

CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT



2024 Annual Report



City of Mount Pleasant Fire Department
728 East Ferguson Road
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455
903-575-4144

Message from the Fire Chief

I am pleased to present the Mount Pleasant Fire Department's 2024 Annual Report for your review. It provides a summary of the activities and achievements of our members, as well as some statistical comparisons from years past.

We are fortunate to serve under the leadership of the Mayor, City Council and City Manager that want the best possible fire/rescue services for our citizens.



Going into 2024 the Department was preparing to address the loss of 5 firefighter positions, the loss of revenue from the county due to the county starting a county fire department as well as the ceasing to provide fire protection to the citizens of the county after 50 plus years of doing so.

However, in June 2024 the city and county were able to come to an agreement where MPFD would continue to provide fire protection to the county albeit with the city receiving half the amount of money from the county and with 5 fewer firefighters to do so. This has presented a challenge both from a monetary perspective as well as an operational one.

Our City and County continue to grow with new homes, town homes, apartments, hotel, hospital, shopping centers, manufacturing facilities, etc. not to mention the amount of vehicle traffic and visitors that pass through our community on a daily basis that are subject to needing a response from the fire department.

The members of the Mount Pleasant Fire Department will continue to provide the best possible service, with the resources we have available, to the citizens of our community and those passing through.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature in red ink.

MPFD Vision

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department is committed to providing trained and knowledgeable personnel prepared to respond to our growing community's needs. We strive to improve our organization, allowing us to provide the highest level of service possible to those in need.



MPFD Mission Statement

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department is dedicated to protecting lives, property and community resources through prevention, preparation, response, and mitigation.

MPFD Core Values



We will be guided by the following set of values:

Commitment-Dedication to our personal convictions for service to each other and the community.

Accountability-Holding ourselves and others accountable to a code of ethics derived from our own core values.

Innovation-Adapting to changing needs and technology, while respecting tradition.

Service-A calling to provide thoughtful customer care that exceeds expectations.

Accomplishments

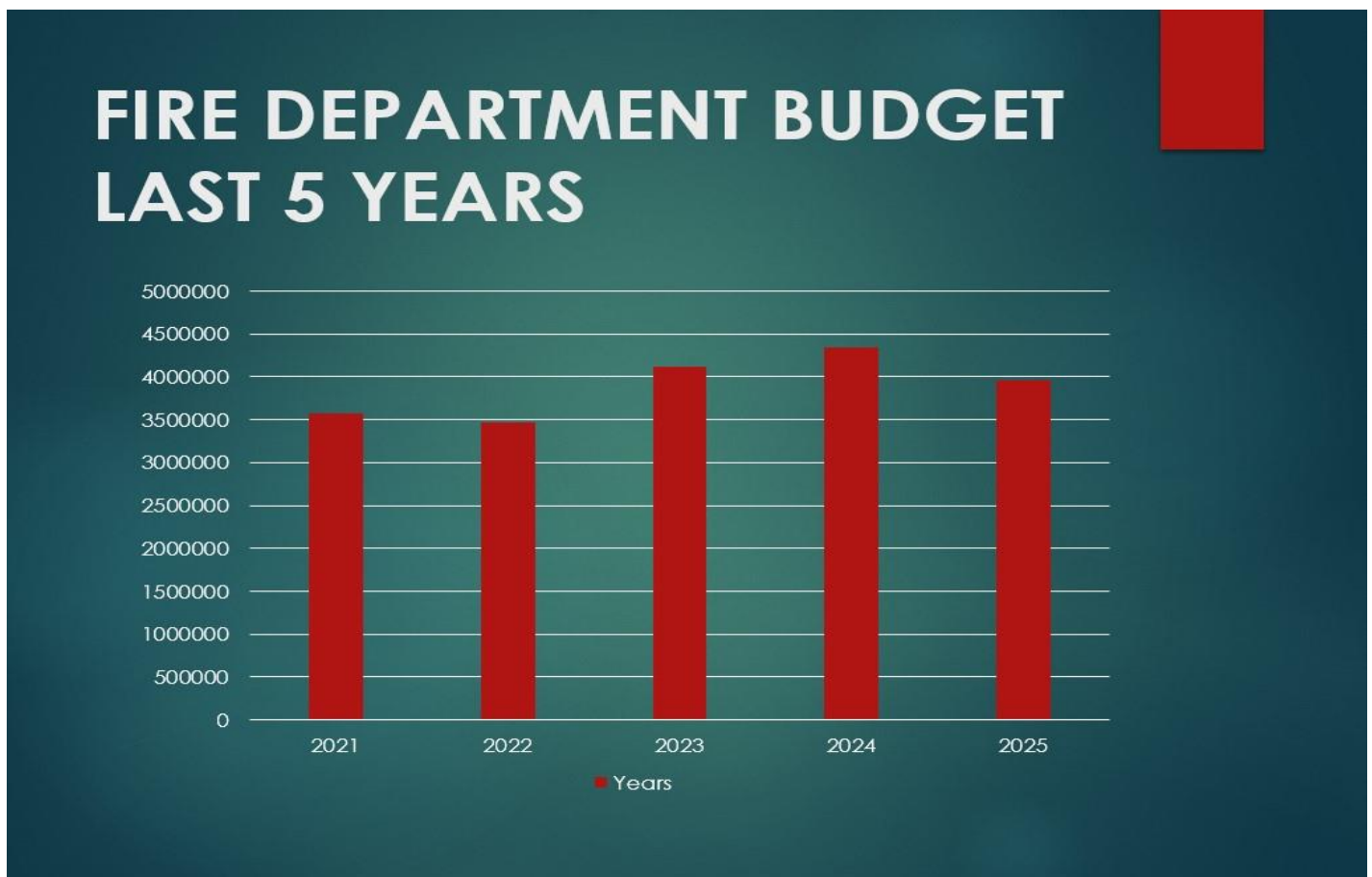
- Continued purchasing P-25 Compliant portable radios in order to migrate to the 700-meg radio system. P-25 is the standard established by the State. The 700-meg radios transmit from inside buildings better and the signal will transmit longer distances.
- Discussions began with the Titus County Sheriff Department, and Titus Regional EMS of migrating to the 700-meg system owned and operated by the Mt. Pleasant Police Department. This ultimate goal will be to establish a Central Dispatch Center located in the Police Department to provide seamless dispatching of 1st Responders to incidents in the City and County. Issues with communications has been identified in the top 1-3 areas requiring improvement in past After Action Reviews from exercises and some real incidents. Migrating to the 700 meg system by all 1st Responders will virtually eliminate the problem.
- Continued the health and wellness program providing full body scans for firefighters to help determine if there are health issues that need to be addressed.



- Continued the program to provide every firefighter a second set of structural firefighting protective clothing to reduce their exposure to cancer causing contaminants from fighting a structure fire. Cancer is one of the leading causes of firefighter deaths.
- Implement a 48/96 hour work schedule for shift firefighters which allows for a better balance of work/family life. It's fast becoming the standard in the fire service.

Budget

Due to the reduction in the amount of money received from the county for providing fire protection to the county and other financial issues the city has faced; it was necessary to reduce the fire department's FY 24-25 budget. As shown in the graph below, the FY 24-25 budget was reduced by about \$382,000 which reduced the budget to less than the FY 22-23 budget for the fire department. The fire protection agreement with the county calls for the amount the county pays the city to remain the same for the entire ten years of the agreement unless the city and county agree to an increase. If there is no increase in funding from the county, the city will have to fund any increases in costs for operating the fire department in the future in a safe and efficient manner.



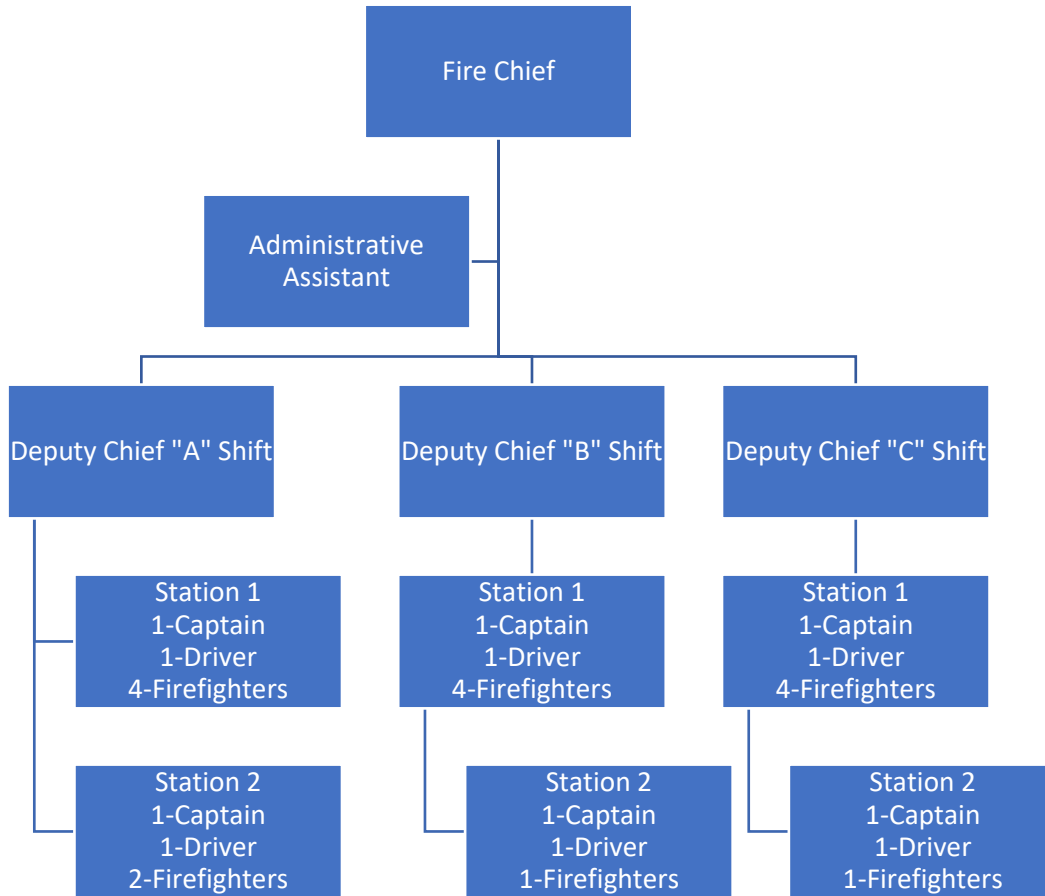
Personnel Years of Service

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department is fortunate to have officers and firefighters with many years of experience and training to provide fire/rescue for our community as well as those who choose to travel through and/or stop and visit our community.

Command Staff	Years of Service	Firefighters	Years of Service
McRae, Larry	50	Rosewell, Kenny	26
Beard, Danny	37	Riley, James	24
Eubanks, Brad	30	Fry, Phil	22
Decker, Adam	29	Cook, Adam	22
Sanders, Casey	28	Hughes, Shannon	22
Hart, Eric	26	Craig, Cody	14
Rodriguez Aristeo	26	Williams, Aaron	13
Clark, Otis	25	Brown, Kirk	10
Dunn, Nick	13	Nugent, Aaron	10
Pipes, Ranson	8	Sitzes, Adrian	9
Total	272	Daniels, Caleb	7
Average	27.2	Hall, Lance	7
		Russell, Riley	5
		Collins, Jace	4
		Jessee, Trevor	4
		Noll, Brandon	3
		Hickey, Adam	3
		Sessums, Connor	3
		Stockinger, Bradley	2
		Bassett, Josh	2
		Higginbotham, Chase	2
		Evans, Charles	2
		Total	216
		Average	9.8

**COMBINED YEARS OF SERVICE
488 YEARS
AVERAGE COMBINED YEARS
OF SERVICE
15.2 YEARS**

Org Chart*



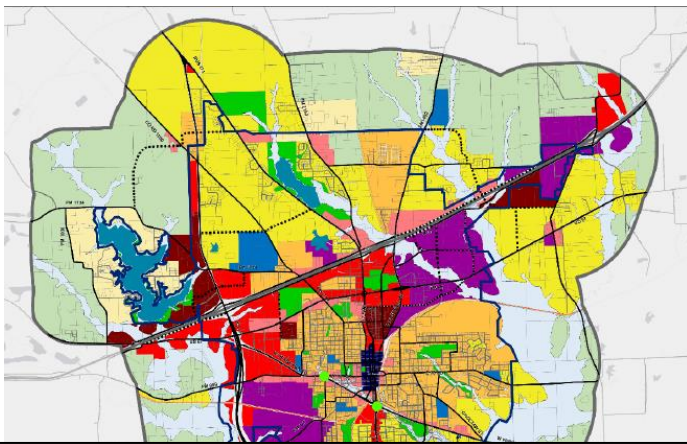
Volunteer Firefighters
2

Ladies Auxiliary
Numerous

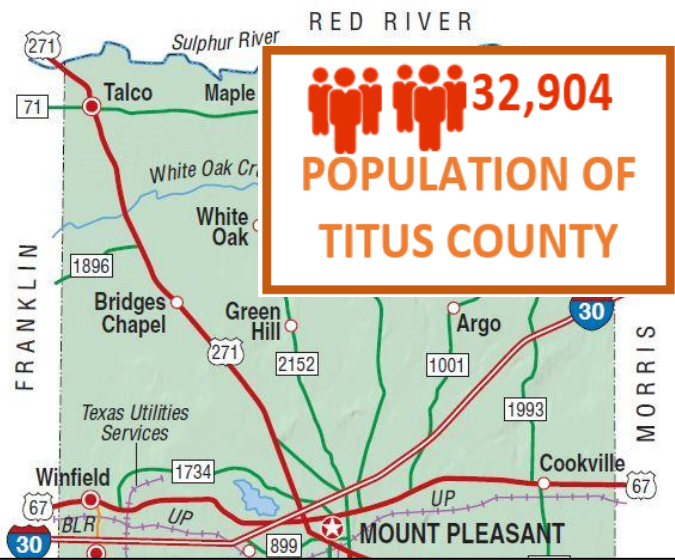
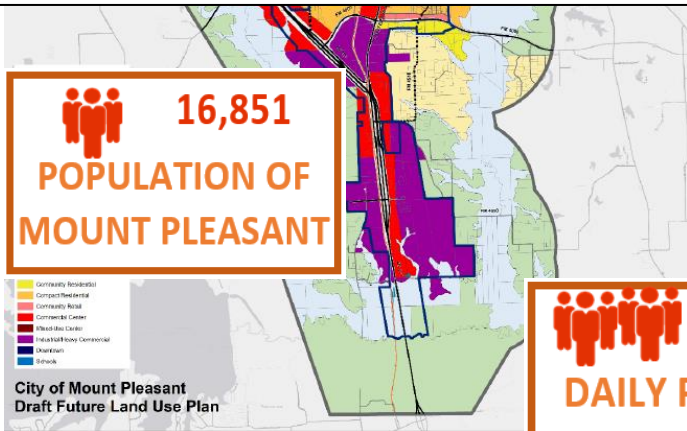
*Due to the loss of 5 firefighter positions, 1 shift has 11 on duty and 2 shifts have 10 on duty.
MINIMUM STAFFING IS 8 FIREFIGHTERS ON DUTY

Population/Areas Served

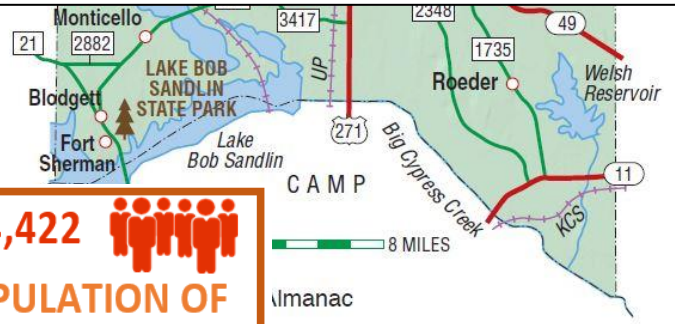
The City of Mount Pleasant and Titus County continues to attract new residents and businesses. Our proximity to mid-size cities such as Longview, Tyler and Texarkana as well as the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex provides easy access to what those locations have to offer, without having to live there. The access to transportation routes like I-30, Highways 271 and 49 are attractive to businesses. Mount Pleasant and Titus County also have many things that draw people in daily. Mount Pleasant is a hub for Northeast Texas with a retail trade area population of 106,000. MPFD must be ready and able to meet the needs of our community.



City of Mount Pleasant-16 square miles



Titus County-426 square miles



Response to Incidents

These are only incidents where MPFD responded.

Response to Incidents City/County Combined

Incident Type	2023	2024	% up or down
Structure Fire	34	50	+47.0%
Vehicle Fire	34	37	+08.8%
Grass Fire	70	66	-05.7%
MVA	192	200	+04.1%
EMS 1 st Responder	112	114	+01.7%
Vehicle Extrication	20	14	-30.0%
False Alarms	163	118	-27.6%
Misc.	403	289	-28.2%
TOTAL	1028	888	-13.6%

Response to City Incidents Only

Incident Type	2023	2024	% up or down
Structure Fire	16	21	+31.2%
Vehicle Fire	15	18	+20.0%
Grass Fire	25	19	-24.0%
MVA	106	114	+07.5%
EMS 1 st Responder	97	91	-06.1%
Vehicle Extrication	7	6	-14.2%
False Alarms	133	100	-24.8%
Misc.	309	220	-28.8%
TOTAL	708	589	-16.8%

Response to County Incidents Only

Incident Type	2023	2024	% up or down
Structure Fire	18	29	+61.1%
Vehicle Fire	19	18	-05.2%
Grass Fire	45	47	+04.4%
MVA	86	86	0.0%
EMS 1 st Responder	15	23	+53.3%
Vehicle Extrication	13	8	-38.4%
False Alarms	30	18	-40.0%
Misc.	94	70	-25.5%
TOTAL	320	299	-06.5%

INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO BY EACH MPFD STATION

CENTRAL STATION	STATION 2
476	412

OVERLAPPING INCIDENTS

Overlapping Incidents are those that occur at the same time as another incident. When this occurs, it could result in a delayed response, or no response to the overlapping call(s), if resources are already committed to the first incident and are unable to be released to respond to the overlapping incident(s).

In 2024 98 (11.04%) of 888 calls overlapped
In 2023 155 (15.08%) of 1028 calls overlapped.

:

Response to Significant Incidents-City

TOTAL CITY INCIDENTS 2024

Type of Incident	Number of Incidents	Avg. Time per Incident	Total Avg. Time Spent on Incidents
Structure Fire	21	2 hours	42
Vehicle Fire	18		
Grass Fire	19	.75 hours	14
MVA	114	.75 hours	85
EMS	91		
Extrication	6	1 hour	6
False Alarms	100		
Misc.	220		
TOTAL	589 (66.3%) 160 (47.0%)		147 (42.2%)

This is the amount/% of the 888 total incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 340 total significant incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 348 total hours spent on significant incidents in the city & county.

Response to Significant Incidents-County

TOTAL COUNTY INCIDENTS 2024

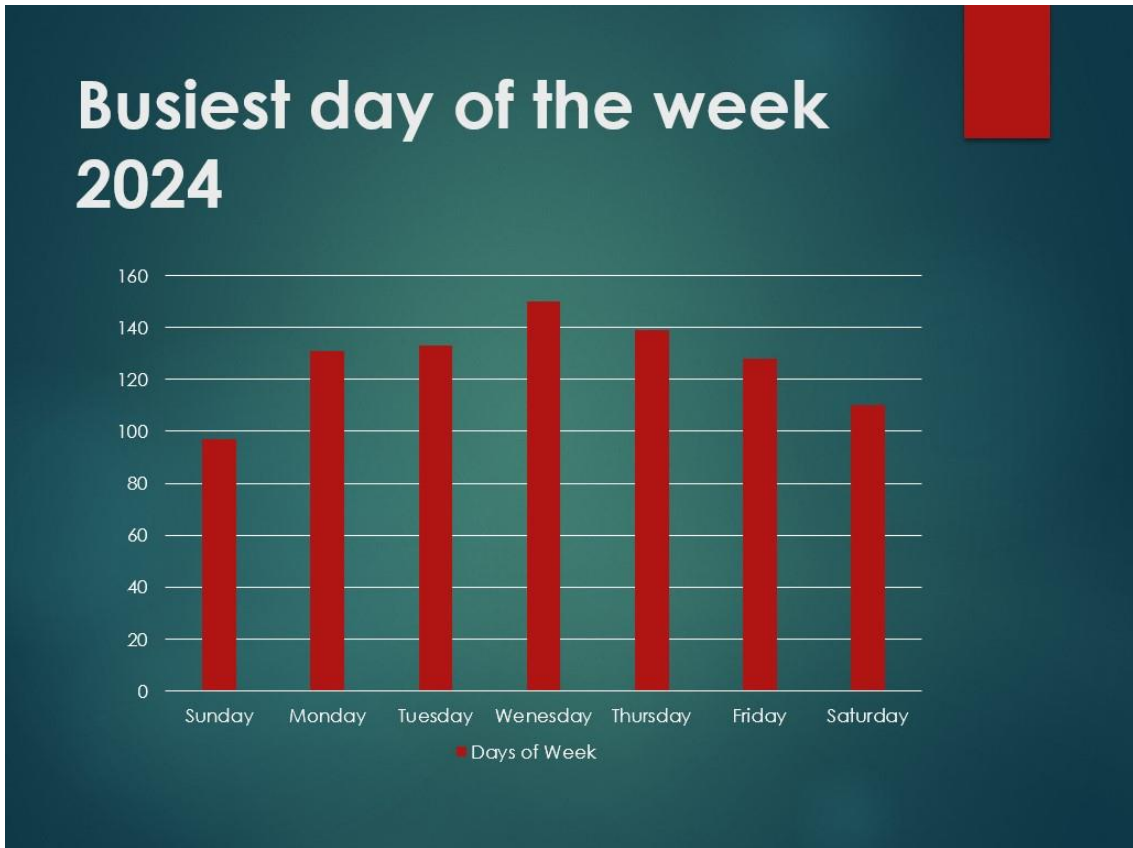
Type of Incident	Number of Incidents	Avg. Time per Incident	Total Avg. Time Spent on Incidents
Structure Fire	29	2 hours	58
Vehicle Fire	18		
Grass Fire	47	1.5 hours	70
MVA	86	.75 hours	65
EMS	23		
Extrication	8	1 hour	8
False Alarms	18		
Misc.	70		
TOTAL	299 (33.6%) 180 (52.9%)		201 (57.7%)

This is the amount/% of the 888 total incidents in the city & county.

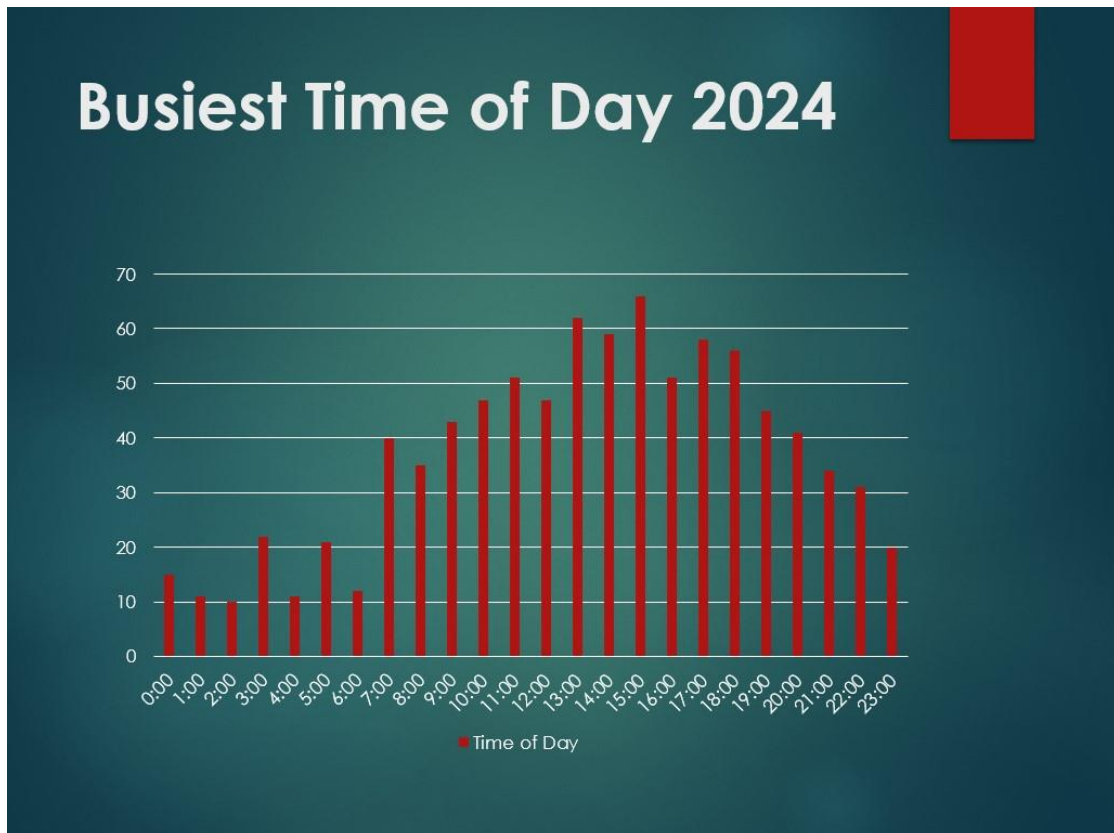
This is the amount/% of the 340 significant total incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 348 total hours spent on significant incidents in the city & county.

Busiest Day of the Week



Busiest Time of Day



National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Response Times Standard for Structure Fires

NFPA response time standards for structure fires in cities are different from those for structure fires in rural areas.



**NATIONAL
FIRE CODES®**

City-Standard is for the first arriving unit to arrive within 4 minutes of being dispatched 90% of the time. MPFD met the standard 90.4% of the time in 2024. The average response time was 2 minutes 49 seconds.

Rural-Standard is for the first arriving unit to arrive within 14 minutes 80% of the time. MPFD met the standard 80.0% of the time in 2024. The average response time was 10 minutes 33 seconds.

Structure & Grass Fire Causes/Outcome

Structure Fire-City	
*Saved:	80.9%
Causes:	Cooking, Electrical, Smoking, Candles, Undetermined
Fatalities:	None
Structure Fire-County	
*Saved:	48.2%
Causes:	Cooking, Electrical, Smoking, Candles, Undetermined
Fatalities:	1-Fatality
Grass Fires-City	
Control Burns	33.8%
Other	Lighting, side of road, arson, flat tire, undetermined
Grass Fires-County	
Control Burns	40.4%
Other	Side of road, electrical arc, equipment, undetermined

*Not necessarily occupiable, but belonging such guns, photo albums, prom/wedding dresses, keep sakes that could not be replaced were saved.

Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS)



The Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) is coordinated by the Texas A&M Forest Service. TIFMAS is the framework through which fire & rescue agencies work together to provide support for incidents as diverse as hurricanes and wildfires. Local resources, including personnel and apparatus, are deployed at the request of the State to provide assistance. As a partner agency, the Mount Pleasant Fire Department has

deployed personnel and equipment as State assets since the beginning of TIFMAS in 2011 and have played critical roles in major fires across Texas.

The State of Texas reimburses local governments for the cost of providing the resources and pays the costs of overtime to backfill those deployed so there is no expense to the City, in fact the City comes out on the positive side of the ledger. Additionally, the State has provided the Mount Pleasant Fire Department, at no cost, with a Type 6 Brush Truck to use during deployments. It can also be used to respond to fires locally when needed.

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department was not deployed to any incidents during 2024.

Fire Stations

Central Fire Station

Central Fire Station is located at 728 East Ferguson Road. It was



built in March 2001. It has administrative offices, living quarters, workout area, training room, male and female locker rooms, and apparatus bay.

Fire Station 2

Station 2 is located at 1900 North Jefferson. It was originally built as the National Guard Armory in the 40's or 50's. However, in 2004 it was remodeled as a fire



station. It has living quarters, training room, male and female locker rooms, workout area, Captains office and apparatus bay. It also houses the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for Mount Pleasant.

The living area of the station was remodeled in 2022, which included new kitchen cabinets, flooring and painting.

Apparatus/Equipment

CENTRAL STATION		
Apparatus/Equipment	Year	Assignment
Ford F-150	2016	900 (Fire Chief)
Ford F-150	2021	C-1 (Deputy Chief)
Pierce Contender	2015	Engine 1
Pierce Saber	2008	Rescue 1
Spartan Gladiator	1996	Quint 1
Ford F-550	2013	Brush-13
**Ford F-350	2015	Brush-17
*Pierce Saber	2003	Reserve Engine
Ford F-350	2022	Support 11(tow vehicle)
Forest River	2009	Air Trailer
John Deere	1992	Plow
International	1990	Plow Transport
Continental Cargo	2009	Dive Trailer
Chevy Tahoe	2021	C-2

STATION 2		
Apparatus/Equipment	Year	Assignment
Pierce Saber	2020	Engine 2
Ford F-350	2020	Brush 15
Ford F-350	2017	Brush 18
Pierce	2002	Blocker 1
Chevy Silverado 1500	2021	C-3
*Ford F-350	2010	C-4 (tow vehicle for ICP)
Southfork	2020	Rescue Boat
WLCR	2005	Fire Prevention/rehab
*Forest River	2009	Mobile ICP
Ford/Boyer	1936	'36 Antique fire truck

*These vehicles belong to the county.

**Only the cab and chassis belong to the county.

Public Fire Education

MPFD conducted fire prevention/safety programs in the 8 elementary schools in Mt. Pleasant and Titus County which includes approximately 2,739 students. Numerous station tours are provided for school groups throughout the year.



Fire extinguisher training is provided to local businesses, schools, etc., numerous times each year so they can put out a small fire before it gets out of control.



Inspections/Pre-Fire Planning

Each year the Mount Pleasant Fire Department conducts inspections to ensure buildings are safe, find and eliminate fire hazards to hopefully prevent fires from occurring. Inspection includes multi-family residential units, commercial/business and mixed-use occupancies. There are 12 Texas Commission on Fire Protection certified fire inspectors in the department.

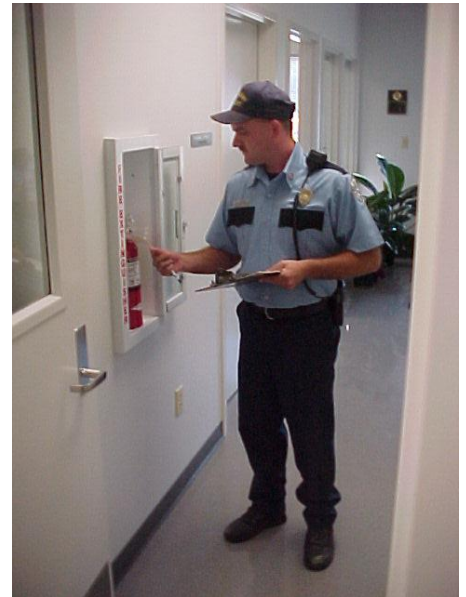
293 inspections were conducted in 2024. Inspections are scheduled every 1, 2, or 3 years depending on whether the occupancy is classified as low, moderate or high risk.

In conjunction with the fire inspections, pre-fire planning is also conducted. A quality pre-fire plan offers advance knowledge of important issues such as building construction, building layout, hazardous materials storage, fire alarm or fire suppression system capabilities and special occupancy concerns.

The information is placed in a computer software program that can be accessed from mobile devices in the command vehicles and engines in the event of a fire at the location.

Building and Plan Review

MPFD is part of the City's Development Review Committee (DRC). It is made up of representatives of the Planning, Building, Code Enforcement, Streets, Utilities, Engineering, and Inspections departments. The DRC meets with developers to make sure the needs of departments are met and allows the developer to ask questions, so they are clear on what is expected from the City for the project. This allows any issues there might be with the project to be addressed at the beginning and not after it is underway, which could delay the project.



Technical Rescue



Vehicle Accidents/Extrication

Of the significant incidents MPFD responds to, the number of vehicle accidents is at the top of the list (63%). We have state-of-the-art rescue tools and equipment, and personnel trained and experienced in vehicle extrication. Fighting a structure fire is dangerous but conducting vehicle extrication on the Interstate or other major highways is more dangerous. At structure fires, based on the size-up, we will decide if placing our personnel in harm's way is justified or not. On a vehicle

accident with people trapped, we have no choice but to go to work to rescue them. We attempt to make the scene as safe as possible, but we have had numerous close calls while operating at vehicle accidents due to driver inattention. **In 2024 14 people were extricated from vehicles involved in vehicle accidents.**

Water Rescue

Mt. Pleasant Fire Department provides the citizens of Mt. Pleasant and Titus County with a water rescue and recovery dive team. We currently have 14 certified divers equipped with a rescue boat, and water rescue/dive trailer loaded with a wide array of equipment used for diving operations. In our jurisdiction, we cover various creeks, rivers, ponds, lakes, and waterways and also provide mutual aid to surrounding counties. In 2024 the MPFD Dive Team responded to one water search and rescue related call which occurred during a Mutual Aid response to Franklin County. The dive team is subject to be called out at any time of the year for water rescue incidents.



High Angle

High angle rescue is a specialized skill that members have trained on for years. Although the number of incidents is small, the complexity of these calls requires ongoing training to keep our personnel proficient in the skills needed for the task. We have several areas in our county such as water towers, multi-story buildings and industrial complexes where there is potential for our services. No high angle incidents occurred in 2024.



Training

The Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) regulates career fire departments and firefighters in Texas. Most of the other States do not have any regulatory authority over fire departments and firefighters. For a person to become a career firefighter in Texas they must complete a Basic Structural Firefighter training academy consisting of approximately 478 hours of classroom and hands on training. In addition



to the initial training, firefighters must have a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education training annually to maintain their certifications and employment. Our department believes every day is a training day. Training may be as little as discussing an article from a fire service periodical around the kitchen table to multi-hour training sessions with all on duty personnel participating in live fire evolutions. **A total of 3,098 hours of training were obtained by members this year.** TCFP offers numerous other certifications, and our members routinely take advantage of obtaining them. Listed below are certifications that were obtained this year by members:

4-Intermediate firefighter

1-Advanced Firefighter

6-Driver/Operator

1-Aircraft Rescue Firefighter

1-Fire Investigator Intermediate

2-Fire Investigator Advanced

1-Intermediate Fire Inspector

1-Plans Examiner

1-Fire Officer 1

6-Fire Marshal

1-Paramedic

NOTE: There is no State regulatory agency in Texas for volunteer firefighters and departments. Volunteer firefighters are not required to have any training however, the county fire chiefs agree that volunteer firefighters need to be trained. MPFD has provided training opportunities to all the county volunteer firefighters through on-line, classroom and hands-on training.

Insurance Service Office (ISO)

ISO collects information on fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. ISO analyzes the relevant data using their Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). They then assign a Public Protection Classification (PPC) from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally speaking represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program doesn't meet the ISO's minimum criteria.



The program provides a countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting facilities, equipment, personnel, and training. The PPC provides incentives and rewards by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services. The FSRS considers four areas of a community's fire suppression system:

Fire Department

- Training
- Number of personnel
- Response to Emergencies
- Maintenance and Testing of Equipment

Water Supply

- Sufficient Water Supply
- Fire Hydrant Inspection and Testing
- Number and Location of Hydrants

Emergency Communications

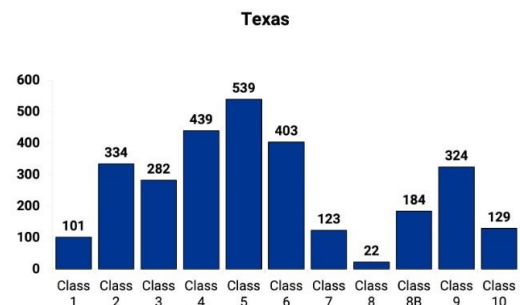
- Emergency Reporting
- Communications Center
- Number of Telecommunicators
- Computer Aided Dispatch
- Dispatch Circuits

Community Risk Reduction

- Fire Prevention
- Fire Safety Education
- Fire Investigation

The residents inside the City of Mount Pleasant enjoy a Class 3 rating. As shown on the graph below, only 282 locations in the State have achieved a Class 3 rating.

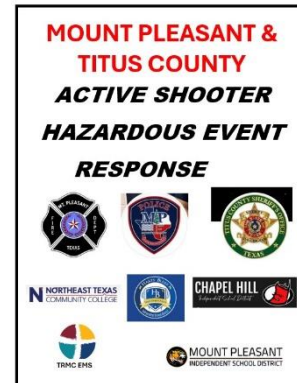
Not all insurance companies use the PPC rating in determining insurance rates.



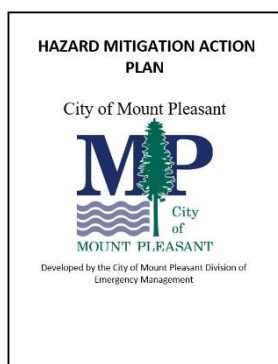
Emergency Management

By Texas law the Mayor of a city is designated as the Emergency Management Director and is responsible for maintaining emergency management programs in their jurisdiction. A Mayor may appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) to take care of the day-to-day operations and serve as an advisor to the Mayor during a major disaster and/or other matters dealing with emergency management. The Mayor has appointed the Mt. Pleasant Fire Chief to serve as the EMC for the City of Mount Pleasant.

One of the responsibilities of the EMC is to prepare the community to respond to disasters such as tornados, ice storms, school shootings, etc. This is accomplished by working together and developing relationships prior to a disaster occurring by conducting exercises. In 2024 a guide was developed for responding to an Active Shooter and/or Hostile Event in a school. It was developed with input from local law enforcement and school districts/college personnel in the City and County as well as from the hospital and EMS.



The City of Mount Pleasant will conduct emergency management operations based on the City's Emergency Management Basic Plan and its 22 Functional Annexes. The Plan was completely revised this year and has been approved by the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM). The Plan must be reviewed annually by local officials and submitted to TDEM every five years for their approval.



The Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) for the City of Mount Pleasant was completed in house this year instead of having a contractor do it, saving the city about \$25,000. The completion of the plan provided the City about \$1.2 million of grant funds for generators at the wastewater and water treatment plants.

Emergency Management (cont.)

With the City of Mount Pleasant being in the path of the Solar Eclipse, numerous meetings were held in the months leading up to the April 8th Solar Eclipse. Members of the planning committee were city department directors, TRMC administration



and EMS, Chamber of Commerce, MPISD Administration and Police, and Texas Division of Emergency Management. People from all across America and some from other countries came to our area to view the event. Even though some clouds appeared in a large area in the path, most of our area had cleared by the time the event occurred and was enjoyed by those who were in the City.

The City operates an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in Fire Station #2. During a disaster such as a tornado, city department directors along with hospital and EMS leaders would gather to manage the incident. The EOC is equipped with a generator to provide backup power, radios, phones, sat phones, internet access, maps and display monitors needed to provide situational awareness.



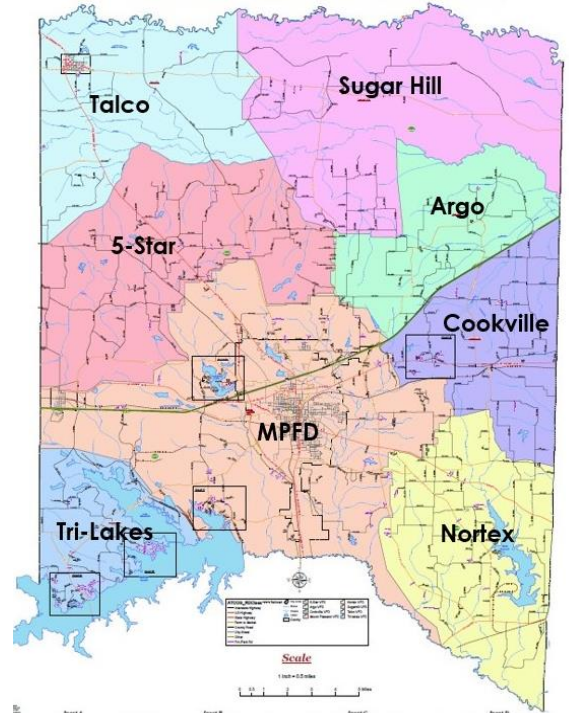
In case of total failure of internet and phone service, the EOC is equipped with a radio programmed with the frequency that allows radio communications with all the EOCs in Ark-Tex Council of Governments 9 county region. An alternate EOC can be set up, if needed, in the Central Fire Station. A Mobile Command Post is available to deploy on scene if necessary.

Every year since 2004 an emergency management exercise has been conducted. The exercises have ranged from a tabletop exercise to a full-scale exercise. Tabletop exercises are conducted in a stress-free environment where participants gather in a room and use discussion to analyze an emergency situation and validate plans and procedures and identify areas for improvement. A functional exercise is similar to a tabletop but simulates the movement of personnel and equipment. A full-scale exercise uses real people and equipment and is the most realistic type of exercise. In 2024 a functional exercise was conducted for our EOC.

County Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs)

The County is divided into 8 fire districts, as shown on the map. MPFD is responsible for all incidents that occur in its district. MPFD is also responsible for the structure fires, vehicle accidents and any other incidents, other than grass and vehicle fires, in all the county fire districts, except for the Talco Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) district.

In 2014 the Winfield VFD disbanded due to lack of members. In 2021 the Sugar Hill VFD almost met the same fate. In 2018 the Argo VFD was formed in the area north of Interstate 30 that was once covered by the Cookville VFD. The VFDs are responsible for the vehicle and grass fires that occur in their districts. If the VFDs are not able to respond to those calls or need assistance, MPFD will respond.



Just like VFDs across the State and Nation, our county VFDs struggle to get members that will dedicate the time and effort required to be an active and productive member of the department. MPFD appreciates the members of the county VFDs that do dedicate their time and effort to providing fire and rescue services to the citizens.

We depend on the county volunteer firefighters to provide a water supply with their tankers for fires in the county and some areas of the city. We also depend on them to provide manpower on the incidents in the county since we cannot send all on-duty MPFD firefighters to incidents in the county. MPFD provides training opportunities to the county volunteer firefighters through on-line training as well as classroom/hands on training at their stations and/or at our training facilities.

County Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) (Cont.)

The VFDs/volunteer firefighters are doing the best they can to provide fire protection services. Many volunteer firefighters are members of more than one VFD.

However, in 2024 only 23 of the 97 county volunteer firefighters made more than 1 in 4 call (25%) of the incidents they were dispatched to. 27 of the 97 VFD members did not respond to any incident in 2024.

There are only 25 volunteer firefighters (8 of which are off duty MPFD firefighters) that have training to fight structural fires.

City/County Fire Protection Agreement

In December 2022, Titus County Commissioner Court agreed to pay the city of Mount Pleasant \$1.3 million for the first two years of a ten-year contractable agreement. The amount for the remaining eight years would be negotiated at a later time. The county would also share the



cost of any new fire apparatus provided they were given two years advance notice of the need. The county would continue to get a response of 6-8 trained and experienced firefighters along with multiple pieces of fire apparatus owned by the city.

However, in May 2023 the county sent the city a new proposal for the agreement and negotiations resumed. Unfortunately, the city and county did not come to an agreement.

In September 2023, the county voted to execute the one year out clause in the agreement, which would end the agreement in September 2024. The county would continue to negotiate with the city but at the same time pursue other options for fire protection.

In June 2023, Titus County ordered a fire protection study to be completed to determine options for providing fire protection to the county. One of the options was to create a county fire department and hire a fire protection consultant.

On December 11, 2023, the county voted to cease negotiations with the city and to start a county fire department. The county immediately moved forward by hiring a consultant, purchasing equipment, and leasing a building for 10 years.

With the county making this decision it was obvious that this would impact the Mt. Pleasant Fire Departments budget and that the department was going to have to make some hard decisions regarding its financial situation. In January 2024, firefighters began leaving to find other jobs due to the uncertainty of their positions with the city. Those vacancies remain unfilled.

City/County Fire Protection Agreement (cont.)

However, in June 2024 the city and county were able to come to an agreement where the city would continue to provide fire protection to the county. The agreement contained the following provisions:

- The term of the agreement is ten years beginning October 1, 2024.
- The amount the county will be paying annually was reduced from \$1.3 million to \$650,000 with no increase for the duration of the agreement unless approved by both parties.
- The county will convey title and all interest to all county owned equipment used by the city to the city. (A reserve engine and cab/chassis of a brush truck)

The new agreement impacts the fire protection provided by the city to the county:

- Firefighter positions have been reduced by 5 (13.8%) and as shown in the tables below the number of firefighters/apparatus responding to calls in the county and those left to protect the city have been reduced.

# of Firefighters on County Structure Fires	
2023	2024
8 or more FF 61.0% leaving 4 FF in the city	8 or more FF 34.4% leaving 3 in the city

# of Firefighters on County Grass Fires	
2023	2024
7 or more FF 26.5% leaving 4 FF in the city	7 or more FF 6.3% leaving 3 FF in the city

# of Apparatus on County Grass Fires	
2023	2024
4 or more app. 42.2% leaving 4 FF in the city	4 or more app. 10.8% leaving 3 FF in the city

# of Firefighters on County Vehicle Accidents	
2023	2024
7 or more FF 24.5% leaving 4 FF in the city	7 or more FF 16.1% leaving 3 FF in the city

City/County Fire Protection Agreement (cont.)

# of Firefighters on County Vehicle Accidents w/Extrication	
2023	2024
7 or more FF 41.6% leaving 4 FF in the city	7 or more FF 12.5% leaving 3 FF in the city

It should be noted that the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard for a response to a residential structure fire is 16 firefighters and the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) has a rule that career fire departments must adhere to that requires at least four firefighters on scene to conduct interior firefighting operations.

The table below puts into perspective the fire protection being provided by MPFD to Titus County verses cost as compared to fire protection provided by the Hopkins County Fire Department verses cost.

	Titus County	Hopkins County
Annual Budget	\$650,000	\$1.2 Million
Firefighters On Duty Responding	At least 5*	3
Apparatus	Depending on the incident**	1 engine and/or 1 brush truck

*Could be more if not at minimum staffing of 8.

**Structure fire: 1-command vehicle, 1 or 2 engines, a ladder truck (depending on size/type of structure), breathing air trailer. Grass Fire: 1-command vehicle, 1-engine, 3-4 brush trucks, and/or 1-plow. Vehicle Accident: 1-command vehicle, 1-engine, 1-rescue truck and 1-blocker apparatus.

Additionally, in 2016 (9 years ago) the City and County jointly funded a Fire Protection Study to determine the needs to provide adequate fire protection for the city and county. Based on the information gathered at the time it was determined a need for an additional fire station and increasing the number of firefighters to 45 which would allow at least four firefighters on duty at each station and allowing two firefighters to be on leave. Reaching this goal would allow MPFD to responded to a county structure fire with 1-command vehicle, 2-engines w/at least 4 firefighters

each and leave 4 firefighters in the city. The QR code and link below connects to the study.

<https://mpcity.net/wp-content/uploads/City-County-Fire-Protection-Study-2016.pdf>



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“When duty calls, ‘tis ours to obey.”

Established 1903

