

ESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



FY20 ANNUAL REPORT

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Introduction

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is an organization that wants to deliver the best customer service to you, our friends, and our neighbors.

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is a place where we Congregate, Work, Train, Sleep, Eat, and Share, a place we call HOME.

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is a place that is made up of dedicated, professional, skilled individuals who we call FAMILY.

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is your **commUNITY** fire department.

This Annual Report is a collection of recognition and accomplishments from the past year and future plans and goals we look forward to achieving.

Mission Statement

By providing a high level of fire and life safety service.
The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is committed to educate,
prepare, and protect our community and responders
before, during and after an emergency.

Vision Statement

The Vision of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department is to achieve a
high level of service that will greatly improve the community's
well being and become a value based organization.

- by providing a safe rapid response with highly skilled professionals,
- by educating the public by offering resources to help prevent harm and promote safety,
- by offering training, comradery, leadership & friendships,
- by instilling respect, positive attitude, tenacity, & competency in our responders
- and by creating an environment where people want to be present



Letter from the Chief

Friends and Members of the Ester Fire Service Area,

I am pleased to present to you the FY 2020 Annual Report. The following report is a summary of our activities, accomplishments, recognitions, and continued growth. This report covers from July 1st, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Each year our responses continue to increase. This past year we were challenged by several difficult house fires. In addition we dealt with many severe motor vehicle accidents and fire along the Parks Highway.

Our responses continue to improve due to increased staffing in the volunteer and resident firefighter ranks.

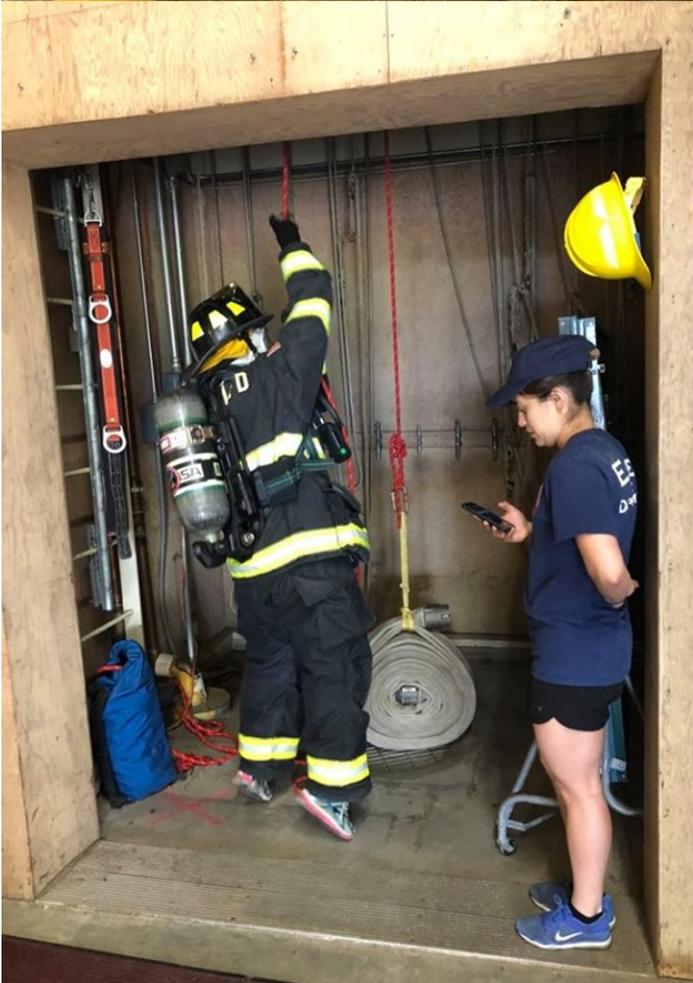
Our firefighters and officers are better trained than ever due to the appointment of strong leader in the EMS and Fire Training programs.

I am honored to lead the 32 members of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department. The Ester Firefighters are a warm, loyal group that is proud to serve the Ester Community.

On behalf of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department, thank you for your support and taking the time to review this report.



Jeff Conner, Fire Chief



Membership Roster

As of Sept. 25, 2020

Jeff Conner, Fire Chief

Russell Dennis, Battalion Chief

A-Shift		B-Shift		C-Shift	
Member	Rank	Member	Rank	Member	Rank
Lehse, Katrina	Captain	Rosales, Daniel	Lieutenant	Doherty, Brandon	Captain
White, Zach	Engineer	Sterling, Evan	FF/Medic	DeCaro, Dave	Lieutenant/SDO
Sammons, Justin	Engineer	Rogers, Stanley	FF/Medic	Naber, Tony	Engineer
Ferlauto, Joseph	Engineer	Zucker, Eric	Engineer	Smith, Elizabeth	FF/Medic
Munoz, Fabienne	FF/Medic	Witte, Riley	Engineer/SDO	Navarro, Josh	FF/Medic
Lindsey, Sierra	FF/Medic	Volkman, Josiah	FF/Medic	Kitchin, Erin	Engineer
Witt, Russell	Recruit	Suscha, Lara	Recruit	Freienmuth, Kaitlin	Medic
Ison, Emma	FF/Medic	Schlobohm, Gina	Recruit	Rodriguez Everson, Paulo	FF/Medic
Sellers, Caleb	FF/Medic	Carlson, Matthew	FF/Medic	Lambe, Caleb	FF/Medic
Steward, Elliot	Recruit	Mendoza, Lorenzo	Recruit	Stickney, Alana	Recruit
				Kurtz, Bradley	FF

Officers



Fire Chief Jeff
Conner



Battalion Chief
Russell Dennis

Captain Katrina
Lehse

Captain Brandon
Doherty

Lieutenant
Daniel Rosales

Lieutenant/SDO
Dave DeCaro





Birthday parades during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Teaching new members of the CERT team to use fire extinguishers.



RIT and firefighter rescue drills at Station 51

2019-2020 Accomplishments

Ester Dome Radio Repeater – The Department commenced an upgrade with modern compact equipment. A new, permanent antenna will be installed this year.

Apparatus Maintenance and Replacement – EVFD invested \$75,000 in vehicle maintenance. The pumps on all three fire trucks were rebuilt, electronic, engine and bodywork issues were addressed, and aged out tires were replaced. The reliability, functionality, and safety of the vehicles has been greatly improved.

LED Lighting – The Department used Golden Valley Electric Good Cents grants and operational funds to convert the station to full LED lighting.

Recruiting – The Ester VFD has grown from 24 active members in good standing to 31 in FY20. This has been achieved through outreach to the local fire academies and word of mouth about our outstanding training program.

Fire Training Program – Lt. Dave DeCaro is our training officer. He has overseen the development of our training into a robust, vibrant program.

EMS Program – Eng. Riley Witte has stood up our EMS program. She has responded to the COVID-19 challenge by developing first rate department mitigation policies.

Officer Training – EVFD has invested in training up our future ranks of fire and battalion officers. One hundred percent of current EVFD officers have completed the prestigious Blue Card Command training program.

Live-In/Resident Firefighters – We have grown from a low of two Live-In firefighters to six Live-In firefighters at the end of the year. Our Live-In firefighters pull eleven shifts a month and are key contributors to our staffing.

2019-2020 Staffing & Grants

Staffing

- Station Duty Officer Position: 72/96 hour schedule
- Wednesdays staffed entirely by volunteer drivers
- Resident Firefighters:

Erin Kitchin

Fabienne Munoz

Emma Ison

Caleb Sellers

Matthew Carlson

Justin Sammons

- Volunteers provide a large percentage of overall station staffing

Grants

Cordless Hurst Tools – In this coming year we will be getting new Hurst cordless rescue tools for responding to motor vehicle accidents.

Snowbulance – We were also awarded a grant through the Code Blue program for a Snowbulance with a wheel kit. The Snowbulance will give us the ability to transport patients and medics year round from off-road areas.

Engineer Promotions



Eng. Eric Zucker



Eng. Erin Kitchin



Eng. Tony Naber



Eng. Zach White



Eng. Joseph Ferlauto



Eng. Justin Sammons

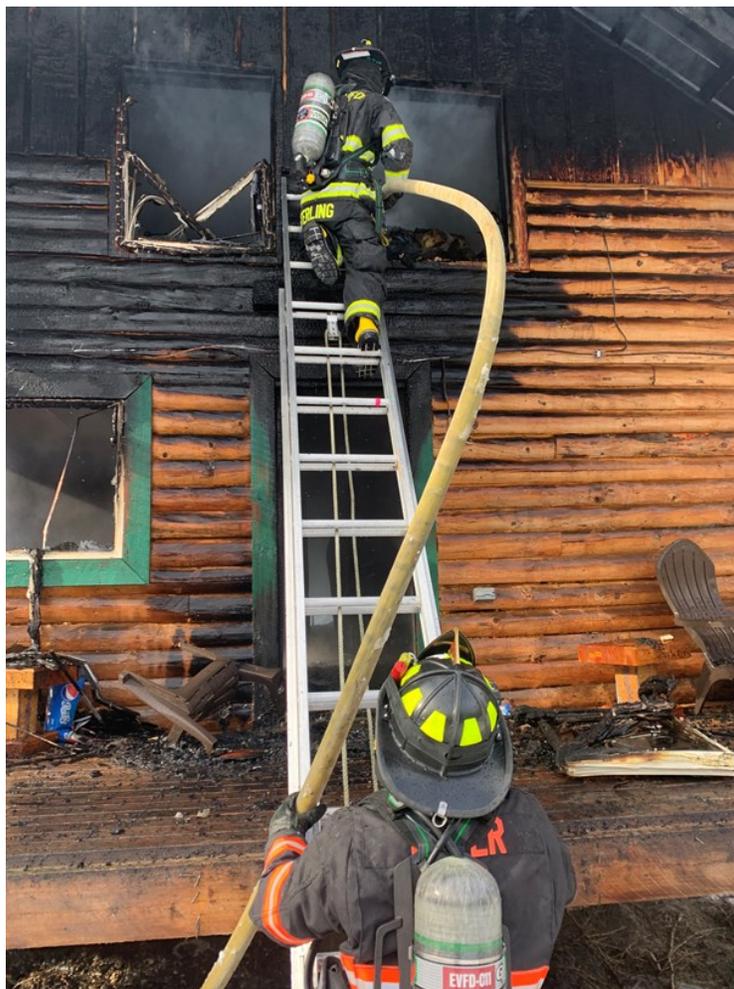
EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Ester Volunteer Fire Department fought several house and commercial fires this past year, both in district and while responding mutual aid.

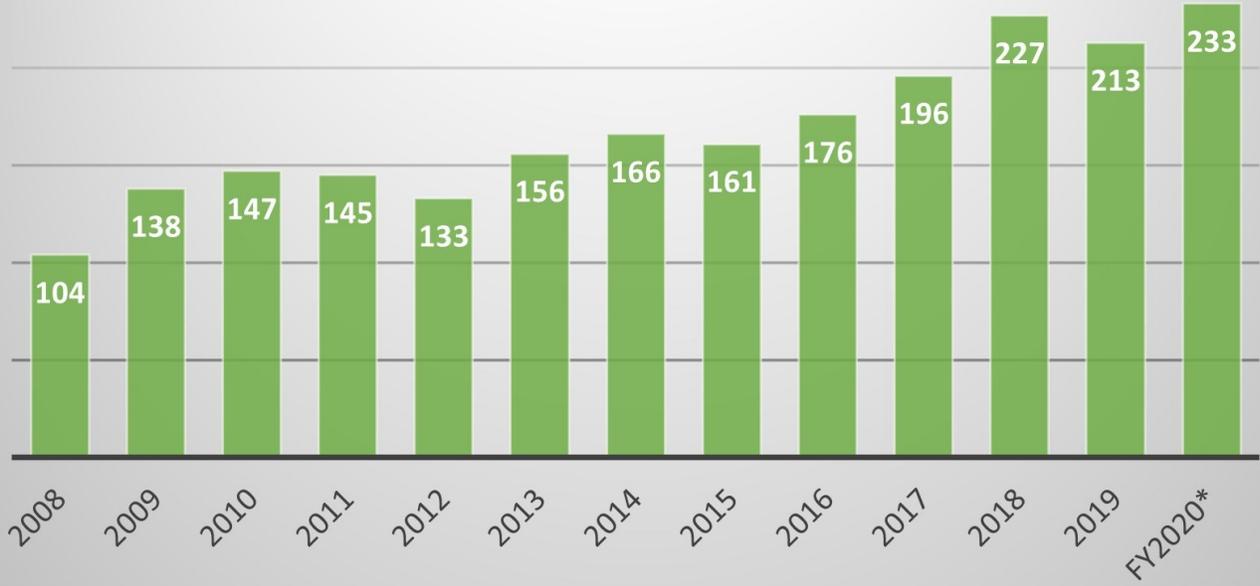
The plurality, just over half of our calls, were medical. This past year we had the added challenge of keeping members safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. We developed a response mitigation policy that has been effective.

Motor vehicle accidents and vehicle fires continue to be a low frequency yet high hazard response for us. Most severe accidents occur on the Parks Highway, as we cover a corridor South of our fire district to the FNSB Boundary at milepost 325.

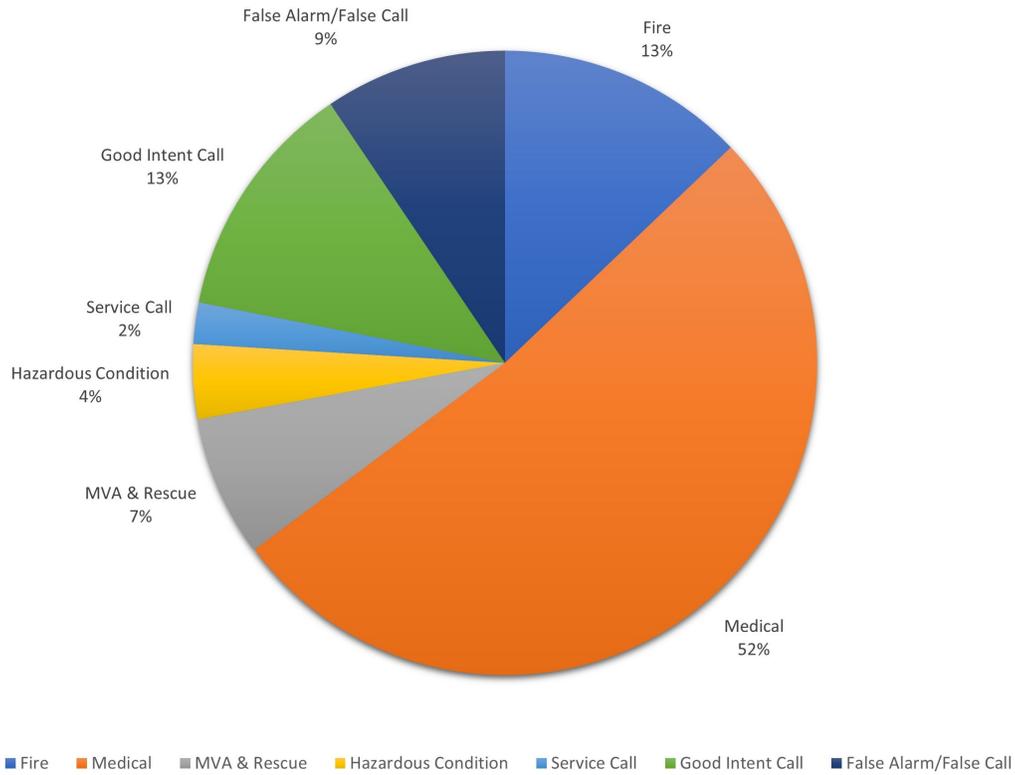
Ester Volunteer Fire Department responded to 233 calls in FY2020, an slightly higher number than the previous year.



Number of Calls by Year

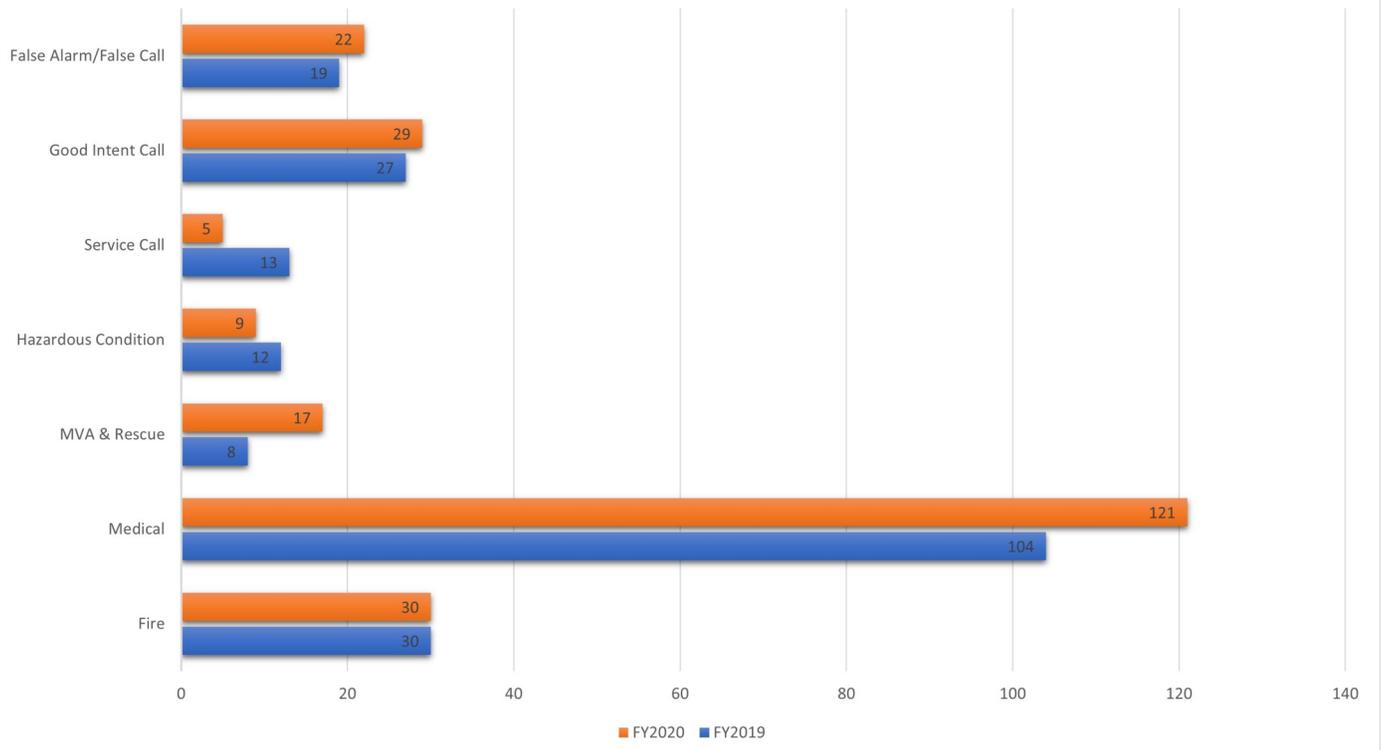


FY2020 Alarms by Incident Type



Incident Type	# of Alarms
Fire	30
Medical	121
MVA & Rescue	17
Hazardous Condition	9
Service Call	5
Good Intent Call	29
False Alarm	22
TOTAL:	233

FY2019, FY 2020 Alarms by Incident Type



Training

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department trains at a minimum of 3 hours a week on Tuesday Nights from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, training has been done online and in small company drills.



Goals for the Future

Water Supply – We are looking to establish a 15,000 gallon draft tank water supply at Deraco Lane/Old Ridge Trail. Currently we are building up funding for this estimated \$50,000 project and hope to begin work in 2022.

Fire Apparatus Replacement – We have a new Battalion truck on order that will be equipped for snow plowing, this will eliminate the need to pay contractors for this. The truck will also be used to transport soiled hose and gear after fires.

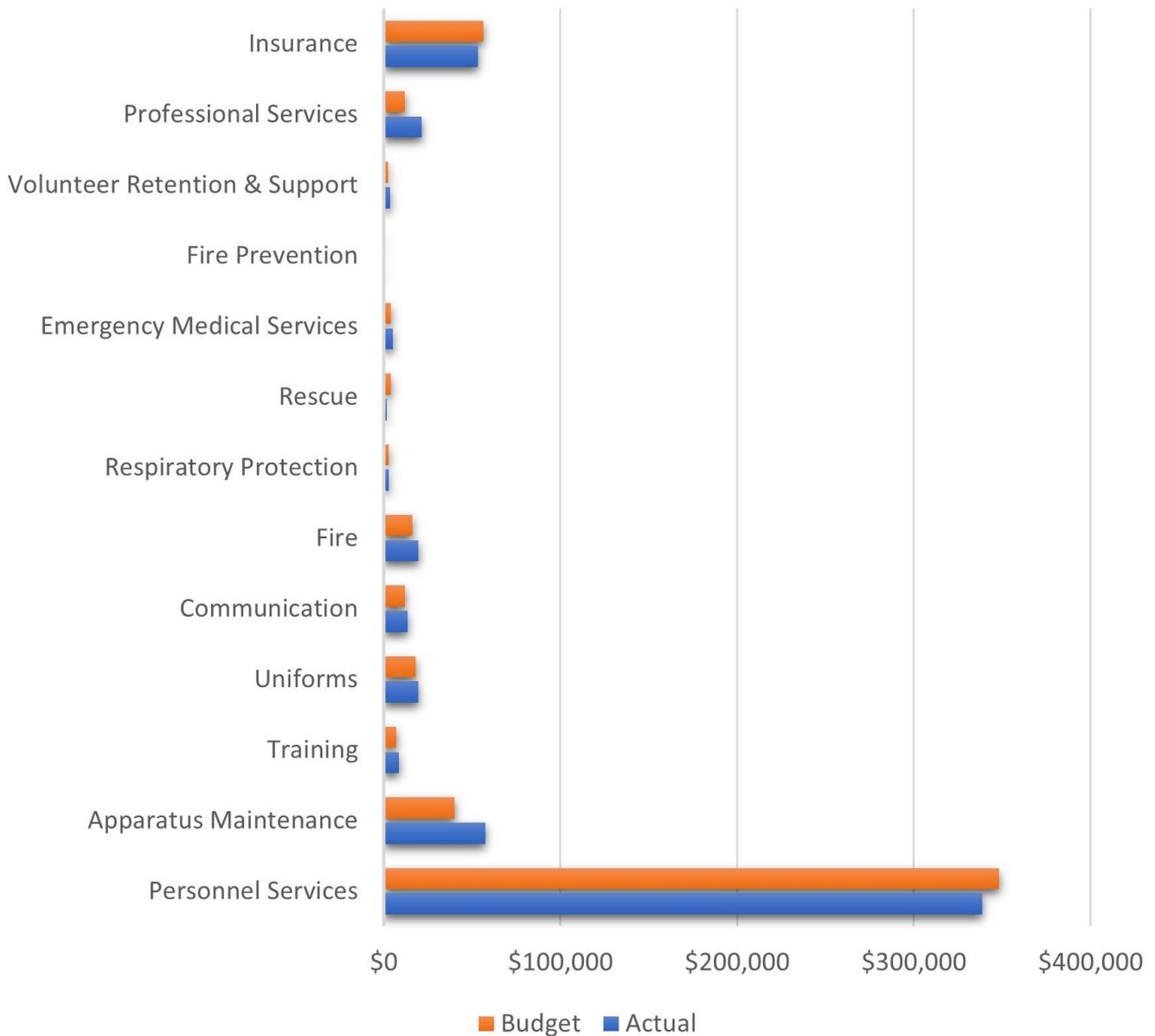
Trail EMS – Lt. Daniel Rosales is in the process of standing up our trail EMS program. We will have the ability to snowmobile or ATV to render aid to patients in known locations on the local trails.

Alternative Funding Sources – We will continue our aggressive grant writing program.

FY2020 Budget

Due to prioritizing apparatus maintenance and higher than projected station operating expenses, overall FY2020 came out overbudget.

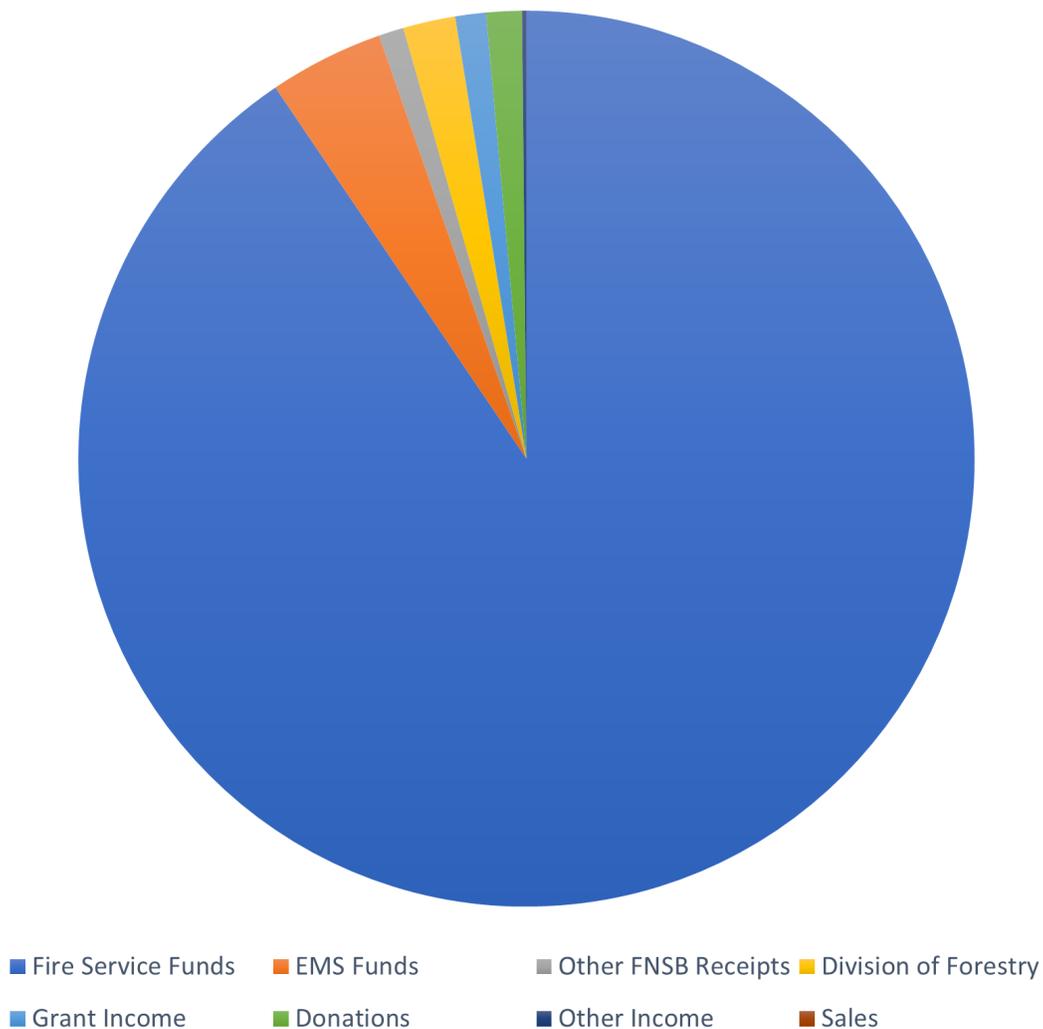
FY 2020 Actual Expenses vs. Budget



FY2020 Revenue

Most of our funding comes from contracts with the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Those funds make up our operating budget, and we supplement it with other sources, primarily grants and fundraising.

FY2020 Revenue



FY2020 Staff

Fire Chief – Jeff Conner

Admin Assistant – Brianna Sutton

Lieutenant/SDO – Dave DeCaro

Engineer/SDO – Riley Witte

2019-2020 Board of Directors

President – Jenny Brown

Vice President – Barb O’Donnell

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer – Nannette Rouleau

Director – Dan Weatherly

Director – George Rainey

Director – Ed Ranville

Director – Daniel Waldroup

Annual Awards—2018



Firefighter of the Year –
Josiah Volkmann



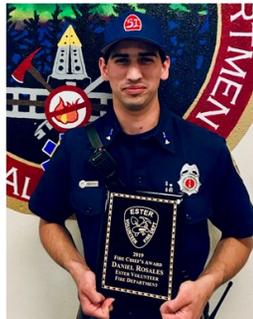
Medic of the Year –
Dave DeCaro



Member of the Year –
Brianna Sutton



Engineer of the Year –
Riley Witte



Fire Chief's Award–
Daniel Rosales



Officer of the Year –
Russell Dennis



Support of the Year –
Nannette Rouleau

**The Ester Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank
the EVFD Board of Directors,
the Ester Fire Service Area Commissioners,
and the Community of Ester for their continued support.**

