

SHELBY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025

YEAR END REPORT

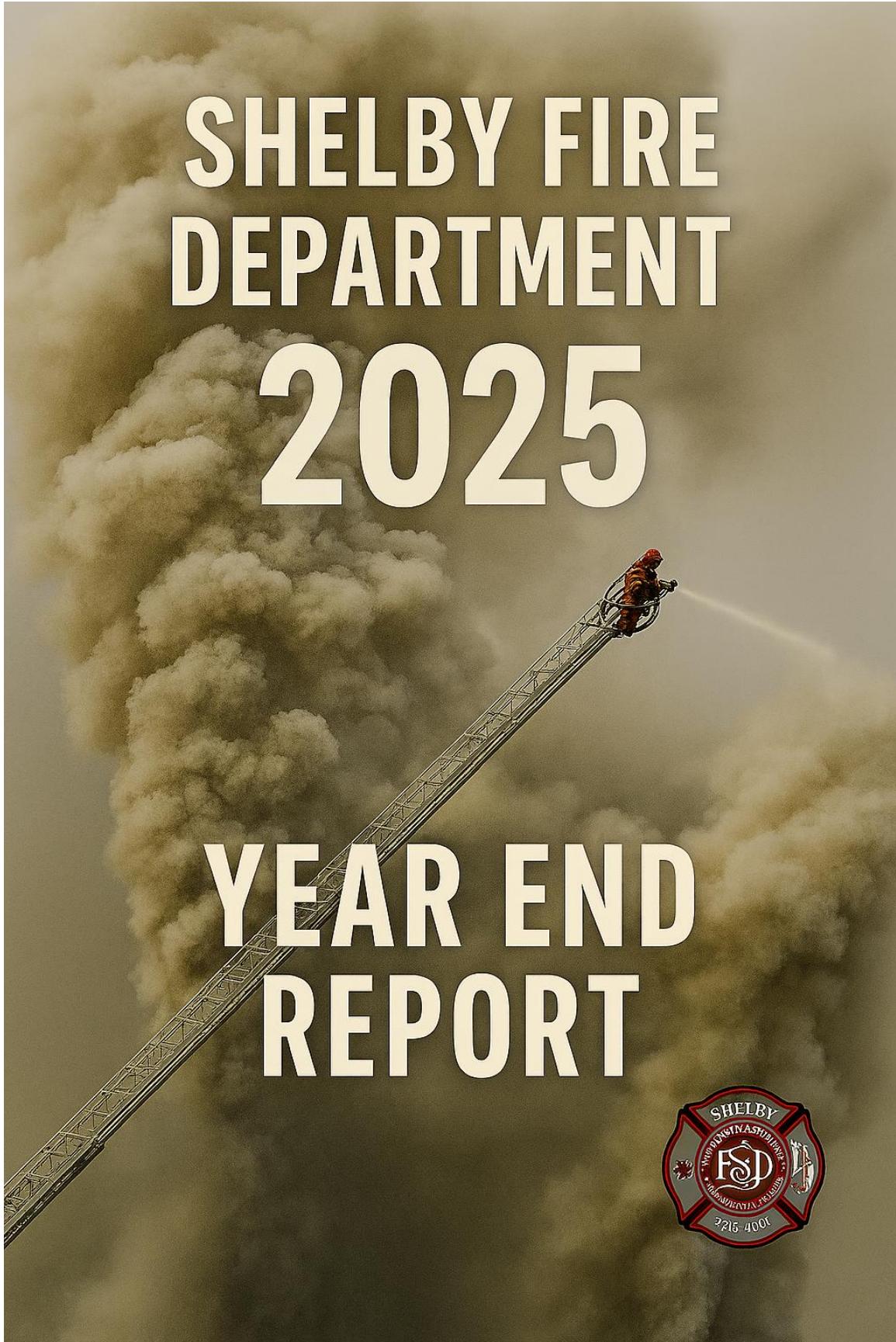


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Message from the Fire Chief

As we close out 2025, I am proud to reflect on the dedication and resilience demonstrated by the Shelby Fire Department. This year brought unique challenges, from large-scale incidents to evolving community needs, and our team rose to every occasion with professionalism and courage.

We responded to hundreds of calls, provided life-saving assistance, and continued our commitment to fire prevention and public education. Our department invested in advanced training and equipment to ensure we remain prepared for any emergency. These efforts would not be possible without the unwavering support of our city leadership, community partners, and residents.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will focus on enhancing response capabilities, expanding community outreach programs, and maintaining the highest standards of safety and service. Thank you for trusting us to protect and serve Shelby. Together, we will continue building a safer future.

Sam Sauder

Fire Chief, Shelby Fire Department

Department Overview

The Shelby Fire Department serves a population of approximately 13,000 residents across a 49 square-mile area, including the City of Shelby and contracted services to Jackson and Sharon Townships.

Personnel & Operations

Current Staffing:

1 Fire Chief

1 Captain

11 full-time uniformed firefighters

10 part-pay (part-time) firefighters

Operates 24/7 on a three-shift schedule.

Coverage & Services

Responds to a wide range of emergencies including fires, medical calls, rescues, and hazardous conditions.

Provides critical fire prevention, code enforcement, and fire investigation services under both the Ohio Revised and Fire Codes.

State-Certified Fire Safety Inspectors are on staff to inspect commercial and industrial facilities.

Specialized Training

Personnel hold advanced training and certification in:

Swift water rescue

Hazardous materials (Haz-Mat) response

Trench rescue

Confined space rescue

Ice Rescue

⚠️ Apparatus & Equipment

Key emergency response vehicles include:

3 ALS ambulances

75' quint ladder truck (1999)

Front-line engine and rescue/engine for vehicle extrication (1996)

3,000-gallon tanker

Brush truck

Support vehicle

One specialized rescue trailer (trench rescue)

Northern Richland County Haz-Mat trailer

Specialty Rescue Trailer (Plan to sell in 2026)



2025 Highlights

The Shelby Fire Department has undergone significant changes, with the retirements of Chief Mike Thompson and Firefighter Brad Thompson in 2025, and Captain Brian Finnegan's upcoming retirement in January 2026. Combined, the three individuals contributed 79 years of experience to the department.

Personnel Changes

Chief Mike Thompson retired on August 12, 2025, after more than 24 years of service with the department. He transitioned to teaching a first responder program at Pioneer Career and Technology Center. Captain Finnegan was sworn in as acting chief to fill the vacancy until the testing procedure was completed. Captain Sam Sauder was sworn in as the new chief on October 31, 2025.

Firefighter Brad Thompson also retired in 2025.

Captain Brian Finnegan is set to retire in January 2026 after serving for over 30 years.

Staffing Levels and Future Outlook

The department is currently down 3 firefighters in total and has 2 captain vacancies. The department hopes to return to full staffing levels by early spring through current testing and plans for the promotional process are being put into place. The City of Shelby is actively hiring for both entry-level and lateral transfer firefighter/paramedic positions.

Incident Statistics

🔥 Major Structure Fires in the district this year included the Shelby Hub fire at 54 E Main St. as well as the Blue Scope fire at 2384 St Rt 39

An estimated loss of \$20,180,000 between these 2 fires and an additional \$3000 from other structure fires.

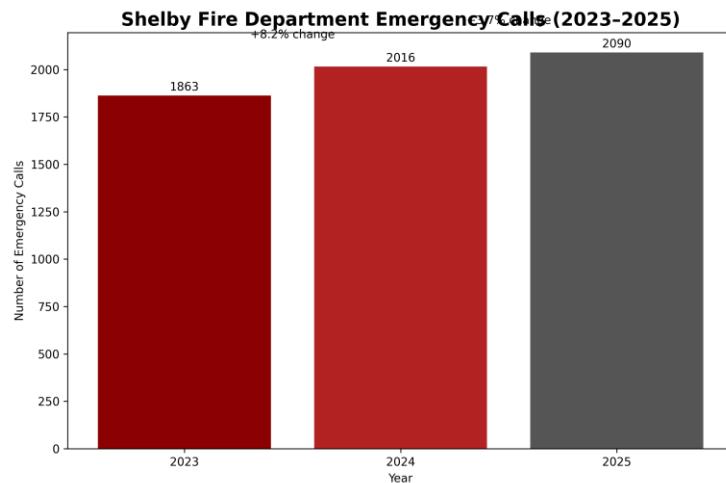


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Shelby Fire Department – Emergency Call Volume Comparison

This chart illustrates emergency call volume trends for the Shelby Fire Department from 2023 through 2025. The data demonstrates a consistent increase in call volume year over year.

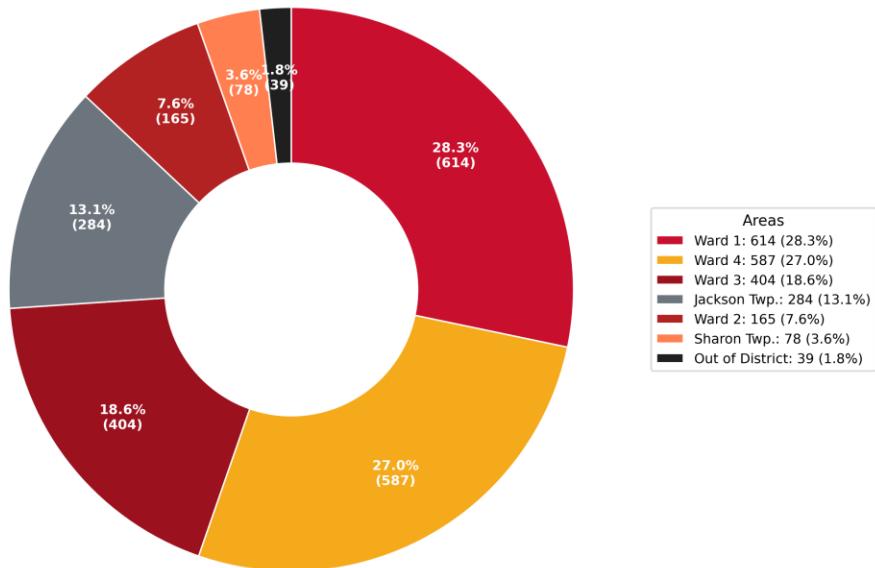


Key Points:

2023 to 2024 increase: 8.2% - 2024 to 2025 increase: 3.7%

22.83% increase in call volume over the last 5 years

Shelby Fire Department — Incident Distribution by Area (2025)



Calls by Type

EMS	EMS Call Non-MVA	1,394
	Motor vehicle accident with injuries	30
	Public service	19
	Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	8
	Assist invalid	2
	Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	2
	No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	1
Non-EMS	Public service	155
	Assist invalid	109
	EMS Call Non-MVA	94
	Dispatched & canceled en route	53
	Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	37
	Motor vehicle accident with injuries	26
	No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	18
	Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	16
	Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	16
	Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	13
	Public service assistance, other	12
	Carbon monoxide incident	11
	Unauthorized burning	9
	CO detector activation due to malfunction	9
	Smoke scare, odor of smoke	9
	Assist police or other governmental agency	8
	Building fire	7
	Good intent call, other	7
	Police matter	6
	Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	6
	Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	5
	Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	5
	Lock-out	5
	Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	5
	Trash or rubbish fire, contained	4
	Authorized controlled burning	4
	Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	4
	Oil or other combustible liquid spill	4

Calls by Type Cont.

Hazardous condition, other	4
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	4
Passenger vehicle fire	4
Malicious, mischievous false call, other	3
Power line down	3
Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	3
Cooking fire, confined to container	3
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	2
Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	2
Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	2
Animal rescue	2
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	2
Outside equipment fire	2
Grass fire	2
Fires in structure other than in a building	2
Water problem, other	1
Ring or jewelry removal	1
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1
Aircraft standby	1
Overheated motor	1
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	1
Toxic condition, other	1
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1
Rescue or EMS standby	1
Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure	1
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1
Special outside fire, other	1
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	1
Forest, woods or wildland fire	1

Multiple and Full Response Calls

119-Full Response calls

15-Full Response + 2nd call

255 Double, triple and quadruple overlapping calls

*Full response requires all units to respond; all others are calls at the same time

Fire Loss Report

Run #	Date	Property \$	Property Loss	Content \$	Content Loss	Total \$ Loss
25-00008	1/1/2025	20,000,000	-20,000,000	100,000	-100,000	20,100,000
25-00053	1/10/2025	250,000	-1,000	50,000	-1,000	-2,000
25-00126	1/22/2025	150,000	-150,000	30,000	-30,000	-180,000
25-00236	2/7/2025	500	-500	0	0	-500
25-00857	5/28/2025	2,000	-2,000	200	-200	-2,200
25-01424-	8/31/2025	2,500	-250	500	0	-250
		20,405,000	-20,151,750	180,700	-131,200	20,284,950

- 2025 was an extremely high dollar amount loss due to the Blue Scope facility fire. Since the fire at this facility, Blue Scope has made significant changes to their fire and monitoring system, investing in the protection of their business.

Funding (Not including general fund)

Ohio Health

Item	Ave Received	Actual Received
Pharmacy	\$3,400.00	
Medical Director	1450.00	
Training	400.00	
Supplies	4000.00	

Shelby City Schools (Sports Coverage)

Re-imbursement for labor (Regular Season)		1761.01
Re-imbursement for labor (Playoffs OHSAA)		1922.61

MediCount

EMS Billing 01/01/2025-12/31/2025		430,674.41
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Ohio Department of EMS

Supplies Grant		3758.10
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Income Tax

Fire Levy		811,478
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Township Contracts		193,695.93
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Total **\$1,452,507.06**

Training & Certifications

Shelby firefighters continue to train both in house and utilize outside resources. The following are what is required of each certification held to renew their cards every three years:

Firefighter

54 Hrs

EMT-B

40 Hrs

AEMT

60 Hrs

EMT-P

72 Hrs

Instructor

6 Hrs + 24 Hrs teaching

Inspector

24 Hrs

Each firefighter holds multiple certifications. Shelby Fire Department is an accredited CE site through the State of Ohio which allows us to provide in-house training from our own instructors. Members also attended Bowling Green and the Ohio Fire Academy as well as other programs throughout the year.



Community Outreach/Fire Prevention

We continue to provide smoke detectors at no cost to residents throughout the district. These are provided by the Shelby Firefighters Association, Red Cross and various other donors.



CPR is a vital skill that can significantly impact survival rates in cardiac arrest situations. Shelby Fire Department has 3 CPR/ALS instructors.

Our instructors have held 47 classes and certified 39 people in Heart-Saver CPR, 31 people in BLS/ALS and 3 PALS classes through 2025

SFD was able to obtain a grant to purchase new CPR mannequins and teaching material in 2025

Fire Prevention

- 27 Hrs. of fire safety education at all schools within the fire District
- Smoke Detectors-In partnership with the Red Cross and the Shelby Firefighters, smoke detectors are provided to residents in the fire district if they cannot afford them. Installed 26 Smoke detectors donated by the American Red Cross, handed out 18 Smoke detectors to residents donated by the Shelby Firefighters. Also, multiple detectors and batteries were for residents who are not physically capable of installing themselves. Also, many clubs (such as 4-h groups and boy scout groups), private tours and safety talks were completed at the station.

Fire Prevention Cont.

Inspections

- Completed 79 occupancy inspections to include businesses, health care facilities, foster care homes and daycare centers.
- Completed 16 re-inspections, complaints and temporary occupancy inspections
- Completed 30 food trailer/truck inspections
Shelby Fire Department works closely with Richland County Building Codes and Permits as well as the Shelby Building and Zoning Department.



2025 Vehicle Maintenance Summary – Shelby Fire Department

Prepared by: Derrick Wallace

Rescue 38

- Replaced coolant bottle and reservoir
- Completed service
- Replaced rear door handle
- Repaired inverter

Rescue 39

- Serviced twice
- Replaced all six tires
- Repaired inverter
- Replaced marker lights
- Replaced front brakes and rotors
- Replaced front brake calipers and hoses
- Replaced steering sway bar and torsion ball joint
- Repaired coolant leak
- Replaced crankcase breather (engine oil leak)
- Replaced fuel filter (cracked and leaking fuel)
- Repaired shoreline plug

Rescue 33

- Replaced batteries (warranty repair)
- Serviced three times
- Repaired sliding door
- Replaced heater switch
- Replaced blown turbo hose
- Replaced air filter
- Reprogrammed inverter operation

- Replaced rear tires

Engine 32

- Replaced engine starter
- Replaced water level sensor and gauge
- Repaired coolant leak (EGR cooler supply and return tubes, right side of engine)
- Repaired engine oil leak (new high-pressure hose and fittings)
- Repaired several gauges and rebuilt valves on pump
- Repaired rear lights
- Repaired compartment lights and adjusted tray and slide-out
- Repaired electrical connection from chassis to battery
- Installed two new thermal imagers and mounts
- Installed new LED stop, tail, and turn signals on rear (damaged)

Ladder 37

- Completed annual ladder inspection
- Repaired and replaced waterway sensor
- Installed new pressure governor and wiring to ECM
- Repaired coolant leak at radiator
- Replaced gauges and rebuilt valves
- Replaced bulbs in light bar
- Installed new ladder platform lighting

Engine 34

- Replaced gauges and 6-way drain valve
- Repaired rear lights

Brush 36

- Completed service
- Replaced taillight bulb
- Repaired leaking valve on pump

- Serviced small engine on pump

Engine 31

- Installed new rear lights
- Repaired air leak
- Repaired engine oil leak
- Repaired siren and wiring

Car 35

- Completed service
- Repaired and flushed cooling system (contamination plugged heater core)
- Replaced engine thermostat
- Repaired 4x4 shifter and linkage
- Replaced coolant surge tank and cap
- Installed four new tires
- Repaired emergency lighting
- Replaced front brake pads

Overall Fleet Assessment

Maintenance needs have increased over the past year as the fleet continues to age. Engine 32 is approaching 17 years in service, and the ladder truck is nearing 27 years. The rescue squads remain in great mechanical condition, while Car 35 is nearing 10 years and showing rust and corrosion. Engine 31 will be 30 years old in 2026 and should be considered for removal from service. Engine 32 should begin the replacement process and be moved to reserve status. Engine 34 remains in great condition with no major repairs expected. Complete services for Engine 31, Engine 32, Engine 34, and Ladder 37 are due in the coming year, including engine, transmission, and PTO systems. We appreciate the continued support allowing our line firefighters to maintain the fleet both on and off duty.

Facilities

Since the building of the new firehouse, Shelby Fire has expanded personnel. The living quarters have been outgrown and a future expansion will need to be considered. 2026 will be a year of exploration to see what options we have moving forward with an expansion. In 2025, flaws to the heating system were identified and are being addressed as well as hot water issues. Overall, the building is still in excellent condition.

Challenges

Along with the needed fire truck replacements and station expansion, our gear is coming to the end of its life (NFPA 1851: 10-year life) as well as air packs and bottles (NFPA 1851: 15 years). Also staffing issues will need to be addressed, in addition to the financial challenges we face.

Goals for 2026

- We will continue to seek grant funding and explore other funding alternatives to help support our mission.
- Design, price and start the process of ordering a fire truck to replace E-32
- Design and price station expansion

Shelby Fire Department 2025