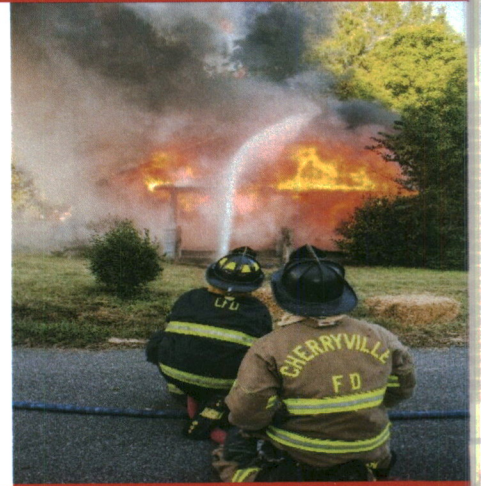




**Cherryville Fire Department
2024 Annual Report**



Message From the Chief

Dear Honorable Mayor Beam, City Council Members, and Mr. Dalton,

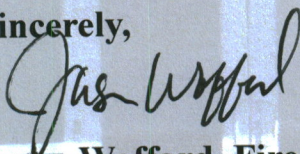
I hope this letter finds you all well. As 2024 has come to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the successes and accomplishments of the Cherryville Fire Department over the past year. I am extremely proud of the dedication and hard work displayed by our staff. Their professionalism, commitment, and community spirit continue to exceed expectations, and it has been a true honor to lead such a talented team.

As most of you are aware, I have announced my retirement, effective December 2025. I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to serve this wonderful community for 36 years, and I want to personally thank each of you—Mayor Beam, the City Council, and Mr. Dalton—for your unwavering support of the Cherryville Fire Department during my tenure. Your continued belief in our mission has made a significant difference in the success we've achieved.

In light of my upcoming retirement, I would like to inform you that Assistant Chief Heffner has graciously offered to take on additional administrative responsibilities. I fully support and agree with this decision, and as we approach the remainder of 2025, you will begin to see Assistant Chief Heffner attending council meetings, work sessions, and participating in other key administrative functions.

Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for the privilege of serving as Fire Chief for the past four years. It has been a rewarding experience, and I look forward to finishing my time here with my great staff and wonderful city leaders.

Sincerely,



Jason Wofford, Fire Chief



Message From the Assistant Chief

Honorable Mayor Beam, City Council Members and Mr. Dalton,

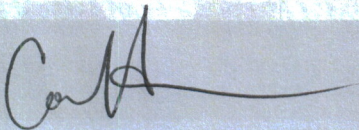
Enclosed with this correspondence, please find the Cherryville Fire Department Annual Report for 2024. This document contains key statistics and highlights the efforts of our department throughout the year.

One notable point to address within the report is our call volume, which decreased by approximately 250 EMS responses in 2024. This reduction was due to a temporary staffing shortage from multiple resignations that required us to lower our EMS response by one service level. In light of this, we have filled these vacancies and are back to our minimum staffing levels and are currently in the process of re-establishing full EMS response.

I want to express my gratitude for your steadfast support and investment in the City of Cherryville and its Fire Department. Your leadership and commitment allow us to uphold our mission to protect and serve our citizens effectively. Furthermore, I am deeply honored to serve as the Assistant Fire Chief and appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

Thank you again for all you do to enhance the safety and well-being of our city. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or require additional information regarding the enclosed report.

Sincerely,



Colby Heffner, Assistant Fire Chief



Organizational Chart

Chief

Jason Wofford

Assistant Chief

Colby Heffner

Administrative Assistant

Brittany Bingham

Captain - A Shift

Phillip Smith

Captain - B Shift

Nathan Bowman

Captain - C Shift

Trent Rayfield

D/E - A Shift

Michael Griffin

D/E - B Shift

Jonathan Pearson

D/E - C Shift

Alexis Bush

**Part-time/Volunteer
Firefighters**

Guiding Values

Mission Statement:

“Safeguarding Our Community Through Exceptional Service”

Vision Statement:

Integrity, Professionalism, Dependability

Operational Ethics:

Cherryville Firefighters always think “FIRST”
which is that of Fortitude, Integrity, Respect, Service and
Tradition.

Fortitude **I**ntegrity **R**espect **S**ervice **T**radition

Promotions

Driver Engineer Phillip Smith was promoted to Captain of A Shift and Volunteer Firefighter Michael Griffin was promoted to Driver Engineer of A Shift. Both Smith and Griffin are a great addition to the Cherryville Fire Department and we appreciate all they do for our organization!



New Faces

In 2024 we hired Driver Engineer Alexis Bush to C Shift. Alexis is from the Tryon community where she also serves as a volunteer firefighter at Tryonota. We gladly welcome Alexis to CFD and wish her the best!



Retirements

**Congratulations to Chaplain Vince Hefner
for his 15 years of service to the Cherryville
Fire Department!**



Calls for Service

Total Calls for Service: 1,003

Fire: 25

EMS: 613

Service Calls: 365

Mutual Aid:

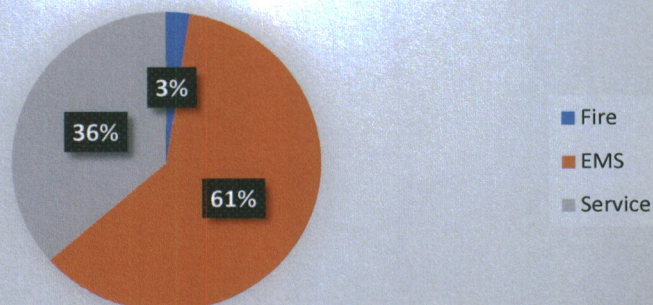
- **Automatic Aid Received: 34**
- **Mutual Aid Received: 8**
- **Mutual Aid Given: 11**

Overlapping/Simultaneous Incidents: 26

Response/Turnout Times:

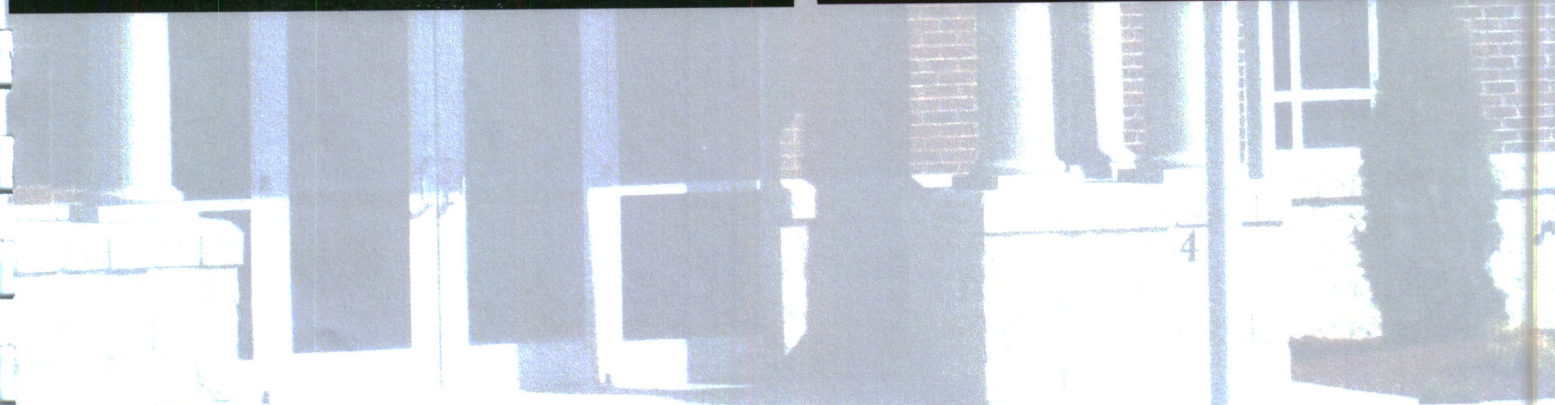
- **Average Response Time: 04:25**
- **Average Turnout Time: 01:37**

Calls For Service



Property Damage

The Cherryville Fire Department estimated a total of \$146,600.00 in property damage in 2024. This was derived from two structure fires on North and South Mountain Street which were within 24 hours of each other.



Certifications Obtained by Full-Time Staff

- **Trent Rayfield: NC Fire Officer III & NC Probationary Fire Inspector II**
- **Nathan Bowman: VFIS Instructor, NC Car Seat Technician**
- **Colby Heffner: NC Fire Officer III & NC Car Seat Technician**
- **Michael Griffin: NC Firefighter Certification**

Total Training Hours Logged by Department: 2,875.74

Grants

The Cherryville Fire Department applied for the FEMA SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant to request much needed full-time employees to increase our minimum staffing from two to three. We were not selected, but will re-submit in 2025.



FEMA

Fire Prevention

Total Fire Inspections Completed: 97

534 people were reached through fire prevention efforts in 2024. These individuals were reached through station tours, school field trips, career days, community events and fire prevention week activities.

