

Kingsport Fire Department Annual Report



2025



Kingsport Fire Department



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Foreword From Chief Jerry DeBerry

As Fire Chief of the Kingsport Fire Department, I am proud to reflect on the progress and accomplishments we achieved throughout 2025. This past year has been one of meaningful change, focused growth, and a renewed commitment to the citizens we serve.

Our department has continued to evolve in ways that strengthen both our operational effectiveness and our connection to the community. Through strategic staffing adjustments, enhanced training initiatives, and a continued emphasis on safety and accountability, we have positioned ourselves to meet the increasing demands of a growing and dynamic city. Our personnel have demonstrated unwavering dedication, professionalism, and resilience—qualities that define the very foundation of the fire service.

In 2025, we made significant strides in advancing our mission of Service Excellence. From emergency response improvements to customer-focused interactions, our goal has remained clear: to provide the highest level of service to every citizen, every time. We have also placed a strong emphasis on enhancing community engagement, recognizing that building trust and relationships is just as important as emergency response. Whether through public events, outreach programs, or partnerships, we are committed to being visible, approachable, and responsive.

Investing in our people remains a top priority. Our focus on professional development has expanded training opportunities at all levels, ensuring our firefighters are prepared, confident, and capable in an ever-changing environment. Alongside this, we have strengthened our health and wellness programs, understanding that a healthy workforce is essential to sustaining long-term success and readiness.

Prevention continues to be a cornerstone of our efforts. Through expanded fire prevention and public education initiatives, we are working proactively to reduce risk, protect property, and save lives before emergencies occur. This community-based approach reinforces our belief that the fire department's role extends far beyond emergency response.

Looking ahead, our vision centers on creating sustainability—not only in our operations and in resources, but also in our people, our partnerships, and our long-term planning. We are committed to building a fire department that is adaptable, forward thinking, and prepared to meet the needs of future generations.

At the heart of this vision is a continued focus on community-based fire service. We recognize that our success is measured not only by our response times or operational metrics, but by the trust and confidence placed in us by the citizens of Kingsport. I am incredibly proud of the men and women of the Kingsport Fire Department and grateful for the support of our city leadership and community. Together, we will continue to move forward—stronger, more connected, and committed to excellence.

Respectfully,
Chief Jerry DeBerry
Fire Chief
Kingsport Fire Department

Chief DeBerry comes to Kingsport Fire with a diverse background in both operations, and in the field of special operations. Chief DeBerry is a graduate of the elite Georgia Smoke Diver program. He possesses a Master Degree in Organizational Leadership, and has earned the Chief Fire Officer designation through the Center Public Safety Excellence.

Overview



The Kingsport Fire Department is an Internationally Accredited Fire Department and was the first in Tennessee. There are 296 internationally and with seven in Tennessee (Kingsport, Alcoa, Brentwood, Bristol, Maryville, Murfreesboro, Naval Support Agency-Millington).



Employees (122)

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

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

Year	Fire Deaths	Budget	Incidents	Loss
2021	0	\$11,047,307	8,363	\$3,955,891
2022	3	\$11,551,583	8152	\$1,496.074
2023	0	\$12,201,200	8114	\$1,892,231
2024	1	\$12,433,400	7559	\$1,627,080
2025	1	\$12,446,400	7446	\$3,377,280



Fire Stations and Facilities



KFD Station 1
130 Island Street



KFD Station 2
1804 Crescent Drive



KFD Station 3
3828 Memorial Blvd.



KFD Station 4
2105 W. Stone Drive



KFD Station 5
1517 Lynn Garden Drive





Kingsport Fire Department Overview



KFD Station 6
4598 Ft. Henry Drive



KFD Station 7
1440 Rock Springs Rd



KFD Station 8
1205 New Beason Well Rd



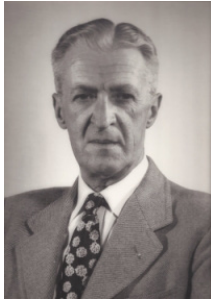
KFD Fire Training Facility
250 Horse Creek Lane



KFD's Original Fire Engine
1917 American LaFrance Pumper

2025 Achievements

- The department restructured the organizational ranks to incorporate Battalion Chiefs on shift and reduce the span of control for the Shift Commander Assistant Chiefs.
- As part of the restructure, Truck 1 staffing level was increased to three personnel.
- Additional equipment was added to Truck 1 to support truck operations with the new staffing level.
- The deployment model for structure fires was changed to coincide with the new staffing level.
- SOPs/SOGs were updated to support changes in operations.
- Rescue 2 was replaced with the former HazMat Unit to improve efficiencies for the Technical Rescue Team.
- Additional equipment was purchased for Rescue 2 to improve capabilities for the Technical Rescue Team.
- The department continued its partnership with Kingsport City Schools, Sullivan County EMS, Sullivan County EMA, and the Kingsport Police Department to conduct large scale tabletop drills for school incidents.
- Part of the Fire Station 1 Training Room was utilized to build new offices to provide increased space for the Fire Marshall's Division.
- The former space for the Fire Marshall's was remodeled to provide office space for the Deputy Chief and our Human Resources Business Partner.
- The administrative offices at Fire Station 1 were remodeled.
- Fire Station 4 received a \$15,000.00 grant from Lowe's to remodel the kitchen and dayroom.
- Began construction of new live fire training building at the Training Ground.
- Purchase of low pressure hose and new nozzles to move toward NFPA 1710 initial attack GPM compliance.
- Conducted evaluation of our Thermal Imaging Cameras to prepare for replacement.
- Completed Citizens Fire Academy in October 2025
- Replaced Command Staff vehicle



Chief Tom Warrick



Chief J. Roy Pyle



Chief C.M. Kenner



Chief C. L. Caldwell



Chief J. C. Moser



Chief Charles A. White

Kingsport Fire Department History

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.



Chief Craig Dye

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 Advanced. 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.

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 Advanced. 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.



Chief Scott A. Boyd

In November of 2017 Chief Craig Dye retired 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 the calendar year Chief Boyd appointed an Assistant Chief, add a new position of Assistant Training Officer, and placed 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 began serving 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. 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.

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 was 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.

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 received Swiftwater Accreditation from TEMA.

Assistant Chief Darryl Hayes retired in January 2022 after 30 years of service.

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. 1916.50 man hours were tracked for the relief efforts. The hurricane claimed 18 lives in Tennessee and damages were estimated at 1.35 billion dollars.

Chief Scott A Boyd retired on April 28th 2025 with 36 plus years of service. Chief Boyd served as Assistant Chief for 14 years and steered the department as Fire Chief for 7 years.



Chief Jerry DeBerry

Jerry DeBerry was appointed the new Fire Chief on May 5th 2025. Chief DeBerry came to the Kingsport Fire Department after serving nearly 21 years with Atlanta Fire Rescue finalizing his career with Atlanta as a Battalion Chief and Special Operations Chief.

With Chief DeBerry's arrival, the operational command structure has been updated. The city's response area has been divided into 2 battalions, (East and West). Each shift has added the position of Battalion Chief to the East Battalion of the city.

The Kingsport Fire Department continues to strive and train to be the premier and most progressive department in the State of Tennessee. As part of Chief's DeBerry vision for Kingsport Fire Department, a big emphasis has been placed on community engagement through participating in various community events, conducting citizens' academy, and development of a Fire Explorer program. Additionally, efforts are being made to develop and implement an aggressive training program to include officer development opportunities. 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 Operational Overview Assistant Chief Terry Arnold

The Kingsport Fire Department (KFD) provides comprehensive fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical, and advanced life support services to the City of Kingsport and its visitors. In addition to local response, KFD serves a critical regional role by delivering specialized hazardous materials and technical rescue services across Tennessee Homeland Security District One, supporting eight counties in Northeast Tennessee.

The Kingsport Fire Department (KFD) operates from eight strategically positioned fire stations organized into East and West Battalions. This structure supports the deployment of eight engine companies, two truck companies, one technical rescue unit, one hazardous materials response unit, and a command unit within each battalion, ensuring efficient citywide coverage and rapid emergency response.

In addition, KFD staffs the rescue truck for Kingsport Lifesaving Crew through a joint partnership between the City of Kingsport and Sullivan County. This collaborative approach enhances operational readiness and ensures adequate emergency response coverage across both city limits and surrounding county areas.

All frontline apparatus are staffed at a minimum with Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMTs). The department maintains Paramedic-level Advanced Life Support response in the core areas of the city. All Operations Division personnel are certified at least to the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) level, with employees hired after July 1, 2014, required to obtain AEMT certification.

In 2025, KFD responded to 8,268 total incidents, demonstrating the increasing demand for services. Of these, 5,736 were emergency medical and rescue calls, highlighting the department's significant role in pre-hospital healthcare. The remaining incidents included fire responses, hazardous conditions, service calls, false alarms, and weather-related emergencies.



KFD has evolved into a modern all-hazards response organization with strong homeland security capabilities. The department's Hazardous Materials Response Team is regionally designated and accredited by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency as a Type II Team, reflecting a high level of readiness. The Technical Rescue Team provides specialized capabilities in high-angle, trench, confined space, structural collapse, and swift water rescue, ensuring preparedness for complex emergencies.

In 2024, KFD personnel were deployed for over a week to assist neighboring communities impacted by Hurricane Helene. Crews conducted rescue, recovery, and hazardous materials operations during widespread flooding and infrastructure damage, demonstrating the department's regional value and operational capability.

Training and professional development remain a top priority. KFD maintains a rigorous training program aligned with national standards, including those established by the National Fire Protection Association, Insurance Services Office, and Center for Public Safety Excellence. Officers also attend the National Fire Academy to stay current with national best practices and emerging trends.

The Kingsport Fire Department continues to enhance operational effectiveness through training, technology, and strategic resource deployment. The department remains committed to protecting life and property while delivering professional, efficient, and reliable emergency services to the community.





Kingsport Fire Department Training & Safety Division Overview **Assistant Chief Wes Jennings**

Division Overview

The Kingsport Fire Department Training & Safety Division provides comprehensive, compliant, and progressive training for all personnel. The Division meets or exceeds applicable NFPA, ISO, OSHA, and Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) requirements. A continued priority is strengthening the Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Programs with the long-term goal of qualifying all personnel as either Hazardous Materials Technicians or Specialists and training technical rescue team personnel to technician level in all disciplines.

Recruit & Probationary Firefighter Training

All probationary firefighters are assigned mentors and provided structured classroom and hands-on training. The Northeast Tennessee Regional Fire Training Association (NTRFTA) Recruit Academy remains the primary method of recruit training. Recruit academies were conducted in both the spring and fall of 2025, with ten members successfully completing the program.

Training Hours & ISO Compliance

The Kingsport Fire Department maintains an ISO Class 2 rating. In 2025, personnel completed 30,192.85 total training hours. Training included basic, annual, career development, and specialized disciplines.

Officer & Instructor Development

The department utilizes the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy and the National Fire Academy for officer and instructor development. During 2025, forty-one members attended TFACA courses and eleven members attended National Fire Academy programs.

Personnel & Medical Training

As of December 31, 2025, the department employed 118 uniformed and three non-uniformed personnel. Medical licensure and continuing education requirements are met through Target Solutions and a Memorandum of Understanding with Sullivan County EMS.

Educational Incentive & Certification Programs

The department participates in the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Educational Incentive Program. During 2025, 119 personnel completed the required forty-hour in-service program, and 80 members obtained higher certification levels.

Hazardous Materials Program

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency governs the department's Hazardous Materials Program. Eighty-three members are certified as Hazardous Materials Technicians and fifteen as Hazardous Materials Specialists.

The Kingsport Fire Department Training & Safety Division Overview

2025 Accomplishments

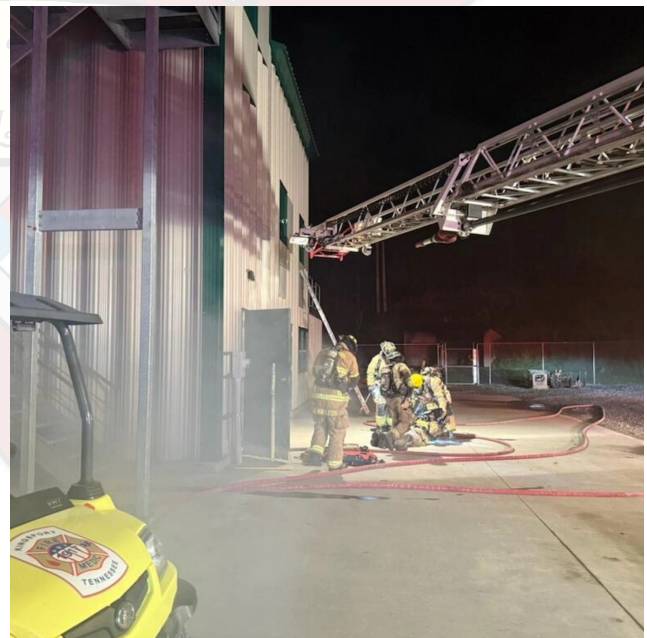
Expanded technical rescue and hazardous materials training programs, hosted additional TFACA and University-based courses, hosted an In-House Acting Office in Charge class for Engineer rank personnel. Built two low level roof ventilation props and began construction of a seven container conex burn structure.

2025 Objectives

- **Complete TFACA courses for suppression and prevention divisions.**
- **Secure TNCFF certification for completed TFACA courses.**
- **Implement in-house EMT-Basic program with a dedicated EMS Program Director.**
- **Launch Educational Incentive Program focused on Officer & Acting Officer in Charge performance requirements.**
- **Coordinate Spring and Fall Recruit Academies under Northeast Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association.**
- **Maintain monthly Drop-In Training and multi-company ISO drills.**
- **Provide Medical Continuing Education (CE) to meet licensure requirements.**

Safety Division Role

In addition to training responsibilities, the Training Division also serves as the department's Safety Division, responding to structure fires, hazardous materials incidents, and special rescue operations.



Training Summary

Paramedic

Range, J.
Gentry, T.

AEMT

Wilson, C.

NFA Adv. Life Support

Response to Haz Mat Incidents
Johnson, J.

RIT Operations

Dennison, W.
Armstrong, B.
Burke, C.

ICS 300

Arnett, B.
Cox, L.
Ellis, W.
Hornbeck, C.
Potts, D.
Roberson, T.
Stidham, J.
Worsham, C.

FO130 Command & Control of Incident Operations

Jones, L.
Wagner, P.
James, A.
Helvey, Z.
Spence, J.
Lady, G.
Lufi, J.

HMA

Arnett, B.
Cox, L.
Ellis, W.
Hornbeck, C.
Potts, D.
Roberson, T.
Stidham, J.
Worsham, C.

HMO

Arnett, B.
Cox, L.
Ellis, W.
Hornbeck, C.
Potts, D.
Roberson, T.
Stidham, J.
Worsham, C.

Firefighter I Certification

Arnett, B.
Cox, L.
Ellis, W.
Hornbeck, C.
Potts, D.
Roberson, T.
Stidham, J.
Worsham, C.

MERRTT

Arnett, B.
Cox, L.
Ellis, W.
Hornbeck, C.
Potts, D.
Roberson, T.
Stidham, J.
Worsham, C.

H310 HMT0

Arnett, B.
Cox, L.
Ellis, W.
Hornbeck, C.
Potts, D.
Roberson, T.
Stidham, J.
Worsham, C.

HAZCAT

Duncan, J.
Gooch, A.
Hawkins, D.
James, C.
Johnson, J.
Lady, G.
Roberson, D.
Tackett, C.
Wood, L.

EMR

Arnett, B.
Cox, L.
Ellis, W.
Roberson, T.
Worsham, C.

Firefighter II Certification

Arnett, B.
Cox, L.
Ellis, W.
Roberson, T.
Worsham, C.

**UT Confined Space
Rescue Technician**
Gordon, M.
Knutson, Z.
Sutherland, B.

NFA HazMat Chemistry
Armstrong, L.
Bewley, R.
Gooch, A.

FD Instructor I
Bowers, Chase
Luther, E.
Roberson, D.

AADO
Armstrong, L.
Bewley, R.
Dennison, W.

EMT-B
Wright, F.
Delph, Andrew
Riddle, G.
Pyle, J.
Artemenko, D.
Buskill, G.
Thompson, B.
Knutson, Z.
Bryant, C.
Miles, J.

ICS 300
Wilson, C.
Arnett, Brandon
James, A.
Bewley, R.
Jones, L.

MERRTT TtT
Hawkins, D.
Joyner, K.
Lady, G.

HMA
Wilson, C.
Arnett, Brandon

HMO
Wilson, C.
Arnett, Brandon

**New Executive Chief
Officer**
Bishop, J.
Acting Officer In Charge
Armstrong, B.
Stapleton, K.
Fisher, G.
Archer, L.
Bledsoe, E.
Osburn, M.
Anderson, D.
Forster, J.
Jeter, M.

Incident Safety Officer
Hollowell, J.
Lindholm, J.
Waycaster, J.

Firefighter I Certification
Wilson, C.
Arnett, Brandon

MERRTT
Wilson, C.
Arnett, Brandon

H310 HMT0
Wilson, C.
Arnett, Brandon

Farm Rescue
Reed, J.
Moyer, E.
Armstrong, B.
Lufi, J.

Fire Officer I & II
Armstrong, L.
Bowers, Caleb
Miller, W.

EMR
Arnett, Brandon

Firefighter II Certification
Arnett, Brandon
Wilson, C.

Fire Inspector I
Bays
Sims, D.

UT Lithium Battery
Stanley, B.
Light, J.
Duncan, J.
Roberson, D.
Wood, L.
Story, T.
Bewley, R.
Lady, G.
Pratt, J.

Fire Officer I & II
Armstrong, L.
Bowers, Caleb
Miller, W.

Kingsport Fire Marshals Office Overview

Assistant Chief Chris Vandagriff, Fire Marshal



The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for ensuring fire and life safety throughout the community by conducting fire safety inspections, public fire and life safety education programs, fire safety plan reviews, and fire origin and cause investigations. Fire safety inspections are conducted annually in all commercial occupancies and in residential occupancies upon request or complaint. Public education programs are scheduled through the Fire Marshal's Office and target high-risk populations including elementary schools, senior centers, and other facilities with identified fire or life safety risk.

Fire safety plan reviews are conducted for all new fire sprinkler and fire alarm installations. The Fire Marshal also participates in long-range community planning through representation on the City Development Team. Fire investigations are conducted for incendiary fires, fires resulting in death or serious injury, major fire incidents, or when the origin and cause cannot be determined by suppression personnel.

The Fire Marshal oversees a staff of three Assistant Fire Marshals and one Community Risk Reduction Specialist. The city is divided into three inspection zones which are assigned to each Assistant Fire Marshal. All inspectors hold State of Tennessee Fire Inspector certifications. Four personnel are cross trained as Fire Inspectors and Fire Investigators. The Fire Marshal and two Assistant Fire Marshals are certified as Certified Fire and Explosion Investigators through the National Association of Fire Investigators. Two members of the division are certified as Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I, and one member holds a Public Fire and Life Safety Educator III certification.



The Fire Marshal's Division met several operational goals for 2025. The division achieved its target of 2,250 total inspections by completing 2,409 total inspections for the year. However, the goal of conducting 1,800 annual inspections was not met, with 1,685 annual inspections completed. Despite these shortfalls, performance remained strong given staffing constraints, special projects, and missed time during the year. Notably, the Community Risk Reduction Specialist achieved Public Fire and Life Safety Educator III certification.

Goals for 2026 include completing 2,500 total inspections, with 1,800 annual inspections to establish a baseline standard for the division. Training goals for 2026 include maintaining current professional certifications, achieving CFAI investigator certification for remaining personnel, and obtaining International Code Council Certified Fire Marshal certification for the Fire Marshal position.



Kingsport Fire Marshals Office Overview Assistant Chief Chris Vandagriff, Fire Marshal



In 2025, the Fire Marshal's Office completed 2,409 inspections, including annual inspections, complaint inspections, consultation inspections, and fire system inspections. A total of 464 hazard recommendations were issued. The Food Truck Permit program continued with 34 food trucks permitted during the year. The Kingsport Fire Department investigated 44 fires for origin and cause, with 16 investigations conducted by the Fire Marshal's Office. Of the fires investigated, 40 were ruled accidental, 3 were incendiary, and 1 remained under investigation. Reported fire incidents in 2025 resulted in 4 civilian injuries, 1 civilian fatality, and 2 fire service injuries.

The Fire Marshal's Office continued participation in quarterly meetings with the Sullivan County Arson Task Force and the East Tennessee Fire Marshal's Offices, which facilitated regional cooperation and coordination of inspector training

The Community Risk Reduction Specialist is responsible for scheduling and conducting fire and life safety education programs. In 2025, 61,000 adults and children participated in Kingsport Fire Department CRR presentations and activities. Programs were conducted for industrial, medical, commercial, civic, and other requesting entities throughout Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. The Kingsport Fire Department received regular media exposure through radio, television, newspaper, and social media. Social media reached an average of 25,248 contacts per day for a total of 9,215,372 impressions in 2025.

The KFD Child Passenger Safety Checkpoint inspected and consulted 273 car seats, instructing families in proper installation techniques. Smoke alarm distribution efforts continued with 40 smoke alarms delivered to the community.



Kingsport Fire Department Benchmarking Data

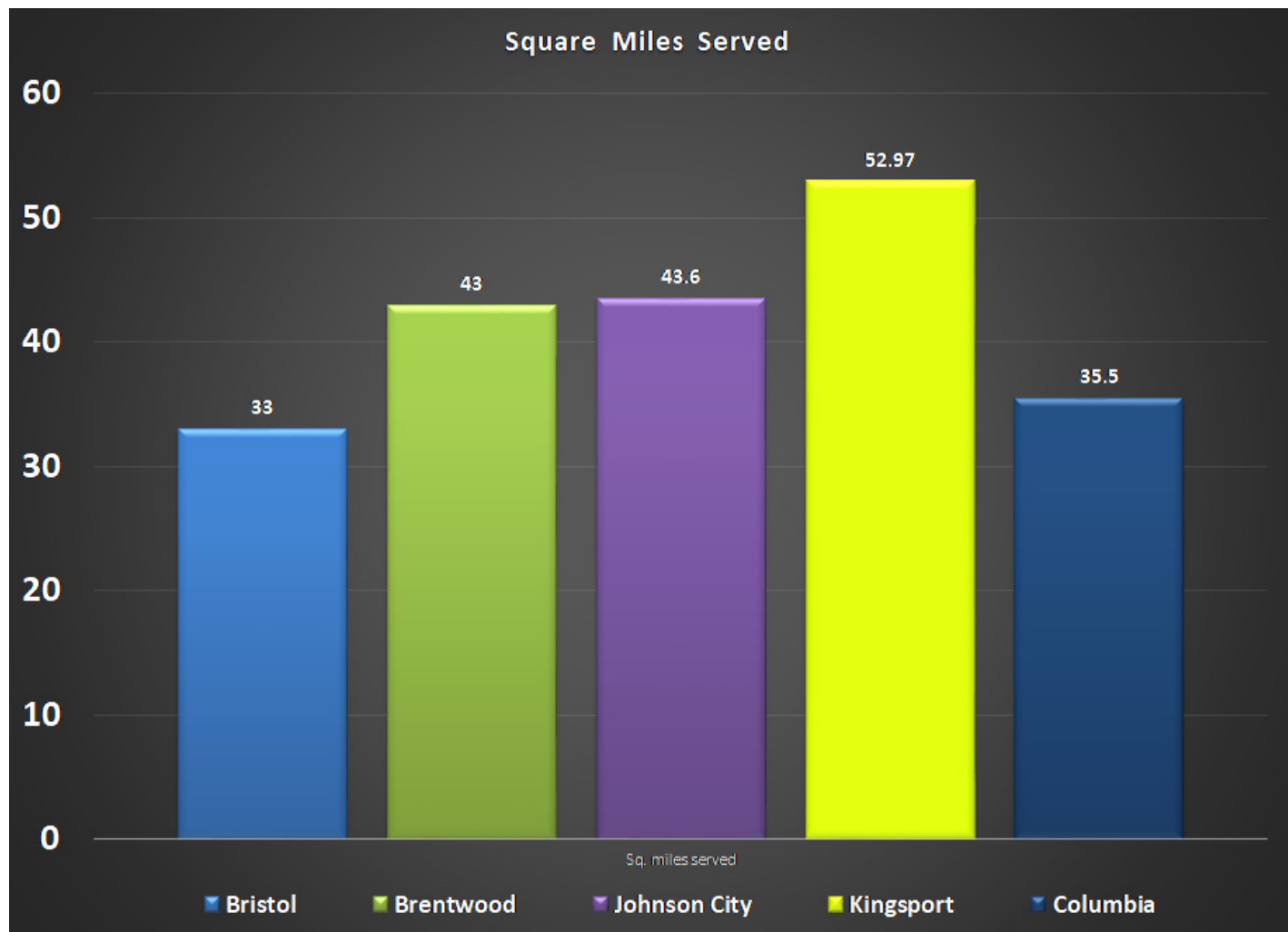
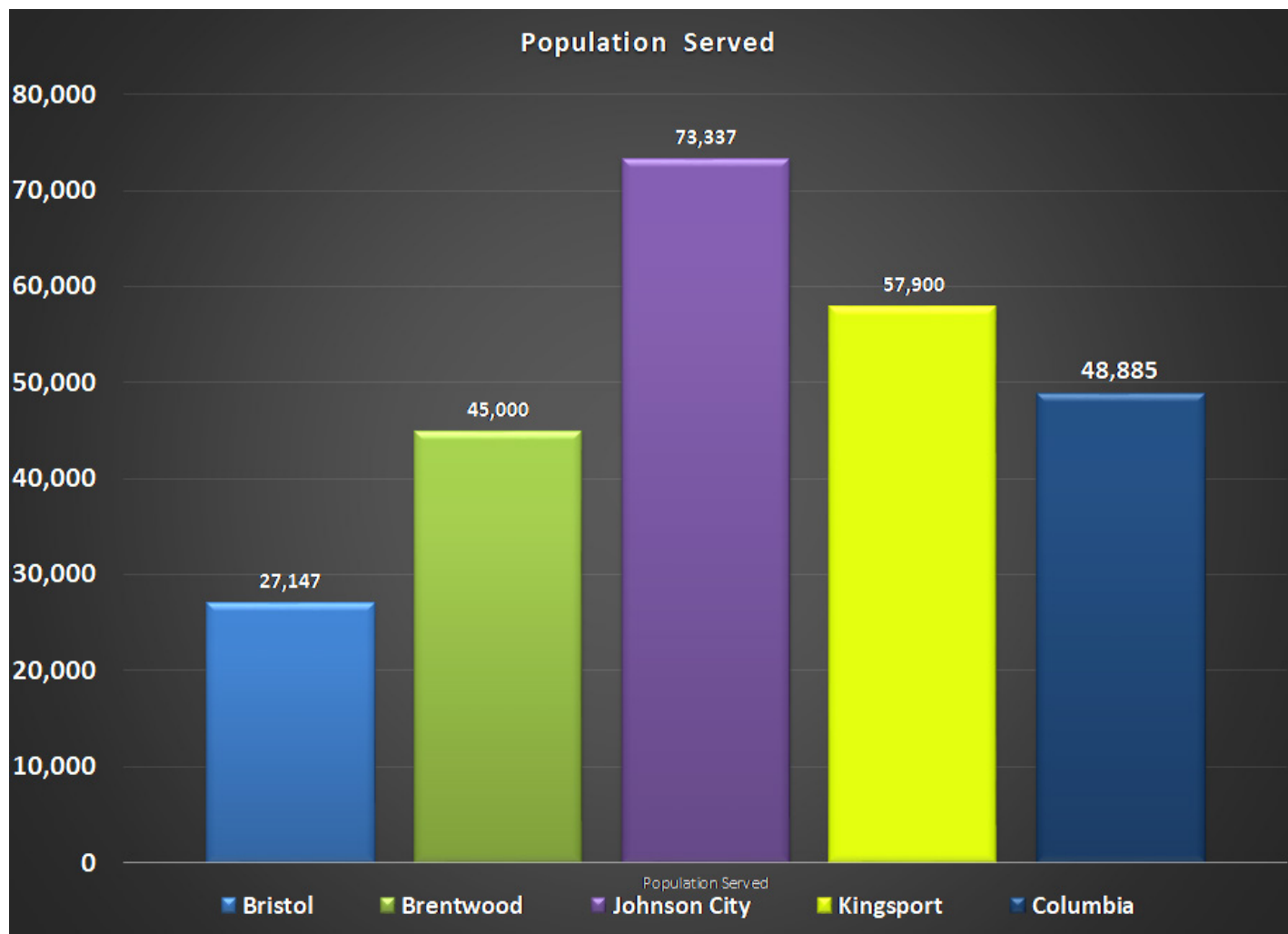
Benchmark Data for the following Tennessee Cities:

- Bristol
- Brentwood
- Johnson City
- Kingsport
- Columbia

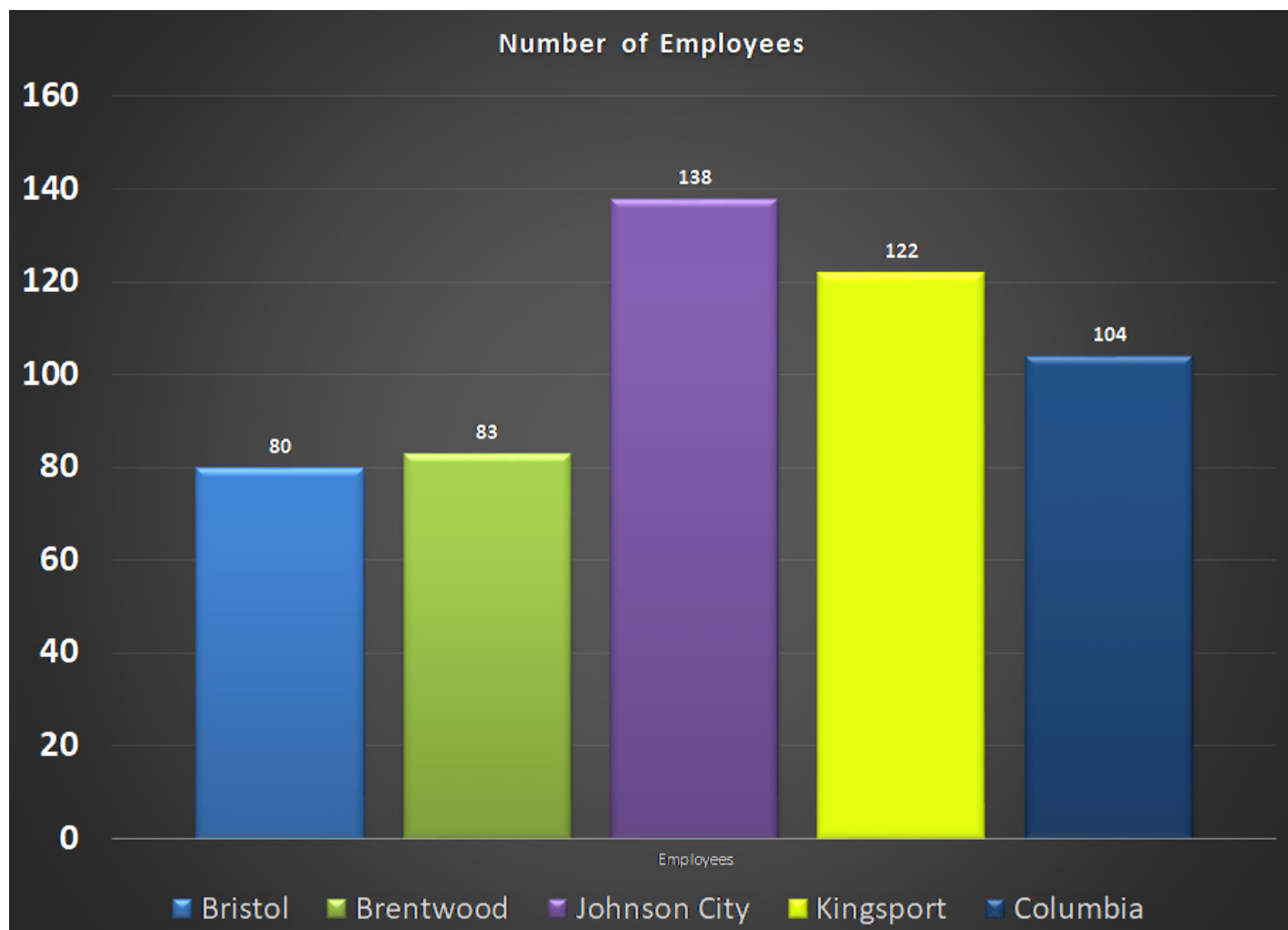
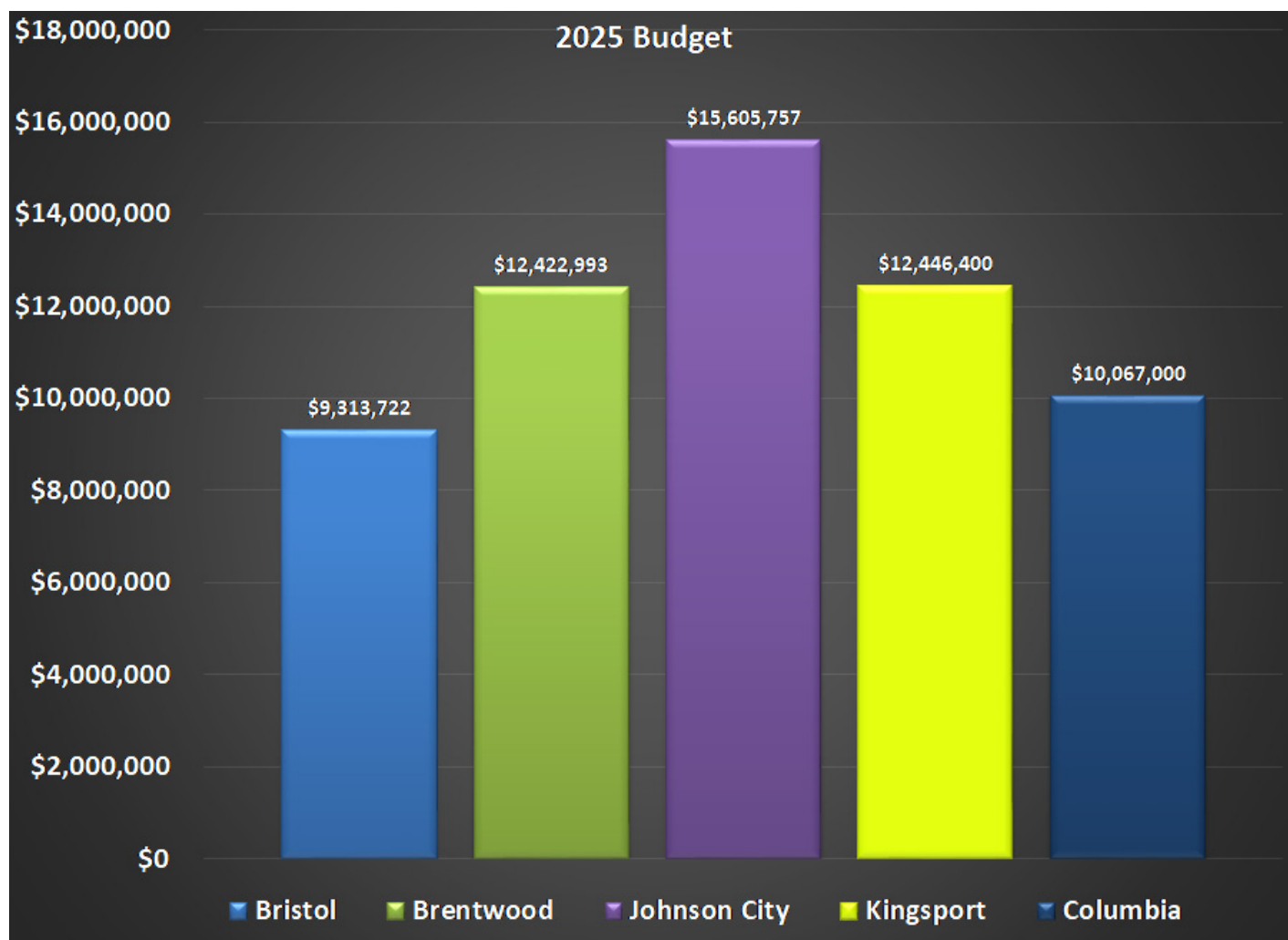
2026 Benchmark Survey for Tennessee Cities similar to Kingsport

2026 Benchmark	Bristol	Brentwood	Johnson City	Kingsport	Columbia
Population Served	27,147	45,000	73,337	57,900	48,885
Sq. miles served	33	43	43.6	52.97	35.5
Budget	\$9,313,722	\$12,422,993	\$15,605,757	\$12,446,400	\$10,067,000
Employees	80	83	138	122	104
Fire Stations	5	5	9	8	5
Total calls	6,398	4,674	10,059	8,268	5,753
Fire Loss	\$10,084,570	\$6,213,863	\$1,280,000	\$3,389,530	\$1,232,200
Unit staffing	3	4	3	3	4
Response Time avg.	0:06:07	0:09:15	0:06:52	0:08:39	0:05:54
Avg. FF on a fire	14	19	15	16	21
Avg. FF on avg. call	2.89	3	3	3	3.78
ISO rating	3	2	1	2/2Y	1
Medical calls	4,755	2,909	5,751	5,756	2,664
Response / Transport	ALS Transport	ALS	BLS	ALS	ALS
Haz-Mat team / # of calls		121	133	49	80
Rescue team / # of calls			24	11	2
Certified Inspectors	15	19	44	4	4
Number of Inspections	882	600	644	2,409	2,630
Pub Ed program	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Training officer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safety officer	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Arson Investigators	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Training hours / month	41	40	25	25	30
Cost per call	\$1,456.00	\$2,657.76	\$1,551.42	\$1,505.37	\$1,749.87
Fire loss per capita	\$371.00	\$138.09	\$17.45	\$58.54	\$25.20
# FF per 1,000 pop.	2.96	1.6	0.00018	2.14	1.94
# FF per sq. mile	2.39	1.74	3.07	2.30	2.68
Cost per capita	\$343.00	\$276.05	\$212.80	\$214.96	\$205.93
* Information not Available					
# 90% Fractile Time					
Dispatch time not included					

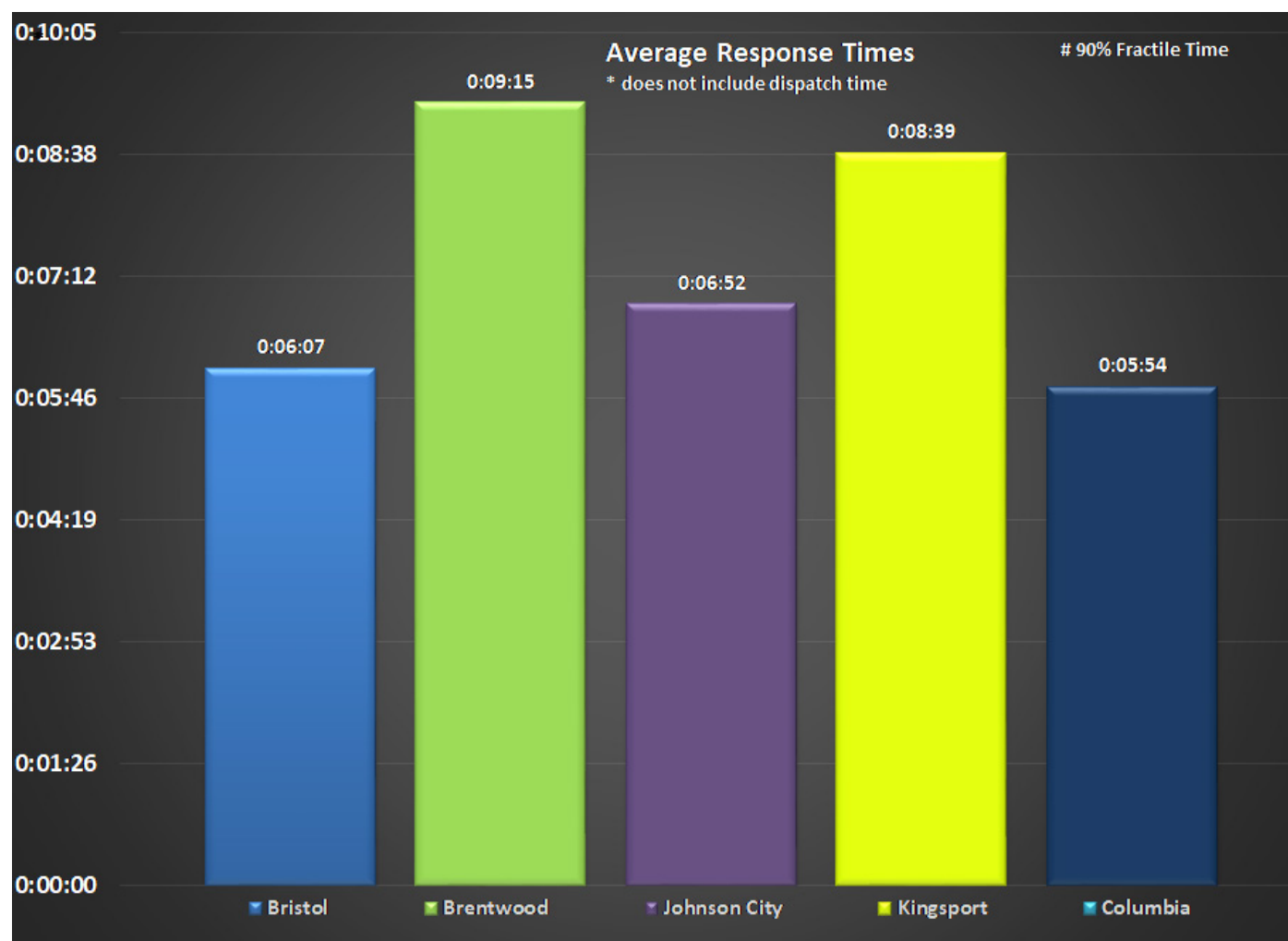
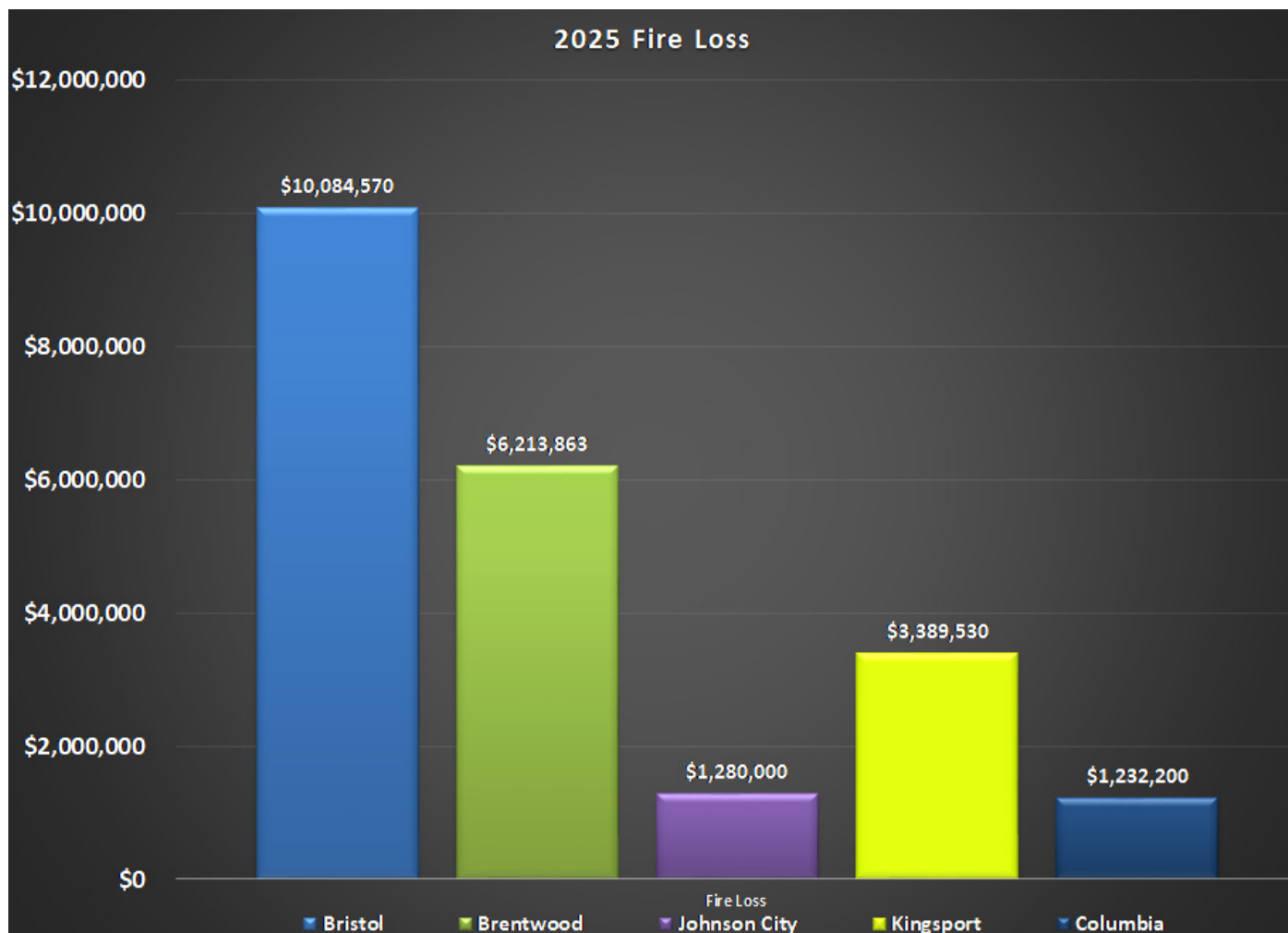
Kingsport Fire Department Benchmark Data



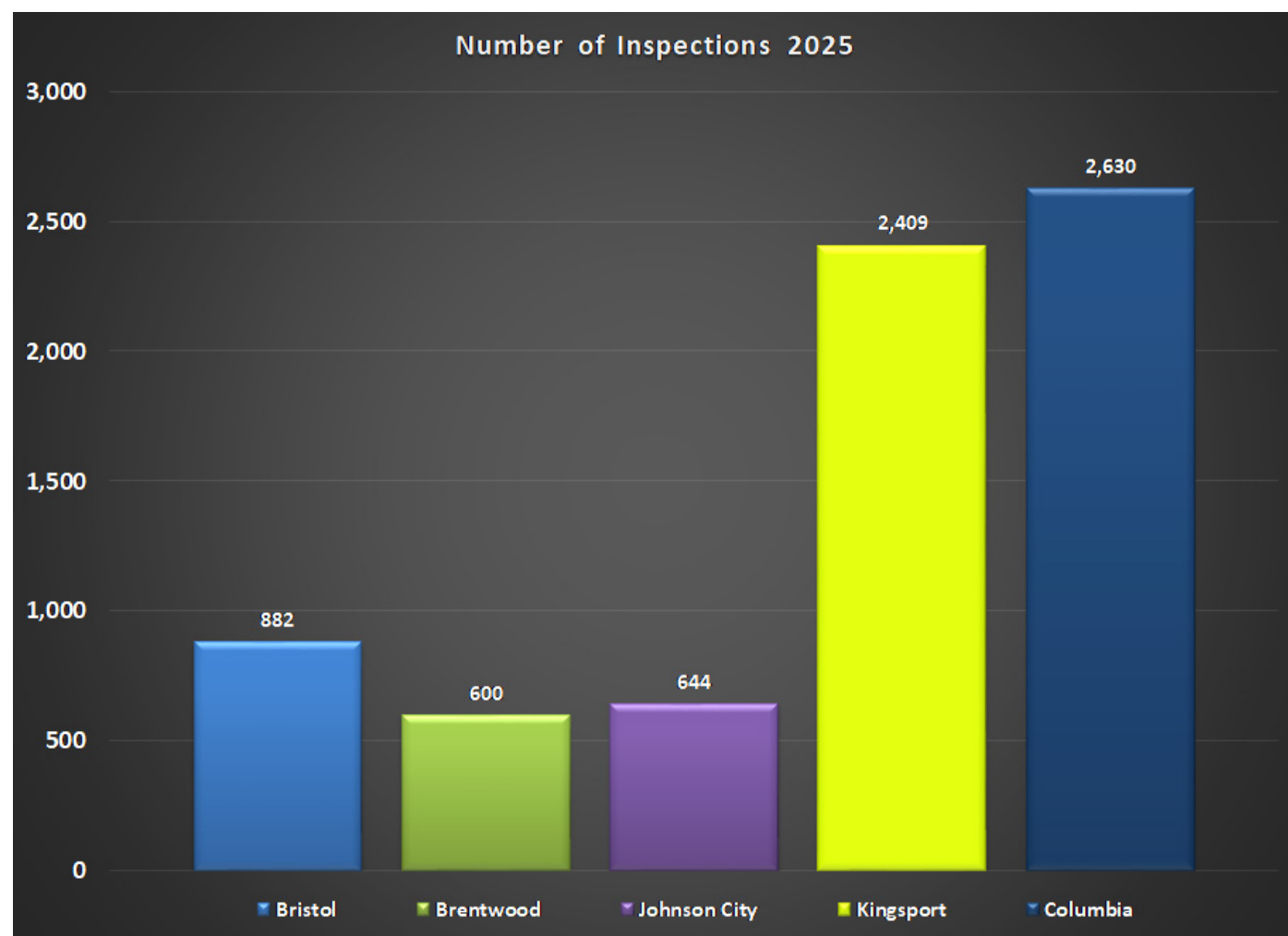
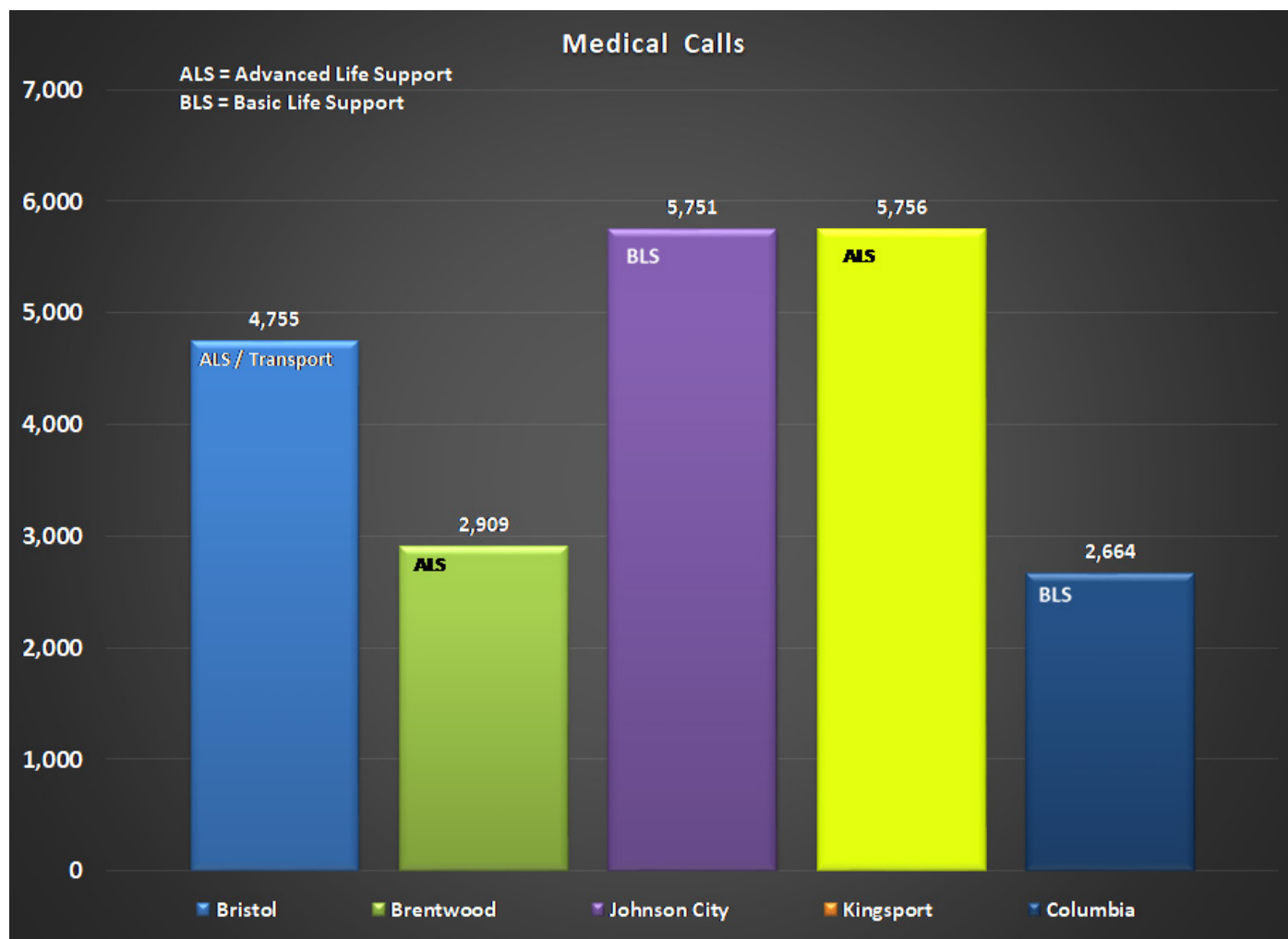
Kingsport Fire Department Benchmark Data



Kingsport Fire Department Benchmark Data



Kingsport Fire Department Benchmark Data



KINGSPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

THE CHIEF OFFICES 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 UTILIZE OUR CORE VALUES.

MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE KINGSPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT IS TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE CITIZENS AND VISITORS TO THE CITY OF KINGSPORT.

VISION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO
DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE,
FOSTERING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT,
ADVANCING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
AND ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY AT EVERY LEVEL.

CORE VALUES

COURAGE
PROFESSIONALISM
INTEGRITY
COMPASSION
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

KINGSPORTTN.GOV

