



City of North Bend

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2024 North Bend Fire Department Annual Report

City Council Strategic Goals 2023-2025

- Continue with the maintenance schedule of the Fire Department, including the purchase of a new fire ladder truck (priority: 2A)
- Create defensible space and clear invasives in the City Parks (Priority: 2D)

Equipment Upgrades and Maintenance This year, we continued improving our emergency response capabilities by upgrading our fleet:

- **Two New Rapid-Response Vehicles:**
 - These Dodge 5500 4-wheel-drive vehicles carry 300 gallons of water and essential emergency supplies.
 - They are more maneuverable than larger fire engines, allowing faster access to difficult locations during natural disasters, wildfires, and floods.
 - Using these vehicles for smaller emergencies reduces wear and tear on larger, more expensive equipment.
- **Two New Staff Vehicles:**
 - Ford Explorers were purchased to replace aging command vehicles.
 - These vehicles are cost-effective and reliable for emergency response operations.



These four vehicles were purchased with federal funds, requiring no local tax dollars. As a result of these upgrades, maintenance and fuel costs have decreased significantly. Equipment maintenance expenses dropped 74% compared to the same period last year, and fuel costs were reduced by 11%.

We are actively seeking funding to replace our aging ladder truck, built in 1994. The estimated cost for a new ladder truck is \$1.7 million. We are exploring grants and partnerships to secure funding for this critical purchase.

Grant Funding In 2024, we successfully secured **\$726,926** in grants:

- \$75,000: Wildland Interface Mitigation Grant
- \$35,000: Summer Capacity Grant, which funded college students to complete fire hydrant maintenance and assist with fire response.
- \$366,926: Capacity Grant providing one full-time position for three years.
- \$250,000: Wildland Interface Grant for continued mitigation efforts.

Public Education and Community Engagement

- **Fire Safety Training:**
We provided fire extinguisher training for local businesses, teaching participants to safely extinguish small fires.



- **Business Inspections:**
Our team inspects local businesses every three years to identify hazards and familiarize ourselves with building layouts for improved emergency response.

- **Youth Education:** During Fire Prevention Week, we delivered safety presentations to elementary students and partnered with high schools for additional outreach.
- **Community Events:**
 - Hosted "Waffles with Santa" during the downtown Christmas celebration.
 - Held the annual Palm Sunday pancake breakfast, a 50+ year tradition supporting the department and fostering community connections.

Staffing The department operates as a combination model, comprising both career professionals and dedicated volunteers. Together, they deliver a comprehensive, all-hazards response framework. This includes fire suppression, pre-hospital emergency medical care, advanced life support services, hazardous materials management, technical rescue operations, fire investigations, domestic preparedness planning and response, as well as public education and prevention initiatives.

- Administrative Staff: 2
- Lieutenants: 3
- Engineer/Firefighters: 7
- Volunteer Firefighters: 20

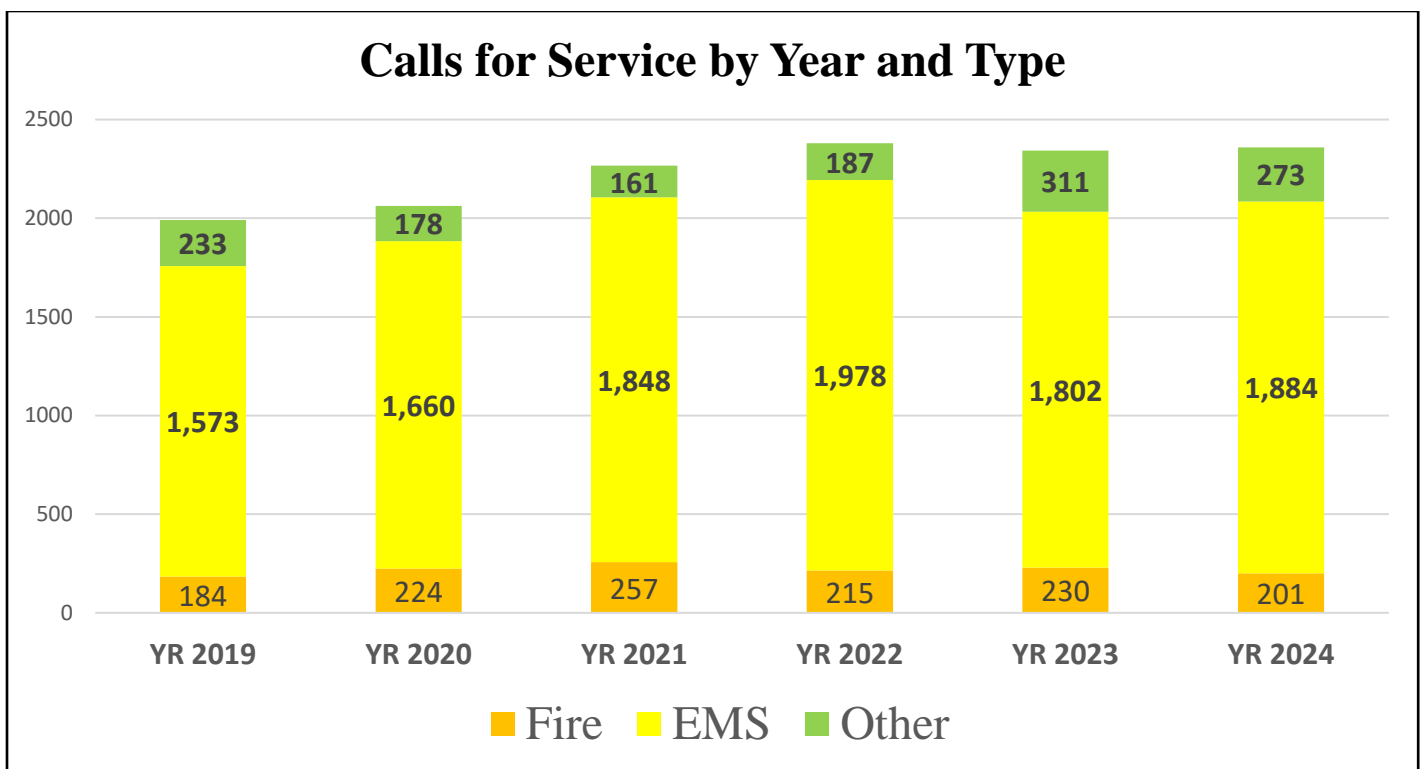


Wildland Mitigation and Defensible Spaces With grant funding, we continued to clear underbrush and invasive plants on public and private properties. These efforts have reduced the risk of brush fires in historically problematic areas. Using a skid steer with a brush removal attachment, we are maintaining cleared spaces to prevent regrowth at the following locations:

- Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board property (2200 block of Lincoln Street)
- Pittam Loop and Simpson Park
- Pony Creek Road
- Pony Village Mall at Crowell Lane (aka smoker's trail)
- Shoreline Church/Pacific Power property
- Wooded area behind Bi-Mart shopping complex

Emergency Response Statistics Our department responded to an average of 6.5 emergencies per day in 2024. Total calls for service increased by 18.5% since 2019, but fire incidents decreased by 13% this year due to our mitigation efforts.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fire	184 (9.2%)	224 (10.9%)	257 (11.3%)	215 (9.0%)	230 (9.8%)	201 (8.5%)
EMS	1,573 (79.0%)	1,660 (80.5%)	1,848 (81.6%)	1,978 (83.1%)	1,802 (76.9%)	1,884 (79.9%)
Other	233 (11.7%)	178 (8.6%)	161 (7.1%)	187 (7.9%)	311 (13.3%)	273 (11.6%)
Total	1,990	2,062	2,266	2,380	2,343	2,358



Looking Ahead We remain committed to improving safety in North Bend by pursuing grants, building partnerships, and delivering exceptional emergency response. We will continue our efforts to enhance the Fire Department’s capabilities while responsibly managing resources. Together, we are creating a safer, more resilient community.

<https://northbendoregon.us/fire>

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthBendFireDepartment/>

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