

Annual Report



2019 - 2020



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Mission Statement:

The Harker Heights Fire Department will provide, with care and concern, the highest quality Fire/Rescue/EMS care and service to all persons for whom the City of Harker Heights is responsible.



HARKER HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

**ADMINISTRATION / CENTRAL STATION
401 INDIAN TRAIL
HARKER HEIGHTS, TEXAS 76548**

(254) 699-2688

FireDept@harkerheights.gov

A Message From Fire Chief Paul D. Sims

To say this past fiscal year has been the most challenging any of us has ever experienced would be the understatement of the last century. The onslaught of Covid-19 and its effects on our department, community, and the world in general, brought about a level of change in how we do business each and every day. We were faced with doing most everything in a different way and our team responded extremely well. New ideas surfaced out of the adversity that were implemented and we continue to seek ways to help us be better at serving our community. The following is a list of our achievements during the 19/20 fiscal year:

- Received the American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline "Gold Plus" EMS Award year for the sixth consecutive year. This award recognizes its commitment and success in implementing specific quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who suffer a severe heart attack.
- Applied for and received the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Grant in the amount of \$10,000.
- Ordered replacement Medic unit during the 1st quarter of FY 19/20 and received new unit during the 3rd quarter of FY 19/20 and placed into service.
- Began renovation of our fire station #2 with an expected completion during the first quarter of 20/21 fiscal year.
- Repair of wellness center roof during 1st quarter of FY 19/20.

Continued the Thanksgiving Basket and Santa Pal program assisting 100 families collectively.

We look forward to what this next fiscal year offers us in the way of challenges and possibilities and approach them with the degree of diligence and determination you have come to expect from the Harker Heights Fire Department. *Providing public services that empower people to focus on what matters most: their goals, hopes and dreams;* is our city's vision statement and we strive daily to see it through.



Paul D. Sims

Fire Chief/EMC

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





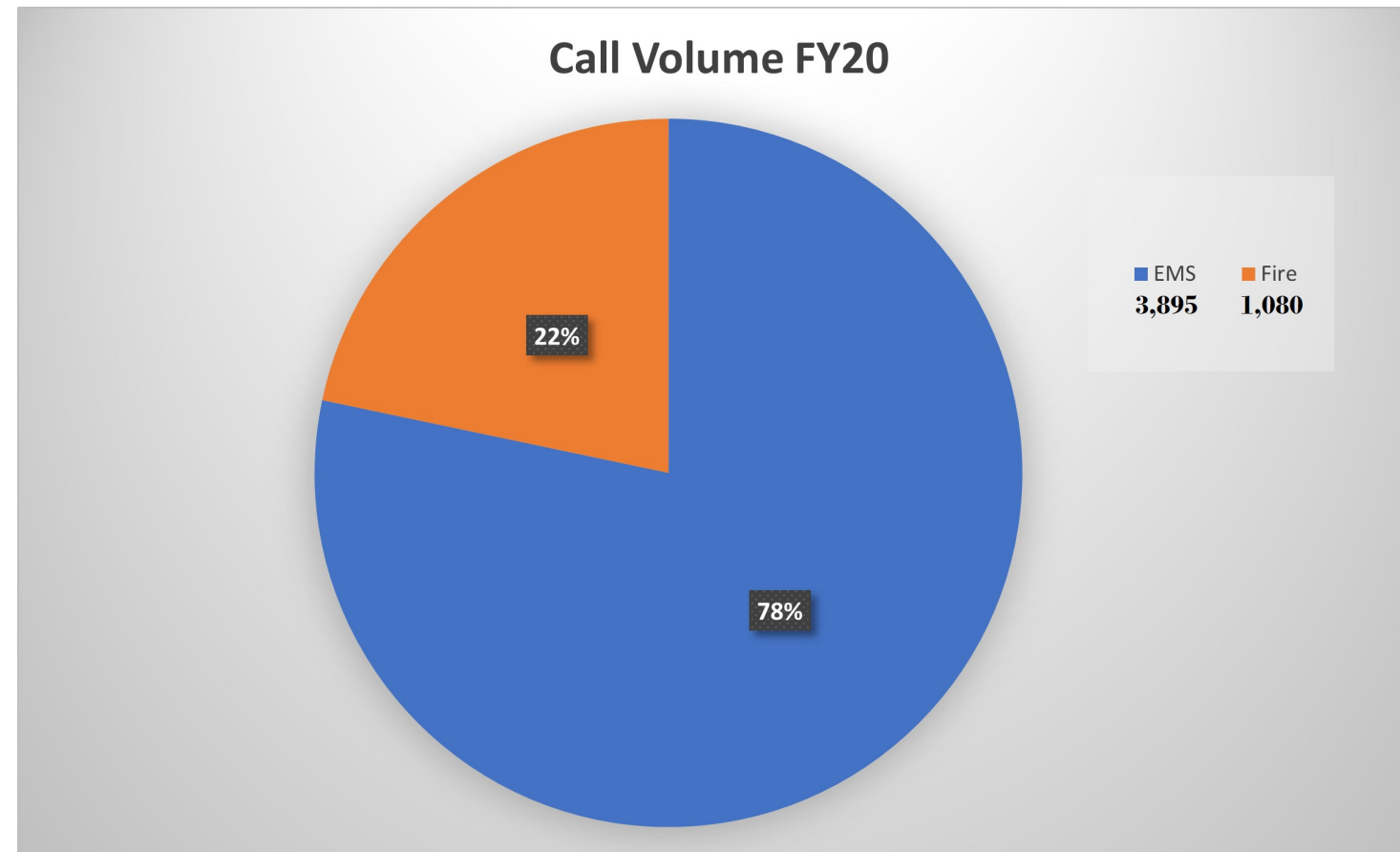
The Operations Division is led by the Deputy Fire Chief of Operations Cindy Hicks and is tasked with providing an array of fire suppression and specialized rescue operations. Moreover, the suppression staff of thirty nine (39) are responsible for providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) and basic emergency medical care to those who live, work and/or pass through our community. These and other areas of service are provided twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, with two front line state of the art mobile intensive care units and one reserve ambulance. As well as, one Quint “ladder” truck, one front line Class “A” pumper, one Class “A” reserve pumper, two brush trucks, one boat for high water rescue, and one Battalion Chief commander vehicle. The Operations Division responded to 4975 calls for service this year. The Harker Heights Fire Department handled an average of 13.63 emergency responses each day. This was an increase in daily call volume over the previous year.



Deputy Fire Chief Cindy Hicks has been with the Harker Heights Fire Department since 1994. Besides being a certified firefighter and paramedic, she is also a chaplain, wildland firefighter, among holding many other certifications.



FY20 Statistics



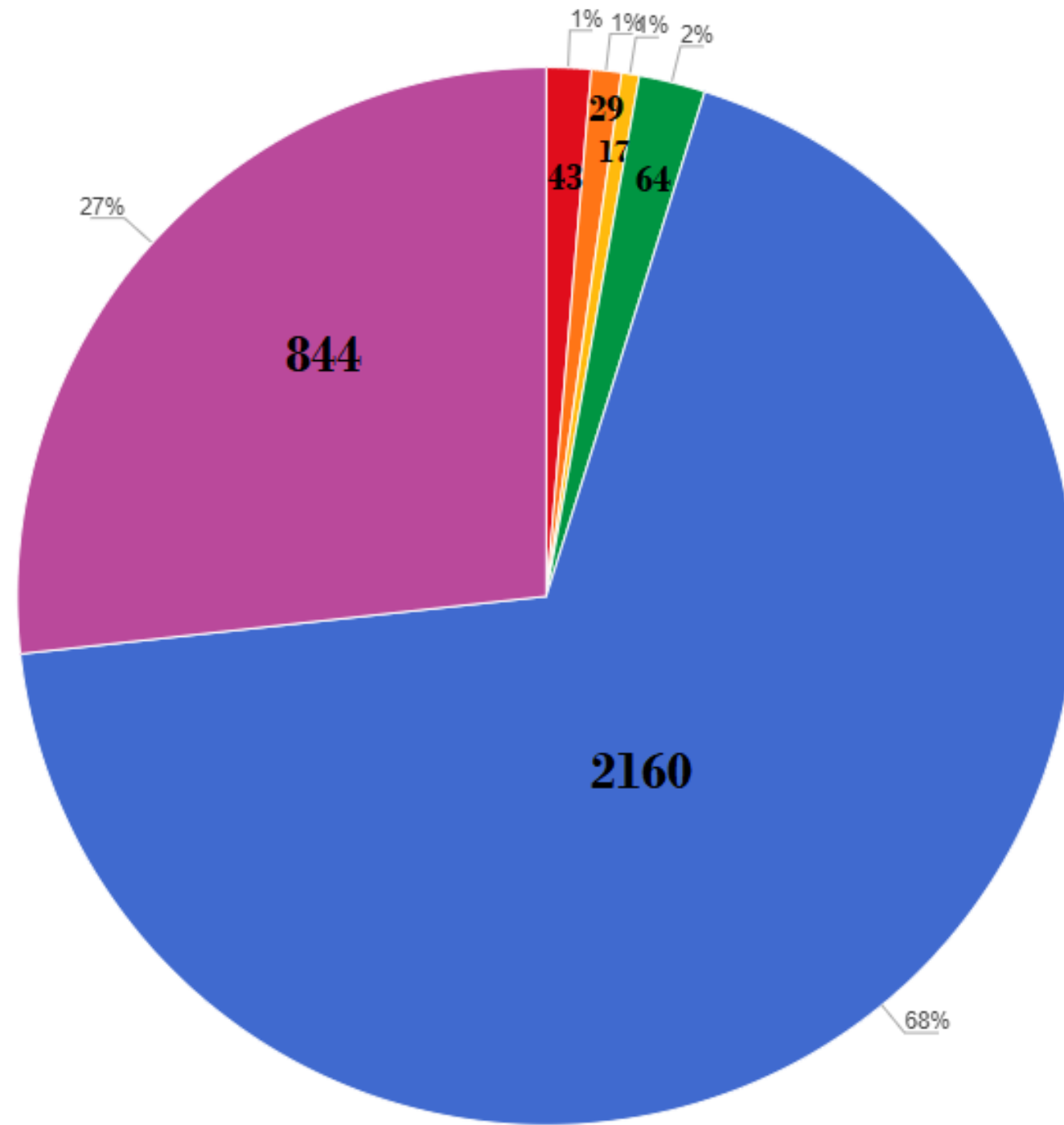
 **4,975 Total Calls in FY2020**

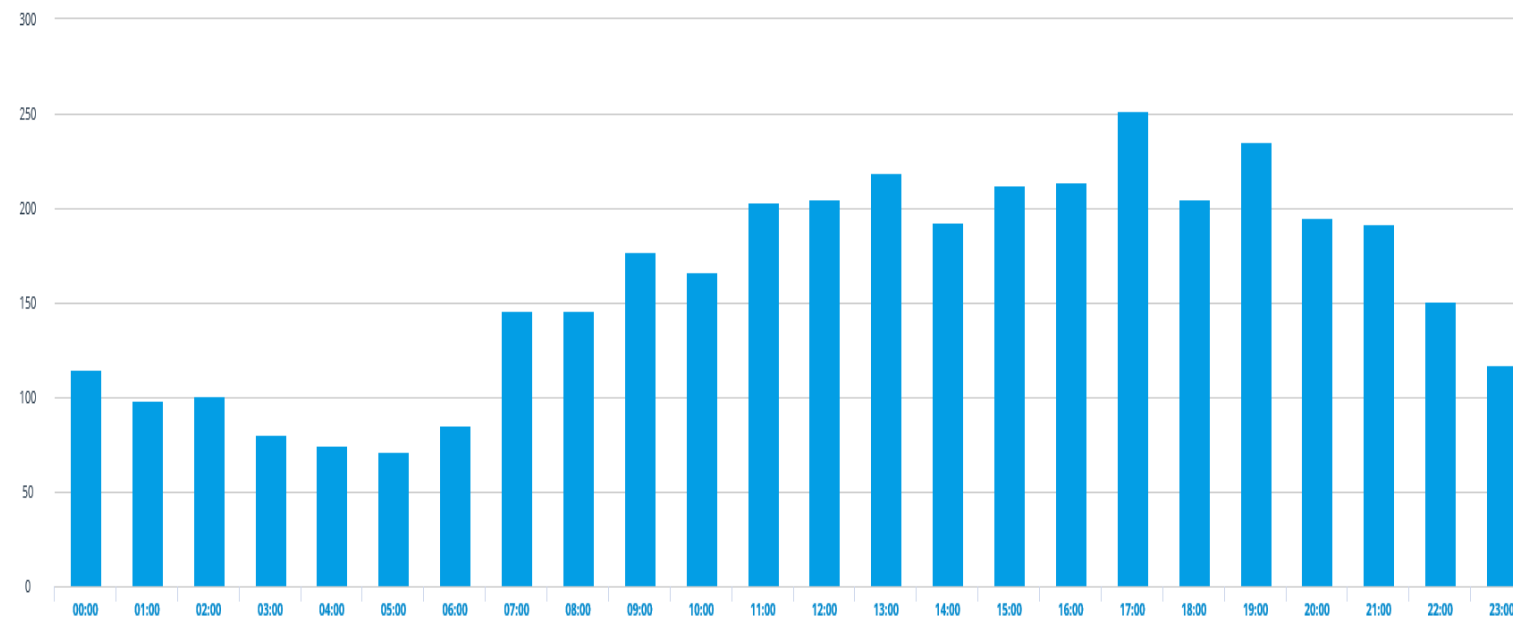
- 15.6% increase from FY 2019
- Increase of 212 Fire calls and 458 EMS calls or 24.5% and 13.3% respectively



Patient Outcomes

- Dead on Scene - No Resuscitation Attempted
- Dead on Scene - Resuscitation Attempted
- Treated, Transported by Law Enforcement
- Transported Lights/Siren
- Transported No Lights/Siren
- Patient Refused Evaluation/Care

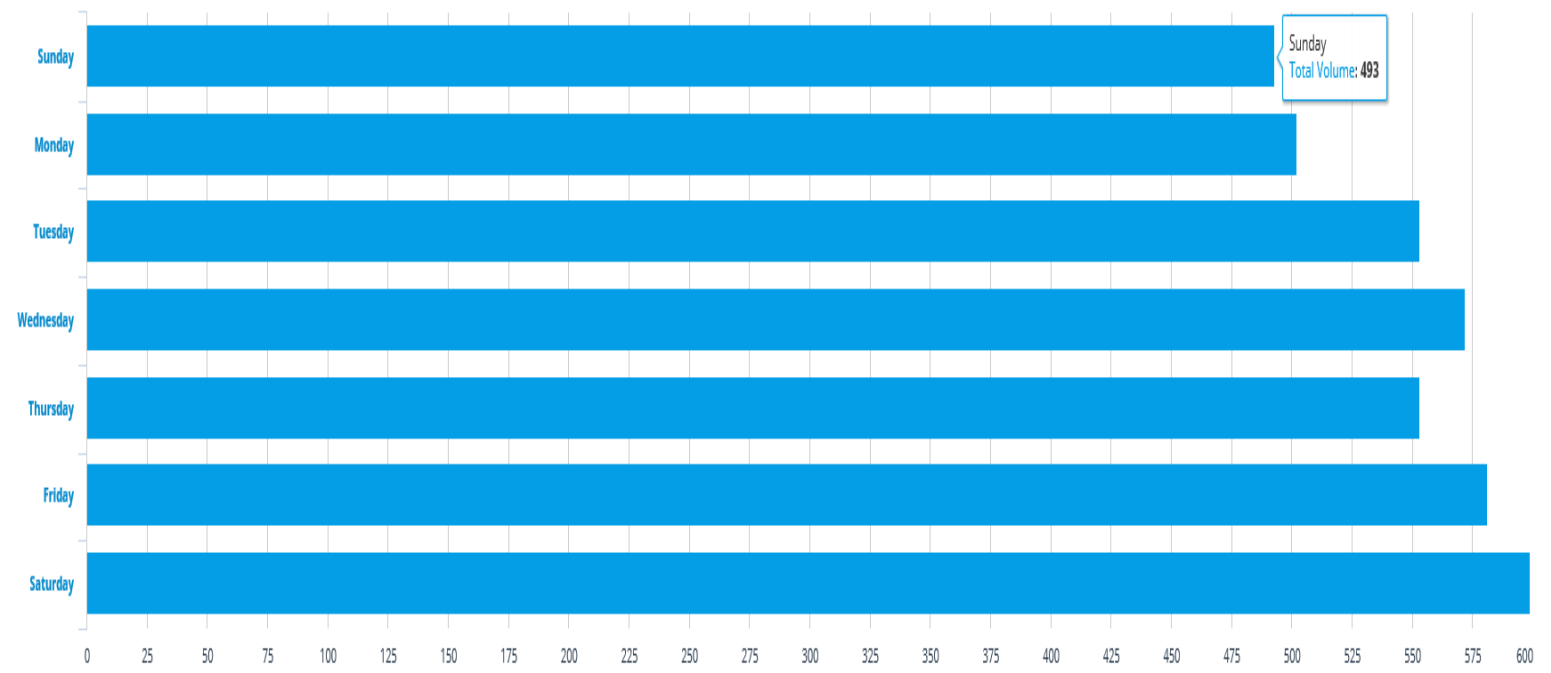




EMS Responses by Hour of Day

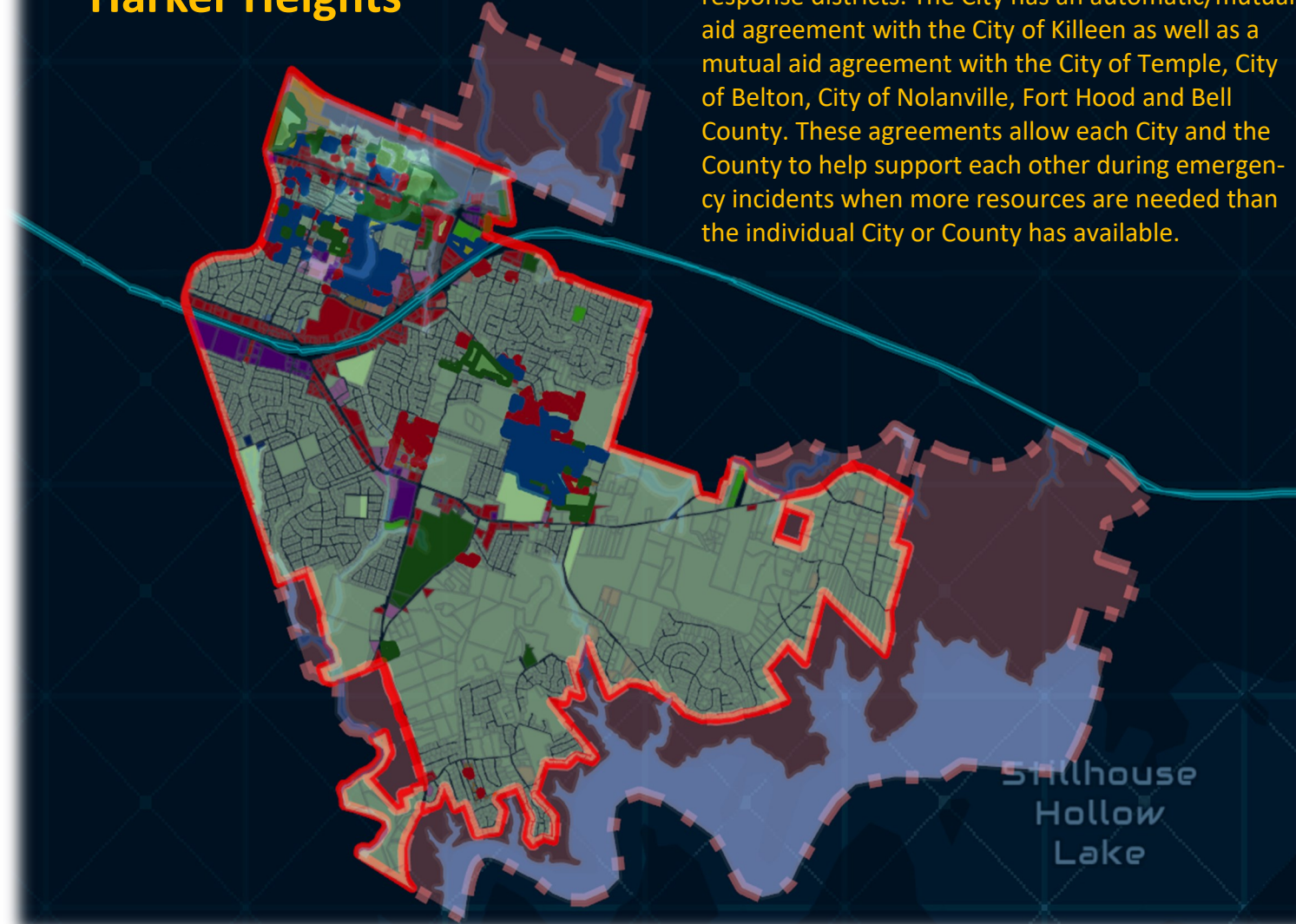


EMS Responses by Day of the Week



City of Harker Heights

The City of Harker Heights encompasses 15.6 square miles and is divided into three fire response districts. The City has an automatic/mutual aid agreement with the City of Killeen as well as a mutual aid agreement with the City of Temple, City of Belton, City of Nolanville, Fort Hood and Bell County. These agreements allow each City and the County to help support each other during emergency incidents when more resources are needed than the individual City or County has available.



Type of Incident	# of Incidents	% of Incident Type
Structure Fire	24	27%
Fire, Other	2	2%
Fire in Mobile Property Used as a Fixed Structure	2	2%
Mobile Property (Vehicle)	13	15%
Natural Vegetation Fire	24	27%
Outside Rubbish Fire	20	23%
Special Outside Fire	3	3%
Total Fire Responses	88	



Central Station
401 Indian Trail
Harker Heights, TX 76548



Station #2
3207 Stillhouse Lake Rd
Harker Heights, TX 76548





**Battalion Chief
Rick Whalen**

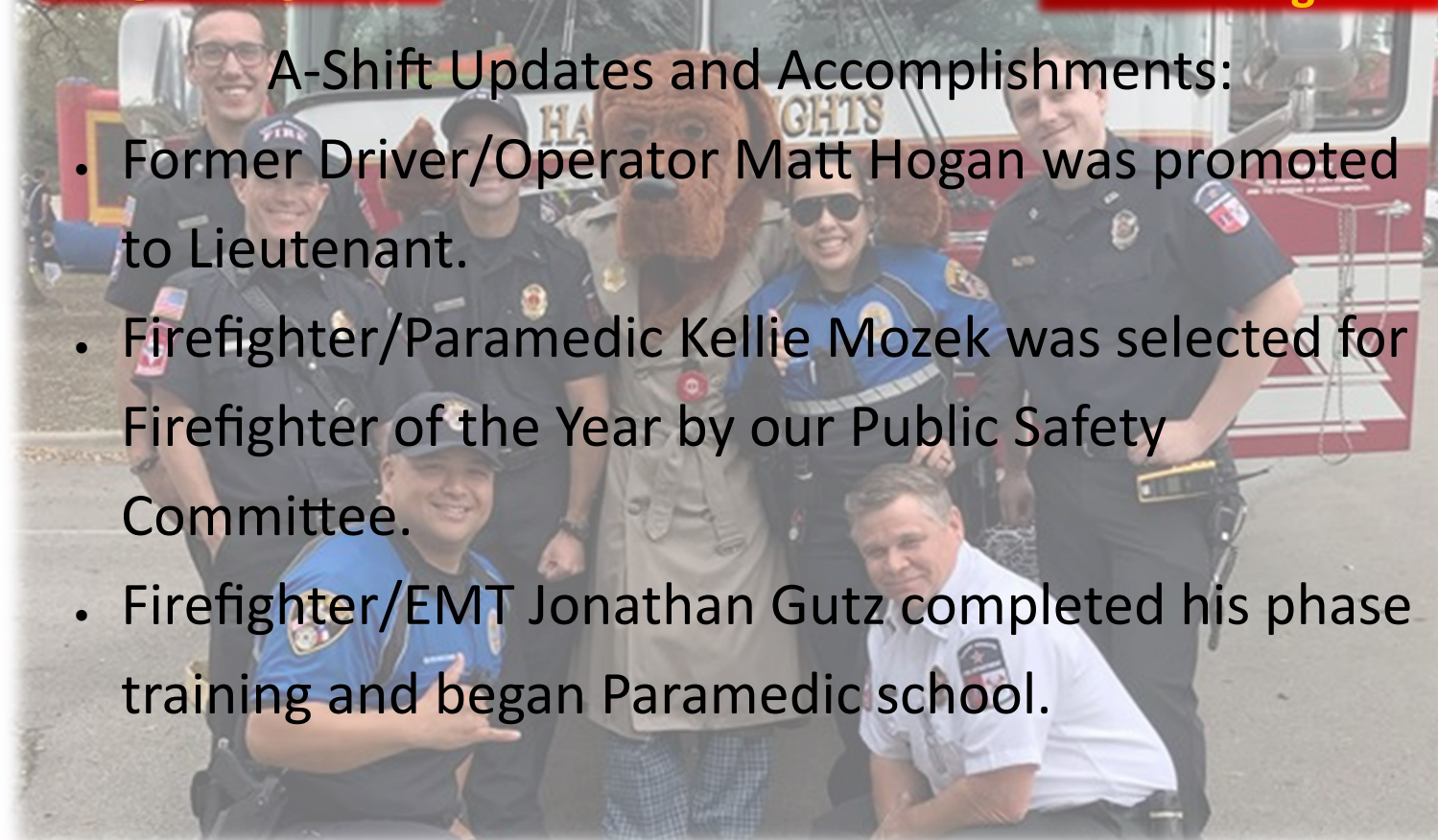


**Lieutenant
Megan Leighman**

**Lieutenant
Matt Hogan**

A-Shift Updates and Accomplishments:

- Former Driver/Operator Matt Hogan was promoted to Lieutenant.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Kellie Mozek was selected for Firefighter of the Year by our Public Safety Committee.
- Firefighter/EMT Jonathan Gutz completed his phase training and began Paramedic school.



A-Shift

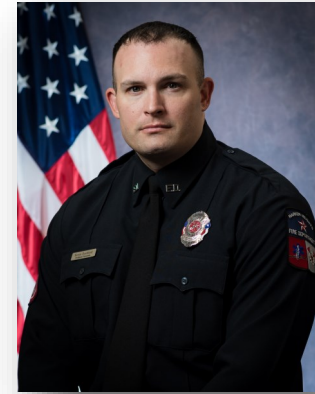
W-20111111



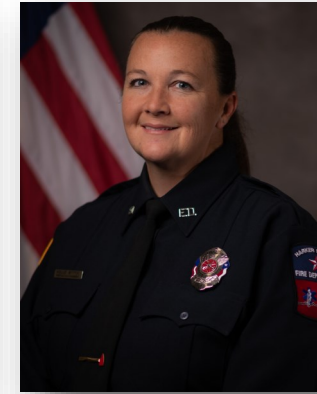
**Driver/Operator
Damon Sprouse**



**Driver/Operator
Justin Lewis**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Kevin Rochford**



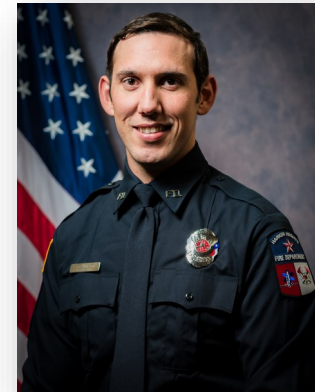
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Kellie Mozek**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Johnny Caraway**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Justin Elliott**



**Firefighter/EMT
Jonathan Gutz**



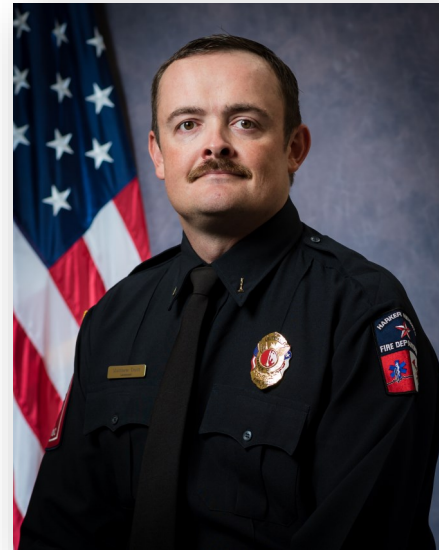
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Kaleb Sparkman**



**Firefighter/EMT
Tanner Fleet**



**Battalion Chief
David Ayer**



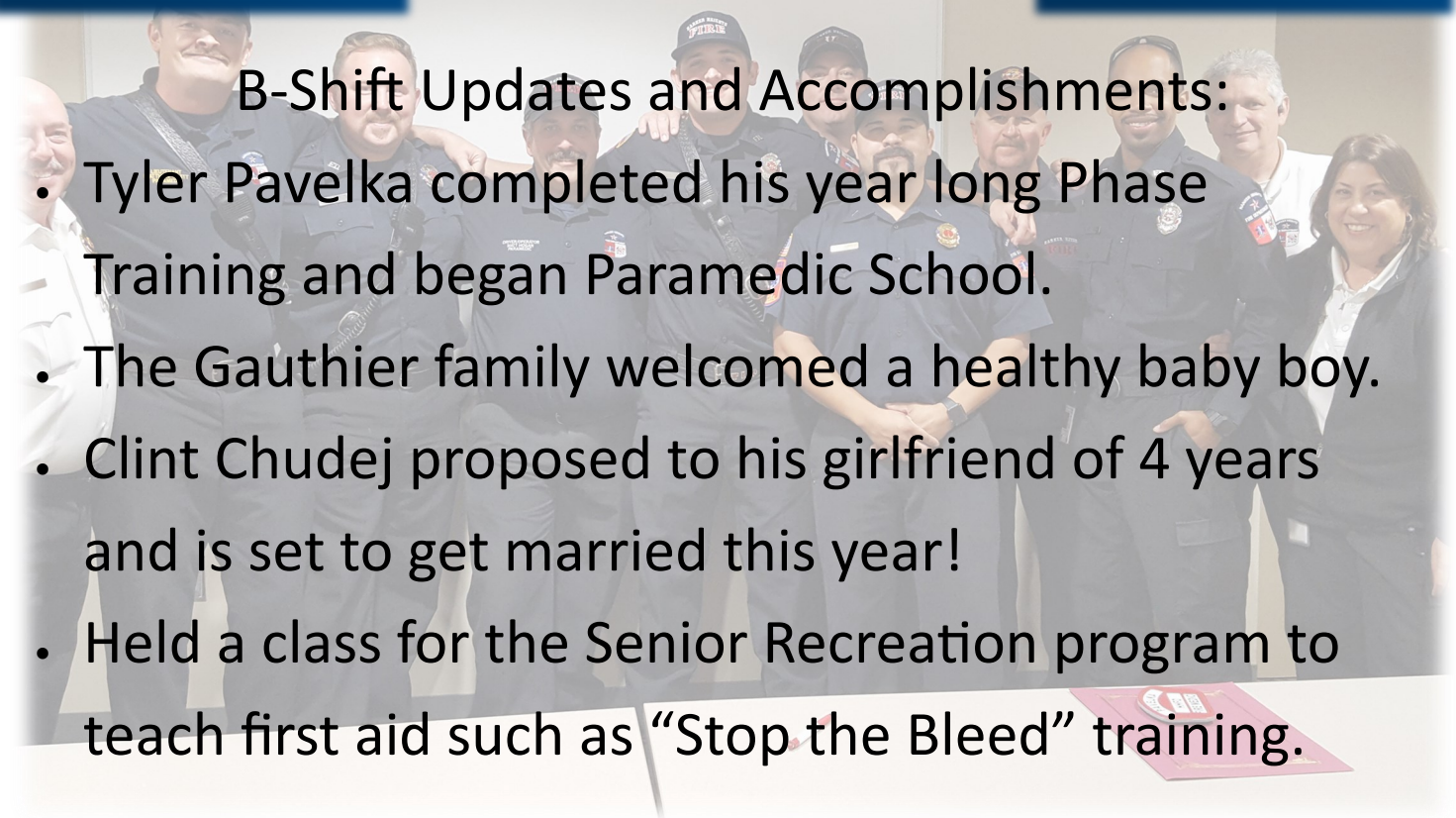
**Lieutenant
Matt Truitt**



**Lieutenant
Ray Gandara**

B-Shift Updates and Accomplishments:

- Tyler Pavelka completed his year long Phase Training and began Paramedic School.
- The Gauthier family welcomed a healthy baby boy.
- Clint Chudej proposed to his girlfriend of 4 years and is set to get married this year!
- Held a class for the Senior Recreation program to teach first aid such as "Stop the Bleed" training.



B-Shift

D-Shift



**Driver/Operator
Cody Newman**



**Driver/Operator
Clint Chudej**



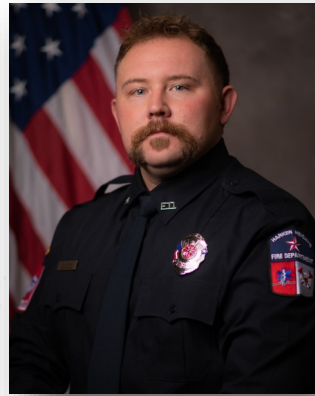
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Joseph Byrne**



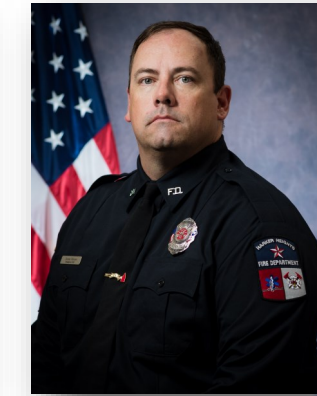
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Zachary Gauthier**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Charles Brummett**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Casey Baugh**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Jason Moore**



**Firefighter/EMT
Tyler Pavelka**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Tanner Read**



**Battalion Chief
Jimmy Carson**



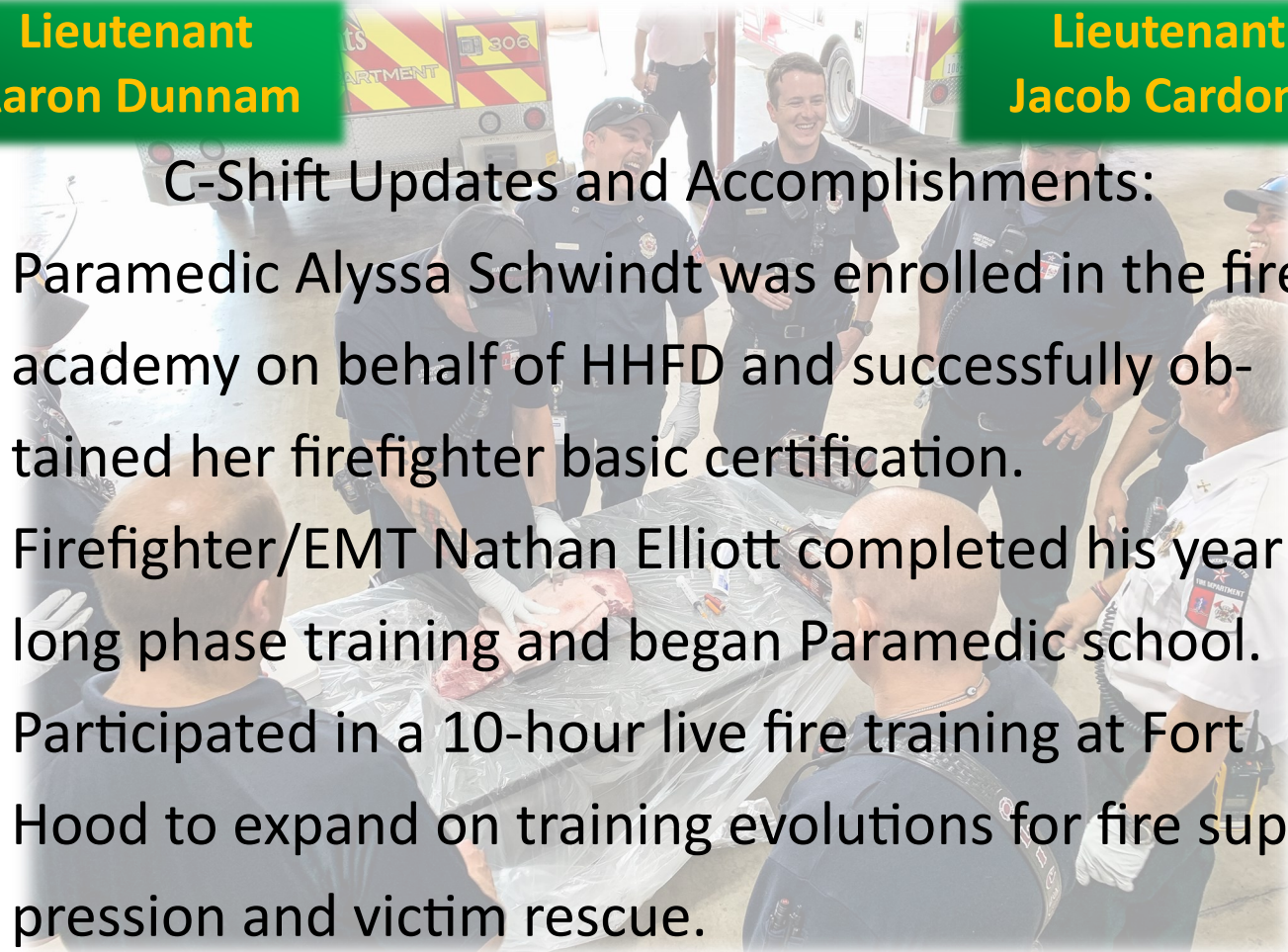
**Lieutenant
Aaron Dunnam**



**Lieutenant
Jacob Cardona**

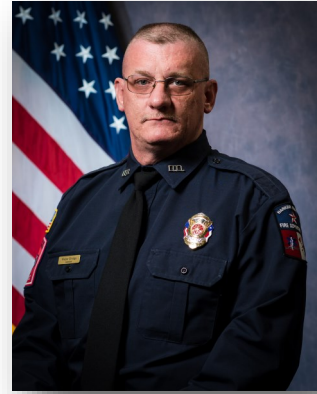
C-Shift Updates and Accomplishments:

- Paramedic Alyssa Schwindt was enrolled in the fire academy on behalf of HHFD and successfully obtained her firefighter basic certification.
- Firefighter/EMT Nathan Elliott completed his year long phase training and began Paramedic school.
- Participated in a 10-hour live fire training at Fort Hood to expand on training evolutions for fire suppression and victim rescue.



C-Shift

C-SHIFT



**Driver/Operator
Walter Elvidge**



**Driver/Operator
Anthony Combs**



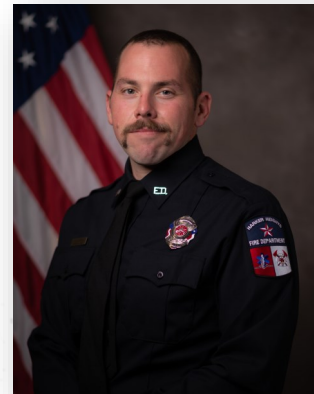
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Mike Licavoli**



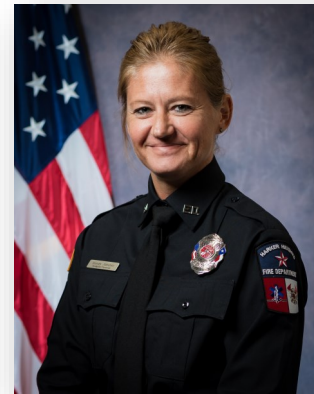
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Rene Fernandez**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Jordan Clopton**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Stuart Kiefer**



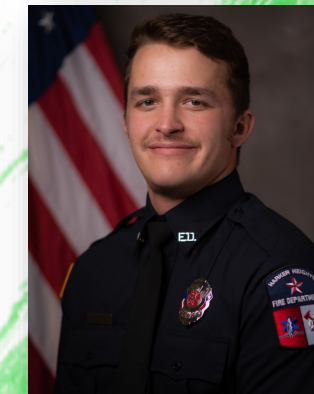
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Mandy Jimenez**



**Firefighter/EMT
Nathan Elliott**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Alyssa Schwindt**



**Firefighter/EMT
Hunter Ringo**



Engine 1 is a 2014 Ferrara MVP Pumper Truck. It can store up to 750 gallons of water and pump 2000 gallons per minute. It carries up to 768 cubic feet of equipment. The truck is approximately 34' long and 10' in height.

Quint 2 is a 2005 E-One Typhoon Ladder Truck. It can store 360 gallons of water and pump 2000 gallons per minute. 75ft 360 degree aerial ladder.





Our ambulances have a carrying capacity of 2 people, but can be increased if needed. As a Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU). We are prepared to treat/stabilize and transport patients in almost any medical emergency.

Feature Equipment:

- Video Laryngoscopy - Digital video that assists in airway management.
- Lifepak 15 - State of the art mobile cardiac monitoring system.
- Doppler - Detects fetal heartbeats and peripheral arterial blood flow.
- Powerlift Stretcher - Hydraulic assisted lifting system that keeps patients stable.





Brush Trucks are designed to move quickly through areas that other fire apparatuses cannot. They can store up to 400 gallons of water and can be used for light rescue, initial attack or medical support. Our trucks are also equipped with a remote controlled nozzle, which enables the vehicle to fight fire while on the move.

Battalion 1 is operated by the Shift Commander and is used to respond to various events and incidents as a mobile command post. It is equipped with a wide variety of equipment to ensure communication and coordination are performed at the highest efficiency.





Stillhouse Hollow Lake- Phase 1

Stillhouse Hollow Lake, Harker Heights, Bell County



Texas A&M Forest Service, Harker Heights Fire Department and United States Army Corps of Engineers collaborated to help reduce the vegetation build up on Stillhouse Hollow Lake by Cedar Gap Park bordering many homes. This project is intended to reduce overall wildfire risk and slow potential wildfire spread that could devastate a community.



Training Division

“Tomorrow’s victory is today’s training.”

- Chris Bradford

In 2020, the fire department completed over 4000 hours of fire and EMS training. This training was completed through:

- Target Solutions
- Fire training: hands on training in extrication, rescue, pump operations, hazmat and fire scenarios
- Mutual aid training through live fire scenarios
- EMS training: classroom, hands on with the simulation mannequin, hands on emergency airway training with Dr. Ratcliff, Medical Director, PHTLS with Ft. Hood.
- Stop the Bleed Program (public and City employees)
- Take 10 CPR
- Fire Extinguisher training to citizens and City employees
- Online programs in Fire Instruction, Fire Officer, and Driver Operator training
- College hours in Fire service and EMS
- TEEX fire training through Texas A & M on HazMat liquid, pipeline, and industrial emergencies
- TML training
- Coordinated training with CTC, Paramedic School
- Blue Card training scenarios with all Firefighters
- Hazardous materials incident commander training/certification
- NAEMT instructor certification
- TIFMAS (Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System) training and TIFMAS Conference



Martin Mercado is the Battalion Chief of training and coordinates both Fire and EMS training for the Department. Martin has been with Harker Heights Fire Department for over 21 years.

Training Vision for 2021

Additional live fire training with Ft Hood Fire Department
Increased documented hours for Fire and EMS using the Target Solutions online platform
Increase community training with “Stop the Bleed” and “Take 10 CPR”
Individual College Degree plans for Fire Science, through CTC
Fire Scenario computer training, using the Simshare system
TIFMAS task book training and deployment readiness



Certifications



The following certifications are earned and issued through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection

Firefighter Levels

Master 10
Advanced 17
Intermediate 9
Basic 10
Fire Investigator 8

Instructors

Instructor III 1
Instructor II 11
Instructor I 16

Wildland Firefighters

24 personnel

Driver Operators

31 personnel

Arson Investigators

5 personnel

Inspectors

8

Fire Officer

FO I 7
FO II 9
FO III 0
FO IV 4

Hazardous Materials Technician

5 personnel

EMS certifications through The Texas Department of State Health Service

EMT Paramedics 38
EMT Basics 6

- 100% of the department members are dual certified in Fire and EMS



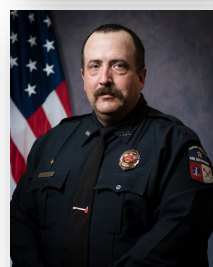
Certificate of Promotion



Cindy Hicks was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief of Operations in December 2019 after previously serving as Fire Captain for 8 years before being promoted to Battalion Chief of Training in 2018. She is Harker Heights' first female Deputy Fire Chief. Chief Hicks also serves as a Chaplain. She has been with the Department for over 27 years.



Martin Mercado was promoted to Battalion Chief of Training after serving as A-Shift's Lieutenant from 2018-2019. Martin has been with the Department for more than 21 years, becoming a leader that young firefighters can turn to for guidance and mentorship. He was recognized by the Public Safety Commission as the 2017 Firefighter of the Year.



Matt Hogan was promoted to Lieutenant in December of 2019 after serving in the Driver/Operator role for 1.5 years. He has also been a Field Training Officer for numerous years. This position is crucial to new employee training to ensure new personnel are ready to fulfill their duties to the best of their ability.

RETIREMENT

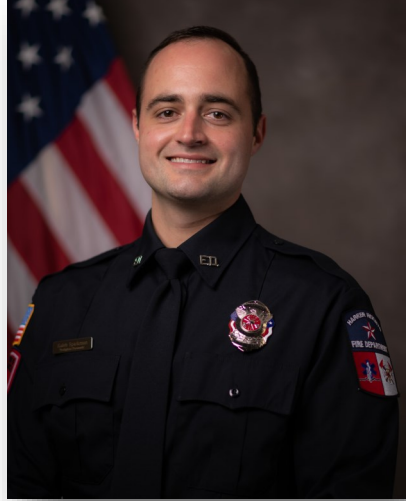
Glenn Gallenstein retired in December 2019 from the Harker Heights Fire Department after faithfully serving for over 27 years. His dedication to the service was exemplary as he was a pillar of hard work and expertise that was unmatched within the Department. He could often be found troubleshooting equipment issues or offering sound guidance to his crews. His infallible steadfastness made him a Deputy Chief that could always be relied on in times of need. Glenn's presence will be truly missed



and felt for years to come. We wish him relaxation and good fortune on his travels during retirement!



New Employees



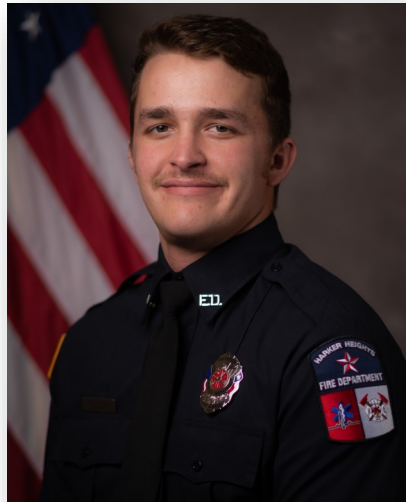
Kaleb Sparkman



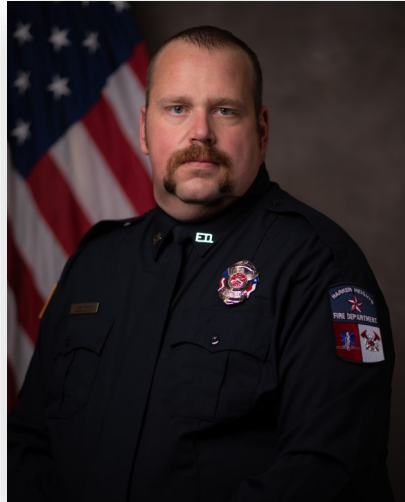
Alyssa Schwindt



Tanner Fleet



Hunter Ringo



John Fussell



Fire Prevention Division

The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) is tasked with preventing and/or reducing the incidence of fire, explosions, and other hazards that may cause harm to the residents, visitors and businesses of the City of Harker Heights. We strive to accomplish this goal through quality public education, construction plan reviews, fire and life safety inspections, application of the fire code, fire cause and origin examinations, and criminal investigations.

Our dedicated and highly trained personnel actively participate with our community, by striving to provide safety information, by attempting to serve as role models, by effectively and efficiently utilizing all resources made available, and by providing excellent customer service to the citizens and visitors to the City of Harker Heights, Texas



Top 10 Violations Found

- ◆ Improper clearance to electrical equipment.
- ◆ Improper or no required signage on exit doors.
- ◆ Portable fire extinguishers that haven't had an annual inspection.
- ◆ Exit signs and/or emergency lighting not working on battery back-up.
- ◆ Fire Alarm systems that haven't had an annual inspection.
- ◆ Commercial kitchen vent hoods that require cleaning.
- ◆ Failure to acquire proper permits or city business registration.
- ◆ Updated keys needed for the location's Knox Box.
- ◆ Unsecured or Improperly secured compressed gas cylinders.
- ◆ Storage in electrical and mechanical rooms.

Fires and Investigations

Various Fire Responded to	32
Working Fire Investigated by FMO	15
Accidental or Undetermined cause	26
Suspected Incendiary (Arson) Fires	6
Arson Arrests	1





Electrostatic
Sprayers
For
Disinfecting
Surfaces



UV
Lights
In
Medic
Units

COVID-19

As with the rest of the world, the Harker Heights Fire Department faced an unprecedented event this past year, the COVID-19 pandemic. Our crews unfailingly adapted and overcame these new challenges and necessary changes to our operations. This included ramping up cleaning protocols and modifying how our medics treated patients, particularly those who screened as a possible COVID-19 positive patient. The City invested in electrostatic sprayers and installed UV lights in the medic units to enhance sanitation measures. Out of an abundance of caution, all community events and station tours were forced to come to a pause for many months to protect our community and help slow the spread. As we continue to work through these difficult times together, we hope to get back to gathering and being involved with the Harker Heights community again.



From March 2020 to the end of September 2020, our Department has transported approximately 125 suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive patients.

Community Programs



Every year the Harker Heights Fire Department participates in the “Fill the Boot” program. The Muscular Dystrophy Association was founded in 1950, and they continue to relentlessly pursue a cure for muscular dystrophy and muscle-debilitating diseases. We appreciate our community for generously donating to help those locally and globally as a cure is developed.

The Harker Heights Lions Club and the Fire Department coordinate an annual Thanksgiving and Santa Pal Basket to help families during the holidays. We appreciate all the generous donations for businesses, community members and all others that make this event possible each year!



Firefighter's Prayer

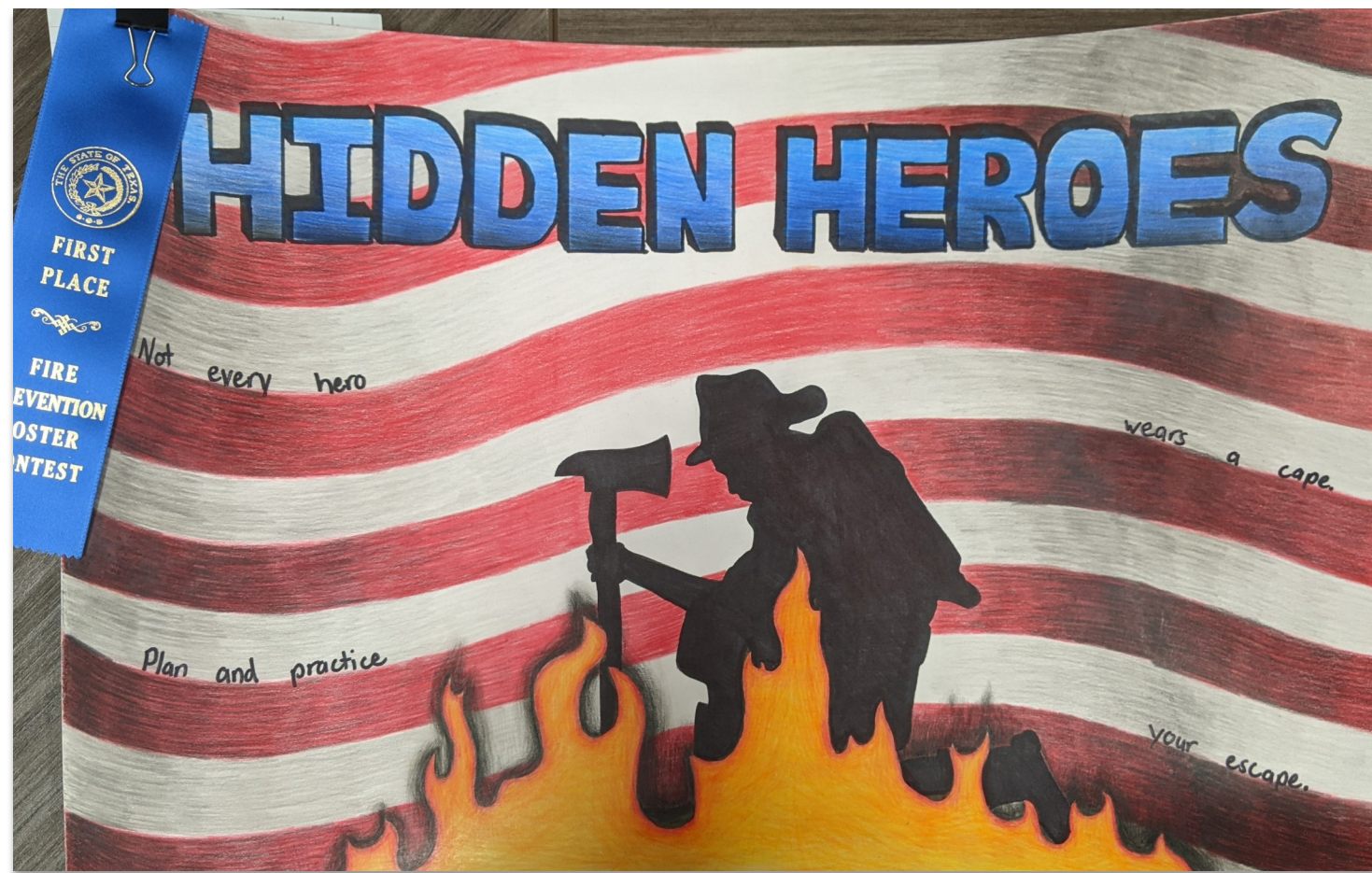
When I am called to duty, God,
wherever flames may rage,
give me strength to save a life,
whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child
before it is too late,
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert,
and hear the weakest shout,
quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling,
to give the best in me,
to guard my friend and neighbor,
and protect his property.

And if according to Your will
I must answer death's call,
bless with your protecting hand,
my family one and all.



Firefighter/Paramedic Stuart Kiefer high fives an excited boy at the Library's Fire Safety Day.

Jimmy Rice, in the 7th grade at Union Grove Middle School, won the 2019 Fire Prevention Poster Contest. Nathaly Rosales of Eastern Hills Middle School received second place. Posters for this contest were displayed at the Harker Heights Fire Department and Library.



Firefighter of the Year



Kellie Mozek is a Firefighter/Paramedic at the Harker Heights Fire Department. She came from the Copperas Cove Fire Department in 2009 to begin her career with Harker Heights, working as a firefighter and paramedic for over 19 years.

Throughout her career she has received several certifications to better herself and the fire department. Some of these certificates include Driver/Operator, Fire Officer 1 and 2, Instructor 1 and 2, Inspector 1, and Master Firefighter. She has also earned her associates degree in paramedicine. These skills have made her diverse in knowledge and experience, allowing Kellie to work in many capacities in the Fire Department.

Kellie is also a Field Training Officer for the Department to mentor new employees. She has assisted in the training of many new employees over the years and truly enjoys sharing her experience and knowledge. She has been instrumental in many difficult calls that required her courage, skills, and calm demeanor, allowing the incidents to run smoothly. She demonstrates professionalism and is able to instill in others a level of work ethic and training that allows everyone to go home at the end of shift.

Kellie is very grateful for all the support she receives from her husband and her son, Landon as well as the comradery and family she has made with her fellow firefighters. Kellie also appreciates her parents and the support they have shown over the years.





Mission: Lifeline EMS recognition is a program designed to showcase Emergency Medical Service organizations across the nation for excellent STEMI care. Prehospital personnel are the first providers of care to patients suffering from cardiac emergencies. The role of EMS in the system-of-care for these patients is crucial and often sets the course for the patient's outcome. The Mission: Lifeline EMS recognition program is launched in 2014 and continues to celebrate the achievement of the pre-hospital providers and their collaboration with each other and destination hospitals specific to STEMI patient care.

Harker Heights Fire Department has received the Mission Lifeline award every year since the award was created in 2014. In 2019 we received the highest award of Gold Plus.



@HARKERHEIGHTSFD

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HARKER HEIGHTS, TX 76548
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