



ARNPRIOR

**Minutes of Council Meeting
March 23rd, 2026, 6:30 PM**

Town Hall, Council Chambers – 105 Elgin St. W. Arnprior, ON.

Council and Staff Attendance

Council Members Present:

Mayor Lisa McGee
County Councillor Dan Lynch
Councillor Ted Strike
Councillor Tom Burnette
Councillor Lynn Cloutier
Councillor Chris Toner
Councillor Chris Couper

Town Staff Present:

Robin Paquette, CAO
Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk
Jennifer Morawiec, GM Client
Services/Treasurer
Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk
John Steckly, GM Operations
Sheena Baum, A/Environmental Engineer
Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of Community
Services/Planner
Kelly Vieira, Client Services Coordinator

Council Members Absent:

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lisa McGee called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed those present.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called, with all Members of Council being present.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Lisa McGee asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work, and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

4. Adoption of the Agenda (Additions/Deletions)

Resolution Number 069-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

Be it Resolved That the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated Monday, March 23rd, 2026, be adopted.

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None

6. Question Period

None

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 070-26

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Chris Toner

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council listed under Item 7(a) on the agenda be adopted (Regular Meeting of Council – March 9, 2026).

Resolution Carried

8. Awards/Delegations/Presentations

a) Delegations

i. Renfrew County Road Supervisors Association (RCRSA)/2026 Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) Municipal Trade Show

Chris Mantha from the Renfrew County Road Supervisors Association (RCRSA) and Board Member of Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) provided Council with an overview of the presentation included in the agenda package, providing information to showcase the upcoming AORS Trade Show taking place in the Town of Petawawa this year on June 3-4, 2026.

Mayor McGee and Members of Council thanked Mr. Mantha for the information and his presentation.

b) Presentations

i. Council Remuneration Committee – 2026-2030 Council Remuneration Recommendation

Members of the Council Remuneration Committee provided Council with an overview of the presentation included in the agenda package.

Discussion ensued among Members of Council resulting in Council requesting staff to bring forward a report at the next meeting to provide:

- Specific breakdown of the current compensation.
- Details on OMERS.
- Information on the Honorarium policy as well as an options review for honorariums for the Deputy Mayor in the event of an extended absence of the Head of Council.
- Comparator charts.
- Summary of duties and responsibilities for all positions, including the duties from the County for the Deputy Mayor position.

Mayor McGee and Council thanked the Council Remuneration Committee for their work and for providing their recommendations.

9. Public Meetings

None

10. Matters Tabled/Deferred/Unfinished Business

None

11. Notice of Motion(s)

None

12. Staff Reports

a) Support for Rural Eastern Ontario Affordable Housing Pipeline, Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of Community Services/Planner

Resolution Number 071-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Chris Couper

That Council authorizes the Mayor to sign the letter of support for the rural Eastern Ontario housing pipeline to be submitted to Cahdco for inclusion with their application to Build Canada Homes for federal funding to support regional affordable housing development in Eastern Ontario.

Resolution Carried

b) Official Plan Amendment No. 10 (OPA-10) Application – 400 Division Street,
Manager of Community Services/Planner

Resolution Number 072-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council pass a by-law approving Amendment No.10 to the Official Plan for the Town of Arnprior as requested; and

Further That the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to make application to the County of Renfrew for approval of Amendment No. 10 to the Official Plan for the Town of Arnprior; and

Further That Council has considered all written and oral submissions received on this application, the effect of which has helped Council make an informed decision.

Resolution Carried

c) Awarding of Tender PW-2026-03 Arnprior 2026 Tree Planting Project, Sheena Baum, A/Environmental Engineering Officer

Resolution Number 073-26

Moved by Chris Toner

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

That Council award Tender PW-2026-03 to Orange Paysagement Inc. for the amount of \$110,235.34 (incl. HST); and

That Council authorizes the CAO to execute the agreements and related documents with Orange Paysagement Inc.

Resolution Carried

d) Procurement of Municipal Sidewalk Tractor, John Steckly, GM Operations

Resolution Number 074-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Ted Strike

That Council enact a by-law to:

- a) Award the Purchase of One Trackless MT7 articulating municipal sidewalk tractor with accessories to Joe Johnson Equipment, for a total of \$200,299.33 (plus HST); and
- b) Authorize the funding shortfall of \$3,824.60 from the Development Charge Reserve; and
- c) Authorize the CAO to execute the agreements, and related documents with Joe Johnson Equipment, to supply and deliver the equipment.

Resolution Carried

e) **Proclamation – National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week**, Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk

Resolution Number 075-26

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

That Council proclaim April 12th to 18th, 2026, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in the Town of Arnprior.

Resolution Carried

The Town Clerk read the proclamation:

Whereas emergencies can strike without warning, necessitating immediate action and the involvement of well-prepared emergency services; and

Whereas the Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Renfrew Central Ambulance Communications Centre, Ontario Provincial Police, and the Brockville Fire Department serve as the unsung heroes and vital first point of contact in these critical moments, acting with speed, precision, and empathy; and

Whereas Public Safety Telecommunicators skillfully dispatch paramedic services, fire departments and police services, coordinating essential resources and personnel to manage crises effectively and efficiently; and

Whereas their expertise and calm demeanor under pressure ensure the efficient coordination of life-saving services, bridging the gap between the community in distress and the swift response of emergency services; and

Whereas through their diligent efforts, Public Safety Telecommunicators uphold the highest standards of public safety, contributing significantly to the protection of life and property; and

Whereas their role as the cornerstone of the emergency response system is characterized by a remarkable commitment to providing care and ensuring the safety of both the public and emergency responders; and

Whereas the professionalism, skill, and compassion exhibited by these dedicated individuals not only save lives but also provide reassurance and hope to those in urgent need; and,

Now Therefore, I, Lisa McGee, Mayor of Arnprior, do hereby proclaim April 12th to 18th, 2026 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in the Town of Arnprior and encourage all residents to acknowledge and celebrate the exceptional service and commitment of our local Public Safety Telecommunicators whose work is essential in maintaining the safety and well-being of our community.

- f) **Proclamation – World Autism Awareness Day (April 2, 2026)**, Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk, and Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk

Resolution Number 076-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Council proclaim April 2nd, 2026, as World Autism Awareness Day in the Town of Arnprior.

Resolution Carried

The Town Clerk read the proclamation:

Whereas Autism Spectrum Disorder impacts more than 135,000 individuals in Ontario and is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition that affects the way a person communicates and relates to people and the world around them. It can affect body language and posture, social interactions and relationships, how you engage with your interests, and sensory processing capacities; and

Whereas every year on April 2nd the United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated, with this year being the 18th annual World Autism Awareness Day with the theme of “Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value”, highlighting and affirming the dignity and worth of all autistic people as part of our shared human future; and

Whereas the United Nations will be hosting an online virtual event, which the Town of Arnprior will share, that will discuss and explore the role of neurodiversity in shaping policies that advance health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, economic opportunity, reduced inequalities, sustainable communities, and strong institutions; and

Whereas Autism Ontario is a charitable organization, in Ontario, being one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community in our region and across the province. This year Autism Ontario is promoting “Celebrate the Spectrum – Endless Possibilities in Every Pattern” with many events and ways to participate and support Autism Awareness available on their website: <https://www.autismontario.com/> ; and

Whereas the Town of Arnprior is committed to supporting those individuals with different abilities in our community, including those with Autism, through various programming and supports, including but not limited to - low-sensory programming options; availability of sensory backpacks at the Arnprior & District Museum; staffing the position of Inclusive Camp Counsellor for summer programs; and ensuring staff training on working with children and people with cognitive and developmental disabilities; and

Whereas the Town of Arnprior will light the Arnprior & District Museum Clock Tower Blue on April 2, 2026, for the month of April to bring awareness.

Therefore I, Lisa McGee, Mayor of the Town of Arnprior, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2026, as World Autism Awareness Day and in the Town of Arnprior and encourage all residents, staff, and Members of Council to participate in activities and events shared, as well as recognize and celebrate the unique differences and needs of others, fostering an inclusive environment where all individuals can participate fully in our community. Together, we can create a society that values and includes everyone.

13. Committee Reports and Minutes

a) Mayor's Report

Mayor Lisa McGee reported the following:

- Last week, Mayor McGee had the pleasure of joining the onTrac Job Fair at the Nick Smith Centre. There were lots of employers and job seekers in attendance at the event. Mayor McGee had the chance to speak with some employers and job seekers themselves, as well as the onTrac folks. One of the trends they are seeing is that employment support workers are playing more of a social services role.
- Mayor McGee was in Renfrew at the Mateway Centre for the Funders Forum. Mayor McGee met with Carmen Gould after the event to discuss ongoing trends with grants and some of the upcoming funding opportunities. There are some exciting opportunities on the horizon.
- Mayor McGee had a meeting with Councillor Riley Brockington, City of Ottawa, who is an AMO President hopeful. Riley had been visiting Mississippi Mills and Arnprior and met with Mayor McGee to discuss what AMO is providing in terms of ongoing advocacy, and where municipalities need their support. Mayor McGee highlighted the ongoing concerns about sustainable funding for OPP services.
- Last week, Mayor McGee attended the presentation of a donation from NuTech to the Arnprior Fire Department. NuTech has generously donated a SMART board for the Fire Department which will be a huge asset in the event of an emergency and for training at the station. The presentation was followed by a tour of the station, led by the Fire Chief. The Town is very grateful and appreciates the generous donation from NuTech.
- Mayor McGee received a call from MPP Denault regarding a successful grant. The Town has been approved for a Community Emergency Preparedness Grant by the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response. This grant will directly support the installation of an emergency generator at Town Hall. Town Hall is the municipal hub and back up emergency operations centre. The grant will allow for the installation of a generator that will provide back-up power which will allow for sustained essential communications, support staff operations, and provide a dependable location for emergency coordination when it is most needed. The grant is in the amount of \$44,146. Mayor McGee thanked Cory

Nicholas, Patrick Foley, and Sid Curtis for their efforts to get this successful grant funding, and the province for supporting our needs.

b) County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Dan Lynch reported the following:

- Due to weather, the County Council meeting on March 11, 2026, was cancelled and a Special Meeting was called for March 12, 2026.
- The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service is advancing its leadership in wilderness and remote-access paramedicine through the development of the 2026 Wilderness Response Symposium to be held June 10-12 at Camp Arowhon in Algonquin Park.
- As part of the Health Committee Report, Directors of Care from Bonnechere Manor, Quin Leury, and Miramichi Lodge, Allison Lepack, presented the 2026-2027 Quality Improvement Plan.
- Recently the Manager of Community Supports has been invited to participate in the Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) as Co-Chair. The HSJCC works to strengthen cross-sector system planning, coordinate supports, and improve outcomes for individuals with complex needs who intersect with health, justice, and social services systems and is comprised of representatives from the following agencies: Mental Health Services of Renfrew County, John Howard Society, Pathways Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services, HART Hub, Duty Counsel, Ottawa Carleton Detention Centre, Probation and Parole Services, Ontario Provincial Police, Mobile Crisis Response Team, Legal Aid Ontario, Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre, YouTurn, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Mental Health Services, Addiction Treatment Services, Mackay Manor, Family and Children's Services, Valor and Solutions, Munsterman Law, and Community Services.
- Eastern Ontario Regional Network Report for the end of February 2026:
 - Upgrades to existing towers: 25 planned, 25 completed
 - New towers: 47 planned, 41 completed
 - New co-locations: 11 planned, 10 completed
 - Land use authority: 47 planned, 46 completed
- County Warden Jennifer Murphy sent a letter in support of Arnprior's Airport to the Airport Management Council of Ontario regarding the Capital Assistance Program.

c) Committee Reports and Minutes

i. Culture & Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2025

Resolution Number 077-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Ted Strike

That Council receive the minutes of the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting (November 3, 2025) for information.

Resolution Carried

Councillor Chris Couper reported the following from the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee:

- Councillor Couper welcomed Davey Quesnelle and Jamie Campbell to the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee. The Committee also appointed a new chair, being Committee Member Leslie Anne Hook.
- The Committee has moved forward with the Land Acknowledgement Statement and have requested staff present it to Council in the near future.

14. Correspondence & Petitions

a) Correspondence

i. Correspondence Package No. I-26-MAR-06

Resolution Number 078-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Chris Toner

That Correspondence Package Number I-26-MAR-06 be received as information and filed accordingly.

Resolution Carried

County Councillor Lynch made the following comments:

- Page 11: The Ontario Government is proposing changes that would allow retail business establishments to open Family Day and Victoria Day.
- Page 17: The Ontario Government is supporting French language services in communities with the launch of 2026-2027 Francophone Community Grant.
- Page 20: The Ontario Government is going to provide elementary teachers with direct access to \$750 in funding each school year for supplies.

- Page 28: The Ontario Government is proposing an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act that would permit single occupant vehicles to use the “High Occupancy Vehicle” Lane during off peak hours.
- Page 31: To help support tourism, the Ontario Government is expanding the “bring your own alcohol” policy to cultural and community outdoor events with municipal designation.
- Page 52: Environment and Climate Change Canada is seeking feedback on their Sustainable Development Strategy by May 12. County Councillor Lynch asked the CAO if the Town has provided any feedback.
 - The CAO noted that staff will review and provide feedback if necessary.
- Page 59: Highlighted the minutes of the South Ottawa Valley Police Detachment Board meeting from February 4, 2026. County Councillor Lynch asked Mayor McGee if it would be possible to identify the attendees by first and last name.
 - Mayor McGee noted they will bring this request back to have included the next meeting.

Councillor Couper made the following comment:

- Page 76: The Renfrew County Neurodiversity Resource Fair is offering programs and services for neurodivergent children, youth, and families at the Horton Community Centre on Saturday, April 25th. This is the first year this event is being held and is presented by Horton Township and Dragonfly Community Services. It will be a mix of vendors and seminars. Registration for this low-ratio event is free and there are two time slots: 10 AM to 1 PM or 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Details are available at dragonflyfamilyandlearning.ca.

ii. Correspondence Package No. A-26-MAR-04

Resolution Number 079-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That Correspondence Package Number A-26-MAR-04 be received and the recommendations be brought forward for Council’s consideration.

Resolution Carried

Councillor Couper made the following comment:

- Item 1 of Correspondence Package No. A-26-MAR-04 is a resolution of support for the Ontario Roads Supervisors. Councillor Couper noted that there were details in the information that were concerning. Councillor Couper noted the following items of concern:
 - Over the past several winter seasons, the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) has heard from members across the province about a troubling and escalating trend - aggressive and dangerous behaviour from members of the public directed at municipal workers and subcontractors maintaining roads, sidewalks, and other critical infrastructure.
 - They have received reports across the province of individuals throwing chunks of ice at active municipal equipment, threats to kill sidewalk and plow operators, a person climbing onto a snow plow and refusing to get off until their road was cleared first, staff confronted and aggressively yelled at in public spaces, including at gas stations and coffee shops, a voicemail threatening to shoot a plow driver with a shotgun, a resident jumping in front of an active plow during a major storm and refusing to move, delaying operations for over an hour and jeopardizing overall service levels.
 - The resolution of support on the agenda is a call to action to protect municipal public works operators and call upon the Province of Ontario to designate them as essential service providers during significant weather events and emergencies.
- Councillor Couper thanked the Town's public works staff, especially on the heels of a long winter. He noted that staff should never have to face threats and harassment simply for doing their jobs.

15. By-laws & Resolutions

a) By-laws

Resolution Number 080-26

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Chris Toner

That the following by-laws be and are hereby passed:

- i. By-law No. 7659-26 – OPA-10 – 400 Division Street
- ii. By-law No. 7660-26 – Procurement of MT7 Municipal Sidewalk Tractor (Joe Johnson Equipment)
- iii. By-law No. 7661-26 – Awarding of Tender PW-2026-03 Arnprior 2026 Tree Planting Project

Resolution Carried

b) Resolutions

i. 2025 Integrity Commissioner Annual Report

Resolution Number 081-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Tom Burnette

That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the 2025 Annual Integrity Commissioner Report, dated March 16, 2026, for information.

Resolution Carried

ii. Resolution of Support – Association of Ontario Road Supervisors – Protection for Municipal Public Works Workers and Contractors

Resolution Number 082-26

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by ted Strike

Whereas municipal public works employees and contracted service providers are responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, bridges, drainage systems, and winter maintenance operations that are essential to public safety and emergency response; and

Whereas during significant weather events and emergencies, these workers act as frontline responders, ensuring routes remain open for ambulances, fire services, police, school transportation, and the travelling public; and

Whereas municipalities across Ontario are reporting an increase in harassment, threats, intimidation, and dangerous interference from members of the public directed at municipal workers and subcontractors while they perform their duties; and

Whereas these behaviours have included verbal abuse, threats of violence, obstruction of equipment, and actions that delay or disrupt winter maintenance and emergency response operations, placing workers and the broader public at risk; and

Whereas interference with municipal operations during storms and emergencies jeopardizes service levels, delays critical response times, and creates significant occupational health and safety risks; and

Whereas the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) has formally called on the Province of Ontario to strengthen legislative protections, enforcement support, and consequences for those who threaten or obstruct municipal public works staff and contractors;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Arnprior supports the calls to action advanced by the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to improve protections for municipal public works workers and subcontractors; and

Be it further resolved that the Province of Ontario be requested to introduce legislative and enforcement measures that:

- recognize municipal public works workers and contractors as essential service providers during declared significant weather events and emergencies;
- deter and penalize interference, threats, harassment, or obstruction of municipal operations; and
- provide clear direction and support to police services to proactively respond to these incidents;

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to MPP Billy Denault, The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors, the County of Renfrew and County of Renfrew municipalities for their consideration.

Resolution Carried

iii. **Resolution of Support – Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy**

Resolution Number 083-26

Moved by Chris Toner

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

Whereas Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

Whereas The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

Whereas the maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

Whereas rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

Whereas Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

Therefore be it resolved that Council of the Town of Arnprior formally supports a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

Further that this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, MPP Billy Denault, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and AMO for consideration and support.

Resolution Carried

16. Announcements

County Councillor Dan Lynch made the following announcement:

- Thanked the Arnprior Packers for a fabulous season. Although the Packers did not advance to the finals, it was a great year.

Councillor Chris Couper made the following announcements:

- The 2nd Annual Bunny Run will be at Robert Simpson Park on Saturday, April 4th from 12 – 2 PM. Building on last year’s success, the team has added a new 10km route. Registration is \$55 and folks can sign up at www.arnprior.ca/bunnyrun
- The Easter Bunny will be returning to various Arnprior parks on Saturday, April 4th with help from the Arnprior Optimistic Women’s Club. Stay tuned to Arnprior Life social media for updates about locations for this annual Easter visit.
- Vendor applications are now open for the Arnprior Market. Applications for the 2026 market season are open for vendor booths, community booths, and youth booths. The youth booth is an amazing opportunity that the Town offers young entrepreneurs to be able to participate at no cost to sell their wares at the market. Details are available at arnprior.ca/market. June 7th is opening day.
- The Arnprior Army Cadets will be doing a food bank drive this Saturday, March 28th from 9am to 3pm at Metro and No Frills. Please donate high demand items, especially small, canned meats, condiments, and personal/feminine hygiene products, to help support the Arnprior and District Food Bank.
- The Galilee Centre will be hosting an Arts and Crafts Retreat this weekend. Prices start at \$70 for a one-day pass or stay the whole weekend for \$400. Register now at galileecentre.com.
- Acknowledged all the athletes that played in the year end National Capital Ringette Tournament. Congratulations to the Arnprior Devils U14 B Team Curry, who brought home a new banner for the Glenn Arthur Arena with a gold medal win. Congratulations to all the ladies who participated in tournament.
- Councillor Couper wished Councillor Toner a happy birthday.

17. Closed Session

Resolution Number 084-26 (8:18 PM)

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That Council move into Closed Session to discuss one (1) matter pursuant to Section 239 (2)(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, to discuss a personal matter about an identifiable individual, including municipal or Local Board employees (Town Awards – Volunteer, Senior, Youth and Town Awards); and one (1) matter pursuant to Section 239 (2)(f) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, to discuss advise subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose (Contract Negotiation).

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 085-26 (8:46 PM)

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

That Council resume to Open Session.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 086-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Chris Couper

That Council direct staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session regarding awarding the 2026 awards.

Resolution Carried

18. Confirmatory By-law

Resolution Number 087-26

Moved by Tom Burnette

Seconded by Ted Strike

That By-law No. 7662-26, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 23rd, 2026, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution Carried

19. Adjournment

Resolution Number 088-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Dan Lynch

That this meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Resolution Carried

Signatures

Lisa McGee, Mayor

Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk

Request to Appear as a Delegation Form

Topic *

Just Good Compost- introduction and request for support

Type of Meeting *

Council

Meeting Date

3/9/2026



Who are you representing

- Myself
- My Business
- Other

Please specify your business or other representation *

Environmental collaboration with L'Arche Annprior

Reason for Appearing *

My name is Dr. Will Affleck. I am the founder of Just Good Compost. We are an organics diversion service that collects food waste from residents and businesses and turns them into finished compost which we then return to the customer for their gardens. We are also a social enterprise focused on providing employment for people with developmental disabilities. We started in Almonte in 2022 and moved into Carlton Place in 2024. With the support of Arnprior's Environmental Advisory Committee we started collecting food waste in Arnprior in November 2025. We are collaborating with L'Arche Arnprior to provide payed work for their members.

We currently serve 600 households in Lanark County. This has allowed us to divert over 113.6 tonnes (250 000 lbs)

of organic waste from the Landfill. As a result, 26.0 tonnes of methane gas was NOT produced in the landfill.

Methane gas

is 28x more damaging to the climate than CO₂. Thus, serving only the communities of Almonte and Carleton Place, Just Good Compost has reduced emissions by the equivalent of 1, 440,000 kilometres of driving! We are also employing 32 people with developmental disabilities. Known as the "Bucket Brigade" these team members are responsible for washing and disinfecting the buckets that we use to collect food waste each week. We currently have a waiting list of over 15 people join the bucket washing crew.

I would like to present our program to Council and ask that the town promote our program along their different channels (for example, social media, a write up in Arnprior Life). By raising awaness about our program and our collaboration with L'Arche I am sure we can make a similar environmental and social impact as the other communities we work in. We can also work directly with the town to provide composting services for special events, festivals, etc.

Do you have material to distribute at the meeting *

Yes

No

If yes please specify *

I can share our pamphlets and posters.

Do you have a copy of your notes and/or presentation to attach? *

Yes

No

Please Note: All material to be distributed at the meeting and/or any electronic presentations must be received by the Town Clerk no later than 12:00 PM (noon) the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Materials must follow the guidelines provided on the back on this form.

Contact Information

Name *

Will Affleck

Address *

[REDACTED]

Phone Number *

[REDACTED]

E-mail Address *

[REDACTED]

I hereby consent to the release of my personal contact information for the purposes of the agenda preparation and meeting *

I Agree

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O c.M.56 as amended and will be used to document delegates names, addresses, and key messages for Advisory Committees and Council. Inquiries may be directed to the Town Clerk by telephone at 613-623-4231 ext. 1818 or by email at clerks@arnprior.ca.



ARNPRIOR
• WHERE THE RIVERS MEET •

Fire Department Annual Report

Rick Desarmia, Fire Chief
April 13, 2026

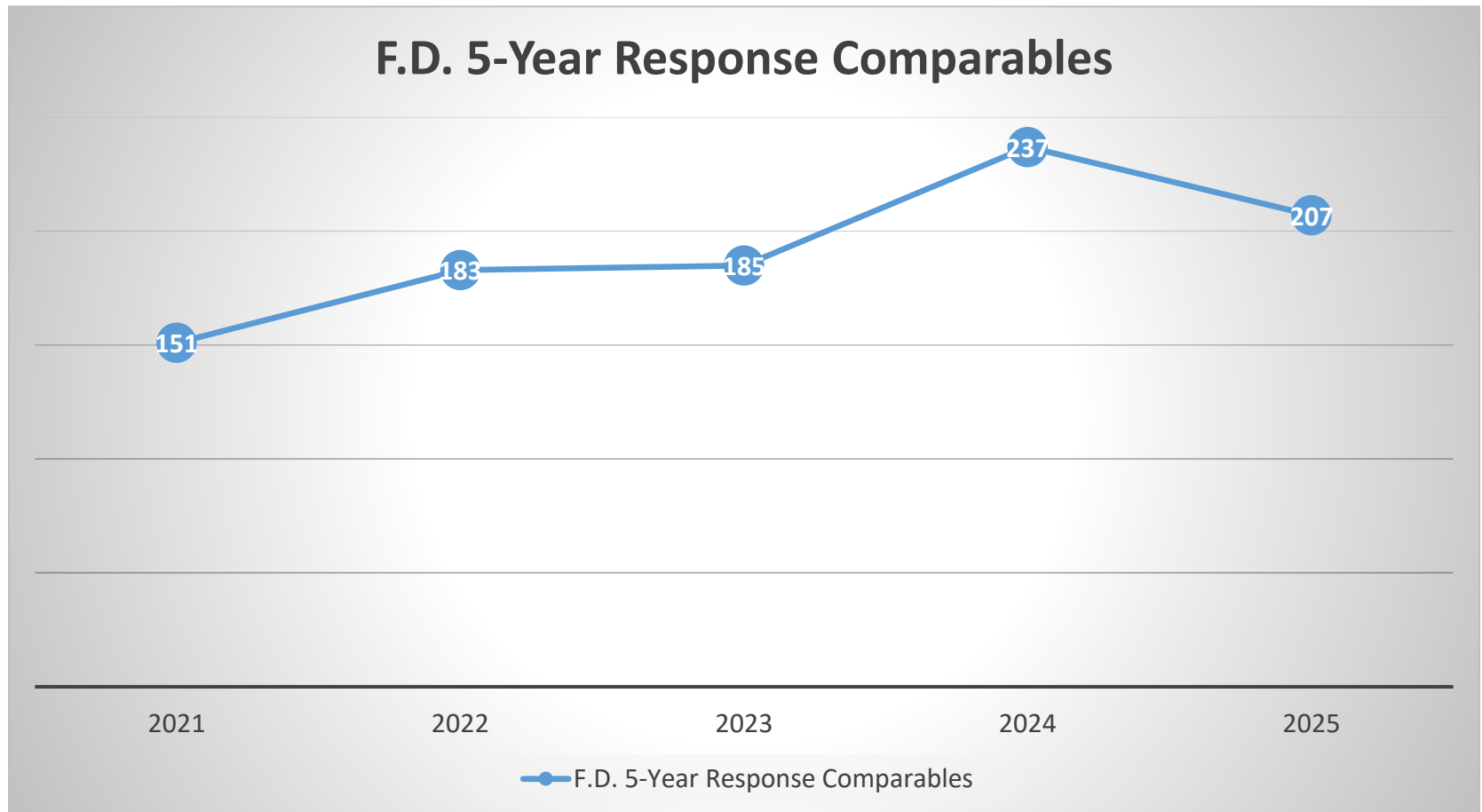


2025 F.D. Statistics

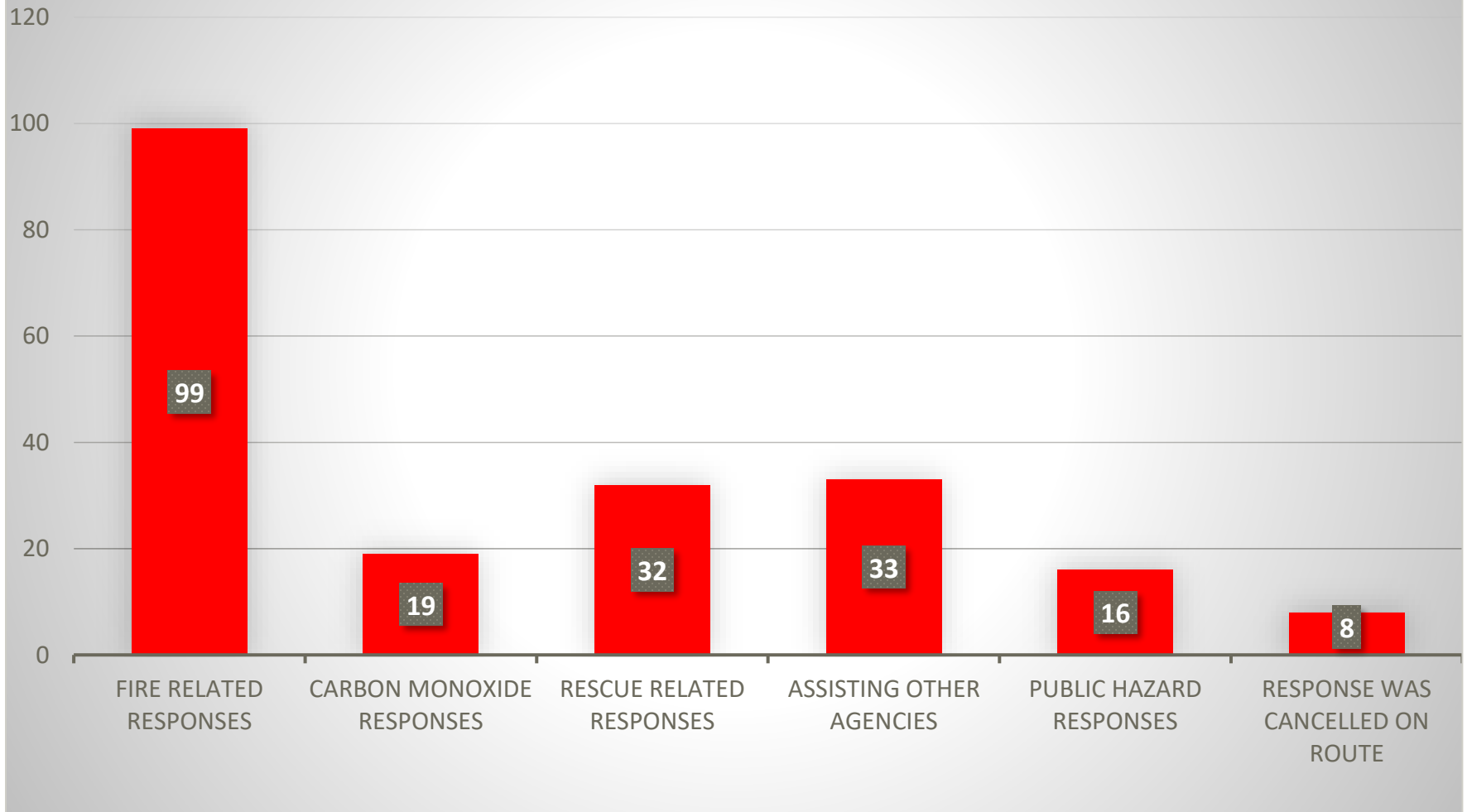
- In 2025 the community called upon the fire department on 207 occasions for an emergency response.
- This is a reduction in the 237 calls received in 2024 but still an increase from previous years.



2025 F.D. Statistics

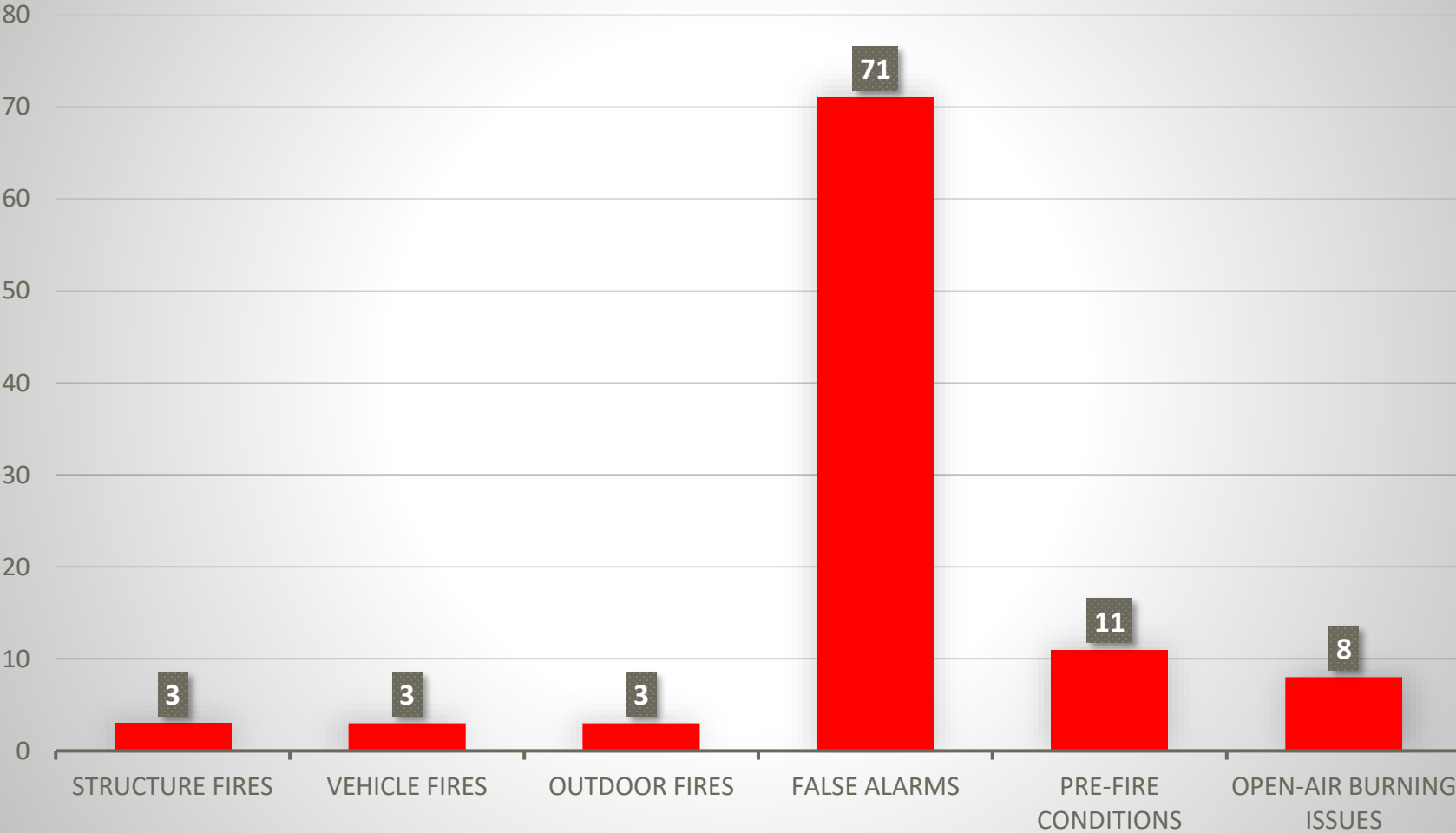


2025 Fire Department Responses

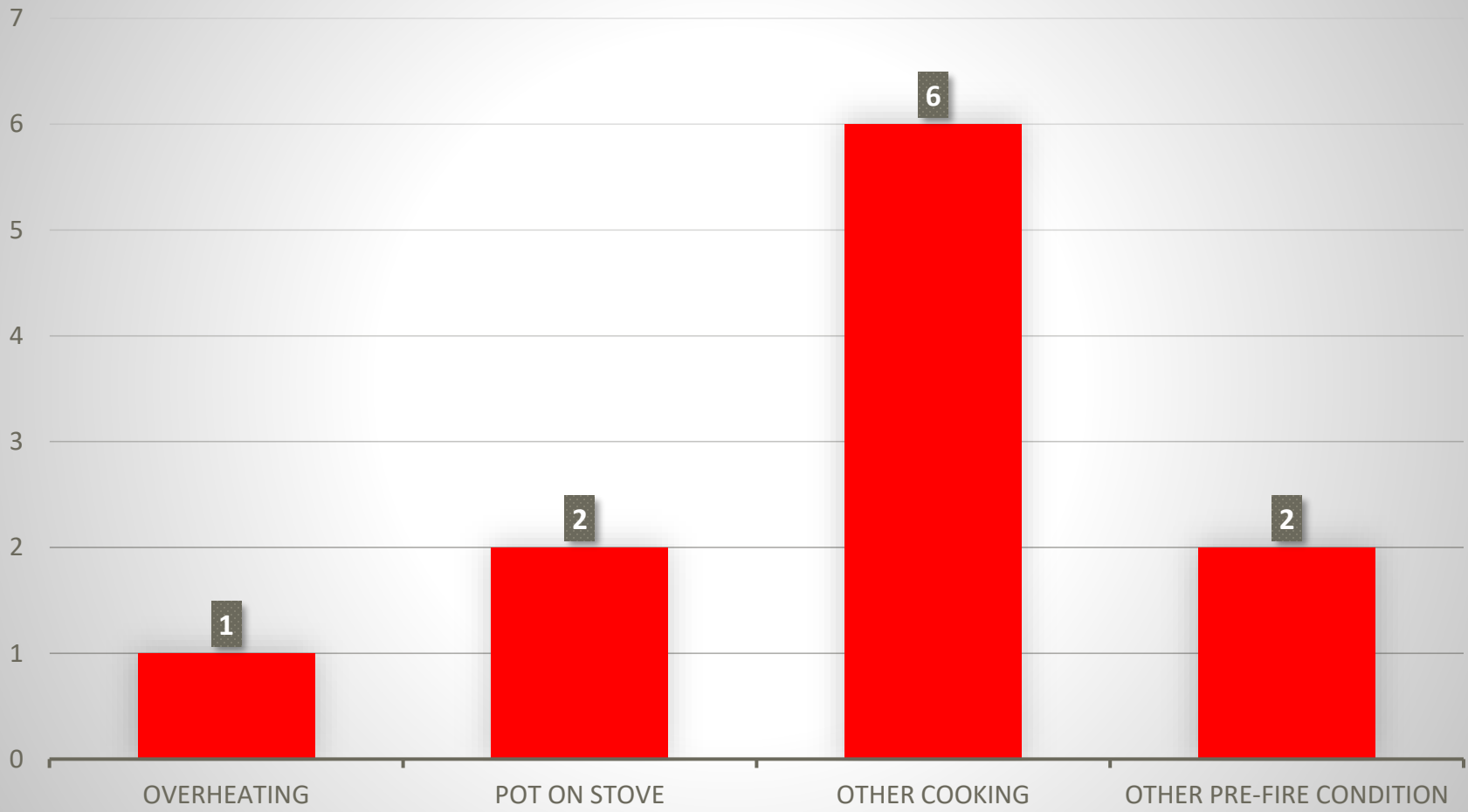


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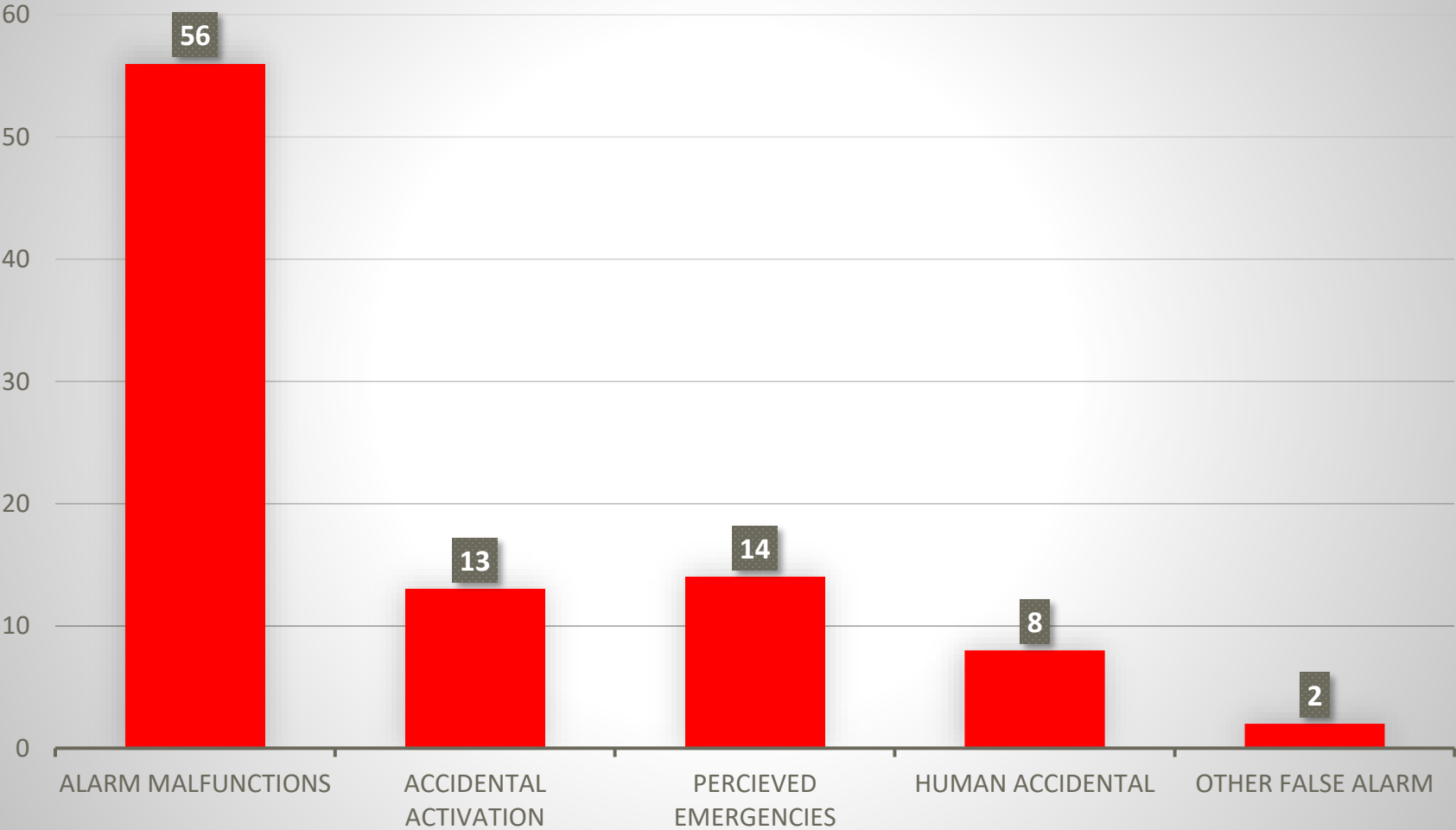
Fire Related Responses



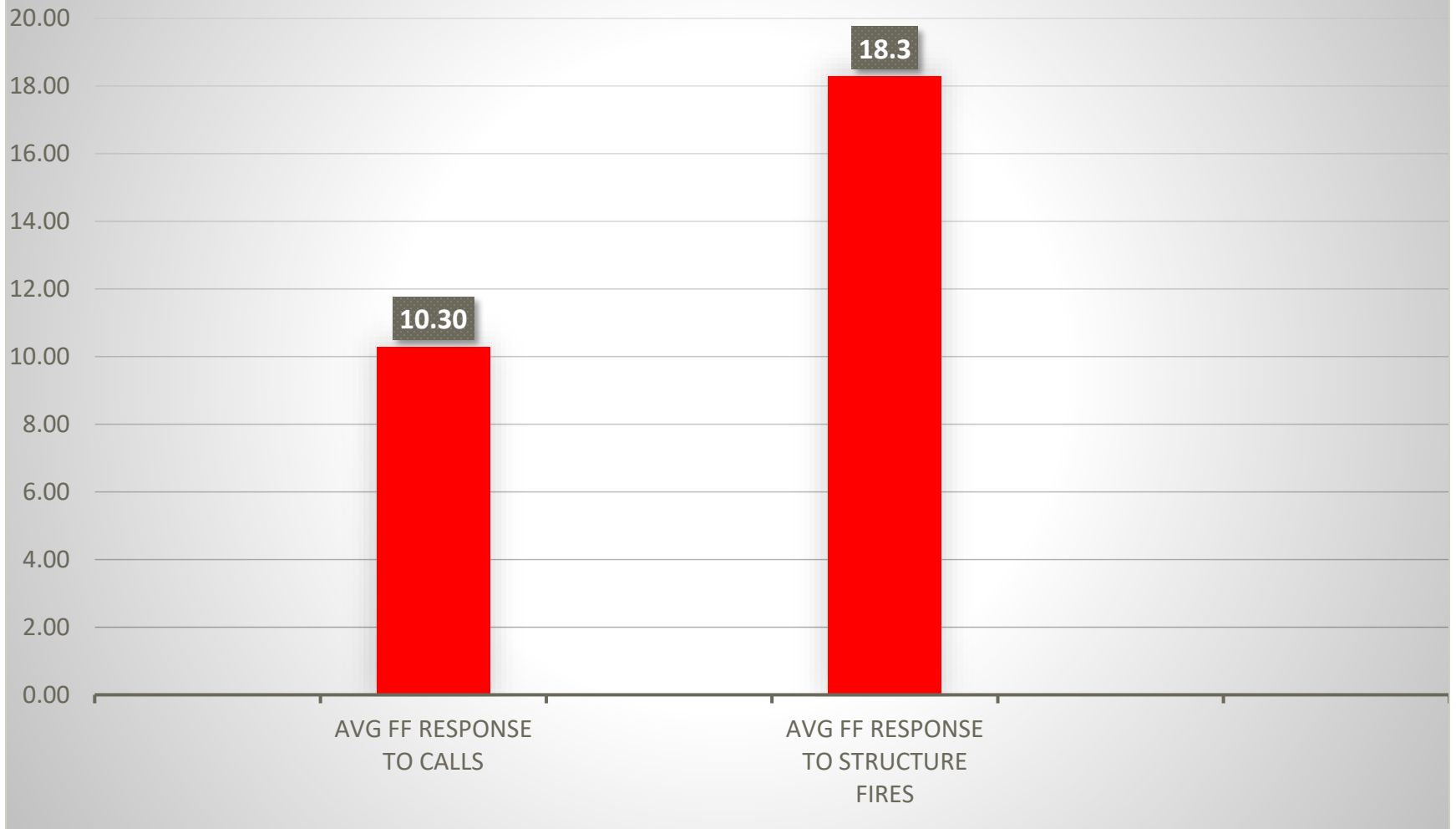
Pre-Fire Conditions



False Alarm Calls

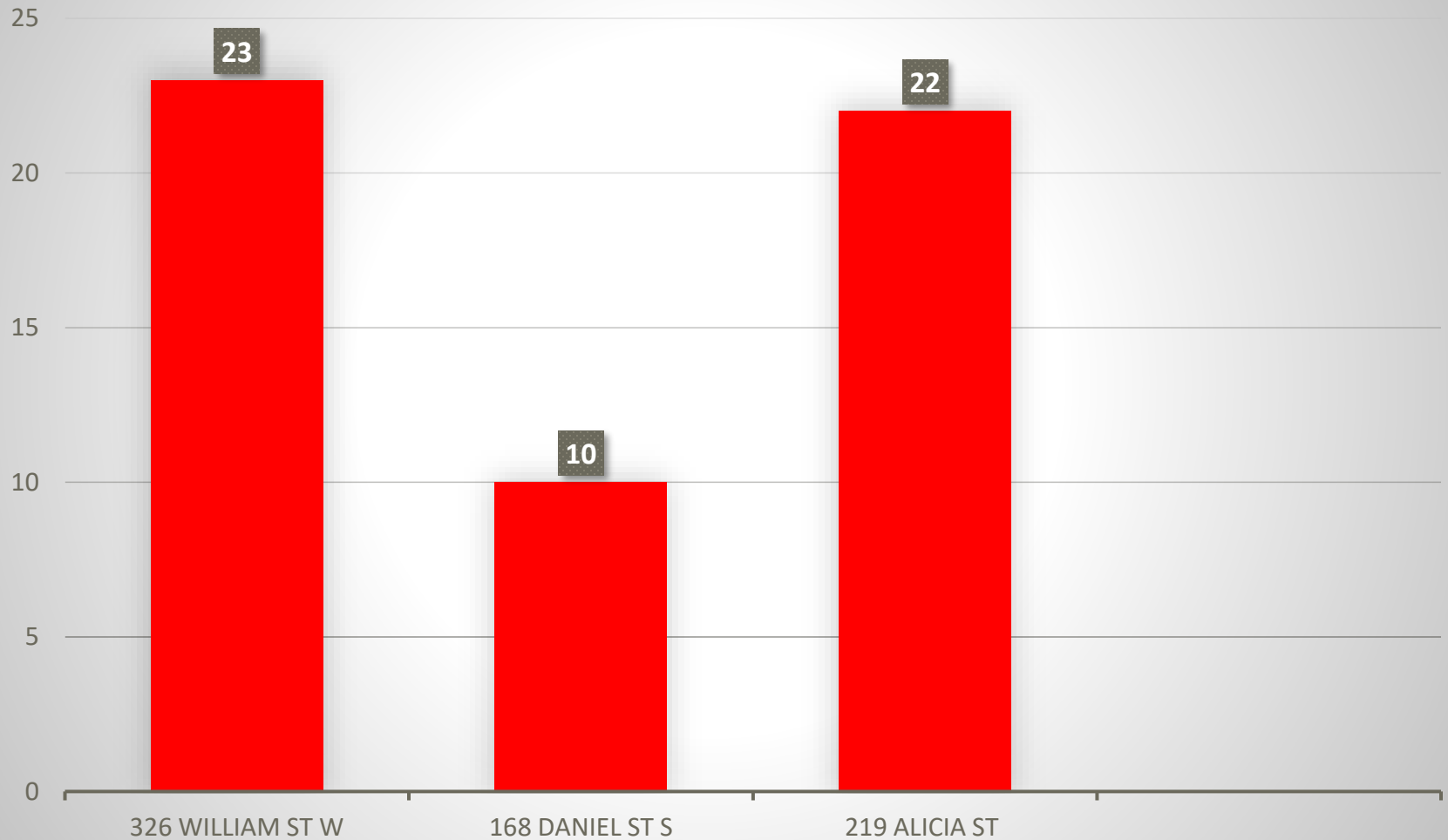


2025 Responding Personnel Averages



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Personnel Response # to Structure Fires

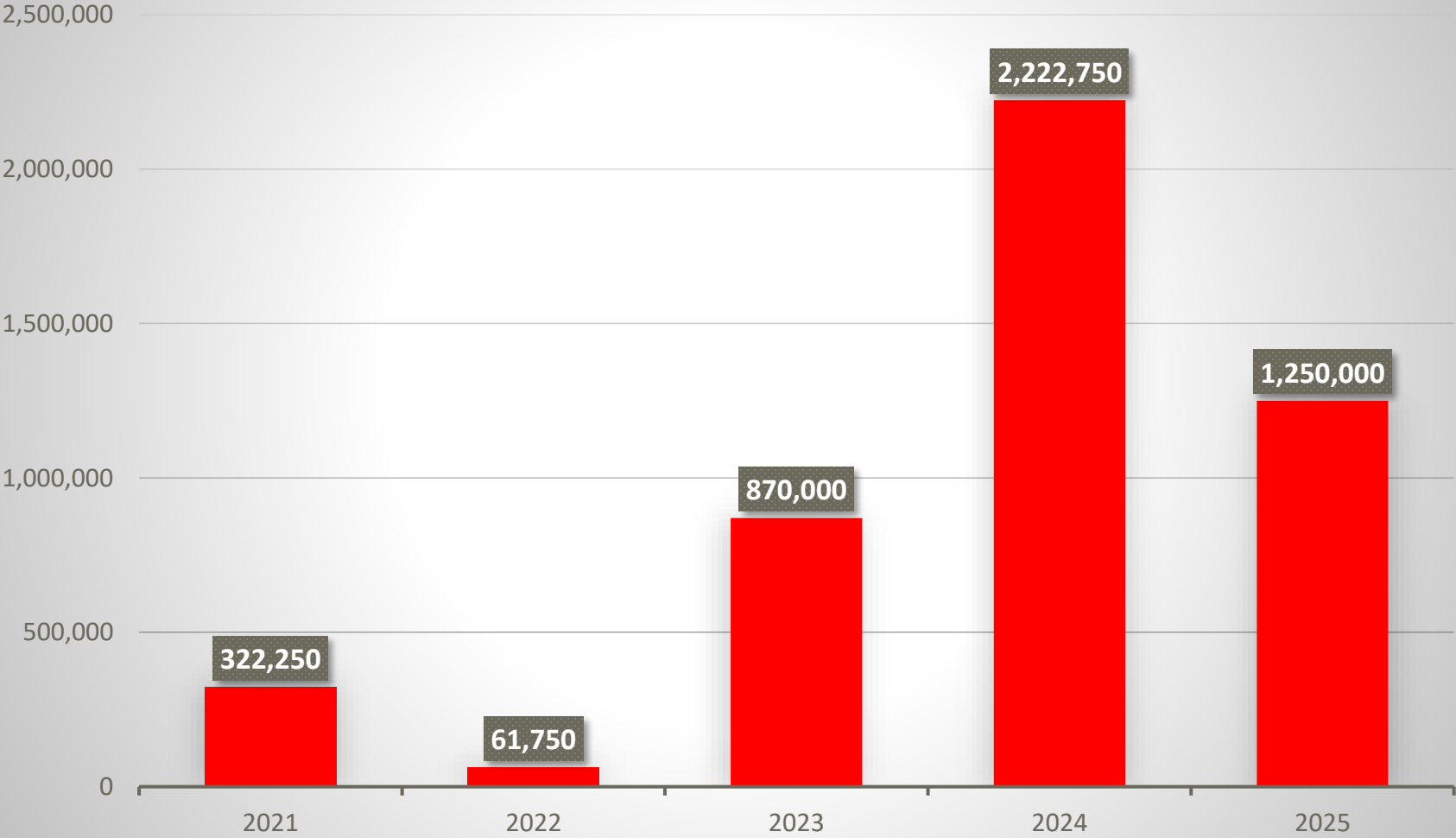




2025 Fire Losses

- In 2025, 3 fires were classified as structure fires within our community. These fires resulted in an estimated \$1.1 million in dollars in property loss.
- Additionally, 3 motor vehicle fires occurred creating an additional estimated \$150,000 in property losses.
- Total estimated fire loss for the year was \$1.25 million

5 Year Estimated Fire Losses

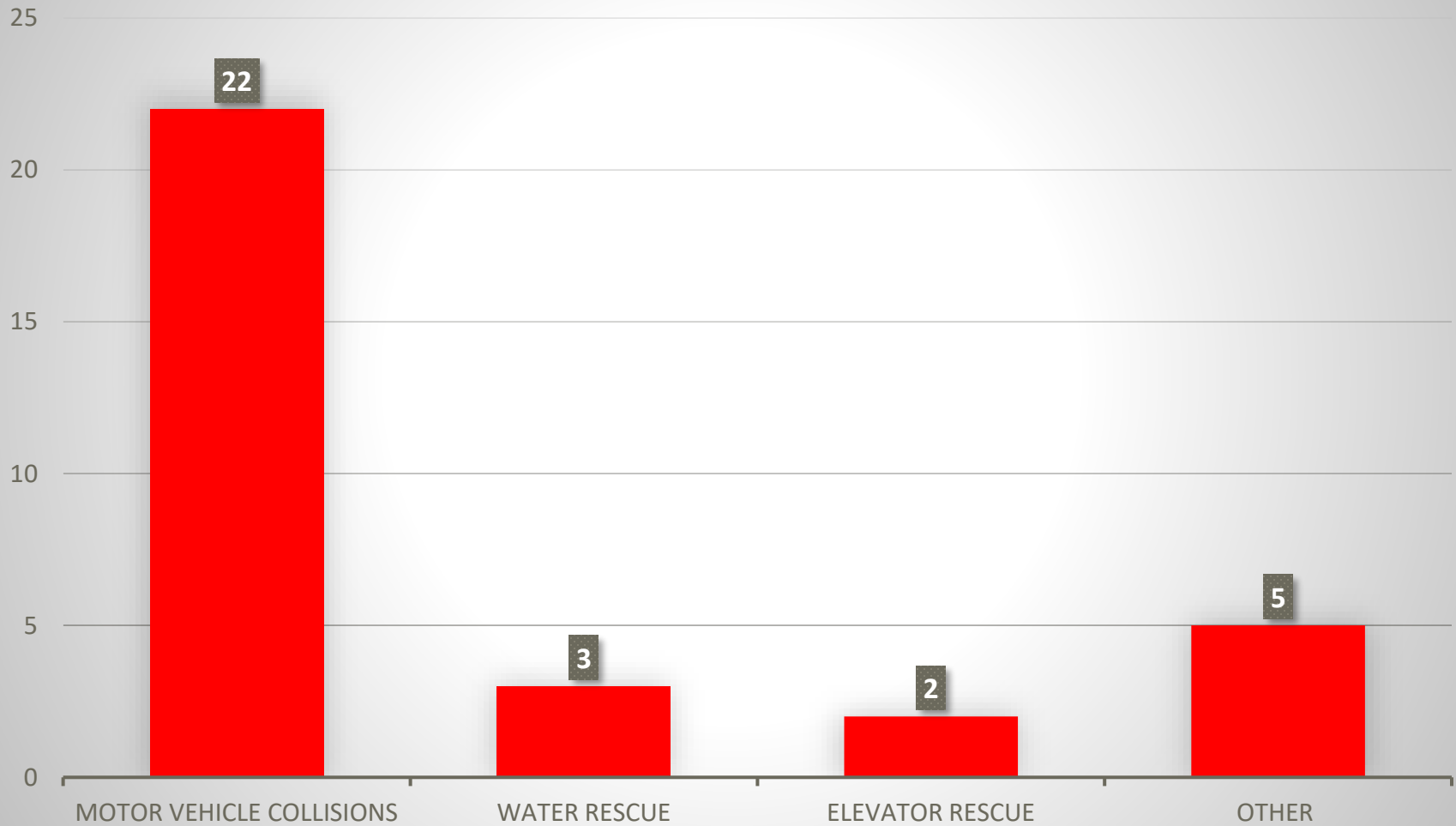




Open-air Burning

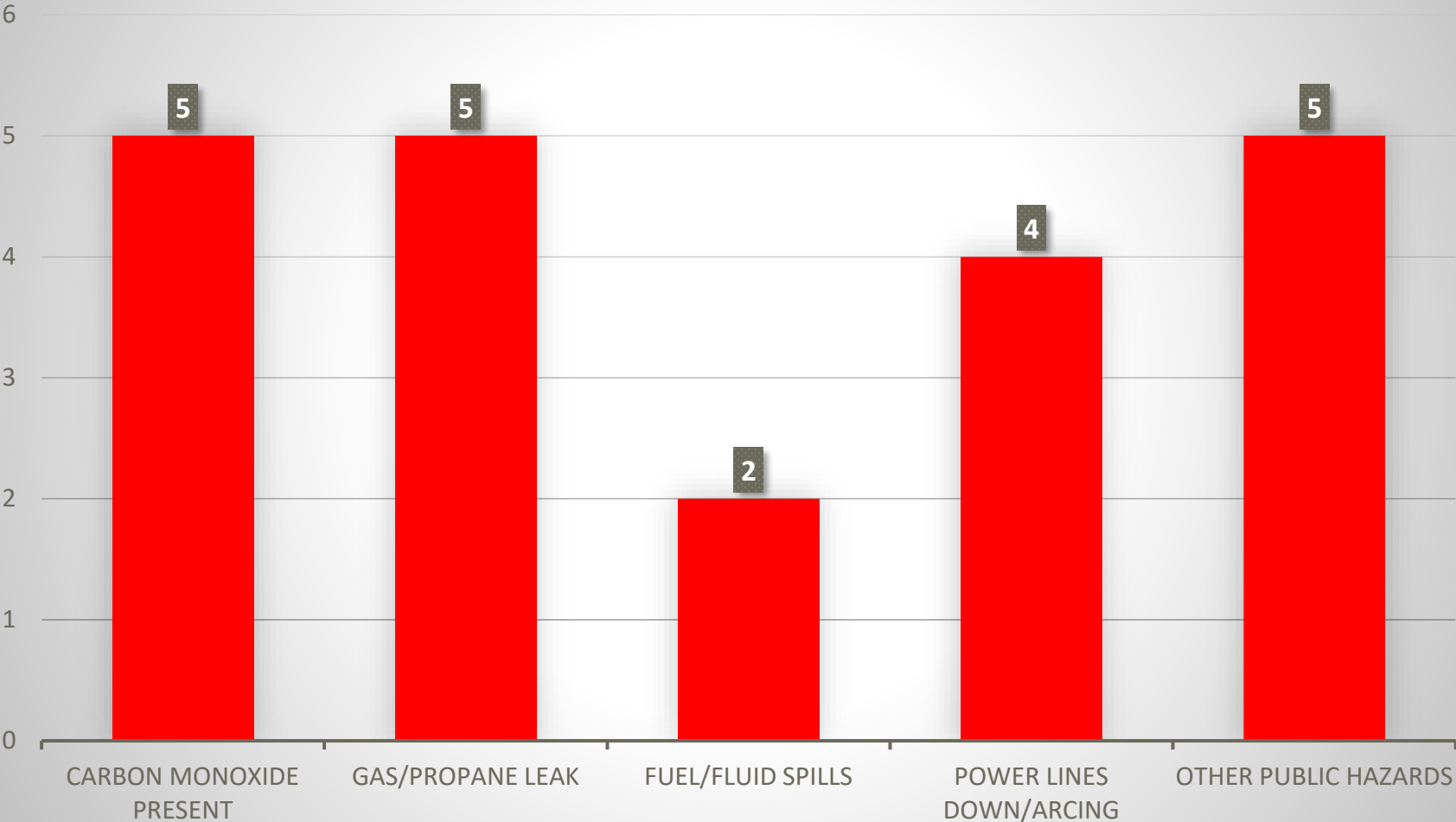
- 430 permits were issued for outdoor recreational burning.
- Fire Dept. Responded to 8 incidents involving Open-air burning, all of which were cases of individuals burning without a permit.
- 3 incidents were on the Ottawa River beach, 1 within Robert Simpson Park.

Rescue Related Services

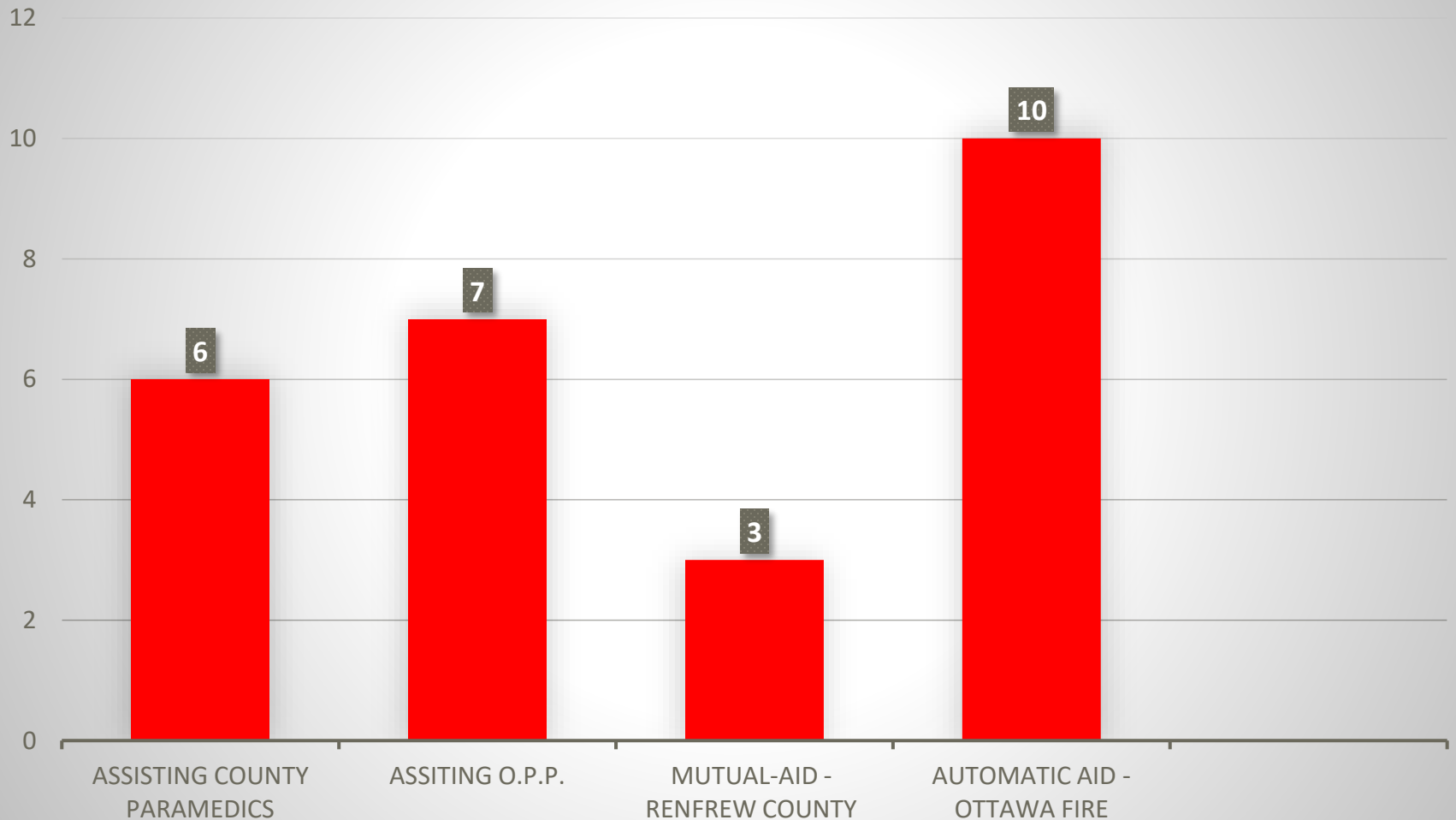


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Public Hazard Responses



Assistance to Other Agencies





Department Staffing

- 2025 saw the retirement of four long serving members of the department.
- Additionally, the resignation of four other member ranging in service time of 4 to 15 years.
- In February, 10 recruits joined the department, 1 of which has resigned due to other employment opportunities.





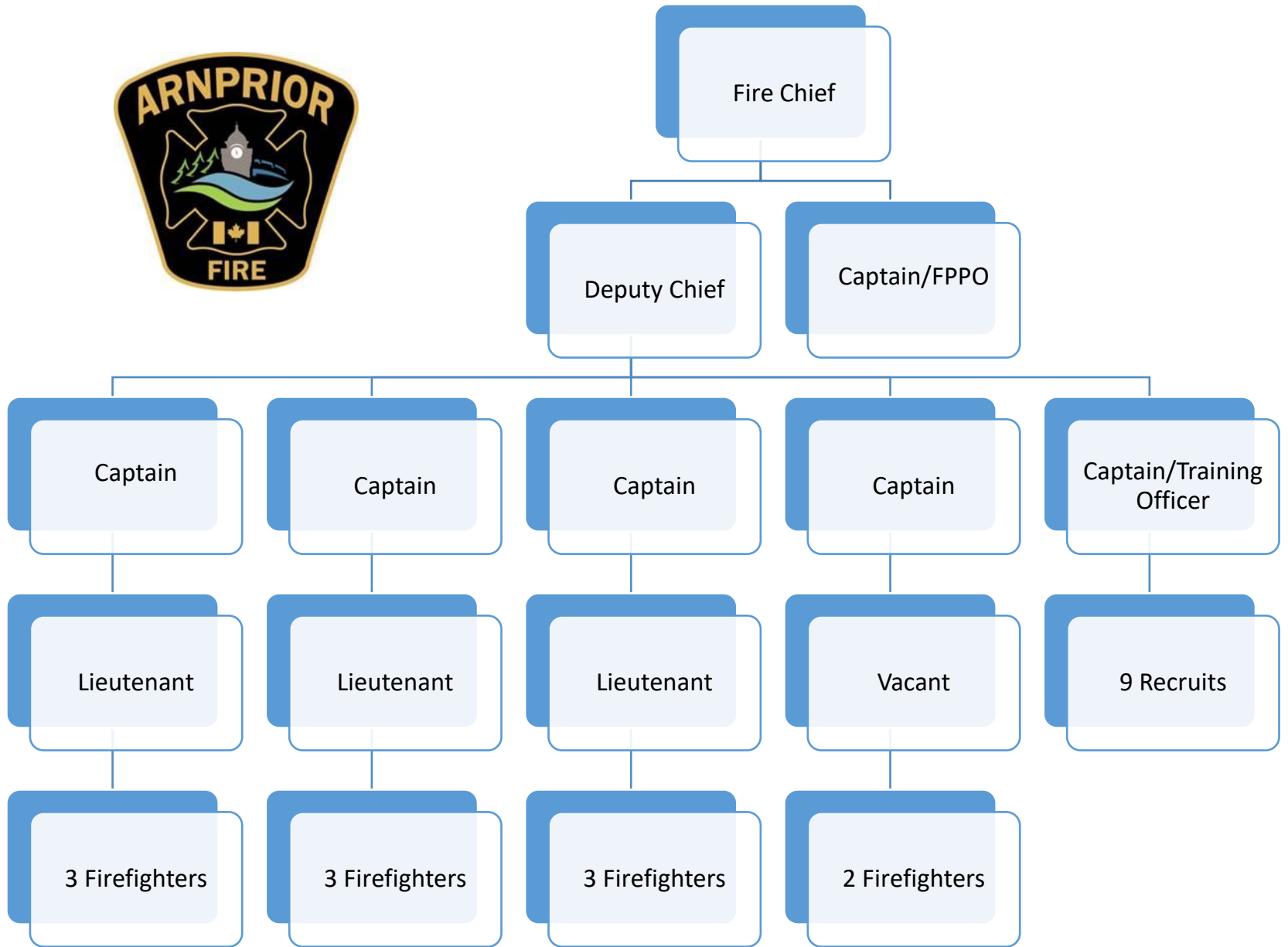
Department Staffing

- The department finished the year a healthy roster of 35 staff.
- This includes the 3 full time and 32 active volunteer members.
- However, the first quarter of 2026 has already seen the retirement of one 20-year member and the resignation of two 10-year members.



Department Staffing

- Current staffing is 31 active members with our 3 fulltime and 28 volunteers.
- The department will plan to carry out another Recruitment process in the fall of 2026.



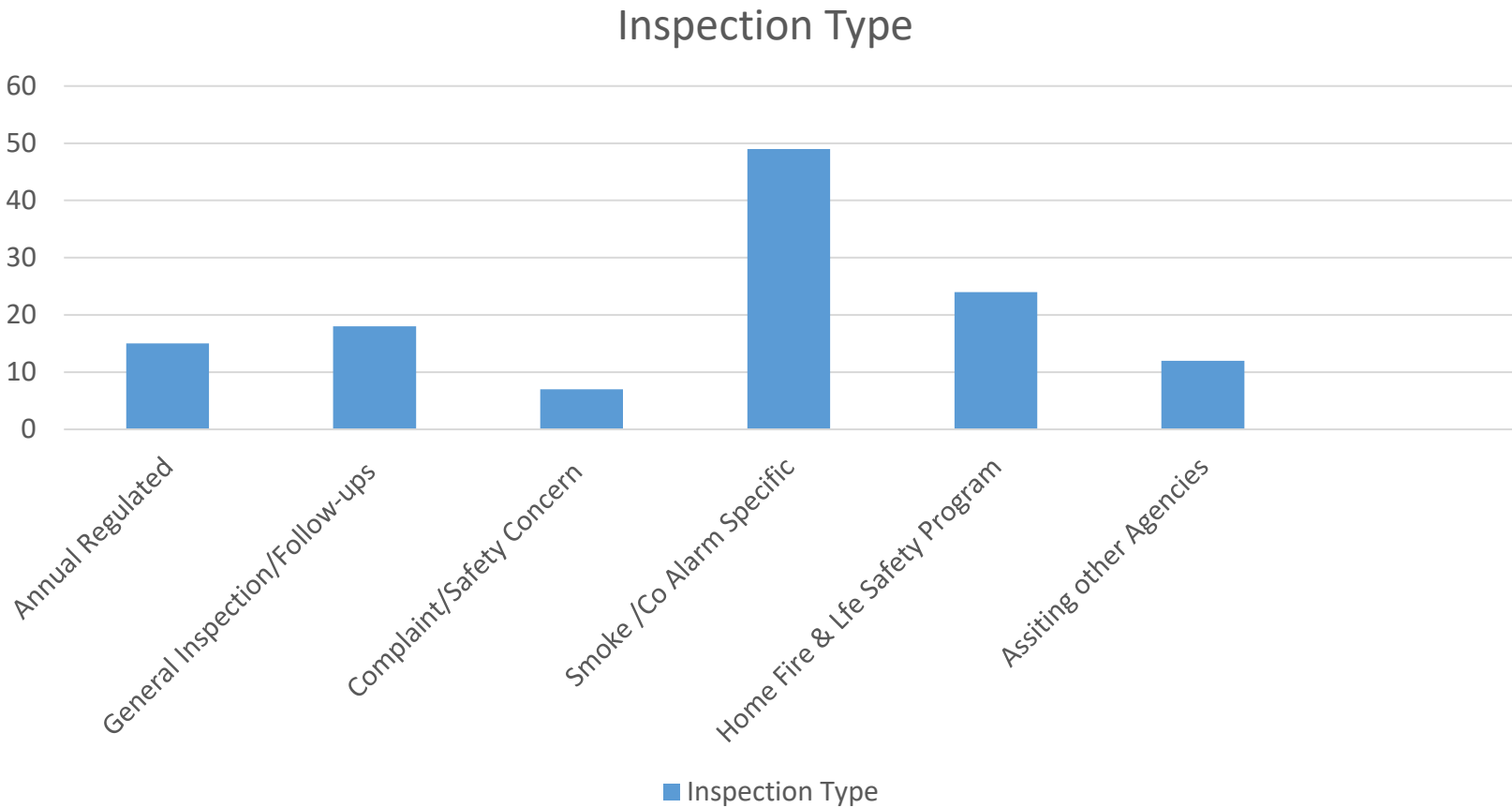


Fire Inspections

- Under the authority of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, Fire Department staff conducted 125 fire safety visits or inspections for Fire Code enforcement within the municipality in 2025.



Inspection Reasons





Public Education





Public Education

- The fire department participated in 22 public education events in the community promoting fire safety and fire prevention initiatives.
- This included our annual Prevention Week visits to all 5 elementary schools.
- This year's school visits were expanded to provide Fire Safety Education messaging for all students from JK to Grade 8.

Public Education

- The community once again participated in the Province's "Saved By the Beep" campaign On September 28th





Public Education

- Our local campaign started off with an Open House at the Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Center.
- The event was well attended by the community.
- Visitors were provided education materials geared towards fire safe practices, knowledge of testing smoke alarms, and home escape planning.
- The department did also receive 100 battery operated smoke alarms from Kidde Canada for distribution to those in need of a smoke alarm within our community.



2026 Open House





Fire Dept Training





Fire Dept Training

- The fire department completed total of 49 regular weekly training sessions in 2025.
- With the introduction of a group of new recruits training sessions involved a collaboration of learning basic skills by Recruits and maintaining skills training for veterans.
- Training sessions for the Recruits ran alongside the regular training with veteran firefighters being engaged in the teaching the skills required to be learned.



Fire Dept Training

- The 2025 Recruits hired were a mix of individuals that had previously completed their NFPA certification, half of the group did not.
- I am happy to report that due to their hard work and commitment, and Council's support of training through increased funding, all new hires have completed the required NFPA 1001 Firefighter II certification.
- This keeps us in compliance with our mandated certification requirements.



Fire Dept. Training

- Five volunteer members of the department completed various additional training and NFPA certification courses through the Ontario Fire College and Regional Training Centers, including:
 - Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Safety
 - Fire Instructor
 - Fire Officer
 - Public Educator
 - Fire Inspector and Fire Code Enforcement



Fire Dept. Training

- Our Full-time Captain/FPPO completed the following NFPA Fire Prevention related certification courses:
- Fire and Life Safety Educator Level I
- Fire Code Division B Part 9
- Fire Code Division B Part 2&6
- Fire Inspector Level I
- Public Information Officer
- Assistant to the Fire Marshal – Know Your Authority



Fire Dept. Training

- Additionally, our full-time Captain/FPPO completed the following NFPA Fire Prevention related fire suppression related courses:
- HAZ MAT Awareness and Operations
- Firefighter Level I
- Firefighter Level II
- Fire Instructor Level I
- Fire Instructor I
- Fire Officer I
- Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Safety



Firefighter Certification

- The second stage of O. Reg. 343/22 Firefighter Certification requires fire departments to qualify firefighters performing specialty rescue operations to be certified to NFPA 1006, the Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications.
- The departments ice/water rescue program falls under this requirement and as such members performing the required actions to support the program are required to complete the certification by July 1, 2028.



Ice/Water Rescue

- A council decision made in August of 2025 to continue to provide Water Rescue services has confirmed Council's commitment to support F.D. training.
- As a result of that commitment and the efforts of F.D. and OFC staff, a pilot program was introduced here in Arnprior to provide NFPA 1006 Water and Ice Rescue training locally to support not only Arnprior, but other area department's needs



Ice/Water Rescue

- As of the time of this report, the fire dept has 9 members NFPA 1006 certified to Surface Water and Ice Rescue Technician level qualifications.
- This will allow the department to continue with inhouse training of additional members through a learning contract with the OFC to progress more members attaining their certification.



Ice/Water Rescue





Fire Dept. Apparatus





Fire Dept. Apparatus

- Through a 2025 Capital expenditure the fire department purchased a new support vehicle.
- The crew cab truck identified as Truck 1 was purchase locally and upfitted by a surrounding area fire truck builder.
- The truck has been configured to respond to all fire department responses to provide administrative and command support as well as equipment required in the initial stages of fire operations such, size-up, accountability and entry control.



Fire Dept. Apparatus





Fire Dept. Maintenance

- No major issues occurred with apparatus or equipment in 2025.
- All apparatus and equipment underwent required service and successful testing required under their respective legislations.



Fire Dept. Grants

- In 2025, the second installment of the Fire Marshals Grant was announced as being doubled in amount to \$20M. The main focus continued to be on Cancer Prevention with the addition of Lithium Battery fire operations.
- We applied for funding to purchase particulate blocking protective flashhoods for our firefighters, additional decontamination equipment, a spare set of bunker gear and fire blankets designed to support extinguishment of electric vehicle fires.
- We were successful in obtaining funding.



2026 Plans

- The 2026 Municipal budget has allowed for the addition of a full-time Training Officer to the department's staffing model.
- The process of hiring of this position is underway.
- The successful individual will be responsible for the administration and organization all future training of the department, as well adds an additional daytime responder for emergency responses.



2026 Plans

- As part of a 2026 Capital project the fire department will seek the expertise of a consultant to complete a 10-year Fire Master Plan.
- A decision to complete this project 2 years earlier than forecasted was presented to Council due to the major growth of our community.
- As well, an upgrade to a component of our radio communication system will take place.



2026 Plans

- As indicated earlier, the department will plan to enter a learning contract with the Ontario Fire College to work towards completion of certification to NFPA 1006 Certification for Ice and Surface Water Rescue qualifications.
- Our Officer development initiative will continue to progress using the “Effective Command” program.
- Fall recruitment of additional volunteer firefighters to support operations.

Questions?



• WHERE THE RIVERS MEET •