

2025 Annual Report

Leland Township Fire & Rescue



www.lelandfiredept.org

Proudly serving the communities of Leland and Lake Leelanau

Leland Township Fire & Rescue was the recipient of an *Employer of Excellence Award*

Awarded by Northwest Michigan Works! October 2025

From The Fire Chief

In 2025, Leland Township Fire & Rescue continued to build on the progress of recent years while responding to the evolving needs of our community. The department responded to **520 calls for service**, remaining consistent with historic call volumes while continuing to experience increasing operational complexity, overlapping incidents, and demand for advanced medical care.

Throughout the year, our personnel demonstrated professionalism and adaptability as we balanced emergency response, training, and community engagement. To my knowledge, approximately **50–60% of our responses continued to be EMS-related**, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a strong paramedic-level service and ongoing medical training.

I believe one of the department's greatest accomplishments in 2025 was the continued investment in people—through promotions, professional development, and instructor leadership roles at the regional and state levels. These efforts ensure that Leland Township Fire & Rescue remains prepared not only for today's emergencies but for the future demands of our community.

Other areas of success include Community Risk Reduction, Training & Education, and Recruitment and Retention.

In Community Risk Reduction – we hired Firefighter/Paramedic Sasha Moore to replace Deputy Chief Greg Thomas when he retired. You can read more about those efforts later in this report.

Our training & education efforts include leading others from the front of the classroom locally, regionally, and on a state basis. We have several members serving as **instructors at the regional Fire Academy and EMT programs**, leading multiple fire instructor or officer courses, or facilitating learning experiences at statewide conferences.

We were able to promote two of our part-time firefighters to full-time status in 2025 – retaining two employees we had investing time and money into. We have a strong applicant pool despite national recruitment struggles. In 2025, we were recognized by Northwest Michigan Works! with an Employer of Excellence Award!

As we move forward, our focus remains clear: to provide reliable, professional, and compassionate service while preparing for the future demands placed on our organization. The investments made today—in our people, training, and infrastructure—are critical to sustaining the level of service our community expects and deserves. I am confident that Leland Township Fire & Rescue is well-positioned to continue adapting, improving, and serving with pride in the years ahead.

Thank you for your support!


Fire Chief Dan Besson



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Looking Ahead to 2026 20



” The mission of the Leland Township Fire and Rescue is to serve the community by protecting life, property, and the environment through preparation, prevention, and response.”

LTFR Mission Statement

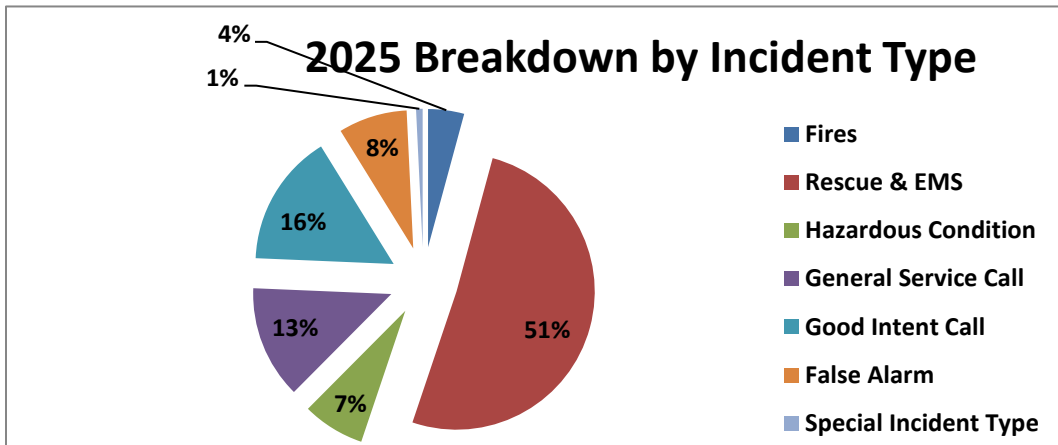
2025 Department Response Statistics

In 2025 we responded to 522 calls for service - *significantly* more than the responded to 10+ years ago – the ability to handle those calls has been supported by the community’s continuous support of our millages.

YEAR	CALLS FOR SERVICE	% Increase from Previous Year
2025	522	n/a
2024	536	15.8%
2023	463	n/a
2022	509	n/a
2021	521	4.2%
2020	500	11%
2019	450	n/a
2018	481	12.4%
2017	428	15.6%
2016	370	12.5%
2015	329	15%
2014	286	82%
2013	157	6%

Our major incident type breakdown for 2025 is:

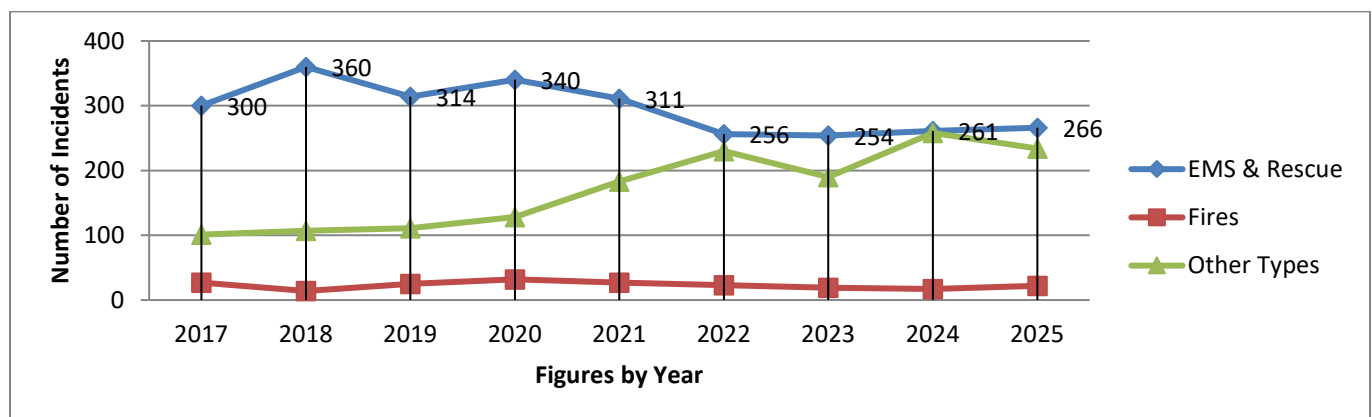
MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# OF INCIDENTS - 2025	# OF INCIDENTS -2024	% of the TOTAL
Fires	22	17	4.2%
Rescue & EMS	266	261	50.9%
Hazardous Cond. (non-fire)	38	41	7.3%
Service Call	69	88	13.2%
Good Intent Call	81	83	15.5%
False Alarm & False Call	42	44	8.0%
Special Incident Type	4	2	0.8%
TOTAL:	522	536	100%



In comparison to 2024 we saw an uptick in fire and Emergency Medical Service responses. We saw a decline in service calls, good intent type calls, and false alarms.

FIVE YEAR LOOKBACK: Our major incident type breakdown for 2021-2025 is:

Incident Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fires	27	23	19	17	22
Rescue & EMS	311	256	254	261	266
Hazardous Cond.	52	57	37	41	38
Service Call	44	69	55	88	69
Good Intent	50	63	65	83	81
False Alarm	34	32	31	44	42
Special Incident	3	9	2	2	4
TOTAL:	521	509	463	536	522



Staffing Model Analysis

Parameters	2025	2024	Difference
Staffing of 2 (# calls)	101	64	+37
Staffing of 3 (# calls)	288	304	-16
Staffing of 4+ (# calls)	133	170	-37
<i>First Unit f/Leland</i>	144	199	-55
<i>First Unit f/Lake Leelanau</i>	281	273	+9
Total Calls	522	536	-14

As funding allowed our staffing model increased from two firefighters/Emergency Medical Services providers per shift (three rotating shifts) to three firefighters/EMS providers per shift. There are typically two firefighters in Lake Leelanau and one in Leland. In the summertime we have added a fourth part-time shift during the peak periods to help handle the additional calls for service.

In 2025 our incident count by Leland Township zone, compared to 2024, was:

Leland Township Zone	2025	2024	Difference
Box 501 – North	55	65	-10
Box 502 – East	27	27	n/a
Box 503 – South (includes Lake Leelanau)	175	183	-8
Box 504 – Southwest	32	41	-9
Box 505 – West (Village of Leland)	106	137	-31
Box 506 – Fishtown Area	10	10	n/a
Mutual Aid – Outside of Leland Township	117	73	+44
Total	522	536	-14

Who Was the Busiest?

Red Shift (Lt. Morse, Calappi, and Evans)	170
Green Shift (Lt. Rosselle, VanZandt, and Williams)	170
Blue Shift (Sgt. Johnson, Hall, and Passalacqua)	182

Busiest Quarters of the Year:

Quarter (Busiest to Least)	Total Calls for Service - 2025	Compared to 2024
July – September	152	176
October – December	128	146
April – June	121	121
January – March	121	93

Fire Department Staff

The Leland Township Fire & Rescue Department has 25 employees - 11 full-time, including the fire chief, and 14 part-time/paid-on-call firefighters.

As of December 31st, 2025, the command staff are comprised of Fire Chief Besson, Deputy Chief Geoff Niessink, Captain Chase Schelling, Lieutenant Chris Herman, Lieutenant Brandon Morse, Lieutenant Randy Rosselle, and Sergeant Greg Johnson.

Full-Time

Fire Chief Dan Besson (Paramedic I/C)
Firefighter Greg Johnson (Paramedic I/C)
Firefighter Brandon Morse (EMT)
Firefighter Zorran VanZandt (Paramedic)
Firefighter Randy Rosselle (Paramedic I/C)
Firefighter Anthony Calappi (Paramedic)
Firefighter Tate Hall (EMT)
Captain Chase Schelling (Paramedic I/C)
Firefighter Ethan Passalacqua (Paramedic)
Firefighter Kyle Evans (EMT)
Firefighter Dawson Williams (EMT)

Part-Time

Deputy Chief Geoff Niessink (EMT)
Lieutenant Chris Herman (MFR)
Firefighter Darryl Herman
Firefighter Alex Gilland
Firefighter Garrett Fairchild (Advanced EMT I/C)
Community Risk Reduction Coordinator Sasha Moore (Paramedic)
Firefighter Scott Moore (EMT I/C)
Firefighter Brian Rossdeutcher (Paramedic)
Firefighter Christian Stawiarski (EMT)
Firefighter Chauncey Kelly (EMT)
Firefighter Avery Pucelick (Paramedic)
Firefighter Kirk Norman (EMT)
Cadet Josh Jackson (EMT)
Cadet Eve Couturier (EMT)

As of December 31st, 2025

Department Personnel Status Changes

Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Greg Thomas retired
Sergeant Brandon Morse promoted to Lieutenant
Firefighter Ethan Passalacqua was promoted to Assistant Training Officer
Firefighter James Hill resigned due to family need.
Sergeant Randy Rosselle promoted to Lieutenant.
Firefighter Cameron Pehrson resigned for a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic job in Farmington Hills
Christian Stawiarski completed the EMT class and the fire academy
Chauncey Kelly completed the EMT class and the fire academy
Kyle Evans hired full-time.
Dawson Willams hired full-time.
Firefighter James Howard resigned – took an out of state aero med job.
Firefighter/Paramedic Sasha Moore promoted to Community Risk Reduction Coordinator.
Firefighter/Paramedic Avery Pucelik hired part-time.
Firefighter/EMT Kirk Norman hired part-time.
Cadet Josh Jackson hired part-time.
Cadet Eve Couturier hired part-time.

Department Medical License Credentials:

EMS Instructor Coordinator: 7
Paramedic: 10
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician: 1
Emergency Medical Technician: 11
Medical First Responder: 1

Top 10 Busiest Responders (based on calls for service):

1. Tony Calappi – 186
2. Ethan Passalacqua - 138
3. Brandon Morse – 134
4. Zorran VanZandt - 133
5. Randy Rosselle – 126
6. Tate Hall - 119
7. Chase Schelling - 105
8. Greg Johnson – 102
9. Dawson Williams – 99
10. Kyle Evans – 99



Fire Department Apparatus

The fire department maintains a fleet of 2 fire engines, an aerial ladder truck, 2 fire tankers, a brush trucks, a utility pickup, 2 Advanced Life Support ambulances, a Basic Life Support ambulance and one

non-transporting vehicle (Engine 512), a water hydrant truck, a John Deere Gator, a snowmobile, and two administrative fleet vehicles.

In May we will welcome Alpha 592 (Road Rescue Ambulance), and, in December, we will welcome Tanker 521 (a new Spencer) pumper/tanker vehicle. It will replace Tankers 521 (already sold) and 522.

FIRE:

- Engine 511
- Engine 512
- Ladder 531
- Tanker 522
- Brush 542
- Hydrant 581

EMS:

- Alpha 591
- Alpha 593

ADMIN:

- Chief 501
- Utility 584
- Car 586



SPECIAL OPS:

- Utility 585
- Gator 582
- Snowmobile 583

The Busiest Apparatus (based on calls for service):

1. Alpha 593 (Ambulance) – **320**
2. Engine 512 – **147**
3. Alpha 591 (Ambulance) – **77**
4. Engine 511 - **68**
5. Chief 501 – **42**

Training & Certifications

In 2025, fire department personnel were busy training to be the best. We train in several formats – on duty, as a department, in small group learning formats /scenarios, self-directed online/virtual, fire and EMS continuing education classes, and finally, through certification / licensing courses (such as Firefighter I/II).

Last year, Leland Township firefighters spent **4427+** hours in classroom training (some courses in Emergency Medical Services, like Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic, may not be included in these totals) and additional hours of training online (those totals are not available at the time of this report). The fire department typically meets twice a month to conduct in-house training with our paid-on-call staff.

We had several new full-time and part-time employees in 2025 – accounting for additional training hours to get them through the orientation, on-the-job, and shadowing training phases. Our training topics included:

- Scene Size-up
- Performance Evaluation – Mutual Aid relay pumping with Hydrant 581 and Ladder 531
- CPR & AED Refresher
- Ice Rescue Refresher
- Roof and Saw Ventilation
- Fireground Communications
- Vehicle Extrication
- Hose-load Deployments and Operations
- Turbo Draft Operations
- Tabletop Exercises & Scenarios
- Quick Fire Attack Drills
- Hazardous Material Operations (refresher with the Haz-Mat team)
- Fire Investigations
- Traffic Incident Management
- Drafting with Engine 511, Engine 512, and Hydrant 581
- Chimney Fire Responses
- Vent, Enter, and Search for victims.
- Pre-incident Plans (walk-through familiarizations and scenarios)
- Health and Wellness
- Aircraft Emergency Responses
- Firefighter I/II
- Fire Instructor I
- Fire Officer I
- Fire Officer II
- Paramedic and EMT refreshers

DID YOU KNOW? That in 2025, Leland Township Firefighters conducted 4427.5 hours of training. That is equivalent to having a firefighter attending over 184 straight days of training! In 2024 we had 2437 hours of documented training.



Training Hours - Personnel

According to Fire Engineering our practical and classroom hours, per employee, were as follows. These totals do not include some documented online training. As a department we conducted approximately 4427.50 hours of documented training in 2025.

EMPLOYEE	2025 Training Hours
Stawiarski, C	613
Kelly, C	528
Williams, D	497
Evans, K	404
Hill, J	332.5
Johnson, G	267.5
Besson, D	267
Hall, T	244.5
Passalacqua, E	214
Schelling, C	208
Calappi, A	144.5
Rosselle, R	142
Jackson, J	114.5
VanZandt, Z	88
Morse, B	72
Couturier, E	69.5
Moore, Scott	48
Moore, Sasha	34
Thomas, G	27.5
Pehrson, C	25
Herman, C	23.5
Rossdeutcher, B	22
Pucelik, A	16
Norman, K	9
Howard, J	7
Gilland, A	5
Niessink, G	2.5
Fairchild, G	2
Herman, D	0

Department Division Updates

2025 Annual Report – Training Division

Lieutenant Brandon Morse; Fire Department Health and Safety/Department Training Officer:

Training remained a core operational priority throughout 2025. Personnel completed **thousands of combined training hours**, with monthly totals ranging from approximately 125 to over 300 hours.

Key Training Focus Areas: - Firefighter orientation and probationary training - Apparatus driver/operator evolutions - Command officer continuing education - Emergency medical continuing education - Aviation emergency response operations – tabletop exercises – fire suppression drills – and Fire Officer & Instructor-level certifications.

We had four members complete their Emergency Medical Technician certification course and five complete the fire academy (Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Material Operations).

We have multiple members served as instructors for regional fire and EMS training programs, extending the department’s impact beyond township boundaries.

We also welcomed Firefighter/Paramedic Ethan Passalacqua to the training team. He is the department’s assistant training officer. He has a great deal of credentials and instructor experience.

2025 Annual Report – Emergency Medical Services Division

Captain Chase Schelling; EMS Director

I am proud and honored to lead and work beside LTFR’s EMS Personnel. I am confident that the highest level of care is provided to each patient. Just as important as clinical standards, though, I am proud of the personal touch that is applied to patient care. I know that our providers treat each patient as if they were a member of their family. Each day, our providers embody our core values: Caring – Confident – Competent – Compassionate.

This report highlights the accomplishments that our team made this year. We thank the residents of Leland Township for their support and for allowing us to serve you!

Administrative Changes

In 2025, there were several administrative changes within LTFR and the EMS Division. Capt. Chase Schelling, who had served as the department’s EMS Coordinator since 2020, was promoted to EMS Director. Capt. Schelling, who also has other roles within the department, was promoted from Shift Lieutenant to Administrative Captain in late 2024. Having a full-time EMS Director has allowed for greater consistency in operations and training as well as quicker completion of administrative items.

Also in 2025, Sgt. Randy Roselle, who had served as Assistant EMS Coordinator since 2023, was promoted to Shift Lieutenant and assigned other roles in the department. Randy continues to assist with education and training.

In late 2025, FF/Paramedic Zorran VanZandt began assisting with EMS Operations. Zorran is a passionate Paramedic and FTO and will do a great job with EMS Operations.

Orientation & Initial Training

In late 2024, a new EMS Orientation process was developed. This year, we continued with this new EMS Orientation process and made some changes along the way to improve it even more. Each new employee is now assigned a Field Training Officer (FTO). FTOs are experienced and senior members of the department who have completed additional training to learn how to guide our new members through the structured orientation process, provide feedback, provide instruction, and ensure that all members providing EMS services have been trained consistently. All new members must successfully complete the EMS Orientation process before being authorized to function independently as a patient care provider.

This year, we welcomed the following EMS Providers to the team:

- Chauncy Kelly – EMT
- Christian Stawiarski -EMT
- Avery Pucelik – Paramedic
- Kirk Norman – EMT
- Evelyn Couturier – EMT
- Josh Jackson – EMT

Additionally, Dawson Williams and Kyle Evans both successfully completed their EMS Orientation and were hired as full-time Firefighter/EMTs. Congratulations!

Internal Training

Continuing Education Credits:

2025 was our fifth year providing continuing education in-house to all employees. Currently, we have six licensed EMS Instructor-Coordinators on staff who can teach continuing education credits, which are required to maintain EMS licensure in the State of Michigan. In 2025, we held four CE Days, where providers could earn multiple continuing education credits. Additional CEs were also held as requested by individual shifts or members, and in conjunction with other training sessions.

Specialty Courses:

In addition to continuing education credits to maintain state licensure, there are additional specialty courses required to maintain licensure:

- American Heart Association BLS CPR Card – required biannually for all levels of licensure
- American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) – required biannually for all Paramedics
- American Heart Association Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) – required biannually for all Paramedics
- Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) – required every four years for all levels of licensure

We have been teaching CPR and PHTLS classes for several years but did not have the instructors or equipment to teach ACLS or PALS courses in-house. To attend these required courses, members would travel to a training center that was holding these courses. Over the past few years, these courses, which are also required for other advanced healthcare providers such as RNs, Respiratory Therapists, physicians, etc. - were in high demand and filled up quickly.

Capt. Schelling and Chief Besson went through training in July to become ACLS and PALS Instructors and the necessary equipment to teach the courses was purchased. With that completed, we now can host these courses in-house which helps avoid course fees, travel costs, and the need to cover open shifts while a member is in training.

Our in-house education helps ensure that our providers have access to consistent and quality education in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Community Education Courses:

LTFR has been proud to offer community education courses such as CPR courses and Stop the Bleed training for several years. Over the past several years, we have seen a significant increase in requests for CPR courses. To provide our students with the best educational experience possible and to stay compliant with updated American Heart Association requirements, the Community CPR Program was revamped. In early 2025, four members went through CPR Instructor training and are now credentialed to teach CPR Courses. These new instructors, in addition to the instructors we had previously, allow us to hold larger courses and be more flexible in our ability to schedule the community classes. In addition to training additional instructors, all new CPR training manikins, AED Trainers, masks, student manuals, and other supplies were purchased.

In the 2025 calendar year, LTFR provided CPR Training to 67 individuals, an increase over 38 the year before.

Operations

In 2025, EMS operations continued to benefit from strong recruitment & retention, training, and community support. In 2025, we were able to build upon the foundation that we have worked hard to build over the past several years. We were fortunate to be able to place several new pieces of equipment in service this year that will help our members provide the best possible patient care:

- Plans were finalized for a new Road Rescue/F550 4x4 ambulance that is slated for delivery in 2026. This ambulance is very similar to Alpha 593, with a few minor design changes
- New IV Pumps were purchased and were placed in service on each ambulance. These IV Pumps allow for the controlled, precise administration of medications – improving patient safety
- New LifePak 35 Cardiac Monitors were placed in service on both ambulances, replacing aging LifePak 15 models that were over 10 years old. The new model is more user-friendly and has improved features. The two newest LifePak 15 models still have several years of service life left and will be in service on one of our fire engines and the reserve ambulance
- A new LUCAS Chest Compression device was purchased to replace our original LUCAS Device that was 12 years old

Special Events & Pre-Incident Planning

Throughout the year, Leland Township is home to several large-scale events that could potentially overwhelm our daily staffing and resources in the event of an emergency incident. Additional challenges are also posed by an increase in traffic, narrower roads due to parking, pedestrians, and other factors.

To ensure the safety of those attending the event, as well as the community, several steps were taken:

- Extra staffing was brought in and extra units were staffed – including extra ambulances, a quick response ATV unit, a bike team, and fire apparatus
- Personnel and apparatus were assigned specific roles throughout the event
- The Incident Command System (ICS) was



implemented, ensuring proper supervision and span of control. We also set up a command post at larger events

By planning for larger incidents, we were prepared to initiate the actions needed to stabilize the incident and minimize the impact of the incident.

Data and the future

Top five number of transports by LTFR Paramedic:

- 1.) FF/Paramedic Tony Calappi – 68 transports
- 2.) FF/Paramedic Zorran VanZandt – 40 transports
- 3.) FF/Paramedic Ethan Passalacqua – 38 transports
- 4.) Lieutenant/Paramedic Randy Rosselle – 22 transports
- 5.) Sergeant/Paramedic Greg Johnson – 18 transports

Incident Dispositions:

- 65% of patients were transported to Munson Medical Center by ambulance
- 25% of patients were classified as “non-transport”- typically meaning they were treated and released, evaluated and found to be uninjured, or they refused any assessment or care
- 7% of patients were classified as “other disposition” – typically meaning they were released to law enforcement, EMS was cancelled prior to arrival, the patient was decreased on scene, etc.

Transport Time: The average transport time to Munson Medical Center from Leland Township this year was 31 minutes.

Busiest days of the week:

- 1.) Friday – 51 calls for service
- 2.) Wednesday – 48 calls for service
- 3.) Saturday – 46 calls for service

Busiest Times:

Call volume has overall spread out, but there are notable increases during the following times:

- 0900-1000
- 1300-1500
- 2200-0000

Most common medications administered:

- 1.) Fentanyl – 43 administrations
- 2.) Zofran – 23 administrations
- 3.) Versed – 9 administrations
- 4.) Albuterol – 8 administrations
- 5.) Nitroglycerine – 8 administrations

There were over 115 medication administrations by our Paramedics last year, not counting Normal Saline and Oxygen

Vascular Access:

IV Therapy was successfully completed 144 times by our Paramedics

Data such as this is used to help determine staffing needs, equipment needs, and training needs.

Closing

Overall, the EMS Division continues to build upon a strong foundation of clinical excellence, professional development, and community trust. Through ongoing investment in training, equipment, and personnel, Leland Township Fire & Rescue remains committed to delivering high-quality, compassionate patient care. The progress made in 2025 reflects not only the dedication of our EMS providers, but also the continued support of the Township and the community we are proud to serve. As we look ahead, we will continue to refine our systems, strengthen our capabilities, and ensure we are prepared to meet the evolving needs of our patients and community.

2025 Annual Report - Community Risk Reduction Efforts

Sasha Moore; Community Risk Reduction Coordinator

Over the past several months, I have focused on building and expanding Community Risk Reduction efforts for Leland Township Fire and Rescue through a combination of program development, education, and strong community partnerships. I developed practical tools such as a Home Safety Evaluation Program to help identify risks and prevent injuries, while also creating and expanding safety education programs that reach all age groups. from young children to older adults. These efforts have allowed us to take a more proactive approach to safety, rather than simply responding to emergencies.

A major focus has been increasing meaningful community engagement. Through school programs, public events, and weekly outreach at community dinners, I have been able to connect directly with residents, providing fire safety education, health checks, and seasonal safety information. These interactions have built trust within the community and created opportunities to better understand and address local risks, especially for vulnerable populations.

At the same time, I have worked to strengthen partnerships with local organizations and agencies to expand our impact. Collaborations with groups like ShareCare of Leelanau and ongoing coordination with the health department are helping us reach more people and provide more comprehensive services. Internally, I have also supported department growth by developing training tools and helping guide members through new initiatives such as the Safe Sleep certification process.

Looking ahead, the focus is on completing key initiatives, expanding partnerships, and continuing to grow programs that make a lasting difference. This includes finalizing Safe Sleep certification, launching additional community events, and building out programs like water safety and Shop with a Hero. Overall, the work done so far has created a strong foundation, and we are well-positioned to continue improving safety, education, and community connection in the months ahead.



Strategic Goals & Objectives

To support transparency and accountability, the department has identified the following **1–3-year objectives** aligned with long-term strategic goals.

1–3 Year Strategic Objectives

Personnel & Staffing - Maintain minimum staffing levels capable of supporting overlapping incidents and ALS response requirements. - Continue recruitment and retention efforts to sustain a qualified combination workforce. - Expand leadership development through officer training and instructor certification.

Emergency Medical Services - Sustain Advanced Life Support coverage through ongoing paramedic and EMT education. - Monitor EMS call volume trends to inform staffing and deployment decisions. - Strengthen coordination with regional medical control and transport partners.

Training & Professional Development - Ensure annual compliance with state and national training



standards. - Increase multi-agency and specialty training opportunities (aviation, MCI, waterway response). - Track annual training hours and instructor participation for performance reporting.

Facilities & Infrastructure Planning - Evaluate station functionality and space needs on a recurring basis. - Develop long-range plans for apparatus replacement and facility improvements. - Integrate technology and safety systems to enhance responder safety and operational efficiency.

In 2025, LTFR continued to utilize safety and fleet-monitoring technologies, including traffic alert and response tracking systems. We believe these tools enhance responder safety, situational awareness, and data-driven decision-making.

Our long-term infrastructure focus includes:

- Maintain facilities that safely house modern apparatus
- Plan capital improvements proactively rather than reactively
- Align infrastructure investments with call volume trends and service demands

Community Engagement & Risk Reduction - Expand school-based and public education programs. - Track CRR activities and outcomes to measure community impact.

Equipment Replacement Guide and Preventative Maintenance - The department maintains a diverse fleet including ambulances, engines, ladder apparatus, tankers, and support vehicles. Several apparatuses continue to experience high utilization, particularly within the EMS fleet.

Key considerations include: - Lifecycle planning for frontline ambulances and engines - Preventative maintenance and replacement scheduling - Alignment of apparatus capabilities with evolving incident types.

2025 Significant Incident Summaries

Life-Saving Cardiac Arrest Response – St. Mary’s School (January 30, 2025)

Leland Township Fire & Rescue responded to St. Mary’s School for a reported unresponsive male who was identified as a basketball referee in cardiac arrest. Prior to arrival, bystanders-initiated CPR and applied an AED, delivering one shock. LTFR arrived approximately three minutes after dispatch and found the patient had regained a pulse and was breathing on his own.

Crews provided advanced life support care and transported the patient emergently to Munson Medical Center. This incident highlights the importance of early CPR, public access to AEDs, and rapid emergency response working together to achieve a successful outcome.

Multi-Agency Structure Fire – Cedar Area Mutual Aid (February 20, 2025)

LTFR responded via automatic mutual aid with Cedar Area Fire & Rescue to a reported structure fire on East Hackett Road. Multiple apparatus from several agencies responded, and LTFR crews assisted with fireground operations before being released.

This incident demonstrates the importance of strong regional partnerships and coordinated responses, ensuring adequate staffing and resources are available for significant fire events.

Residential Structure Fire – Village of Leland (March 7, 2025)

LTFR responded to a residential structure fire on North Lake Street after a homeowner reported smoke in the basement. Engine 511 arrived and confirmed an active fire, with crews quickly initiating fire attack and search operations alongside mutual aid partners.

The fire was contained in the basement area, and crews conducted overhaul operations to ensure no hidden fire remained. The cause was determined to be spontaneous combustion involving oil-soaked rags. Multiple agencies assisted, highlighting coordinated response capabilities across the region.

Commercial Structure Fire – NJ’s Grocery (June 10, 2025)

At approximately 6:31 PM, LTFR and automatic mutual aid partners responded to a reported structure fire at NJ’s Grocery in Lake Leelanau. Engine 511 arrived within minutes and confirmed a working fire, prompting a second alarm for additional resources.

Firefighters operated in a challenging environment with smoke and heat conditions, working to locate and extinguish the fire while protecting exposures. The fire was brought under control within approximately one hour, and crews remained on scene for overhaul and investigation. This incident reflects the department’s ability to rapidly scale operations and coordinate a multi-agency response to protect a key community business.



Multi-Alarm Commercial Fire – Leelanau Fruit Company (September 28, 2025)

LTFR responded to a large commercial structure fire in Suttons Bay as part of a first-alarm assignment. As conditions escalated, the incident progressed to second and third alarms, requiring additional personnel and apparatus.

LTFR deployed both engine and ladder resources and operated at the scene for several hours. This incident demonstrated sustained operational capability, regional interoperability, and the importance of mutual aid in managing large-scale emergencies.

Motor Vehicle Crash – Snowplow Rollover (February 3, 2025)

LTFR responded in place of Cedar Area Fire & Rescue to a reported motor vehicle crash involving a road commission snowplow that had rolled into a ditch. Crews secured the scene, assessed for injuries, and provided traffic control until heavy recovery equipment arrived.

While no injuries were reported, the incident required coordination and scene management in winter conditions, reinforcing the department's role in roadway safety and incident stabilization.

Water Damage Incident – Sprinkler System Failure (January 25, 2025)

LTFR responded to a fire alarm activation where crews discovered multiple broken sprinkler pipes had caused significant water flow, resulting in several inches of standing water and property damage.

Firefighters worked with multiple agencies to secure the water supply and prevent further damage. This incident highlights the importance of rapid response to non-fire emergencies that can still result in significant property loss.

Chimney Fire Response – Mutual Aid Support (January 26, 2025)

LTFR responded via automatic mutual aid to a reported chimney fire on East Hohnke Road. Crews assisted the primary jurisdiction with suppression and hazard mitigation before being cleared from the scene.

While smaller in scale, incidents like this represent a consistent call type that requires quick intervention to prevent extension into larger structural fires.

Looking Ahead To 2026

Leland Township Fire & Rescue remains committed to providing professional, efficient, and community-focused emergency services. As service demands evolve, the department will continue to plan responsibly, invest in its people, and work collaboratively with the Township Board and regional partners.

We are super excited to take delivery of a 4-wheel drive ambulance (Alpha 592), a 3000-gallon pumper/tanker, and a new administrative vehicle in 2026. These are upgrades to the fleet and our capabilities and will be welcomed edition.

We will continue to invest in and develop our staff through retention, education, and training. We are also looking forward to adding to our full-time ranks, boosting our part-time ranks, and expanding our shift coverage model.



I'd like to Thank Greg Thomas
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empathy and humor in a
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as possible. Turns out I
broke my Patella and really
messed up my shoulder and arm.
Thank you!

[REDACTED]



“Community Supported – Community Driven”

