



# Burlington Fire Department



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**June 04, 2024**

## **Chief's Report to the Burlington Fire Commission**

**Personnel:** We currently hold no vacancies. We began recruit classes 24-1 on May 28, 2024, with five new recruits. We would like to welcome Randall Marshall, Tanner Studlack, Matthieu Cote, Daniel Lohret, and Benjamin Collier.

The members of recruit class 23-1 successfully completed their probationary year. Congratulations to Alec Johnson, Theodore Epidy, Sam Rathbun, Adam Macaluso, Justin Cantwell, and Sean O'Connor.

LT. Sean Ploof has retired from the BFD after 23 years of service. His last shift was May 30, 2024.

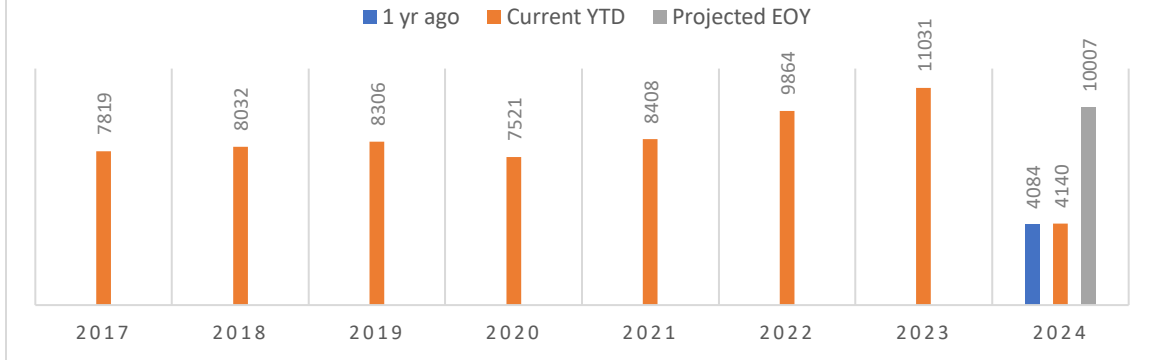
DC. Derek Libby has been offered and has accepted a Fire Chief's position in the City of Montpelier. His anticipated last day with the City of Burlington is Thursday, July 25, 2024.

We had the pleasure of promoting Josh Porter from Senior Firefighter to Lieutenant, effective June 03, 2024.

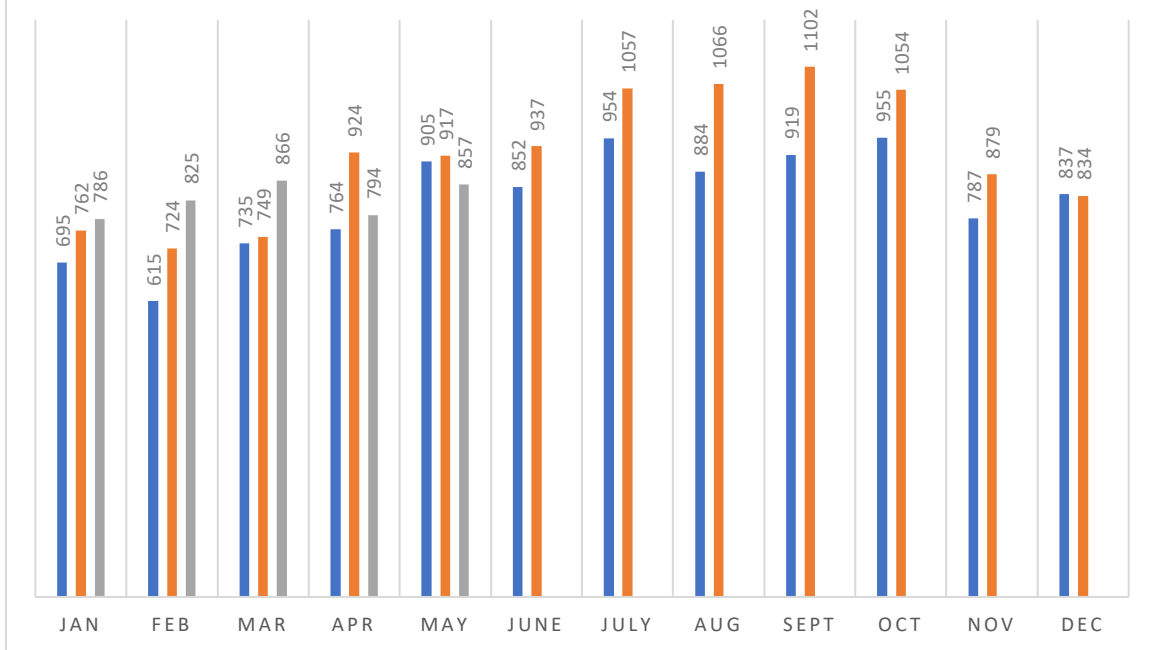
**Responses:** As of May 31, 2024, the fire department had responded to 4,140 calls for service. During the same period in 2023, we responded to 4,084 calls for service, a 1.37% increase over the same time last year.

Our response numbers account for several high system utilizers. Three hundred people accounted for 1389 calls for service, and the top 29 of those 300 accounted for 466 calls for service. We will work on information-sharing systems and follow-up procedures outside of emergency response to decrease these high utilization numbers.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TOTALS CALENDAR YEAR UPDATED THROUGH 05/31/2024



## 2022 - 2024 RESPONSES BY MONTH



**Overtime:** April 01, 2024 – May 31, 2024

- Minimum Staffing Overtime: 1652.25 hrs
- Mandatory Minimum Staffing Overtime: 305.5 hrs

1-year Comparison April 01, 2023 – May 31, 2023

- Minimum Staffing Overtime: 1853 hrs
- Mandatory Minimum Staffing Overtime: 196 hrs

The above data shows a 12.15% decrease in Minimum Staffing Overtime and a 35.84% increase in Mandatory Minimum Staffing Overtime during the same period last year. Overall, the minimum staffing overtime burden on the employees and city budget has decreased by 4.45%.

Note: The above overtime burden on the staff accounts for Minimum Staffing Overtime, giving us the 22 people required to meet minimum staffing levels. This does not account for extra duty jobs, dispatch extra duty or CRT overtime. In the same period, our staff committed to the following extra duty, dispatch extra duty, and CRT overtime:

- Extra Duty: 335.25 hrs
- Dispatch Extra Duty: 595.34 hrs
- CRT Overtime: 626.5 hrs

**FY25 Budget:** The Fire Department's FY25 budget was presented to the Board of Finance on May 29. The presentation can be found on the City's Civic Clerk system under FY25 budget presentations for that date. The Department is counting on increased operational budget lines to support training, EMS services, mental health care of our responders, tool and equipment purchases, and money to keep our facilities operating.

**Fleet:** Funding for fleet replacement continues to be a priority for the city's fleet committee. Ensuring fleet repair requests are addressed promptly and coordinated with the shift commanders to reduce response disruptions is a primary concern for the DC of Operations. The new Ladder 4 has arrived in the city. Factory training and up fit have been completed. We expect the new L-4 to be in service by June 15. We expect delivery of two fire apparatuses and one ambulance to the Fire Department in the next three months. Ambulance 4 has an expected delivery timeline of June 2024. With the three-year build schedule for new ambulances and a five-year delivery timeline for new fire trucks, a priority should be placed on a sustainable fleet purchasing plan.

**Buildings:** The Station 3 bedroom/bathroom project is still in the planning phase. It appears we will have money in the city's capital budget for this project, the apparatus floor repair for Sta.2, and the apparatus floor and stair repair at Sta.1.

Conversations about the Gateway Block are ongoing. Based on heat maps of calls responded to by downtown apparatus, Station 1 is currently in a good location. We will review and update helpful data from the Standards of Cover document, which will help guide conversations about the fire station's location.

**Radio System Upgrade:** The radio system upgrade has been delayed by some significant failures in the current system that need immediate attention. We are tentatively planning final system testing by September of 2024. With City Place increasing in height, the antenna currently placed on Burlington Square will need to be relocated to the roof of City Place. This will happen once the building is completed. The station alerting project managed by DC Petit is almost complete. Hardware was installed, and mobile applications were rolled out to the staff. The mobile application will be used to recall off-duty personnel. The app will also support live streaming of our primary radio channels once the station alerting installation is complete. Staffing changes at BPD have delayed progress on the live-streaming function. We are working with an outside vendor to complete this connection.

**Community Response Team Pilot:** Between October 16 and May 31, the team has been staffed with 3327.25 hours of voluntary overtime by our line personnel. This is an average of 100.8 hours of overtime per week, giving us an average weekly in-service time for the unit of 50.4 hours. We have received widespread support and appreciation from the community. A profound thank you goes out to our committed responders doing this difficult work. Every month since the inception of the CRT shows reduced overdose responses from the same month of the prior year.

We received approval to continue the CRT through the end of FY24. We have money in our budget to continue the service into FY25. We plan to staff it with the current overtime model until September 13, 2024, the one-year point. By that date, we will have a plan regarding the future of the CRT program.

		2022	2023	% change 22/23	2024	% change 23/24
January		19	40	111%	25	-38%
February		20	29	45%	25	-14%
March		20	28	40%	23	-18%
April		26	43	65%	17	-60%
May		26	38	46%	37	-3%
June		38	56	47%		
July		38	39	3%		
August		39	57	46%		
September		24	67	179%		
October		33	25	-24%		
November		31	24	-23%		
December		44	24	-45%		

BC McCombie is tracking data coming out of the CRT deployment. Below are some metrics showing the impact of the program. This data shows how many people the team has touched, the quantity of wound care supplies handed out, comfort care supplies distributed, Narcan leave-behind kits distributed, the number of referrals, direct phone requests, and incidents where the team went above and beyond in their duties.

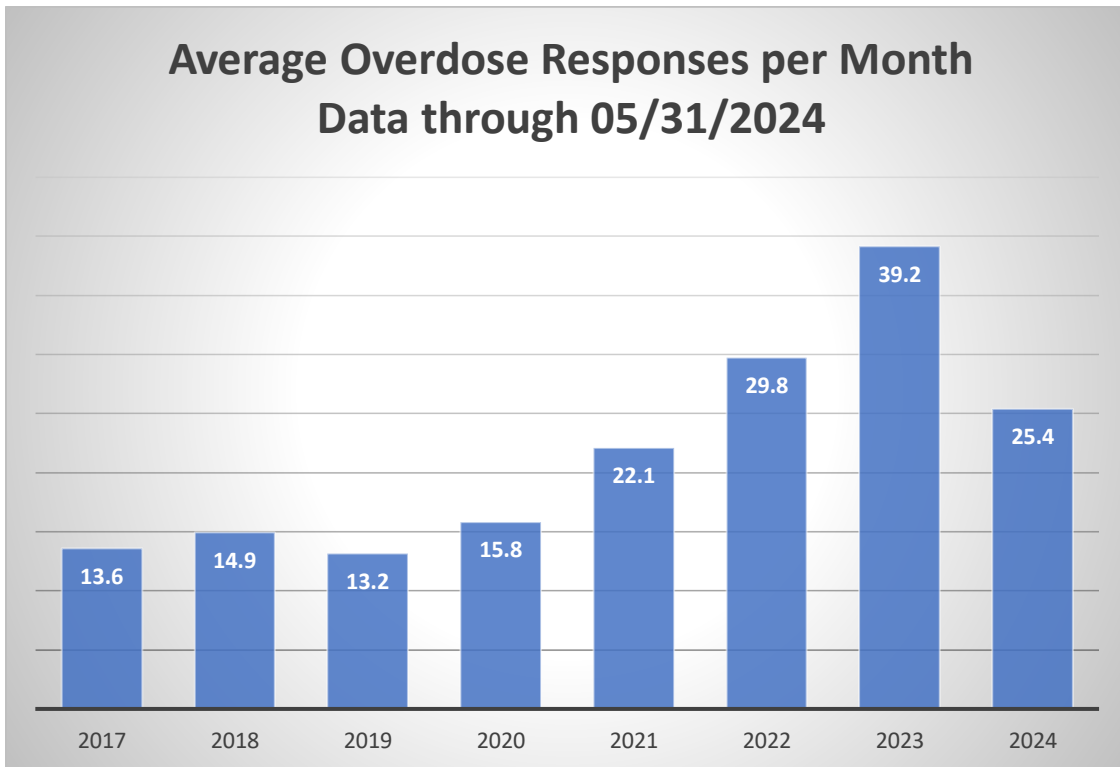
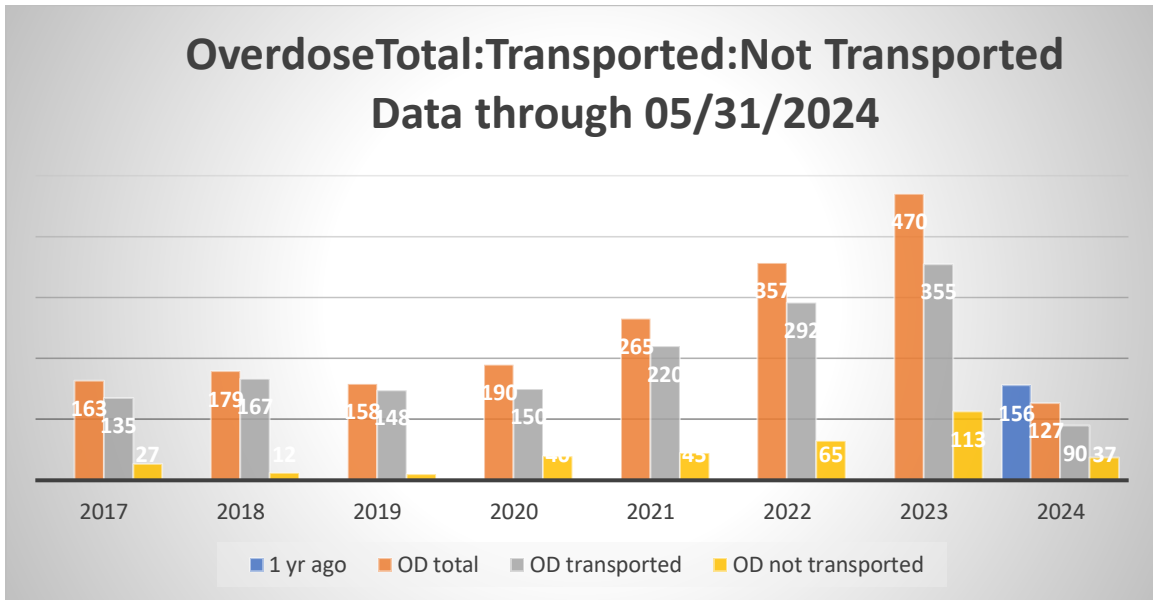
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1647</b>	<b>2530</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>
	# of Attendees	# of Wound Care Items Distributed	# of Comfort Care Supplies Distributed	# of NLB Kits Distributed	Total # Referrals/Bridge to Service Providers	Total Request For CRT Members Via Phone	Total Above & Beyond Incidents

**Fire Marshal’s Office:** The Fire Marshal’s office is working toward increased community engagement in FY25. The moderate budget increase in FY25 will allow for increased outreach and training opportunities availability. This is in addition to their normal plan reviews, permitting, inspections, and other division responsibilities.

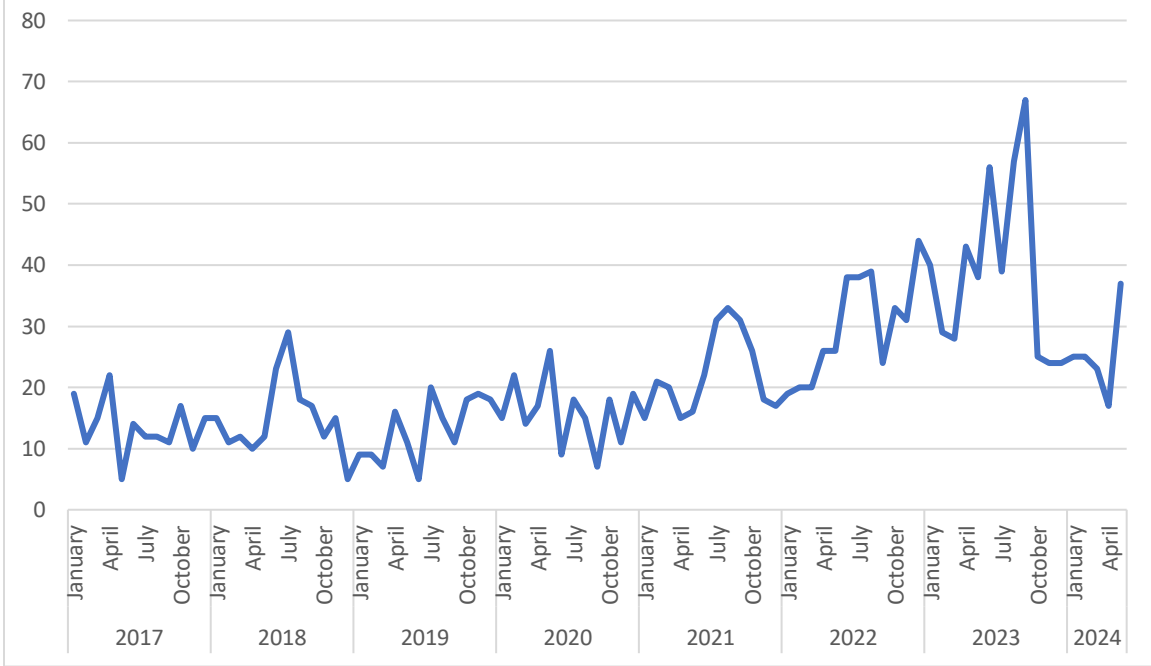
**Training Division:** Recruit class 24-1 has begun and will be a significant logistical event for the training division. Quarterly officer training, including outside presenters, is being planned. The division is working with the state on the possibility of a statewide recruit training program similar to the police academy. This work is in its early stages.

**EMS Division:** The EMS division is working toward offering buprenorphine to our community struggling with OUD. Working with the state, UVM Med, and other outreach partners, BC McCombie has created City-Link. This will allow a cleaner way to communicate with our partners and coordinate appropriate services.

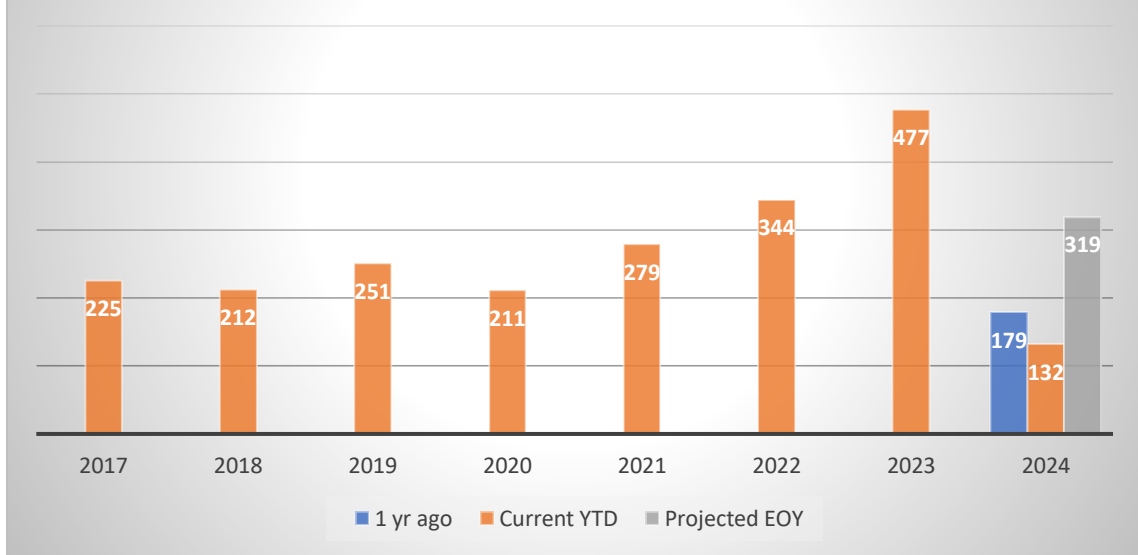
**Latest EMS Response Data:**



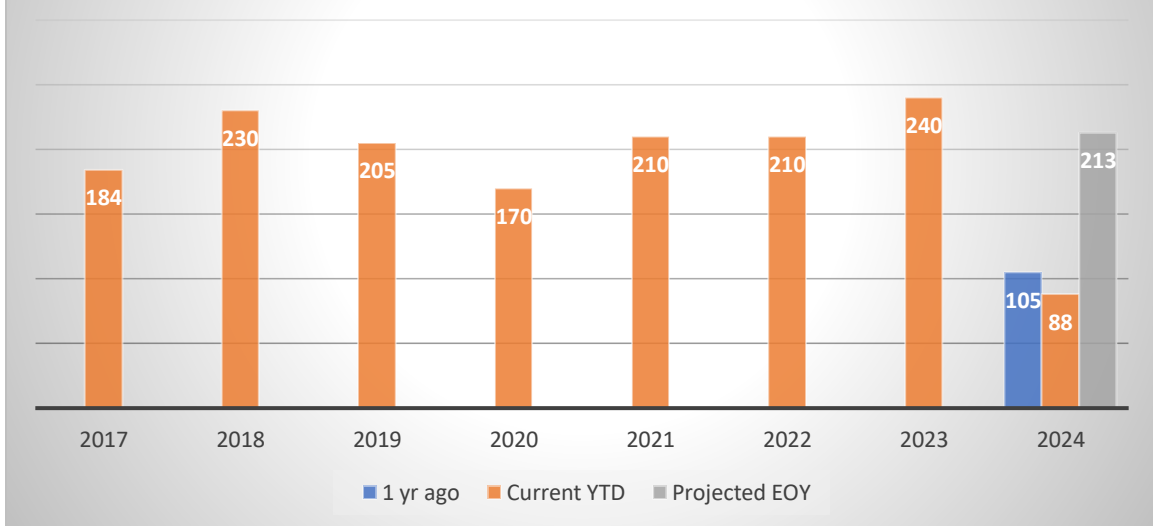
### Monthly Fire Department Overdoses Updated through 05/31/2024



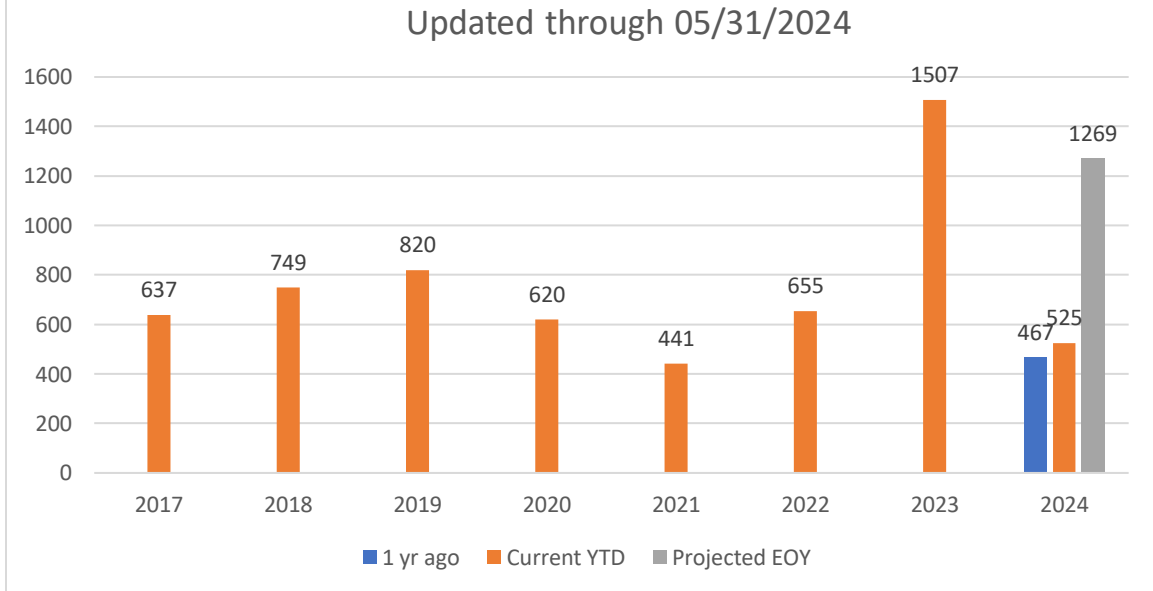
### Dispatch Unknown Problem/Person Down Updated through 05/31/2024



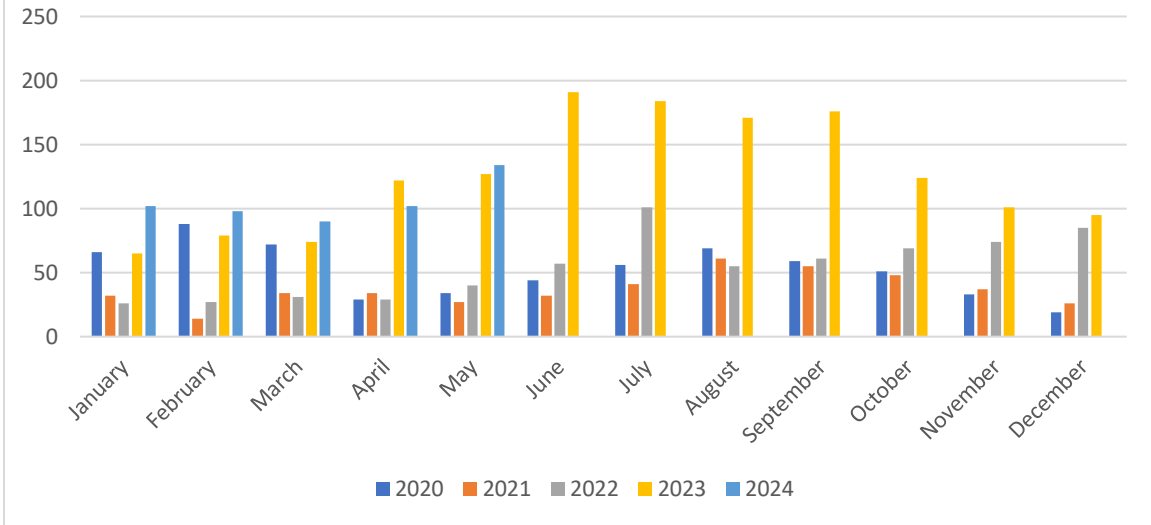
## Dispatch Alcohol Intoxication Updated through 05/31/2024



## Annual Fire Department EMS Responses to Homeless/Houseless/Transient/ No Address Population Updated through 05/31/2024



Monthly Fire Department EMS Responses to Homeless/Houseless/Transient/No Address Population



Monthly Fire Department EMS Responses to Homeless/Houseless/Transient/No Address Population Data Through 05/31/2024

