

CITY OF DOWAGIAC-PUBLIC SAFETY



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Honorable Donald Lyons, Mayor
Dowagiac City Council
Kevin Anderson, City Manager
Citizens of Dowagiac

Mayor Lyons, City Council, Kevin Anderson, Citizens of Dowagiac,

On behalf of the dedicated team at the Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments, it is with great pleasure that I present our 2024 Annual Reports. This report offers valuable insights into our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional service to our community. This report summarizes the activities of the Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments for the calendar year 2024.

As you view this report, I am confident that you will appreciate the magnitude and complexity of the work that our Police Officers, Firefighters, and civilian staff have accomplished this past year. There is not a more dedicated, professional, and talented group of individuals than those that wear the uniforms of the Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments, and have taken an oath to serve our community each and every day. Developing and maintaining community partnerships and relationships is the cornerstone of our system of public safety here in Dowagiac.

The Police Department had a very busy year seeing a 24% increase in calls for service. The department graduated two more officers from local police academies which brought the department staffing level to one vacancy. We returned to a focus of training, sending several officers to vital and important trainings along with complying with the MCOLES Continuing Professional Education hours mandated by the State of Michigan. Due to the increase in staffing we were able to assign another officer to CCDET and hope to have a full staff of 3 officers in CCDET by the end of 2025. Through all of these accomplishments we recognize that a police officer's badge of office is a public trust conferred upon us to be held so long as we remain true to the oath that each of us has taken.

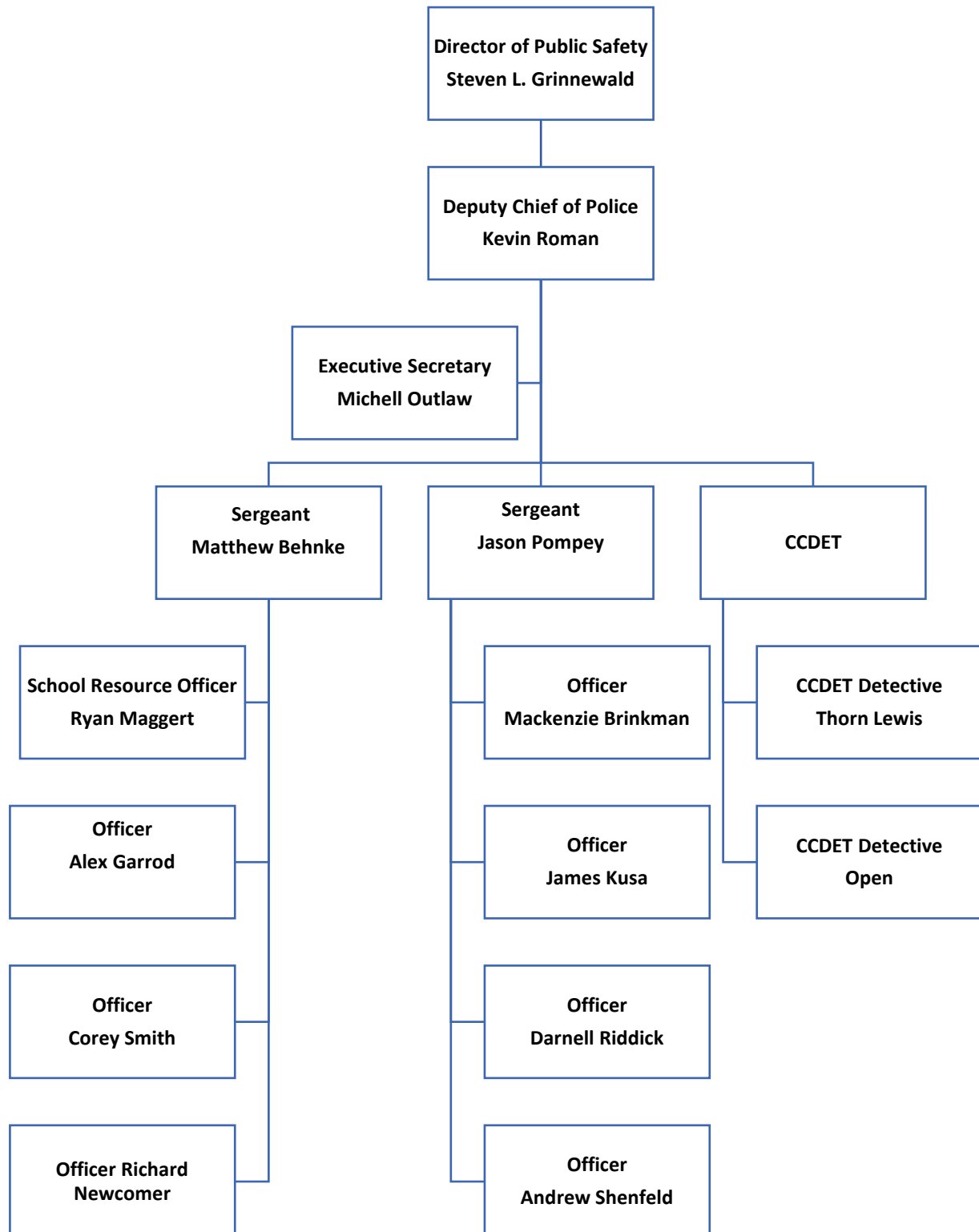
The Fire Department saw a 10% increase in calls for service. The department continued its commitment to training with over 1,700 combined hours of in-house and online training covering a wide array of topics to keep the firefighters sharp in their duties. We were awarded DNR Grants through the State of Michigan which allowed us to replace duty gear/turnout gear that was ending its useful life. Department members got the thrill of the year working on, and watching, the new Dowagiac Fire Station being built. We can't wait to move into the new station in early 2025. We are extremely grateful to our community and City Council who made this project a reality.

I am privileged to be surrounded by exceptional individuals and proud to lead a team of compassionate and courageous professionals who prioritize treating all individuals with dignity and respect. We cannot do this work without the support of our community and elected officials. We are fortunate to operate in a community that values and supports our ongoing efforts.

Sincerely,

Chief Steven L. Grinnwald
Director of Public Safety

ORGANIZATION-POLICE DEPARTMENT



STATISTICAL INFORMATION-POLICE

Index Crimes

	2023	2024
Murder	0	0
Sex Offense/Rape	49	35
Robbery	4	0
Aggravated/Felony Assault	28	40
Burglary/Illegal Entry	33	22
Larceny/ Theft	141	193
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	25

Non-Index Crimes

Assault/Dom. Violence	162	176
Fraud	106	74
Vandalism	106	122
Weapons Offense	36	25
Narcotics Law	36	29
Child/Family Offenses	116	92
OWI/Liquor Violations	14	15
Disorderly Conduct	205	169
Alarms	143	151
Stalking	103	157

General

Property Checks	5561	7773
Civil Matters	317	280
General Assist/Suspicious	1630	1677
Health & Safety	209	292

Arrests Charges

Adults	405	415
Juveniles	1	1

Traffic

Tickets	215	333
Accidents	118	147

Total Calls for Service

9,819

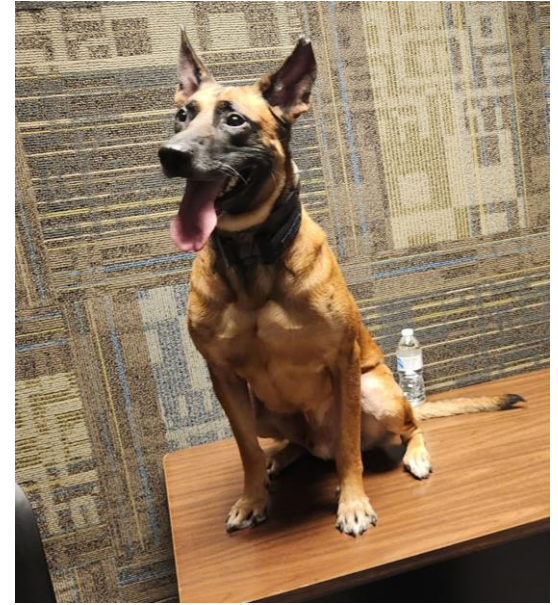
12,192

🐾 K9 CASH 🐾

K9 Cash is a 5-year old Belgian Malinois and is in his 4th year of law enforcement with Dowagiac Police Department. K9 Cash has earned certifications in obedience, tracking, article and building searches, narcotics and handler protection.

May 29, 2024 @ 10:38 a.m.–Narcotics/Weapons

K9 Cash and his Handler, Deputy Chief Roman were out assisting CCDET Detectives on a traffic stop within the City of Dowagiac and shortly after arriving on scene conducted an open-air sniff search of the vehicle when K9 Cash showed special interest in the undercarriage of the vehicle, near the driver-side door as well as rear passenger door. K9 Cash gave “final alert of sit” and Handler and Detectives located methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and several weapons. The driver was arrested for CCW violations and possession of methamphetamine. The female passenger was also arrested for outstanding warrants out of Berrien County. At the jail, a female corrections officer found the female passenger to be in possession of methamphetamine.



September 3, 2024 @ 14:30 – Narcotics Offense

K9 Cash and Handler, Deputy Chief Roman were called to assist on a traffic stop with a known drug-dealer within the City of Dowagiac. Upon arrival, K9 Cash was deployed for an open air search of the vehicle as well as the area that Officers believed the driver may have thrown out suspected narcotics. K9 Cash showed interest in the driver seat as well as the passenger side front seat. K9 Cash showed behavior changes with a “head snap and breathing change” and with “final alert of sit.” Officers located crystal methamphetamine in both locations. The driver was arrested/lodged.

October 22, 2024 @ 10:30 A.M. – Assist US Marshall in locating Homicide Suspect

US Marshalls contacted Dowagiac Police Department and requested a K9 assist in locating a Homicide suspect that was inside a residence. K9 Cash was placed into protective equipment and two US Marshalls provided lethal cover for him and his handler. K9 Cash gave several audible barks prior to entering the residence as well as DC Roman gave several loud verbal commands to make herself known before entering the residence. Upon entry, K9 Cash located the Homicide Suspect in the kitchen area and was taken into custody without injury.



🐾 K9 TOLE 🐾



K9 Tole is living his best retirement life! K9 Tole enjoys coming to the office and taking naps, walks around City Hall and mostly looks forward to weekend trips to Grandma and Grandpa Roman's house where he gets ground beef, pumpkin and fresh veggies prepared for dinner. SPOILED!

K9 Tole still likes to participate in training and reminds K9 Cash who is ALPHA-DOG at the office. K9 Tole makes sure that K9 Cash is following commands properly and even proves that he can still smell the DOPE!

Although K9 Tole's nose is always searching for DOPE smells, he ALWAYS **STOPS**, and smells the flowers



Each year the Police & Fire Department host The Hot Spot at the Ice Festival so Deputy Chief Roman tasked K9 Tole with "Guarding the Gold" Honey Graham Crackers that is, we just had to keep an eye on him so he didn't steal any!

K9 Tole reminding "pawrents" that pets are safest indoors during the 4th of July.



TRAINING-POLICE

- MSU School of Staff and Command
- Law Enforcement Media Communications
- MACP Winter Conference
- Internal Affairs Investigations
- Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference
- Supervising Critical Patrol Incidents
- Tactical Medical for First Responders
- Effective Fitness Combative Instructor Certification
- Glock Armorer
- Patrol Rifle Armorer
- Tactical Warrant Service
- Taser Instructor Re-certification
- Undercover Techniques and Survival for Narcotics Officers
- REID Interview and Interrogation
- Monthly Department Defensive Tactics (Gracie Survival/Jiu-Jitsu)
- Basic FTO School
- Women in Law Enforcement Conference
- Michigan Abandoned Vehicle Law
- NICS Federal Prohibition Training
- Administrative Assistants Conference
- Security Awareness Training
- Michigan Liquor Law Enforcement Training Seminar
- De-escalation Department Training
- Defensive Tactics Department Training
- Firearms Training/Qualification Department Training
- High Risk Vehicle Stops
- TruNarc Operator Training
- Election Law Training

We would like to congratulate Sergeant Jason Pompey on his graduation from the Michigan State University School of Staff and Command. The MSU School of Staff and Command is a 400-hour problem-based course that utilizes a blend of classroom facilitated learning and cutting edge distance learning technologies. The program began in January and concluded with graduation in June. Problem-based learning (PBL) represents the next generation in law enforcement training by fostering critical thinking and employing learning philosophies appropriate in today's law enforcement world. Student's study budgeting, grant writing, strategic planning and other challenging topics while they prepared themselves to be future leaders of their departments. Students went through psychological profiles, conflict resolution profiling and other critical testing to determine how they approach these situations within their own personalities.



FROM THE STREETS

Dowagiac Police Department has 2 Patrol Officers on duty, 24-hours a day, 365 days per year. Road Patrol works closely with the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team (CCDET). We currently have 1 Detective assigned to the Team.

In 2024 Road Patrol/CCDET collected/removed/seized:

- Methamphetamine-112.3 grams
- Crack/Cocaine-.7 grams
- Fentanyl-.1 grams
- Seized Firearms-16



HIGHLIGHT CASES-POLICE

May 29, 2024 @ 10:38 AM – Weapons Offense/Possess Meth/Obstructing Police:

Dowagiac Officers were assisting a Cass County Drug Enforcement Team (CCDET) Detective and made a traffic stop on a vehicle. Upon stopping the vehicle Dowagiac K9 Cash alerted to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle. Upon searching the vehicle officers located a small quantity of meth as well as concealed weapons on the driver. The passenger was found to have a felony warrant for her arrest and possession of meth. As a result of this traffic stop, officers were met by an MDOC Agent who requested assistance checking a residence for some subjects associated with the occupants of the vehicle. Officers located the 3 subjects walking on N. Front St. near Oil Can Alley. Officers located a concealed 45 caliber handgun as well as meth, meth pipes, and other narcotics on these subjects. All subjects were arrested and lodged for their offenses.



July 12, 2024 @ 12:20 AM – Narcotics Violation/Fugitive Arrest/Harboring

Officers were advised that a subject was at a residence on E. Division St. that has several warrants for his arrest out of Cass County. Dowagiac Officers and Cass County Sheriff Deputies went to the residence in an attempt to locate the subject. Officers were given consent to search for the subject and located him hiding in a closet in the residence. He was taken into custody on his warrants. Officers also arrested one of the residents of the house for harboring a fugitive. Officers and Deputies searched the rest of the residence and located approximately 32 grams of meth along with other paraphernalia such as pipes, baggies, scales, syringes, and packaging items. Officers arrested two subjects for possession of meth with intent to deliver, maintaining a drug house, introduction of contraband (meth) into a correctional facility, and outstanding felony warrants. Upon transporting a female subject to the jail a quantity of meth was located in a body cavity upon searching her. Both subjects are awaiting trial.



HIGHLIGHT CASES-POLICE

September 20, 2024 @ 6:29 PM – Arson

The Dowagiac Fire Department was dispatched to a residence in the 600 block of N. Front St. for a fire in the basement. Upon arrival the fire department noted a fire in the basement that had been intentionally set. Dowagiac Police were requested to investigate and noted several items that were broken and piled on top of each other in the basement. These items were then set on fire which caused a great deal of smoke and fire damage. Due to the heat of the fire a water pipe broke which helped extinguish the fire. The homeowner advised officers that he had a friend living in the basement who has been making suicidal comments and that he is the one that caused the damage and set the fire. Officers put out information to other counties to attempt to locate the suspect. The suspect was eventually located at his mother's residence near Niles, MI. Officers questioned the suspect who was having a mental health crisis and was petitioned into a mental health facility for treatment. Upon released the suspect was charged with Arson of Real Property and eventually pled guilty to this charge. He served 43 days in jail, was placed on probation for 36 months, and order to pay restitution of \$11,270.



HIGHLIGHT CASES-POLICE

September 24, 2024 @ 11:00PM – Vehicle Larcenies/Obstructing Police/Several Other Offenses

Throughout the summer of 2024, Dowagiac Police over 70 larceny from vehicle complaints. Officers received video surveillance from some of these incidents and were able to determine some suspects who were juveniles. Officers also began investigating one of the juveniles for an allegation of CSC, distribution of child sexually abusive material (CSAM), motor vehicle theft, and fleeing and eluding along with the vehicle larcenies. Officers began searching for the juvenile suspect in the Vineyard Place Apts. area. Officers located the suspect and attempted to take him into custody. The suspect began running from officers and was caught after a foot pursuit through the Vineyard Place Apts. area. The juvenile suspect was questioned on his involvement in several crimes throughout Dowagiac and admitted to larcenies from vehicles as well as stealing vehicles, fleeing and eluding/crashing the stolen vehicles, and the CSC/CSAM allegations. The juvenile in this case was charged as an adult for several of these criminal acts and is currently being waived into adult court. Officers also identified several others that also committed larcenies from vehicles, one adult and two other juveniles. All have been charged for their criminal activities and are awaiting trial.

October 19, 2024 @ 7:00 PM – Weapons Offense/Obstructing Police

Officers noted a subject in a vehicle at the Shell gas station who they knew had warrants for his arrest out of Berrien County. The warrants out of Berrien County were for a probation violation, carrying a concealed weapon/altered serial number, and assault on a police officer. The subject also had a larceny warrant out of Cass County. Officers stopped the vehicle as it was leaving the gas station. Upon making contact with the subject with warrants he was asked to step from the vehicle. He did so, and upon exiting took off running south from the Shell station. Officers observed him stop near a trash can behind some businesses on S. Front St. and then continued running. Officers caught up with the subject in a parking lot on S. Front St. and attempted to take him into custody. He continued to resist officers and was eventually taken into custody. Upon checking the trash can officers located a loaded handgun and hat that the subject had in his possession. The subject was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon and resisting police. He was also arrested on the numerous warrants out of Berrien and Cass County. The suspect is currently awaiting trial.

November 22, 2024 @ 11:23 PM – Shooting/Attempted Murder:

Officers of the Dowagiac Police Department were dispatched to the intersection of W. Telegraph St. and Orchard St. for a person that had been shot near that location. Officers arrived to find a 17 year old male subject with a gunshot wound to his lower abdomen. The investigation showed that the victim and suspect had some form of altercation earlier in the evening and came together later at this location. They decided to fight and did so when the suspect began losing the fight. The suspect then pulled out a handgun and fired at another subject that was at the location and the victim, striking the victim in the lower abdomen. The investigation found that the suspect's mother came to the scene during the fight and fled with her son after the shooting. Officers located the suspect at his nearby residence and he was taken into custody without further incident. Officers recovered the Glock 9mm handgun used in the shooting. The suspect was arrested and lodged at the Cass County Jail on charges of 2 counts of assault with intent to murder, 2 counts of assault with intent to do great bodily harm, Dangerous Weapon- Carrying with unlawful intent, 2 counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, 5 counts of Felony firearm. The suspect is currently awaiting trial for these charges.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION-FIRE

Incidents and Calls	2023	2024
Total Calls For Service	391	430
Ward 1	145	162
Ward 2	97	105
Ward 3	87	91
LaGrange Township (College/other contracted properties)	3	9
Pokagon Township Contracted Area (Section 1 and 2)	11	9
Pokagon Band Tribal Property	1	4
Wayne/Volinia Twp. Auto Aid Agreement	29	41
Calls/Aid Other Areas/Departments Not Included Above	12	9
Average Response Time to Priority Calls/City Response Area	3:48	3:30
Breakout by Type of Call (Includes Auto Aid agreement)		
Structure Fire	13	17
Fire/Smoke Alarms (intentional, non-intentional, etc.)	55	
Cooking Fire (contained)	7	
Vehicle/Machinery Fires	2	3
Grass/Brush/Ground Fire/Dumpster	8	5
Good Intent/Service Calls (Water Leak, Smoke in Area)	15	57
Motor Vehicle Collision/Pedestrian/Extrication or Other Rescue	25	29
Elevator Rescue	3	
Search for Lost Persons	4	
Illegal Burning	44	
Hazardous Conditions (gas leak, power line down, etc.)	36	
Carbon Monoxide Calls/Investigations	34	
EMS Assist (Lifting Manpower/CPR, etc.)	114	146
Aircraft Standby	1	
Call Cancelled During Response	25	
Assist Police Department/Lighting/Traffic/Bomb Threat	5	
Severe Weather or Tornado Standby	0	2
Total Calls For Service	391	430

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

Southwestern Michigan College Educational Talent Search, Dowagiac Police & Fire, team up once again for “Public Safety Week” where recruits learn different aspects of Law Enforcement and Firefighting. “Recruits” learn about Vehicle Fire/Extrication, how to process a Crime Scene, Air-Medical transport/safety, K9 Training with K9 Cash, SWAT & Tactical Defense training, Emergency Communications and Traffic Stop Safety. “Recruits” took a trip to Niles Fire Department and performed Technical Rescue Training and enjoyed the local legendary Milano’s pizza.



A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY



A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY



This Christmas season, we witnessed the true magic of kindness and generosity in our little community. A little girl named Emelia, AKA Millie, was diagnosed with infantile leukemia in November 2023 and has spent most of her life fighting this awful disease. Little Millie shared a Christmas wish with our department to see the beautiful lights and our community responded in a BIG way. Police and Fire departments, Town agencies, City Utility, Tree Crews all participated with Friends, Family and Neighbors and had a lighted parade on Christmas Eve and even delivered Santa & Mrs. Claus. In that moment, her little face lit up, smiles and cheers took over the street. Sadly, little Emelia passed on January 9th. Her short life brought so much cheer and joy and has touched so many lives.

Dowagiac Police & Fire are honored to remember our little friend, Millie



TAILBOARD TALK

Average Response Times for 2024

In 2024 The Dowagiac Fire Department's overall in-district response time was 03:30. This is well below the National Fire Protection Agency's average response time recommendation for fire departments.

Average Firefighters on scene per call

Our 2024 average number of firefighters on scene per call averaged 8.73 firefighters which shows the dedication and loyalty of our first responders in our community.

Fire-Related Injuries or Deaths

There were no civilian deaths in 2024 due to fire. There were no fire service injuries or deaths for the year.

New Fire Station Project

2025 brings a major change to the Dowagiac Fire Department. Approximately one year ago a groundbreaking ceremony was held at 29157 Jessup Dr. The new location for your Dowagiac Fire Department to call home for many years to come. This new state-of-the-art facility is complete with a five-bay apparatus area, hose tower, decontamination area, classroom, small indoor training area, and gym just to name a few. This new purpose-built fire station will help streamline response times and assist us in reducing our exposure to harmful carcinogens we are routinely exposed to as we can now decontaminate our gear and tools in one designated area in this new station. Our entire department is thankful for the support of their community leaders who also saw the need and benefit of the new station. An investment in the safety and health of our community and all those who pass through. We plan to take occupancy in the early months of 2025.



SEMCO Energy Grant

Dowagiac Fire Department was recently awarded \$2,000 from SEMCO Energy Gas Company. These funds will be used to purchase new four-gas monitoring equipment. This device provides analysis for inert gases such as oxygen (O₂), carbon monoxide (CO) hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), and Lower explosive limits (LEL). Thank you again to SEMCO Energy Gas Company for providing the funding for this new equipment. We look forward to continuing a great working relationship.

Emergency Medical Responses for 2025

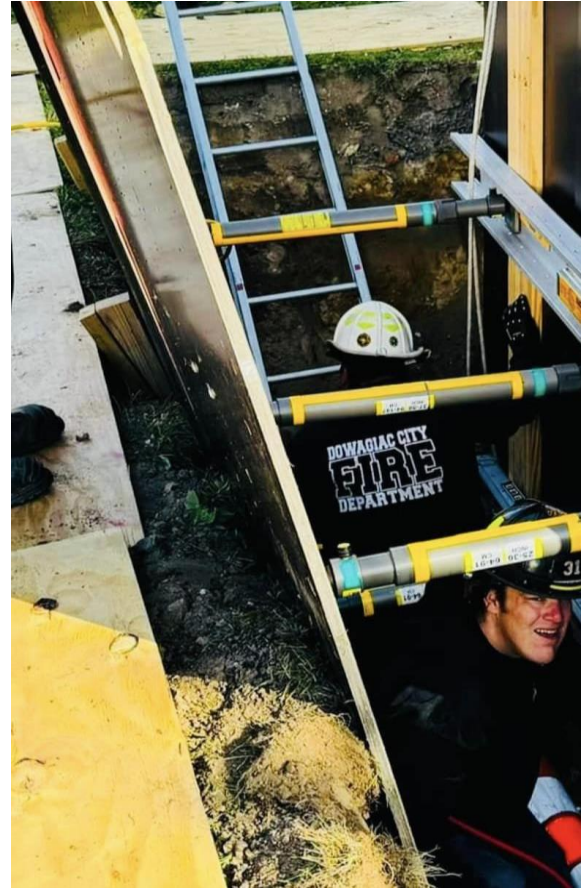
2025 will look a little different for your Dowagiac Firefighters/First Responders. In 2024 Dowagiac City Council announced the approval of a Medical First Responder Program which will be run by Dowagiac Firefighters. This First Responder Program will reduce wait times in the City of Dowagiac and other contracted areas for the Dowagiac Fire Department on priority calls. We currently have on staff eight certified EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS or EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS with another eight Firefighters ½ through an EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER course being hosted at our Fire Department. We are currently in the process of obtaining proper licensure through the State of Michigan and ordering new medical equipment for our fire apparatus that will respond to these medical emergencies. We are excited and look forward to serving our community and adding this program to our Department.

TRAINING-FIRE

Training continues to be a vital component of the fire department operations. Current and professional training helps us ensure the safety of our personnel, efficiency of our operations, and mitigate risk.

Our firefighters completed over 1700 combined hours of in-house, online, and traditional classroom training covering the following topics.

- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Search and Rescue
- Hose Lines and Water Supply Operations
- Vehicle Extrication and Technical Rescue Operations
- Confined Space Rescue
- Ice Rescue
- Trench Rescue
- Hazmat Operations
- Fire Science
- Railway Safety
- Wide Area Missing Person Search
- Active Violence
- Mayday
- Communications
- Rapid Intervention Team
- Facility Pre-Planning
- Naloxone Training
- Emergency Management Training
- Fire Instructor
- Emergency Medical Technician Training
- Emergency Medical Responder Training
- CPR/First Aid/AED
- Ropes and Knots



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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