

## Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

April 13, 2024

1. **Community Conversation with Ben Cort** - Please RSVP if you haven't already for our Community Conversation with Ben Cort, national marijuana policy and treatment expert.

The meeting is Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at United Way (2173 Overland Avenue, Billings).

The conversation will include:

- Are the tax \$\$ outweighing the risks and costs
- What is the future of the cannabis business in MT
- How is cannabis use affecting youth and young adults
- What policies should employers enact for cannabis use
- What prevention methods are working in other cities
- What legislation needs to be considered as this industry evolves

2. **2022/2023 Tax Abatement Report** – Please see the attached 2022/2023 Tax Abatement Report.

3. **City of Billings Grant Funding Update** – Please see the attached \$100,000 Grant Secured for Stagecoach Trail update.

4. **Annual Report** – Please see the attached Fire Department 2023 Annual Report.

5. **Billings Public Library Third Quarter Statistics** – Please see the attached third quarter statistics by the Billings Public Library.

6. **Park and Recreation News** - Please see the attached chart showing the status of all the Park projects across the city.

7. **Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces**

- a. West End Task Force, Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM, Connections Church.
- b. Rimrock Task Force, Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM, Mayflower Church.
- c. Southside Task Force, Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Hope Center.
- d. Central Terry Task Force, Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM, Topline Hair

8. **2024 Council Meeting Schedule** – Please see the attached Council Meeting schedule for upcoming items on the agenda.

9. **New City Hall Update** –

### 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Install storefront glass and caulk frames.

Set backsplash tile and grout.

Install wood trim at WCT-3 panels in council chambers.

Taping on elevator wall that was furred out.

Taping around NE door of council chambers.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

Install doors and hardware.  
Fire sprinkler line work in fan room.  
Ceiling grid and tile work.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Air handler work in fan room.  
Piping to new air handler.  
Welding of heat piping in fan room.  
Large format tile started in gallery.  
Ceiling grid and tile extended to exterior wall SE corner.  
Taping and sanding exterior walls and hard lids.  
Prime and paint of exterior walls continues.  
HVAC trim out work.  
Install light fixtures and trim out.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

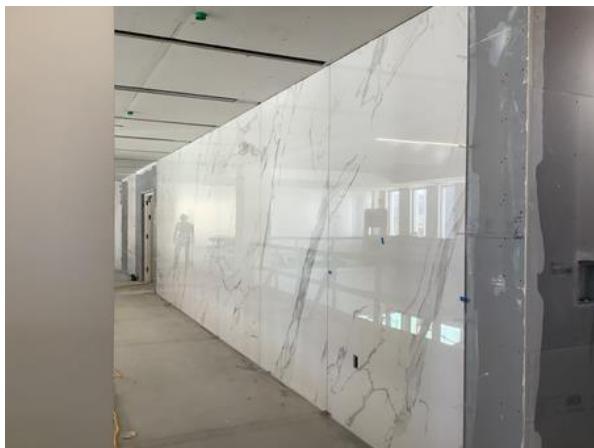
Electrical overhead rough in.  
Electrical panel wiring.  
Taping and sanding walls on north end.  
Prep and paint Hollow metal frames north end.

## **Parking Garage**

Install overhead conduit.  
HVAC 4" branch lines cut and capped.  
Wiring for VFD's in chiller room.  
Chilled water pipe install to the roof.

Material lift was taken off the roof of the building and the precast panels were reinstalled this week.





## **10. City Communications –**

### **City Communications**

*Billings Fire Prevention Bureau issues warning after investigating two deadly medical oxygen fires*  
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2605>

*Code Enforcement Officers clean up abandoned encampment*  
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2608>

*New Code Enforcement Corner post: Weed Season (April 30 - September 30)*  
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/Blog.aspx?CID=2>

*BPL celebrates National Library Workers Day!*  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=832377172250753&set=a.551966893625117>

*Billings Parks and Rec plans honors volunteers and plans for Boothill Cemetery project*  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=821655529996627&set=a.222453499916836>

*Photos: Eclipse watch party at Castlerock Park*  
<https://www.facebook.com/BillingsParksandRecreation/posts/pfbid02XcmQwy2id8ujW6xJ4SYD6HiYueK5nGAykTYyQF6NiTymacT8cj16kQqi9CorA8Fkl>

*Parks and Rec preps for community garden season with info session April 27*  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=824953703000143&set=a.222453499916836>

*Billings PD plans for next Coffee with a Cop April 15*  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=816972280464552&set=a.226302889531497>

*Billings PD weekly brief*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=816415633853550&set=a.226302889531497>

*PCSD invites public to participate in coffee talks on April 23 & May 7 to discuss subdivision regulation changes*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=724389003197881&set=a.161317626171691>

*Billings MET offers free travel training to public*

<https://www.facebook.com/billingsMET/videos/967318434752096>

## **Mayor and Council**

*Misinformation spreads about Heights affordable housing project*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-heights-affordable-housing-misinformation-homefront-housing-crisis/article\\_5f7f5b0e-f2bb-11ee-8352-9fd39ccbc666.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-heights-affordable-housing-misinformation-homefront-housing-crisis/article_5f7f5b0e-f2bb-11ee-8352-9fd39ccbc666.html)

*City seeks blight-busting solution for neglected, crime-ridden properties*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-politics/billings-files-lawsuit-against-colonial-apartments-owner/article\\_874032da-e25d-11ee-935a-83e1e7ea463e.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-politics/billings-files-lawsuit-against-colonial-apartments-owner/article_874032da-e25d-11ee-935a-83e1e7ea463e.html)

*'Incredible resource': City relaunching effort to build Billings West End park*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/incredible-resource-city-relaunching-effort-to-build-billings-west-end-park>

## **BPD**

*'Just be aware': Recent string of Billings motorcycle crashes prompts riders to speak out*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/just-be-aware-recent-string-of-billings-motorcycle-crashes-prompts-riders-to-speak-out>

## **PRPL**

*Dozens gather at Castle Rock Park in Billings to view partial solar eclipse*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/dozens-gather-at-castle-rock-park-in-billings-to-view-partial-solar-eclipse>

*Photos: Eclipse watchers gather at Castlerock Park on Monday*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/eclipse/article\\_4aaaadec-f5df-11ee-9c58-9b6d5b81850c.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/eclipse/article_4aaaadec-f5df-11ee-9c58-9b6d5b81850c.html)

*Eclipse draws young learners and sky-gazers in Billings*

<https://www.ypradio.org/community/2024-04-10/eclipse-draws-young-learners-and-sky-gazers-in-billings>

## **PCSD**

*Billings City Council approves reward fund for reporting graffiti vandals*

[https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-city-council-approves-reward-fund-for-reporting-graffiti-vandals/article\\_98af7cd6-f73b-11ee-9cfb-2756734e471a.html](https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-city-council-approves-reward-fund-for-reporting-graffiti-vandals/article_98af7cd6-f73b-11ee-9cfb-2756734e471a.html)

*Rubbing out graffiti: Billings council creates reward fund for graffiti vandals*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/rubbing-out-graffiti-billings-council-creates-reward-fund-for-graffiti-vandals>

**FD**

*Two deadly medical oxygen fires prompt warning from Billings firefighters*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/two-billings-residents-killed-in-home-oxygen-fires/article\\_5d55c160-f617-11ee-a994-5bc74e8c5144.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/two-billings-residents-killed-in-home-oxygen-fires/article_5d55c160-f617-11ee-a994-5bc74e8c5144.html)

**PW**

*Clean Water Matters: Making the Most of a Precious Resource*

[https://simplylocalbillings.com/clean-water-matters-making-the-most-of-a-precious-resource?fbclid=IwAR2o02WwVAxC6PO3P1hCjhSiNIfibAeKvuLS3Od5zQUKh6gDeVZ9T5aXJfY\\_aemAZ68rJHXK\\_uXfia7UqLrlQOECQDI81EM5lkFcjUk3sRP7Q\\_xA1eWODwy8xp3cfb1r\\_i4vGNMdjXGH1pM5uCKCqxp](https://simplylocalbillings.com/clean-water-matters-making-the-most-of-a-precious-resource?fbclid=IwAR2o02WwVAxC6PO3P1hCjhSiNIfibAeKvuLS3Od5zQUKh6gDeVZ9T5aXJfY_aemAZ68rJHXK_uXfia7UqLrlQOECQDI81EM5lkFcjUk3sRP7Q_xA1eWODwy8xp3cfb1r_i4vGNMdjXGH1pM5uCKCqxp)

**In other news...**

*New downtown housing developments help ease Billings housing shortage*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/new-downtown-housing-developments-help-ease-billings-housing-shortageRocky>

*Battlin' Bears volunteer for school safety levies*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/education/billings-schools-student-safety-levy-rocky-mountain-college-volunteers/article\\_59f08c62-f2ca-11ee-b3ed-a30978e255cc.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/education/billings-schools-student-safety-levy-rocky-mountain-college-volunteers/article_59f08c62-f2ca-11ee-b3ed-a30978e255cc.html)

*Group calls for volunteers for Billings' Great American Cleanup*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-litter-community-service-great-american-cleanup/article\\_92e59c2a-f83c-11ee-9846-17a5bf689c1f.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-litter-community-service-great-american-cleanup/article_92e59c2a-f83c-11ee-9846-17a5bf689c1f.html)

*'Dramatically change the industry': Billings developer soon to start on first 3D-printed home in Montana*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/dramatically-change-the-industry-billings-developer-soon-to-start-on-first-3d-printed-home-in-montana>

# Remarkable BE BILLINGS



YELLOWSTONE COUNTY | CITY OF BILLINGS  
TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

2022 & 2023

# TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW



# TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW



YEAR  
ABATEMENT

## MCA 15-24-1401 & 1402 NEW AND EXPANDING INDUSTRY PROGRAM

- Designed for businesses that invest in new machinery and equipment
- To qualify businesses must meet specific criteria including the amount of investment, creation, and retention of jobs, and location
- Allows 50% OR 75% tax liability reduction on the assessed value of the qualified investments through years 1-5 and then scales to 100% in years 6-10



YEAR  
ABATEMENT

## MCA 15-24-1501 & 1502 REMODELING, RECONSTRUCTION, OR EXPANDING OF BUILDING STRUCTURES

- Designed for businesses investing in remodeling, reconstruction, or expansion of building structures
- Eligible businesses must engage in certain qualifying activities including constructing new facilities, making substantial improvements to existing properties, or creating jobs within the designated area
- Allows for 100% tax liability reduction on the newly constructed, remodeled, or expanded property from years 1-5
- Previous tax valuation on existing property continues at full value



YEAR  
ABATEMENT

# NEW AND EXPANDING INDUSTRY PROGRAM

## TAX SAVINGS BREAKDOWN

Applied only to the assessed value of qualified investments

### 50% TAX ABATEMENT

YEAR	TAX LIABILITY	SAVINGS
1 <sup>st</sup> Five years after permit issued	50%	50%
6 <sup>th</sup> Year	60%	40%
7 <sup>th</sup> Year	70%	30%
8 <sup>th</sup> Year	80%	20%
9 <sup>th</sup> Year	90%	10%
10 <sup>th</sup> Year	100%	0%
Following Years	100%	0%

### 75% TAX ABATEMENT

YEAR	TAX LIABILITY	SAVINGS
1 <sup>st</sup> Five years after permit issued	25%	75%
6 <sup>th</sup> Year	40%	60%
7 <sup>th</sup> Year	55%	45%
8 <sup>th</sup> Year	70%	30%
9 <sup>th</sup> Year	85%	15%
10 <sup>th</sup> Year	100%	0%
Following Years	100%	0%

\* Years following construction, commencing the first five years after a construction permit is issued



YEAR  
ABATEMENT

# REMODELING, RECONSTRUCTION, OR EXPANDING OF BUILDING STRUCTURES

## TAX SAVINGS BREAKDOWN

Applied only to the assessed value of qualified remodeling, reconstruction or expansions

### 100% TAX ABATEMENT

YEAR	TAX LIABILITY	SAVINGS
Construction period	0%	100%
1 <sup>st</sup> First year post construction	0%	100%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	0%	100%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	0%	100%
4 <sup>th</sup> Year	0%	100%
5 <sup>th</sup> Year	0%	100%
Following Years	100%	0%

\* Years following construction, commencing the first five years after a construction permit is issued

# ANNUAL REPORT



# ACTIVE ABATEMENTS

## 2023 TAX ABATEMENTS – CITY / COUNTY

COMPANY	START DATE	TERM	TAX LIABILITY	CAPITAL INVESTMENT	2023 TAX SAVINGS
Aspen Air U.S, LLC	2015	10	50%	\$7,156,703.00	\$4,117.03
Billings Flying Service, Inc	2017	10	50%	\$2,200,000.00	\$7,226.70
Rimrock Subaru	2019	5	100%	\$10,010,000.00	\$55,343.12
MRB Properties	2023	10	50%	\$650,000.00	\$1,252.66
<b>\$20,016,703.00</b>					<b>\$67,939.51</b>

Total City impact to tax base in 2023

## 2023 TAX ABATEMENTS – COUNTY ONLY

COMPANY	START DATE	TERM	TAX LIABILITY	CAPITAL INVESTMENT	2023 TAX SAVINGS
Summit Resource International	2015	10	50%	\$2,300,000.00	\$1,891.28
CHS Inc. Laurel Refinery (RE)	2018	10	50%	\$13,000,000.00	\$2,087.17
CHS Inc. Laurel Refinery (PP)	2018	10	50%	\$99,028,042.00	\$493,927.53
Phillips 66 (RE & PP)	2018	10	25%	\$298,803,000.00	\$2,065,990.42
<b>\$413,131,042.00</b>					<b>\$2,563,896.40</b>

A total of **\$433,147,745.00** invested in the economic vitality of Yellowstone County through this program

# 2022 & 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022 & 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMPANY	TERM	YEARS COMPLETED	TAX LIABILITY	CAPITAL INVESTMENT	TAX SAVINGS 2023	2022			2023		
						# OF PTE	# OF FTE	TOTAL ANNUAL PAYROLL	# OF PTE	# OF FTE	TOTAL ANNUAL PAYROLL
CHS Inc. Laurel Refinery (RE)	10	5 yrs	50%	\$13,000,000.00	\$2,087.17	92	340	\$62,000,000.00	90	341	\$69,000,000.00
CHS Inc. Laurel Refinery (PP)	10	-	50%	\$99,028,042.00	\$493,927.53	-	-	-	-	-	-
Summit Resource International	10	8 yrs	50%	\$2,300,000.00	\$1,891.28	7	68	\$5,362,098.90	6	60	\$5,715,058.44
Aspen Air U.S., LLC	10	8 yrs	50%	\$7,156,703.00	\$4,117.03	1	11	\$1,164,940.97	1	14	\$1,068,852.49
Rimrock Subaru	5	4 yrs	100%	\$10,010,000.00	\$55,343.12	3	34	\$3,077,263.00	2	35	\$2,978,802.00
MRB Properties LLC	10	1 yr	50%	\$650,000.00	\$1,252.66	4	12	\$700,971.00	4	12	\$785,147.00
Phillips 66 (RE)	10	5 yrs	25%	\$298,803,000.00	\$2,065,990.42	0	300	\$55,357,931.00	0	300*	\$46,288,619.00
Phillips 66 (PP)	10	-	25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Billings Flying Service, Inc.	10	6 yrs	50%	\$2,200,000.00	\$7,226.70	33	141	\$13,700,941.00	36	150	\$15,037,406.00

\* P66 has 15-18 Billings employees that report to TX, therefore the number reported is an estimation.

These programs stand as one of the few remaining economic development tools in the state



POWERED BY



# BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# *Remarkable* **BE<sup>A</sup>BILLINGS**

***FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT TO YELLOWSTONE COUNTY TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT***

**DIANNE LEHM**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Dianne@bigskyeda.org**

**P 406.869.8409**





# Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings April 2024

## \$100,000 Grant Secured for Stagecoach Trail



A conceptual rendering of the Stagecoach Trail (aerial view). The Billings TrailNet website currently hosts a conceptual video overview of the proposed trail.  
Image credit: Billings TrailNet ([www.billingstrailnet.com](http://www.billingstrailnet.com))

The City was notified on April 9 that it received full funding from the Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program (\$100,000). The grant fulfills part of the City's required \$805,000 match to the \$4.7 million grant provided by the Transportation Alternatives Grant received by the City last year. Billings TrailNet has also pledged \$100,000 to the project. The City Council now is asked to approve the final \$605,000 in matching funds during the City's budget discussions next month (May). If fully funded, the project is currently scheduled to break ground in FY25.

### More About This Project

The Stagecoach Trail as currently planned will:

- be 9/10 of a mile in length, running from Rimrock Road to the top of the Rimrocks.
- climb 400 feet in elevation as the trail shadows the Zimmerman Trail automobile route just to the east and below the roadway.
- connect to the newly completed Skyline Trail and Northwest Connector trail.
- allow pedestrian and bicyclist access to Zimmerman Park for West End, downtown, and southside trail users.
- provide an important Marathon Trail connection between Skyline and the Northwest Connector and West End trails (including the shared-use path on Shilo, and future trails near the Zoo and Yellowstone River).
- provide connection for west end trail and multi-use paths to the top of the Rimrocks (the other connection is through Swords' Park on the east end).

### More About This Funder

- The Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program is administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
- The TSP was authorized by Senate Bill 24 in the 2019 Legislative Session.
- The program is funded by \$1.37 from each \$9.00 light vehicle registration fee, as well as tax revenue from recreational marijuana sales. Approximately \$2,000,000 was available in the 2024 cycle.
- The TSP received 40 applications requesting \$2.4 million. Of those, 28 were selected for full project funding and nine were selected for partial project funding.

To learn more about this grant-funded project, contact:

Ted Wilson

City of Billings Grants Administrator

406-869-3997

wilson@billingsmt.gov



# Annual Report

2023

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# Message from the Fire Chief

As we all know, our city is growing steadily and consistently. The latest statistics show Billings' population has grown by approximately 1.2 to 1.5% yearly since 1990, to nearly 120,000 residents today. The Fire Department's role is to provide fire suppression, emergency medical services, and rescue services for our community. We have tried to keep pace and strategically grow while maintaining the outstanding service our citizens have come to expect. Our current strength is 179 dedicated professionals strategically located throughout the city in seven fire stations, soon to be eight, along with our combination city and county 911 center. 2023 was a significant leap forward in our continuous endeavor to evolve and adapt to our community's increasing demands for service. In general, fires continue to stagnate, but other areas of concern, such as mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, and other calls that are labor intensive, continue to grab our attention. Luckily, and with our community's and elected officials' support, we addressed some of these pressing issues with new and innovative ways to our jurisdiction in the form of new resource deployment models and a transformation in how we dispatch. The full implementation of our mobile response teams has dramatically helped to relieve pressure off our engine crews so that they may remain in a high state of readiness and focus on large incidents. In only four months, our partnership with the Rimrock Foundation and the implementation of our crisis response unit have proven their worth in short order. Focusing its attention on a specific demographic within our jurisdiction has given great relief to our brothers and sisters in blue, the Billings Police Department. Finally, our 911 center has been busy through the calendar year 2023, completely reinventing itself. With great eagerness and excitement, by installing new and sorely needed software and hardware systems, learning new ways to dispatch, and enhancing training standards, we are deploying more appropriate response units and decreasing response times. Once again, on behalf of the men and women of the BFD and the 911 Communications Center, I am pleased and privileged to present the 2023 Annual Report. Thank you for being supportive, and as always, stay safe.

Respectfully,

Pepper Valdez  
Fire Chief



# Billings Fire Department



We are... The City of Billings organized the first Billings Fire Department in 1883. Billings Fire has 179 personnel, including firefighters, paramedics, EMT's, dispatchers, administrative staff and fire prevention staff.

We proudly serve... All residents, businesses, and organizations within our response area including the Billings Urban Fire Service Area (BUFSA).

## Mission Statement

The Billings Fire Department is dedicated to utilizing the latest education, methods, and technology in providing outstanding emergency services.

## Vision Statement

The Billings Fire Department aspires to be the finest provider of emergency services.

# Department Overview

**Administration** — Department oversight by the Fire Chief, Asst. Chiefs, Senior Admin Coordinator, and Administrative Support staff.

**Operations & EMS** — Firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics, respond to diverse fire, rescue, hazardous materials, and medical emergencies.

**Fire Prevention Bureau** — Fire Marshal, Asst. Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshals, and Administrative Support staff are committed to education, fire and life safety, code enforcement, fire investigations, and community risk reduction programs.

**Maintenance** — The City of Billings Fleet Maintenance Department conducts all maintenance for Fire Department vehicles.

**Training** — Training Chief & Assistant Training Chiefs ensure personnel at all levels have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to respond to emergency calls.

**9-1-1 Communications Center** — Dispatchers, Shift Supervisors, Asst. Manager, and Manager of the 911 center field calls from the public to dispatch safety agencies of Yellowstone County.



Total Calls for Service  
18,810



EMS/Rescues  
53.34%



Fires/Service/Other  
46.66%



BFD and 9-1-1  
Employees  
179



Apparatus & Vehicles  
50



Billings Population  
119,980 people  
10,000 in BUFSA



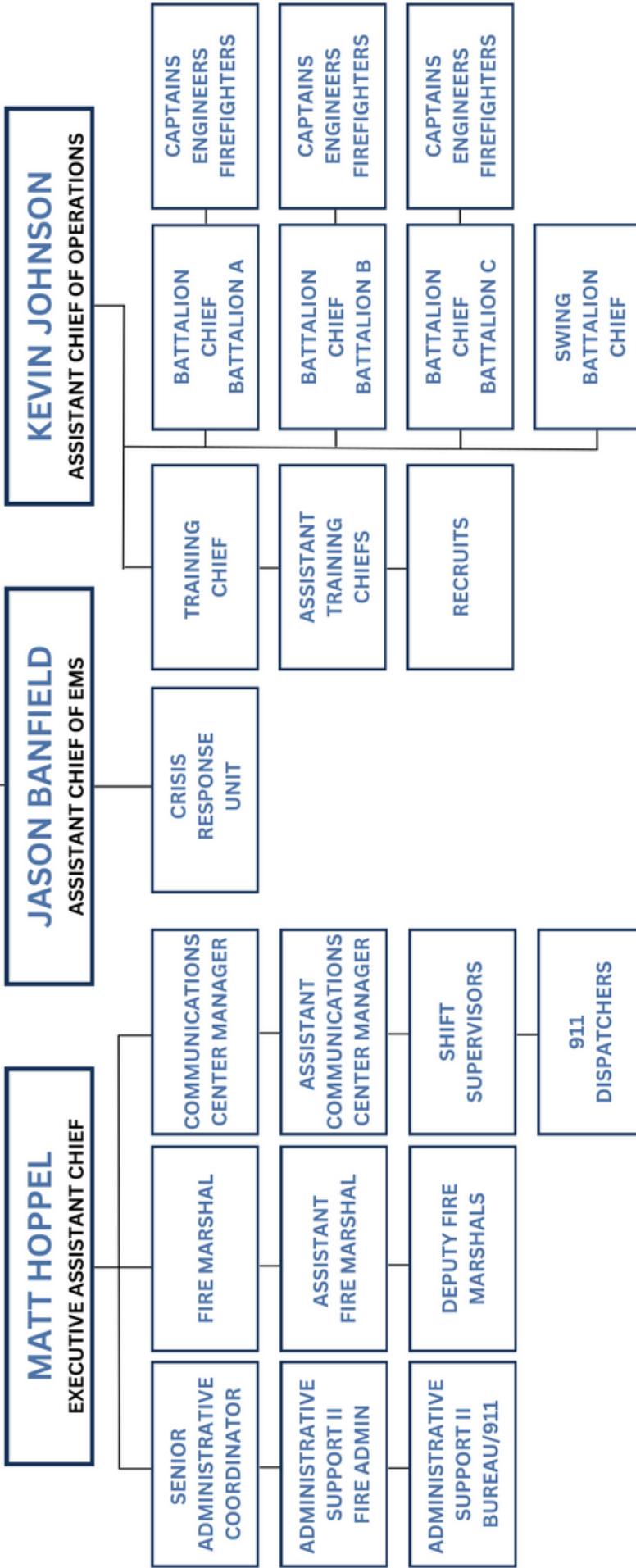
Service Area ISO  
Rating 2/10



Response Area - 91.46 sq miles  
45.57 sq miles (city limits)  
44.60 sq miles (BUFSA)  
1.29 sq miles (landfill)



# 2023



# Administration

The Administrative Office is considered the business side of the Fire Department. The Fire Chief, Executive Assistant Chief, Assistant Chief of Operations, Assistant Chief of EMS, EMS Coordinator, Senior Administrative Coordinator, and Administrative Support staff help maintain a budget overview, all internal and external correspondence, policy distribution, health and risk management, fleet management, facilities maintenance, and guidance for personnel matters. This division is also responsible for grants and procurement of new revenue resources and is directly accountable to the City and Assistant City Administrators.



**Pepper Valdez**  
Fire Chief



**Matt Hoppel**  
Executive  
Asst. Fire Chief



**Kevin Johnson**  
Asst. Fire Chief  
of Operations



**Jason Banfield**  
Asst. Fire Chief  
of EMS



**Cameron  
McCamley**  
EMS Coordinator



**Kathy Gibson**  
Senior Admin.  
Coordinator



**Sara Naylor**  
Admin. Support II  
Fire

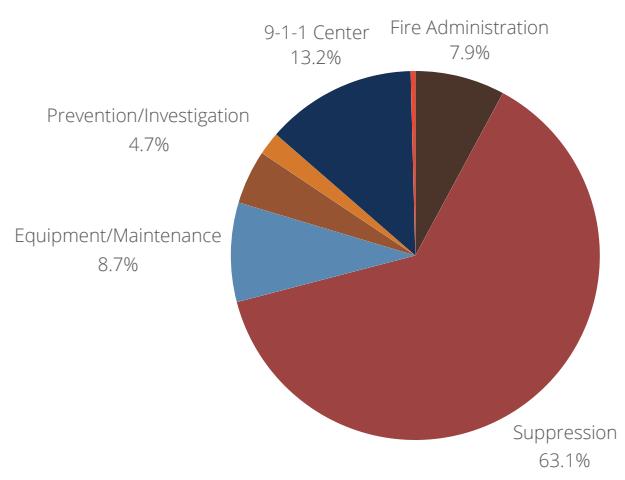
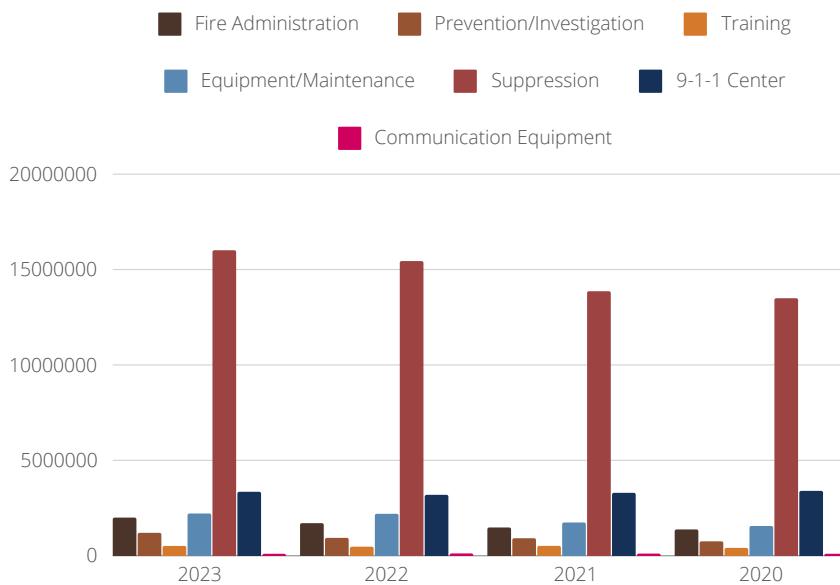


**Travis Hunt**  
Admin. Support II  
911 Center/Bureau

# Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

The Administration's goal is to secure appropriate financial resources to ensure department personnel can provide the best public safety services to our community. Billings Fire's FY 2023 approved budget totaled \$25.3 million. Suppression costs, including wages, overtime, and fringe benefits accounted for 49.7% of the expenditure of FY 2023. The remaining 50.3% contributes to fuel, equipment, maintenance, the Fire Prevention Bureau, training, and the 911 Call Center.

Approved FY 2023 Operating Budget	
Administration	\$1,998,658
Prevention/Investigation	\$1,200,658
Training	\$513,158
Equipment/Maintenance	\$2,212,378
Suppression	\$16,011,223
9-1-1 Center	\$3,351,752
Communication Equipment	\$102,318

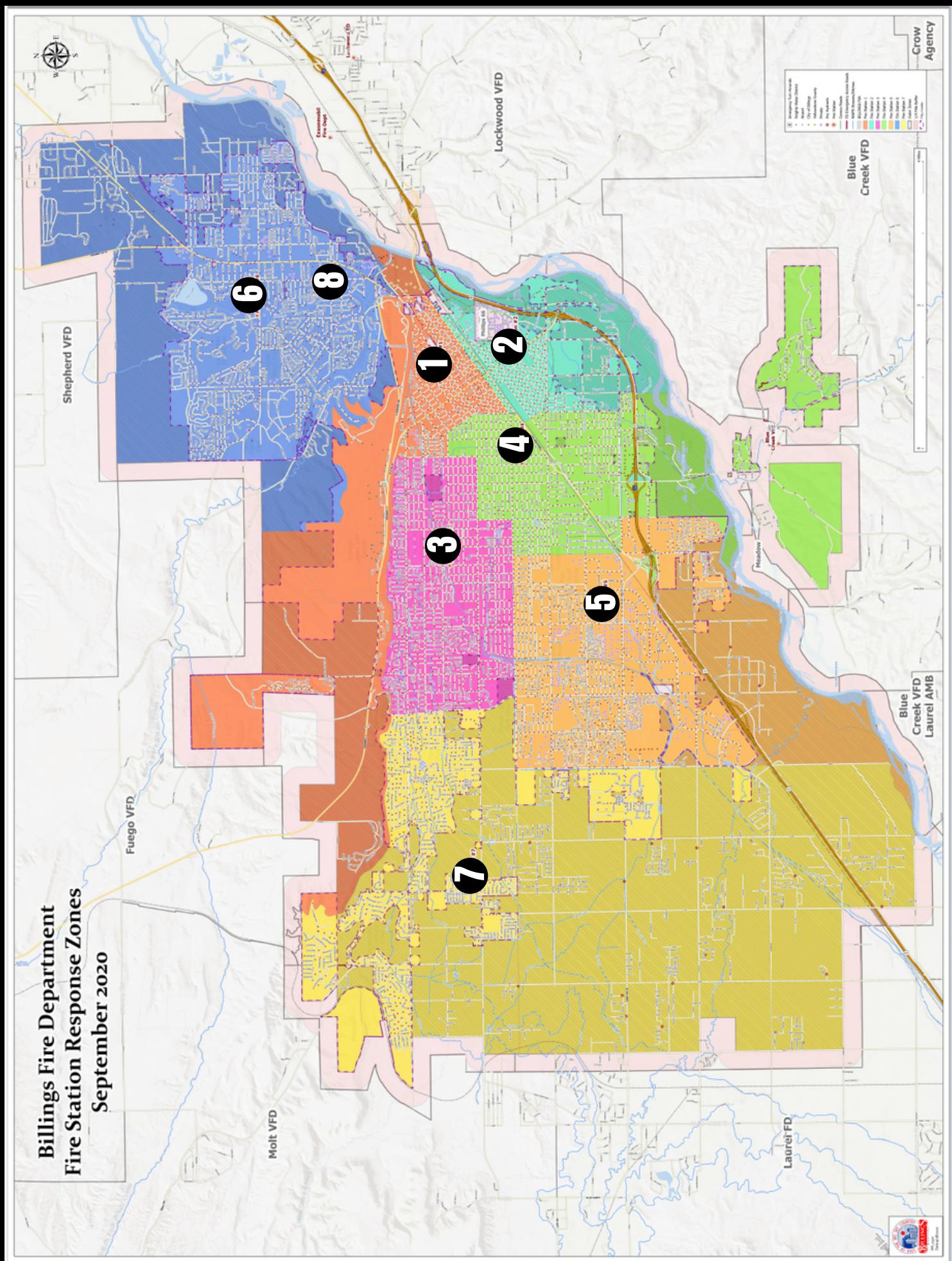


# Emergency Responses

BFD measures success by never losing sight of working towards a 4-minute response time for all our First Arriving Units to arrive on the scene. This industry standard is established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1710.

	Average Response Time	Incidents per Station
Station 1	5:24	2,905
Station 2	5:01	2,216
Station 3	6:25	2,606
Station 4	6:42	2,212
Station 5	6:08	3,376
Station 6	6:19	2,979
Station 7	7:46	1,552





# Call Volume

Call volume experienced a 69.6% increase since 2012, showing an average 4.94% increase each year. However, in 2023, call volume was reduced 1.97% from 2022. This was in direct correlation with AMR only incidents.

Billings Fire documents each call for service in an incident report held at the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) standards. Through NFIRS, fire departments can assess local, state, and national level trends of fire service and resource use. Calls for Service include fire, emergency medical, rescues, and good intent calls for the public. The Fire Prevention Bureau contributes to fire investigations, public education, smoke alarm installations, and business inspections.



18,810 Total Calls for Service



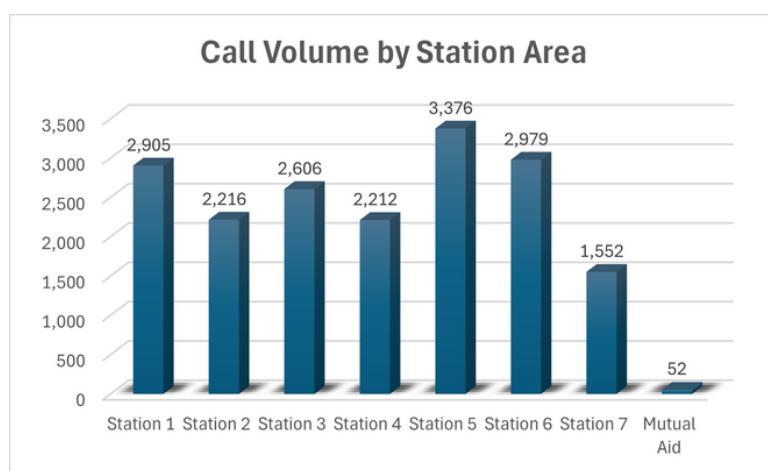
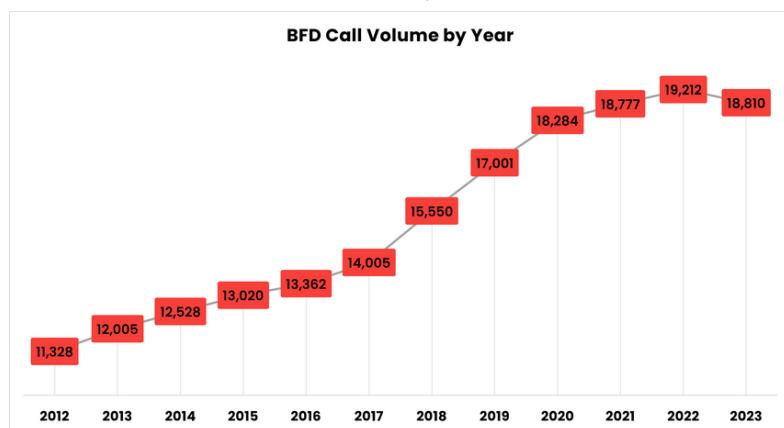
10,033 EMS/Rescue



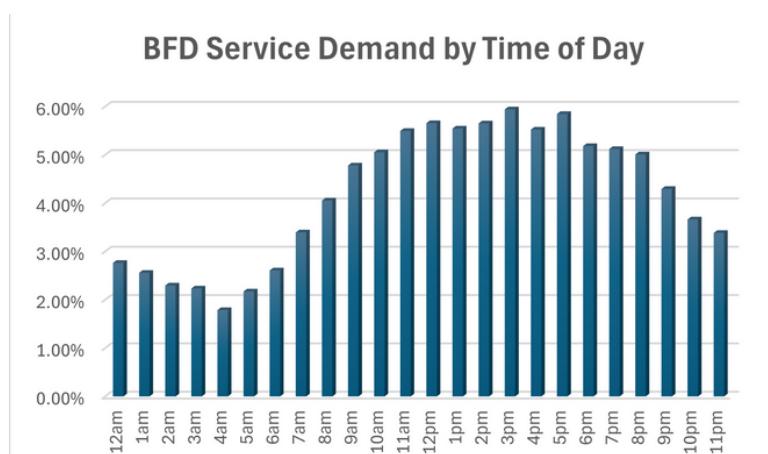
384 Fires



8,393 "Other" Service



This page's graphs indicate Billings Fire Department's 2023 trends in total call volume, call volume in each fire station response area, and the percentage of calls per hour of the day.



## Total Apparatus Runs

2018 - 18,044  
 2019 - 20,152  
 2020 - 22,122  
 2021 - 23,155  
 2022 - 23,312  
 2023 - 23,289



Aside from fighting fires, the Operations Division oversees the training division, logistics, and specialized teams to handle all other emergencies. These teams include Rescue, Hazardous Materials, and Air Teams. The geographical locations of Billings challenge the technicians on every call, from the Yellowstone River to the Rimrocks.

## Suppression Personnel

4 Battalion Chiefs  
 39 Captains  
 33 Engineers  
 43 Firefighters

## Rescue Team

32 Technicians

## Air Team

10 Technicians

## Hazmat Team

23 Technicians

## Billings Fire Vehicles/Equipment

6 Engines + 3 Reserve  
 1 Ladder Truck + 1 Reserve  
 1 Quint (Ladder/Engine Combo)  
 2 Water Tenders  
 5 Wildland Trucks  
 4 Water Rescue Crafts  
 1 Rescue Truck + Response Trailer  
 1 Hazmat Regional Response Unit  
 1 Mobile Air Unit and Trailer  
 1 Hose Van  
 1 Shuttle Bus  
 1 Fire Investigation Truck  
 2 Battalion Chief Response Units  
 3 Training/Safety Vehicles  
 10 Bureau and Staff Vehicles  
 3 Unmanned Aircraft Systems  
 2 Squads  
 1 Crisis Response Unit

# Billings Fire EMS



Billings Fire's Emergency Medical Services offer a large range of professional care, from Basic to Advanced Life Support, including medical care after rescues. With increased demands on EMS, firefighters often ride in ambulances to aid critical patient care. As medicine perpetually evolves, the men and women stay up to date with the latest trends in patient care, such as advanced simulation-based training and integrating the latest recommendations in pre-hospital care. In 2023, the Billings Fire Department welcomed Dr. Whitney Gum as the department and dispatch medical director. Dr. Gum is a practicing Emergency Medicine physician at Billings Clinic, a native of Billings, and provides the department with over a decade of emergency care experience. In 2023, the department also added comprehensive pain management to our service delivery model. This enables our paramedics to provide comfort to injured patients in their time of need. Billings Fire responded to 10,033 total EMS calls.



10,033 Total EMS Calls



≈ 28 EMS Calls/Day



388 Firefighter Ride-Ins



1,061 Interventions

## Notable Events

Childbirth/Field Deliveries -  
2 babies were delivered  
successfully prior to arrival to the  
hospital by BFD firefighters and  
AMR.

## CPR Saves

Of the 112 reported CPRs performed at EMS incidents, 42 patients returned spontaneous circulation; 6 were discharged from hospital care with "good functional status," showing a 14% success rate, above the national average. (Good functional status means one's ability to perform daily activities required to meet basic needs, and maintain their health and well-being).



# Crisis Response Unit

The Crisis Response Unit (CRU) is a partnership between Billings Fire Department and Rimrock Foundation for responding to emergent behavioral health incidents within the BFD's response area, dispatched through the 9-1-1 Center. The CRU team may also respond to non-emergency calls (e.g. welfare checks) as directed. The CRU team will also offer timely follow-up and connection to community resources, usually within 48 hours of the initial call. The team provides assessments, stabilization, and referrals for behavioral health-related continuum of care. The purpose of the CRU is to rapidly respond, effectively screen, and provide early intervention to individuals experiencing mental health crisis.



## Notable Events

- Successfully moved several families that were unhoused, into stable housing.
- Successfully reunited several unhoused individuals with family and resources located in other states.
- Successfully moved patients' in acute crisis to the Montana State Hospital
- Successfully connected veterans in the community with VA and Veteran Resources

## Total Number of Calls

473

## What is the Crisis Now Framework?

*Someone to Talk to, Someone to Respond and a Place to Go*

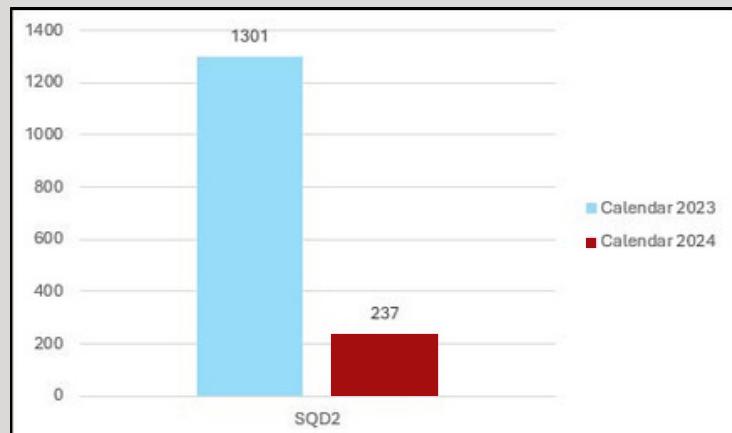
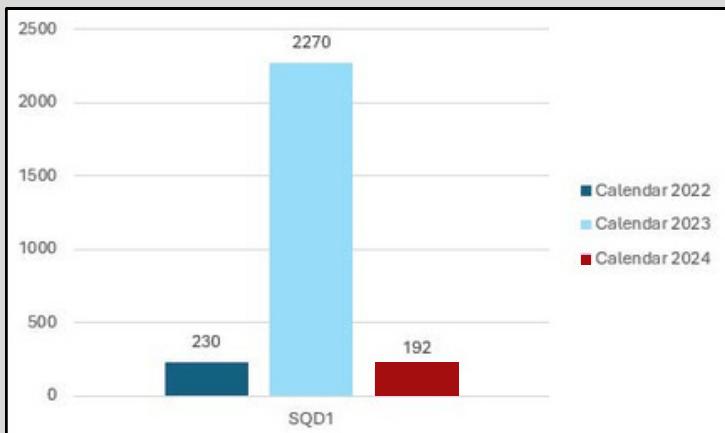


# Mobile Response Teams



The Mobile Response Team consists of two squad units. Squad One was implemented on December 1, 2022, and Squad Two was implemented on July 10, 2023.

Since the implementation of the squad units, the engine companies have been out of their assigned areas less often. Each squad consists of a two-person team, using a Captain and a Paramedic. Because of the high call volume, there is no skills degradation. In fact, it benefits our younger Captains as this assignment provides for sharpening their critical thinking skills without the responsibilities of a full engine crew.



# Fire Suppression

All seven fire stations staff a minimum of three firefighters, trained to perform fire suppression. Structure fires happen on permanent constructed buildings, fences, detached garages, or storage sheds. Trash, grass, and other fires include any fire outside a structure or vehicle. Exposures include another object ignited or damaged because of an initial fire; an example is a vehicle fire setting a fence on fire, or a grass fire setting a structure on fire.



384 Total Fires



70 Structure Fires



245 Trash/Grass/Other Fires



48 Vehicle Fires

21 Exposure Fires

All Billings Fire personnel are trained at a minimum in basic wildland firefighting, and several personnel are trained as national wildfire coordinating group engine bosses and single resources. BFD participates in the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation county co-op program. DNRC provided assistance during the Airshow and provided air and ground resources for the Water Tower fire that occurred on August 15, 2023. Because this winter has been warmer and dryer than past years, BFD responded to 9 wildland fires in November and December.



# Technical Rescue & Extrication Team

The Billings Fire Department Technical Rescue Team is comprised of 32 members trained in advanced skills for technical rope rescue, swift water, ice rescue, watercraft rescue, vehicle extrication and stabilization, structural collapse, confined space, trench rescue, animal rescue, and heavy lifting(Airbag) techniques.



74 Total Rescues



60 Extrications



5 Search &amp; Rescues



4 Water Rescues



5 High-Angle Rescues

## 2023 Training Opportunities outside of BFD

With the support of the administration, a number of our members sought outside training opportunities this past year with the intent of bringing that knowledge back to the team and training our members.

- Confined Space Rescue aboard the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi, TX by RNR Rescue - This course was possible through the support of our mutual aid partner at PAR Montana refinery.
- Rescue the Rescuer course by Ronin Rescue - A weeklong course in Las Vegas focusing on advanced rescue and leadership training.
- REMS Remote Rescue workshop by CMC - 3-day course in Red Lodge, MT focusing on the extrication challenges of remote rescue of an injured firefighter in the wildland fire environment.

- Swiftwater rescue by Whitewater Rescue Institute - swift water rescue techniques to aid in our responses to river rescue calls on the Yellowstone River.
- OSHA Trench Safety Stand Down hosted by several businesses in Billings - This was an awareness course and provided an opportunity for our Trench Rescue instructors to interface with entities in the area that regularly place workers in trenches. Instructors developed a training curriculum based on their experience and knowledge gained while attending.
- BFD again hosted the 4-day “Man vs Machine” course sponsored by PAR Montana Refinery and taught by instructors from RNR Rescue and Code 3 Medical. The course covered rescue, extraction, and patient access techniques used when responding to industrial and heavy equipment-related emergencies. The EMS component included patient packaging prehospital medical skills and an introduction to new equipment available.

## 2023 Department-wide trainings:

- High Angle Rope Rescue refresher for operations level
- Swift water rescue and awareness,
- 3 days of on-site confined space awareness and training thanks to the support of Western Sugar.

# Hazardous Materials Team

As a city with three nearby refineries, an extensive railroad presence, and interstate highway crossroads, the extensive presence of hazardous materials is a fact of life in Billings and Yellowstone County. The Billings Fire Department and its personnel are eastern Montana's largest hazardous materials response agency. In addition to protecting the city and county, when activated by Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT-DES), the Billings Fire Department's Regional Hazmat Team may be mobilized to support hazmat response across the state.



378 Hazmat Calls



188 Utility/CO calls



27 Chemical Spills



118 Gas Leaks



45 No Hazard

Every member of the Billings Fire Department is trained to the Hazmat Operations level as specified by OSHA and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Approximately 30 Billings firefighters operate at the Hazmat Technician or Specialist level. These dual-roll firefighters are trained and equipped to respond to incidents ranging from tanker and rail car accidents to terrorism involving chemical, biological, or explosive agents. The Billings Fire Department's Regional Hazmat Team is equipped with specialized equipment, once found only in laboratories. It allows them to determine the identity or class of most unknown substances and then develop response plans to protect the community. Additionally, the team's extensive selection of chemical and respiratory protective equipment allows team members to work in toxic environments safely. Eight of the team's technicians are specially trained paramedics with advanced knowledge and diagnostic tools to assess and treat victims of exposure to hazardous materials.

Hazmat technicians at the Billings Fire Department train at least quarterly on the latest techniques in hazmat mitigation. These quarterly trainings range from controlling simulated leaks from various industrial containers to preserving evidence at a crime scene involving narcotics, homemade explosives, and WMD agents and the use of highly accurate plume modeling software. The Billings Fire Department's hazmat team recently added a DJI Matrice 300 Unmanned Aerial System (drone) to its equipment. The drone is equipped with high-resolution optical cameras, and a thermal imager, and can carry radiological and chemical sensors.

In December, the hazmat team executed joint training with the Montana National Guard's 83rd Civil Support Team (CST) at the Metra Pavilion. This 2-day operation involved responding to a (simulated) Weapons of Mass Destruction threat. The team focused on rapid response, product identification, and incident command.

# Drone Program

The Billings Fire Department Drone program began in 2020 when a State Homeland Security Grant was awarded to establish Drone Programs at each of the Regional Hazmat Team's host departments across the state. Drones are becoming increasingly common within public safety agencies across the country as a low-cost tool to enhance situational awareness on emergency scenes, like search and rescue missions or structure fires. 2023 has been the BFD Drone Team's busiest year so far, flying nearly 40 missions and over 50 hours of flight time. Two new drones were also added to our fleet in 2023.



**The BFD Drone team operates four drones, each suited for a different use case and mission.**

- DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise with a thermal camera and display screen for quick deployment from the Battalion Chief Command vehicle.
- Mavic Mini trainer drone. This low-cost drone allows new pilots to become familiar with operating the controls before moving on to more complex drones.
- DJI Avata was purchased in 2023 for interior operations such as entering unstable structures or confined spaces, providing information on the safety of a structure, or locating victims before firefighters enter.
- DJI Matrice 300 was purchased in 2023 with State Homeland Security Grant funds. The M300 has a powerful optical zoom camera, thermal camera, a spotlight, and can carry a payload like a gas monitor or a life vest. This \$30,000 drone also has an extended flight time compared to the other drones and can be used to maintain situational awareness during extended incidents.



## Deployments

The BFD Drone Team flew 38 missions in 2023 in support of Billings Fire, Billings Police, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office, Yellowstone County DES, and other agencies. Incidents responded to include missing persons, water rescues, structure fires, law enforcement mutual aid requests, incident preplans, and public education.

## Notable incidents include:

- Search for a missing mountain biker in the Zimmerman Park area.
- During a nighttime river rescue call, a drone was used to locate victims on an island with a thermal camera and guide rescuers to their location with an onboard lighting system. Video of the rescue made regional and industry news. (see left photo)
- The Drone team was called seven times in 2023 for joint agency deployments to support tactical law enforcement operations.
- A drone was flown to assist the Billings Facilities Department in assessing water damage to the Babcock Theater.

# Drone Program



The Drone Team also assisted in monitoring the BBWA Ditch near Burnstead Drive in 2023. Photos were captured weekly by BFD drones and processed through cutting-edge mapping software to create large, high-resolution ortho-mosaic images. These ortho-mosaic photo maps tracked changes and movement in the terrain above the ditch and provided up-to-date information on the status of ditch stability to multiple departments within the City and outside stakeholders. This generated nearly 20 flight missions and 80 hours of data processing.

## Planned Initiatives for the Next Year

As the Drone Team has progressed this year, new challenges have been identified that impact an efficient and effective response to all types of incidents. The initiatives listed below will meet the challenges identified in the past year.

- Train additional pilots. The team is down to four pilots, with no pilots currently on "A" shift. There was at least one Drone Team request that went unmet due to a lack of available pilots. With additional personnel, all shifts can have a pilot on duty to respond when needed.
- Video streaming software and network connectivity. Streaming software and onsite network connectivity will allow users to see a live video feed from a drone. This will provide decision-makers with access to information in real-time to better respond to active incidents.
- Create a program budget. Much of the money spent in bringing the Drone Program online was from grants and the Hazmat Team's budget. These funding sources shouldered most of the large upfront costs for equipment and training but should not be depended on for future program needs. Upkeep and maintenance costs, along with planning for larger costs of drone replacement should be planned for.

The BFD Drone team continues to progress and make meaningful impacts on all aspects of BFD operations. We look forward to more fully integrating into BFD and inter-agency response plans.

# SCBA Air Team

The Air Team is made of 10 technicians that are 3M/Scott SCBA Technician II certified and 1 3M/Scott Compressor Technician certified. The Billings Fire Department operates an In-House Repair Center at Fire Station 4 to minimize the downtime and cost when repairs to SCBA equipment are needed, in addition to regular suppression duties. Duties consist of making repairs to air packs, mask-mounted regulators, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) masks, cylinders, and air compressors, as well as filling air and oxygen cylinders. The Air Team fits all Suppression and Fire Prevention Bureau personnel for SCBA masks, half masks, and N95 masks. During fit and flow tests, if any equipment is out of factory specifications, technicians make proper adjustments to bring them into compliance. The Air Team also provides fit testing for Billings Police and Yellowstone County Sheriff Departments and can provide mutual aid to surrounding areas for any major incident.

## Vehicles and Equipment

### Mobile Air Unit & Trailer

An outfitted van that carries extra air equipment, air cylinders, and tools to make repairs in the field. The van tows a 6000psi portable air compressor that can be used in the field to fill cylinders. The trailer is equipped for supplied air for hazmat and rescue operations.

On average, a tank of pressurized air will last a firefighter 20-30 minutes, depending on their breathing rate and how active they are during a fire. A firefighter may use 2-3 tanks during a fully involved fire.

### Equipment

- 1 Bauer Vertecon 7000 psi compressor/fill station
- 90 Air packs
- 170 Mask Mounted Regulators
- 6 Supplied Air Packs w/ 15 minute Escape Cylinder
- 6 RIT III (Rapid Intervention Team) air packs designed to provide air supply to a downed firefighter emergency

## Highlights

### Cylinders Filled

The Air Team filled over 1,571 SCBA cylinders used during BFD operations, a 10.1% increase from 2022.

- Medical Oxygen Cylinders Filled—267
- SCBA Airpack & Mask Mounted Regulator Flow Tests - 313
- Quantitative Fit Tests (SCBA Mask and Half-Mask Respirators) — 298
- Qualitative Fit Tests (N-95) — 138



# Training Division



2023 was a busy year for the Training Division. Our Multi-Company shift training focused on rural water supply and critical fire flows. Fire suppression crews worked to generate max flows utilizing relay pumping from a static water source. In addition to scheduled on-shift training, the Training Division provided three critical development programs to the suppression staff: Officer Development (ODP), Engineer Development (EDP), and Entry Level Firefighter (Recruit Academy). The Officer Development Program (ODP) consists of 160 hours of training to prepare employees to perform as company officers. This training includes leadership, report writing, ICS training, and live fire scenarios. The Engineer Development Program (EDP) consists of 80 hours of training to allow firefighters to drive and pump the fire engines and ladder trucks. Our Recruit academy is the entry-level training provided to new employees to prepare them to serve the citizens of Billings (and Lockwood) as a firefighter.



## Program Stats:

### Officer Development Program (ODP)

6 Graduates  
160 Hours of Officer Training (960 Total)  
Guest Speaker Dr. David Griffin, Charleston Fire  
South Carolina

### Engineer Development Program (EDP)

5 Graduates  
80 Hours of Training (400 total)

### Spring 2023 Recruit class

10 BFD Candidates  
12 Graduates (2 Lockwood)  
480 Hours of Training (5,760 Total)  
IFASAC/Proboard Firefighter 1 and Hazardous  
Materials Operations



**Program Training Hours: 7,120**  
**Total On-Shift Training Hours: 22,929**  
**Total Hours: 30,049**

# Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau's mission is to prevent and control fires, reduce fire-related deaths and injuries, and promote community fire safety through enforcement, education, and investigation.



Fire Investigations  
**81**



Inspections  
**924**



School Inspections  
**52**



Plans Reviewed  
**322**



Public-Education Events  
**87**



Home Detector Installations  
**29**



Public Records Requests  
**821**



False Alarm Ordinance Violations  
**567**

## Fire Origin and Cause Investigations

Part of preventing fires is determining where and how they started by applying scientific methodology.

## Business Inspections

The FPB enforces locally adopted fire codes inside the Billings city limits through inspections of buildings and businesses, including educational, institutional, assembly, and business occupancies.

## School Inspections

Working with school administrators, these fire and life safety inspections enforce fire code requirements in educational occupancies to ensure a safe environment for learning and development.

## Public Safety Education

Fire safety and education is particularly important at Billings Fire Department. In 2023, the Fire Prevention Bureau's Public Education program reached 4,675 children, 1,921 adults, and 234 professionals through educational sessions and community events.

The education program also provides free fire and carbon monoxide detectors in local residents' homes through a program with the American Red Cross.

## Public Records Requests

Requests for copies of reports and audio associated with incidents are fielded by the FPB/911 Administrative Support.

## False Fire Alarm Response Ordinance

Approved on December 13, 2021, Ordinance 21-5787 allows the Billings Fire Department to charge businesses where suppression crews respond to numerous false alarms. The fees charged to alarm system owners is intended as a deterrent and mechanism to reduce unwanted false alarms.

# Joint City/County Communications Center

2023 proved to be a busy, and technically challenging year. The Billings City/County Emergency Communications Center focused this year on facility maintenance, and staff development, and continued to work on the thousands of individual action items involved in implementing the new, state-of-the-art, Astro Communications network. This system will come online for full-time use in May of 2024 and will provide improved responder safety features, as well as full-scape and complete interoperability options between all responder agencies at all levels of government and from all disciplines.

In addition to handling the hundreds of thousands of emergency calls that came from the community, the Communications Center also began researching different resource deployment configurations for all disciplines involved in public safety. These advancements allow the Center to expand triage options for resources that are in high demand but limited supply and doing so further compliments the Center's desire to allocate the right resources at the right times to the right places while also making the most of those types of specialty resources that are becoming more common to law enforcement, as well as fire and medical response. In preparation for the implementation of these protocols, dispatchers and call takers alike will attend hundreds of hours of individual and group training and will spend hundreds more hours achieving certification in protocol criteria that will allow them to function at a high level with expanded skill sets and considerations.



# Initiatives and Achievements

## Yellowstone International Airshow

The Yellowstone International Airshow was held August 11-13. The airshow was a multi-organizational event with Billings Fire Dept., Billings Police Dept., AMR, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Dept., Montana Highway Patrol, ARFF, and the Montana National Guard. A year and a half of pre-planning made this event a success. Crews received daily briefings on safety procedures for specific aircraft and pyrotechnics.

BFD provided 862 man-hours from August 11th through August 13th and there were 16 incidents at the airshow not including grass fires.

Not only did the airshow bring in a large influx of people into Billings, but the Montana State Fair was also held the same weekend, which added to the large increase in population.

## 2023 Promotions

Captain Chris Moore

Captain Cameron McCamley

Engineer Christian Helland

Engineer Chad Landon



## 2023 Retirements

Captain Doug Koffler 23 years

Captain Todd Kinkead 24 years

## 2023 New Hires

Headquarters Admin Support II Sara Naylor

Firefighter Matt Knight

Firefighter Mark Miller

Firefighter Jacob Moore

Firefighter Zachary Proffitt

Firefighter Cole Pursell

Firefighter Ryan Sedgley

Firefighter Chris Surace

Firefighter Ashley Swassing

Firefighter Levi Vandersloot

# Strategic Goals

## Fire

- Complete Station 8 renovation and in time pursue funding for staffing.
- Begin the process of building Station 9 while pursuing funding for staffing.
- Continue to develop an automatic aid agreement with the Lockwood Fire District
- Continue monitoring data to determine the proper number of MRTs to maximize service efficiency.



## EMS

- Rewrite the EMS ordinance to ensure a high level of care for our community
- Continue monitoring data to determine the proper number of CRU units to maximize service efficiency
- Design and implement a mobile integrated health and community paramedicine program



## 911

- Implementation of priority, proximity dispatching as well as new dispatch protocols for modernized emergency resource deployment.
- Upgrade station alerting system to reduce dispatch processing and response times for deployed resources.
- Complete implementation of the new core radio system.





## FACILITIES





## FACILITIES





## FACILITIES





## FACILITIES





## FACILITIES





2023



# Annual Report

Prepared By :

**Sara Naylor**

Presented By :

**Chief Pepper Valdez**

# Billings Public Library

## Third Quarter Statistics

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# LIBRARY JANUARY STAT

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Checkouts  
39,493

Locker  
Checkouts  
675

Door Count  
24,798

Program  
Attendance  
1,571

charging  
Station Uses  
862

# LIBRARY FEBRUARY STA

---

Checkouts  
40,787

Locker  
Checkouts  
620

Door Count  
24,427

Program  
Attendance  
2,150

charging  
station Uses  
1,052

# LIBRARY MARCH STATS

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Checkouts  
42,711

Locker  
Checkouts  
602

Door Count  
26,190

Program  
Attendance  
2,611

charging  
station Uses  
1,058

## April 11, 2024 progress report

Park	Progress Started ----->	Project Completed	Status	*updated information for this week
Arrowhead playground replacement	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #6aa84f;"></div>		Project complete final payment invoice submitted	
Castle Rock playground addition	<div style="width: 80%; background-color: #6aa84f;"></div>		Waiting for warranty replacement parts for zipline	
*Castle Rock parking lot & restroom	<div style="width: 20%; background-color: #9b59b6;"></div>		*Pre-bid conducted on 4/2 bid closes 4/16	
Central tennis courts replacement	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #6aa84f;"></div>		Submitting LWCF paperwork for project reimbursement	
Comanche playground replacement	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #6aa84f;"></div>		Playground complete and open to the public	
Cottonwood Park masterplan	<div style="width: 80%; background-color: #6aa84f;"></div>		Presented at November 8th Park Board meeting and approved for recommendation to City Council	
Coulson Park South Improvements	<div style="width: 20%; background-color: #9b59b6;"></div>		Received approval from US Army Corps of Engineers, proceeding with design	
Gorham irrigation automation	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #6aa84f;"></div>		Pump station being shipped by manufacture for installation	
*Grandview irrigation automation	<div style="width: 40%; background-color: #667380;"></div>		*Bid awarded to Good Earth Works Co.	
Highland playground replacement	<div style="width: 40%; background-color: #9b59b6;"></div>		Playground equipment was delivered, installer under contract for Fall completion	
Millice irrigation automation	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #696969;"></div>		Sealed bids opened, project over budget, rebid at a later date	
North Park adult exercise & shelter	<div style="width: 40%; background-color: #667380;"></div>		Building permit approved March 1	
*North Park playground replacement	<div style="width: 60%; background-color: #667380;"></div>		*Contractor continuing install of new playground	
*North Park restroom replacement	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #6aa84f;"></div>		*Contractor completed restroom install	
*Pioneer Park tennis courts replacement	<div style="width: 40%; background-color: #667380;"></div>		*Bid awarded to Good Earth Works Co.	
*Poly Vista inclusive playground and parking lot	<div style="width: 40%; background-color: #667380;"></div>		*K2 Civil began demolition on 4/9	
Ponderosa irrigation automation	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #6aa84f;"></div>		Final walkthrough complete, system fully operational	
Rose Park pool spray equipment replacement	<div style="width: 40%; background-color: #9b59b6;"></div>		Per Park scheduling pool spray ground replacement delayed till the fall of 2024.	
Skypoint sail replacement	<div style="width: 60%; background-color: #667380;"></div>		Structural Engineer's report completed, proceeding with recommended repairs prior to painting	
Aquatic Facility Assessment	<div style="width: 60%; background-color: #667380;"></div>		Consultant performed on site visits and are compiling information for assessment	
*North Park Dog Park	<div style="width: 20%; background-color: #9b59b6;"></div>		*Project currently on hold due to a pricing discrepancy with concrete contractor.	
*Dehler Park	<div style="width: 20%; background-color: #9b59b6;"></div>		*Directional paint markings and handicap symbols on the concrete completed. Antislip for the steps week of 04/15	
*Castle rock bathroom	<div style="width: 20%; background-color: #9b59b6;"></div>		* Confirmed exterior concept for the bathroom. Picking fixtures and waiting on updated drawings.	
*Optimist Park Lighting	<div style="width: 20%; background-color: #9b59b6;"></div>		*Design from Border States complete. Waiting on design payment from Subura	

**2024 COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE**  
(Year to date listing appears at the end of this schedule)

**April 15, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1. Community Impact of Legalized Marijuana – Ben Cort (wynnette)
2. CGL – Efficiency Study – Court and Legal
3. Zoning Code Update to Comply with SB 245 (2023)
4. Disposal of Lampman Park
5. Council Discussion

**April 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS CHRIS OUT**

**CONSENT:**

1. Boards and Commissions
2. BID AWARD: W.O. 23-23: Briarwood H2S Mitigation
3. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-01, Contract 2: 2024 Sewer Main Replacement Project
4. BID AWARD: (2) 2024 37,000 GVW Single Axle Trucks with Dump/Sander/Plow
5. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-10 and W.O. 22-22: 2024 Annual Street Reconstruction
6. Consulting Agreement with DOWL - Heights Neighborhood Plan Update
7. Amendment 1, WO 24-01, Sewer Main Replacement
8. MOU with BBWA for DNRC Grants
9. MOU Extension with 3 TIF Boards
10. Acceptance of CRU backup vehicle
11. Donations to the Billings Public Library
12. Donation to the Billings Police Department
13. Donation for Poly Vista Park
14. Annexation Agreement with C&T Equipment Holding, LLC – Annexation 24-01
15. Release of Right-of-Way Easement on Tract 2A-1 of the Amended Plat of Tract 2A of COS 2063
16. Resolution ordering improvements to W.O. 22-22: 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and S. 30<sup>th</sup> St.
17. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading ORD – Code Enforcement Amendment – Graffiti
18. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading ORD – Code Enforcement Amendment – Boarded up structures
19. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading ORD – Code Enforcement Amendment – Nuisances

**REGULAR:**

1. Public Hearing & Action on Annual Action Plan including CDBG & HOME Budget Allocations
2. PH & RES. rescinding Resolution 90-16317, Hogan Homestead (Continued from 3.11.24)
3. SID 1425, Broso Park and Gabel Road Traffic Signal
  - a. PH and RES. SID 1425, Broso Park and Gabel Road Traffic Signal
  - b. Bid Award: SID 1425 - Broso Park and Gabel Road Traffic Signal
4. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Rdg. ORD. ZC 1049 – 1911 & 1915 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.
5. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Rdg. ORD. ZC 1050 – Hawk Creek Ave.
6. TIF – EBURD, 204 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, 1889 Brewery

**\*\*Judge Kolar would like to be first during budget meetings**

**May 6, 2024 (BUDGET) – WORK SESSION**

1. Overview
2. General Fund Internal (Admin., HR, Finance, Mayor and Council)
3. Municipal Court
4. Library
5. Aviation and Transit
6. Council Discussion

**May 7, 2024 Tuesday (BUDGET) – SPECIAL WORK SESSION**

1. Fire
2. Police
3. Legal
4. Council Discussion

**May 13, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. Mitchell Court Affordable Housing Project – Community Development (Brenda Beckett)
2. Airport Update (Jeff)
3. Library Security Contract Agreement
4. Resolution of Intent to Donate Property in Whisper Ridge Sub.
5. Second/Final Rdg. ORD ZC 1049 – 1911 & 1915 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.
6. Second/Final Rdg. ORD ZC 1050 – Hawk Creek Ave.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**May 20, 2024 (BUDGET) – WORK SESSION**

1. Parks and Recreation
2. Planning / Code Enforcement / Community Development
3. Public Works
4. Council Discussion

**May 21, 2024 Tuesday (BUDGET) – SPECIAL WORK SESSION**

1. TIF Districts
2. Facilities
3. Budget Wrap-up
4. Council Discussion

**May 28, 2024 (Tues.)- REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. MOU with Yellowstone County MetraPark Water Line Replacement

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

1. Thorne Run

**REGULAR:**

1. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Reading ORD for Zone Change 1047 - Copper Ridge 7th & 8th Filing
2. Council Goals and Strategies (Chris wants added to end of a Regular meeting)

**June 3, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1. Billings Mustangs?? Chris will check
2. Code Enforcement/Encroachments (CM Kennedy request)
3. Yellowstone River Parks Association (YRPA) Presentation – Mike Pigg
4. International Fire Code
5. Fire Dept. 2023/24 Annual Report
6. Police Dept. 2023/24 Annual Report
7. Proposed City Subdivision Regulation Amendments
8. Budget Wrap up
9. Council Discussion

**June 10, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. AMR Neptune/AMI Software Hosting - Northwest Pipe Fittings, Inc.

**REGULAR:**

1. PH – Adoption of FY25 Budget
2. Babcock Marquee

**June 17, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

1. SIDs – Gravel Roads
2. Tax Abatement Policy (Dianne, BSEDA/Chris)
3. Council Discussion

**June 24, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**July 1, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**July 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**July 15, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**July 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS CHRIS OUT**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**August 5, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1. Billings Association of Realtors (Steve Simonson)
2. Council Discussion

**August 12, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**August 19, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**August 26, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**September 3, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**September 9, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**September 16, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**September 23, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**October 7, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM CA Annual Review**

1. Council Discussion

**October 15, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**October 21, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**October 28, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**November 4, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**November 12, 2024 (Tues.) - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**November 18, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**November 25, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**December 2, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**December 9, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. Beartooth RC&D MOU

**REGULAR:**

1.

**December 16, 2024 – WORK SESSION (Vacate?)**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**December 23, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

DRAFT

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### **January 2, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION**

1. Administration of Oaths and Affirmations of Office for reelected Councilmembers
2. DES Emergency Management Update (K.C. Williams)
3. Ordinance Amendments to Water and Wastewater Utilities
4. Stormwater Billing
5. Council Discussion

### **January 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

#### **CONSENT:**

- A. Bid Award: W.O. 24-03: Contract 2 Chip Seal / Scrub Seal
- B. Bid Award: W.O. 23-46: Compost Facility Waterline
- C. Purchase Water Reclamation Facility Equipment – Disinfection parts
- D. City-County Special Investigations Unit (CCSIU) Agreement for 2024
- E. W.O. 19-42: WE Water Treatment contract - Dick Anderson
- F. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
- G. Donations to Library
- H. MT FWP trail stewardship grant application
- I. Northwestern Energy easement for Mountview Cemetery
- J. ~~Easements North 28th Street~~

#### **REGULAR:**

2. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> reading ORD – Cemetery Code changes
3. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> reading ORD – ZC 1040 - 1404 and 1406 Avenue B
4. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> reading ORD – Special Review 998 – 1406 Avenue B
5. Nomination and Election of Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore

### **January 16, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION at the Library!**

1. Crime Prevention Round Table Discussion – focused on Crime Prevention
2. Council Discussion

### **January 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

#### **CONSENT:**

1. Change Order 1 – New City Hall Access Control and Camera System
2. Contract for Airport Master Plan update
3. Memorandum of Understanding with Yellowstone County - West End Neighborhood Plan Update
4. Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding with the Yellowstone Conservation District for West End Reservoir Master Plan
5. Amend Park Development Council 2024 Proposed Budget
6. Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program Grants
7. Montana Community Reinvestment Plan Act Planning Grant (SB 382) growth policy
8. Donation to Parks from Billings Go Kickball to Youth Scholarship Fund
9. Donation to Parks from Scheels for Youth Scholarship Fund
10. Release of Perpetual ROW Easements - North 28th Street
11. Preliminary plat extension request for Annafeld North Subdivision, 2nd Filing
12. Resolution Authorizing the Filing and Acceptance of Transit Grant Funds and Related Documents
13. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Private Negotiated Sale of Expanded North 27th Street Tax Increment Bonds
14. Resolution of Intent to Create District and Set a Public Hearing-SID 1427
15. Resolution of Intent to Create District and Set a Public Hearing-SID 1426
16. 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Final Reading ORD. – ZC 1040 – 1404 and 1406 Avenue B
17. 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Final Reading ORD amending Cemetery Rules and Regulations and Repealing ORD 03-5240

#### **REGULAR:**

2. PH - MT Dept. of Commerce Infrastructure Grant Application
3. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> reading ORD - BMCC Chapter 26 Water and Wastewater First Reading and Public Hearing
4. Appointments to Council Subcommittees and Boards and Commissions

**February 5, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1. YC Short Term Jail Request
2. MRM update – Matt Lundgren
3. CRU and MRT Updates (Pepper and Banfield)
4. Family Violence Response Unit Update (St. John per Owen's Initiative)
5. CPTED (John Caterino, Mike Pigg and Wyeth Friday)
6. Council Discussion

**February 12, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS****CONSENT:**

1. Bid Award: Landon's Inclusive Playground and Phase II Parking Lot Poly Vista Park
2. Bid Award: W.O. 24-07: Safe Routes to School
3. Bid Award: W.O. 24-19: Arnold Drain Intake Structure
4. Purchase 8 Police Utility Vehicles from Duval Ford
5. Purchase Night Vision Systems for Police S.W.A.T. Team
6. Contract for Uniform Rental / Purchase and Laundry Services for Public Works
7. Contract for scanning services with DIS Technologies
8. Contract for New City Hall Elevator Modernization
9. Amendment 15 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. for Engineering Services to Construct Cargo Ramp Slot 5
10. Amendment 16 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. for Engineering Services to Rehabilitate Aviation Place Access Road
11. Fire grant from State Farm
12. Annual Certified Local Government Grant Program for Historic Preservation
13. Second Reading BMCC Water and Wastewater

**REGULAR:**

2. PH and RES Creating SID 1426, Arvin Lane
  - a. Bid Award: SID 1426, Arvin Lane
3. PH and RES Creating SID 1427, Hancock Drive
  - a. Bid Award: SID 1427, Hancock Drive
4. New City Hall Security and additional updates (Kevin)
5. Gifting land to YVAS Discussion (Chris)

**COUNCIL INITIATIVE - BUILT Environment - CM Rupsis****February 20, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION**

1. City Ordinance Amendments – Code Enforcement (Tina Hoeger)
2. Montana Land Use Planning Act (SB 382) Wyeth
3. PMD Assessment Approval Discussion (Per Rupsis's question)
4. Short Term Detention Center Discussion
5. Retreat Prep Discussion
6. Council Discussion

**February 26, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS****CONSENT:**

1. Boards and Commissions
2. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-01: Contract 1: 2024 Billings Water Main Replacement
3. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-03: Contract No 2 City Chip/Scrub Seal
4. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-11: WRF Solids Process Building Roof Replacement
5. Purchase of 2024 Asphalt Roller – Public Works
6. Purchase of 3 New Vehicles - Public Works - Engineering
7. Contract W.O. 24-21: 1st Ave N Two-Way Conversion Feasibility Study – Sanderson Stewart
8. Funding, Maintenance, Construction and Local Agency Guidelines MDT Agreement - Stagecoach Trail
9. West End Hangar Ground Leases with Beacon Air Group, LLC
10. Donation from the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force to Police Dept.
11. Donation from Streeter Brothers Insurance to Senior Scholarship Fund to Parks
12. Preliminary Plat Extension for Hunters Point Sub
13. Resolution – June Ballot - Local Government Review
14. Letter to County Re Jail discussion re: short-term holding

**REGULAR:**

2. PH – Low-income Multi-family rental housing (No Action) (Bjornson Jones Mungas Law office)
3. PH & RES for Nuisance Property Abatement Assessments
4. PH & RES for Weed Assessments
5. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Reading ORD – ZC 1042, 655 West Wicks Lane

**March 4, 2024 – WORK SESSION (Mayor out of town this week)**

1. SBURA Update – Recreation Center Next Steps (Dick Zier, SBURA)
2. 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Review (Lora Mattox)
3. Update on upcoming Council retreat - Chris
4. Council Discussion

**March 11, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-02: Missing Sidewalk Project
2. BID AWARD: 1709 St. Johns Ave. – Housing Rehab Project
3. Agreement with United Diagnostic Services for Medical Evaluation /Diagnostic – Fire
4. MOU with Little League Baseball and Softball
5. MOU with Annafeld Homeowners Association
6. 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program
7. AmeriCorps Vista Project Grant Application Submittal
8. Inflation Reduction Act Forest Grant
9. Preliminary Minor Plat - Zimmerman Home Place Subdivision, 4th Filing
10. Resolution Ordering Improvements - W.O. 24-02: Missing Sidewalk Program
11. 2<sup>nd</sup>/Final Reading ORD – ZC 1042 – 655 West Wicks Lane

**REGULAR:**

2. PH & RES. rescinding Resolution 90-16317, Hogan Homestead (Continued)
3. PH & 1<sup>st</sup> Rdg. ORD. - Stormwater Billing
4. PH for Sale of City Hall, South Parking Lot, and North Parking Lot
5. Downtown Billings Partnership - Tax Increment Assistance - Rockman Hotel Project
6. EBURD - Tax Increment Assistance – 320 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street

**March 15, 2024 - Council Retreat at Rock 31 (Noon – 6:30 PM)**

**March 16, 2024 - Council Retreat at Rock 31 (8:00 AM – 1:00 PM)**

**March 18, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Annual
2. Permanent Supportive Housing Discussion (Dean Wells from United Way and CoC)
3. Art House / Babcock Theater Discussion
4. Zoom – Public Comment Discussion
5. Council Discussion

**March 25, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. BID AWARD: Airport Cargo Ramp Slot 5
2. Amendment No. 5, W.O. 19-42: West End Water Treatment Plant Project
3. W.O. 24-28: Water Treatment Plant Sediment Hauling
4. Non-Commercial Aviation Ground Lease with Agri-Systems
5. Lease Purchase Agreement with MT Board of Investments to finance New City Hall Improvements
6. Commercial and Roll-off Container Purchases

7. Purchase 95-gallon Residential Refuse Carts for SW
8. Donations to Billings Public Library
9. Donation to Parks from Addie Allen
10. Donation to Parks from United States Tennis Association of Montana
11. Donation from Scheels for K9 Operations
12. Fire - Plains Pipeline Grant
13. Fire - Phillips 66 Grant
14. Preliminary Major Plat – Skyview Ridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Filing
15. Resolution of Intent to Create SID 1425 Broso Park and Gabel Traffic Signal
16. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance Amending BMCC, Art. 22-800, Storm Sewers

**REGULAR:**

2. PH - MT Dept. of Commerce Infrastructure Grant Application
3. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - ZC 1043 – 4190 S. Frontage Rd.
4. Joint PH
  - a. RES Annexation 24-01
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading ZC 1044 – 5900 Block of Grand Ave.
  - c. ~~Annexation Agreement – George Jurovich (add to April 22)~~
  - d. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Ward Boundary Expansion – Annexation 24-01
5. Joint PH
  - a. RES Annexation 24-02
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading ZC 1045 – 4524 Central Avenue
  - c. Annexation Agreement – Brown Builders, LLC
  - d. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Ward Boundary Expansion – Annexation
6. PH – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – ZC 1046 – 1202 West Wicks Lane (May be continued to the 22<sup>nd</sup>)

**April 1, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1. Chase Hawks and Visit Billings (Alex Tyson) - economic impact study (Burn the Point event)
2. MOU with Hoodies 4 Heroes /Dehler Park Memorial
3. Joint Drone Program (Mark Solberg/FD)
4. Safe Routes to School (Elyse Monat)
5. Parks Recreation update for 2024 programs
6. Council Discussion

**April 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. BID AWARD: W.O. 23-33 Grandview Park Irrigation System Replacement
2. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-01: Contract 3, Cedar Park Water Main Replacement
3. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-27: 2024 Water Service Repairs
4. BID AWARD: Aviation Place Road Rehabilitation
5. BID AWARD: MET Transit Office Addition and Remodel
6. BID AWARD: Pioneer Park Tennis Court Replacement Project
7. Contract with TeleData Technologies - New City Hall Audio Visual Systems
8. MOU with Hoodies 4 Heroes for Memorial at Dehler Park
9. Agreement with Yellowstone County to Provide Law Enforcement Data Processing
10. Amend Park Community Garden grant – Parks Department
11. Safe Routes to School Plan Update, Phase 2, recommendation to PCC
12. Boundary Line Relocation between City Parking Lot and Grand Building
13. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ord. Ward Boundary Expansion – Annexation 24-01
14. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ord. Ward Boundary Expansion – Annexation 24-02
15. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ord. ZC 1043
16. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ord. ZC 1044
17. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ord. ZC 1045
18. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ord. ZC 1046
19. Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale for refunding Series 2013A bonds

**REGULAR:**

2. PH – Land Use Contrary to Zoning for HomeFront - 302 Sioux Lane
3. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - City Ordinance Amendments – Code Enforcement
  - a. 18-300, Nuisances
  - b. 18-1100, Graffiti
  - c. 18-1400, Boarded up structures
4. Resolution establishing graffiti fund
5. Cottonwood Park Master Plan (Tabled)