



Franklin County Department of Public Safety 2023 Annual Report

www.fcpublicsafety.com

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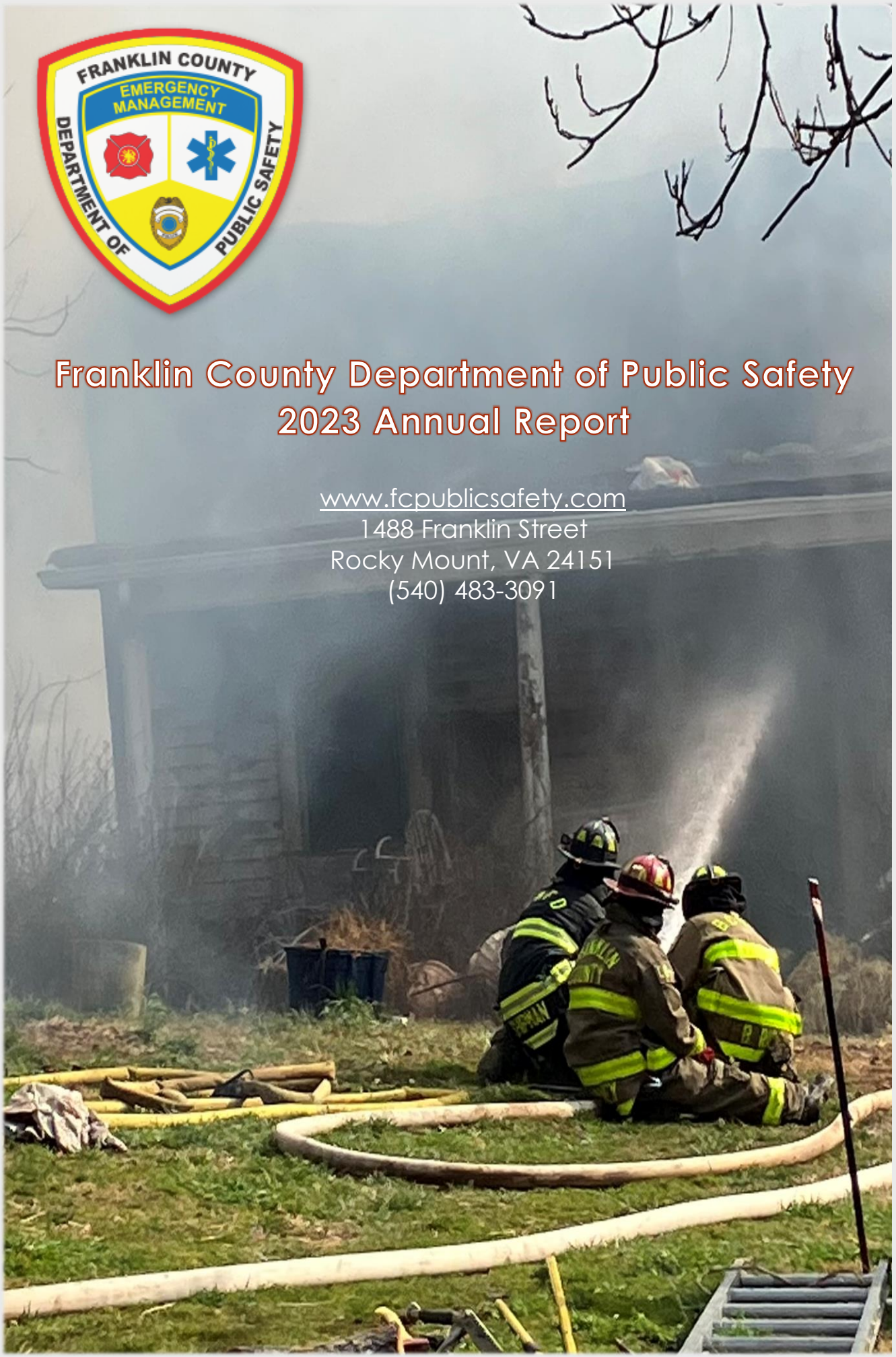




TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from The Chief _____	3
Mission Statement _____	5
County Demographics _____	6
Statistics	
Staffing _____	8
Incident Response _____	9
Operations	
Special Operations Team _____	11
FCDPS Accomplishments and Awards _____	12
Emergency Communications/Information Technology _____	14
Volunteering _____	16
Training _____	19
Fire Marshal's Office	
Statistics _____	20
Community Risk Reduction _____	21
Animal Control _____	22
Animal Shelter _____	23
Community Paramedicine _____	24
Looking Forward _____	25



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Franklin County Department of Public Safety is dedicated to providing emergency services, to include, but not limited to, Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Animal Control, and Emergency Management, that are delivered in a timely and efficient manner by well-trained and dedicated volunteer and career professionals.

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Franklin County Department of Public Safety Annual Report. This report provides history, activities, and the resulting statistical data for the year 2023. This data is continuously examined throughout the year and is utilized to enhance our service delivery to the community. We are privileged to serve each citizen, visitor, and business in our community, each day. We are exceptionally proud to provide the highest level of fire, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, technical rescue emergency response and animal control services all while maintaining the highest level of customer service and professionalism.

In conjunction with our Fire Marshal's Office, we strive to maintain a robust community risk reduction program through our fire inspection, prevention, and outreach education programming, we strive each day to meet our mission of protecting the community with exceptional service.

The men and women of our department responded to a historical high of 8,728 EMS calls, an increase of 5% over calendar year 2022, 2,402 fire calls, an increase of 6% over calendar year 2022 and 3,215 animal control calls, an increase of 18% over calendar year 2023. Staff also conducted 182 fire inspections, 38 fire investigations, issued 8 occupancy permits, conducted 15 plan reviews, installed 193 smoke detectors and 5 Knox boxes.

In addition to our primary goal of responding to our community's needs we also accomplished the following as a department: added full time staffing at Squad 6 (Snow Creek), received Board approval for implementation of a new fire inspection process, placed one new ambulance in service, completed an Advanced EMT class, added a Deputy Fire Marshal, held a Grand Opening for a new fire/EMS facility, relocated the Shift Management Team members from the headquarters facility and embedded them at Stations 3 & 4 (Ferrum and Glade Hill), members of the Special Operations Team participated



in the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Rescue Challenge in Northern Virginia, added a third Animal Control Officer, and many other positive accomplishments.

As our community continues to grow and our environment changes, our responsibility to provide the highest level of service is unyielding. The Franklin County Department of Public Safety, and the services we provide, will continue to adapt effectively to meet the challenges and expectations that our community has come to deserve and expect.

Many of you have heard that this will be my last annual report. After 33 years I have decided it is time to move on to the next chapter of my life and will be retiring effective 3/1/2024. I enjoyed my years with Public Safety and have made many life-long friends.

I sincerely say “**THANK YOU**” to the citizens, local governing body and the men and women (Volunteer & Career) of the Franklin County Department of Public Safety.

I hope you enjoy the annual report and find it very informative.

William Ferguson



MISSION STATEMENT

“Dedicated to providing Emergency Services, to include, but not limited to, Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Animal Control, and Emergency Management that are delivered in a timely and efficient manner by well-trained and dedicated career and volunteer professionals.”



CORE VALUES

- **Putting communities first.** Public Safety staff and volunteers are expected to put the interests of the public, their community, and service users first at all times.
- **Dignity and respect.** Treat every person they encounter with dignity and respect. This means making objective decisions, free of discrimination and bias, that are based on evidence.
- **Leadership.** Public Safety staff and volunteers should constantly strive to be a positive role model, hold themselves accountable, and demonstrate



FIRE AND EMS STATIONS

STATIONS



Station 2 – Franklin County
85 W Court Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151



Company 6 – Snow Creek
7049 Snow Creek Road
Penhook, VA 24137



Station 3 – Ferrum
9285 Franklin Street
Ferrum, VA 24088



Station 6 – Snow Creek
7081 Snow Creek Road
Penhook, VA 24137



Company 3 – Ferrum
9626 Franklin Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151



Company 7 – Boones Mill
25355 Virgil H Goode Hwy
Boones Mill, VA 24065



Station 4
Public Safety/Glade Hill
9825 Old Franklin Turnpike
Union Hall, VA



Station 8 – Fork Mountain
2805 Virgil H Goode Hwy
Rocky Mount, VA 24151



Company 4 – Glade Hill
6680 Old Franklin Tpke
Glade Hill, VA 24092



Squad 9 – Red Valley
2885 Jubal Early Hwy
Boones Mill, VA 24065



Station 5 – Callaway
8380 Callaway Road
Callaway, VA 24067



Company 14 – Henry
5241 Henry Road
Henry, VA 24102



Public Safety Westlake Station 15
13205 Booker T Washington Hwy
Hardy, VA 24101



Department 1 – Rocky Mount
1250 N Main Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151



Company 9 – Burnt Chimney
7300 Booker T Washington Hwy
Wirtz, VA 24184



Station 10 – Scruggs Fire & Rescue
2130 Bluewater Drive
Moneta, VA 24121





Fire/EMS Field Staffing Levels

1 Operations Captain 24/7/365

1 Operations Lieutenant 24/7/365

2 Providers 24/7/365:

Boones Mill Station 7

Ferrum Rescue Station 3

Fork Mountain Station 8

Rocky Mount Station 2

Glade Hill Station 4

Westlake Station 15

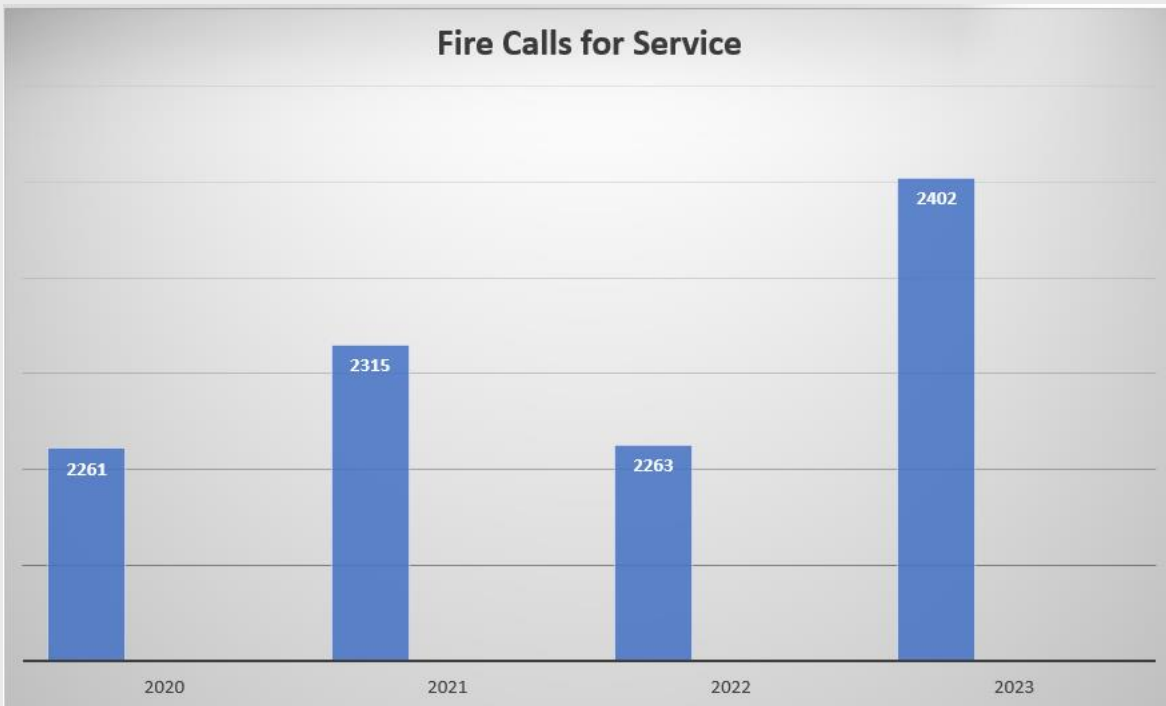
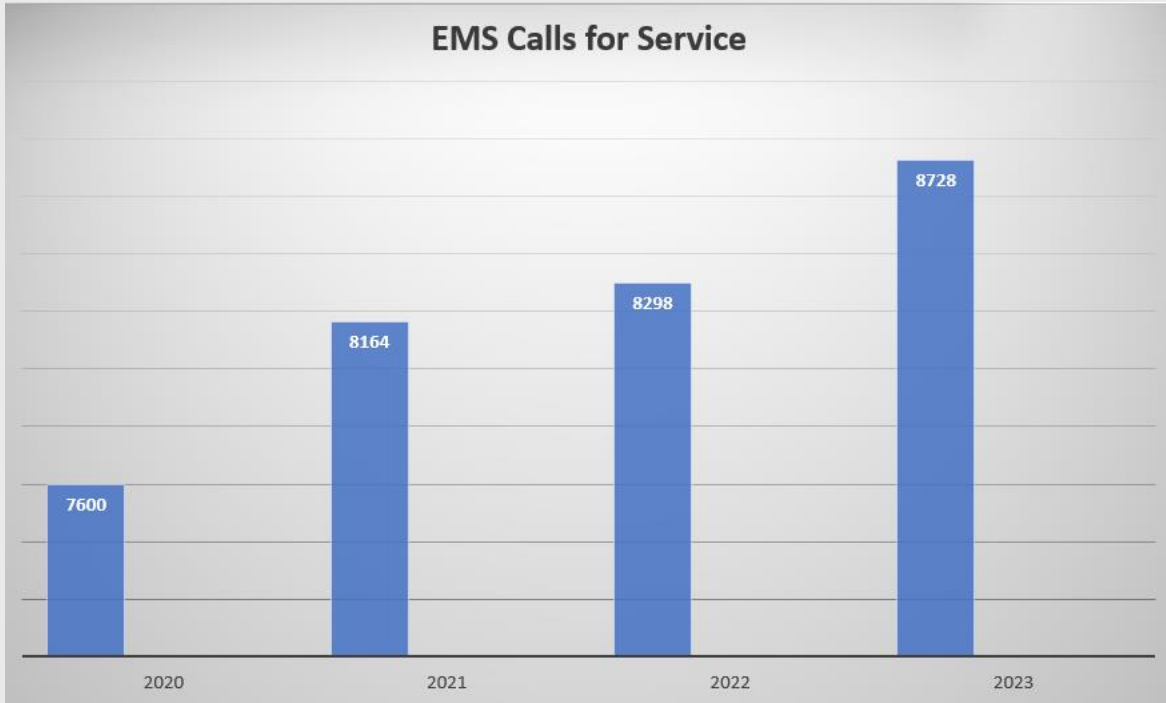
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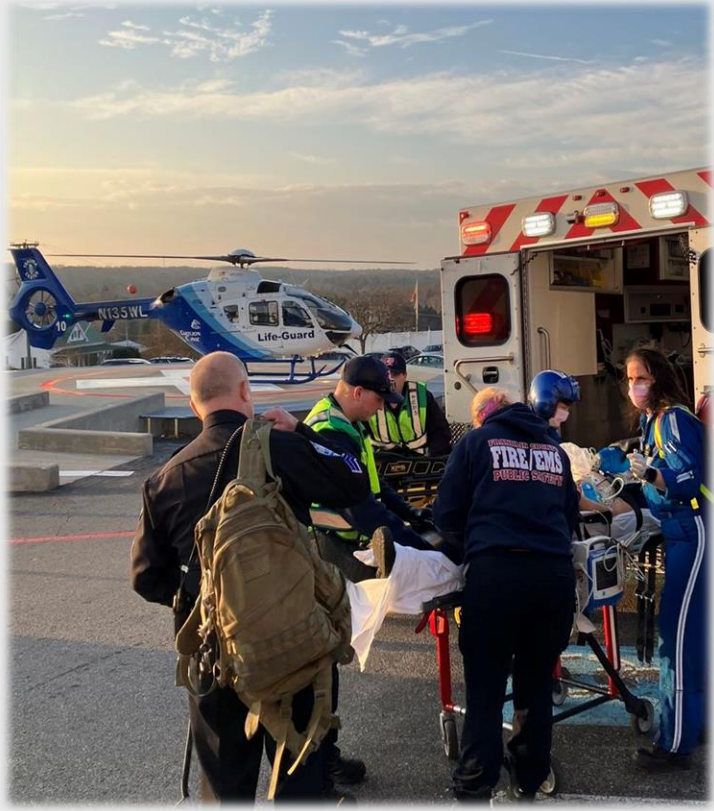
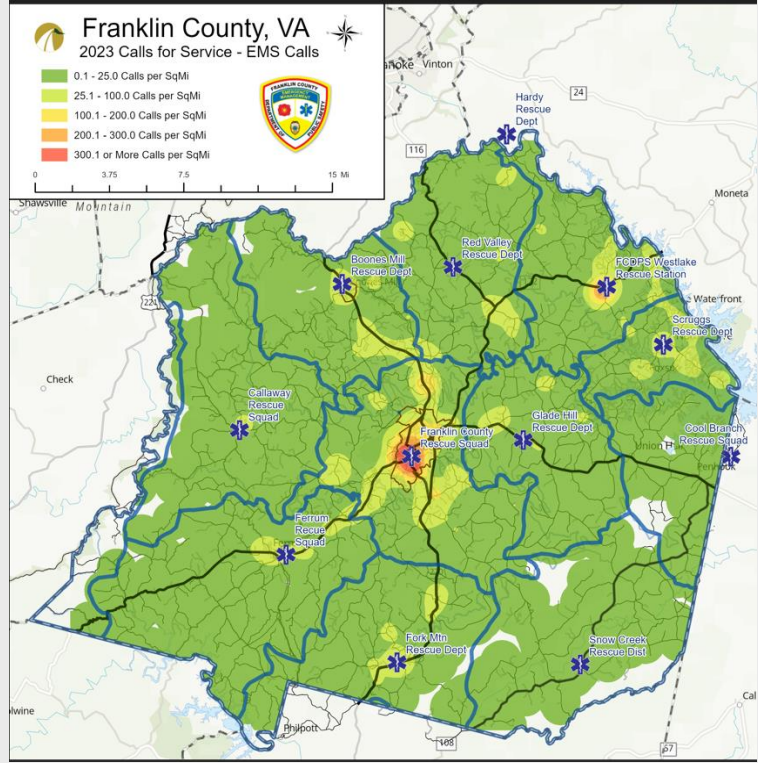
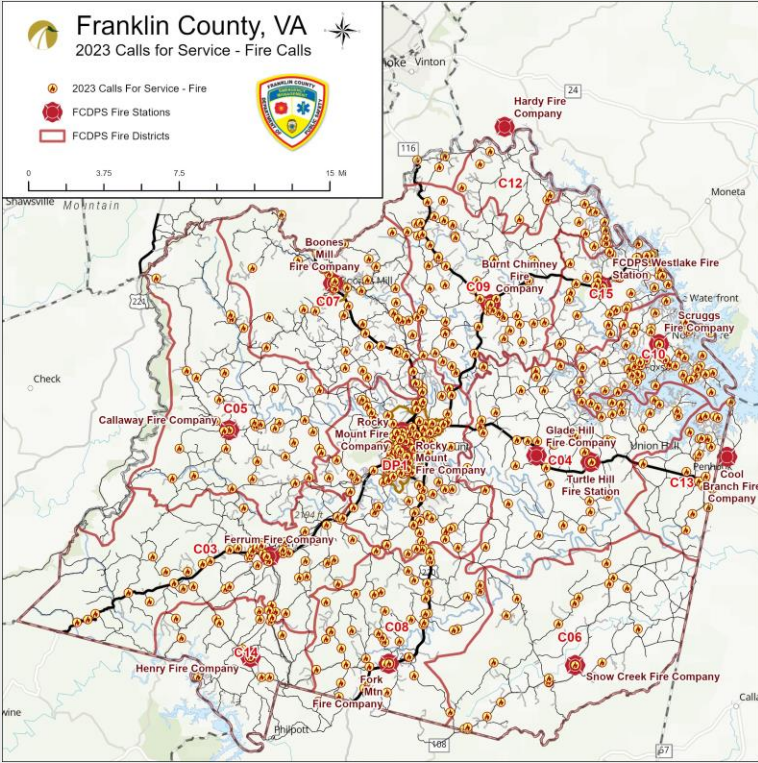
Snow Creek Station 6





STATISTICS







SPECIAL OPERATIONS



The 27th Annual Rescue Challenge was held May 1-4, 2023, in Northern Virginia. During this scenario-based event, participants participated in a Bridge Rescue. The challenge also served as a training exercise allowing the Special Operations Team to hone their skills.

Several members of the Franklin County Public Safety's Special Operations Team completed a high angle training exercise while repairing one the radio systems antennas on the Cooks Knob tower.



Members of the Franklin County Special Operations Team completed large animal rescue training during the Rescue Challenge.





FCDPS Accomplishments and Awards



Virginia Fire Officer Academy Graduate

Lieutenant Lynn Wray successfully completed and graduated from the 2023 Virginia Fire Officer Academy. The academy is a weeklong course preparing company level officers for the challenges of today's fire service.



Length of Service Awards

Congratulations to Public Safety employees Darrell Wimmer (20 years) and Tom Firebaugh (15 years) for receiving length of service awards with Franklin County. Pictured left to right, Firefighter/EMT Darrell Wimmer, Lt Tom Firebaugh, and Deputy Chief Ludeman.



Promotions and Appointments

Franklin County Department of Public Safety announced the following promotions and appointments in 2023:

- Christopher Knight promoted to Captain.
- Courtney Price promoted to Lieutenant.
- Paige Garland appointed to Animal Shelter Manger
- Delbert Jackson appointed to Deputy Fire Marshal.



FCDPS Accomplishments

USA Cycling National Championships

The department's Special Operation Team, members from the county's Incident Management Team, and volunteer fire and EMS agencies supported this multi day event held in the Callaway section of the county.



Focus on Health and Safety

The department's health and safety initiatives were ramped up in 2023, placing a priority on the members mental health and physical fitness. Each shift has been participating in daily fitness training and staff are evaluated twice a year ensuring staff are mission ready.



Opening of a New Station

On September 8, 2023, The Franklin County Department of Public Safety and the Glade Hill Volunteer Fire Department began operating out of the new station located at Old Franklin Turnpike and Turtle Hill Road. This six-bay facility is home to Medic 4 and Captain 1. The Glade Hill Volunteer Fire Department operates a Tanker and Brush truck out of this new facility.





EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC SAFETY IT DIVISION (EC/IT)

Formed in 2022, the EC/IT division is a support function to Public Safety, and other Franklin County entities. EC/IT is responsible for the radio communication infrastructure and multiple public safety technologies, including active 911, and the department's fire and EMS reporting system (ESO).

The EC/IT division is led by Jeff Echternach, with dedicated support from operational staff members Josh Beavers, Brent Townley, and Ben Clark. The EC/IT team bears several responsibilities, including the maintenance of several public safety technologies, maintenance, and upkeep for our radio infrastructure, and over 1000 distinct radios used by multiple Franklin County entities.

Fast facts for year 2023:

- 44,000 radio system alarms
- 100+ level 3 incidents mitigated
- 10+ level 2 incidents mitigated
- 32 battery modules replaced
- 170+ pagers reprogrammed
- 900+ radios reprogrammed
- 30+ vehicle communication installations
- 15 station base radios replaced
- 108 tower/ RF site preventative maintenance visits

Other distinct accomplishments Year 2023:

- ESO checklist and inventory implemented
- Shift reporting database reinstated
- ESO scheduling improved
- Enhancements to the active 911 digital app used by career and volunteer personnel





- Radio management server implemented
- Replacement of radio recording software at the Communications Center
- Implementation of Boones Mill analog radio site
- Phase 1 implementation of fire rated radio microphones
- New fire station (Glade Hill) alerting and radio system installed

The EC/IT division would not be successful without the incredible commitment of countless staff members and volunteers across the county. Thank you to all those who supported these projects in 2023!



EC/IT Program Manager Jeff Echternach





Volunteering



Volunteer Training

To stand by our mission statement, training is an important part of Public Safety. Throughout the 2023 year, there were more than 20 training courses/events with participation by our volunteer agencies.

2023 Firefighter Academy

Fire Prevention Month

A huge thank you to the Rocky Mount Boys & Girls Club for allowing one of our local volunteer Fire Departments, Boones Mill Volunteer Fire Department, and Franklin County Department of Public Safety to talk about fire safety and prevention on Thursday, July 20th.





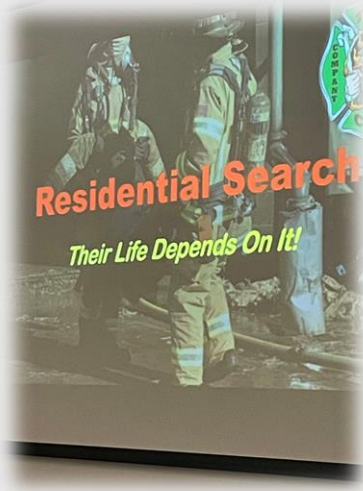
Volunteering



Lee Yount, Ferrum Volunteer Fire Department, attended the Ferrum Farmer's Market Opening Day Celebration on April 29th. Community members were able to see the inside and outside of the firetruck, ask questions, and take a few photos.

Volunteer Fire Service Leadership Seminar

On September 30, 2023, Public Safety hosted a volunteer fire service leadership seminar. Three guest speakers were on hand to discuss the role of the company officer, search tactics for residential buildings, and the alarming effects of cancer on the fire service. Chief Steve Weissman, Director of the Virginia Firefighter Cancer Support Network, shared important information on cancer prevention and support for those who are diagnosed as a result of their career in the fire service.





Donation from the Franklin County Farm Bureau

On September 19, 2023, The Franklin County Farm Bureau presented Public Safety with the “Great Wall of Rescue”. The Great Wall of Rescue is a special rescue device used to assist in the rescue of an individual trapped in a grain silo. Although this type of rescue event is rare, the potential exists within the farming communities of Franklin County.





TRAINING

Public Safety personnel, volunteer, and career completed a multitude of training exercises during calendar year 2023 to include emergency medical, SCBA competency, live fire training, basic fire apparatus/pump operations, emergency vehicle operations course, and incident command simulation training for volunteer fire companies.





FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The Franklin County Fire Prevention Division is managed by the County Fire Marshal and responsible for fire investigations, fire inspections, plans review, code enforcement, post blast investigations, and environmental crimes. In early 2023, the Fire Prevention Division added a Deputy Fire Marshal to the staff.





FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Community Risk Reduction

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact. In other words, it is a process to help communities find out what their risks are and develop a plan to reduce the risks viewed as high priority.

Calendar Year 2023 Statistics

Action	Response
Occupancy Permits	8
Plan Review	17
Smoke Detector Installations	193
Knox Box	5
Food Truck Inspections	14
Inspections	168
Fire Investigations	38



Animal Control Services

The County of Franklin Animal Control Division enforces local animal regulatory and state humane laws. Animal Control Officers are authorized to investigate possible animal related law violations and take appropriate enforcement action. Each year Department officers conduct thousands of investigations, ranging from relatively minor code violations to felony animal cruelty cases.

<u>Officer Info</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Hours Worked	4230
Overtime Worked	232
Calls for Service	3292
Miles Driven	45,216
Summons Issued	93
Warning	202
Complied to Warning	166
Exposures	125



Officer Fazzio



Officer Angle



ANIMAL SHELTER



Franklin County Animal Shelter Highlights

<u>Shelter Info</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Intake	1104
Returned	158
Adopted	660
Euthanized	77
Transferred	125



Thank you to Cruisin' Rocky Mount, Virginia for their Generous Christmas Gift to Franklin County Animal Shelter. Our Animal Shelter works tirelessly to find loving homes for our County's stray and at risk cats and dogs.





Community Paramedicine

Last year, Franklin County Public Safety partnered with Tri-Area Health launching a community paramedicine program (CPP) in Franklin County. This program provides community members with chronic medical or mental health issues with an alternative resource reducing the number of non-emergent 911 calls. The ultimate goal is to find the right care, recovery, and other resources for community members in need, and today, the CPP team is currently helping 17 community members. All costs associated with this program are grant funded through Tri-Area Health.





LOOKING AHEAD

2024 Department Goals

- Continue to provide prompt and high-quality service to the citizens of Franklin County
- Work on providing our personnel with the necessary equipment to execute the mission
- Increase staffing levels for fire and EMS response
- Continue to provide training and development for both career staff and volunteers
- Focus on command level training to stand by the “everyone goes home” motto
- Continue to work on and enforce the health and safety initiative
- Focus on community risk reduction preventing the 911 call
- Develop and publish a strategic plan.





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Youtube: [franklin county va public safety - YouTube](#)



Join our team and apply today!

To volunteer: [Form Center • Franklin County, VA • CivicEngage \(fcpublicsafety.com\)](#)

To join the FCDPS team as a career Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic: [Job Detail \(franklincountyva.gov\)](#)

