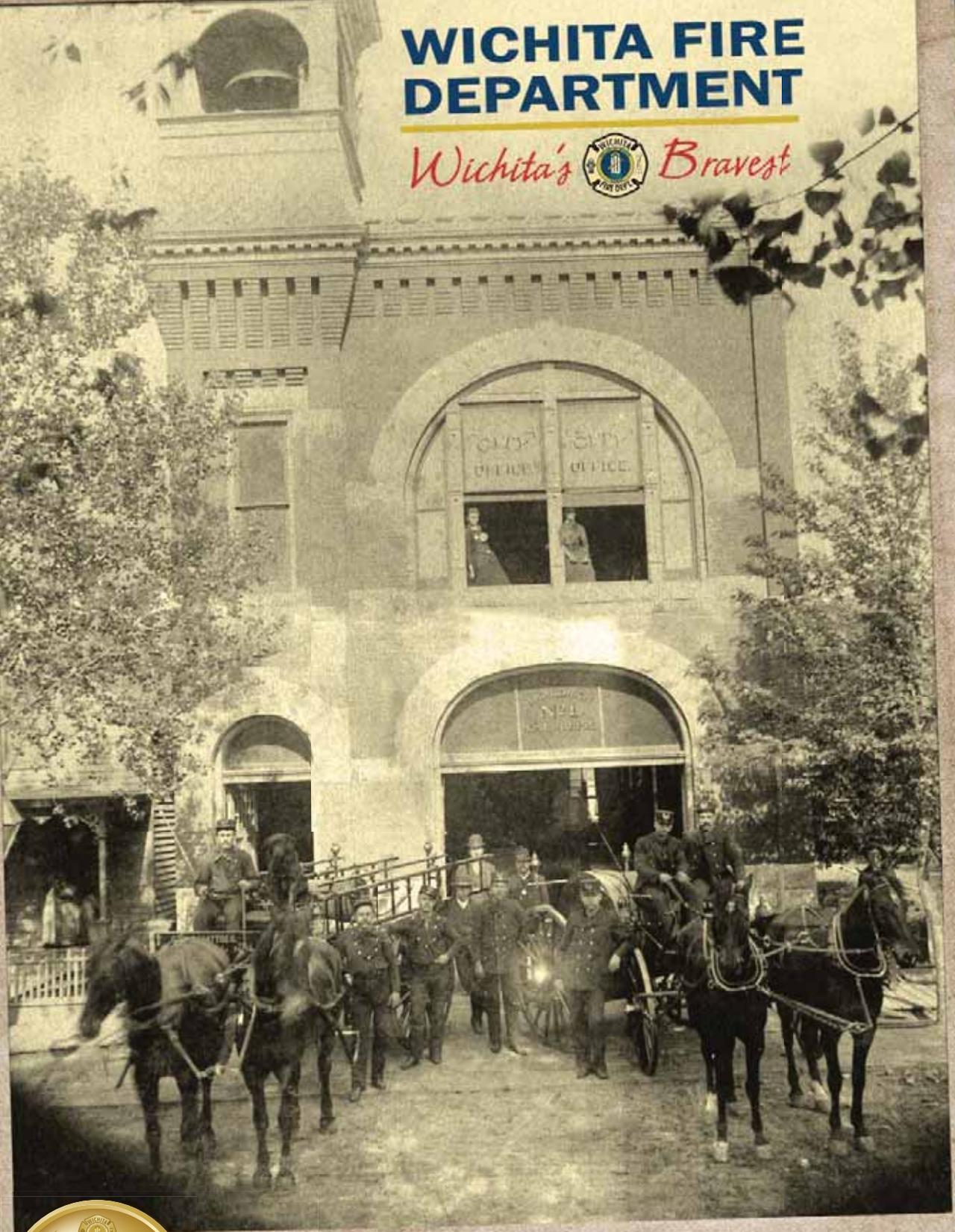


WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Wichita's  *Bravest*



Rich in Tradition

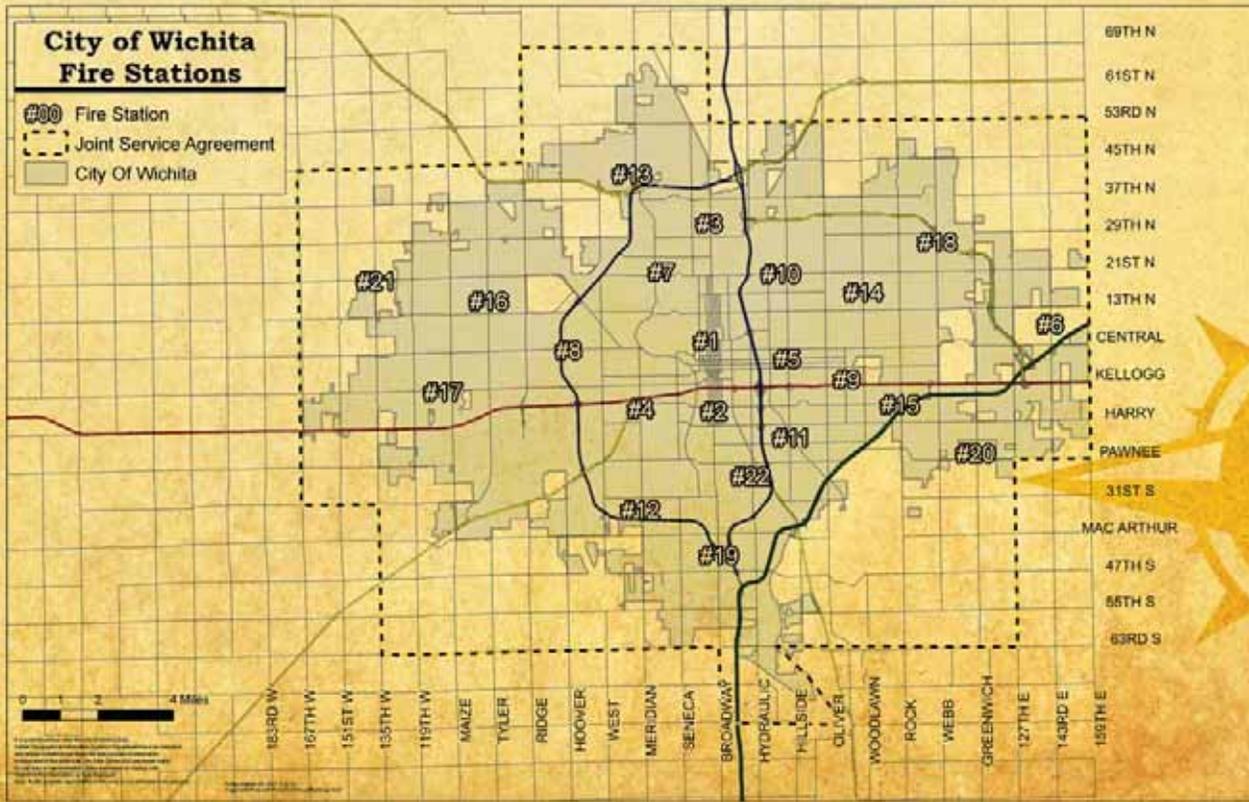


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❧ WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT ❧
 ORGANIZATION

WICHITA FIRE CHIEF
Ronald D. Blackwell

ACTING DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
 OPERATIONS
 Earnest E. Schuler

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
 SUPPORT SERVICES
 Ronald L. Aaron

ACTING SHIFT COMMANDER-A
 John S. Turner

FIRE MARSHAL FIRE PREVENTION
 Bradley F. Crisp

SHIFT COMMANDER-B
 Tammy E. Snow

DIVISION CHIEF SAFETY & TRAINING
 Billy J. Wenzel

SHIFT COMMANDER-C
 Bradford Boyd

RECORDS & TECHNOLOGY

455 North Main, 11th Floor
 Wichita, Kansas 67202
 (316) 268-4510
www.wichita.gov
 Click on Fire Department



WICHITA FIRE CHIEF
 Ronald D. Blackwell
Proudly Serving Since 1975



WICHITA RESIDENTS,

As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Wichita Fire Department, it is important to pay tribute to those who helped shape the fire service into the fine organization it is today. I'd like to take a moment to reflect back on our humble beginnings. In 1872 when a fire burned down the jail the need for organized fire protection became clear. Two volunteer fire companies were formed, the Frontier Fire Company and later the Deluge Fire Company. Thanks to their dedication and determination the fire service evolved in 1886 into a paid department.

Our department observes the date of August 23, 1886 as its Founder's Day. On that day, City leaders appointed A.G. Walden Fire Marshal and the first chief of the Wichita Fire Department. He requested 16 men be on duty at all times and that equipment be purchased including a two-horse hose carriage, horses and a harness.

Today the Wichita Fire Department strives to build upon that rich history and proud tradition of public service with the help of more than 450 members. Every day I witness selfless, amazing people actively engaged in property conservation and lifesaving public service. In keeping with our long and storied history I salute Wichita's Bravest.

I am deeply humbled to have the opportunity to serve as the thirteenth Wichita Fire Chief during this time of celebration. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Wichita City Council and the members of the community for their unwavering support.

On behalf of the Wichita Fire Department, I'd like to take this occasion to recommit to improving service, enhancing members and community safety as well as making the best use of new and existing resources. We are honored to serve you.

Sincerely,

THE WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ronald D. Blackwell
 Fire Chief



Awards

For the third consecutive year, Firehouse Magazine has recognized Wichita's Bravest. The heroic acts involved a rescue from a house fire, a compassionate act toward a grieving family and a river rescue. The following individuals were recognized:

FIREFIGHTERS: Collis E. Grisby, Benjamin S. Kersting, Darren Matthews, Larry Cook, Matthew Barthelme, Lyndell Lara, Dan Dawson, Timothy Goscha, Byron Jabara, Jeremy Menges, James Heitman, Evan Snyder, James Christy

LIEUTENANT: Scott Kleinschmidt **CAPTAINS:** Tyler Nolan, Jim Martin, Boyd Lauber

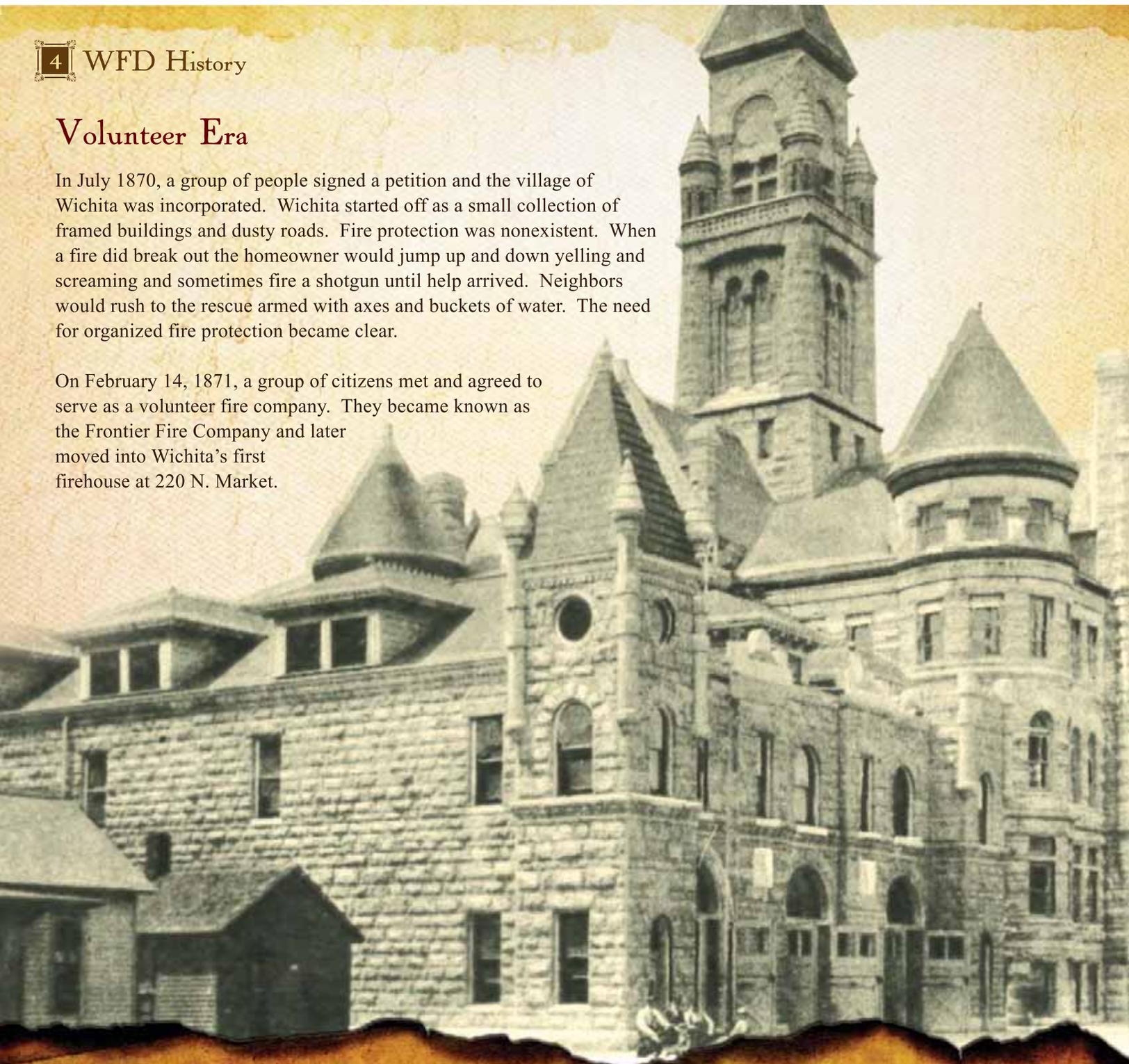
BATTALION CHIEF: Robert Wolfe



Volunteer Era

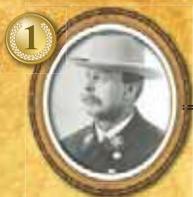
In July 1870, a group of people signed a petition and the village of Wichita was incorporated. Wichita started off as a small collection of framed buildings and dusty roads. Fire protection was nonexistent. When a fire did break out the homeowner would jump up and down yelling and screaming and sometimes fire a shotgun until help arrived. Neighbors would rush to the rescue armed with axes and buckets of water. The need for organized fire protection became clear.

On February 14, 1871, a group of citizens met and agreed to serve as a volunteer fire company. They became known as the Frontier Fire Company and later moved into Wichita's first firehouse at 220 N. Market.



WFD Fire Chiefs / 1886 - 1941

125 Years



ALBERT G. WALDEN

Appointed Fire Chief on August 26, 1886 and served through May 1, 1905. Reappointed Chief on June 23, 1907 and served until his death on November 23, 1917.



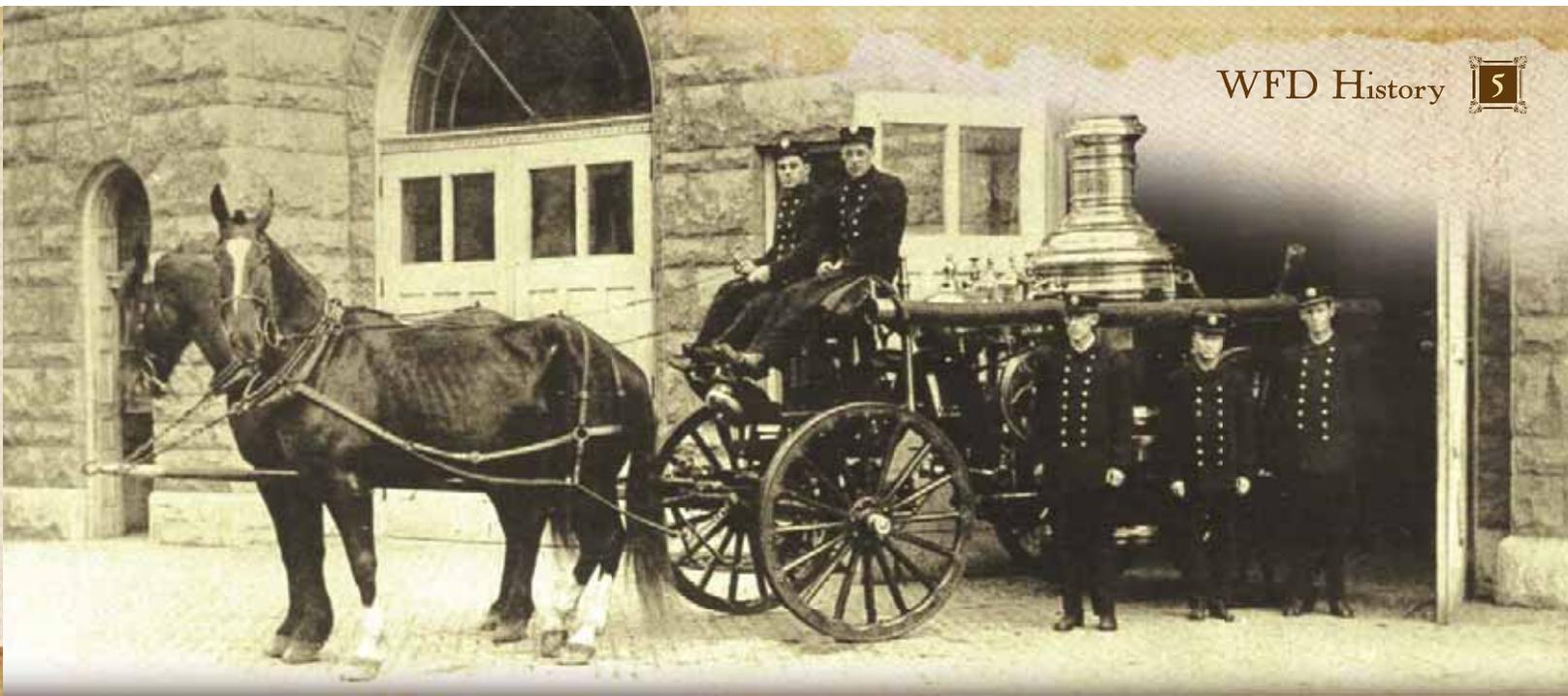
A. S. BROWNEWELL

Appointed Fire Chief on May 1, 1905 and served through June 23, 1907. Reappointed Chief on November 23, 1917 and served until his death on July 18, 1927.



H. H. McCALL

Appointed Fire Chief on July 26, 1927 and served until his retirement on February 1, 1941.



Formal Beginning

The Wichita Fire Department can trace its formal beginning to 1886, where the Mayor appointed A.G. Walden to Fire Chief. Fire Chief Walden began to build the newly formed department into a solid organization by the appointment of men who were in his opinion, dedicated to the task of fire protection.



In 1909, the city bought a Mitchell touring car for Chief Walden. Wichita's first motor driven fire equipment received the "horse laugh" from the entire fire company. They hooted at it generally and vowed in particular they would never be caught riding on the thing. In 1911, a motorized piece of fire equipment was delivered to the Wichita Fire Department. The Webb Motor Fire Engine capable of 700 GPM would distinguish itself many times in the years to come.

WFD Fire Chiefs / 1941 - 1960

125 Years



POWERS M. (Doc) WENDEL

Appointed Fire Chief on April 5, 1941 and served until his death on August 3, 1942.



IRA A. MARTINDALE

Appointed Fire Chief on August 7, 1942 and served until his retirement on July 16, 1943.



CLARENCE W. BROWN

Appointed Fire Chief on July 16, 1943, and served until his death on May 1, 1949.



F. ELGIN WOODS

Appointed Fire Chief on May 2, 1949, and served until his retirement on July 1, 1960.

Men & Machines



In November of 1917, Chief Brownell became the second Fire Chief with the passing of Chief Walden. In 1918 the new era of “Men and Machines” began and the last of the fire horses were replaced by engine driven apparatus. Wichita became the first completely motorized department in the US.

By the time the 1930s came around, Wichita had grown in population and the fire department was operating with 9 engine companies, 1 squad, 2 hose wagons, and 4 ladder companies from 8 firehouses throughout the city. In 1940, the 24 hour shift began replacing the 10 and 14 hour schedule, and promotions were starting to take place to reflect the growing department. Starting firefighters received \$175.00 dollars a month and first class men received \$215.00. The 1950s brought more growth than any time in the department’s history. The population swelled to 168,000 people which caused an increase in building construction and traffic. The growth also resulted in an increased number of fires.

In the 1960s, Thomas A. McGaughey took over the reign as Chief of Department due to the retirement of Elgin Woods. McGaughey divided the department into three divisions; Administration, Operations and Fire Prevention.

This decade marked the city’s most tragic event with a loaded jet crashing into a residential neighborhood at 21st and Piatt killing 30 people. Firefighters from Sedgwick County, McConnell Air Force Base and the reserves assisted with the disaster. Near the end of this decade the department experienced a tragic loss of its own. Chief McGaughey and three firefighters were killed when the roof of the Yingling Chevrolet building collapsed on them. Chief Lawrence D. Carney took over the department and continued many of the programs initiated by Chief McGaughey.



WFD Fire Chiefs / 1960 - 1980

125 Years



THOMAS A. McGAUGHEY

Appointed Fire Chief on July 1, 1960, and served until his death at the Yingling Chevrolet Fire on November 21, 1968.



LAWRENCE D. CARNEY

Appointed Fire Chief on December 20, 1968, and served until his retirement on February 22, 1975.



FLOYD E. HOBBS

Appointed Fire Chief on February 22, 1975 and served until his retirement on May 10, 1980.

Modern Times

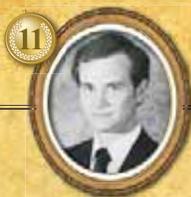
The 1970s also brought significant changes to the department. Firefighters began working a new schedule which required them to work 24 hours on duty followed by 48 hours off. The core services of the fire department also expanded as firefighters began responding to medical calls. The 1980s brought advancements in technology and enhanced the capability of the firefighters through computers, the creation of the Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Heavy Rescue Team and the Incident Command System. These changes took place under the city's 12th Fire Chief, Lawrence D. Garcia.



In September of 2007, Fire Chief Garcia retired after an astonishing 50 years of outstanding service to the city. In October of 2007, Ronald D. Blackwell was chosen to lead the Wichita Fire Department into the foreseeable future. Chief Blackwell was no stranger to the Wichita Fire Department. He served for 24 years before leaving to become the Deputy Fire Chief with Prince Georges County Fire and Emergency Medical Service in Maryland. He also served as Fire Chief there and later went on to become the Anne Arundel County Fire Chief. Under Chief Blackwell's guidance, a comprehensive strategic agenda was completed and many of the principals the report produced are being enacted today. In 2009, the Kansas State Fire Chiefs' Association named Chief Blackwell Fire Chief of the Year.



WFD Fire Chiefs / 1980 - Present Day *125 Years*



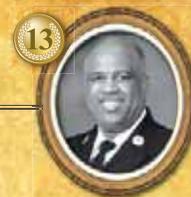
JAMES E. SPARR

Appointed Fire Chief on June 7, 1980 and served until his retirement on October 17, 1987.



LAWRENCE D. GARCIA

Appointed Fire Chief on March 1, 1988 and served until his retirement on October 1, 2008.



RONALD D. BLACKWELL

Appointed Fire Chief on October 1, 2007 and proudly continues to serve Wichita citizens.



Emergency Operations Division

The Operations Division supports the City of Wichita's goal to provide a safe and secure community as well as the Fire Department's mission to minimize the loss of life and property resulting from fires, medical emergencies and other disasters. The Division is also engaged in community risk reduction activities.

ACTING DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF OPERATIONS

Earnest E. Schuler - *Proudly Serving Since 1976*

Operations Overview

Every day, Wichita's Bravest travel the streets responding to both emergency and non-emergency incidents. In a typical day, fire units provide nearly 200 responses in Wichita and neighboring areas from 22 fire station locations. Many calls require specialized assistance from technical rescue and hazardous materials teams.

Fire Operations is divided into three sections based on 24-hour work schedules: A-Shift, B-Shift, and C-Shift. Each shift is managed by a shift commander. Each shift is organized into three battalions. Each battalion is managed by a Battalion Chief.

Medical Calls

The Wichita Fire Department's core services have evolved to include responses to medical emergencies. All Wichita firefighters are state certified emergency medical care providers. In 2010 medical calls accounted for about 60% of total response.

TRUCK COMPANY OPERATIONS

Operates out of four locations including Station 1, Station 2, Station 9, and Station 16. Reintroduced in 2009, truck company operations include specially trained personnel and equipment providing forcible entry, search and rescue and ventilation.

Special Operations

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

Operates out of Station 4, located at 2423 W. Irving. The team members are certified in water rescue, structural collapse, confined space/trench rescue, and heavy extrication.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

Operates out of Station 10, located at 2950 E. 21st N. The team members handle a wide array of duties from air monitoring to train derailments. They also partner with local businesses and government agencies.

In 2010 Operations Personnel Mitigated

Emergency Incidents: **44,988**

Change in Emergency Incidents from 2009: **+2.8%**

Change in Fire Incidents from 2009: **-2.5%**





Support Services Division

FIRE PREVENTION | SAFETY/TRAINING | RESEARCH, RECORDS & TECHNOLOGY
 Support Services meets the City of Wichita's goal to provide a safe and secure community through fire prevention efforts and firefighter safety practices. Research, record keeping and technological enhancements further support that goal.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF SUPPORT SERVICES

Ronald L. Aaron - *Proudly Serving Since 1975*

Support Services Overview

Support Services staff members are responsible for making sure firefighters are properly trained, equipped and deployed. They help ensure activities are performed safely, are accurately recorded and continuously evaluated for efficiency and effectiveness. Support Services also engages the community as an essential part of its risk reduction efforts. Modern research and technology tools provide opportunities to evaluate service in a manner never before possible.

Fire Prevention

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Provides more than 500 programs each year. They include safety talks, puppet programs, fire extinguisher training, fire drills, static displays at public events and other life safety programs.

CODE ADMINISTRATION

Offers an essential function that reduces the number of fire deaths, injuries and loss of property due to fires. Fire Inspectors provide proactive code enforcement intended to work toward compliance rather than punitive action.

FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT (FIU)

Responds to and investigates all significant structure fires. Since 1994, the Accelerant Detection K-9 Program continues to be a vital tool in the efforts to combat the crime of arson as well as providing assistance with community risk reduction programs.

Records & Technology

Provides oversight of nearly 70,000 response records each year. Reports are sent monthly to the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Department utilizes a Geographical Information System (GIS) analyst to assist with analyzing detailed service delivery information.



Safety/Training

SAFETY

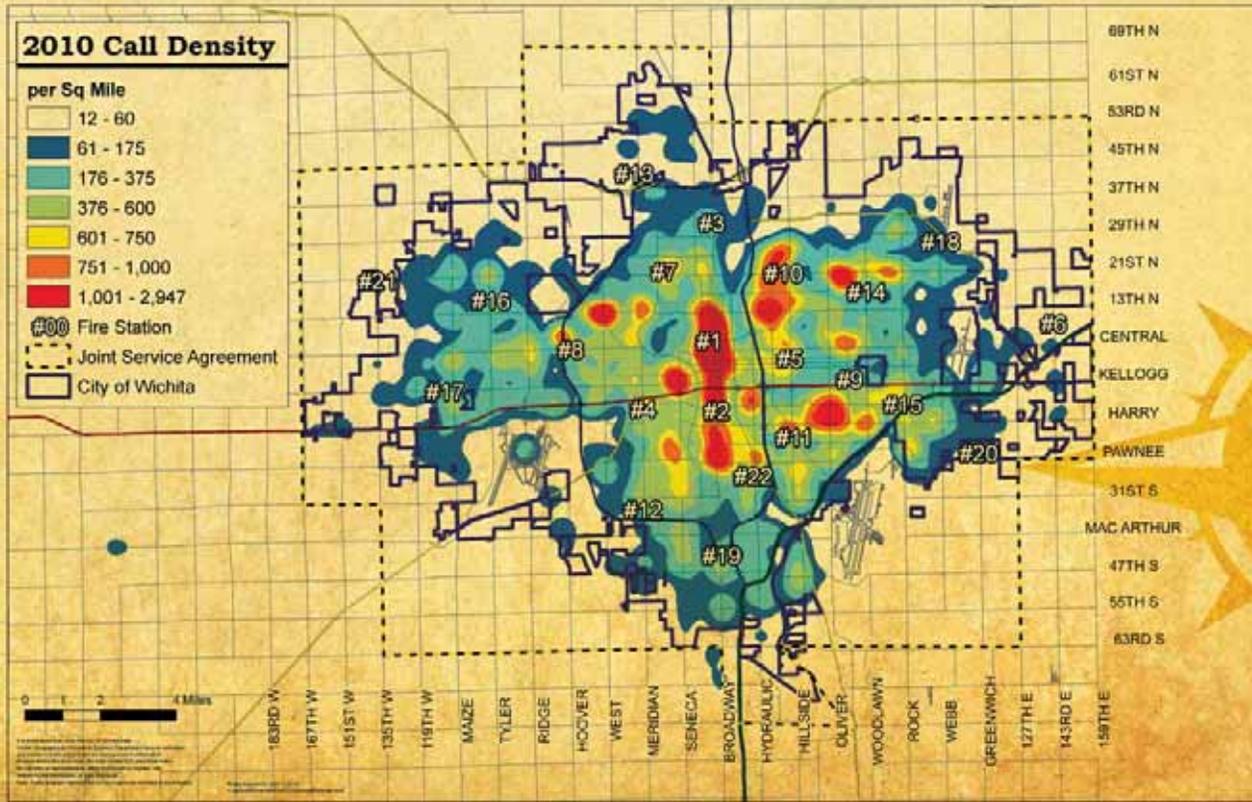
Works to ensure safe practices at fire scenes. The 24-hour Safety Officer responds to all significant fires and other high risk calls. The section is also responsible for the Department's overall safety program.

MEDICAL TRAINING

Provides in-service medical training and EMT recertification for the 450 member Department. Medical training staff works closely with EMSS and Sedgwick County EMS training personnel.

FIRE AND RECRUIT TRAINING

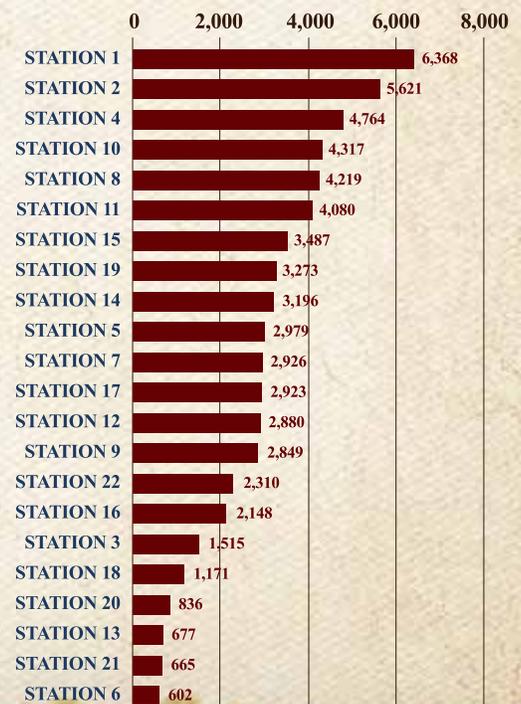
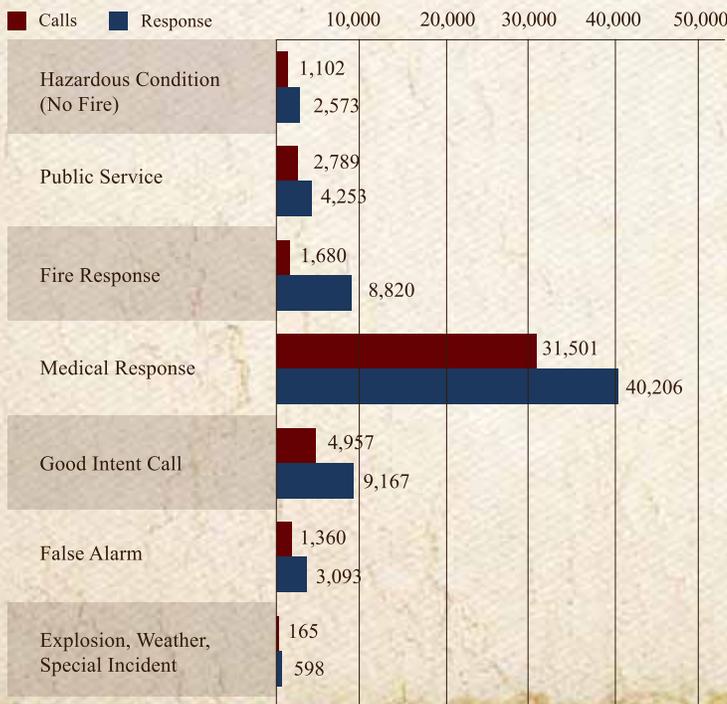
Provides in-service training and recertification of WFD personnel on subjects such as, fire operations, engine/truck operations, high rise operations and others. Staff provides research to develop best practice models as well as works with the Department's subject matter experts for training delivery.

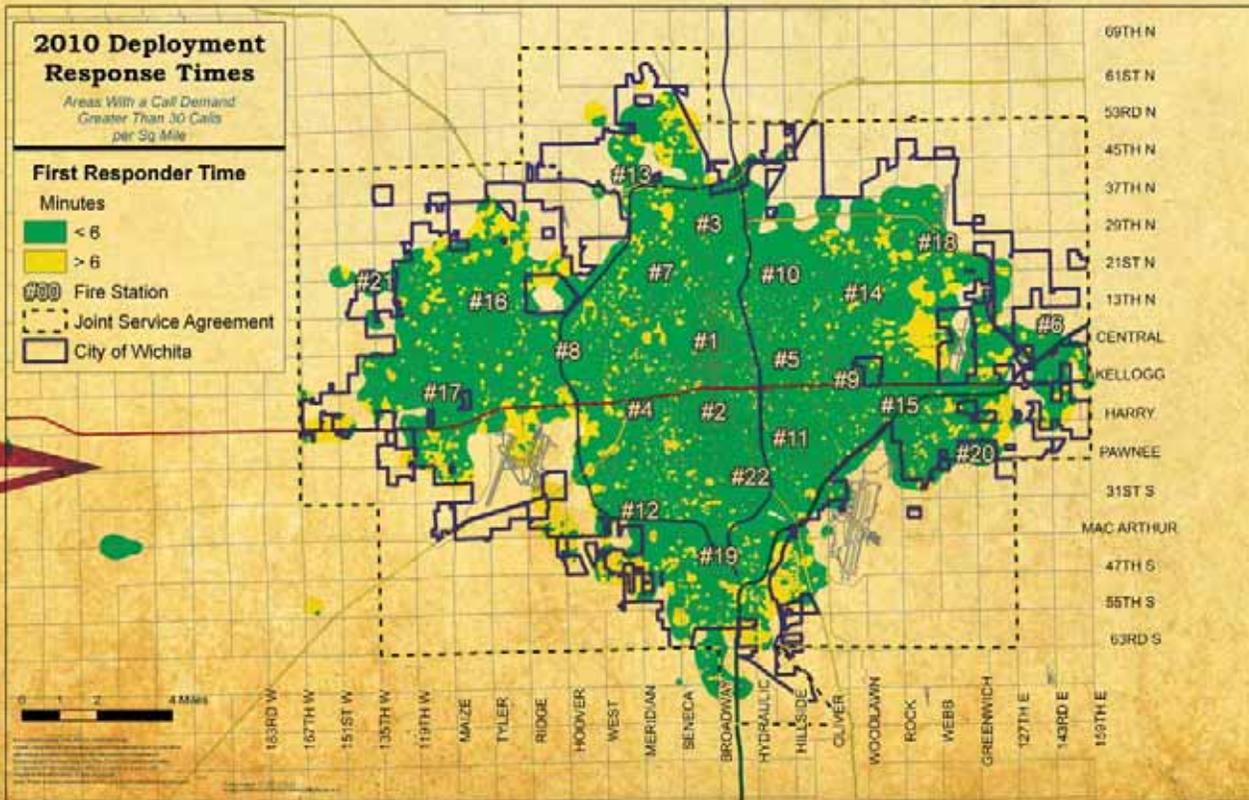


The chart on the left shows the type of calls creating WFD response. All calls require a one unit response, while others may require two or more units. The chart on the right shows the distribution of response for each fire station.

2010 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

2010 Annual Unit Response by Fire Station





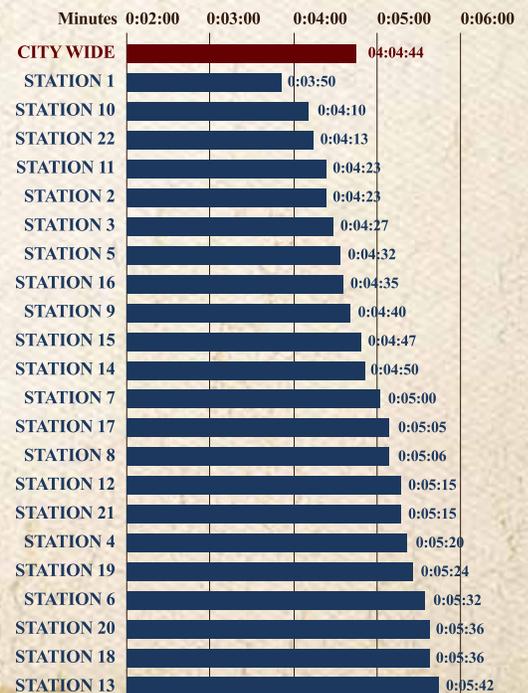
The table on the left shows historical response information. The chart on the right shows response performance in each station's primary service area.

Selected Historical Fire Statistics 2008 - 2010

Category	2010	2009	2008
Total Number of Fires	1,604	1,647	1,679
Total Actual Fire Loss*	\$12,181,158	\$12,431,074	\$16,545,837
Number Residential Fires	500	533	389
Residential Fire Loss*	\$6,703,900	\$7,095,462	\$7,942,809
Number Vehicle Fires	299	314	336
Vehicle Fire Loss*	\$1,691,153	\$1,162,367	\$1,378,501
Average Fire Loss*	\$7,594	\$7,548	\$9,855
Total Number of Alarms	44,988	43,711	42,931
Number Times Mutual Aid Given	1,477	1,668	1,542
Number Times Mutual Aid Received	1,205	995	701
Flame Damage Confined to Room of Origin	286	286	365
Flame Damage Beyond Room of Origin	152	137	90
Number of Civilian Injuries	37	23	29
Number of Civilian Deaths	4	2	6
Number of Firefighter Injuries	57	21	48
Number of Firefighter Deaths	0	1	0

*not adjusted for inflation

2010 Average Response Time by Each Primary Service Area





WFD Regional Training Center

The Wichita Fire Department has a long standing tradition of firefighter training which can be traced back to its origins. As the City and Department grew so did the need for training facilities. Chief Brownwell transformed the Central Station into the first fireman training school complete with a tower. The new school was an instant success and established Wichita as a training destination.

The Wichita Fire Department Regional Training Center at 4780 E. 31st South carries on this tradition. The 25,000 square foot training facility was built in 2010 on the existing training facility property that currently includes a state-of-the-art training tower. The Center features classrooms that can be configured into a variety of meeting spaces and is equipped with some of the best digital technology available. This tremendous resource will help ensure public safety by providing firefighters with the highest level of training available.