



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



## Crested Butte Fire Protection District

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 306 Maroon Avenue, Crested Butte CO 81224



# MESSAGE FROM CEO SEAN CAFFREY & CHIEF ROBERT WEISBAUM



*CEO Sean Caffrey*



*Chief Rob Weisbaum*

The Crested Butte Fire Protection District is pleased to present our 2022 Annual report. As emergency service professionals we are dedicated to providing excellent customer service to our community while providing growth and development opportunities for our members. In 2022 we have worked together to update our mission statement and have further developed our organizational vision and values. The addition of a leadership coach has helped us accelerate progress on our objectives of teamwork, integrity, and professionalism. We strive for excellence and commit to growth. In addition to our accomplishments as an organization, we look forward to maintaining the level of trust and transparency that our community and team members expect of us. Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report and please contact us if we can be of service.

- Robert Weisbaum, EMS & Fire Chief

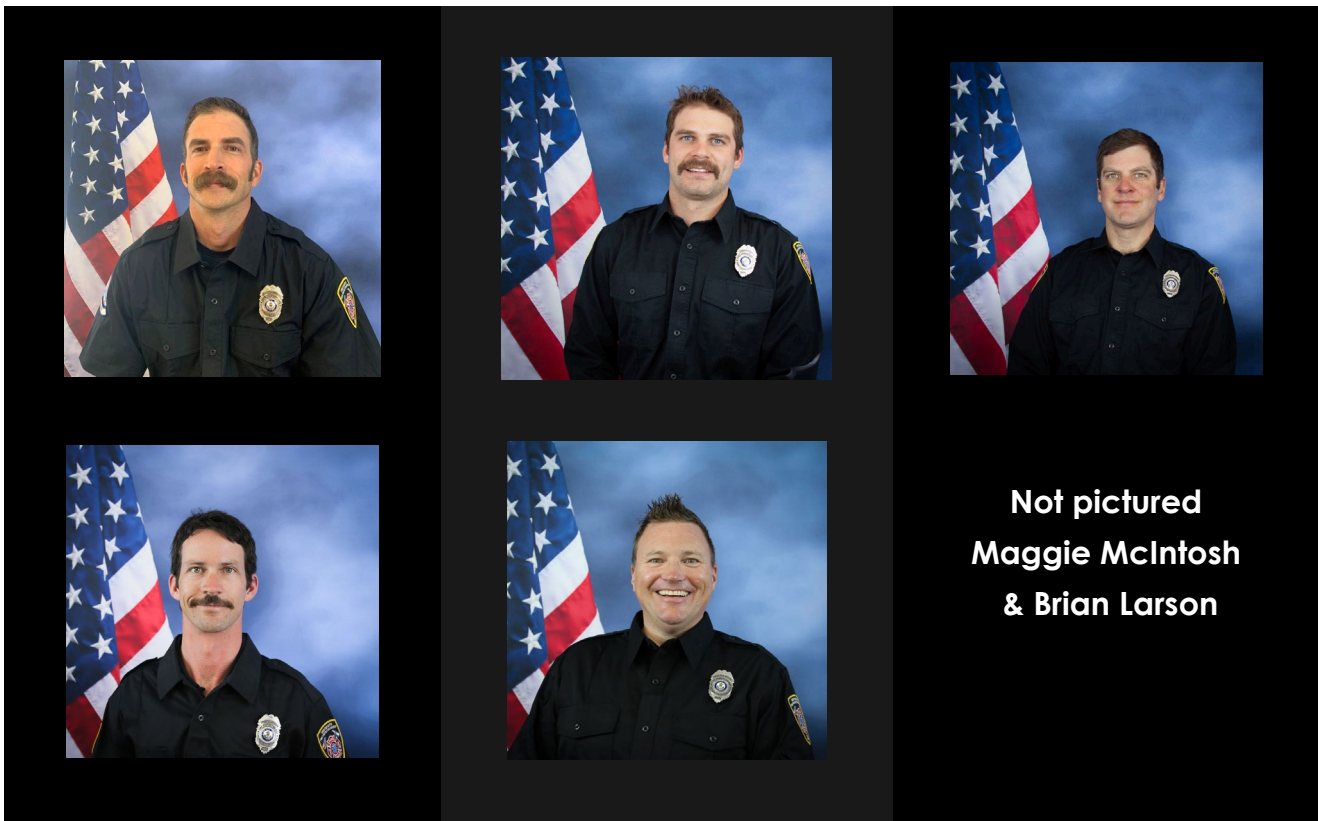
# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

## **2023 will be an important year for the Crested Butte Fire Protection District.**

- Bond funds were utilized to secure land for development on State Highway 135 just North of the Aperture subdivision. The District plans to break ground soon on the Station 1 campus that will include both our new headquarters and Crested Butte Mountain Rescue. We look forward to providing the community with a state of the art facility with a low carbon footprint.
- With the help of grant funds, Operations will purchase a new ambulance to replace our aging fleet. Additional capital purchases include a command box insert that will be retrofitted to an existing district vehicle and newer dual band radios.
- Our Fire Prevention team continues to meet the needs of our growing community. Plan reviews and inspections continue at a robust pace, the team will continue to collaborate with Gunnison County to further implementation of the wildland/urban interface code. The Fire Prevention team is also implementing new inspection software, FirstDue, that will modernize our processes and provide valuable pre-incident plans for our operations division.
- The District will continue to actively recruit volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMT) and will offer our annual recruit academy in the Spring and an EMT class in the Fall of 2023.
- CBFPD team members will obtain specialized training in confined space rescue and add to our service plan. Numerous agencies within our district enter confined spaces throughout the year and qualified emergency responders are not trained in this specialty yet.

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

The CBFPD team welcomed many new members in 2022. Joeph Mirza, Zachary Springer and Matt Evans, originally all volunteers with our District, were hired as full time employees. Jeremy McDonnell was promoted to Captain and Charlie Suthard joined the team as a part-time paramedic. Finally, two new members completed the recruit academy and joined the CBFPD as volunteers in 2022.



*Jeremy, Joe, Zach, Matt, Charlie (left to right)*

The CBFPD remains committed to engaging with the community for numerous events. In 2022, we assisted in the Gunnison Valley Health Foundation health fair, flu shot and COVID 19 booster/vaccine clinic, Crested Butte Community School CPR classes, and basic EKG class for CBCS science class. The CBFPD assisted the Town of Mt. Crested Butte in acquiring AED's for their facility and provided 2 additional AED's to the Crested Butte Marshals Office. We are proud of the number of people who are CPR/AED trained in our valley. Reaching beyond our local community, the CBFPD



donated 12 sets of expired firefighter turnout gear to The Acuna Mexico Fire Department who does not have funding to purchase critical PPE for emergency response. Lastly, our beautiful valley lies within the wildland urban interface and we felt it was important to provide more signage for our community and visitors regarding fire danger ratings. We increased fire danger rating signs throughout our district at main drainages including: Cement Creek in Crested Butte South, Kebler Pass, Crested Butte Community School, and Gothic Road.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Pancake Breakfast was HUGE success raising over \$17,000 for the CBFPD Volunteer Squad & Association, Fallen Firefighters Fund and Explorer program!

The Explorer Post 0911 program continues to grow and be successful with the support of adult mentors and active student engagement. Currently, the roster consists of 15 members ages 14 – 18. As seniors graduate this year, we will welcome new members who are eager to learn about emergency services. To date, numerous former Explorers have gained employment as EMT's, Paramedics, Firefighters, or Emergency Department Technicians. Additionally, some continue to pursue higher education – specifically nursing school, PA school, or medical school. We are proud of our members as they develop and find their path.



# EMS & FIRE: RESPONDING TO OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

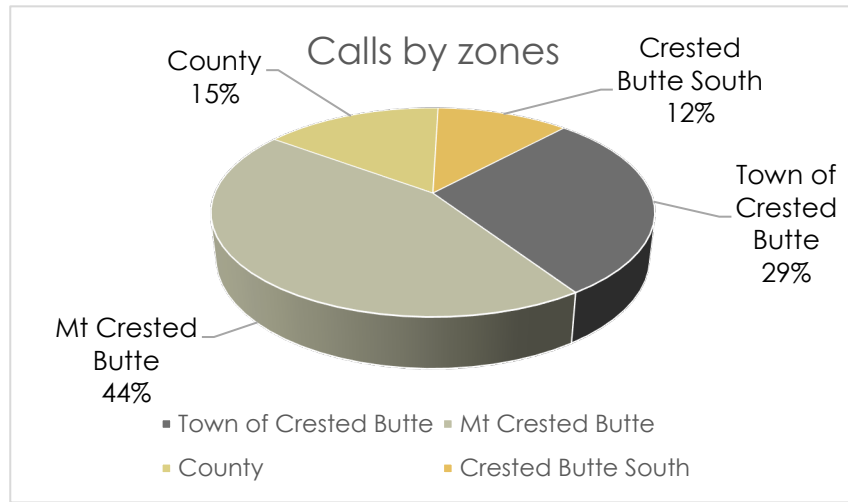
This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CBFPD becoming a fire protection district. The Crested Butte Fire Department dates back to the 1880's however the current fire protection district was formed in 1973. What began as a volunteer organization has evolved into a high functioning and progressive combination department providing an all-hazards response in addition to EMS critical care. While growth and change can be difficult, the CBFPD has made significant change in the last 5 years. As a result of the changes and the introduction of a more traditional hierarchy, the opportunity presented itself to provide continuing professional development. A formalized field training & evaluation program was developed for all new members in addition to an acting driver/operator and acting officer task book. These documents provide guidance to new members, as well as, those wishing to expand their knowledge and find an opportunity for career advancement. The CBFPD Matrix identifies 5 levels within each members role identifying necessary certifications to progress within the department. The matrix has been highly successful by providing a clear path for all so that they are well qualified members of the CBFPD.

It was important to better understand the WHY of our organization and what our objectives and purpose are. In 2022, we hired a leadership coach who provided useful information about our membership and opened up the opportunity to simplify our mission statement and explore what our vision and values are, as they were non-existent. We are proud of our newly adopted mission, vision and values and look forward to acting and living by these principles and virtues, together.

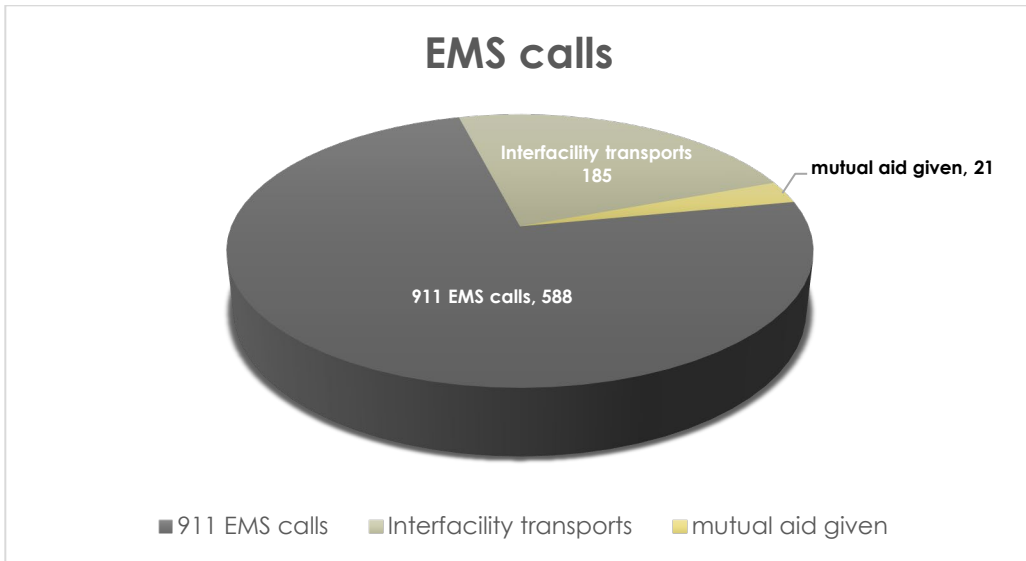
We continue to develop our wildland firefighters and the ability to manage a wildfire that could occur within our district and the Wildland Urban Interface. We are proud to announce that we took delivery of our first district owned brush truck. We have 1 member who has completed all necessary tasks to open his NWCG engine boss task book. Upon completion, we will have the opportunity to better serve our community and provide additional aid on a state and national level with a team of our own. This

is one more step closer to providing an additional service that will protect our lands and create an additional revenue stream to help support our operations.

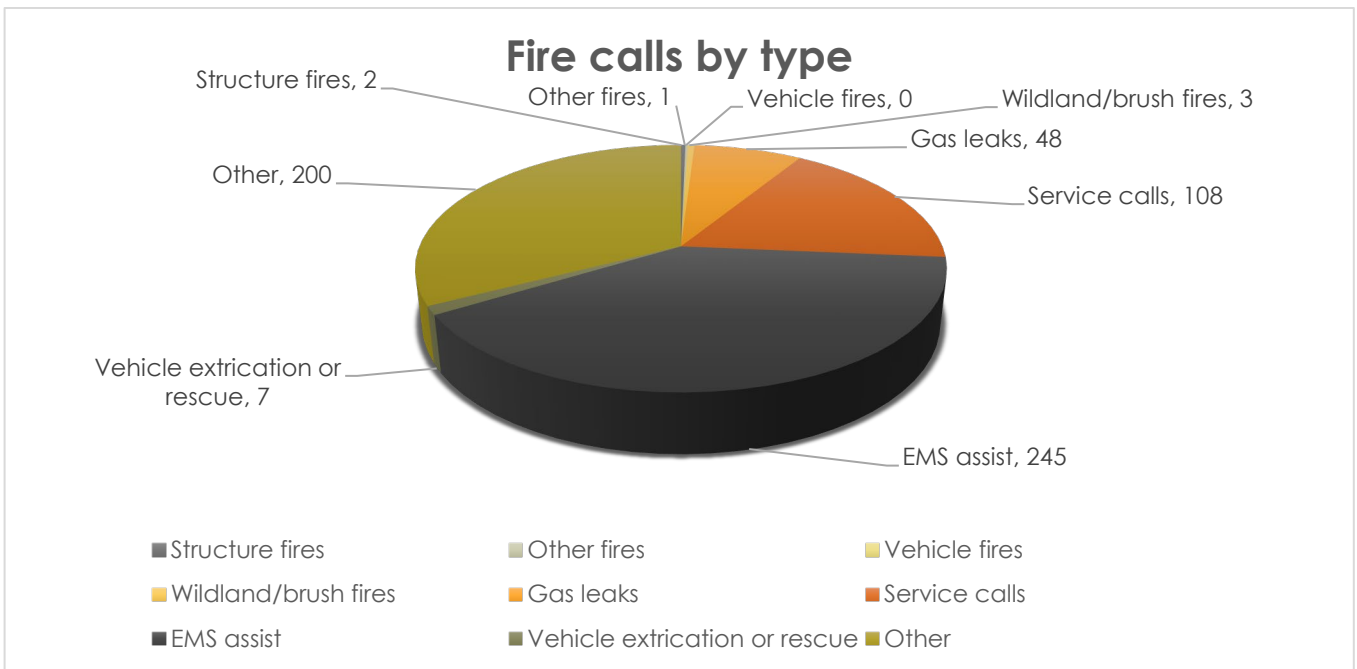
Thank you for taking the time to review our report, the information provided is to inform our community of the achievements we have made while being good fiduciaries to you. We are always looking for opportunities to grow and serve you while providing service that you expect.



The largest portion of our calls for service occur in the Town of Mt. Crested Butte. We strategically place personnel throughout our district during peak hours and during the evening to ensure quick and efficient response times. Our priority is to get out the door quickly, safely, and efficiently to render services to you. While we look at measurable data such as response times and chute (time of call to out the door) times, we focus on minimizing the impact your emergency has on your life or property. Crested Butte South is our largest residential neighborhood and we have ensured that the community's needs are met by staffing personnel at Station 3 during night time hours. This has proven to be quite effective and provides comfort to the citizens of Crested Butte South.



EMS calls remain the majority of our calls for service. Approximately 70% of our total call volume is EMS. We continue to have strong working relationships with Gunnison Paramedics as they are the only other EMS agency in the county. We share a medical director and often times support each other through mutual aid agreements.



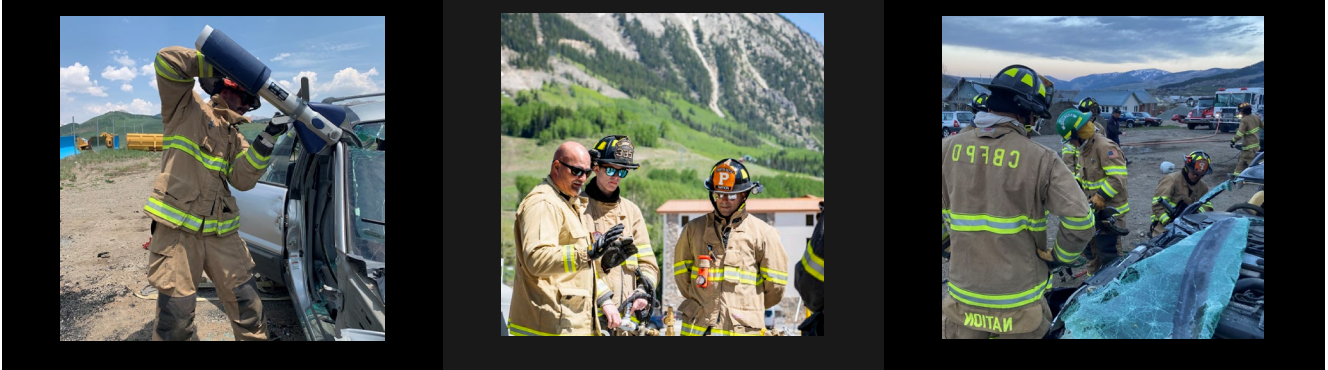


## **Notable calls**

The CBFPD responded to the report of a structure fire at the Adaptive Sports residential house in the 8<sup>th</sup>/Gothic Ave block at 2035 hours on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Upon arrival, crews found a multi-unit dwelling with heavy fire conditions from the garage of the residence with extension to the second-floor exterior. Crews achieved quick knockdown of the fire, saving the structure and eliminating any extension to other residential units. The structure sustained garage and exterior damage only. The CBFPD responded to 2 small wildfire incidents that were quickly mitigated and provided mutual aid support to Gunnison Fire for a wildfire incident in the Roaring Judy area. Lastly, we responded to the local hardware store/gas station for reports of a carbon monoxide alarm. Through investigation, numerous types of critical gas levels were detected which prompted additional investigation. This resulted in the closure of a critical business, for approximately 1 week, while the Region 8 EPA team responded to assist in the investigation. Once a plan was formulated and deemed safe, the business was able to re-open.

## **Training**

2022 was an eventful year as we completed our EMT training and started the 2022 Fire Academy. Fire training highlights include an Officer Development class with Fire Chief David Wolfe from Estes Valley Fire Protection District; a 3 ½ day vehicle extrication class funded by a grant from the Colorado State Fire Fighters Foundation; 3 days of pumping scenarios with Don Distefano from DFPC which also cross-trains members for wildland fire season; the Physical Agility Standardize Test which consist of 10 events to mimic firefighter skills and gauges the firefighter's performance and fitness level, and finally, the Fire Academy which consists of Hazmat Awareness/ Operations and the Firefighter I curriculum. CBFPD's contribution to education, training and safety will continue to provide our community with professional service.



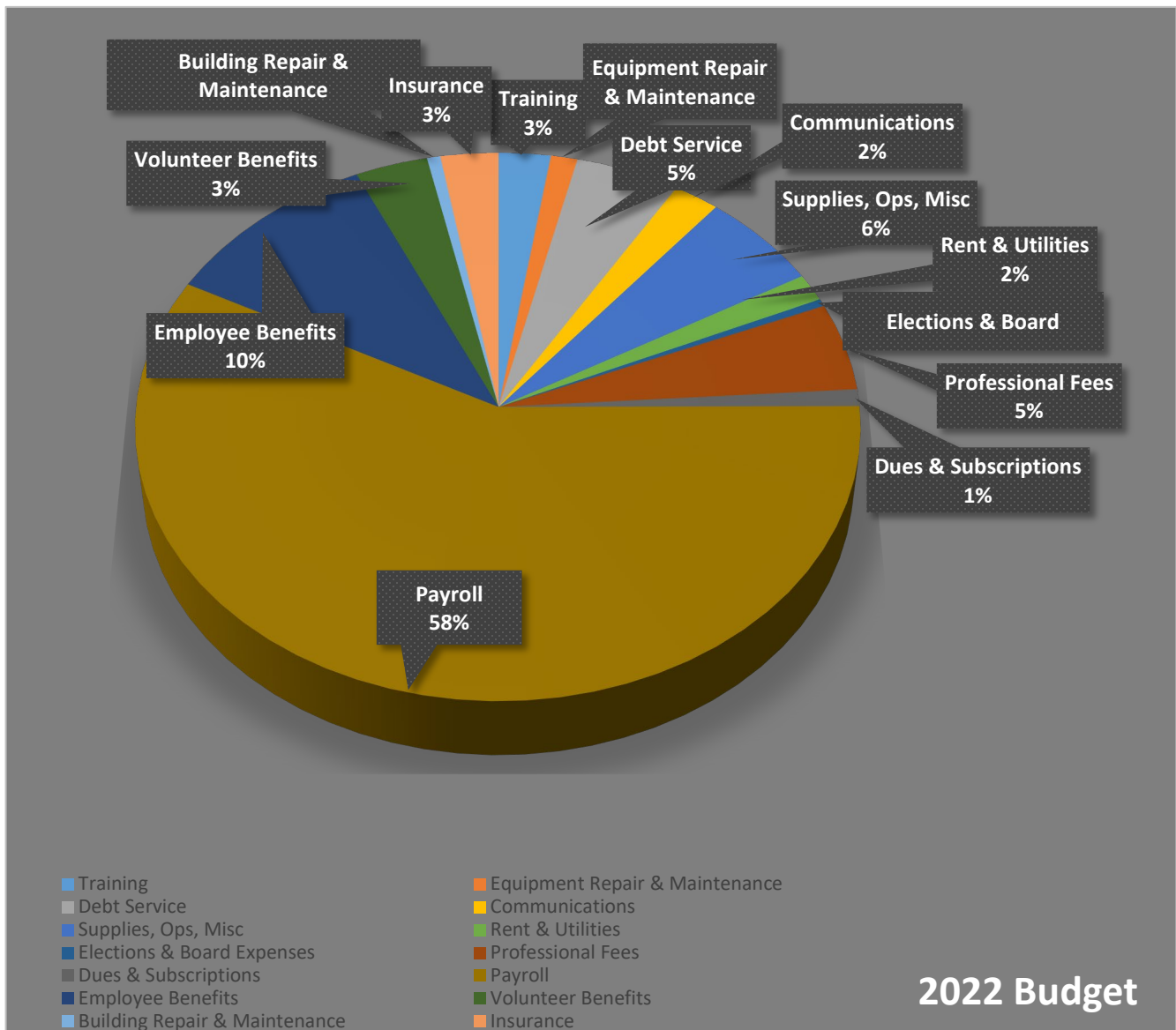
The CBFPD purchased a high fidelity mannequin with numerous capabilities that will assist our organization with simulations for EMT and paramedics. Our waived acts that include the use of Ketamine for pain management, TXA, Ancef, and rapid sequence intubation have been renewed by the state. As we continue to grow and maintain our progressive protocols, all our paramedics will be encouraged to pursue critical care certification.



# DEPARTMENT PROFILE

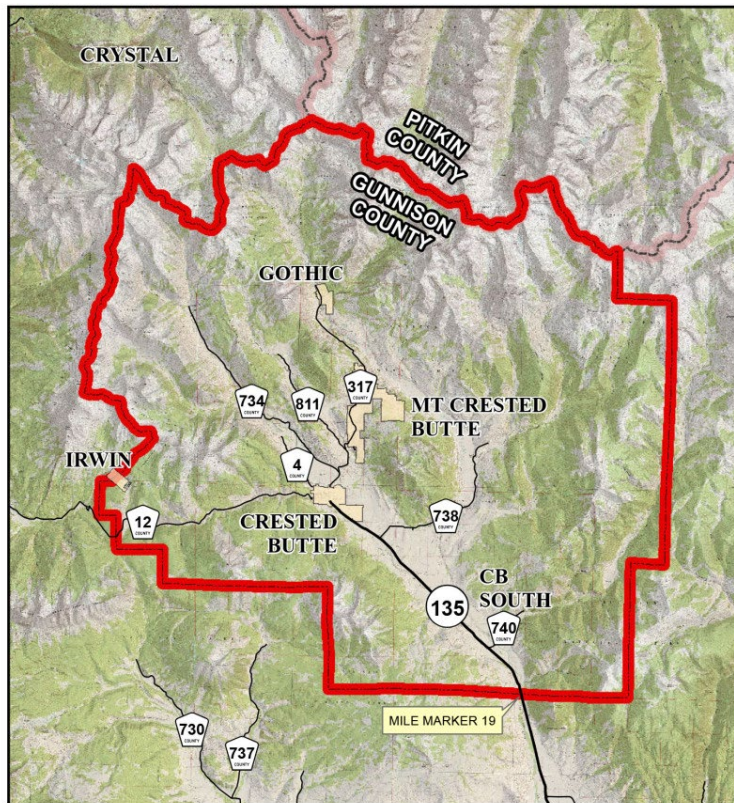
## Financing

The District is primarily funded by an ad valorem tax on property within the Fire District. Other major revenue sources include specific ownership tax, ambulance fees, plan review and permit fees, special event charges, grants and intergovernmental transfers. The District also charges impact fees that are reserved for capital as required by law. The District improvements may participate in investing or financing activities as allowed by law and approved by the Board of Directors and/or the voters.



## Organizational History

The Crested Butte Fire Protection was established on September 10, 1973 by decree of the District Court in the Seventh Judicial District and the County of Gunnison in accordance with Colorado Revised Statutes § 89-17-2. The Colorado Division of Local Government certified the organization of the District on September 12, 1973. The original boundaries of the District included the Town of Crested Butte incorporated in 1880, the Crested Butte Ski area as determined by the boundaries of the Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District established in 1963 that later became the municipality of Mt. Crested Butte, and a tract of ranch land connecting the two jurisdictions along the Gothic Road Corridor. The formation of the fire protection district replaced volunteer fire protection provided on an intermittent basis by Town of Crested Butte with non-motorized equipment beginning in the 1880s. The District constructed its first fire station in 1974 at 306 Maroon Ave on land leased from the



Town of Crested Butte. The provision of ambulance service by the District began in 1975.

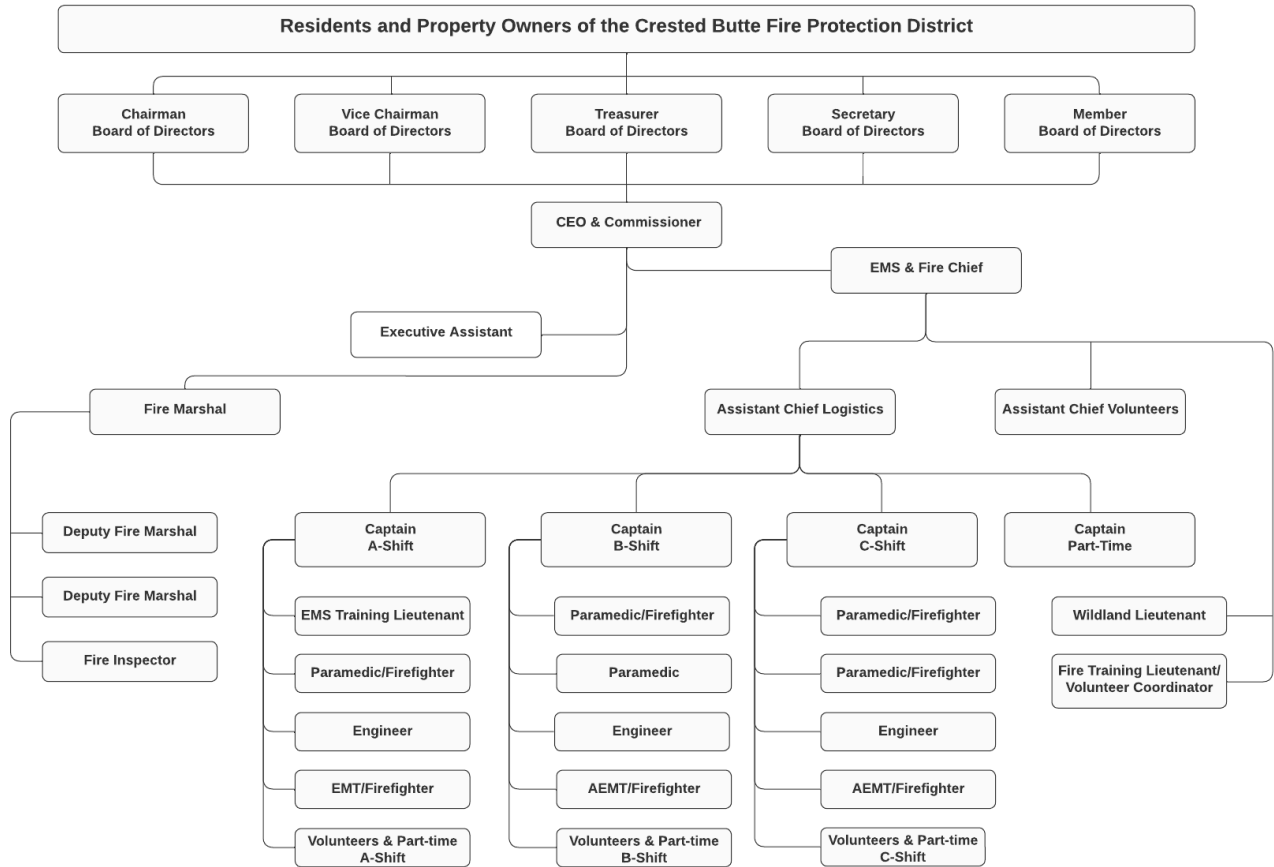
Boundaries of the CBFPD were expanded in 1995 to encompass 220 square miles of the Upper Gunnison Valley. Throughout 1990s and early 2000s additional District stations were constructed in Mt. Crested Butte, Crested Butte South and Buckhorn Ranch. A material modification of the statement of purposes was adopted on October 13, 2015 authorizing the District to provide affordable housing to its personnel.



# Organizational Chart



## Crested Butte Fire Protection District Organizational Chart



**The Crested Butte Fire Protection District is committed to excellence in the protection of life and property and serves the community with professionalism, compassion, and respect.**

**Vision:**

**Strive for Excellence. Commit to Growth**

**Values:**

**Teamwork. Integrity. Professionalism.**



# PROMOTIONS, CERTIFICATIONS & MORE

## **Volunteer of the Year**

- Sean Slattery
- Katie Harper

## **Chiefs Award**

- Melvin Seyfried

## **Employee of the Year**

- Annie Tunkey

## **Explorer of the Year**

- Piper O'Neil
- Sam Dukeman

## **Promotions**

- Jeremy McDonnell (Captain)

## **New certifications obtained**

### **Firefighter I**

- Rick Ball
- Sean Slattery
- Sasha Legere
- Dale Hoots

### **Firefighter II**

- Jeffrey Duke
- Sean Caffrey

### **Driver/Operator**

- Melvin Seyfried

### **Firefighter Proctor**

- Joseph Mirza

### **Fire Instructor I**

- Jeremy McDonnell

### **Fire Officer II**

- Capt. Tony Jakino

### **Emergency Medical Technician**

- Sasha Legere
- Bruce Nation

### **Advanced EMT**

- Tara Sweitzer
- Zach Springer

## **Retirements/Farwell**

- Scott Yost for 11 years of volunteer service

## **Recognitions**

- Joe Wonnacott and Jordan Iraola – Good Samaritan
- West Elk Mine – Donation of 1200 gallons of Class A foam
- Gunnison Valley Health Foundation (CBFPD Education Scholarship program)

**New Apparatus**

