

THE  
**TAILBOARD**  
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 | DECEMBER 2022



## 2022 Ends as Another Record Year for WFD

2022 ended with the Waco Fire Department responding to 20,674 incidents which was a 4.2% increase over last year.



Sunbright Recycling fire (2 Alarm Fire) at 701 Texas Central Parkway

There were 291 structure fires that WFD responded to, with sadly, one recorded fire death. Emergency Medical assistance continues to dominate requests for services at 57% of the response totals. Incidents that dominated the headlines in 2022 included the “Kendall Fire” wildland urban interface incident in June, and the large fire at the Sunbright Recycling complex in October.

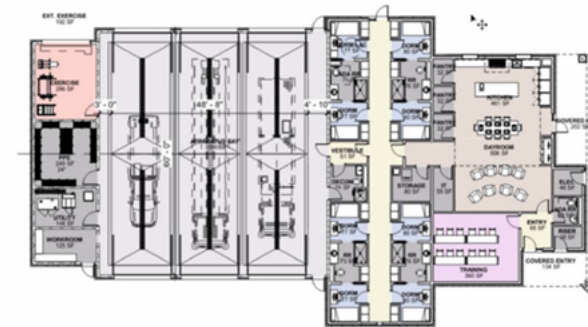
Non-incident related news produced a historic year for the Waco Fire Department as Fire Administration and Fire Station 6 opened in March to much fanfare and excitement. Almost immediately following the grand opening of the new facilities, a steady stream of firetrucks arrived in Waco during the next few months. New Engines for Stations 1,2,6,7, 9, and 11 along with a new Ladder Truck for Station 2 created excellent community engagement opportunities with “push-in” ceremonies held at each location.

Additionally, WFD took the main stage nationally, with new apparatus being displayed at the Texas Fire Chiefs Conference here in Waco in March, FDIC International Conference in Indianapolis in April, and Fire Rescue International Conference in San Antonio in August. Tens of thousands of firefighters had the opportunity to look over some of the innovative features of our new rigs!

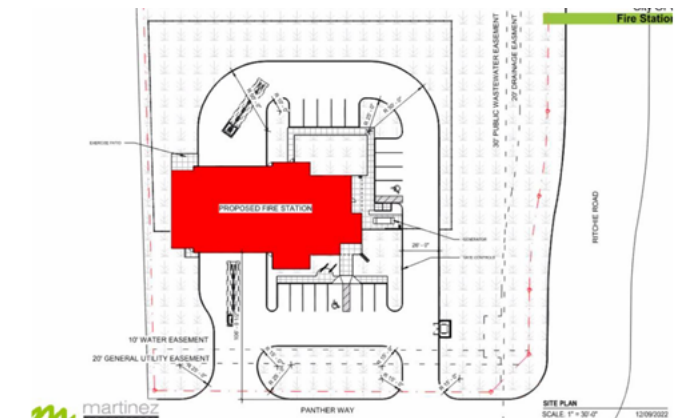
## NEW STATION 15 PROJECT COMING ALONG



Possible Elevation Drawing of Fire Station 15



Floor Plan for Fire Station 15 (not finalized)



Fire Station 15 plot map

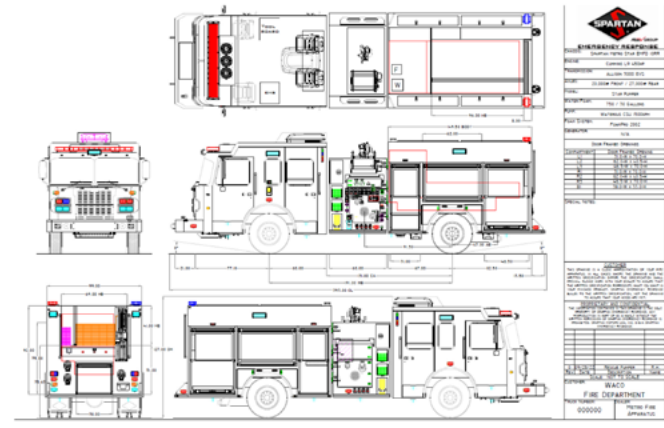
The design of Fire Station 15 at 10905 Panther Way has been ongoing for the past few months and is moving along nicely. To date a site plan, rough floorplan layout, and concepts for the exterior appearance have been discussed. Some features of the facility will include approximately 8200 sq. ft. of space, with individual dorm rooms, a small training room, and three apparatus bays. Construction will begin in 2023 and we look forward to its progress.





## 3 New Engines Ordered

Three new Spartan fire engines have been ordered. The pre-construction design phase will be completed in January with WFD staff and engineers at the Spartan Motors plant in Brandon, SD. The order includes a new Engine 12, Engine 15 (for the new fire station), and a Rescue Pumper to replace Engine 5.



Construction Drawing of new Engine 5 (Rescue Pumper)



## New Bauer Compressor

In December, the City Council approved the purchase of a BAUER UNICUS 4i 18 E3 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus ("SCBA") fill station compressor system for Fire Station 1. It should arrive within three months and allow the existing compressor at Station 1 to move to Station 11, replacing their 20-year-old unit. The system has many technology upgrades and will be a great asset to ensuring our SCBA filling capabilities remain intact for years to come.



## TACTICAL TENDER GRANT

On Thursday, December 15, 2022, the Waco Fire Department was notified that it was granted a Tactical Tender apparatus as part of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) grants program by the Texas A & M Forest Service. The grant program will allow WFD to take possession of a 100% funded apparatus for use at:

- Local and Regional Mutual Aid Incidents.
- Local/Regional Multiple Alarm Incidents.
- Emergency events threatening properties vital to National Defense, Critical Infrastructure or Important Military Installations.
- Local community events (parades, displays).
- Training of firefighters.
- Standby for Cooperator's regular apparatus while out for repairs. Cooperator will notify TFS if the standby period is expected to exceed 90 days

(Tactical Tender Grant Continued on next page)

## 3 New Type VI Brush Trucks

In November, the City was able to order three Type VI Brush Trucks at a cost of \$545,728. These units are much-needed to replace 23 year old units currently in the WFD fleet. A short list of some the features of the new units is below, along with a photo of a similarly equipped unit. Ford F-550 Diesel 4 x4 Super Cab

- Larger wheels (335/80R20 MPT81)
- 400-gallon tank / 10 gallon Foam
- More storage
- Hypersight Thermal Imaging

The three WFD Brush Trucks had a combined 209 responses in 2022, which due to draught conditions most of the year, was significant compared to previous years.



(Example of Similar Type VI Brush Truck)



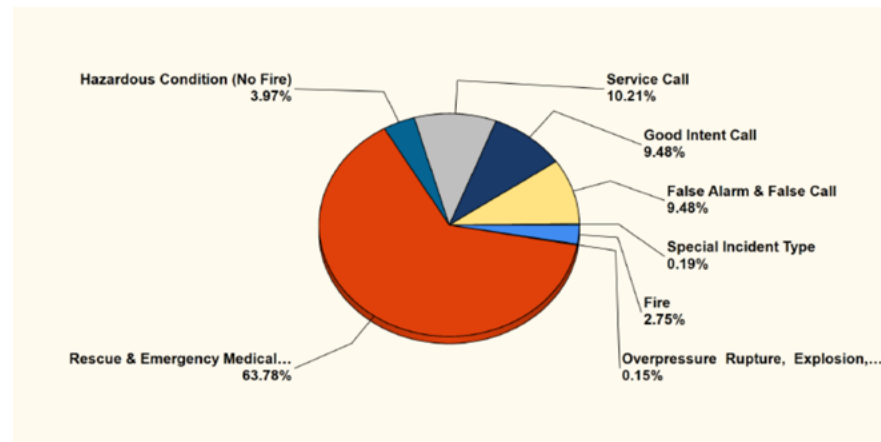
Waco was one of only two departments receiving vehicles this year and this Tactical Tender will be one of only four state-wide. The Tactical Tender will boast a 2000-gallon water tank, foam system, and the ability to pump while moving. While its primary mission is to support and increase statewide wildland firefighting capabilities, it is a huge win for Waco, as the Waco Fire Department has no large capacity water hauling vehicles in its fleet.

The TIFMAS grant program has funded 54 (including two this year) apparatus statewide over the past 12 years. The Waco Fire Department has been an active participant in the TIFMAS program over the past few years with firefighters deploying to numerous wildfires, assisting with the COVID-19 response, and Hurricane Ida in Louisiana. Executive Deputy Chief Bergerson serves as a Division Coordinator managing resources in for 12 counties in the region.

The request to submit a TIFMAS grant was approved by the Waco City Council in October Of 2020.

## 4th Quarter Statistics

The 4th quarter of 2022 proved to be a busy end to the year with multi alarm fires on October 10th at Sunbelt Recycling, an apartment fire at 917 Briar Dr. on October 23rd, and a large brush fire on Tom Ledbetter Rd. on Christmas Eve. On October 16th, WFD responded to assist Marlin and other agencies with a major structure fire in a commercial building in downtown Marlin. WFD assisted many other departments battling heavy fire, high winds, and frigid temperatures in the Gholson area at a fire that destroyed Café Homestead on December 23rd.



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fire	147	2.75%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire)	8	0.15%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	3405	63.78%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	212	3.97%
Service Call	545	10.21%
Good Intent Call	506	9.48%
False Alarm & False Call	506	9.48%
Special Incident Type	10	0.19%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5339</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



A Firefighter walks through smoke 0at the 2nd Alarm Fire at 701 Texas Central Parkway on October 10th



Intense flames leap from baled cardboard at Sunbright Recycling.



Units operate at a massive fire in downtown Marlin on October 16th

## RETIREMENTS, PROMOTIONS, & NEW HIRES



**ENGINEER**  
**JEREMY NUNES**

Engineer Jeremy Nunes retired on October 31st with 25 years of service.



**FIRE EQUIPMENT ENGINEER**  
**COREY BRIGHT**

Corey Bright promoted to Fire Equipment Engineer on November 6th.

### NEW FIREFIGHTERS HIRED

Began October 2nd

- Kyle Bauernschmitt
- Colby Grimes
- Coby Bess
- Gabriel Parker
- Darren Nguyen
- Albert Morales
- Derek Johnston
- Chase Mach
- James Putnam
- David Hogan
- Garrett Kelly



New Firefighters being sworn in.



## FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK



### DESIRE **VS** DEDICATION

We live in a microwave society, we want it right now, and when we get it, we take on the attitude of "what have you done for me lately? I think it's fair to say we all want success, we all want to achieve, and we all want to live financially comfortably. Desire is a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen. As a productive member of this organization, what is your desire? Have you transformed your desire into a goal? What steps will you take to accomplish your goal and the direction/path to your success? We have enormous potential, and it will take each of us to make this department one of the greatest ones in this country. Now that you've answered the above questions in the affirmative, are you dedicated? Dedication is the quality of being dedicated or committed to a task or purpose. My expectation, although lofty, is for everyone to have the same dedication and determination to make the organization the most recognized in Texas and across the United States as I have; however, I realize that not everyone will.

A National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) football team was competing for the National Championship and was trailing 7-6 with 3 minutes remaining in the 4th quarter. The opposing team was successfully running the clock out on the home team's side of the field when the backup quarterback went to the head coach and said, "let them score, and we'll get the ball back with a great chance to score a touchdown and two-point conversion to win the game. The Coach called timeout and instructed the defense to do just that. The home team got the ball, scored the touchdown, and was unsuccessful in their two-point conversion and lost the game 13-12. They would not have had the opportunity to win if the backup quarterback didn't provide the input and the coach hadn't listened. It will take each of us dedicated with a strong desire to make this organization "Great" even if you're on the sideline, you can be a significant contributor to this team.



FOLLOW US

@WACOTXFIRE 

1006 N. 25th St.  
Waco, TX 76707