



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022

"MAKING A DIFFERENCE"



FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022



# **New Fire Chief!**

**James Klug  
Oath of Office  
May 3, 2022**



# FROM THE CHIEF...

Platte Valley Fire came into 2022 knowing it would be a year of change for the department. I was sworn in as the next Fire Chief to take the lead in May. At that time, I presented my vision for the department . Moving forward, we will:



- Focus on Mr. and Mrs. Smith (our citizen's needs)
- Be a trusted and skilled neighbor and partner
- Have functional fire companies
- Strive for skill mastery by position
- Share our strengths to help develop others
- Make Community Risk Reduction a priority
- Strive to be actively involved in our community and its partners
- Be fiscally responsible and financially sustainable

Additionally, we would focus on changing our organization's culture and defining "who we are." After conducting work sessions throughout the year, I believe we have done just that. We have figured out who we are, what we stand for and how we will protect our culture and our image moving forward. New goals have been set for 2023, including a Strategic Planning Process, and we are excited to get started.

This organization is full of highly skilled, motivated, and passionate people ready to serve the citizens of our District. They take pride in serving others. They are proud and honored to help our citizens on their worst day. I have the honor and pleasure of watching them do what they do every day. I am a proud Fire Chief.

Respectfully,

James Klug  
Fire Chief



# Who Is Platte Valley Fire?

Changing our image and defining "who we are" was important to our department in 2022. After a rebranding process, the department revamped its logos and we now have a new look!



Old Logo



New Logos

## New District Values

### PROFESSIONALISM

As professionals, we put our people at the center of all we do. We achieve professionalism through training, continuing education, and mentoring to skillfully and positively impact the lives of those we serve.

### COMMUNITY

Our Fire Department exists to serve, support, and make a difference in the lives of our members and our community.

### TEAM

Our team brings together a diverse group of individuals to overcome obstacles and make a difference by applying combined skills, perspectives, and strengths.

### CHARACTER

Our Fire Department operates with trust and humility. We will be accountable to each other and our community.







# Mission Statement

To make a difference in our community and surrounding area by protecting and compassionately caring for life and property through skilled and well-equipped emergency services and life safety programs.

# Vision Statement

We will be a progressive, aggressive, innovative, and fiscally responsible Fire Department committed to making a difference in the lives of each other and the community we serve.



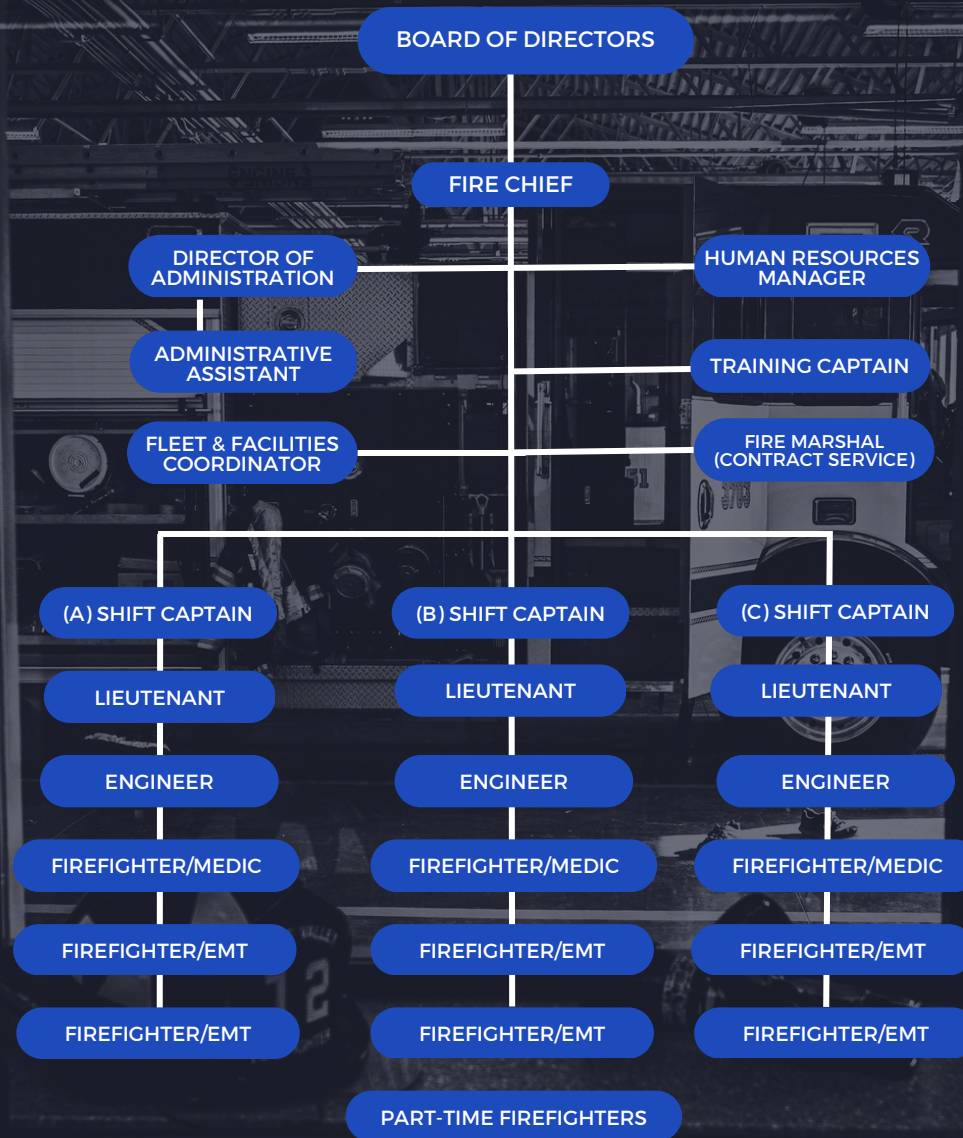
# Making A Difference

Making a difference in the lives of each other and the community we serve means that we will take action for someone else, to make their circumstances better than before. We will treat people the way we want to be treated, both within the walls of our Firehouse and when in the community. We will do our best to understand other people's perspectives and needs. We will go above and beyond to make a significant impact on a person in need, recognizing everyone is someone's loved one. To truly make a difference, we will constantly facilitate and encourage progression, developing ourselves and others to be better than we were yesterday.





# Chain of Command Changes



Chain of Command changes were planned in 2022, with the changes taking effect in 2023. The Operations Chief position was removed, and the role and responsibilities of the Shift Captain changed to take on the Operations role. With that change, a Lieutenant position was added to each shift to fill the role of Company Officer. The Training Officer position was elevated to a Captain position due to the added roles and responsibilities that position took on. The Fire Marshal position was contracted to Fire Marshal Services for a cost savings to the District.

# Our People

At Platte Valley Fire, our people are our greatest asset - they are our TEAM members!

Our staff is broken into two Divisions - Administration and Operations.

Administration is comprised of the Fire Chief, Director of Administration, Human Resources Manager, Administrative Assistant, Fleet and Facilities Coordinator, and the Training Captain.



**Employee Retention Rate**  
rose to 79% in 2022

**Average Tenure**  
4 Years 10 Months



Operations is comprised of three shifts, designated as A-Shift, B-Shift, and C-Shift. Each Shift has a Shift Captain (Shift Commander), Company Lieutenant (Company Officer), Apparatus Engineer, and three Firefighters. Each shift can be supplemented by Part-time Firefighters when needed.

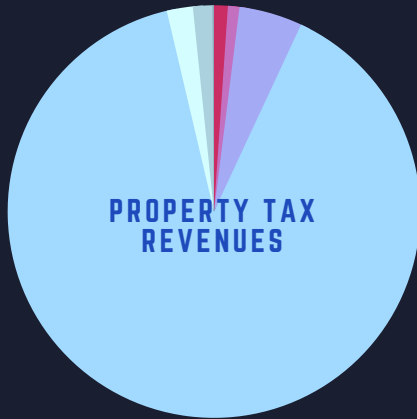
**30% of Employees are**  
**between 5-10 Years of**  
**Service**

**57% of Employees are**  
**between the ages of**  
**25-35**

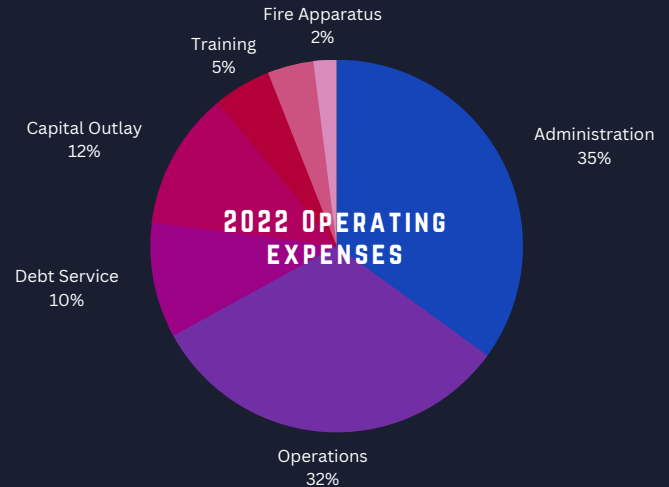




# FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



- Oil & Gas - 89.38%  
\$4,301,443.00
- Industrial - 4.96%  
\$238,624.22
- Commercial, Minerals & Vacant Land - 1.02%  
\$49,086.62
- Agricultural - 1.08%  
\$52,099.92
- State Assessed - 1.52%  
\$72,968.91
- Residential - 2.04%  
\$98,063.85



The District's primary revenue source is from the oil and gas industry. In 2022, the District saw a property tax revenue reduction of approximately 30% (\$1.8 million) from 2021 to 2022. As a result, our budget reduced to \$4.8 million. This decrease is based on the reduced value and production of oil and gas across our District. Our budget has very little stability from year to year, making future financial planning difficult. The District's Board of Directors has done a great job of making the District fiscally stable now and into the future by setting aside funding available for use on reduced oil and gas revenue years. Additionally, the District has established a capital replacement budget that will allow the District to complete strategic objectives, such as apparatus replacements, equipment purchases, and major building repairs when they occur. The current Capital Replacement Budget is \$1.7 million.

Due to the instability of oil and gas revenues, the District has maintained an Operating Reserve balance for low revenue years. At the end of 2022, the District has increased that Operating Reserve balance to \$9.9 million. Why would the District maintain a balance in that amount? The State requires the District to have an Operating Reserve of 3%. The District maintains a more significant percentage due to the instability of oil and gas revenues. The Operating Reserve balance would allow the District two years of operating funds should oil and gas revenues drastically decline. Setting the District up to be fiscally stable can decrease the need to ask its taxpayers for a mill levy increase in the future. The next two budget years are expected to be higher due to oil and gas production, and we hope to use those revenues to pay off the building loan early.



# What Does The District Cost You?

If you own property in the Platte Valley Fire Protection District, you pay property tax to support the operations of the Fire District.

Weld County sets your Property Value (PV), which is then multiplied by an Assessment Rate (AR) of 6.95% for residential or 29% for commercial to get your Assessed Value (AV). Property taxes are levied against your Assessed Value. Platte Valley Fire Protection District levies 5.165 mills of property tax.

To calculate your property taxes:

Property Value (PV) x Assessment Rate (AR) = Assessed Value

Assess Value (AV) x 0.005165 (mill levy) = Your Annual Taxes



## Residential Property (Assessment Rate of 6.95%)

| Property Value (PV) | Assessed Value (AV) | Annual Property Taxes |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| \$100,000           | \$6,950             | \$35.90               |
| \$250,000           | \$17,375            | \$89.74               |
| \$400,000           | \$27,800            | \$143.59              |
| \$600,000           | \$41,700            | \$215.38              |
| \$750,000           | \$52,125            | \$269.23              |

## Commercial Property (Assessment Rate of 29%)

| Property Value (PV) | Assessed Value (AV) | Annual Property Taxes |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| \$100,000           | \$29,000            | \$149.79              |
| \$250,000           | \$72,500            | \$374.46              |
| \$500,000           | \$145,000           | \$748.93              |
| \$750,000           | \$217,500           | \$1,123.39            |
| \$1,000,000         | \$290,000           | \$1497.85             |

## Fire District Tax Rate Comparisons

| Fire Agency                                   | Mill levy Rate |
|---|----------------|
| Evans Fire Protection District                | 15.5           |
| Fort Lupton Fire Protection District          | 9.318          |
| LaSalle Fire Protection District              | 5.154          |
| Platteville-Gilcrest Fire Protection District | 6.89           |
| Southeast Weld Fire Protection District       | 10.293         |

# ROCKY FORD Department of CITY

## PVFPD 2022 Accomplishments

**SURPLUS & RETIRED APPARATUS:  
DONATED TO SMALLER VOLUNTEER  
ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN  
EXTREME NEED**

Depending on old, wore-out, apparatus' has become a way of life for our department. Continuous repairs on most of our vehicles and higher insurance costs, combined with a minimal budget, is preventing us from being able to upgrade our vehicles. Our hope upon receiving newer and better equipment is more community involvement, more volunteers, and to better serve our community. Without your help, none of this would be possible!

To say thank you is an understatement. We will be forever thankful and appreciative of what you have done for us!

### Information Technology

A New I.T. Company was contracted to  
provide better service to the District.

The Career Development Program was updated and published, providing our membership with a plan to advance in their careers.

### Brand New Look



A salary and benefit study was completed, and the 2023 pay scale plan was developed and approved. The District also made a benefits broker change, moving to CEBT, providing a cost savings to both the District and our employees.





A New Engine arrived in  
February - Engine 3701 - A 2021  
Rosenbauer Commander.



"Great things are accomplished by talented people  
who believe they will accomplish them."  
-Warren G. Bennis

## New Traditions!

Formal Badge Pinning Ceremonies and  
an Apparatus Wet Down Ceremony!

The Chain of Command and the roles and responsibilities of positions were altered to better utilize staff. We advertised and recruited a Shift Captain and a Training Captain. The District contracted its Fire Marshal position to Fire Marshal Services to provide a needed service to the District at a reduced cost.



**CAPTAIN**  
BRIAN COE (C-SHIFT)

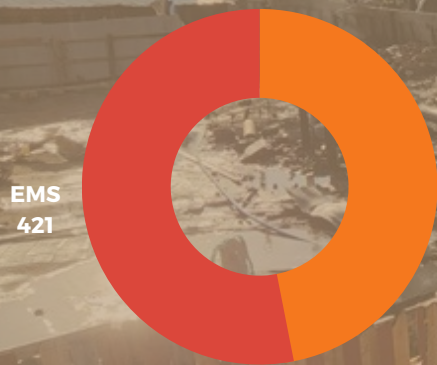
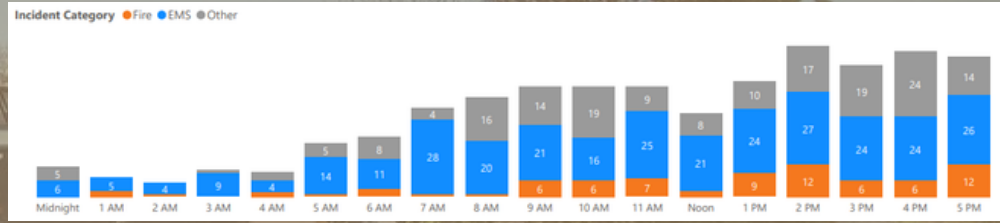






The Platte Valley Fire Protection District is an all-hazards emergency services department. Though we are a Fire Protection District, we also respond to EMS calls, wildland fires, traffic accidents, water rescue incidents, technical rescue incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and just about any other request for service that we receive.

# RESPONSE & INCIDENTS FOR 2022



In 2022, our District responded to 793 documented calls for service. These calls for service are answered by one of our three shifts. Each shift is on duty for 48 hours at a time and is made up of 6 people consisting of the following positions:

- 1 Shift Captain (Commander)
- 1 Company Lieutenant
- 1 Engineer (Pump Operator)
- 3 Firefighter/EMTs or Paramedics

This response is further supplemented by the Fire Chief, the Training Captain, part-time firefighters, and auto-aid response units.

# OPERATIONS

As the population, industry, and traffic increases in our area, our call volume will continue to rise.

Our staff consists of Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics. When we respond to an EMS incident, we are able to provide our citizens with ALS Care (Advanced Life Support). UC Health Ambulance is housed in our Station, and is our transport provider that will transport to the closest and most appropriate hospital.

Our District has ten primary response apparatus consisting of:

- 3 Engines (ALS)
- 1 Heavy Rescue (ALS)
- 2 Wildland Type 6 Trucks
- 1 Wildland Type 3 Engine
- 2 Water Tenders
- 1 Command Vehicle



ONLY 9 INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IN 2022







3702

PROTECTION DISTRICT  
PLATE VALLEY  
FIRE

EST. 1954



# Training & Education

Platte Valley Fire strives for skill mastery by position. It is our goal to have well trained, thinking firefighters. As an all-hazards emergency services organization, our members need to be prepared for whatever incident type we get paged to. In 2022, our members logged 8,116 hours of training. This averages to 427 hours of Fire/EMS training per person. We invest heavily in the training and education of our firefighters as we are a small fire department that has to respond to large incidents with minimal staffing. When our Engine and Rescue arrive on scene of an incident, they often are accomplishing the same amount of task and tactical level work that four or five units would accomplish at a larger department. Because of this, their skill level and efficiency has to be top notch. You have some of the best trained and educated firefighters responding to your emergency in this Fire District. We're proud of that!

The development of our staff is outlined in the District's Career Development Program. This program guides our staff throughout their career, always giving them goals to achieve. Firefighters never stop learning, and we make sure that they continue to develop their knowledge, skill, and ability.

Over the last year, we had members complete courses for Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Hazardous Materials Operations, Driver/Operator Pumper, Fire Officer 1 and Fire Officer 2. At the completion of each of these courses, members had to complete a practical skills examination as well as a written examination earning a Colorado State Certification.

Platte Valley also hosted several trainings and courses at our Training Facility over the last year, including:

- RIT/SCBA Confidence Training with Auto-Aid Departments
- Live Fire Evolutions with Auto-Aid Departments
- State of Colorado Fire Officer 1 Program
- Weld County K-9 Handler Training
- Galetton Fire Protection District Fire Academy
- Weld County Sheriff's Department Training Scenarios
- FRFC Live Fire Evolutions
- Colorado State Patrol HazMat Training
- Weld County OEM Training

# Training & Education Continued



Additionally, our members continue their education by attending outside courses. We had members attend the Fire Department Instructor Conference, Command Officer Boot Camp, Officer Development Programs, Engine Company Operations courses, Envision Leadership Program, Chief Officer Development courses, and many others. Again, our organization has well trained and well educated firefighters because of the investment we make into their continued development.

Platte Valley Fire is a member of the Front Range Fire Consortium (FRFC), and all new recruits attend the 15-week recruit academy where they learn the basic skills needed to be a line firefighter. Firefighter Geoff McCoy graduated from the 22-2 FRFC Academy.











# PREVENTION

The Fire District has established a goal to increase our Community Risk Reduction efforts. Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is the identification and prioritization of risks, threats and hazards followed by the implementation and evaluation of strategies to lessen their impact. Those strategies include plan review processes, code enforcement, and conducting fire safety inspections in all businesses and public facilities within the boundaries of the Fire District. The purpose of conducting fire inspections is:

**Educate** Make business owners and the public aware of risks and how they can mitigate those risks.

**Support** To support our residents, business owners, and all others see the role they play in providing for safety.

**Engineering** Ensure appropriate codes and standards are used in new construction and remodels.

**Enforcement** Identify conditions that threaten life or property and work with owners to address and mitigate.





# PREVENTION



In 2022, we started a Company Level inspection program, meaning that in addition to our Fire Inspector completing inspections, the Engine crew is also out completing Fire Safety Inspections. Having our crews performing this task allows them to "pre-plan" facilities should their be an emergency at the location in the future. This is helpful to our firefighters in that they know what the inside of these buildings look like should they need to enter under low visibility conditions, as well as know what hazards exist that they may face. In all, we complete 73 fire safety inspections annually.



Additionally, our prevention staff conducts post fire investigations. The primary purposes of a fire investigation is to establish the origin of the fire, determine the likely cause, and to conclude whether the incident was accidental, natural or deliberate. In 2022, our Fire Investigator conducted or participated in 15 fire investigations.



# COMMUNITY



## INVOLVEMENT







# FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Platte Valley Fire Protection District is guided by an elected Board of Directors consisting of five members. Directors are required to attend monthly Board Meetings, and are also encouraged to attend community events hosted by the District.



DAN BUDERUS - BOARD PRESIDENT - [DBUDERUS@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG](mailto:DBUDERUS@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG)

BILL SPALDING - VICE PRESIDENT - [BSPALDING@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG](mailto:BSPALDING@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG)

BARRY WELLS - SECRETARY/TREASURER - [BWELLS@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG](mailto:BWELLS@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG)

ART GUTTERSEN - DIRECTOR - [AGUTTERSEN@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG](mailto:AGUTTERSEN@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG)

SCOTT HOFF - DIRECTOR - [SHOFF@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG](mailto:SHOFF@PLATTEVALLEYFIRE.ORG)

The primary role and responsibilities of the elected Board of Directors is to; approve policies of the Fire District, approve the annual budget, approve expenditures, and provide direction to the Fire Chief. Directors also represent, support, and promote the Platte Valley Fire Protection District and the Platte Valley Community.

**PROFESSIONALISM**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**CHARACTER**  
**TEAM**

**"MAKING A DIFFERENCE"**

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