

# CARTERSVILLE FIRE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



CITY OF CARTERSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT - SINCE 1889

# OUR MISSION

*Above all we prevent,  
protect and provide*



*with professionalism,  
purpose and passion*

**Above All-** above all of the noise, distractions, doubt, obstacles and challenges our focus will remain.

**We-** not I, not me, but us, we will reach our mission together in one accord

**Prevent-** prevention is key, we will strive to educate, properly enforce codes, stop death and destruction before it can occur to make our community safer for our Citizens and guests.

**Protect-** using our training, experience, courage and knowledge. We will stand in harm's way to battle fires and disasters facing our community.

**Provide-** service to our community addressing needs with dedication and compassion.

**With-** all of this will be done with

**Professionalism-** competence, skillfulness and efficiency. Not allowing minimum standards to be our maximum. We will strive to be an industry leader and an example.

**Purpose-** knowing that we have been created to fulfill a calling of service and sacrifice. We are here for a reason.

**Passion-** this is our compelling desire to be firefighters, to walk where others will not go. To believe and to belong with enthusiasm.



# City of Cartersville

F I R E D E P A R T M E N T



1/15/2022

Greetings,

Within the following pages, we will attempt to take a brief review of 2021 for Cartersville Fire Department. You will find that while our requests for help are ever increasing, we continue to strive for professionalism with purpose and passion. That is the Cartersville Fire way.

We continued to navigate the waters of an ongoing pandemic. This is affecting every corner of our operation. Even so, we were able to pause on a September day and remember the sacrifices of so many 20 years ago on September 11, 2001. Within our own ranks, we saw new faces, new positions while saying good-bye to old friends. We wrapped up the year with a focus on the future and the growth of tomorrow.

I have the privilege of working with great citizens, a positive administration and the greatest heroes I have ever known. The Firefighters of Cartersville. It is my humble honor to serve as your Fire Chief. If I can answer any questions concerning this report or anything to do with our department, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With Respect, I Am,

Fire Chief

[scarter@cityofcartersville.org](mailto:scarter@cityofcartersville.org)

770-387-5635





# *Cartersville Fire Department*



## Senior Officers



Scott Carter  
Fire Chief



Hagen Champion  
Deputy Fire Chief



Heath Patterson  
Battalion Chief  
A Battalion



Tim McClung  
Battalion Chief  
B Battalion



Chad Hendrix  
Battalion Chief  
C Battalion



Mark Hathaway  
Fire Marshal



Ronnie Cowart  
Training Chief



Michele Bledsoe  
Administrative  
Support







# Officers



Capt. Mitchell Bagley



Capt. Matt Daniel



Capt. Chris Edge



Capt. Shannon Horn



Capt. Daniel Lanier



Capt. Tracey McFadden



Capt. Michael Mitchell



Capt. Eric Williams



Lt. J. Amerson



Lt. D. Crocker



Lt. M. Elrod



Lt. W. Gilmer



Lt. R. Gwin



Lt. M. Hyde



Lt. T. Key



Lt. H. Moore



Lt. J. Paschal



Lt. C. Sutton



Lt. A. Swancy

## Fire Stations

The Cartersville Fire Department consists of four full time staffed Fire Stations. After a lengthy study of geography, call volume, and future development the stations that were strategically located. Personnel operating on a twenty-four, forty-eight rotation, staff these stations.

**Fire Station 1**, located at 195 Cassville Road is the department's Headquarters Station. This is where the departments Administration is located. This includes Inspections, Investigations, and the Training Divisions as well as the Fire Chief's offices. With the new facility came a central supply and Quarter Master facility within the Headquarters.

This fifty one thousand square foot building was opened for operation in 2012, and operates as the City of Cartersville's Public Safety Facility. The Fire Station and Administrations occupies half of



the building and the Police department is located in the other half. This Fire Station has accommodations to house as many as twelve fire suppression personnel along with one Battalion Chief. The station operates an Engine Company with an officer, driver and two firefighters, and a Tower Company with a driver and firefighter. Then in addition to this, the station also houses a full compliment reserve engine, F350 support truck and a Kubota UTV with medical and wildland firefighting capabilities.

**Fire Station 2**, located at 90 Peoples Valley Road is approximately a seventy-five hundred



square foot brick building that opened for operation in 2003. This facility can accommodate eight fire suppression personnel and operates a single company Engine with an officer, driver and two firefighters. This station also houses a fully complemented reserve Engine.

**Fire Station 3**, located at 15 Charlie Harper Drive, is a ten thousand ninety square foot brick building that opened for operation in 2020. This building also has the capabilities to accommodate up to eight fire suppression personnel. The station operates a single company Engine with an officer, driver and two firefighters. This station also has a fully complimented reserve Engine and a reserve Ladder Truck.



The departments Fire Safety Education trailer is located here because it is nearest to the city schools.



**Fire Station 4**, located at 550 Martin Luther King Junior Drive is a ninety six hundred square foot brick facility that opened in 2012. This building will accommodate eight suppression personnel on a fully complimented Engine with an officer, driver and two firefighters. Also responding out of this station is a Squad equipped with specialized rescue and emergency equipment that can handle calls

that a regular engine is not equipped to handle. It also has an officer, driver and firefighter staffing it. The station houses additional equipment for rescue operation. A rescue truck and an ATV used for response is located here.

**Training Center**, Located at 180 Paga Mine Rd. is a joint facility with Bartow County. This facility was opened in 2009. This site is 12 acres that contains multiple burn rooms, elevated rescue tower, pavilions, classrooms and multiple gas fire props. The facility is extremely busy through the year hosting Cartersville and Bartow fire departments in addition to training provided for outside agencies. The total cost of construction was just under \$2,000,000.00 in 2009. It is estimated that it would cost over \$10,000,000.00 today to construct the same type facility.



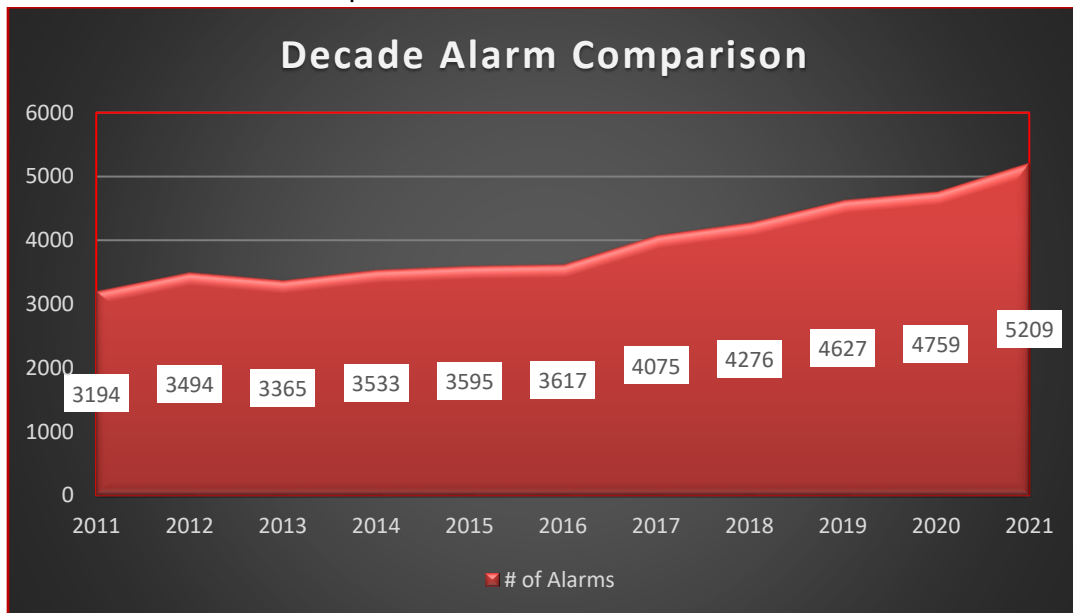
## 2021 Alarm Response



Emergency response continued to look very different because of the pandemic. Delays in logistics, personnel shortages in all public safety and other roadblocks caused 2021 to be another stressful year. Cartersville Fire saw its highest record year of emergency alarms. We saw a 9.5 increase over 2020 in alarms with trucks rolling an average of 18.48 times per day to aid our citizens and guest.

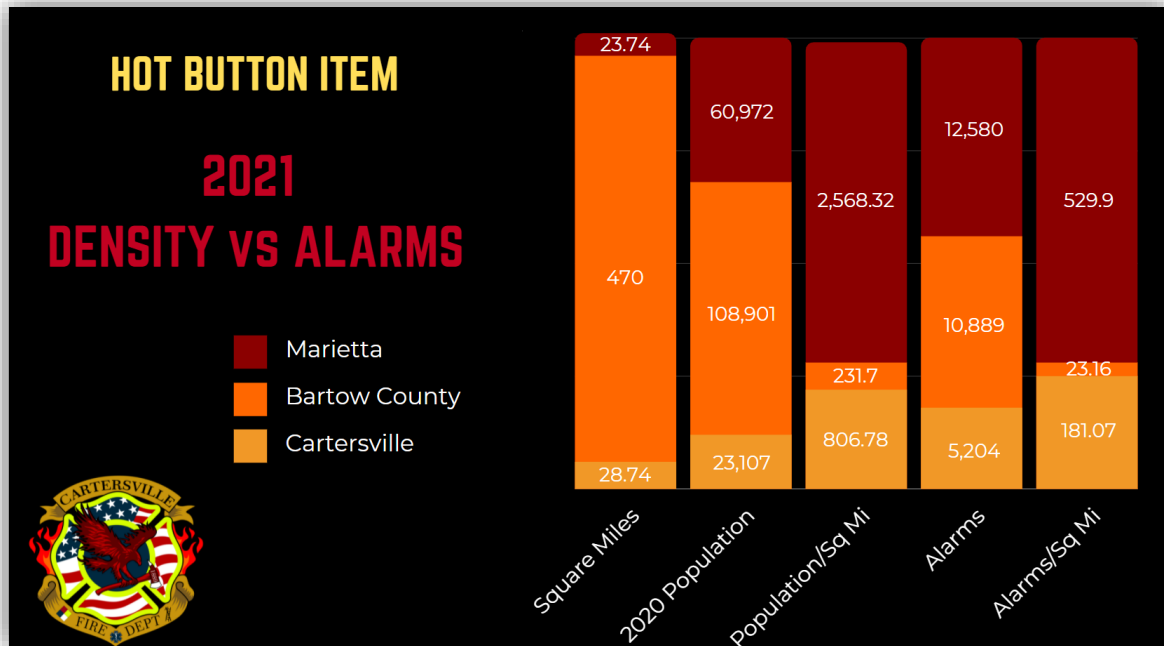
Our department answered 5209 calls for emergency assistance from citizens, guests and other agencies. The ten-year alarm trend for the department shows almost an approximate 63%

increase in call volume over that period.





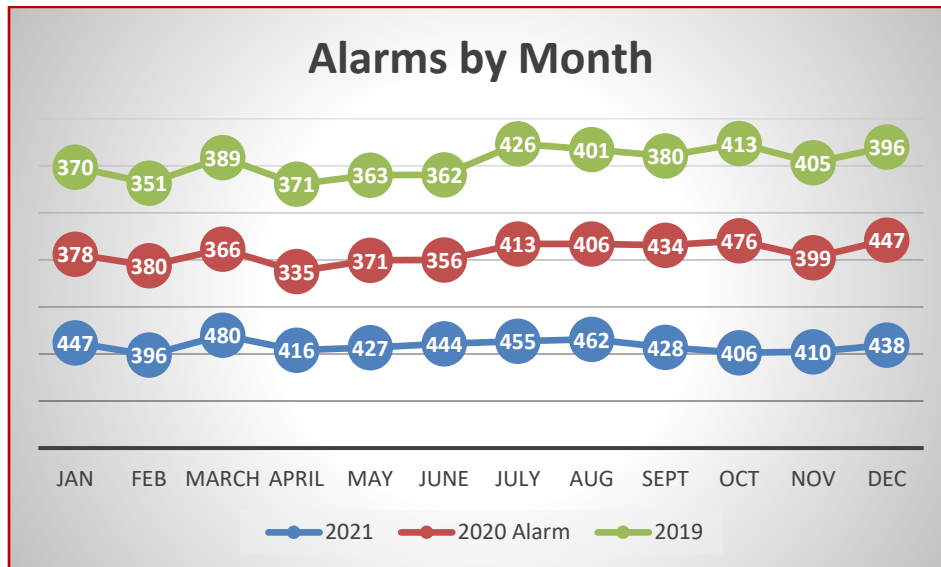
It is anticipated, based on current historical data and trends that by the year 2031 CFD will respond to approximately 8500 emergency alarms. This is directly related to our population growth and increased density.



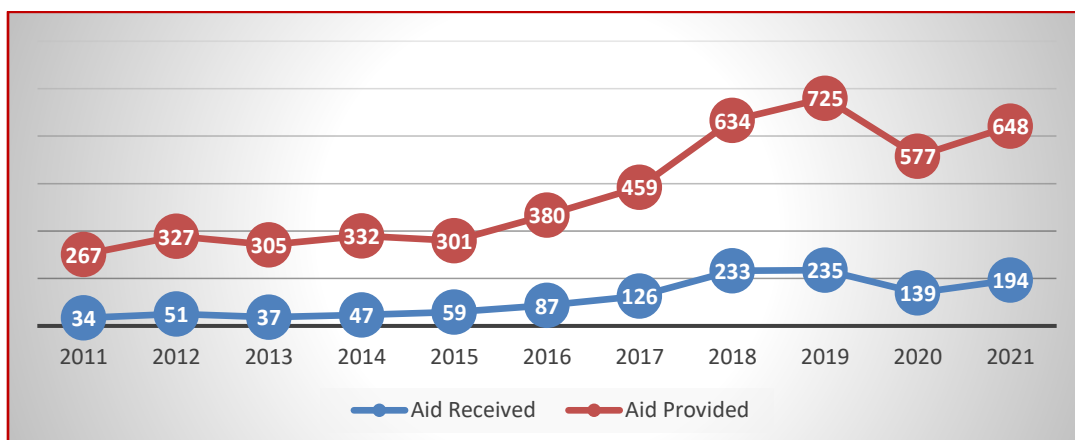
The above chart reflects a current comparison between population, density and call volume. The City of Marietta has the lowest sq. miles but because of population density, they run the most emergency alarms per sq. mile. This will have a major impact in the future growth of Cartersville. Increase density means increase demands for service. It must be understood that planned growth for fire and emergency services will be critical to protect our citizens and guest. The following table reflects the changes per category from 2020 to 2021.

Type	2020	2021	% Difference
Structure Fires	27	23	-14.9%
All other Fires	81	72	-12%
Medical	2730	2895	+ 6%
Vehicle accident w/ Injuries	196	195	-.6%
Public Assist	253	303	+19.7%
Dispatch / Canceled	390	372	-4.7%
False Alarm	272	301	+10.6%
Hazardous Materials	49	66	-34.7%
All other types	761	982	+29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4759</b>	<b>5209</b>	<b>+9.5%</b>

Below you will see a month by month comparison for calls. Our busiest month in 2021 was the month of March with 480 alarms. Feb was the lowest for 2021 with 396 alarms. On average, we respond to 434 alarms each month. It is interesting to note that the COVID data shows Bartow County positive cases showed a major decline in March 2021 leading to increased activity February was a high point of positive cases leading to decreased activity.

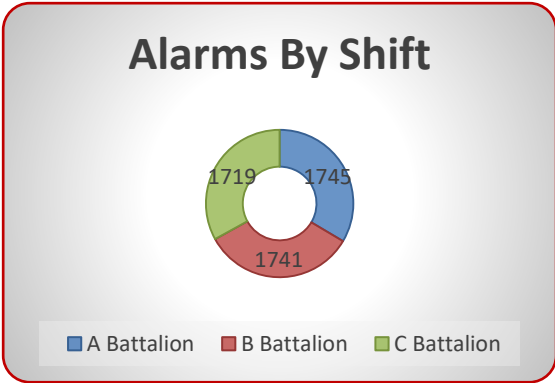


In addition to assisting the citizens and guests within the City of Cartersville, our department also responds to the request of other agencies outside of our City. The department has an automatic / mutual aid agreement with Bartow County Fire Department. In 2021, Cartersville Fire answered requests from Bartow County 648 times. This is the second highest recorded total since the departments entered into a formal automatic aid agreement in 2000. The following charts reflect those trends.

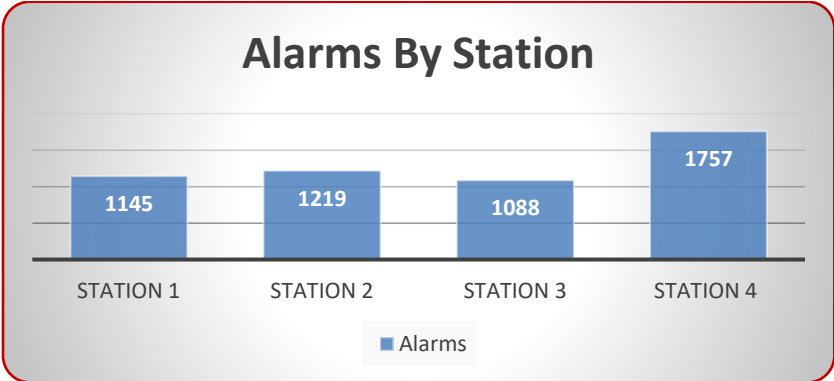




Cartersville Fire Department currently operates four fire stations on a three shift rotation basis. Each shift is 24 hours. A Battalion answered the most alarms with 1745 calls for assistance while B Battalion answered 1741 and C Battalion 1719 respectively. This chart reflects the breakdown of alarms by shift for 2021.

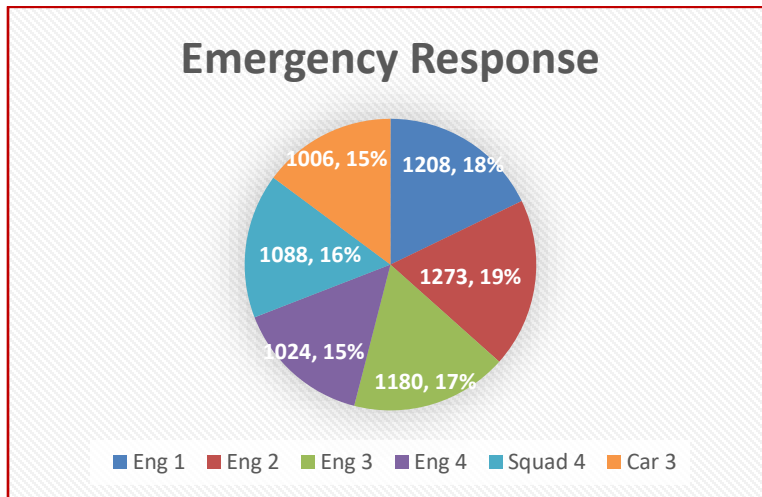


Station #4 located on MLK Jr. Drive continues to be the busiest station in the City. The remaining three stations are about equal on calls. Station 2 remains the busiest with (AA) automatic aid calls, running 56.5% of all automatic aid calls for our department. Thirty percent (30%) of Station 2's total call volume is outside the City limits. While this number may seem high, it is down drastically from 2019. In 2019 they responded into the county a total of 577 times compared to 326 in 2020. This decrease is due to a redrawing of the AA response protocols between Bartow County and Cartersville.



Station 4 was the busiest station with Station 1 responding to the most Structure fires at rate of 32.14%. Stations 2 and 4 responded to the most vehicle accidents with injury accounting for 67.6 % of all calls of this type.

The busiest engine company in the city in 2021 was Engine #2. The chart below reflects the response numbers for all apparatus. Engine 1 responded to the most medical calls. If there was a medical call in 2021 25% of the time you would have found Engine 1 on that call. Engine 2 ran the most car fires while ran the most grass fires.



A few other interesting facts concerning the 2021 alarms are:

- The average response time for Cartersville Fire was 4 minutes and 56 seconds for emergency call within the City.
- We average 14.3 calls per day of which 7.93 of those are emergency medical alarms.
- It takes an average of 1 minute 11 seconds for fire personnel to go in route once we receive the call from 911.
- Over 12.4 % of the departments call volume is outside of the city limits providing aid to Bartow County and its citizens.
- Emergency apparatus responded 7242 times to answer 5209 alarms. This means that 2033 alarms required multiple pieces of equipment to mitigate the emergency. This is over 39 % of the total call volume. An increase of 13% over 2019, just two years ago.
- The busiest day of the week is Thursday with the slowest day being Sunday.
- Busiest hour of the day is between 3 to 4 PM.
- There were three civilian injuries resulting from fires with two (2) fatalities.
- Firefighters kept safety a high priority with less than 1% of our firefighter injuries occurring while working alarms.



*All calls were diverse and our citizen's needs were many but there was one common theme on all calls. That common thread is that the firefighters of Cartersville maintained a compassionate commitment to the mitigation of these emergencies.*

***Above all, we have been doing so since 1889.***





## Insurance Service Organization (I.S.O.)

Part of our mission statement says, "Above all WE." This is truly what it takes to receive, and maintaining a Class 1 ISO rating. From the front-line firefighter, senior staff, city administration, elected officials, Water Department, and most importantly, our citizens. ISO uses a rating scale of 10 to 1 based on a variety of scoring criteria. The Cartersville Fire Department was a Class 5 in 1976, Class 4 in 1981, Class 3 in 2004 and obtained a Class 1 rating in 2015. An ISO Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program, that goes to the top level in providing service to its citizens. By receiving this renewal of Class One rating, the Cartersville Fire Department puts its name along side on 1% of the finest departments in America. With this rating, the City of Cartersville becomes a very attractive place for new industry and commercial growth.

The Insurance Service Organization conducted its survey in March of 2020, just as the department began recognizing a new threat to our community, Covid-19. There were areas of improvements in our score. Our communication score increased 3 points, or 45%. This is a direct result of the investment our citizens made with the new radio and computer aided dispatch system that was funded through S.P.L.O.S.T. The Community Risk Reduction score increased from 5.47 to 5.49, just one hundredth of a point from a perfect score. This score is calculated on criteria relating to Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement, Public Fire Safety Education, and Fire Investigation Programs. The overall score for the Cartersville Fire Department was 91.95 out of a possible 105.5.

Category	Possible Points	2015	2020	Difference
Emergency Communications	10	6.62	9.65	3.03
FD Engine Company	6	6	6	0.00
Reserve Pumpers	0.5	0.42	0.5	0.08
Pump Capacity	3	3	3	0.00
Ladder Service	4	3.96	2.84	-1.12
Reserve Ladder/Service	0.5	0.46	0.45	-0.01
Deployment Analysis	10	9.96	8.42	-1.54
Company Personnel	15	11.43	9.44	-1.99
Training	9	8.64	8.48	-0.16
Operational Considerations	2	2	2	0.00
Water Supply System	30	29.11	28.46	-0.65
Water Hydrants	3	2.99	2.99	0.00
Water Inspection and Flow Testing	7	7	7	0.00
Divergence		-1.2	-2.77	-1.57
Community Risk	5.5	5.47	5.49	0.02
	<b>105.5</b>	<b>95.86</b>	<b>91.95</b>	<b>-3.91</b>

Class 1 rating is one of the factors used to determine fire insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses. The premiums are based on the quality of service and fire protection available. This top rating, means City of Cartersville property owners could get the lowest premium possible in that area of insurance. According to the ISO, “a community’s investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire loss.”

For the City of Cartersville citizens, business owners, and visitors to Cartersville, a Class 1 rating demonstrates:

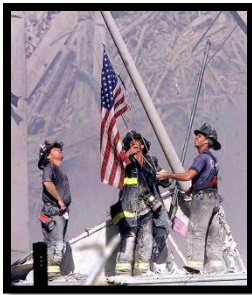
1. Quick response to community needs
2. Risk mitigation at the highest possible standard
3. A stellar commitment to preserve life, property and environment.

As we look to the future, the Cartersville Fire Department is committed to provide a high level of service to its citizens through new and innovative ways, maintaining a strong working relationship with city officials, administration, and departments. “Above all WE will prevent, protect and provide with professionalism, purpose and passion.” Now and into the future.

## 9/11 20 Years Later

### We did not forget...

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 marked twenty years since a fateful day where our country came under



attack. It was determined that as a community we would take a day of reflection to show honor and respect for the many who gave so much and perished on 9/11 2001, twenty years ago. We recognize the 343 firefighters, 71 law enforcement officers, and 55 military personnel who perished on that fateful day. The overall death toll of 9/11 is 2,996 deaths representing 90 different countries.

For the day, we began with a special 5K race. This race was called ‘Run to Remember’. The 5k course began at the 9/11 memorial in Friendship Plaza, downtown Cartersville. The course carried you by one of the original fire stations that was built in 1916 and was an active station until 2012. Over 250 runners then made their way to the Cartersville Public Safety headquarters where they ran through the current fire station and then began their trek back to the finish line. Before reaching the finish line, each runner was presented with an American Flag and a bio of a firefighter who lost his or her life in the twin towers that horrible day.



This “Run to Remember” event was used to raise funds for the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation (GFBF). The GFBF is one of the primary charities that is an outreach support of



Cartersville Fire. Their mission is to collaborate with the fire service and burn care community to provide fire safety and prevention education, support medical facilities and assist burn survivors in their recovery. As a community, we came together and raised 17,601.93 for this cause.



7 Hills Fire Protection
All Around Roofing & Gutters
Arete Training Grounds LLC
Atlanta Sport and Spine
Awaken Church
Burning Butts BBQ
Business Water Solutions
Cartersville Parks & Rec Department
Cartersville Water Department
Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce
Cartersville-Bartow Exchange Club
Cary Roth Councilman Ward 3
Champions Towing and Recovery LLC
City of Cartersville
Coosa Valley Credit Union
Daryl's Motorcycle Service
Gary Fox CPA, CFE, LLC
Georgia Farm Bureau of Bartow County
Glenda Mitchell Law Firm, LLC
Graham Commercial Contracting
Graphite Construction
John S. Lewis Property Management
McStat's Printing
Martin Neon & Signs
Matthew Gambill
Matt Santini
MS Industries
Professional Realty Group, Inc.
Rena Rogers American Eagle Mortgage
Stephenson Engineering, Inc.
Terry Reid Gives/Terry Reid Hyundai/UR Ways Life Changing Rides
The Country Chiropractor & Wellness Center
Treasure Chest Outlet
West End Commons
Wholly Grounds
Woodmen of the World

This event was only a success because of the great support from our community. This list is our sponsors for our event.



In conjunction with the race, Cartersville Honor Guard presented a special program with the ringing of the bell. In the past, the bell signaled the beginning of that day's shift. Throughout the day and night, each alarm was sounded by a bell. The ringing of the bell summoned brave souls to fight fires and to place their lives in jeopardy for the good of their fellow citizen. When the fire was out and the alarm had ended, it was the bell ringing the code of "5- 5 - 5" that signaled to all the completion of that call. When a fire fighter passes, it is the mournful toll of the bell that announces that a brother has gone home.



They rang the "5-5-5" to represent the crashing of the four planes. 08:46- American Flight 11



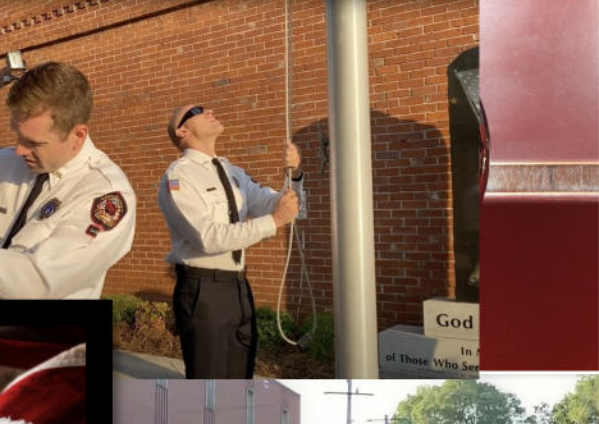
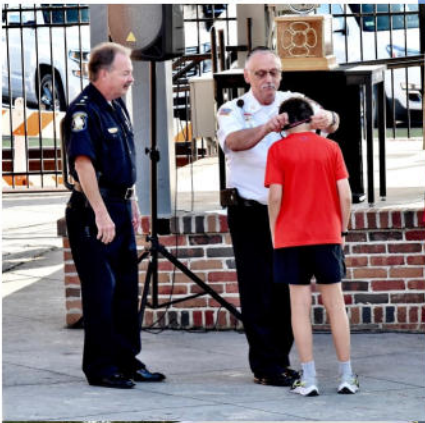
crashes into the North face #1 World Trade Center, a total of 92 on passengers and crew on board. 09:03- United Flight 175 Crashes into the South Face of #2 World Trade Center with a total of 65 on board. 09:37 American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the western side of the Pentagon with a total of 64 onboard. 10:03 United Flight 93 is crashed as brave

Americans overtake the cockpit of the plane to avoid the plane from hitting the United States Capitol or The White House. A total of 44 passengers and crew were on board that flight.



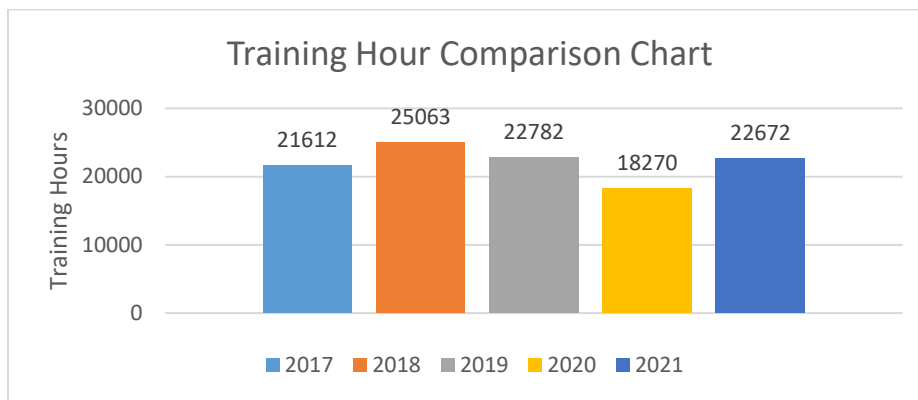
***Yes, it was 20 Years ago. We did not forget....***





## 2021 Training and Education

It has been said, “A good firefighter knows how, an educated firefighter knows why”. Training and education is the cornerstone of every firefighter’s career at Cartersville Fire Department. As a department, we must meet certain standards set forth by the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council (GFSTC), Insurance Service Organization (ISO), National Fire Protection Association, and our very own department career path. Firefighters must meet annual refresher hours that affect hazardous material response, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) licenses, Fire Officer development and Fire Apparatus Operator just to name a few.



After a down year where COVID caused many class cancellations and limited contact, our training hours resumed to somewhat normal levels. We were able to average 264 hours of training per member during 2021. Other training points include:

- 80 hour Hybrid NPQ Firefighter II Course
- 80 Hour Fire Apparatus Operator Course
- 16 Hour Aerial Apparatus Course
- 60 Hour Fire Officer Orientation Course
- 320 hour Basic Firefighter Training Course
- 68 Emergency Medical Responder Course
- Swift water Operations Course
- Swift Water Awareness Course





Expansion of our emergency medical efforts continued. This has been a high priority due to the heavy demand from our citizens. During 2021, we expanded by:

- Purchased 14 new Cardiac Science G5 AEDs
- Implemented new Airway/AED bags on all 1<sup>st</sup> out apparatus
- Provided EMS personnel to all Cartersville High School Football games
- Assisted BCFES with NREMT skills proctoring
- Provided Traffic Incident Management training to BCFES EMT class
- 1805 EMS Training Hours
- Provided 40 hours of approved EMS National Continued Competency Program online medical training
- Provided opportunity for over 50 hours for continuing education for all certified and licensed EMS personnel
- First Responder Course taught to 5 CFD personnel – 64 hours
- AHA CPR taught

Education is defined as; *“the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually.”* While the definition of training is; *“the education, instruction, or discipline of a person or thing that is being trained”*. Together these two terms identify the approach of Cartersville Fire in our process to build a professional, intelligent and effective emergency response force. This means that we must be sound intellectually (book smart), skill wise (work smart) and physical wise (work strong). This is our goal, this is our cornerstone.









## Prevention, Inspection and Investigation

One of the divisions within Cartersville Fire Department is the Fire Marshal division. Cartersville Fire believes in a proactive approach with Community Risk Reduction. It is said that you never know truly how many fires you prevent but statics show that Cartersville is a safe community and this is a direct reflections of the efforts of this division. The division is also a major part of the Class 1 ISO rating.



- 12 School Inspections
- 12 School Fire Drills
- 30 Fire Safe Check List
- 18 Knox Boxes
- 39 Temporary Sign Offs
- 23 Smoke Alarms

In 2021, there was 1253 citizen contacts. This is down greatly from the 5559 citizens that were directly taught fire and life safety in 2018. COVID continued to hamper our outreach efforts

The highlights of 2021 were being able to raise \$17,601.93 for the GFBB with the 5K race and attending the Heavy Metal event at Tellus. Inspection numbers were down again due to Covid restrictions with a total of 1154 inspections completed.



## 2021 Annual Inspection Report

	In- service	Bldg. Add.	Change	New Bus.	Reinsp.	New Bldg.	State	Misc.	Totals
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	2	19	112	20	3	55	843	1154

### Fire Prevention Division Activities

Fire Investigations	14
<i>Accidental- electrical</i>	1
<i>Accidental- cooking</i>	3
<i>Incendiary-</i>	5
<i>Undetermined</i>	5
School Inspections	12
School Fire Drills	12
Plan Approvals	54
Temporary Sign- Off	39
Fire Safety Checklist	30
Knox Boxes	18
Fireworks Permits	2
Fireworks Inspections	2
Risk Assessment	25
Smoke Alarms	23
Burn Permits	2

**Total** **247**

### Number of Participants

Station Visits	6
<b>Participants</b>	<b>385</b>
Truck Visits	4
<b>Participants</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Outreach Events</b>	
<i>Fire Ext. classes</i>	10
<i>Tellus Heavy Metal</i>	550
<i>Fire Safety House</i>	16
<i>Monthly Radio spot</i>	12
<i>Press releases</i>	8
<i>Newspaper articles</i>	8

**TOTAL** **1253**

9/11 Run to Remember 5k **\$17,601.93**

## 2021 Annual Maintenance Data



In February of 1918 the City of Cartersville purchased its first motorized fire apparatus for a price of \$9000. Fire trucks now are well over \$600,000.00. Currently Cartersville Fire maintains a fleet of emergency response vehicles that consist of four engine companies, one squad/rescue company, one elevated tower company plus Battalion Chief Response. On the average Cartersville Fire equipment will be on the scene within 5 minutes from the time a call for help has been received. As noted in the alarm section greater than 39% of all alarms require multiple pieces of equipment to mitigate the emergency.

- Mileage driven by apparatus for 2021 - **62,104**
- Hours ran by apparatus for 2021 - **4,644**
- Hours ran converted to mileage by standard for 2021 -**278,640**
- Major repairs to Tower 1 for Steering Gear Box Failure Total Cost **\$14,192.24.**
- Total of fuel usage for all Apparatus for 2021 – **19,075.9 Gallons**

The City of Cartersville Garage and various outside vendors that specialize in this type of equipment perform our preventive maintenance. Personnel inside the Cartersville Fire Department primarily perform the routine maintenance on the fire pumps and firefighting parts of the apparatus. Equipment maintenance is a high priority for Cartersville Fire. The department must maintain a state of readiness for when the alarm sounds. With increasing demands on personnel and equipment, it is critical to have a



preventive maintenance program as well as an efficient system for repairs when problems arise. Our maintenance program meets and exceeds the standards set by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Insurance Service Organization (ISO)



In February of 2021, the Mayor and Council authorized the purchase of a new Tower Truck for the City of Cartersville. This truck will replace the current tower that was purchased in 2004. The current cost of a new tower is \$1, 292,522.00 and this is only the second truck of this type that

was ever constructed for Cartersville. The Tower construction committee has work long hours to design and build a truck that will serve the citizens for decades



to come. It is anticipated this new truck will arrive in May of 2022.



Currently the Fire Department maintains the following fleet of emergency apparatus:

Apparatus	Year Model	Assignment
Eng. 1 Pierce Velocity	2015	Suppression
Eng. 2 Pierce Velocity	2018	Suppression
Eng. 3 Pierce Velocity	2015	Suppression
Eng. 4 Pierce Velocity	2011	Suppression
Squad 4 Pierce Velocity	2011	Suppression
Tower 1 Pierce Dash	2004	Suppression
Gator/ ATV	2006	Special Operations
Emergency One / Rescue	2000	Special Operations
Liberty Air/Light	2011	Special Operations
Ops #1 – F-350	2017	Special Operations
Kubota UTV	2018	Special Operations



**2021**  
**Cartersville Fire**  
**Honor Guard Report**

The past year for the Honor Guard was very busy and flourished with events all year for the team. The Honor Guard team was called in January, to assist the City of Rockmart with the passing of city manager/ retired Fire Chief Jeff Ellis. The team jumped into action and assisted in showing respect to the fallen leader that the City of Rockmart had lost. Honor was shown by the team doing casket watch, ringing the bell 5-5-5, and folding the American flag and presenting it to his family.

From there the team moved forward and presented colors twice during the year for the Cartersville/Bartow Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The second half of the year moved forward very fast with details every time we rounded a corner it seemed. Funeral details performed for retired Fire Fighter Paul "Tadpole" Wilson and his wife along with retired Lt. Oscar Huskins.



In September, the team continued with details, the first being the Parnick Jennings Public Safety luncheon where the 5-5-5 was read, and the bell rung. From there the team prepared for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary service for 9-11. The team perform placing wreath at the veteran memorial, ringing of the 5-5-5 for the fallen Fire Fighters, along with lowering and raising the American flag to honor all the lives lost that day.

With October now upon us the team was asked by the department to present the colors for the graduation ceremony for our newest firefighters. The team displayed honor and respect for the department and their families. In mid- October the team had the privilege of assisting Bartow County's Honor Guard team with casket watch after the passing of retired Captain Derrick Evans.



In summary, the honor guard team had a very busy and rewarding year. The team is always ready to go out and represent the City of Cartersville. Each member of the team has a passion to honor and give respect to the ones who have gone on before us, and to pay tribute to the ones that fight for our freedom.

## 2021 Hydrant Summary

Water supply is critical for fire protection for a community. An average house fire of a 2500 sq. ft. residence can require a needed fire flow of approximately 850 gallons of water per minute. This is from a basic formula used by the National Fire Academy and does not take into consideration exposures or other circumstances. Cartersville Fire Department and Cartersville Water department have a joint program of extensive maintenance and testing to insure that there is a sound and sufficient system of water supply available for fire protection. The Fire Department, Water department and Cartersville Mayor and Council saw the importance of such a program. In doing so, they established a City Ordinance that made this an annual requirement. This ordinance also included an identification system that is compliant with the National

Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and allows firefighters the ability to quickly identify during a fire emergency the available gallons per minute that can be used in a firefight. This is critical information when split second tactical decisions must be made that can affect these life or death situations.

There are over 1700 Hydrants on the City of Cartersville system. These are flowed and maintained by our fire department. Each hydrant is flow once every five years and maintained each year. In 2021, we flowed 311 hydrants while using 98.5 man-hours just for this part of our program.



Some of the hydrants that were found in ill repair and corrected by our water department include:

1. Two hydrants at High School corrected. Low flow.
2. Corner of Mount Olive and Young St. Stem coming out of hydrant.
3. Damaged hydrant at corner of Mary and Gilmer St. Struck by vehicle.
4. 40 Mockingbird Dr. Stem issue. Low flow.
5. 17 Parmenter St. Thread cross threaded.
6. 1000 Donn Dr. Missing Cap.
7. 310 North Tennessee St. Hydrant will not shut down.
8. 216 N. Gilmer St. Zero flow
9. 319 N. Gilmer St. Would not open.



10. 27 St. Francis Place. Low flow
11. Gilmer St. and Leake St. Hydrant gasket bad.
12. Corner of Stonewall St. and Forrest Ave. Leaking from the ground.



In addition to the flows and repairs, we painted 207 hydrants and service 1339 hydrants in the spring of 2021 and 1466 in the fall.

Not only does this flow/test process provide critical data to firefighters while in route to a call, the flushing of the system improves overall water quality by removing sediment and tuberculation that can accumulate in water lines over a period of time. This build up hampers gallons per minute flow and water quality.

Water flow is critical for our emergency operations and our ISO score as noted in this report accounting for 50% of our insurance rating.





# THANK YOU

Brooks Hammer

RICK  
Date: 10/11/2021

Dear Cartersville Fire Dept.

SAM

Ariana

Thank you for working so hard to keep us all safe from fires. You are appreciated!

Thank you for coming to Trucktacular!

Sincerely,

TITAN

Miss Whittenburg's Kindergarten class 2021

PARIS

LEE

Holly

VA

OLIVIA

ED

Lina Mia

Kashton

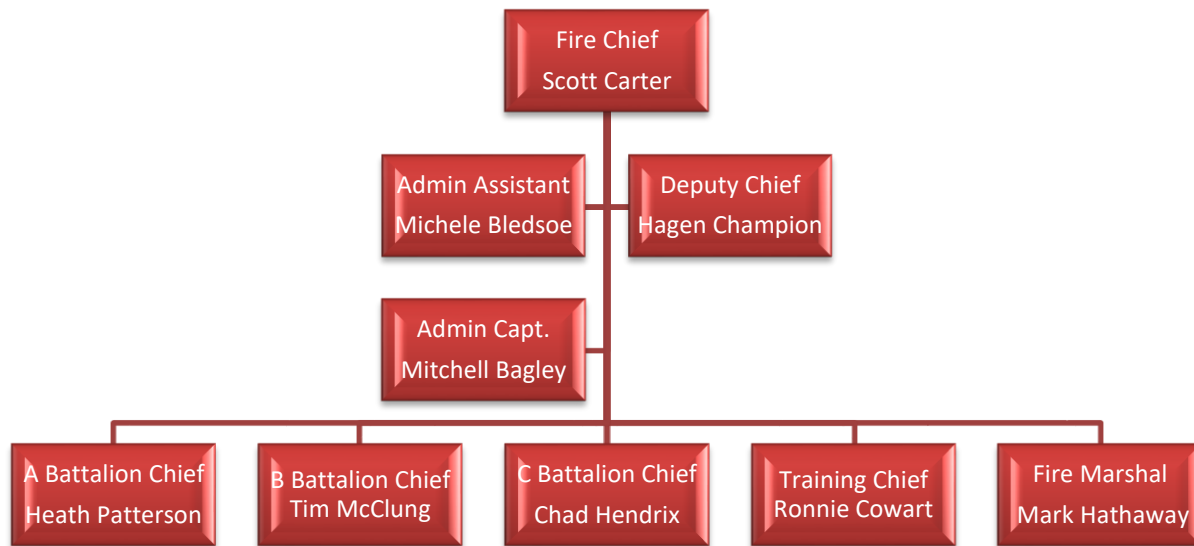




## We

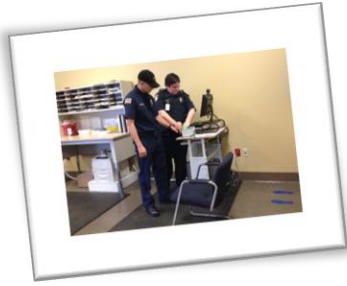
The mission statement for Cartersville Fire Department begins with the words, "Above All We". This organization's foundation is the "We". For in the fire service there is no individual, everything is based on the team concept. From the tailboard to the front office, this organization is driven by a "We" approach.

Cartersville Fire Department is a span of control type organization. Our department is broken into different sub groups that all work toward one mission. There are three primary divisions. All under the control of the Fire Chief. The three Primary divisions are Suppression, Fire Marshal Division and Training Division. While each group has specific tasks and goals that are specialized, they all work in harmony to create a positive outcome as a whole.



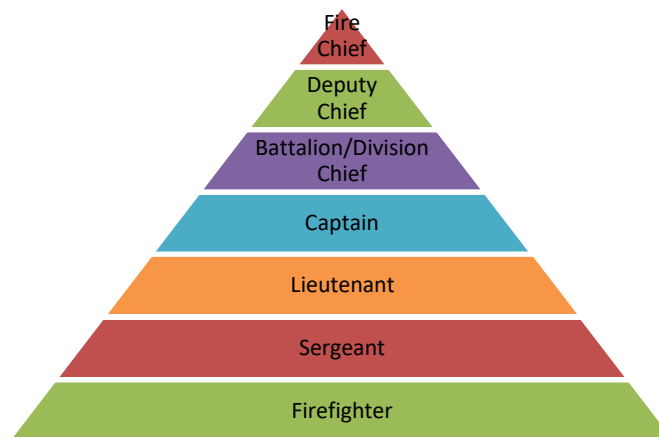
Cartersville Fire Department is made up of a staff of 75 personnel positions. This includes 22 positions per day working a 24 hours on duty, 48 hours off duty schedule. They cover four stations and 7 pieces of first response emergency apparatus. The remaining 8 positions cover administration, Fire Marshal division and training division.

Becoming a firefighter is not an easy task. An individual interested in becoming a firefighter must be at least 18 years of age, graduated high school or obtained a GED, and must have a clean criminal history with no felony convictions, along with meeting additional selection criteria as established by Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. On an annual basis, Cartersville Fire Department will conduct a competitive hiring assessment. This is based on background, qualification screening, physical agility testing, comprehensive testing and a series of interviews from City of Cartersville Human Resources, Cartersville Fire Administration and staff.



From the time that applications are received, the process to select new firefighters can take up to six months because this is such an extensive process. Once a firefighter pool is established, it is maintained as a hiring pool for the department for a specific period.

Once a firefighter candidate is selected, they will begin an extensive education and certification path. This will begin with a rookie school where all basic aspects of the firefighter profession are covered. Everything from the history of firefighting and Cartersville Fire to fire chemistry, rescue operations, incident command, hazardous materials and emergency medical response. Rookie school is a minimum of 12 weeks and 500 plus hours of instruction. They then must meet an aggressive educational track for the first 48 months to reach many national certifications in firefighting, special operations and emergency medical technician. Cartersville Fire's career path will guide a firefighter through all positions within the department from day 1.





In 2021, Cartersville Fire Department welcomed six new firefighters to the ranks. They have begun their career of dedication and service. They are now learning their part of “We”.



FF T. Griffith



FF S. Hendrix



FF S. Holladay



FF K. Hudson



FF S. Pruitt



FF L. Ratcliff



There were promotions to new leadership positions within our department in 2021. There were fourteen total promotions within the ranks of our leadership. Four Sergeants, five Lieutenants, two Captains, two Battalion Chiefs and one Deputy Chief. The future of Cartersville Fire Department is bright with a continued emergence of this new leadership.



Sgt. B. Hilley

Sgt. A. Moore

Sgt. A. Adams

Sgt. A. Agan



Lt. R. Gwin

Lt. W. Gilmer

Lt. A. Swancy

Lt. H. Moore

Lt. C. Sutton



Capt. Daniel Lanier

Capt. Matt Daniell



Battalion Chief Heath Patterson



Battalion Chief Chad Hendrix



Deputy Chief Hagen Champion



Since 2021, we have seen the retirement of three dedicated responders.. While it is a major loss of experience, each of them have left behind a legacy of service to this department and this community. It is with a humble heart that we say thank you to Battalion Chief Mark Bagley, Lt. Keith Clark and Lt. Coy Stewart.



Mark Bagley



Keith Clark

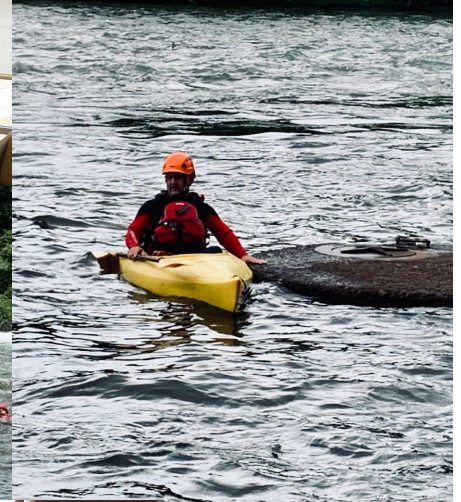
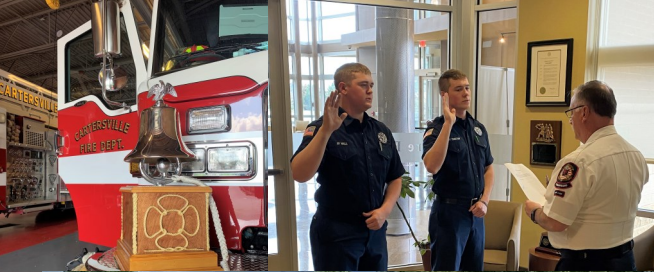
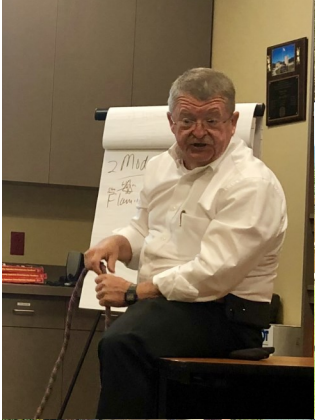


Coy Stewart

Cartersville Fire Department began in 1889. Since day one, it has been about protecting, saving lives and keeping this great community safe. There have been many changes since that day. Through all of the changes, there has always been “We” with an above all attitude.









## Our Family

fam·i·ly  
/'fam(ə)lɪ/

Family is defined as “a group of people united” A family is a group of **two or** more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together; all such related persons are considered as members of one family. Our Fire Department family is made up of multiple families who have united to serve our community. Our family and our faith are key elements of our culture of service. This family is made up of firefighters both active and retired. On September the 11<sup>th</sup>, we were able to hold our annual family day again. This was after we canceled the event in 2020 due to COVID.



Family Day was a time of to pause for fun, food and fellowship. Well over 100 members attended this great event.





In addition to family day, we continued with our annual tradition of “Breakfast with Santa”. This holiday tradition allows all of our “future” firefighters have the chance to talk to Santa, eat some pancakes and remember how blessed we really are. As a profession and a family. Tough times bring great appreciation.



A firefighter will spend at least one third of their life on duty. The 24-hour shifts can be long. During the time that the firefighter is in harm’s way protecting our community, there is a family at home waiting on their firefighter to come home safely. Yes, it is about family. Our family protecting yours. ***We are honored to do it...***





## Moving forward

There is simply not enough time to cover all of the activity from 2021. For everyone, year 2021 will be known as another year of pandemic. Despite all of the struggles, we know that every time there was a call for help, we answered that call and we know that in 2021 we were still rated as one of the top fire departments in the nation.

While this report is a temporary look back, we must keep our vision focused ahead. Growth will continue to affect the community we serve. We must grow with it. If there is anything



that history has taught us, it is the fact that we must be prepared to change.

We see in the future the potential for expanded coverage with additional stations and work force.

We are in the planning phases for an expansion of an additional station and crews in the Carter Grove area. We will see an expansion of our warning siren system in the Reserve, Jackson Farm subdivision area.

We will continue to improve our health and safety of our personnel. We will use an aggressive approach at providing the best, most current equipment that is fiscally responsible. This will allow us to maintain the safety of our community and our personnel. We see the advancement of our departmental strategic plan that will work in conjunction with the vision of our City Leaders. We see strong succession planning so new leadership will not just emerge but thrive. **Strength, Stewardship, Sacrifice and Service** **Above all, WE!**





- Mother Nature to man-made disaster. They are part of Task force 6 with Georgia Homeland Security
6. Cartersville Fire Department has automatic aid and mutual aid agreements with the Bartow County Fire Department.
  7. We have an established Cartersville/Bartow County Haz-Mat Team trained, certified and up and running. This team is a Type II team and is recognized by Georgia Emergency Management Agency.
  8. We have a Fire Safety House with severe weather package. This safety house has over 1000 personal contacts with citizens of all ages on an annual basis.
  9. Classes offered to City Employees, Citizens and Businesses:
    - A. Defensive Driving – National Safety Course
    - B. Fire Extinguisher Classes
    - C. CPR- First Aid and AED
    - D. We offer various public education programs for Fire and Life Safety that is conducted for all age groups.
    - E. We display and present at community functions such as government day, community events, civic groups and others.
  10. We are currently an ISO Class 1 department with places us in the top 1% of departments in Nation.
  11. We operate a fire training facility. This facility is located on 180 Paga Mine Rd and is a joint venture with the City of Cartersville and Bartow County. This project was funded with 2003 SPLOST dollars. Phase 1 provided infrastructure, a burn building and rescue tower building. Phase 2 will be developed at a later date; this will be for an onsite classroom facility.

***Above All We Prevent, Protect and Provide with  
Professionalism, Purpose and Pride***

