 5 – 1517 Lynn Garden Drive
- Station 6 – 4598 Fort Henry Drive
- Station 7 – 1440 Rock Springs Road
- Station 8 – 1205 New Beason Well Road

### Apparatus:

- Pumpers (12)
- Ladder Trucks (3)
- Hazardous Materials Unit (1)
- Tactical Rescue Unit (1)
- Command Unit (1)

### Employees (122)

- Administrative (4), Suppression (111), Prevention (5), Training (2)
- 31 Paramedics - the remainder of the department is EMT Advanced Level
- 81 Hazardous Material Technicians & 15 Specialists
- 21 Tactical Rescue Technicians
- 3 Certified Fire Investigators
- 5 Certified Fire Inspectors

Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 2 & 2Y, the last evaluation was done in Dec 2019

Internationally Accredited Fire Department. 301 internationally and with eight in Tennessee (Kingsport, Alcoa, Brentwood, Bristol, Maryville, Murfreesboro, Johnson City, Naval Support Agency - Millington).

Year	Fire Deaths	Budget	Incidents	Loss
2020	0	\$10,543,650	7,674	\$1,198,900
2021	0	\$11,047,307	8,363	\$3,955,891
2022	3	\$11,551,583	8,152	\$1,496,074
2023	0	\$12,201,200	8,114	\$1,892,231
2024	1	\$12,433,400	7,559	\$1,627,080

Fire Chief  
 Scott Boyd  
 130 Island Street  
 Kingsport, TN 37660  
 (423)229-9444  
 (423)956-0374 (cell)

Assistant Chief  
 Terry Arnold  
 130 Island Street  
 Kingsport, TN 37660  
 (423)229-9444  
 (423)782-6798 (cell)

3/27/2025

# Kingsport Fire Department

## Fire Classification and Loss during 2024

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Risk</u>
<b>Structural</b>	94	\$1,026,346.00	\$30,817,597.00
Dwellings, motels, office Buildings			
Churches, hospitals, schools, institutions,			
Retail and wholesale trade, repair shops,			
Restaurants, garages, ect.			
<b>Vehicle Fires</b>	53	\$409,034.00	\$1,633,436.00
<b>Other Fire/Explosions</b>	126	\$191,700.00	\$7,518,200.00
<b>Severe Weather</b>	1		
<b>Emergency Medical/Rescue Calls</b>	5538		
<b>Hazardous Condition</b>	163		
<b>False Alarms/Bomb Threats</b>	609		
<b>Service/Good Intent calls</b>	711		
Power lines down, service calls,			
Good intent calls, and other calls not classified.			
<b>Other Emergencies</b>	264		
Honest mistakes, wrong locations,			
Accidental alarms, exposures, mutual aid			
given, ect.			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,559</b>	<b>\$1,627,080.00</b>	<b>\$39,969,233.00</b>



KINGSPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

Deputy Chief Brandon Stanley

The Kingsport Fire Department (KFD) provides its citizens and visitors with the best in fire, rescue, emergency, and advanced life support services. The KFD also provides hazardous materials response and technical rescue services to Tennessee Homeland District One, which encompasses eight counties in Northeast Tennessee. This is accomplished through the commitment and dedication of the men and women that make up this department.

The KFD operates out of eight fire stations that are strategically located throughout the city of Kingsport. Personnel staff eight engine companies, one fire-rescue pumper, two ladder trucks, one rescue truck, and one command vehicle. Specialized equipment for hazardous materials and technical rescue is stationed with companies that are highly trained in those complex operations. All apparatus (excluding ladder trucks) always provides advanced life support through the use of advanced emergency medical technicians (AEMT) at a minimum; however, the KFD strives to provide a paramedic on every apparatus at all times. All personnel in the Operations Division are trained and licensed to the emergency medical technician basic level (EMT-B) at a minimum. Anyone hired after July 1, 2014 are required to obtain their AEMT license.

The Operations Division of the KFD responded to 7,559 incidents in 2024. Total responses decreased 556 from 8,115 total calls in 2023. Rescue and emergency medical responses accounted for 5,538, which decreased 399 responses in 2023. Fire related responses decreased from 283 calls in 2023 to 265 calls in 2024. The remaining 1,756 responses were due

to pressure ruptures, explosions, overheating, hazardous conditions, service, good intent, severe weather or natural disasters, special incidents, false alarms, and miscellaneous events.

In 2017, the KFD entered a partnership with the Kingsport Life Saving Crew and Sullivan County to provide a staffed Heavy Rescue Unit available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This unit delivers vital rescue equipment during structure fires, vehicle accidents, priority medical calls, and technical rescue emergencies within the city of Kingsport and Sullivan County. The heavy rescue unit continues to be an asset to the citizens of Kingsport and Sullivan County responding to 379 medical calls, 560 motor vehicle accidents, and 87 structure fires for a total of 1,032 responses in 2024.

The KFD has become an all-hazards response organization with a major focus on planning and operations for Homeland Security. The KFD's Hazardous Materials Response Team is the regional response team for Tennessee Homeland District One that incorporates eight counties in Northeast Tennessee. The amount of training that team members are required to have is substantial and continues to grow. Team members attend several hours of additional training annually in addition to their regular department training.

The KFD took delivery of equipment that was purchased with grant monies through our local emergency management agency (EMA). The KFD's HMRT is accredited by the State of Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and is currently the only Type II team in the state of Tennessee. Meeting accreditation standards is now a major focus of training for our members and with that has come new equipment. The KFD's Technical Rescue Team is also an example of dedication and commitment. The team trains year-round to deal with complex rescue situations, such as high-angle, trench, collapse, and swift water rescue, which are outside the scope of an engine companies' capabilities. The team completed several training classes

including trench, confined space, search, and swift water, which was funded through a large training grant. The Technical Rescue Team is ready to respond to whatever type of rescue is required.

Both the hazardous materials response team and the technical rescue team were deployed to assist our neighboring counties during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in 2024. The hazardous materials team assisting in Unicoi County and the technical rescue team assisting in Washington County. Both teams were deployed for over a week each. The region was ravaged by unprecedented flooding, which led to numerous rescues, recoveries, search efforts, as well as, mitigating numerous hazardous materials situations involving product identification, confinement, and containment.

Fire suppression is still the primary focus and concern of the KFD. Although the frequency of fires in the city of Kingsport and the nation have decreased due to improved building codes, code enforcement, and fire prevention efforts. The dangers of fighting fires have become more hazardous due to modern residential furnishings, building materials, and construction. New technology in everyday life has created new challenges for firefighters combating uncontrolled fires.

These challenges are met through a continuous training program influenced by the State of Tennessee, Insurance Services Office (ISO), National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), and the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) that provides accreditation. KFD fire officers attend the National Fire Academy (NFA) for advanced training on a national level. The training provides cutting edge solutions for challenges faced in the city of Kingsport. This training is accomplished at minimal cost to the KFD and the city of Kingsport, but the benefit to our citizens and visitors is priceless.

The men and women of the KFD are proud of the service they provide and the skills they possess are second to none. Their commitment, dedication, and professionalism shine through on every call they respond to. The KFD continues to embrace technology that helps us do our job safely and more efficiently. The members of the KFD are not only striving to make the city of Kingsport the safest community, but also the city of choice in Northeast Tennessee.

## 2024 Annual Report

### Kingsport Fire Department Training/Safety Division

The Kingsport Fire Department Training Division (KFDTD) strives to meet all NFPA, ISO, and OSHA requirements in the training of our personnel. We also continue to strive to meet all TEMA requirements in the enhancement of our Hazardous Materials Program by continuing to work toward the goal of all personnel becoming certified as either a TEMA Hazardous Materials Technician or a Hazardous Materials Specialist.

All Probationary Firefighters are mentored to assist in their basic firefighting training and they are provided with the resources necessary to begin their basic training. The Kingsport Fire Department has been actively involved in the Northeast Tennessee Regional Fire Training Association. Beginning in the fall of 2011, the Kingsport Fire Department assumed the role of NTRFTA Training Coordination. The NTRFTA Regional Recruit Academy continues to be the departments' primary means of providing structured classroom and hands-on Recruit Training for all aspects of basic firefighting, rescue, and hazardous materials. Upon successful completion, each recruit is eligible to be certified in Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations, Firefighter One, Firefighter Two, TEMA Intermediate Incident Command System, TEMA Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transport, TEMA Hazardous Material Technician Level and Assisting Individuals in Crisis provided by the TN PEER Support Network. The Recruit Class was offered in both the spring and fall and the department had 13 members complete the class in 2024.

The Kingsport Fire Department has received a Class Two Rating from ISO. The department maintains a goal that each firefighter receives 16 hours of fire/rescue training per month in order to maintain this rating. This is accomplished by a joint effort between the Training Division and the Shift Commanders. In addition to the goal of 16 hours per month, a monthly medical continuing education class is conducted as well as a specialized team (Haz-Mat and Tactical) monthly training session and/or drill. In 2024 Kingsport Fire Department personnel completed **30,996.10** total hours across all disciplines. This was an increase of **1291.10** hours from the previous year. Training hours can be broken into three main categories.

- ❖ Basic Training (Recruit and Medical) – 42%
- ❖ Annual Department and Career Development Training - 34%
- ❖ Specialized Training (Technical Rescue and Hazmat)- 24%
  - (These percentages continue to remain as they were the previous year due to the continued hiring of new personnel)

The Kingsport Fire Department utilizes the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy for instructor and officer development training. These classes provide excellent training for current officers and assists in developing officers of the future. These classes also allow for individuals to prepare for and take the corresponding Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Exams. The Department had 51 members attend a TFACA Class during 2024.

The Kingsport Fire Department also utilizes the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland to supplement the training of our current officers and our officers of the future. The training offered at the NFA is generally geared toward leadership, supervision, and administration of a fire department and is an important resource in our Officer Education Program. The department also uses the National Fire Academy for Advanced Hazardous Materials Training. Courses are either offered as a one-week, two-week, or weekend session. The programs at the NFA are offered at a minimal cost to the department. In 2024 2 members attended classes either at the NFA campus or Off-Site.

As of December 31, 2024 the Kingsport Fire Department consists of 115 uniformed personnel, and 3 non-uniformed personnel. Of these 27 are licensed Paramedics, 47 are licensed as Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, and 16 are Licensed as Emergency Medical Technicians. All persons must re-apply for his/her Medical License every two years. The re-licensure of personnel is accomplished by providing monthly continuing education classes through offering Target Solutions on-line classes and classroom/skills training through a Memorandum of Understanding with Sullivan County EMS. Paramedics must attain 32 Educational Contact Hours within a two-year period, Advanced EMT's must attain 25 Educational Contact Hours within a two-year period, and EMT's must Obtain 20 Educational Contact Hours. The Quality of Medical Training Program continues to improve therefore, raising the Kingsport Fire Department's capabilities. This year the Kingsport Fire Department was able to achieve the status of an American Heart Association (AHA) training site through an agreement with Vitali Partners LLC which allows the department to utilize our own shift instructors for AHA courses.

The Kingsport Fire Department participates in the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Educational Incentive Program. 115 uniformed personnel participated in the 40-hour in-service program during 2024.

The Kingsport Fire Department also participates in the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Certification Program. Members are required to obtain Firefighter One Certification within one year of employment and must obtain Firefighter Two Certification by the end of his/her third year of employment. Upon promotion, each member must attain the corresponding level of certification within one year of promotion. The goal is for each

member to obtain the next level of certification prior to promotion. During 2024, 103 members obtained a higher level of certification. The department currently has representation in nineteen levels of certification. They are as follows:

Firefighter One	110 Members
Firefighter Two	111 Members
Instructor One	69 Members
Instructor Two	4 Members
Pumper Operator	29 Members
Aerial Operator	21 Members
Fire Apparatus Operator	46 Members
Fire Officer One	55 Members
Fire Officer Two	38 Members
Fire Officer Three	5 Members
Fire Officer Four	4 Member
Safety Officer	14 Members
Incident Safety Officer	8 Members
Fire Safety Compliance Officer One	1 Member
Wildland Firefighter One	1 Member
Rope Awareness	34 Members
Rope Operations	33 Members
Rope Technician	31 Members
Hazardous Materials Technician	3 Members
Airport FF	3 Member

The Kingsport Fire Department recognizes the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency as the governing body of our Hazardous Materials Program. As of December 31 2024, all members of the Kingsport Fire Department have completed all initial NIMS requirements. 58 personnel are certified to the ICS 300 level and 24 personnel are trained to the ICS 400 Level. All but 7 members are currently certified by TEMA or Tennessee Commission on Firefighting at the hazardous materials operations level. The department currently has 87 members certified through TEMA as a Hazardous Material Technician and 18 members certified as Hazardous Material Specialist.

The Kingsport Fire Department Training Division was able to host Structural Collapse I/II Courses provided by University of Tennessee, CTOS Nevada Test Site RAD Course, and LSU Sampling for Hazardous Materials. These classes were provided to the region and all career department in East Tennessee were able to participate.

**Objectives the Training Division accomplished in 2024**

- Implement a structured Relief Driver Program to Include a Relief Driver Task Book.
- Implement a structured Recruit Firefighter Program to Include a Recruit Firefighter Task Book.

- Host three TFACA classes Fire Instructor I twice and Rapid Intervention Crew Operations.
- Host an NFPA 1403 Life Fire Instructor Class for the region.

### **Objectives for the Training Division in 2025**

- Work with the Kingsport Fire Department SOP/SOG committee to reevaluate the Departments MAYDAY procedure and training.
- Work with City Leadership to secure outside funding sources such as grants to help offset department training costs.
- Host three TFACA classes Rapid Intervention Crew Operations, Fire Department Instructor I, Fire Officer I/II Combined.
- Host an In-House 80 Hour Pumper Driver Operator.
- Host a University of Tennessee Confined Space Rescue Technician Class.
- Implement a structured Technical Rescue Team Training Program to include a Technical Rescue Task Book.
- Implement a structured Hazardous Materials Team Training Program to include a Hazmat Operations Task Book.

The Training Division also serves as the Safety Division and responds to all structure fires, hazmat incidents, and to any other special rescue situation.



## 2024 Training Summary

### State Certifications

#### HMA

W. Bishop    Brown, J.    Artemenko    Delph, Andrew.    Thompson    Bales    Burke  
Byrd    Gooch    Gentry    Miles    Tackett    Fleenor    Delgado

#### HMO

Brown, J.    Artemenko    Delph, Andrew.    Thompson    Bales    Burke    Byrd  
Gooch    Gentry    Miles    Tackett    Fleenor    Delgado

#### FF I

Brown, J.    Artemenko    Delph    Thompson    Bales    Burke  
Byrd    Gooch    Gentry    Miles    Tackett    Fleenor    Delgado

#### FF II

Buskill    Sims    Pyle    Wright    Bales    Burke    Byrd    Gooch    Gentry    Miles  
          Tackett    Fleenor

#### PDO

Breeding    Dennison    Story

#### AADO

Jeter    Miller

#### FAO

Roberson

**FO II**

Spence          Wagner          Helvey

**Instructor One**

Forster          Jeter          Miller          Armstrong, L.          Smith, A.          Landell

**Rope Awareness**

Hartwell          Jones, L.          Joyner          Landell          Lufi          Sims          Sutherland  
                         Knutson          Olson          Masters          Breeding

**Rope Operations**

Hartwell          Jones, L.          Joyner          Landell          Lufi          Sims          Sutherland  
                         Knutson          Olson          Masters          Breeding

**Rope Technician**

Forster          Hartwell          Jones, L.          Joyner          Landell          Lufi          Sims          Sutherland  
                         Knutson          Olson          Masters

**Inspector I**

Bishop, W          Leimkuhler          Brown, J.

## TFACA Attendance

16/64

Miles, J.      Fleenor, B.      Bales      Tackett      Gooch

### RIT Operations

Armstrong, L      Breeding      Helvey

### FDI-I

Forster      Jeter      Miller      Armstrong,L      Landell      Smith, A

### Rope Awareness

Hartwell      Jones, L.      Joyner      Landell      Lufi      Sims      Sutherland  
Knutson      Olson      Masters      Breeding

### Rope Operations

Hartwell      Jones, L.      Joyner      Landell      Lufi      Sims      Sutherland  
Knutson      Olson      Masters      Breeding

### Rope Technician

Hartwell      Jones, L.      Joyner      Landell      Lufi      Sims      Sutherland  
Knutson      Olson      Masters

1403

Light Cruthers      Osburn      Archer      Trivette

## TEMA Attendance

### MSO

Anderson    Armstrong, B.    Catron    Dayton    Fisher    Helvey  
Landell    Reed    Rimer    Spence    Wagner    Cox

### SAR 101

Breeding

### SAR 125

Breeding    Cox

### SAR 110

Fisher    Wagner    Armstrong B.    Rimer

### Damage Assessment

Anderson    Landell    Roe    Hartwell    Rimer    Bledsoe, J.  
Catron    Wagner    Forster    Moyer    Bishop, J.    Pitts  
Hollowell    Helvey    Dayton    Jones, J.T.    Lufi    Armstrong, B.  
Spence    Peters    Reed    Cox    Bowers, Caleb    Breeding    Fisher  
Carter

**MERRTT**

Brown, J.     Artemenko             Delph             Thompson     Bales             Burke  
Byrd           Gooch             Gentry           Miles             Tackett           Fleenor  
Delgado

**HMT0**

Brown, J.     Artemenko             Delph             Thompson     Bales             Burke  
Byrd           Gooch             Gentry           Miles             Tackett           Fleenor  
Delgado

**ICS 300**

Brown, J.     Artemenko             Delph             Thompson     Bales             Burke  
Byrd           Gooch             Gentry           Miles             Tackett           Fleenor  
Delgado

**Logistics Section Chief**

Boyd Arnold

## University of Tennessee Safety and Emergency Response

### Structural Collapse I

Anderson Landell Roe Hartwell Rimer Bledsoe, J.  
Catron Wagner Forster Moyer Bishop, J. Pitts

Hollowell Helvey Dayton Jones, J.T. Lufi Armstrong, B.  
Spence Peters Reed Cox Bowers, Caleb Breeding  
Fisher

### Structural Collapse II

Anderson Landell Roe Hartwell Rimer Bledsoe, J.  
Wagner Forster Moyer Bishop, J. Pitts

Hollowell Dayton Jones, J.T. Lufi Spence Peters Reed  
Cox Bowers, Caleb Breeding Fisher

### CTOS Nevada Test Site RAD Course

Story Armstrong, L. Bewley Bowers, Chase Roberson, D.

### LSU Sampling Class

Delph, Adam Lady Olson Bowers, Chase Corey  
Hawkins Joyner Roberson, D. Wood

**EMR**

Buskill      Pack      Wright      Delph      Thompson  
Pyle      Riddle      Pack

**AEMT**

         Crawford      Gooch      Gordon      Luther      Moore  
Range      Roberson

**Paramedic**

Bowers      Dennis      Story      Willis

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**  
**KINGSPORT FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**  
**Chris Vandagriff, Fire Marshal**

The Fire Marshal's office is charged with the responsibility of conducting fire safety inspections, fire safety and life safety public education programs, fire safety plans review, and fire origin cause investigations. Fire Safety inspections are conducted in all commercial buildings annually and within residential buildings upon request or complaint. Public fire safety and life safety programs are scheduled and conducted through the Fire Marshal's office upon request and consist of but are not limited to elementary schools, senior centers, and other facilities that have a high risk of fire or life safety.

Fire safety plans are reviewed for all new sprinkler and fire alarm systems. The Fire Marshal also participates in future planning through the city's Development Team. Fire Investigations are conducted for incendiary fires, fires involving the loss of life or serious injury, major fires, and fire where the origin and cause cannot be determined by suppression personnel.

The Fire Marshal who is in charge of the division oversees three Assistant Fire Marshals and one Community Risk Reduction Specialist. The city is divided into three inspection zones that are assigned to each one of the Assistant Fire Marshals. All fire safety inspectors are certified through the State of Tennessee as Fire Inspectors. The Fire Marshal's Division currently has 4 personnel cross-trained as Fire Inspectors and Fire Investigators. The Fire Marshal as well as two of the Assistant Fire Marshals are cross-trained as Certified Fire and Explosion Investigators through National Association of Fire Investigators. The Fire Marshal's office also has two members that are certified as Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I and one that is certified as Public Fire and Life Safety Educator II.

The Fire Marshal's Division met the following goals set for 2024. The goal of having 2,100 total inspections was met with 2,389 total inspections, a 10% increase in annual inspections was met by 15%, 1 Assistant Fire Marshal obtained their Fire Inspector II Certification, and the Community Risk Reduction Specialist obtained their Fire and Life Safety Educator II Certification.

The goals for 2025 are to have 2,250 total inspections conducted with 1,800 of those inspections being annual inspections. Training goals for 2024 include maintaining current certifications and having all investigators certified through CFAI. Fire and Life Safety Educator III for the Community Risk Reduction Specialist, and Certified Fire Marshal through the International Code Council for the Fire Marshal position.

The Fire Marshal's office conducted 2,389 inspections consisting of annual inspections, complaints, consultation, and fire system inspections with 784 recommendations made for the correction of hazards found. The Fire Marshal's office conducted 1,851 annual inspections for 2024. The Fire Marshal's office continued the Food Truck Permit system and permitted 34 Food



Trucks for 2024. The Kingsport Fire Department investigated 67 fires for origin and cause with the Fire Marshal's office conducting 31 of these investigations. Of the fires investigated, 56 were ruled accidental, 3 were incendiary, and 6 were undetermined. Of the fires that were reported to the Kingsport Fire Department, there were 4 civilian fire injuries, 1 civilian fire death and 2 fire service injuries that had occurred.

The Fire Marshal's office also coordinates special event activities which resulted in 230 hours of manpower. The Fire Marshal's office continued the Knox Box Program which seen 25 new Knox Box installations. The Fire Marshal's office trained for a total of 324.50 hours and sent two personnel to the Annual Fire Investigator's conference. The Fire Marshal's office also conducted live burns the year for the Recruit Academy, Citizens Academy, and various other training exercises.

The Fire Marshal's office participated in quarterly meetings with the Sullivan County Arson Task Force and the East Tennessee Fire Marshal's Offices. Through these meetings, the Fire Marshal's office was able to coordinate regional training for inspectors.

The Community Risk Reduction Specialist is charged with scheduling and conducting the fire and life safety education program. In 2024 there were 48,391 adults and children that participated in Kingsport Fire Department Community Risk Reduction (CRR) presentations and activities. CRR programs were conducted for industry, medical facilities, offices, civic groups, and other locations on a request basis.

CRR education was provided throughout Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to area daycare, preschool, and community groups. The Kingsport Fire Department features on numerous radios, television interviews, newspaper articles, and featured photos. Social media reaches on average 14,791 per day for a total of 5,398,679 for the year.

The KFD Child Passenger Seat Safety Checkpoint inspected and consulted on 306 car seats for families and instructed them in the proper installation of Child Seats. KFD continued distributing Smoke Alarms. A total of 46 smoke alarms were distributed this year.