

# GRAND CHUTE



# FIRE DEPARTMENT



1937 Ford



2010 Pierce Impel

# **Grand Chute Fire Department**

## **75th Anniversary**

**1937 - 2012**

### **Introduction**

As the current Chief of the Grand Chute Fire Department, I welcome you to journey back in our 75 year history and recall the hard work and dedication of seven townsmen and all the men and women that followed that brought us to where we are today.

I am extremely honored and proud to be a part of this Department's history and look forward to continuing these great traditions in the future. I appreciate the solid organizational foundation that this department was built on and know it is due to the commitment and diligence of our past members and will be carried on by current and future members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member and their families who served on this department for their commitment, courage and the many hours of dedicated service they provided to the residents and visitors of the Town of Grand Chute. I would also like to thank all of the individuals and organizations for their support and participating in our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Tim Bantes  
Fire Chief  
Grand Chute Fire Department



### **Mission:**

Our mission is to protect the lives, property, and environment for the community we serve through efficient, effective emergency response activities and proactive risk reduction services.

### **Values:**

**People:** We appreciate the talents of each person and encourage responsible decision-making at the most appropriate level. We recognize the importance of personal and professional development. We value the citizens and people who live, work, and visit our community.

**Compassion:** The members of this department value the importance of compassionate care and treatment of all citizens who call for our services.

**Integrity:** We are honest, accountable, and trustworthy.

**Valor:** Courageously encountering adversity, accepting responsibility for our actions, and providing respectful and professional conduct to the public, coworkers, and peers.

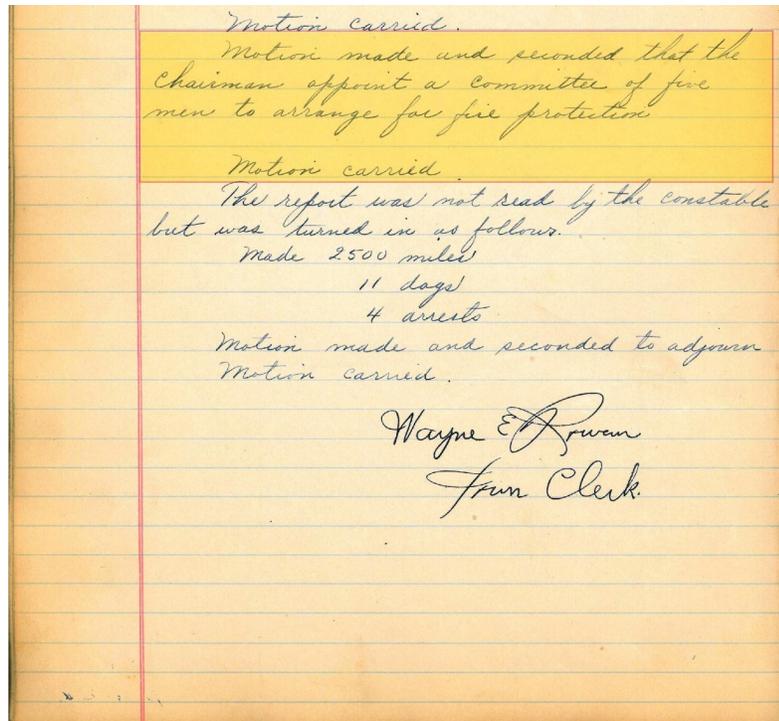
**Vision/Creativity:** We encourage imaginative problem solving, innovation, resourcefulness, and thoughtful risk-taking.

**Quality:** We provide superior services and are committed to continuous improvement. We are attentive to the changing needs of the community we serve.

**Respect:** We welcome individual and professional differences and treat everyone with dignity, courtesy, and sensitivity.

## Organizational History

The Grand Chute Town Board authorized the formation of a volunteer fire department at their annual town meeting on April 6, 1937.



In July, 1937, the Town of Grand Chute approved the purchase one fire truck. It was purchased for \$3,500 from the Rural Fire Apparatus Company, Inc., Hortonville. This 1937 Ford Pumper was delivered in October, 1937 and was kept at the Van Dyke Coal Company. It was at this time, the Town Chairman, Emmett O'Connor revealed that a volunteer department would be organized to man the truck. Pictured below with the 1937 Ford is Wayne Rowan, Town Clerk and Stan Gillespie, Town Board Supervisor.



The department was officially organized on October 28, 1937 by a group of seven townsmen with Bill Van Dyke leading the group as president of what became known as the Grand Chute Firefighters Association.

Operation was carried out from various rented garages within the Town, near the city limits of Appleton. (In 1937 the rental rate for housing the fire truck was \$1 per day, and increased to \$40 per month in 1938, and up to \$90 per month in 1949). A siren purchased for \$230 was used to alert the volunteers to respond to fire calls. Members or their wives also utilized call chain or phone tree to alert volunteers.

Additional water was transported to fires by a group of three townsmen using their own trucks and ten gallon milk cans, which were dumped into the pumper's water tank. The department operated in this manner until the late 1940's when they began using a 2,800 gallon tank semi trailer owned by Western Condensing Company in Appleton.



In 1950, the 19th and 20th wards (Bell Heights and Whispering Pines) were annexed into the City of Appleton. With this annexation, a majority of volunteer firefighters became City of Appleton residents. Gordon Schultz was the Fire Chief at that time and remained with the



department. There were approximately twenty five townsmen interested in a reorganization of the department and a new town hall and fire Station was built at 502 West Northland Avenue. These men were paid \$1.50 for the first hour and \$1 for each succeeding hour.

Additional firefighters, equipment and the upgrading of training programs were implemented. A second fire station was built in 1976 at 2920 West Highview Drive. That station remains in service today as Station #2 and has the highest volume of calls.

## Remembering our Fire Chiefs

### Chief Walter Kettenhofen: 1938 - 1939

Chief Kettenhofen has the honor of being the department's first chief. He was elected on January 31, 1938 and served until January 31, 1939.

### Chief Carl Ebert: 1939 - 1945

Chief Ebert was elected on February 28, 1939. The department purchased their first all-service gas masks in 1940 and the first axe in March 1944 under Chief Ebert. He also led the department through the gas rationing period during WWII. Carl Ebert resigned on December 11, 1945.

### Chief Gordon Schultz Jr.: 1945 - 1952

Chief Gordon was appointed on December 11, 1945 and served seven years. In his tenure, discussions were started on the need for a full-time fireman.

### Chief Vincent Baum: 1952 - 1991



Chief Vince Baum was the department's longest tenured Chief, serving for 40 years. Vince was a forward thinking Chief that led the department through much growth and oversaw the purchase of many new fire apparatus. He recognized the need for an aerial ladder truck when the Town had seventy five structures over two stories tall and convinced the town board to approve the purchase of the department's first aerial ladder. In September, 1976,

Chief Baum worked with Fox Valley Technical College and initiated the first in Wisconsin "firefighter trainee (Cadet) program". The first class sent nine students that were allowed to "live in" at the fire station in order to obtain on-the-job training. This cadet program is still operating to this day and Grand Chute still accepts interns each semester. Vince realized training was important and initiated the weekly night training sessions with the members. He always stressed the importance of communication and accountability on the fire ground. Chief Baum also served as Chief of the Fox River Valley Fire Chief's Association for many years and had a very good rapport with other firefighters. Older members remember that Chief Baum always treated all firefighters with dignity and respect. The department remained a paid-on-call department throughout his tenure.

### **Chief Mark Heling: 1991 - 2002**



Chief Mark Heling first started to attend meetings and drills with the department in August, 1974. He began his tenure as a firefighter and responding to calls within the first year on the department. In June, 1977 he was hired by the Town as the full-time Road Foreman and promoted to Superintendent in 1984. While maintaining this full-time position, he continued his commitment to the fire department and rose in rank. Mark's vision for the department was to work more closely with the surrounding departments. In the early 1980's, Mark organized the first meetings of the Fox Valley Area Fire Inspectors and the Outagamie County Arson Task Force (Fire Investigation) and the first Radio Alert meetings with the assistance of the State Fire Marshalls office. In 1991 he was hired as the first paid Chief (serving part-time). Mark continued the tradition of the Monday night training drills and worked to advance training. The Town's first jaws-of-life was purchased and put into service during his tenure. Chief Heling also started the formal emergency medical first responder service in February, 1999 under the direction of the Fire Department. During the 90's the Town experienced a huge growth surge and was considered the fastest growing community in the state and that increase was reflected in call volume during his term as Chief. He recognized the need for advanced technology to maintain records and installed and managed the first computer program called Proper Chief later to be replaced by FireHouse. He also started staffing the stations with the full-time firefighters to respond to calls and to conduct inspections, but the paid-on-call members still held an important role in the department. Mark is still active with the department and currently serves as a paid-on-call Captain while maintaining full-time employment with the Town.

### **Chief John Pauls: 2002 – 2003**



Chief John Pauls was hired in February, 2002 and served as the department's first full-time Chief. John changed the full-time staffing arrangement to provide for the full-time staffing of two firefighters for the day shift on the engine at the Highview Station. Later, two additional full-time firefighters were added so each shift was staffed with three firefighters per shift. Paid-on-call members provided night shift coverage so the Town had one engine company staffed twenty four hours per day, seven days per week with a crew of three firefighters responding to all calls.

### **Chief Todd Farley: 2004 – 2007**



Chief Todd Farley was hired in April, 2004. Todd was instrumental in developing a five-year vision and strategic deployment plan that led to the construction of the new Headquarters Station on Grand Chute Boulevard and the addition of full-time staff. Todd's vision was to ultimately have three stations in Grand Chute to improve response times for the Town. He researched and worked with the Town of Menasha to implement our first Automatic Aid Agreement with a neighboring department. He successfully changed the apparatus service life from a thirty year replacement policy to a twenty year cycle to help keep advancing technology in the department and in our trucks. Todd was given authorization to organize the hiring of the department's first full-time training officer position when he hired Tim Bantes. Chief Farley resigned from the department in February, 2007 when he accepted a position in his home town of Blue Springs, Missouri.

### **Chief Tim Bantes: 2007 – current**



Tim was not a stranger to the Grand Chute Fire Department when he was hired in 2005 as the department's first full-time training officer. Tim interned with the department under Chief Baum from 1979-1980 while he was a student at Fox Valley Technical College in the fire protection program. Tim began his career with the Menominee Fire Department where he served as a firefighter for eight years. He was then hired by the Marinette Fire Department where he spent fourteen years before leaving his position as Lieutenant to join the Grand Chute Fire Department. Tim was promoted to Fire Chief when he filled the vacancy created when Todd Farley resigned in 2007. He led the department through the design, construction, and start-up of a new fire station and hired our first Fire Prevention Specialist and added nine full-time staff to the current level. This was due to the successful acquisition of the SAFER Grant and passage of a community referendum to increase fire department staffing to two staffed fire stations, twenty four hours a day for a reduction in response times the first time in Grand Chute history. He was involved in the development of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System). He was instrumental in the implementation of our new Automatic Aid Agreement with the City of Appleton and the Town of Center. Chief Bantes currently serves as the President of the Outagamie County Fire Chiefs Association.

## Stations – Then and Now

### Northland Avenue Station

In 1949 the department held discussions about the need for a new fire station. The 1937 Ford and the new 1949 Mack truck they had just taken delivery of were currently being



stored at Oly's Bus Garage on West Wisconsin Avenue. In 1951-1952, the town hall building was constructed at 502 West Northland Avenue and became the first permanent home of the Grand Chute Fire Department. This building held the town offices and also housed the department of public works until they moved to the current town hall facility in 2002. The

Northland Avenue facility was updated in approximately 1962 and again in 1990 as the department grew and bigger accommodations were needed. It was utilized strictly as a fire station until the fall of 2008 and was vacated by the department when construction on the new Headquarters Fire Station on Grand Chute Blvd. was completed. The building was rented to a private party until it was razed in June, 2010.

### Highview Drive Station

In 1976 the Town constructed a combination fire department and police building at 2920 West Highview Drive. Special features of the structure were overhead doors that faced south providing minimum heat loss, lightweight concrete blocks filled with insulation on all outside walls, maximum ceiling insulation and minimum use of glass. The \$160,000 building was dedicated in July, 1976 with U.S. Rep. Robert Cornell and State Reps. Toby Roth and Ervin Conrardt participating in the ceremonies. This building served as the



headquarters station for many years. When the police department moved to the new town hall when it was built in 2002, it marked the first time that the fire department was no longer sharing facilities with other Town departments. This station remains in service today.

## Grand Chute Boulevard Station

The new Headquarters Station 1 is located at 2250 West Grand Chute Boulevard and was constructed in 2008. Operations began on October 11, 2008 after a ceremony and open house were held to dedicate the 26,500 square foot facility. The location was chosen based on recommendations from a detailed study of response times in Grand Chute. This facility



includes six apparatus bays, a maintenance room, a dedicated wash-down room, living quarters for the on duty crew and the administrative offices. A large classroom is also included and doubles as the emergency operations center for the Town. This classroom is dividable so that two class sessions can be delivered at any one time.

In an effort to save on energy and lower utility expenses, several unique building features were incorporated with the design. Skylights and additional windows were added to the apparatus bays to allow more natural light, a computerized heating and air conditioning system allows for fine tuning of the system and takes advantage of outside fresh air and an in-floor heating system installed in the apparatus bays better distributes heat during the winter.

When the old town hall/fire station building on Northland Avenue was razed in June, 2010, the silver lettering "Grand Chute Fire Dept" above the main entrance was removed from the Northland Avenue station and refurbished by members and installed on the new station.



## Personnel

### Past Members

This list is not all-inclusive due to lack of records.

#### ***Members with 5 – 9 years of service***

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Herman Woldt Jr	1951-1956	Bradley Gasper	1989-1998
George Schuh	1954-1963	Terry Kuehl	1989-1998
Victor Berg	1959-1966	Greg Stingle	1991-1996
Ervin Woldt	1960-1968	Paul Osterberg	1991-1997
Gerald Smits	1968-1975	Robert Kiser	1992-2002
Harold Standiford	1973-1981	Bently Starkweather	1993-1998
Robert Wogsland	1973-1981	Richard Taylor	1994-1999
James Zabinski	1973-1982	Kyle Marhol	1995-2000
Edward Gorton	1975-1980	Jody (Holbrook)Knauer	1995-2001
Earl Gutschow	1978-1987	Edward Walker	1995-2003
Jim Rudebeck	1979-1984	Timothy Masterson	1995-2004
Tom Peterson	1980-1987	James Bentle	1996-2005
Daniel Calmes	1983-1989	Michael Tedford	1997-2002
Thomas Ulman	1983-1990	Timothy Leitermann	1997-2003
Marvin Vosters	1984-1992	Todd Webb	1998-2003
Donald VanCamp	1985-1993	Timothy Borchardt	2002-2008
Mark Kottke	1986-1994	Thomas Nicholson	2002-2008
Brian Harfiel	1987-1993	Jason Bartlett	2002-2008
Mark Weiland	1987-1995	Ted Salzman	2002-2008
Todd Dontje	1988-1993	Timothy Martin	2002-2012
Scott Dontje	1988-1995	Joseph Vosters	2003-2011
Joel Zitske	1989-1994	Aaron Schellinger	2005-2011

#### ***Members with 10 – 14 years of service***

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Stanley Gillespie	1939-1952	Rodger Baum	1983-1993
Melvin Haferbecker	1942-1953	Steven Vandenberg	1983-1994
Carlton Lecker	1951-1962	Duane Velie	1985-1995
Robert Behle	1951-1964	Al Edler	1986-1999
James Buelow	1956-1966	Patrick Miller	1989-2002
Henry Svetnicka	1957-1971	Kory Hansen	1996-2011
Marvin Pennings	1966-1976	Michael Vanden Hogen	1999-2012
Paul Heimmerman	1980-1990	Richard Bodway	2000-2010

#### ***Members with 15 – 19 years of service***

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Gordon Schultz	1939-1955	Raymond Gasper	1968-1985
Edward Burke	1951-1968	Vincent Berg	1972-1991
Earl Lecker	1951-1968	Jeff Baumann	1980-1996
Donald Van Handel	1951-1970	Daniel Schroeder	1980-1996
Harold Van Handel	1951-1970	Wayne Gludemans	1984-2004
Raymond Woldt	1955-1972	David Witthuhn	1992-2011
Stan Krake	1955-1973	Jody Paul	1995-2011

***Members with 20 – 24 years of service***

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Ervin Lanser	1952-1972	Alfred Baumann	1969-1990
Ervin Fickel	1955-1975	Francis Burton	1971-1995
Antone Kuba	1956-1979	Ted Heidke	1971-1995
Melvin Hertzfeld	1963-1985	Robert Fickel	1975-1996
William Paltzer	1966-1991	James Reider	1980-2002

***Members with 25 – 29 years of service***

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Frank Calmes	1951-1976	Peter Berg	1954-1980
Clarence Smits	1951-1979	Melvin Hegner	1957-1984
Leslie Woldt	1951-1980	Norman Coenen	1964-1991
Marvin Griesbach	1952-1964, 1971-1987	Adam Berg	1970-1995
Ray Heimmermann	1952-1956, 1966-1989	Kenneth Hawley	1972-1997
Robert Helms	1952-1978	Gerald Kohl	1973-2002
		Mark Petersen	1983-2011

***Members with 30 – 34 years of service***

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Richard Van Handel	1951-1983	Isadore Reis	1954-1988
Ray Baum	1951-1985	Dennis Fickel	1980-2012

***Members with 35 – 39 years of service***

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Joe Kraus	1951-1986	Raymond Baumann	1951-1990
Earnest Paltzer	1951-1986		

***Members with 40 – 44 years of service***

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Vincent Baum	1951-1991	John Baum	1967-2011
Ervin VanCamp	1952-1996		

***Members with 45 – 49 years of service***

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Donald Koleske	1952-1997	Robert Paltzer, Jr.	1964-2010
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**Northland Avenue Barn Fire – 1963**



**Park Place Fire - 2006**



## Current Members:

### Members with less than 5 years of service

FF Travis Nate	2011	FF Greg Brown	2009
FF Matt Chada	2011	FF Wade Thorson	2008
FF Mark Pauley	2011	FF Andy Czechanski	2008
FF Jeremy Stern	2011	FF Eric Berglund	2008
FF Jeremy Ristau	2011	FF Nick Ducklow	2008
FF Alex Smith	2011	FF Josh Canterbury	2008
FF Jesse Pickett	2009	FF Aaron Ott	2008
FF Chris Jape	2009	FF Sean Heinz	2008
FF Ben Hanson	2009	Eng. Chad Siegmann	2009
FF Keith Lenaburg	2009	FF Tom Marquardt	2007

### Members with 5 – 9 years of service

FF Raul Lazcano	2003	Lt. Jeremy Hansen	2005
Lt. Chad Martin	2003	Eng. David Paulson	2005
Eng. Kevin Fickel	2004	Chief Timothy Bantes	2005
Eng. Jacob Cahak	2004	Lt. William Gretzinger	2005
FF Bonnie Leach	2004		

### Members with 10 – 14 years of service

Eng. Robert Buettner	1998	Eng. Raimonds Pavasaris	2000
Eng. Jeremy Garrow	1999	Lt. Brian Davis	2001
Asst. Chief Michael DeBruler	2000	FF Joshua Salzman	2001
Lt. Nicholas Everson	2000	Eng. Aaron Stark	2002
Eng. Thomas High	2000	Acting Officer Sam Van Lieshout	2002

### Members with 15 – 19 years of service

FF Dave Dassow	1993	Lt. Robert Schipper	1996
Lt. Michael Geissler	1993	FF Eric Syring	1996
Lt. Brad Paltzer	1993	Lt. John Clark	1997

### Members with 20 – 24 years of service

Capt. Brian Schommer	1988	Admin. Asst. Lisa Gabriel	1991
Eng. Michael Daniels	1989	Eng. Robert Olson	1991
FF Mark Nelsen	1989		

### Members with 25 – 29 years of service

Asst. Chief Richard Trilling	1986
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### Members with 30 – 34 years of service

Asst. Chief Robert Hilton	1982
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### Members with 35 – 39 years of service

Capt. Mark Heling	1975
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Just of few of our members....



This photo taken approximately 1991 shows several of our retired alumni at the time. First Row Seated (left to right): Morris Brockman, Robert Behle, Erv Fickel, Ray Baumann, Gordon Schultz, Vince Baum. Second Row: Orv Kizitski, Les Woldt, Robert Helms, Ray Heimmerman, Erv Lanser, Vince Berg, Norm Coenen, Al Baumann, Raymond Woldt. Third Row: Marv Griesbach, Izadore Reis, Jeff Baumann, Scott Hicks, Harold Standiford, Unknown, Ernie Paltzer, Ed Nigl, Joe Kraus, Erv Woldt, Paul Heimmerman, Harold Van Handel, Ray Baum, Richard Van Handel.



## Apparatus – Then and Now



Until the mid 2000's, the expected service life of a fire apparatus was thirty years. This target was changed to twenty years to better fit the needs of the department and respond to increasing technology development in the fire service and better serve our community and incorporate safety advances to protect firefighters.



The first fire truck was a 1937 Ford. This new truck had a combination booster tank and was equipped with a 250 gallon per minute pump; 700 gallon tank, 750 feet of hose, two ladders, pike pole, 30 feet of hard suction hose, two 2 ½ gallon acid extinguishers, two 5 gallon Indian pumps, sport light, flood lights, nozzles, bars, axe and six firemen's hats and coats, and a first aid kit. This truck was later sold to the Freedom Fire Department.



In 1949 the fire department purchased their second fire truck which was a 1949 Mack truck. This truck had a 500 gallon booster tank with a 750 gallon per minute pump. It was originally purchased to protect the areas west of Richmond Street, Bell Heights and Whispering Pines Subdivisions. This truck was purposely chosen for the smaller booster tank because these areas already had a water supply. However, this whole area was annexed by the City of Appleton shortly thereafter.



Purchased in 1956 for \$8,500 was a 1956 Ford with a 1000 gallon booster tank and 500 gallon per minute front mounted pump.



In 1971 the department received a grant to purchase a 1971 GMC Step Van. The amount of the grant is unknown. The van was mandated to display the "Civil Defense" emblem due to the fact that it was required to carry geiger counters.

During the 1960's and early 70's the fire department continued to use a loaned tractor trailer water tanker. In August, 1974 the department acquired two old army trucks. Tanks were built that had a 1,750 gallon capacity and were installed on these army surplus truck chassis.



This 1971 Ford was purchased with an automatic transmission that was fondly nicknamed by the members as "the screamin' demon".



The very first aerial ladder truck purchased by the department was a 1983 Thibault 100' Aerial Ladder with a Hendrickson Chassis built by 3D. This truck had a 1250 gallon per minute pump that supplied the large diameter master stream and came completed with the first Cascade System and the first Breathing Air Compressor mounted on the truck.

## Current Apparatus:



### Engine 2621



2007 Pierce Velocity, 1500 gallon per minute pump and 750 gallon water tank. Currently housed at the Grand Chute Blvd. station.

### Engine 2622



2010 Pierce Impel, 1500 gallon per minute pump and 750 gallon water tank. Currently housed at the Highview Drive Station.

### Engine 2651



1995 Pierce Saber, 1500 gallons per minute pumper with a 750 gallon water tank and also features both a class "A" and "B" foam. Currently housed at the Grand Chute Blvd. Station.

### Engine 2652



2001 American LaFrance Eagle II 1500 gallon per minute pumper, 750 gallon water tank. Currently housed at the Highview Drive Station.

### Ladder 2641



2004 Pierce 105' Heavy Duty Aerial Ladder. Currently housed at the Grand Chute Blvd. Station.

### Squad 2671



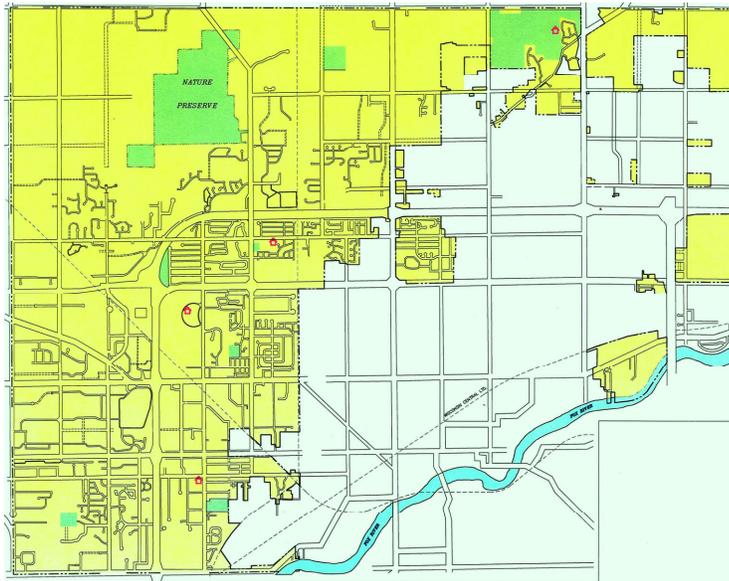
1995 Marion Spartan Rescue. Currently housed at the Grand Chute Blvd. station.

### Tender 2661



2005 Pierce 3000 Gallon water tender. Currently housed at the Grand Chute Blvd. station.

### Coverage Area – Then and Now



The Township of Grand Chute used to cover thirty six square miles, some of which was annexed into the City of Appleton over the years as indicated by the white areas of the map. Currently Grand Chute covers approximately twenty three square miles and serves 21,050 permanent residents. Weekday population estimates for the Town exceed 75,000 during day time hours. Grand Chute is the largest town in the State of Wisconsin.

The heart of Fox Cities shopping (Fox River Mall and the West College Avenue corridor) is located in the Town of Grand Chute. Studies have shown that on the Friday after Thanksgiving, there are in excess of 100,000 people in and around the Fox River Mall area. Also, two-thirds of all Fox Cities hotel rooms are located in our town.

In 2008 the Department received a SAFER Grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) which partially funded the increase of full-time staff to sixteen with the addition of nine firefighters.

### **Largest Fires on Record**



**Lieber's Home Center  
1924 West College Avenue**

**August 24, 1983  
10:27 PM**

**Loss: \$1,000,000  
Cause: Undetermined**



**Modern Business Machines  
620 North Lynndale Drive**

**December 19, 1988  
10:40 PM**

**Loss: \$1,600,000  
Cause: Accidental**



**Jansport**  
**525 North Perkins Street**

**May 23, 1991**  
**7:00 PM**

**Loss: \$4,000,000**  
**Cause: Spontaneous Combustion**



**Golper Supply Company**  
**1810 West Edgewood Drive**

**December 16, 1996**  
**11:10 PM**

**Loss: \$2,500,000**  
**Cause: Undetermined**



**Quality Truck**  
**2150 West Nordale Drive**

**July 19, 1999**  
**8:12 PM**

**Loss: \$1,000,000**  
**Cause: Welding**

## **Volunteer to Current Staffing**

When the department was first organized, it was staffed by volunteer townsmen. Early town hall records indicate that the volunteer firefighters were paid \$0.40 per hour for their work. In June of 1983, the first full-time firefighter was hired and the department became a combination department. Because of the call volume during the daytime hours there was a need to have a person at Station 2 on Highview Drive. This person was a "Caretaker" for the building doing light maintenance on the vehicles along with upkeep of the building. This helped with getting an engine on the road immediately. This person worked from 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM six days a week. Prior to the full-time employee, two volunteer firefighters would respond from Accurate Alignment in order to get an engine on the road during the daytime hours. Other members would go directly to the scene with their gear in their private vehicle. The hours at night from 6:00 PM – 6:00 AM were covered at Station 2 as early as 1980.

In 1994 we had three personnel manning two stations. Station 1 on Northland Avenue was covered by one person from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM, Monday – Friday. Station 2 on Highview Drive had two personnel that covered from 6:00 AM - 2:00 PM and 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

In February 1995 a fourth career person was hired and assigned to the Northland Avenue station. Those two personnel were assigned alternating shifts of 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM and 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM.

In May of 2000 a fifth career person was hired and the full time assistant chief hours were changed to 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday.

In July 2002, Chief Pauls changed the staffing to have all personnel assigned to Station 2. This created an engine company of at least two personnel and sometimes four between 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Monday - Friday.

In March, 2003 two more career personnel were hired and the line personnel began working twelve hour shifts. These shift consisted of three days on and three days off that now included the weekends, 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM. Paid on call members then started staffing the station 6:00 PM – 6:00 AM.

In February, 2007 one additional career person was hired to create a Fire Prevention Specialist position that would be on duty Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM with the main responsibility focused on fire prevention and public education.

In 2008, the department received a grant and had a successful referendum vote that allowed the department to increase staffing by nine more career personnel. This allowed for two engines be staffed when the current Headquarters Fire Station was opened in October 2008.

The engine company at the head quarters station on Grand Chute Blvd. is now staffed by three career personnel everyday 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM. The engine company at the Highview station is now staffed by three career personnel around the clock.

Currently the department is considered a combination department, meaning a mix of paid-on-call (POC) members, part-time members, and full-time career firefighters. We currently have one chief, three assistant chiefs, one administrative assistant, sixteen full-time firefighters, five part-time firefighters, and thirty five paid-on-call members.

Currently Station 1 is staffed by a crew of three full-time firefighters during the day shift (6:00 AM – 6:00 PM) and a crew of three POC firefighters every night shift (6:00 PM – 6:00 AM). This crew responds with Engine 2621, Ladder Truck 2641, Heavy Rescue 2671 or Tender 2661 depending on the nature of the call.

Engine 2622 is staffed by a crew of three full-time firefighters working twenty four hour shifts at Station 2. The fourth crew member is staffed by a combination of part-time and paid-on-call firefighters. A part-time firefighter works weekday day shifts, and POC firefighters work weekend day shifts as well as night shifts to bring the engine company staff to four firefighters.

All members carry pagers and respond to the stations when additional staffing is needed.

## **Training**

Firefighter training has evolved greatly throughout the years due to changes in technology, tactics, building construction and firefighter safety. The department has experienced these changes first hand as the community has grown over the years.

In the early days, specialized training was very limited and was not practical for many of the members. Training focused on equipment and basic tactics for the known emergencies that were frequently encountered such as structure fires. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which sets forth the standards used by most departments today, was in existence but training and safety was not a priority at the time. The NFPA did not develop its first fire department training standard until 1948, which was focused on equipment.

As the Grand Chute Fire Department began to grow and become established, the equipment and training needed also grew. Drill school, which taught basic firemanship, took off in 1941 and was only offered in the county once or twice per year. The department received its first axe in 1944. Formal training was established by the department in 1947, when the department mandated that the second Sunday of every month was training time and that members were required to attend one out of every four sessions. The first breathing apparatus was a Chemox mask that the department received in 1948. Training was often

strictly hands on work with the equipment that was available. Computers, multi-media and specialized props did not exist.

As technology advanced and changes in the community, so did the training for the firefighters. Today, training is highly specialized and very technical in nature. Certification in many different areas of expertise now exist, and often times are required. A new firefighter today will spend an average of three hundred hours in training before being permitted to go inside a burning structure or provide patient care to a sick or injured person. Another advance in training was the implementation of dedicated personnel in the areas of training and safety. The department hired its first full time training officer at the rank of Assistant Chief in 2004. This position manages the department's training programs and oversees all areas of personnel safety. Today, partnerships with neighboring departments and Fox Valley Technical College provide another layer of enhanced training to our personnel so that the best possible level of service is provided to our community.

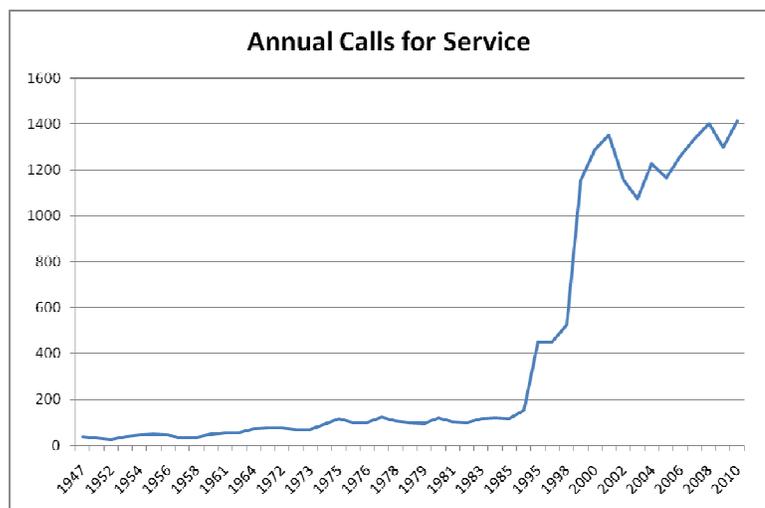
The department has established training programs in place including a new recruit academy, engineer's (Driver) class, and officer development. Company officers play a big role in training and often spend many hours dedicated to basic skills with the men and women assigned to them.

As the department moves forward, so must the training. Firefighters are constantly learning something new and changes in technology and tactics will continue to drive what the firefighter will need to learn in the future.

## Run Activity

In earlier days, the department would respond to one or two calls per month. In 2011, the department responded to 1519 calls which is an average of nearly 4.2 calls per day.

As the department call volume increased, the chance for overlapping incidents grew. Currently the department averages more than twice per week at least two active calls at the same time. Occasionally the department has three active calls at the same time.



## **Notification of Calls**

When first established, department volunteers were summoned for an incident by using a phone call chain or phone tree by the volunteer's wives who would call and notify other members. This was eventually supplemented by a fire siren that was placed on the roof of the town hall building. The call chain was still used for members who lived some distance from the siren. The phone call chain was replaced by the plectron system, a large receiver unit where calls were announced to members. Plectron units were replaced with the current pagers that notified members of fires. In the 1980's it was decided that one firefighter would reside in the small house owned by the Town that was adjacent to the Northland Avenue Station and would be available to respond to calls. While the rent was somewhat reduced, there were many duties that were included with the arrangement such as truck checks, maintenance and most important was to be available to respond twenty four hours per day, seven day per week. Currently, calls are dispatched and the details are sent electronically to Mobile Data Computers (MDC) in the trucks, but the pagers are still utilized to notify firefighters. The MDC's give the officers additional information on the call, as well as route maps and hydrant locations.

## **First Responder Service**

In February 1999, the Grand Chute Fire Department began providing Emergency Medical First Responder Services for the Town. Members would respond to medical emergencies in personal vehicles along with the duty engine with medical supplies and defibrillator. The department responded to medical calls in this manner until 2003 when staffing was increased to three firefighters on one engine and it was not necessary that members respond in their personal vehicles.

Now an engine company of three or four firefighters responds to all emergency medical calls. This is in conjunction with Gold Cross Ambulance and Grand Chute Police Department. These types of calls are roughly 65% of our current call volume. All firefighters are trained and certified by the State of Wisconsin at the Emergency Medical First Responder level. Several firefighters have more advanced medical training up to and including Paramedic level.

Lifesaving patient care is initiated by the firefighters before paramedics from the area's private ambulance service (Gold Cross Ambulance) arrive.

## Department Activities

The Grand Chute Fire Department conducts nearly 4,000 annual fire safety inspections of all commercial and general assembly occupancies. Inspections are performed by duty crews or the Fire Prevention Specialist. Occupancies inspected include mercantile, factories, public buildings, restaurants and apartment buildings. Inspections are a means to identify and eliminate or reduce hazards which might result in life or property loss. Code enforcement is a proactive and cost effective approach to community fire protection.

Our fire prevention program includes coordinating public education to all local schools and any community group that makes a request for our services. During the fall months, firefighters provide directed education programs to students at schools in Grand Chute. In recent years we have included a poster contest for the third grade classes. The children are asked to draw a poster based on the fire prevention theme for the year. The winners are chosen by members on the department and receive a trophy or the main prize which is a ride to school in the fire truck and a gift card to both the teacher and first place winner.



Other public education events include:

- Stop, Drop, and Roll
- Crawl Low Under Smoke
- Station Tours
- Scout Group Classes
- Matches and Lighter Safety
- E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills In The Home)
- Smoke Detectors
- Firefighter Gear (Firefighters are your Friends)
- 9-1-1 Simulator

## Services Provided:

The Grand Chute Fire Department provides the following services:

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical First Response
- Rescue - Extrication
- Hazardous Materials/Conditions Response
- Service Calls and Agency Assists
- Public Education
- Community Risk Reduction
- Fire Prevention
- Fire Investigation
- Non-Emergency Public Assistance

## Grand Chute Fire Explorer Post 9764

The Grand Chute Fire Explorer Post was formed in March of 1988 to provide a learning environment that fosters teamwork, leadership, and builds friendships that will last a lifetime. The Grand Chute Fire Department oversees the post, while advisors from local fire departments and EMS services provide additional guidance.

Our post is organized to suit the needs of the young adult; it consists of young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21 who are provided an opportunity to work closely with service professionals from local police, fire, and EMS agencies. Explorers participate in fire suppression, self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) training, ice rescue, search & rescue, and many other activities.

These hands-on experiences provide explorers with an exposure to a variety of careers and a valuable network of community contacts. We are proud to have explorers from Post 9764 move on to serve in local fire and EMS services, including: Grand Chute, Neenah-Menasha, Green Bay, Appleton, Hortonville, New London, Greenville, Ellington, Center, and many more.



Currently, the post consists of sixteen explorers and six advisors (firefighters and officers from Grand Chute Fire Department as well as other area departments). Four of our past explorers also serve as committee members.

## **Grand Chute Firefighters Association**

The Grand Chute Firefighters Association was the foundation of the department, effectively functioning as the governing body of the fire department. Early records indicate that the Town loaned \$500 in start-up money to get the department going, but that money had to be repaid. Meeting minutes include approvals of department purchases like badges, turn-out gear and hose. There were also approvals for billing for fire runs and approval votes to allow new volunteers to join. The Town of Grand Chute now manages hiring, billing and payments so the Association direction has changed over the years. Currently the Association conducts fundraising activities (brat fry's, candy and soda sales) to fund family picnics, children's Christmas party and the annual Christmas party. It is also involved in community support, recently donating funds for the Grand Chute Police K-9 unit start-up.

## **IAFF Local Union 3655**

IAFF Local 3655 in Grand Chute, Wisconsin was chartered September 19, 1995.

On September 10, 1995, four career firefighters of the Grand Chute Fire Department held a meeting to discuss organizing as a local in the IAFF (International Association of Firefighters). At the meeting principal officers were elected and information on how the union works was discussed. Newly elected President, Bryan Knauer, stated he had a meeting setup on September 14, 1995 with IAFF 5<sup>th</sup> District Vice President Charlie Buss to cover the details of organizing. The local was then chartered five days later as IAFF Local 3655.

In the following weeks Local 3655 established its "Constitution & By-Laws" and began negotiations on its first collective bargaining agreement.

In 1996 Local 3655 became members of the PFFW (Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin) and the Northeastern Firefighters Association.

As negotiations continued on the first collective bargaining agreement, Assistant Chief Richard Trilling was deemed management by the Town and was withdrawn from the local. This left three members in Local 3655. Richard Trilling was then made the first "Honorary Member" of Local 3655, and to this day the only one.

On June 5, 1996 the first collective bargaining agreement was signed and enacted after lengthy negotiations. That first collective bargaining agreement covered three of the four career personnel at Grand Chute Fire Department. Over the years our local has grown to sixteen members out of the twenty career personnel at Grand Chute Fire Department.

Local 3655 has continued to be active with the IAFF, PFFW, and Northeastern Firefighters Association. Our members participate in the annual "MDA Fill the Boot" drive, and participate in other charity fund drives and activities.



## **Fireman's Prayer**

*When I am called to duty, God, Whenever flames may rage;  
Give me the strength to save some life, Whatever be its age:*

*Help me to embrace a little child before it is too late;  
Or save an older person from the horrors of that fate.*

*Enable me to be alert, and hear the weakest shout,  
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.*

*I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me;  
To guard my every neighbor and protect his property.*

*And if according to Your will I am to give my life,  
Please bless with your protecting hand, my children and my wife.*