

Town of Leland Fire/Rescue Annual Report 2024



Message from the Chief

I am honored to present the Leland Fire/Rescue 2024 Annual Report. Leading and serving alongside this dedicated team is a privilege. Guided by our mission to Serve, Be Ready, and Create Excellent Outcomes, our members continually rise to the challenge, providing the highest level of emergency response and preparedness.

This report showcases our ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, highlighting the hard work and dedication of our team. Over the past year, our members have exceeded national training standards, participated in more than 300 community programs and events, and responded to more than 3,000 calls for service. We are also proud to have published the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, welcomed eight new firefighters, and added a Tractor-Drawn Aerial (TDA) truck to our fleet, enhancing our capabilities to protect life and property throughout the fire district. We take great pride in being active within our community and continually strengthening the trust between our department and the people we are honored to serve.

I am sincerely grateful to our residents, Town Council, and Town employees for their continued support. As always, thank you for your trust in Leland Fire/Rescue.

Yours in Service,



Ronnie Hayes
Fire Chief, Leland Fire/Rescue



Vision

Leland Fire/Rescue is the place of choice where motivated people can be their best. We have shared values and are fulfilled by the work we do and the excellent outcomes we create. We are engaged and dedicated in service to each other and our community, who trust us to protect their safety, resources, and quality of life.

Mission

Serve. Be Ready.
Create Excellent Outcomes.

Core Values

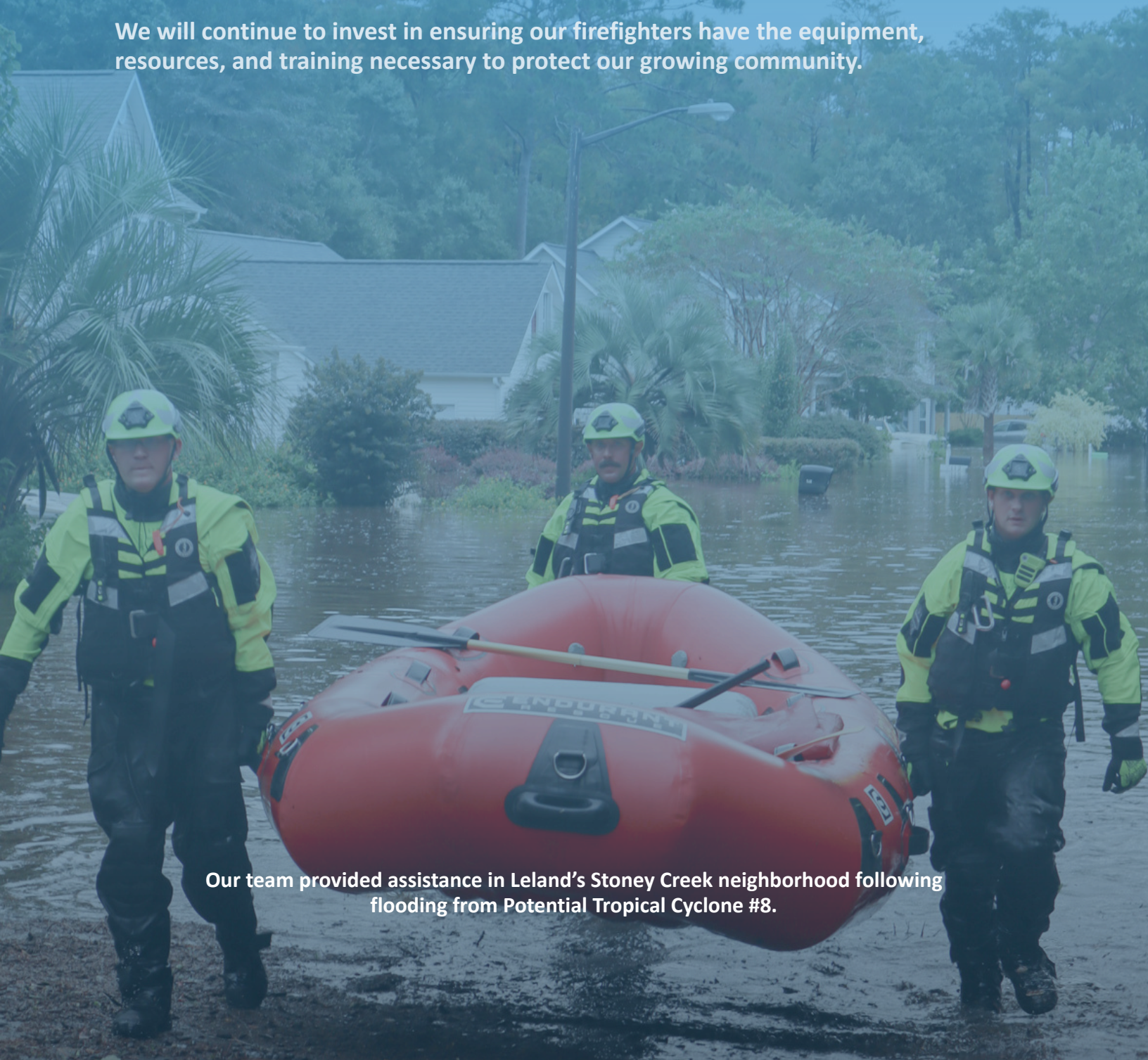
Dedication
Professionalism
Integrity



Background

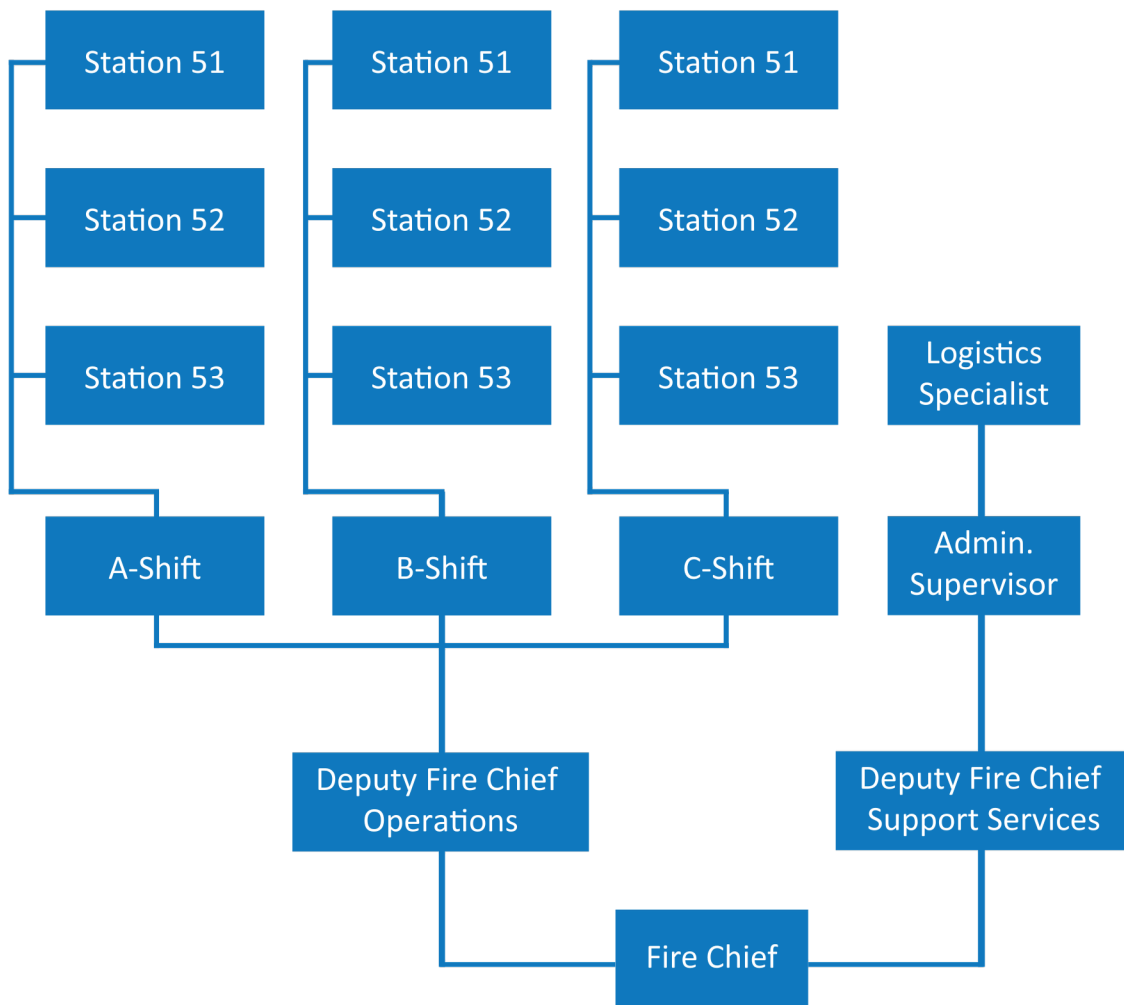
Established in 1959 as a volunteer non-profit organization, Leland Fire/Rescue has continually evolved to meet the growing needs of our community. In 2017, the department was incorporated into the Town. Since then, the number of residents in the fire district has grown by 107.9%, and our team has grown as well. We now include 51 full-time sworn personnel, one full-time civilian Administrative Support member, and four part-time staff, operating out of three fire stations.

We will continue to invest in ensuring our firefighters have the equipment, resources, and training necessary to protect our growing community.



Our team provided assistance in Leland's Stoney Creek neighborhood following flooding from Potential Tropical Cyclone #8.

Organizational Chart



Ronnie Hayes
Fire Chief



Shelton James
Deputy Fire Chief Operations



Brian Kelly
Deputy Fire Chief Support Services



Department Growth

Promotions

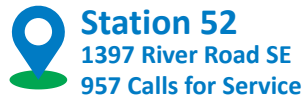
Christopher Barrett	Senior Fire Apparatus Engineer
Craig Blasingame	Senior Firefighter
Robert Cannon	Senior Fire Apparatus Engineer
Christopher Daw	Senior Firefighter
Jermol Edwards	Senior Firefighter
Darin Francis	Fire Apparatus Engineer
Halsey Hoosier	Senior Captain
Brett Kennedy	Senior Captain
Bradlee Littlefield	Captain

Andrew McBride	Senior Fire Apparatus Engineer
Mark Onabanjo	Fire Apparatus Engineer
Kyle Perry	Senior Captain
Nicholas Shofer	Senior Firefighter
Dallas Spence	Senior Fire Apparatus Engineer
David Watkins	Senior Captain
Tyler Williams	Captain
Garrett Yeager	Senior Firefighter

New Hires

Justin Davis	Captain
Shelton James	Deputy Fire Chief Operations
Emma Keefe	Firefighter
Brian Kelly	Deputy Fire Chief Support Services

Jacob Leber	Part-time Firefighter
Neil Patterson	Firefighter
Nehemiah Vernon	Firefighter
Brent Washburn	Firefighter





2024 Response Data

Calls for Service

Structure Fires	48
Other Fires	90
Medical Emergency	1654
Motor Vehicle	245
Extrications	10
Other Rescues	7
Good Intent/Services	515
Hazardous Materials	58
Alarm Responses	243
Other Responses	418



Average response time of
6 minutes and 50 seconds

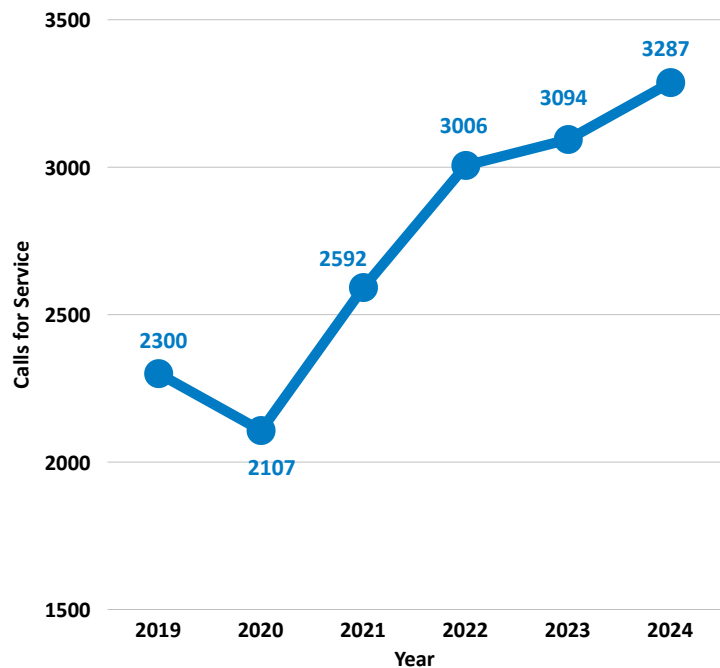


3,288 Total calls
for service



40,000 Residents

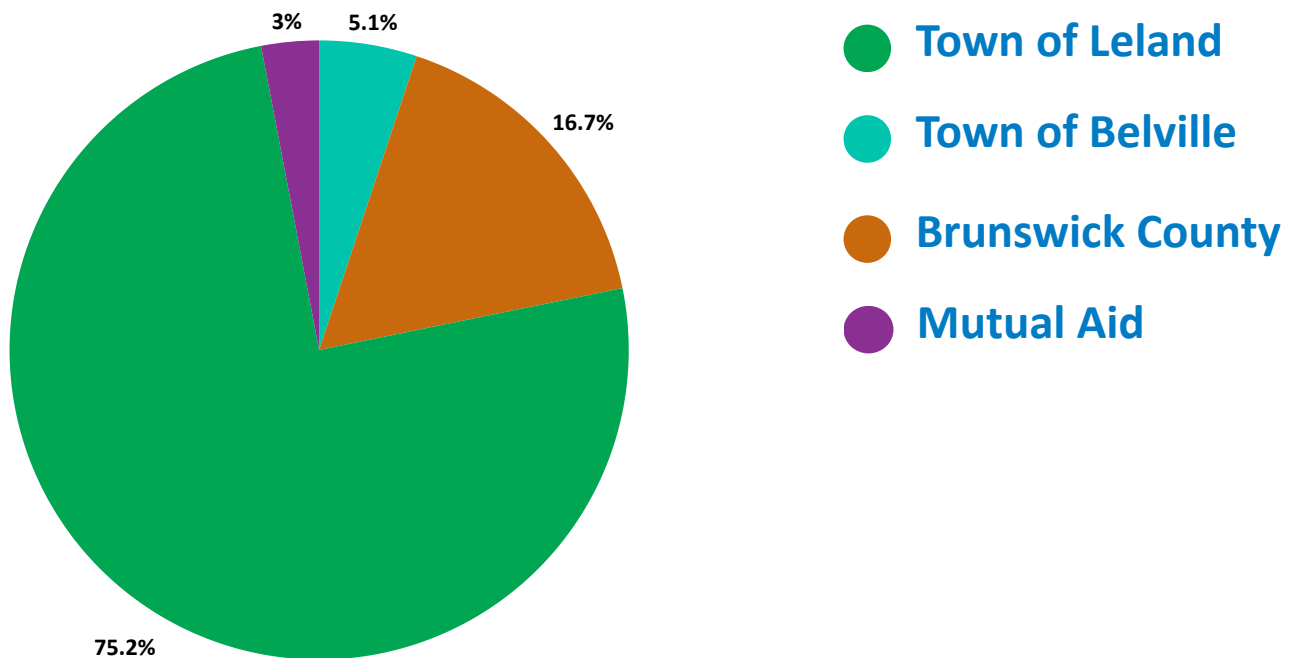
Calls for Service by Year





2024 Fire District Response Data

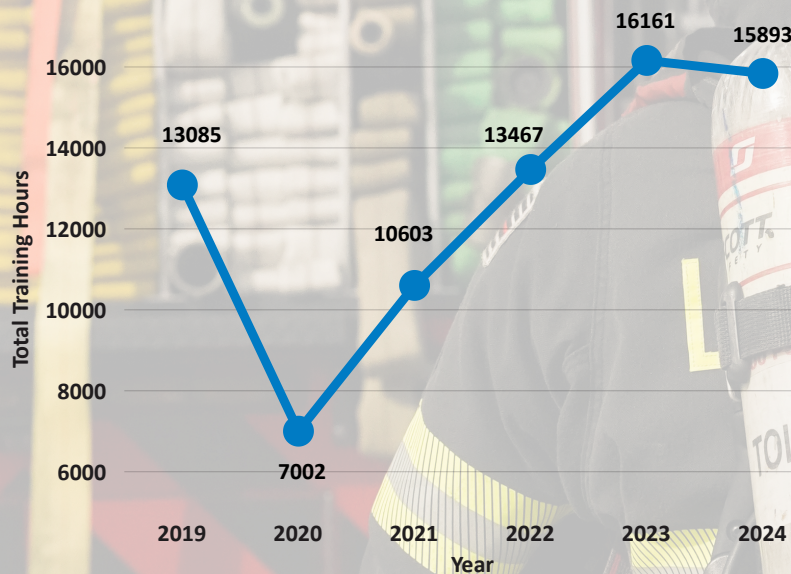
Calls for Service in the Fire District



The Leland Fire/Rescue fire district covers 58 square miles. As mutual aid partners, Leland Fire/Rescue provides support to Boiling Spring Lakes Fire Department, New Hanover County Fire Rescue, Northwest Fire Department, Navassa Volunteer Fire Department, Wilmington Fire Department, and Winnabow Volunteer Fire Department.

Department Highlights

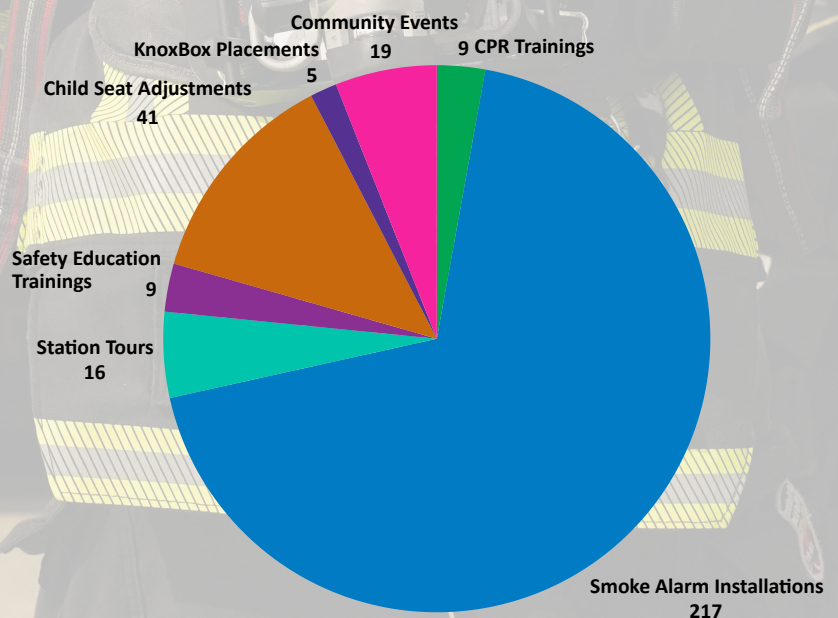
Training Hours by Year



In 2024, each of our firefighters averaged 243 hours of training.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Through community events and trainings, our intent is to provide information to prevent emergencies and plan ahead, rather than simply respond. This year, we're proud to have been part of 316 CRR initiatives.





Deployment to Hurricane Helene

Over a seven-day period, Leland Fire/Rescue supported emergency operations in Henderson County, specifically in the Bat Cave and Edneyville communities, working in close partnership with the Kannapolis Fire Department following the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

Our crews quickly established communication with local residents and emergency contacts via radio, helping coordinate response efforts across some of the most heavily impacted areas. Together with helicopter crews, USAR teams, and ATV units, we assisted in the evacuation of several hundred individuals. For those who chose to remain in place, we facilitated the delivery of food, water, and essential supplies by setting up local staging areas within the community.

One of the most significant accomplishments during this deployment was the construction of a highline system across the Broad River. In collaboration with the Kannapolis Fire Department, our personnel built a system that supported an inflatable boat, enabling continuous transport of supplies in and out of the Bat Cave area. This solution greatly reduced reliance on air support and significantly improved the flow of critical resources.

