

2025

# Polk City Fire Department Annual Report



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement/Welcome Note

Awards

Public Relations Events & Photos

Training Statistics

Staff

Grants/Donations

Community Risk Reduction

Fire Department Response Statistics



# MISSION STATEMENT

*“Protect and preserve the life and property of the people we serve.”*

## NOTE FROM CHIEF

The Polk City Fire Department experienced a successful and eventful year in 2025, marked by significant growth and progress. The department took delivery of a new fire engine and ambulance at the end of the year, concluding a lengthy wait of 3.5 years for the engine and 3 years for the ambulance. The arrival of these critical apparatuses was a strong way to close out the year and enhanced the department’s operational capabilities.

Staffing changes in 2025 included the hiring of five part-time members and two paid-on-call members, as well as the promotion of three officers. While the department experienced some full-time turnover, two vacancies were filled internally and one externally. The department’s roster currently consists of thirty-one members, including fifteen part-time, four full-time, and twelve paid-on-call personnel. Of these members, fifteen are paramedics, fifteen are EMTs, one of whom is testing for paramedic certification, one currently enrolled in paramedic school, and one member awaiting entry into EMT school this summer.

The department responded to 712 calls for service in 2025, representing a 4.2% increase in call volume. Of these calls, twenty-nine were unable to be staffed due to low staffing levels. EMS call volume increased by 12.63% over the previous year.

We are dedicated to continuing to provide the highest level of care and services possible while keeping pace with the growth of our city to the best of our ability.

*-Karla Hogrefe*

*Polk City Fire Chief*

# 2025 AWARDS

We held our Association “Of the Year Awards” party on March 3, 2026, at Saylorville Marina. A survey was sent out, and these awards are voted on by department members each year. There are five recognized awards each year: Quentin Billings Recruit of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Medic of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Dedicated Member of the Year.

2025 Quentin Billings Recruit of the Year Nominees: David Eastman, Marie Vander Wilt, Sam Palmer, Heidi Baker, Haleigh Cross, Brandon Sjullie, Jon Watkins, Blaine Brodsky, and Colton Lee.

**2025 Quentin Billings Recruit of the Year Recipient: David Eastman** - David was hired as a Part-time FF/Paramedic May 27, 2025, and has picked up numerous hours to fill in the paramedic position when we have been short.

2025 Firefighter of the Year Nominees: Cory Brooks, Nate Burgod, David Llewellyn, Mina Ryan, Brock Mulder, Brice Hibbing, Steve Winter, and Tad Watson.

**2025 Firefighter of the Year Recipient: Brock Mulder** - Brock was hired as a paid-on-call member as a Paramedic August 19, 2024, and got his FF1 certification March 2025. He was hired as a full-time member in May 2025.

2025 Medic of the Year Nominees: Brock Mulder, Joel Otte, Craig Sosby, Matt Reetz, Dottie Van Zee, Cory Brooks, Tad Watson, and Brandon Sjullie.

**2025 Medic of the Year Recipient: Brock Mulder** - As you can tell Brock really stepped up as a full-time member this year!

2025 Officer of the Year Nominees: Chief Karla Hogrefe, Deputy Chief Tanner Owen, Captain Nick Klatt, Captain David Llewellyn, Lieutenant Brice Hibbing, and Lieutenant Nate Burgod.

**2025 Officer of the Year Recipient: Deputy Chief Tanner Owen** - Tanner was promoted to Deputy Chief May 2025; he served as a Captain for two years before that. His commitment to this department does not go unnoticed.

2025 Dedicated Member of the Year Nominees: Brock Mulder, Karla Hogrefe, Marie Vander Wilt, Rich Voyek, Brice Hibbing, Nate Burgod, Cory Brooks, and Mina Ryan.

**2025 Dedicated Member of the Year Recipient: Lieutenant Brice Hibbing** - Brice has been on the department as a paid-on-call member since May 2010 and serving as a Lieutenant since 2023. He recently has been promoted to a Full-Time Lieutenant and will begin March 1. His dedication to this department and to the members is insurmountable.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Our community is important to us; we make it a part of our mission to engage with our community through public relations events. Here are some highlights from 2025.

- Girl Scout Station Tour (4<sup>th</sup> grade Troup 798)
- Cub Scout Tour Pack 89 Tiger Den (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)
- DMACC Career Fair
- Big Creek Triathlon
- Association Pizza Delivery
- Big Creek 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Station Tours
- VBS Water Spray
- NP State Softball Engine Escort
- Four Seasons Festival
- Block Party Visit
- AED Checks
- Lakes Early Learning Station Visit
- RVTV
- Yellow Brick Road Daycare Visit
- Citizen's Academy
- Girl Scout Tour
- Trunk or Treat
- Light Up the Square
- Homecoming Parade
- Fall Fest
- Public Safety Golf Outing

# PUBLIC RELATIONS PHOTOS



## TRAINING SUMMARY

The Polk City Fire Department conducted regular training throughout the year to maintain operational readiness and professional competency. Training was held weekly on Tuesday evenings from 1900 to 2100 hours, alternating between fire and EMS topics. The third Tuesday of each month was reserved for officer and department meetings.

During the summer months, fire training was expanded to three-hour sessions to allow for more in-depth, hands-on instruction. The department utilized multiple Fire Service Training Bureau training resources, including the MOBAT, ladder, interior fire attack, ventilation, and forcible entry trailers, as well as the Fire Service Training Bureau training tower located near Highway 415 and Highway 141.

EMS training was primarily instructed by Paramedic Joel Otte, while fire training was conducted by the department's officer group. Members were encouraged to participate as instructors in areas of interest. Additional instruction was provided by the department's Medical Director, Dr. Sexton, and by external instructors RN Chelsea Reis, who delivered Stop the Bleed training, and Captain Obie Meyers from Des Moines Fire Haz Mat Team who delivered annual Hazardous Materials refresher training.

Below are the documented hours for training and meeting hours.

- ❖ EMS Continuing Education Training Hours - 36
- ❖ Fire Training Hours - 52
- ❖ Outside Training Hours - 214
- ❖ Fire Department Meeting Hours - 9
- ❖ Fire Officer's Meeting Hours - 10
- ❖ Total Member's New Certifications - 5
- ❖ Total Member's Training Hours - 1,248

## STAFF

We celebrated the retirement of Steve Noack in February after 25 years of service.



## 2025 Staff Anniversaries & Hires:

- ❖ January - Deb Wilkinson - 39 years, Craig Sosby & Nick Klatt - 11 years, Nate Burgod - 10 years, Steve Winter- 8 years, Matt Stern & Matt Reetz - 2 years
- ❖ February - Joel Otte - 1 year, Brian Hanson - 11 years
- ❖ March - Mark Voyek - 3 years
- ❖ April - Tanner Owen - 4 years, Jake Peters - 3 years
- ❖ May - Brock Mulder - Hired Full-Time, Brice Hibbing - 15 years
- ❖ June - Haleigh Cross, Heidi Baker, Sam Palmer & David Eastman - Hired Part - Time
- ❖ July - Karla Hogrefe - 3 years Full-Time, Bryan Koster - 3 years, Rich Voyek & Mina Ryan - 1 year
- ❖ August - Karla Hogrefe - 6 years, Brock Mulder - 1 year
- ❖ September - Cory Brooks - 5 years, David Llewellyn - 4 years
- ❖ November - Tad Watson - 3 years, Brandon Sjullie - Hired Full-Time
- ❖ December - Dottie Van Zee - 9 years, Mina Ryan - Hired Full-Time, Colton Lee & Blaine Brodsky - Hired Paid-On-Call

## GRANTS/DONATIONS

- ❖ Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant - Engine Tools  
Applied for \$99,999                      **Awarded: \$30,000**
- ❖ DNR Forestry Grant - Chainsaw  
Applied for \$779                              **Awarded: \$779**
- ❖ ICAP Grant - Flashlights  
Applied for \$1000                              **Awarded: \$1000**
- ❖ Gary Sinise Foundation Grant - Gear  
Applied for \$43,000                              **Awarded: \$0**
- ❖ Polk City Foundation - Scene Lights  
Applied for \$2000                              **Awarded: \$2000**
- ❖ Kwik Trip - Engine Equipment  
Applied for \$1000                              **Awarded: \$1000**

**TOTAL GRANT & DONATIONS: \$34,779**

## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

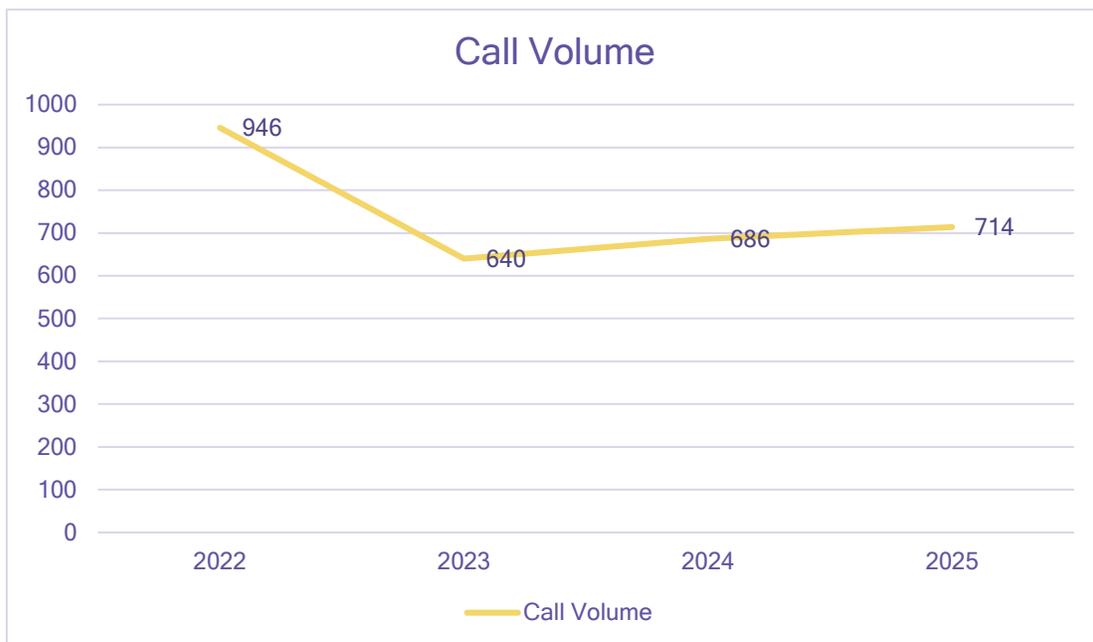
During the year, the Polk City Fire Department conducted training with full-time members on company fire inspections and fire code violations. In 2024, crews completed pre-incident plans for all commercial occupancies within city limits. During those visits, business owners were notified that company fire inspections would begin in 2025 and were provided with written information outlining fire safety expectations and common code enforcement items, allowing time for voluntary compliance.

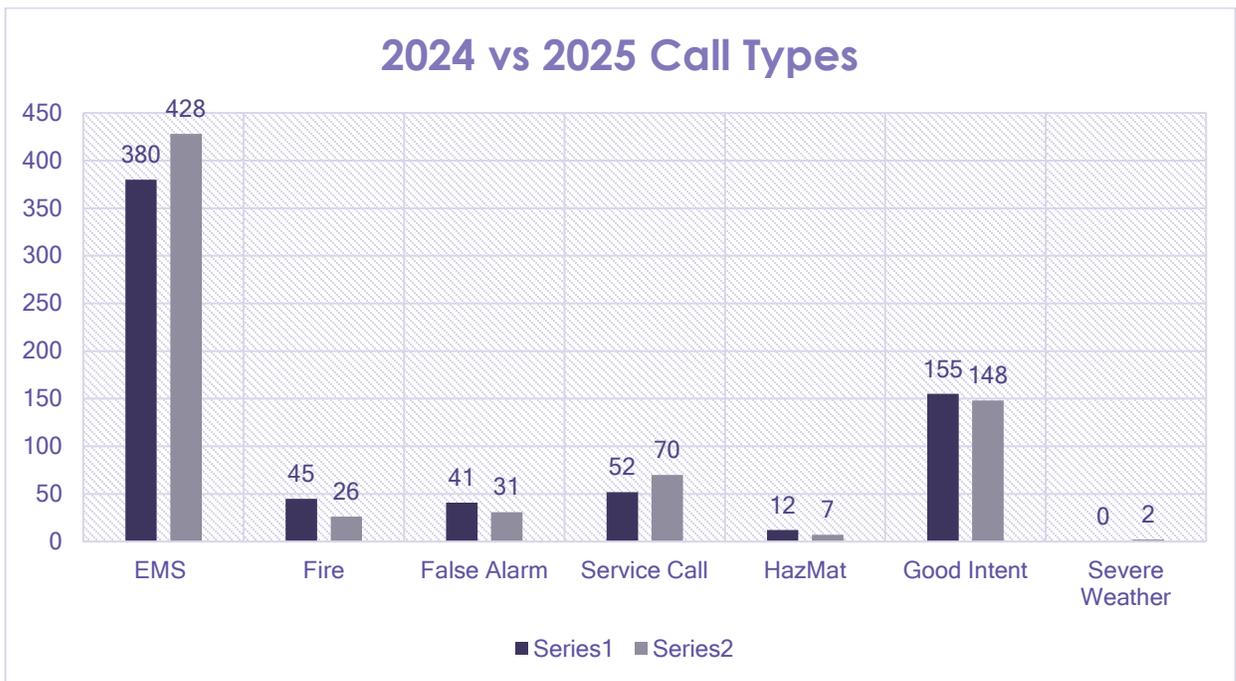
In 2025, commercial occupancies were assigned to full-time members, who conducted inspections and re-inspections while on shift. This program increased department visibility within the community while improving overall fire and life safety for local businesses and residents.

- Total Preplans - 5
- Total Inspections - 84
- Total Re-inspections - 41
- Total Violations - 107

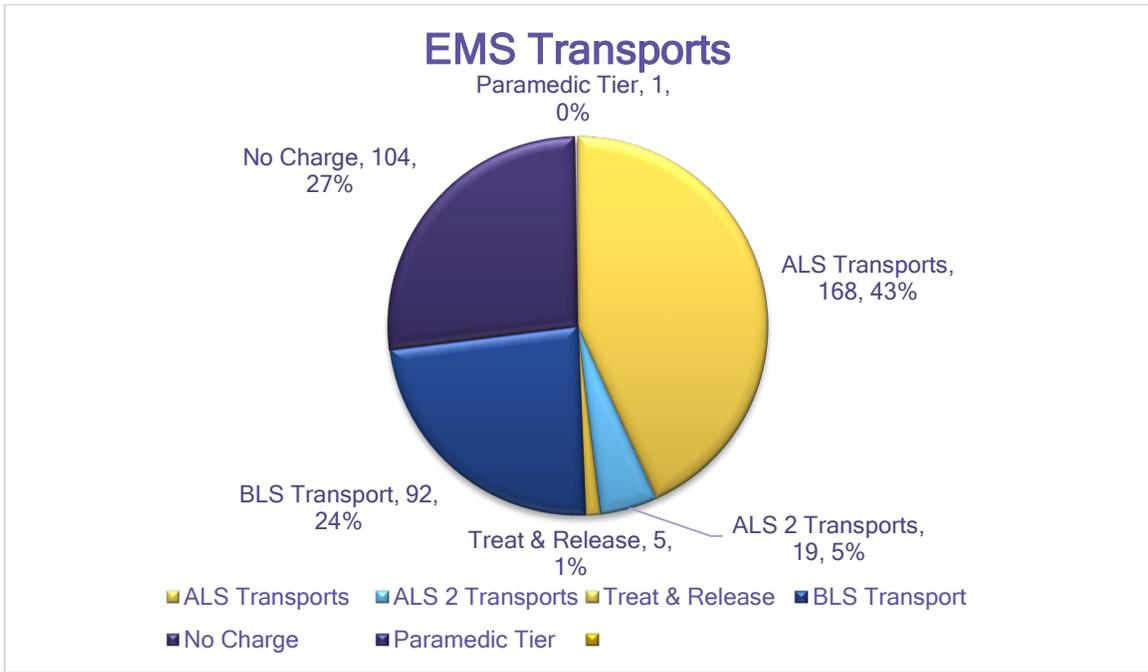
## RESPONSE/CALLS

- The Polk City Fire Department responded to 714 calls in 2025 with an increase in call volume of 4.2%. There is a large decrease from 2022 to 2023 due to no longer responding to Ankeny for change of quarters calls.

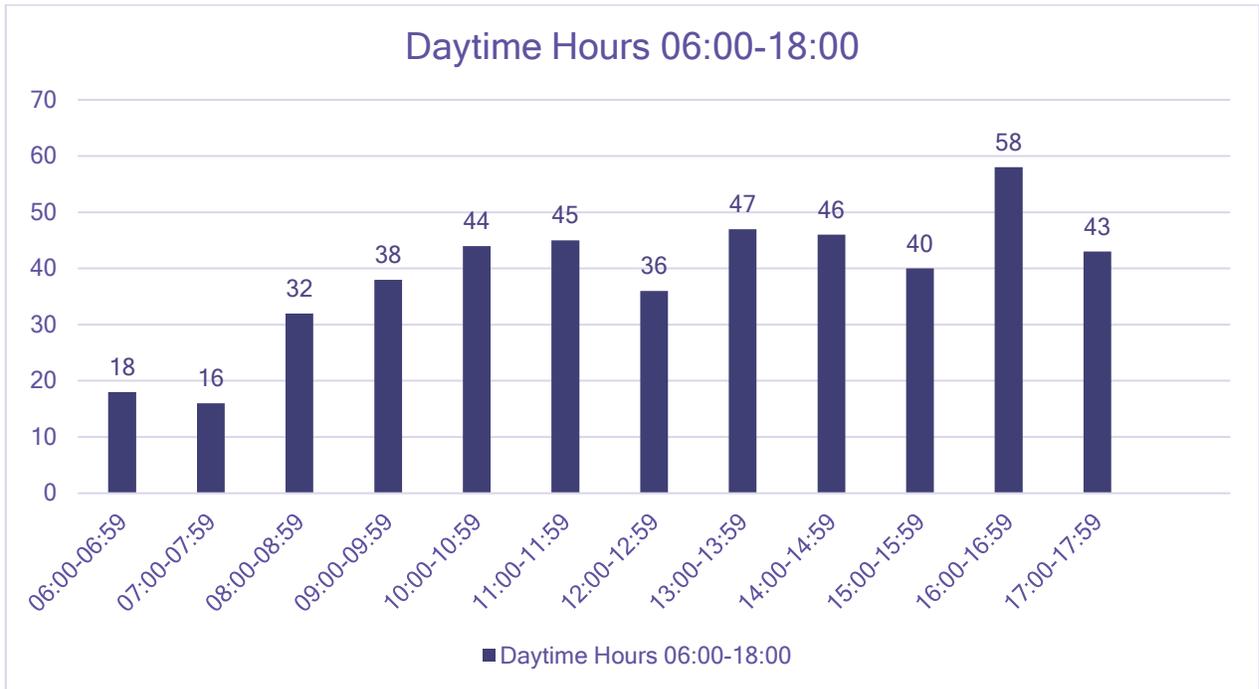




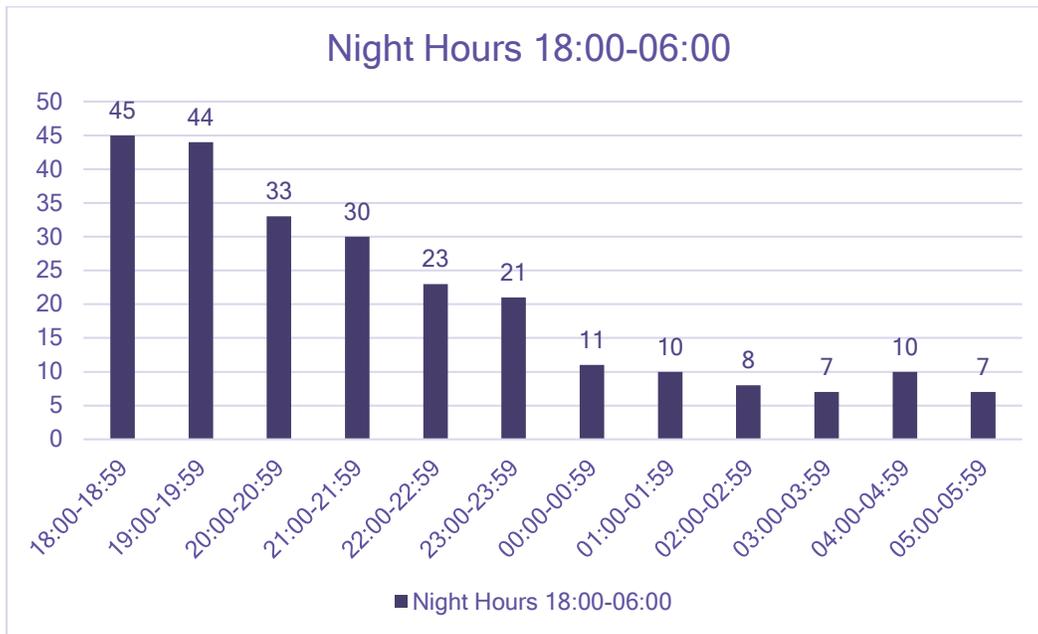
Series 1 is from 2024, and Series 2 is from 2025. As you can tell, our EMS calls increased significantly in 2025.



Above is a breakdown of EMS transports, most of our transports are Advanced Life Support transports.



The busiest daytime hours are from 16:00-16:59 hours.



The busiest nighttime hours are from 18:00-18:59 hours.

## NEW APPARATUS

We replaced our twenty-five-year-old engine with a 2025 Pierce Enforcer in December. We replaced our 2012 Ford Lifeline Ambulance with a 2025 Ford F550 Road Rescue Ambulance in December. A push-in ceremony for both will be held March 31, 2026, at 6:00 pm. We sold our old engine for \$25,100 to Rhodes Volunteer Fire Department and our old ambulance to Nevada Fire Department for \$27,600.





## CONCLUSION

The Polk City Fire Department continued to move forward in 2025 with a strong focus on service, preparedness, and growth. Despite increasing call volume and ongoing staffing challenges, our members remained committed to providing high-quality emergency services to our community. The delivery of new apparatus, continued investment in training, and progress in staffing and promotions reflect a department that is adapting to the needs of a growing city.

None of this success would be possible without the dedication of our firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, and officers, who consistently demonstrate professionalism, resilience, and pride in serving Polk City. I am grateful for the continued support of the Mayor, City Council, and city administration, whose partnership allows us to plan for the future while meeting today's demands.

As Polk City continues to grow, the Fire Department will remain committed to continuous improvement, community risk reduction, and ensuring the safety of our residents, businesses, and visitors. I am confident that the foundation built in 2025 positions the department well for the challenges and opportunities ahead.