

MAPLEWOOD PUBLIC SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT 2024



INDEX

Director's Report.....	Page 1
Personnel Changes.....	Page 3
Professional Development.....	Page 5
Equipment Upgrades	Page 5
Community Outreach.....	Page 7
Lifesaving Awards.....	Page 8
Year-End Stats.....	Page 9

Director's Report

Securing a safe, livable community

I continue to be inspired by the character, resilience, and professionalism demonstrated by our police officers, fire-fighters and staff. Each year brings new challenges, mandates, and expectations, yet they consistently collaborate to not only meet but exceed them.

As public safety leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure our frontline staff have the tools and resources they need to perform at their best. I am deeply grateful to our community and city council for their ongoing commitment to investing in our long-term wellness and cardiac health initiatives.

In 2024, we partnered with a specialized medical team to conduct comprehensive cardiac exams tailored to the unique risks faced by first responders. Unlike traditional cardiac testing for the general population, these evaluations focus on identifying markers that often go unnoticed in



Brian Bierdeman
Public Safety Director

standard screenings. These include risks associated with disrupted sleep cycles, the physiological strain of transitioning from a state of rest to intense physical activity in seconds, and the cumulative impact of occupational trauma. This initiative underscores our commitment to proactively addressing the health challenges inherent to public safety work and ensuring the well-being of our team.

This report highlights:

- **Community outreach** - 3000 community engagement hours, at more than 100 events.
- **Innovation** - Real-time fire-EMS dashboard, advanced cardiac care, expanded aerial vehicle program
- **Maximizing resources** - Grant dollars funding auto theft unit, traffic enforcement, crime analyst, special collaboration with BCA's Violet Crimes Reduction unit.
- **Equipment** - New ladder truck and incident command vehicle
- **Staff** - At least a dozen highly trained professional police and firefighter-emergency response staff chose Maplewood to start or continue their career.

Maplewood has fostered a culture that enables us to attract, hire, and retain a highly skilled workforce dedicated to serving the community and making a meaningful difference in people's lives.

While many public safety agencies face significant challenges in this area, Maplewood has maintained exceptionally high standards. Our commitment to selectivity continues to serve us well, ensuring that we bring on individuals who embody our values and uphold the excellence our community deserves.

I want to express my gratitude to the many partners we have worked with over the past year, including the dedicated community members who serve on our Multicultural Advisory Committee. These invaluable collaborations allow us to expand our outreach and ensure that we provide services that are both relevant and responsive to the diverse needs of our community.

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to the police officers and fire-EMS professionals who carry out our mission each day with unwavering integrity and bravery. Your commitment to excellence and service is the foundation of our success. Equally, I want to acknowledge the sacrifices and support of your families, whose understanding and encouragement make your work possible and allow you to serve our community.

Finally, we deeply appreciate the steadfast support of our community and city council as we work tirelessly to keep Maplewood safe and healthy. Your trust and encouragement are essential to our continued progress and the well-being of those we serve.

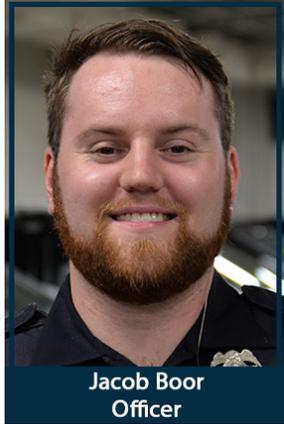


Staffing

Despite profession-wide shortages, police and fire-EMS have been able to operate at near full staff. With our regional reputation, we've been able to maintain a selective approach in recruiting and hiring.



New Hires





Join our Team

maplewoodmn.gov/jobs

New Hires



Peter Connolly
Firefighter/Paramedic

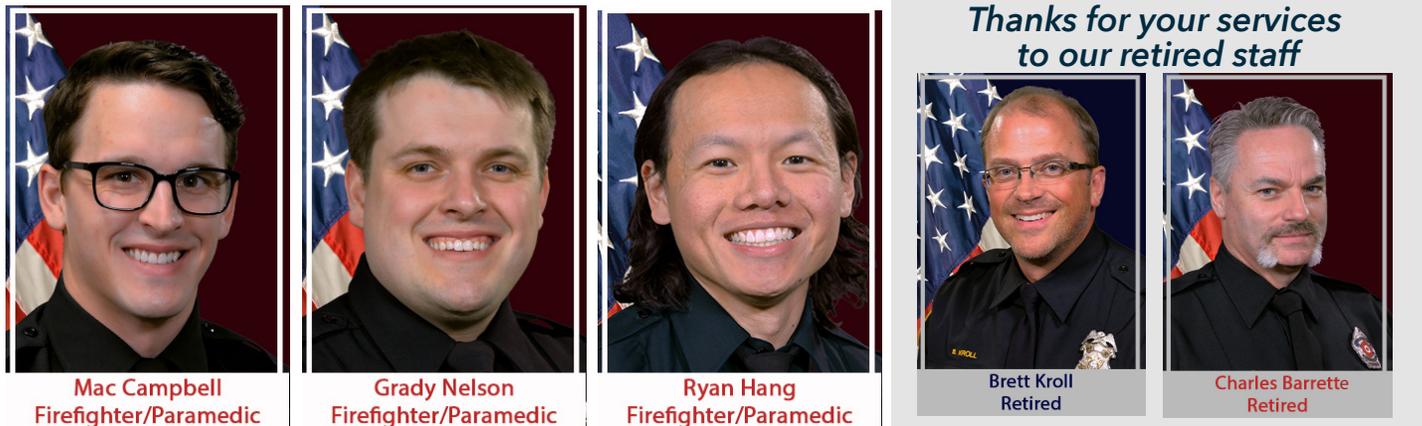
Luke Gruhlke
Firefighter/Paramedic

Emma Johnson
Firefighter/Paramedic

Wendy Mainka
Firefighter/Paramedic

Dedric Payne
Firefighter/EMT

Promotions



Mac Campbell
Firefighter/Paramedic

Grady Nelson
Firefighter/Paramedic

Ryan Hang
Firefighter/Paramedic

*Thanks for your services
to our retired staff*

Brett Kroll
Retired

Charles Barrette
Retired



Keng Chang
Firefighter/EMT

Cadet Program widens pipeline to the profession

Since starting the cadet program in 2019, Maplewood Fire has promoted four individuals to the ranks of full-time Firefighter/EMT or Firefighter/Paramedic.

The cadet program takes individuals with little to no fire service background or training and provides them an avenue to full-time employment. This program was a pioneer in the region and has become the model for several surrounding communities.

Congratulations to our newest cadet-turned-fulltime firefighter/EMT, Keng Chang.

Professional Development

Police command staff complete full FBI training

Maplewood Police Department has become one of the only agencies in the state to have the full command staff complete the FBI-LEEDA (Law Enforcement Executive Development Association) Trilogy

The training consisted of three steps, starting with basic Supervision, followed by Command, and building up to Executive Leadership, which covers:

- 21st Century Policing
- Procedural justice
- Community policing and crime reduction
- Strategic planning
- Employee wellness



"The executive leader must be aware of their obligation to be forward looking," according to LEEDA. There is a significant focus on emotional and social intelligence.

"We prioritize continued professional development, especially for leadership team members. We reduce risks and work to improve quality of life by staying on pace and implementing our professions' best practices."

Chief Brian Bierdeman

Chief Mondor completes thesis on building relationships with Hmong Community



Michael Mondor
Fire & EMS Chief

As part of his work to complete the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program, Fire-EMS Chief Mike Mondor spent considerable time talking to people in the Hmong Community. His work resulted in a thesis on how to build relationships and will serve as the basis for continued dialogue.

During the two-year EFO program, Chief Mondor collaborated with fire leaders across the country. They learned how to best lead their agencies and care for their communities. The program involved a mix of in-class and facilitated independent work.

Equipment

Maplewood rolls out new ladder truck

The rig provides a number of advancements over our current truck, including:

- 500 gallons of water
- 30-gallon foam tank
- Seven additional ladders
- More equipment space
- Pre-connected hoselines for faster deployment
- Improved safety features:
 - Wider windshield visibility
 - Rollover protection
 - Automatic seatbelt adjustment
 - Cameras cover driver's blind spots
 - More sophisticated airbags to prevent head and neck injuries



New command vehicle



It provides:

- Mobile headquarters for critical incidents, with amenities for long-term operations and enhanced officer safety
- Advanced communication systems (radios, satellite, Wi-Fi) to stay in touch with multiple agencies and units
- Live video feeds, mapping software, and crime analysis systems
- Roof-tethered drone for continuous surveillance
- A temporary EOC when primary facility is unavailable or inaccessible
- An ideal post for planned events like parades, marathons, or festivals; important community outreach tool

Region-leading UAV program going into year two

Since launching, the UAV program (commonly known as drones), they've been an asset:

- Locating and apprehending dangerous suspects
- Scoping out interiors in situations where people barricade themselves inside confined spaces, safer for officers and K9s
- Reducing the need for vehicle pursuits
- Finding missing people

The UAVs enable officers to cover a large area quickly, and with thermal imaging, they are highly effective. This approach allows officers to plan and control the situation, increasing safety for everyone involved, including officers, suspects, and the community.



Community Outreach

Significant outreach highlights commitment to community

Community outreach and engagement is front and center at Maplewood, especially among our public safety team. All public safety staff—sworn and civilian—must spend at least 20 hours a year engaged in the community.



It's paid off significantly in building trust and relationships to keep our community safe and more livable. 2024's highlights include:

Outreach to young people

- Reading at classrooms and lunch with students
- Back to school safety visits
- Attended Scouting meetings, gaming night at the Salvation Army
- Hosted 1st annual Safety Camp
- Big Brother's Big Sisters



Senior outreach

- Wrote and delivered 900 Valentine's Day cards to senior living residents
- Several Safe at Home and avoiding scams presentations
- Coffees with a Cop, Pancake breakfasts, and several Bingo rounds



Large-scale events

- Three summer celebrations with Parks and Natural Resources, including a Friday Night Fire works
- Filled and hid 1000 eggs for Easter Egg Hunt
- Bike Rodeo/Helmet Giveaway
- Fire Department Open House
- Trunk or Treat attracting more than 1500 people



Giving back

- 67 pints of blood given during Battle of the Badges Blood Drive
- Several Grill Out picnics at Multi-family housing communities
- 110+ bikes distributed with local church
- Helped pack 1500 boxes with toys and essential

- Raised \$1420 for Special Olympics Minnesota
- Sponsored 100 students and senior living residence during the holiday giving tree
- Hosted city-wide Santa parade

Other events included

- Pickle Ball and Putt-Putt with Public Safety and Fishing with Friends
- Hosted The Women and Girls Safety Awareness Workshop.
- Multi-week Citizens Academy attracted a diverse group of community members
- National Night Out
- 54 block parties
- 300 soccer ball giveaways
- 100s of miscellaneous Public Safety swag!



MAPLEWOOD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Lifesaving Award

<i>Nick Cook</i>	<i>Steve Neily</i>
<i>John Hagen</i>	<i>Scott Rethwill</i>
<i>Jodi Halweg</i>	<i>Lee Schroeder</i>
<i>Emma Kral</i>	
<i>Brad McGee</i>	
<i>Seth Miller</i>	






MAPLEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT YEARLY STATISTICS

2024

37,432 TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE



MURDER
2

ROBBERIES
34



ASSAULTS
97

SEXUAL ASSAULTS
61



AUTO THEFTS
103

THEFT
631



BURGLARIES
159

THEFT FROM AUTO
213



The Maplewood Police Department's partnership with the Minnesota Commerce Department (which funds two full-time auto theft detectives) has significantly improved outcomes in auto theft cases, which involve:

- Auto Thefts
- Recovered stolen vehicles
- Trailer thefts
- Theft from vehicles

Auto thefts since 2022

47% ↓

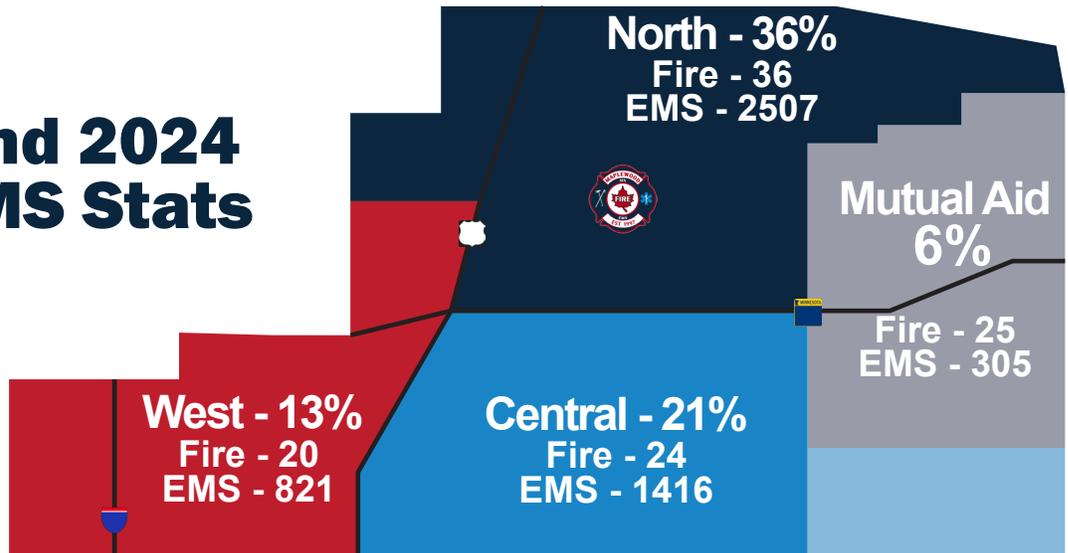
National average auto theft clearance rate:
less than 10%

Maplewood clearance rate
67% (in 2024)

Number of thefts



Year End 2024 Fire/EMS Stats



Actual Response - 94%

Response goal of 90% within an 8 minutes drive time

8,092 Total Calls for Service

1.5% increase from 2023

Icon	2024	% change from 2023
	138	3.5% ↓

Icon	2024	% change from 2023
	6782	.1% ↓

Mutual Aid (Fire)		2024	% change from 2023
Given	24	20%	↑
Received	22	5%	↑

Mutual Aid (EMS)		2024	% change from 2023
Given	305	44%	↓
Received	135	51%	↑

Other Call Summary

- Responded to 1,172 (15% of total calls) additional calls for service including alarm/smoke detector activations, smoke/odor investigations, public service calls, gas leaks, downed power lines, etc.

This represents a 13% increase in additional calls from 2023.



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