

## Chief's Message

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud to present this year's annual report, highlighting our department's dedication, progress and unwavering commitment to protecting lives and property. This year has brought challenges and opportunities that have tested our resilience and strengthened our resolve.

Our firefighters have continued to demonstrate professionalism and bravery in every call they respond to. Whether combating structure fires, responding to emergency medical calls, natural disasters or providing a community outreach, their dedication is the backbone of our department.

In 2024, we enhanced our training programs, ensuring our personnel remain prepared for evolving emergency scenarios. We invested in new equipment and technology to improve response times and efficiency. Additionally, our department expanded community partnerships, reinforcing fire safety education and disaster preparedness efforts.

None of this would be possible without the continued support of our elected officials, county administration, our community and the families of our firefighters. Your trust enables us to fulfill our mission.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to excellence, safety and service. We will continue to seek new ways to enhance our operations, support our personnel and build strong relationships with the community we proudly serve.

Thank you to our LCFR staff, our elected officials, county leadership and community stakeholders for your unwavering support. It is an honor to lead this department and I look forward to another year of progress and service.

Billy Young

Fire Chief

Lowndes County Fire Rescue

# Command Staff



Fire Chief Billy Young



Assistant Fire Chief Gary Williams



Deputy Chief Fire Marshal  
Mark Maskule

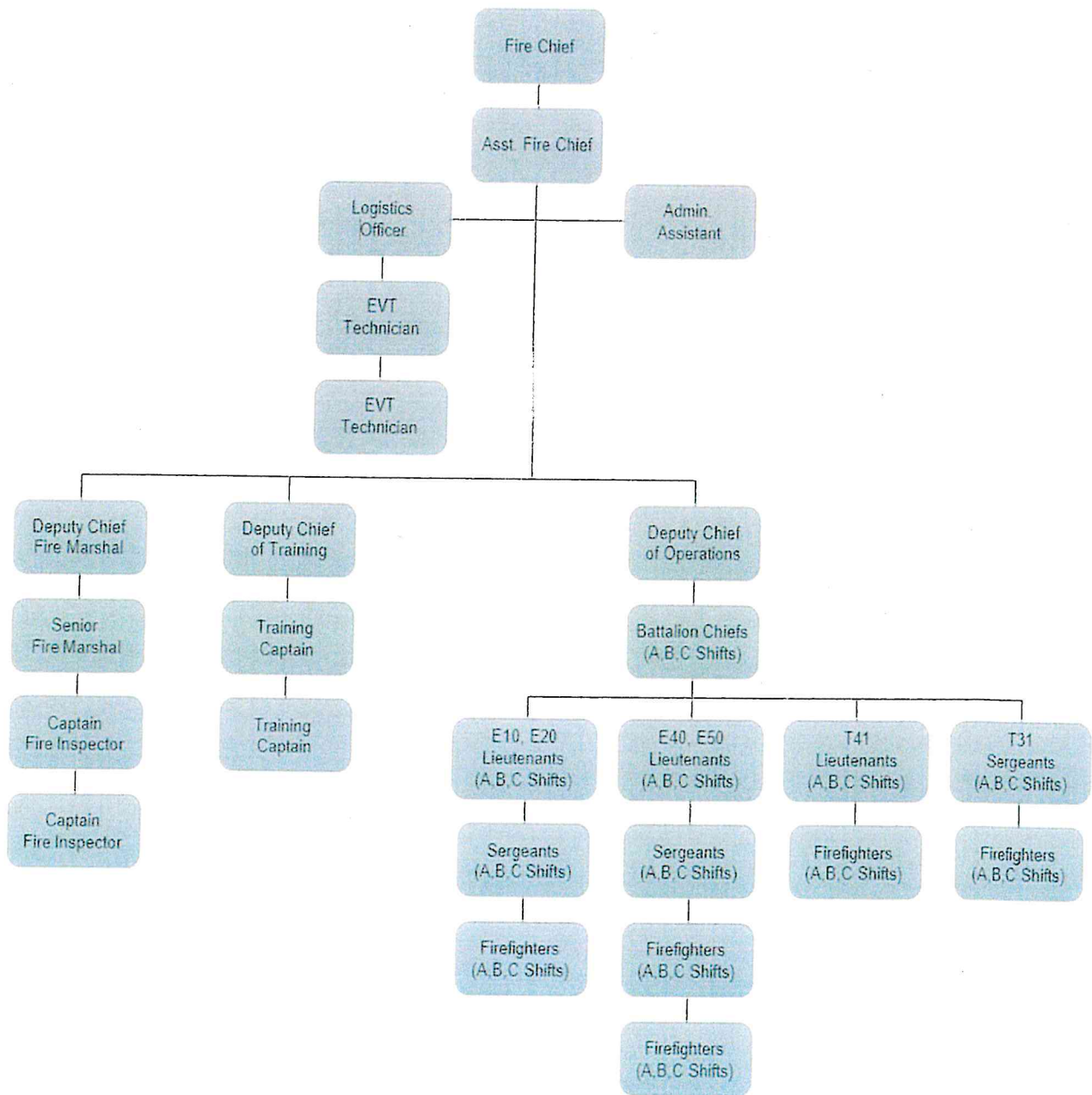


Deputy Chief of Operations  
Frank McMillan



Deputy Chief of Training  
Ben Amiot

# Lowndes County Fire Rescue Flow Chart



## Mission

Lowndes County Fire Rescue will always provide protection of life, property and the environment from the effects of fires, medical emergencies and hazards. We will maintain a constant state of readiness to respond to all requests for services in a timely manner.

## Values

Members of Lowndes County Fire Rescue, through our commitment to innovation, service and excellence, will always strive to be leaders in fire and life safety services and be the model of a successful all hazard department.

# Stations

## Stations

Lowndes County Fire Rescue currently has 18 fire stations. We are currently staffing four stations with career firefighters. The four staffed stations are Station #2 (Clyattville), Station #4 (North Lowndes), Station #5 (Bemiss) and Station #10 (Headquarters). Station #10 also serves as the Administrative Headquarters for the fire department. The information in the table on page 10 provides statistical information on the number of calls that have occurred over each of the past 5 years. Page 11 provides a breakdown of major call types per staffed companies.

There are 14 other stations strategically located across Lowndes County. These stations are located in such a manner that only few Lowndes County residents are farther than 5 driving miles from a fire station. This allows us to meet basic requirements of the Insurance Services Organization (ISO), which establishes the rating schedule used by insurance companies to determine homeowners insurance rates. These 14 stations currently house an Engine Company. The zone Engine Company that is associated with a structure fire response will have a member of the administrative staff respond to the zoned station and respond with that station engine. This concept is for us to be within the guidelines of the ISO and the structure fire response matrix for Engine Company credit.

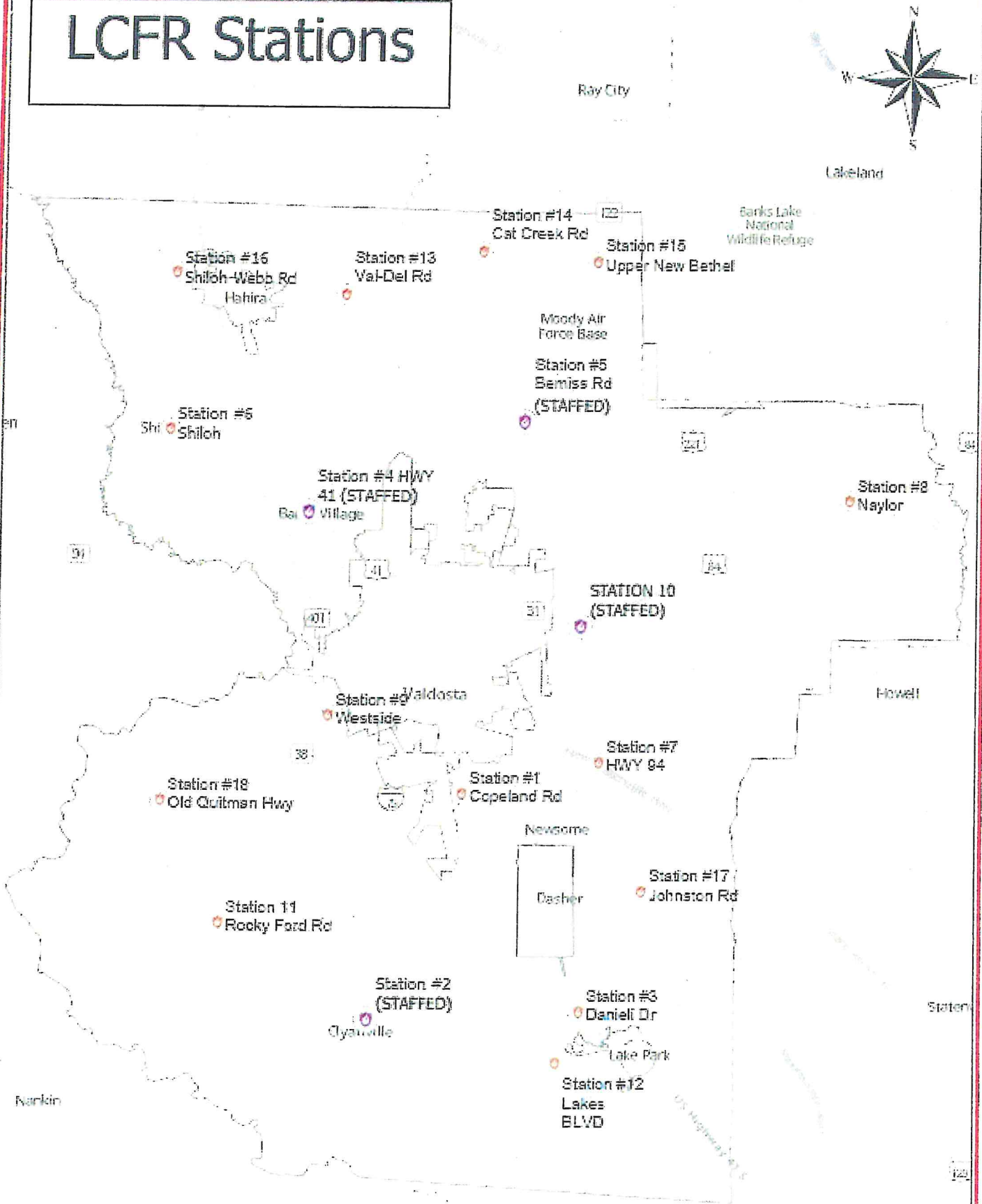
As we start to plan for the future and begin evaluating for the next expansion phase for staffing stations, the first area of concern with the highest call volume is the Twin Lakes District Station #3 (Lake Park), as shown on page 12. The Westside District Station #9 would be the next area to be recommended for staffing. Page 9 has the current cost breakdown for staff salaries per position. To continue with the current staffing guidelines, we will need 4 personnel per Engine Company and three personnel for the Truck Company.

Station #3



# Station Locations

## LCFR Stations



FDOP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA Jennings

## Staffed Station Expansion Justification

As Lowndes County continues to grow, so does the need for enhanced fire protection and emergency services. The expansion of the fire department into areas currently lacking full-time staffing is a proactive measure that ensures the safety and well-being of residents while supporting the region's future development. Establishing two additional stations (Station #3 Twin Lakes area and Station #9 Westside area) will address response time concerns, improve service coverage and provide a foundation for long term community growth and resilience.

### **Improved Response Times and Coverage:**

Currently, emergency response times in the unstaffed areas are longer due to traveled road miles or the assigned Engine Company to the unstaffed zones are attached to a Call for Service requiring the next available unit to be dispatched. By strategically placing staffed stations in these locations we will reduce response times, which is critical for both fire suppression and life-saving emergency medical interventions. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1710) recommends a five minute and 20 seconds response time to fire and EMS calls for service. To max out creditable points for Insurance Service Office (ISO) we are required to have an Engine on scene at a structure fire within four minutes. The addition of the proposed stations and staff will bring our department closer to meeting those standards across the entire county.

### **Population Growth and Increased Call Volume:**

The county's ongoing residential and commercial development is increasing both population density and emergency call volume. With dedicated industrial areas in Station #3 (Twin Lakes) and Station #9 (Westside), proactively expanding fire department resources ensures that public safeties infrastructure keeps pace with this growth, rather than reacting to service gaps after they become critical. With additional population growth from the Moody AFB mission change with the arrival of the F-35s, these two new stations will provide the necessary capacity to serve future residents while maintain high standards of emergency response.

### **Risk Reduction and Community Safety:**

Assessments of these areas has identified them to be underserved in terms of dedicated fire suppression and emergency services. Adding full time staffing to these areas will allow for continuous readiness, reducing the likelihood of property loss and improving patient outcomes in medical emergencies. Additionally, increased staffing enhances our ability to conduct fire prevention education and pre-incident planning, further strengthening overall community safety.

### **Economic and Insurance Benefits:**

Well-staffed fire stations contribute to improved Insurance Service Office (ISO) ratings, which can lower insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses. Additionally, enhanced fire protection services make the area more attractive for commercial and industrial investments, supporting economic development. Businesses and residents alike will benefit from the increased security and financial incentives that come with improved fire protection.

### **Long-Term Cost Efficiency:**

Investing in further expanding the fire department services with two additional stations will help prevent the possibility of costly emergency responses in the future. Establishing full time staffing at these new stations creates a sustainable model that optimizes resource allocation and reduces reliance on temporary solutions. The staffed stations will reduce response times, hiring overtime staff to man stations during high call volume events, and relying on mutual aid request to answer calls for service in these areas, all of which can be financially burdensome in the long run.

## Staffed Station Expansion Justification

### Conclusion:

The expansion of our services with these two new proposed staff stations is a necessary and forward thinking decision. By improving emergency response capabilities, supporting population growth, reducing fire risks and strengthening regional coordination, this initiative ensures that our community remains safe, resilient and well prepared for the future. This investment in public safety will have long term benefits for residents, businesses and emergency responders alike.

### Projected Cost for Staff and Equipment:

#### Station 3 (Twin Lakes)

Engine/Pumper: Purchased

Equipment for pumper: Purchased

Radios: \$2,500

Fire Hose:\$ 24,000

Extrication Tools: \$ 60,000

PPE: \$81,850

Staffing: 3– Lieutenant \$234,493.38

3– Sergeants \$215,565.39

6– Firefighters \$396,835.20

#### Station 9 (Westside)

Engine/Pumper 1000 gallon: \$1,200,000 - 3 year build time

Equipment for pumper: \$153,000

Radios: \$2,500

Fire Hose:\$24,000

Extrication Tools: \$60,000

PPE: \$81,850

Staffing: 3– Lieutenant \$234,493.38

3– Sergeants \$215,565.39

6– Firefighters \$396,835.20

Heavy Rescue Apparatus: \$1,300,000—3 year build time

Rescue Equipment: \$ 350,000

## Call Volumes & Response

Below is a chart showing the number of calls the fire district has received over each of the past five years and is broken down by the individual district. The chart also notes the 2023 response for each staffed station.

Station	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	AVG
Bemiss District (Bemiss Rd ,Cat Creek Rd, Upper New Bethel Rd)	518	560	624	887	1,089	735
Clyattville District (Madison Hwy, Rocky Ford Rd)	238	275	299	420	507	348
Eastside District (New Statenville Hwy, Johnston Rd)	126	176	216	210	322	210
Naylor District (Hwy 135)	28	43	71	120	152	83
North Lowndes District (Hwy 41, Val-Del Rd)	304	399	491	581	650	485
Shiloh District (Shiloh Rd, Webb Rd)	122	122	124	184	191	149
Southside District (Copeland Rd)	192	180	252	322	394	268
Twin Lakes District (Lakes Blvd, Danieli Dr)	316	397	479	538	631	473
Westside District (Westside Rd, Old Quitman Hwy)	137	169	165	242	330	209
Total	1,996	2,325	2,723	3,504	4,266	2,963
Station 10 Response Zone (HQ)				483	967	725
Station 2 Response Zone (Clyattville)				1,445	1,533	1,489
Station 4 Response Zone (North Lowndes)				788	826	807
Station 5 Response Zone (Bemiss)				788	940	1,728
Total				3,504	4,266	3,885



# Call Volumes & Response

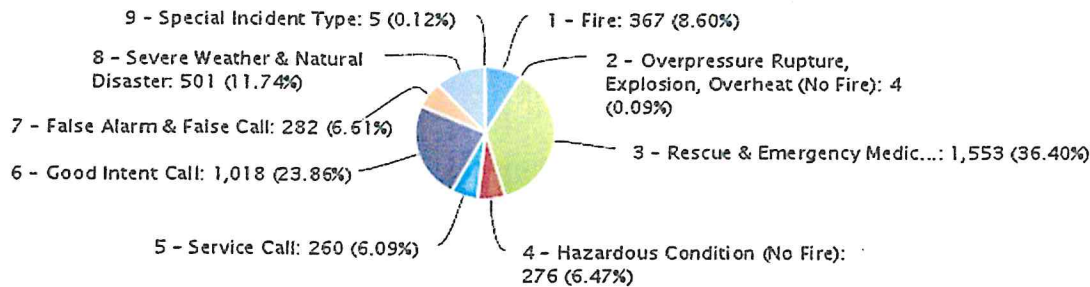
Station	Fire	EMS	Other
Battalion 10 (HQ)	605	82	90
Engine 10 (HQ)	452	324	135
Engine 20 (Clyattville)	436	703	252
Engine 40 (North Lowndes)	438	348	179
Engine 50 (Bemiss)	486	432	184
Truck 13 (HQ)	129	104	42
Truck 31 (Clyattville)	145	48	88
Truck 41 (HQ)	55	14	108

## Lowndes County Fire Rescue

2024 Calls by Category

Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21)

- 1 - Fire
- 2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)
- 3 - Rescue & Emergency Medication
- 4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)
- 5 - Service Call
- 6 - Good Intent Call
- 7 - False Alarm & False Call
- 8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster
- 9 - Special Incident Type

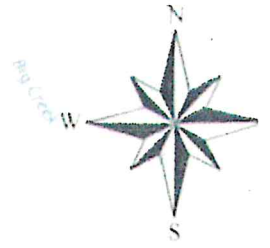


## AVERAGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES

- 2021 – 12 minutes 5 seconds
- 2022 – 10 minutes 54 seconds
- 2023 - 10 minutes 24 seconds
- 2024 - 10 minutes 02 seconds

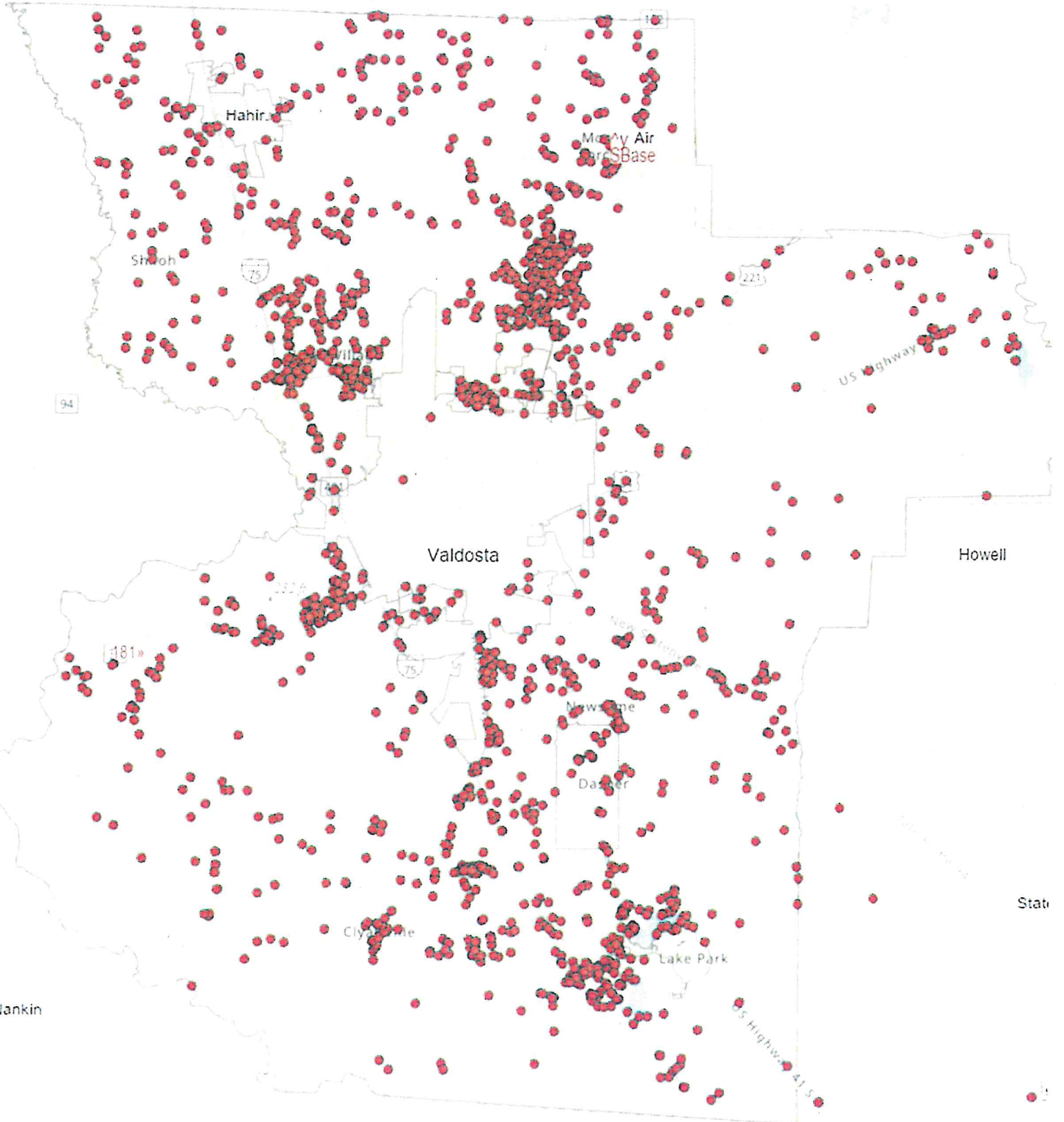
# LCFR Fire Incidents

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Ray City

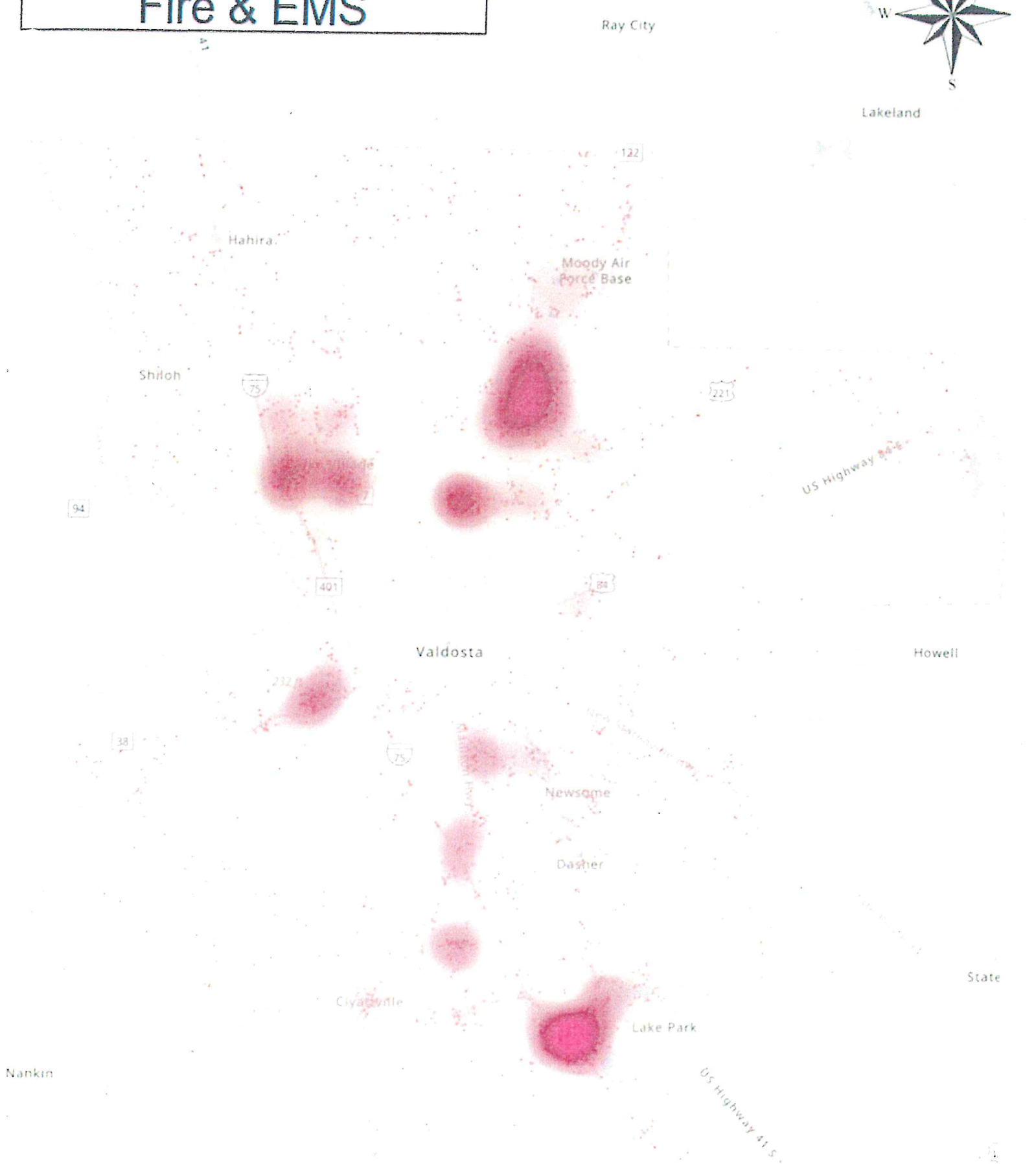
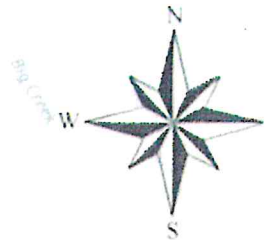
Lakeland



Nankin

State

# 2024 Call Heat Map Fire & EMS



0 1 2.5 5 7.5 10+

## EMS—Medical

### EMS

LCFR continues to expand the medical services that we respond to daily. The partnership with SGMC EMS is one that continues to grow with training and responding to calls daily. We recently added the following call types to our medical response matrix for a fire department initial dispatch response:

1. Shootings (GSW)
2. Stabbings/Cutting
3. Diabetic Emergency
4. Choking
5. Drowning
6. Electrocution
7. Stroke Emergency
8. Burns
9. Overdose

In addition to the above call types, we are requested daily to respond to “Level 0” and or delayed response call for services. “Level 0” and/or delayed response from EMS calls are when all EMS units are assigned to calls and EMS has no available unit or when the assigned EMS unit is responding from a distance. LCFR generated 528 calls for service for “Level 0” and/or delayed response from EMS call types for 2024.

### Justification for Quick Response Vehicles (ORV) for Emergency Medical Response at Lowndes County Fire Rescue

The 9-1-1 system is strained and increasingly called upon to deliver Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the community.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates that approximately sixty-five percent of fire department calls involve medical response. (<https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/research/nfpa-research/fire-statistical-reports/fire-department-calls>) Emergency medical responses for fire departments have nearly tripled in the last 35 years.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration’s last published national fire department run profile, fire departments responded to 26,959,000 incidents of which 64% required EMS and rescue services. (<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/firefighters-departments/fire-department-run-profile-v22i1.html>)

Per the International Association of Fire Chiefs position statement regarding EMS in the fire Service (<https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/resources/resource/iafc-position-fire-based-emergency-medical-services>), EMS is an essential component of the services provided by the fire service. Fire departments are strategically and geographically well positioned to deliver time critical response and effective patient care rapidly.

## EMS—Medical

The implementation of fire-based EMS provides agencies cost savings in an economy of scale based on the 53-hour vs. 40-hour work week and the fact that the fire service is a multi-function agency where EMS is a single-function entity. Cross-trained, multi-role firefighters afford their communities the following advantages:

- Continuity of patient care.
- Continuity of administration.
- Continuity of training.
- Continuity of equipment.
- Continuity of Standard Operating Procedures.
- Continuity of Medical Direction.
- Unity of command.
- The ability to deliver medical care during specialized rescue.

According to Marlene Kostyrka with Winston-Salem Fire Department, “Departments must prepare to offer Community Risk Reduction in all areas fire, medical, rescue and haz-mat. While fire departments have routinely responded to medical calls, and have helped, it is at a cost. This has been at a cost of increase mileage and fuel costs for large apparatus with three to four personnel where two personnel could efficiently handle the incident in a smaller more cost-effective vehicle.”

Below is a breakdown of information and key points related to what LCFR will need to consider a QRV program:

Program Examples – The following agencies were contacted and provided information.

### A. Dekalb County Georgia

1. Two units staffed with EMT or higher personnel
2. Reduced response load on Engine Companies by 14%.
3. Average response time and turnaround time improved 26%.
4. Cost was approximately \$200,000 per truck for the vehicle and equipment.

### B. Ocala Fire Department

1. Started out with 4, increasing to 6
2. 1<sup>st</sup> out on all medical calls
3. Full ALS capability with extrication equipment
4. Primary search on structure fires.
5. Decreased department maintenance costs on engines.

### C. West Columbia, South Carolina

1. 1<sup>st</sup> out on medicals

# EMS—Medical

## Advantages:

- A. Better comprehensive service to the community.
  - 1. Positive community impact.
  - 2. Increased community presence.
- B. Increased efficiency by providing both fire and EMS services, multi-mission role.
- C. Allocates appropriate response resources to EMS calls
  - 1. Does not tie up fire apparatus on medical calls.
  - 2. Preserves fire apparatus for response to fire incidents.
- D. Provides quicker response/release times.
- E. Increases availability of Emergency Medical resources to deploy more effectively.
- F. Decreased fuel/maintenance costs on fire apparatus.
  - 1. Per mile maintenance costs on fire apparatus are always significantly more than that of non-fire apparatus vehicles.
    - \* Fuel consumption is increased.
      - \*\*Fire apparatus average 3-5 MPG
      - \*\*Fire apparatus use 2 gallons of fuel for every 30 minutes of idle time.
    - \* Fire apparatus have increased need for DEF fluid for emissions control.
    - \* Replacement on Tires and brakes on fire apparatus average every 15,000 to 17,000 miles.
- G. Current cost for LCFR apparatus
  - 1. Engine Company
    - \* PM \$610.00 (oil, air, fuel filters)
    - \* Brakes \$3,800.00
    - \* Tires \$4,600.00
    - \* Fuel 450 gallons per month at an average cost of \$2.51 per gallon
  - 2. Truck Company
    - \* PM \$610.00 (oil, air, fuel filters)
    - \* Brakes \$5,600.00
    - \* Tires \$5,800.00
    - \* Fuel 210 gallons per month at an average cost of \$2.51 per gallon
  - 3. Air Units (proposed QRV)
    - \* PM \$300.00 (oil, air, fuel filters)
    - \* Brakes \$1,600.00
    - \* Tires \$2,800.00
    - \* Fuel
- H. Relief for Engine/Truck Companies
  - 1. Allows fire units to focus on fire department tasks such as pre-incident planning and hydrant maintenance.

# EMS—Medical

## Disadvantages:

### A. Training disparity:

1. Medical training does not cross over well to fire training and does not count toward ISO rating.

\* Caveat – EMS hours CAN be garnered from several aspects of fire training allowing for dual-role instruction to be accomplished.

### B. Personnel selection will have to be stringent.

1. Difficult for personnel to be proficient in multiple fields. (Jack of All Trades syndrome)

### C. Cost of expendables

1. Billing for services or some type of cost recovery program will have to be established.

### D. Potential political fallout/impact on MOU with South Georgia Medical Center.

### E. Possible necessity of increased liability and other insurance coverage.

## Equipment Needs:

### A. Vehicle

1. Recommend rescue/service body with remount ability.

\* Gasoline engine instead of diesel due to reduced maintenance cost and lower occurrence of issues arising from extended idle times on EMS calls.

\* Current available vehicles (Air-7, Air-9) will meet immediate needs with the additional advantage of having the ability to provide air at structure fires.

Air 7 (2002)

Air 9 (2000)



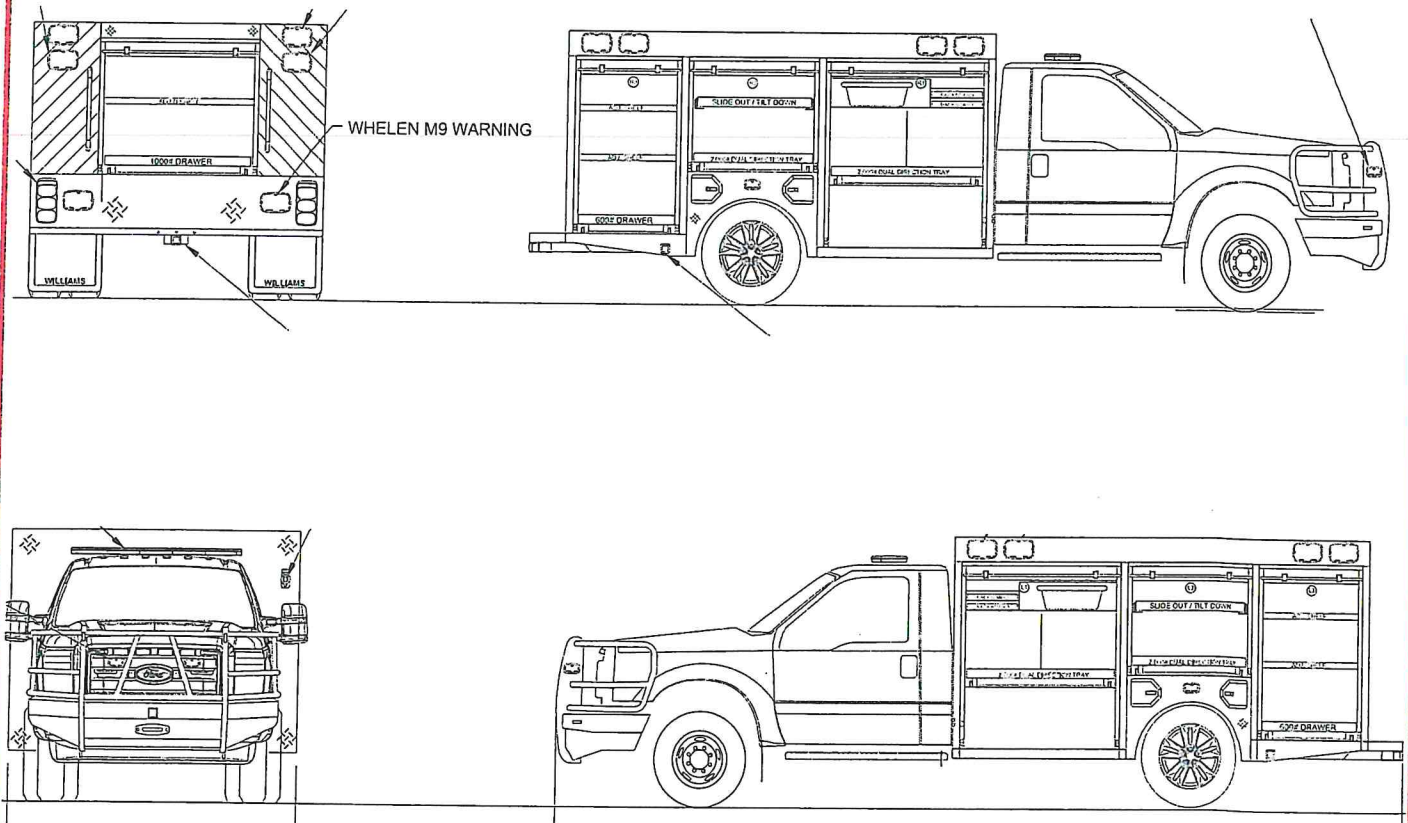
# EMS—Medical

## B. All Georgia required equipment for Medical First Responder Units.

### Personnel Needs:

- A. Incentive program for current staff based off of current license level.
- A. Two personnel per unit per shift (12 personnel to staff two units daily)
  - 1. Part-time or OT for fill-in (sick/vacation/Kelly)
- B. Supervision – 1 Person (current Battalion Chief would supervise daily)
  - 1. QC, license management, evaluation, billing/cost recovery liaison.
- C. Training – 1 Person
  - 1. CEU's, Skills Validations, In-Service Training, Initial EMS education.

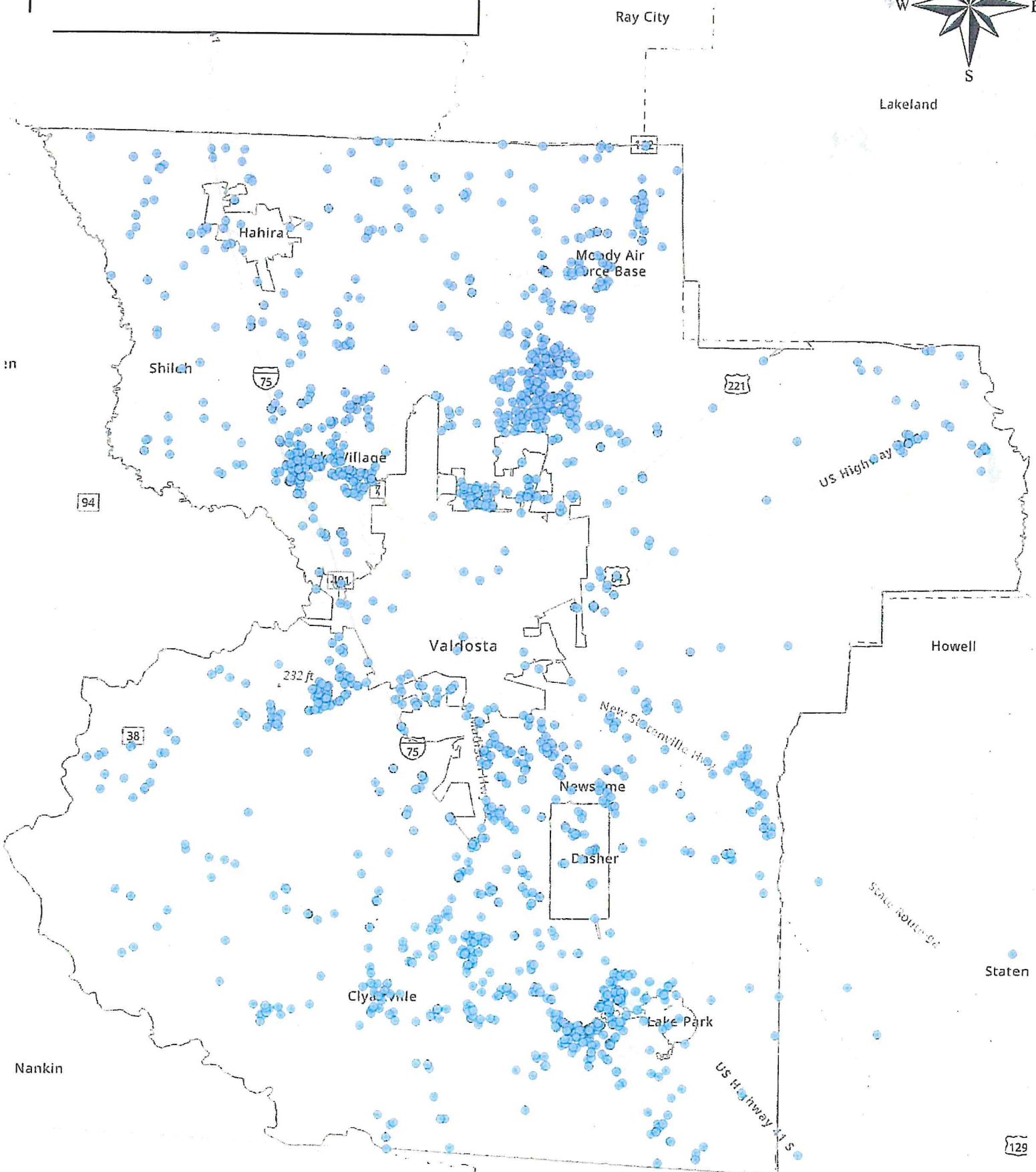
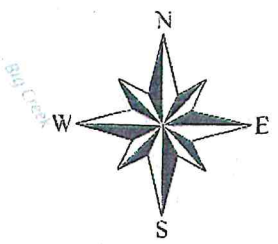
Proposed Cost for a new QRV is \$265,000.00 with a 4-6 month build time.





# LCFR EMS Calls

37



# Training-2024 Totals

Facility Training	Structural firefighting training completed at a drill field	2,277 hours
Company Training	Day-to-Day training completed on shift by all fire personnel	16,099 hours
Officer Training	Training completed by Sergeant rank and above	1,221 hours
Hazmat Training	Training completed by all fire personnel annually	1,672 hours
Driver/Operator Training	Training completed by Relief Driver and above	2,067 hours
Investigation	Training completed by our Investigators	258 hours
Fire & Life Safety Education	Training completed by our Fire and Life Safety Educators	61 hours
Inspection	Training completed by our Inspectors	293 hours



## Training-Fire

(LCFR) Training Division develops & delivers weekly department training for all three (3) shifts to ensure (LCFR) meets its mission and vision statement, to include receiving the required 24-hours for state certification per O.C.G.A. 205-1-3-.04 as well as the required (ISO) hours.

Facility Training	All fire personnel	18 hours
Company Training	All fire personnel	192 hours
Officer Training	Lieutenants/Acting Officers	12 hours
Hazmat Training	All fire personnel	6 hours
Driver/Operator Training	Relief Driver and above	12 hours
Investigation	Investigators	40 hours
Fire & Life Safety Education	Fire and Life Safety Educators	10 hours
Inspection	Inspectors	24 hours

While the State of Georgia only requires the 24-hours of minimum training, Lowndes County Fire Rescue (LCFR) requires our career staff to complete at least 216-hours for Firefighters, 228-hours for Driver Operators & 240-hours for Officers annually to satisfy the more stringent requirements of the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). While (ISO) credit is a major factor for (LCFR) being able to obtain the best rating possible, the primary reason for the additional training provides career staff the opportunity for professional growth to expand their knowledge and skill set in an all-hazards service. This additional training also paves the pathway for career staff to promote to higher-level positions within (LCFR). Today's fire service being considered an all-hazards service, with stringent training requirements, allows our organization to provide the highest level of service to our citizens and community stakeholders, by enabling our staff to obtain and maintain numerous specialized certifications in areas, such as hazardous materials response, technical rescue, medical response, vehicle extrication techniques, water rescue emergencies, community-risk reduction, etc.

All career staff are required by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (GFSTC) to complete at least 24-hours of training each year to maintain their state certification. The required 24-hours by (GFSTC) also ensures that any specialized state certifications are maintained (i.e.. Inspector, Investigator).

## Training-Fire

LCFR Training Division delivered a culmination of over 200+ hours of fire training that regional agencies took advantage of and attended. LCFR training division hosted and delivered the LCFR Boat Operator course, National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) Rescue Technician Rope Level I & II course, (NPQ) Apparatus Operator Pumper Engine course, (NPQ) Apparatus Operator Pumper Aerial course & hosted the (GFSTC) NPQ Evaluator course. This allows (LCFR) to reduce the amount of time each individual is away from family/shift and reduces budget usage in regards to travel and meals.

(LCFR) Training Division continues the efforts of building important relationships with community stakeholders, to allow (LCFR) the opportunity to participate in and/or direct several joint trainings, with area stakeholders at their facilities to improve resilience and interoperability among response agencies as well as community partners.

(LCFR) also maintains a healthy relationship with Georgia Fire Academy (GFA) in supporting their efforts to provide a quality curriculum and help satisfy the career matrix for individuals pursuing an opportunity for promotion. The (GFA) provides an array of classes that are needed and we budget 80-hours per individual annually to attend (GFA) classes. This provides career staff exposure to technological advancements, improved techniques and opportunity to network through-out the state.

(LCFR) Training Division develops & delivers two (2) separate recruit classes annually providing recruits with National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) Firefighter I, (NPQ) Firefighter II, (NPQ) Hazardous Materials Awareness & Operations, Georgia Firefighters Standards & Training (GFSTC) State Certified Firefighter certification & National Registry (NREMT) Emergency Medical Responder (EMR).

(LCFR) Training Division developed effective and efficient training programs within IFSTA Resource One at no cost towards the training budget, to provide staff members full-time & part-time the opportunity to complete training in different avenues such as online, blended or in-person instruction. This development has also streamlined testing and lectures, which reduces the amount of printing required, further reducing the impact on the budget.

## Training-EMS

In an all-hazards service, (LCFR) is also required to provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This piece of our response requires career staff an additional state of Georgia training requirement; to include 40-hours for all Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) levels and 16-hours for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), of continuing education (CEU) biennial for Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), to maintain state certification. (EMR) staff are required to maintain their National Registry which includes 16-hours of (CEU) biennial for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR). National Registry licensed (EMT) levels are required biennial 40-hours of (CEU) for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), 50-hours of (CEU) for Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), 60-hours of (CEU) for Paramedic National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

<b>Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) Training Requirements Biennial Staff must maintain a State of Georgia licensure with (DPH)</b>		
EMT-Responder	State or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education (CEU)	16 hours
EMT	State or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education (CEU)	40 hours
EMT-Intermediate	State or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education (CEU)	40 hours
AEMT-Advanced	State or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education (CEU)	40 hours
Paramedic	State or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education (CEU)	40 hours

<b>National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Training Requirements Biennial Required only if individual desires to maintain (NREMT) certification</b>		
EMR	State or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education (CEU)	16 hours
EMT	State or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education (CEU)	40 hours
AEMT-Advanced	State or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education (CEU)	50 hours
Paramedic	State or CAPCE approved EMS continuing education (CEU)	60 hours

# Office of the Fire Marshal

The Office of the Fire Marshal conducted Fire and Life Safety Inspections in accordance with the Georgia State Minimum Standards as adopted by the Rules and Regulations 120-3-3. The Rules and Regulations are adopted by Lowndes County. The Fire Marshal's Office consists of the Fire Marshal and three inspectors. Each inspector is assigned a territory in which the inspections are conducted on commercial properties. Fire inspection are performed to increase the prevention of fire, maintain lower insurance rates, and to keep our community safe.

During 2024, The Fire Marshal's Office completed the following inspections:

- \* 24 Certificate of Occupancy issued
- \* 1,051 Annual/Periodic Inspections
- \* 142 Re-Inspections
- \* 88 Land Clearing Inspections
- \* 52 80%/100% Inspections

## FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

2024 the Fire Marshal's Office completed the following events:

<u>Education</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Participants</u>
Friendly Firefighter	16	3,350
Fire Extinguisher	2	45
Community Events	26	6,600
School/Day Care	16	3,200

