

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AGENDA

EMERGENCY SERVICES

March 5, 2024

2:30 PM

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES February 6, 2024
- FINANCIAL
 - YTD Report
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Radio Project
 - CAD Project
 - EMS
 - Emergency Management
 - Fire
 - Personnel
- RESOLUTIONS:
 - Execute Addendum to Lease Agreement – Apalachin
 - Execute Addendum to Lease Agreement – Nichols
 - Execute Addendum to Lease Agreement – Spencer
 - Execute Addendum to Lease Agreement – Richford
- PROCLAMATIONS – NONE
- ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING

February 6, 2024

The regular meeting of Public Safety, Probation, EMO, Stop DWI, Fire, & Safety was held in the Legislative Conference Room, at the Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building, 56 Main Street, Tuesday, February 6, 2024, which started at 2:30 PM and ended at 2:57 PM.

Present:

Keith Flesher	Chair, Public Safety
William Standing III	Legislator {Committee Member}
Barb Roberts	Legislator {Committee Member} Arrived @ 2:38 PM
Marte Sauerbrey	Chair of the Legislator
Gary Howard	Sheriff, Sheriff's Office
Brian Cain	Director, Probation
Corinne Cornelius	Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Services

GUESTS: Peter DeWind, County Attorney {Arrived @ 2:33 PM}
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk

ABSENT: Dale Weston, Legislator {Committee Member}
Mike Simmons, Director, Office of Emergency Services
Bob Williams, Asst. Coordinator, Office of Emergency Services

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The January 2, 2024 minutes was accepted with no corrections or changes

Motion by: Barb Roberts to accept the January 2, 2024 Minutes.

Second: William Standing III

All in Favor - Carried

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – Corinne Cornelius:

FINANCIAL:

- January YTD Report – Budget within

OLD BUSINESS:

- Radio Project – Sent out environmental questionnaires to be completed. The Sheriff's Office has received all their new portable radios. They are programmed and being deployed out. We are expecting a second batch of radios that will be programmed and deployed to Waverly and Owego Police Departments. These radios should increase the communication currently and can be reprogrammed to work on the new system.
- CAD Project – Info Tech (IT) has been working to correct the issue with the mapping feature in the NYSB cars with no success. This feature still remains inactive, which prevents dispatch from seeing their location. Legislator Standinger stated that Jeremy Loveland (from IT) has a connection with someone in IT at the state level that can help with this situation.
- EMS – no significant changes in county EMS coverage. The same issues continue to exist regarding manpower shortages. Spring EMT classes are starting. There was a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) class held at Public Safety on January 25th that was well attended. The Governor's State of the State included information on changes to EMS including working to make it an essential service. There were many updates on training, dispatch, and coverage within the county.
- Emergency Management – No significant updates at this time.
- FIRE – The year is already off to a busy start with multiple fires.

RESOLUTIONS:

- None

PROBATION – Brian Cain:**FINANCIAL:**

- Budget on track for 2024

NEW BUSINESS:

- Staffing – One open Probation Officer I position remains unfilled. Still looking – no interest.
- Training – Two (2) Probation Officers successfully completed their Basic Course for Peace Officer Academy on January 26, 2024. The academy includes the officers getting sprayed with pepper spray and completing a week of hands-on defensive tactics. Alfred State University will be having one in May 2024 that would be more towards what Probation Officer would handle this day in age. The Probation Officer would stay on campus, and we'd only pay \$50/week for lodging.
- In December of 2023, Probation received a Reward Notice from the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) indicating Probation was awarded \$60,000 to spend

towards the cost of providing Pre-Trial Services in Tioga County. Info Tech Director Jeremy Loveland is in the process of ordering iPads for each officer as well as administrators and one to be shared by clerical staff.

- Individuals under supervision for sex offense have begun enrolling in the newly mandated technology monitoring system provided by IPPC Technologies. County Attorney DeWind stated that Assistant District Attorney Mancini did a nice job researching after one attorney stated that it's the constitutional right of the probationer.
- Quality Assurance (audit program). Admin Staff at Probation have developed a rough draft of the Quality Assurance Program which will be put into place by June of 2024.
- Two Probation Officers and one Probation Assistant has been assigned to complete the Pre-Sentence Investigation regarding the arsonist with Tioga Downs.
- Juvenile Delinquency Services – No JD Appearance Tickets were issued in January. Will receive one this month from students fighting.
- ATI Programs – Electronic Monitoring – three (3) individuals being monitored via Alco Tag and GPS electronic monitoring system. Pre-Trial Release (PTR) – 20 people being supervised via the PTR.
- Court Ordered Investigations – 55 active; Supervision – 180 cases; and Violation of Probation petitions – 14 defendants/respondents.

PERSONNEL:

- One vacant Probation Officer 1 position
- One unfunded Probation Officer 1 position

RESOLUTIONS:

- Appointment of Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Board members
- Resolution to Approve a Grant Award from NYS Division of Criminal Justice for County Pre-Trial Services

***Committee agreed to move these resolutions forward*

SHERIFF – Gary Howard:

FINANCIAL:

- Revenues are at \$13,632 which is 3% of the budget. Expenditures are at \$687,618 which is 6% of the budget. Inmate boarders are at \$15,786 which is 11% of the budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Update on Labor Issues – NCEU (Jail Union) and the TCLEA (Law Enforcement Union) both Contracts language being finalized.
- Update on litigation issues – still on going.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Average daily inmate population for the month of January 2024 was 41. Average of 6 Federal inmates (186 days) and 1 board-in (40 days) for the month.
- Jail camera replacement project – still ongoing
- Next Gen 911 – planning phase
- E911 dispatch center upgrades
- Bundle UPS maintenance contract with IT

PERSONNEL:

- Update on vacancies – Civil Office – 1 open part-time position; Corrections Division - currently 3 open Correction Officers position; 2 Correction Officers out on military deployment; 1 Corrections Officer will be going shortly on military deployment; Road Patrol – 2 Deputies currently attending the police academy; 1 Deputy currently on light duty; 1 Deputy will be going shortly on military deployment; 1 Deputy effective today resigned and will be going to another law enforcement; E911 Emergency Communications Center – 2 open full-time, and all positions filled for Records and Administration.

RESOLUTION:

- Appropriation of Funds 2023-2024 NYS STOP DWI High Visibility Engagement Grant

***Committee agreed to move this resolution forward*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Keith Flesher requested an Executive Session. Legislator William Standinger made a motion; Legislator Barbara Roberts Seconded to discuss an employment matter of an individual. Time commenced 2:57 PM; Time adjourned 3:30 PM with no action taken.

In attendance were Legislator Flesher; Legislator Roberts; Legislator Standinger; Legislator Chairperson Sauerbrey; County Attorney Pete DeWind; Legislative Clerk Cathy Haskell; and Deputy Director of Emergency Service Corrine Cornelous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Kallin

Secretary to the Director of Probation—February 6, 2024



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2024 12

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFERS/ADJUSTMENTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
A General Fund							
A3410 Fire							
A3410 415880 Fire/EMS Reimburse	-5,000	0	-5,000	-375.00	.00	-4,625.00	7.5%
A3410 427010 SEN10 Refunds Of Pr	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 433060 State Aid-Homeland	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 433060 SEN10 State Aid-Fir	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 433200 State Aid-Emergenc	-15,000	0	-15,000	.00	.00	-15,000.00	.0%
A3410 443050 EMP16 Fed-Aid-EMPG	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 510010 Full Time	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 510020 Part Time/Temporar	44,202	0	44,202	7,087.81	.00	37,114.19	16.0%
A3410 510050 All Other(On Call,	10,000	0	10,000	.00	.00	10,000.00	.0%
A3410 520020 Audio Visual Equip	3,000	0	3,000	.00	.00	3,000.00	.0%
A3410 520030 Batteries (Portabl	1,000	0	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
A3410 520080 Clothing	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A3410 520130 Equipment (Not Car	18,000	0	18,000	850.85	.00	17,149.15	4.7%
A3410 520130 EMP16 Equipment (No	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 520160 Fire & Alarms Equi	400	0	400	.00	.00	400.00	.0%
A3410 520190 Nursing Equipment	2,500	0	2,500	.00	235.78	2,264.22	9.4%
A3410 520191 E911 Emergency Equi	0	149,434	149,434	.00	.00	149,434.15	.0%
A3410 520215 Personal Protectiv	8,000	0	8,000	198.00	.00	7,802.00	2.5%
A3410 521130 SEN10 Equipment (No	5,000	0	5,000	.00	.00	5,000.00	.0%
A3410 530141 Data Processing	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 530141 Gis	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 530300 Legal	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 540000 Contract Expense	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 540070 Car Maintenance	2,000	0	2,000	1,351.49	.00	648.51	67.6%
A3410 540140 Contracting Servic	8,000	0	8,000	.00	.00	8,000.00	.0%
A3410 540140 EMP16 Contracting S	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 540140 M7674 Contracting S	10,000	-10,000	0	.00	.00	0.00	.0%
A3410 540144 Ems Instructors	12,000	0	12,000	.00	.00	12,000.00	.0%
A3410 540180 Dues	1,200	0	1,200	686.00	200.00	314.00	73.8%
A3410 540220 Automobile Fuel	3,500	0	3,500	307.96	.00	3,192.04	8.8%
A3410 540320 Leased/Service Equ	1,000	0	1,000	166.91	.00	833.09	16.7%
A3410 540330 Legal Fees	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 540340 Literature	3,000	0	3,000	45.00	.00	2,955.00	1.5%
A3410 540350 Office Equip Maint	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A3410 540360 Meals/Food	100	0	100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%
A3410 540370 Medical Expense	1,000	0	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
A3410 540390 Mileage Expense	3,000	0	3,000	655.20	.00	2,344.80	21.8%
A3410 540410 Nursing Supplies	3,000	0	3,000	.00	.00	3,000.00	.0%
A3410 540480 Postage	250	0	250	.00	.00	250.00	.0%
A3410 540485 Printing/Paper	300	0	300	.00	.00	300.00	.0%



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2024 12

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFRS/ADJUSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
A General Fund							
A3410 540560 Repairs	1,500	0	1,500	555.50	.00	944.50	37.0%
A3410 540620 Software Expense	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A3410 540630 Stationery Supplie	2,000	0	2,000	30.25	.00	1,969.75	1.5%
A3410 540640 Supplies (Not Offi	1,500	0	1,500	.00	.00	1,500.00	.0%
A3410 540660 Telephone	2,000	0	2,000	.00	.00	2,000.00	.0%
A3410 540731 Training/State Req	250	0	250	175.00	.00	75.00	70.0%
A3410 540733 Training/All Other	2,500	0	2,500	236.00	300.00	1,964.00	21.4%
A3410 581088 State Retirement F	13,331	3,891	17,222	4,185.52	.00	13,036.17	24.3%
A3410 583088 Social Security Fr	2,246	1,333	3,580	689.70	.00	2,889.81	19.3%
A3410 584088 Workers Compensati	4,898	2,114	7,012	1,174.03	.00	5,837.86	16.7%
A3410 584588 Life Insurance Fri	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 585088 Unemployment Insur	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 585588 Disability Insuran	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 586088 Health Insurance F	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3410 588988 Eap Fringe	16	76	92	15.58	.00	76.67	16.9%
A3640 Emergency Mgmt Office							
A3640 427010 COVID Refunds Of Pr	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 433080 State Aid-C837990	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 435100 COVID State Aid-Fem	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 436574 Hazard Mitigation	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 443050 Federal Aid-Civil	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 443050 EMP16 Federal Aid-C	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 443050 EMP17 Federal Aid-C	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 443050 EMP18 Fed-Aid-EMPG	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 443050 EMP19 Fed-Aid-EMPG	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 443050 EMP20 Fed-Aid-EMPG	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 443050 EMP21 Fed-Aid-EMPG	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 443050 EMP22 Fed-Aid-EMPG	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 443050 EMP23 Fed-Aid-Civi	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 445100 COVID Federal Aid-F	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 510010 Full Time	146,165	0	146,165	24,451.92	.00	121,713.08	16.7%
A3640 510020 Part Time/Temporar	15,000	0	15,000	.00	.00	15,000.00	.0%
A3640 510030 Overtime Pay Only	10,000	0	10,000	.00	.00	10,000.00	.0%
A3640 510050 All-Other(On Call,	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 520090 Computer	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 530100 Data Processing	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 530300 Legal	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 530330 Shared Services -P	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540000 Contract Expense	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540010 Advertising	700	0	700	.00	.00	700.00	.0%
A3640 540070 Car Maintenance	2,000	0	2,000	.00	.00	2,000.00	.0%



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2024 12

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFERS/ADJUSTMENTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
A General Fund							
A3640 540090 Clothing	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A3640 540140 HME17 Contracting S	3,000	0	3,000	.00	.00	3,000.00	.0%
A3640 540141 Gis Create & Maint	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540180 Dues	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540220 Automobile Fuel	4,000	0	4,000	284.60	.00	3,715.40	7.1%
A3640 540360 COVID19 Meals/Food	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540390 Mileage Expense	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540420 Office Supplies	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540420 COVID19 Office Suppl	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540510 Radio Repairs	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A3640 540540 Reimbursements	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540560 Repairs	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
A3640 540581 Security Systems &	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540640 COVID19 Supplies (Not	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 540660 Telephone	3,000	0	3,000	159.98	639.92	2,200.10	26.7%
A3640 540733 Training/All Other	1,000	0	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
A3640 581088 State Retirement F	3,330	599	3,929	1,030.40	.00	2,898.71	26.2%
A3640 583088 Social Security Fr	7,413	701	8,113	2,204.11	.00	5,909.35	27.2%
A3640 584088 Workers Compensation	0	2,232	2,232	367.68	.00	1,864.43	16.5%
A3640 584588 Life Insurance Frl	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 585088 Unemployment Insur	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%
A3640 585588 Disability Insuran	127	-11	116	20.88	.00	95.33	18.0%
A3640 586088 Health Insurance F	22,891	23,110	46,001	8,656.40	.00	37,344.43	18.8%
A3640 588988 Eap Fringe	0	29	29	4.88	.00	24.48	16.6%



TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Tioga County YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2024 12

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFRS/ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL
GRAND TOTAL	372,319	173,508	545,828	55,216.65	1,375.70	489,235.22	10.4%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Rockwell, Diane **

REFERRED TO: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FINANCE/LEGAL COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -24 EXECUTE ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT OF
PROPERTY LOCATED AT SOUTH APALACHIN
ROAD, APALACHIN, NEW YORK TO INSTALL,
HOUSE, AND MAINTAIN A COMMUNICATIONS
TOWER

WHEREAS: It is necessary for Tioga County to lease a portion of property (Leased Premises) to install, house, and maintain a communications tower and access road; and

WHEREAS: Timothy and Catherine Card, as Property Owners, entered into a Lease Agreement, per Resolution number 312-23, with Tioga County effective the twenty-first day of September 2023, to lease a portion of their property to Tioga County; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the terms of the parties Lease Agreement the parties need to sign and accept an addendum to the lease agreement acknowledging receipt, review, and approval of professionally created surveys and descriptions representing the scope of work, installation, construction and maintenance of a fence, communications shelter, generator and access road on the leased premises; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Chair of the Legislature is hereby authorized to sign a lease addendum with Timothy and Catherine Card for the property located at South Apalachin Road, Apalachin, New York.

REFERRED TO:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FINANCE/LEGAL COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -24

EXECUTE ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT OF
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 110 C BABCOCK ROAD,
NICHOLS, NEW YORK TO INSTALL, HOUSE, AND
MAINTAIN A COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

WHEREAS: It is necessary for Tioga County to lease a portion of property (Leased Premises) to install, house, and maintain a communications tower and access road; and

WHEREAS: Chet Babcock, as Property Owner, entered into a Lease Agreement, per Resolution No. 315-23, with Tioga County effective the twenty-second day of September 2023, to lease a portion of their property to Tioga County; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the terms of the parties Lease Agreement the parties need to sign and accept an addendum to the lease agreement acknowledging receipt, review, and approval of professionally created surveys and descriptions representing the scope of work, installation, construction and maintenance of a fence, communications shelter, generator and access road on the leased premises; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Chair of the Legislature is hereby authorized to sign a lease addendum with Chet Babcock for the property located at 110 C Babcock Road, Nichols, New York.

REFERRED TO:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FINANCE/LEGAL COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -24

EXECUTE ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT OF
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 54 DODGE ROAD,
SPENCER, NEW YORK TO INSTALL, HOUSE, AND
MAINTAIN A COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

WHEREAS: It is necessary for Tioga County to lease a portion of property (Leased Premises) to install, house, and maintain a communications tower and access road; and

WHEREAS: Douglas Brock, as Property Owner, entered into a Lease Agreement, per Resolution number 313-23, with Tioga County effective March 2024, to lease a portion of their property to Tioga County; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the terms of the parties Lease Agreement the parties need to sign and accept an addendum to the lease agreement acknowledging receipt, review, and approval of professionally created surveys and descriptions representing the scope of work, installation, construction and maintenance of a fence, communications shelter, generator and access road on the leased premises; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Chair of the Legislature is hereby authorized to sign a lease addendum with Douglas Brock for the property located at 54 Dodge Road, Spencer, New York.

REFERRED TO: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FINANCE/LEGAL COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. -24 EXECUTE ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT OF
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 246 DAVIS ROAD, TOWN OF
RICHFORD, NEW YORK TO INSTALL, HOUSE, AND
MAINTAIN A COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

WHEREAS: It is necessary for Tioga County to lease a portion of property (Leased Premises) to install, house, and maintain a communications tower and access road; and

WHEREAS: Andrew Hanson, as Property Owner, entered into a Lease Agreement, per Resolution No. 314-23, with Tioga County effective the twentieth day of September 2023, to lease a portion of their property to Tioga County; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the terms of the parties Lease Agreement the parties need to sign and accept an addendum to the lease agreement acknowledging receipt, review, and approval of professionally created surveys and descriptions representing the scope of work, installation, construction and maintenance of a fence, communications shelter, generator and access road on the leased premises; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Chair of the Legislature is hereby authorized to sign a lease addendum with Andrew Hanson for the property located at 246 Davis Road, Town of Richford, New York.

Tioga County Fire Investigation Team

Tioga County Emergency Services

103 Corporate Drive

Owego, New York 13827

607-687-8466

607-687-6782 fax

February 15, 2024

End of year Report for 2023

The Tioga County Fire Investigation Team (TCFIT) was dispatched to **36** fires during the 2023 calendar year. These fires break down to **28** Structure fires, **7** Vehicle fires, **1** Other type of fires. Two of the structure fires involved fatalities. This is a significant increase in Fire Investigations from 2022. Of the **36** calls, **25** were determined as Accidental, **4** Incendiary, **7** Undetermined while **3** remain Under Investigation by Law Enforcement.

The **2** of the **7** fires that remain Under Investigation were investigated in conjunction with Law Enforcement (LE) agencies during the initial and on-going investigation. The LE agencies include the Tioga County Sheriffs Department (TCSD), New York State Police (NYSP), the Owego Police Department (OPD) and the Waverly Police Department (WPD). TCFIT also works closely with the TCSD in regards to TCFIT Investigations as well as assisted TCSD with other fire related incidents that TCFIT was not initially requested or dispatched to. The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) Fire Investigation Unit was requested at **3** fire investigations in 2023. OFPC was requested to provide support with the **2** fatal fires, one in Spencer in January and the second in Newark Valley in August as well as the mass animal loss fire at Tioga Downs in November where OFPC took on the role of Lead Agency for the Fire Investigation and provided an Accelerant Detection K9 Unit. TCFIT remains engaged with LE on the Newark Valley and the Tioga Downs fire working closely with the associate LE agencies and OFPC which are still considered Under Investigation pending additional input or case closure from the associated LE agencies.

No fires were determined to involve a Juvenile Fire Setter in 2023.

No fires were attributed to cigarettes in 2023.

The average attendance for fire investigators was **4.2** per investigation in 2023 which was a slight increase of **0.2** per investigation in 2022.

The average Hours per investigation was **25.5** Man Hours per Investigation in 2023 which was an increase of **2.5** Man Hours per Investigation from 2022.

The members of TCFIT have volunteered over **1,166.5** Hours and traveled in excess of **3,000** Miles in 2023 in support of Fire Investigations, Meetings and Trainings in Tioga County and across New York State. This does not include the Case File Development and all other follow-on efforts beyond each investigation.

See ast Section, page 5 through 16 for a further breakdown of the 36 Fire Investigations in 2023.

Fire loss in Tioga County during 2023 has been significantly higher than pervious years. In fact this office estimates the property loss this year to far exceed losses accumulated over the past 5 plus years within the county. There appears to be a couple of contributing factors, one is that the majority of the fires have been well developed before being discovered and reported. The sceond is many if not all of the volunteer departments protecting this county are experincing staffing shortages which are effecting initial responses and fire attack due to lower levels of manpower at all times during the day and night. Unfortunately this is a common issue across New York State as well as the nation as volunteerism continues to decline in every organization.

2023 Activities

Fire Investigator Attestation:

The NYS Required 2023 Attestation for all County Fire Investigators was submitted to OFPC on January 18th 2024. The attestation requires all NYS Certified Fire Teams certify that each member successfully attend twelve (12) hours of tested training related to fire investigation AND perform twelve (12) hours of fire investigation field activities the previous year to maintain NYS Fire Investigator Certification for the next calendar year. All NYS Certified members of TCFIT met these requirements in 2023 and were included in the attestation document submitted to OFPC in January.

COVID-19;

The COVID-19 Pandemic continued to impact TCFIT operations in 2023. New and updated processes and procedures were either developed or continually updated to meet the latest CDC recommendations to ensure all Fire Investigators remain diligent and operated in a safe environment while in the field and in the office.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);

In 2020 all Tioga County Fire Investigation (TCFIT) members and Trainees were issued Air Filtration Masks to lower the level of toxins that they could be exposed to during fire investigations. The masks offer a 99.9% filter efficiency and meet NIOSH N99 standards. In 2021 we added a Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) Sensor / Meter that monitors the air for both CO and HCN levels and alerts when these levels become elevated. CO and HCN are known as the "Toxic Twins" and are the largest threat to the health and safety of firefighters and fire investigators today. The combination of new PPE, Filtration Masks and CO/HCM Monitors help ensure our fire investigators have the equipment to perform investigations and protect their health.

We continued to follow our PPE replacement plan initiated in 2019. This plan budgets for the replacement of 2 full sets of PPE each year going forward. The PPE includes a full complement of Fire Fighting helmet, coat, pants, boots, gloves and hood that are properly sized and meet current standards. Replacement is based on the member's engagement and activity level. Two new full sets of PPE were put into service in 2023 which ensured that all Fire Investigators have been issued compliant PPE. This plan will allow TCFIT to work toward providing the appropriate level of PPE as requirements and needs change going forward. PPE purchases in 2023 included new and upgraded Hardhats and Coveralls with reflective striping for better visibility that will be issued to all Fire Investigators in early 2024. This will not only allow for the appropriate level of PPE to be used based on the incident it will lengthen the life expectancy of the much more costly Interior Level PPE that has been incrementally issued since 2019.

Fire Investigator Curriculum and Certification;

Changes were announced in March 2017 by the Office of Fire Protection and Control (OFPC) regarding Fire Investigator Curriculum and Certification that required additional education, testing and ongoing training to attain and maintain certification as a Fire Investigator in NYS by April 2020. This requires current and future Fire Investigators to complete a Level II (80 Hour) Course and pass the Fire Investigator ProBoard Test by April 1, 2020 to be a recognized and certified by NYS as a Fire Investigator. The COVID Pandemic pushed the requirement to December 31, 2020. That requirement was met by the original April 2020 Deadline.

Since the Fire Investigator Trainee Program that was established in 2017 that allowed individuals that meet specific criteria and show interest in fire investigation as well as have completing a Level I Fire Investigator Course or Introduction to Fire Investigation Course at the NYS Fire Academy to join the team as a Trainee and covered by their home agency continues to be a success. From the 4 people that initially joined the team as trainees, all 4 have successfully completed their Level II Training and have been Tested and Certified at the Nation Level and transitioned to full membership.

Education;

Each Fire Investigator must complete 12 hours of Tested Fire Investigation Training each calendar year to maintain their NYS Fire Investigator Certification.

Due to the lack of local in-person Fire Investigation tested training, the majority of the team members engaged in self-study through several on-line offerings amounting to **209** hours of Tested Training in 2023.

Three Fire Investigation Team members attended the 2023 Fire / Arson Seminar held at the NYS Fire Academy in Montour Falls accumulating another **36** hours of tested in service training.

The total of **209** Hours of Tested Training does not include other Fire Investigation Education opportunities that TCFIT members engaged in such as the Annual Vehicle Arson Identification and Investigation Training that sponsored by the Annual National Insurance Crime Bureau at no cost.

Tioga County Fire Department Outreach;

Fire Investigator Mark Daniel developed and delivered an Introduction to Fire Investigation / Arson Awareness Presentation both in-person and virtual formats. The purpose of this presentation is to provide the fire departments in Tioga County an overview of what to look for and how they can help the Fire Investigation Team during their initial response and operations at fire incidents. Mark continues to update the presentation as standards and procedures change to ensure the most current information is being presented. TCFIT members continue to make this presentation available to all Fire Departments within Tioga County into 2024.

Juvenile Fire Setter;

Members of the TCFIT continue to work closely with Tioga County Department of Social Services (DSS) and Law Enforcement (LE) regarding juveniles that have a history of setting fires in the current year as well as in the past. TCFIT Investigated no fires in 2023 that were started by a Juvenile. In the past DSS and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) Juvenile Fire Setter Evaluation and Counseling Team and the TCSD have been engaged.

Secession and Attrition Planning;

The establishment of the TCFIT Trainee program in 2017 was positive step in secession planning going forward. Each Trainee has shown both interest and commitment to being a Fire Investigator in Tioga County by investing their own time and talent in completing a Level I Certification. This program also allows us to "try before we buy" to ensure the trainee is a good fit within the team and shows continued commitment before gaining full TC Fire Investigator status. At this time we do not have any team members that are in the TCFIT Trainee Program. We will continue to review each member's activity and interest level to ensure a proper balance of education and experience. New trainees will be considered going forward based on need, availability and interest.

Industry View;

Tioga County continues to maintain the highest of standards in fire investigation and is viewed as a "One Investigator" County by the Insurance Industry. This means that the insurance industry only assigns one investigator to review the finding and results of fires that TCFIT investigates based on our past and present professionalism and performance.

This is a true testament to the commitment and performance of our 100% volunteer team.

Members of the Fire Investigation Team;

Steve Federowicz (Weltonville Fire Dept.)

Milt Kemp (Tioga Center Fire Dept.)

Andrew Churchman (Owego Fire Dept.)

Jim VanNordstrand (Newark Valley Fire Dept.)

Jeremiah Allen (NYSP)

Kyle Telfer (Apalachin Fire Dept. / Vestal PD)

Susanna Lane (Waverly Barton Fire Dept.)

Shaun Hanzalik (Campville Fire Dept)

William Standinger (NYSP - Retired)

Mark Daniel (Campville Fire Dept.)

John Schafer (Newark Valley Fire Dept.)

Ryan Telfer (Apalachin Fire Dept. / NYSP)

Trainees;

No current Trainee Members at the time of this report.

Leadership;

Senior Investigator David Churchman (Newark Valley Fire Dept.)

Past Senior Fire Investigator Frank Okrasinski (South Side Fire Company)

Submitted by; David Churchman

Senior Fire Investigator / Deputy Fire Coordinator

Tioga County Fire Investigation Activity for 2023

2023 Fire Investigation Statistics

Fire Investigations; 38 (36 Dispatched, 2 Investigator On-Scene Assist w/o Team Dispatch)

2023 Summary	Cause	
	Accidental;	22
	Incendiary;	3
	Undetermined;	5
	Under Investigation;	7
	Type	
	Structure;	28
	Vehicle;	7
	Fatal;	2 (non-cumulative)
	Other;	1
	Total;	38

Team Hours; 1266.5 Hours

- Fire Investigation: **934.0** Hours
 - **718.0** Hours for Scene processing, documentation, and interviewing.
 - **216.0** Hours for Case File Development and all other follow-up activities related to each investigation.
- Tested Training: **209.0** Hours
 - Includes all Tested Training activity by Team Members in 2023.
- Monthly Meetings and Case Reviews: **123.5** Hours

Investigations by Fire Department;

Department	ID	Investigations
Apalachin FD	54001	5
Berkshire FD	54002	1
Campville FD	54003	1
Candor FD	54004	2
Halsey Valley FD	54005	0
Newark Valley FD	54006	4
Nichols FD	54007	8
Owego FD	54008	3
Richford FD	54009	0
Spencer FD	54010	2
Tioga Center FD	54011	2
Waverly Barton FD	54013	5
Weltonville FC	54014	1
Southside FC	54018	0
Lockwood FD	54019	2
		36

January Fire Investigations (5)

23F-00060; 1/17/2023, 2348 Bolles Hill Road, Apalachin, NY – Apalachin FD

- Structure Fire - Total Loss
- Undetermined
- Fire was reported by neighbor across the street, fire was captured on doorbell video.
- Occupant home at time of fire but was highly impaired and unable to articulate what may have happened prior to the fire or if anyone else was inside the structure at the time of fire.
- First floor of structure was under renovation and allowed uninhibited fire spread.
- The level of fire damage to the structure did not allow the identification and ruling on all possible ignition sources.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0001; 1/24/2023, 31 Lyman Ave, Waverly, NY – Waverly Barton FD

- Structure Fire - Total Loss
- Accidental
- Fire was reported by passer-by, heavy fire from 1st and 2nd floors (Video on FB).
- Home was unoccupied at time of fire.
- Minimal Fire Load in structure.
- Owner was in the process of refinishing floors on first floor, sanding and stain was applied prior to fire.
- Fire originated in the kitchen located on the first floor, probable cause was spontaneous combustion of cotton blend rags used in the staining process and left in the kitchen.

- No injuries reported.

X23-0002; 1/27/2023, Tire Land USA, 317 N. Cole Hill Road, Nichols, NY – Nichols Fire Department

- Structure Fire - Total Loss of storage building
- Under Investigation (Pending Video from owner)
- Fire was reported by passer-by, on Rt 17, smoke from west end of building.
- Unoccupied Storage Build.
- Significant Fire Load - Tires, Oil, Golf Cart Parts (no batteries or heat in building).
- Owner and employees reported no power in the west end of building, no reason known.
- Fire believed to originated ceiling of the building and traveled the entire length without fire stops in place.
- Cause was not determined due to heavy fire damage which did not allow all possible ignition sources to be eliminated.
- TCFIT is continuing to work with Insurance carrier investigators.
- Fire is not considered suspect.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0003; 1/27/2023, 458 Waverly Street, Waverly, NY – Waverly Barton Fire Department

- Structure Fire – Significant damage to structure
- Accidental
- 2 Story wood frame residential structure.
- Minor damage to exterior of house next door.
- Fire was reported by occupant, noticed fire in second floor bedroom near wall.
- Fire originated in the kitchen ceiling and extended into second floor bedroom.
- Probable cause was electrical wiring malfunction at the ceiling fixture in the kitchen.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0004; 1/30/2023, 400 South Hill Road, Spencer, NY – Spencer Fire Department

- Structure Fire – Total loss / Fatal
- Under Investigation – NYSP / OFPC
- 2 Story wood frame residential structure.
- Fire discovered and reported by neighbor across the street.
- Neighbor Reported fire on both first and second floor of structure.
- Neighbor reported that the owner / lone occupant could not be located and owner's vehicle was in the driveway.
- Structure was fully involved upon fire department arrival.
- Owner / occupant was located inside structure during the investigation.
- Autopsy showed that victim's death was attributed to smoke and heat inhalation.
- Victim was identified using DNA testing by NYSP.
- Fire will remain Under Investigation awaiting final reports from NYSP and OFPC.
- No injuries reported.

February Fire Investigations (2)

X23-0005; 2/14/2023, State Rt 17 West, Nichols, NY – Nichols FD

- Vehicle (Semi-Tractor) Fire - Total Loss
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered and reported by operator.
- Operator smelled smoke inside the cab and stopped to investigate.
- Fire was observed behind front wheel and quickly spread to the cab and engulfing the truck.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0006; 2/28/2023, 1663 East River Road, Nichols, NY – Nichols FD

- Structure Fire - Total Burn / Believed to be Accidental
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered and reported by passer-by on Rt17.
- Nichols and TCSD determined location to be the old Leisure Living Campground Property.
- Structure was approximately 8 x 10 and burned to ground upon arrival.
- Footprints indicated single individual left scene via East River Road.
- TCSD spoke to the individual.
- Owner was contacted and did not want to press charges.
- No injuries reported.

March Fire Investigation (4)

X23-0007; 3/19/2023, 12827 Rt 38, Berkshire, NY – Berkshire FD

- Structure Fire / Mobile Home - Total Loss
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered by the occupants.
- Fire was reported by the occupant, noticed fire in living room.
- Fire originated in the living room in the area of the electric baseboard heater and wall above heater.
- Occupants reported having issues related to the electric baseboard heat prior to fire.
- Probable cause was electrical wiring malfunction of the baseboard heater and thermostat.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0008; 3/28/2023, 50 Beardslee Lane, Owego, NY – Owego FD

- Structure Fire / Detached Shed that spread to Garage and Single Story Home - Total Loss
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered and reported by the roofers working down the street.
- Roofer alerted the occupants of the fire.
- Fire originated in a shed that housed a homemade waste oil burner that was in use at the time of the fire.
- Probable cause was malfunction of the homemade waste oil burner.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0009; 3/29/2023, 305 Stanton Hill Road, Nichols, NY – Nichols FD

- Vehicle Fire / Semi Truck Tractor (2019 Peterbilt) - Total Loss

- Accidental
- Fire was discovered by the owner / operator.
- Fire was reported by attendant at Onvo Truck Stop
- Fire occurred during re-gen cycle while parked at the truck stop.
- Fire originated in the rear of the engine compartment.
- Probable cause was a malfunction during the re-gen process.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0010; 3/30/2023, 223 Old Narrows Rd, Nichols, NY – Nichols FD

- Structure Fire / Woodshed - Total Loss
- Undetermined
- Fire was discovered by property owner.
- Fire originated inside the woodshed.
- The level of fire damage to the structure did not allow the identification and ruling on all possible ignition sources.
- No injuries reported.

April Fire Investigations (4)

X23-00011; 4/3/2023, 208 Main Street, Owego, NY – Owego FD

- Vehicle Fire / SUV (2015 GMC Terrain) - Total Loss
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered by the operator.
- Vehicle owned by Scoville Meno Auto Group.
- Vehicle was recently serviced for coolant related issues by owner / dealership.
- Fire originated in the front passenger side of the engine compartment.
- Probable cause was an electrical event in the wiring harness in the area of origin.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0012; 4/4/2023, Ellison, Barton, NY – Lockwood FD

- Vehicle Fire / 2006 Subaru Forester - Total Loss
- Incendiary
- Fire was discovered by occupants at 47 Ellison Rd (fire was in field across from this location).
- Fire originated inside the passenger compartment.
- Vehicle abandoned 2-3 years prior to fire.
- No accidental causes could be found.
- Under investigation by NYSP.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0013; 4/9/2023, 27 Old Rt 96, Spencer, NY – Spencer FD

- Structure Fire / Single Story Home w/ attached Garage - Total Loss
- Accidental

- Fire was discovered and reported by the occupant.
- Fire originated inside the passenger compartment of the vehicle that was parked inside the attached garage.
- Probable cause was the ignition of materials inside the vehicle located in the garage. The occupant was welding and grinding a door on the vehicle prior to the fire.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0014; 4/20/2023, 458 Pennsylvania Ave, Waverly, NY – Waverly Barton FD

- Structure Fire / Multi-Family Apartment Building – Significant Damage
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered and reported by the occupant.
- Fire traveled to other sections of the structure through the voids in the structure due to remodeling.
- Fire originated in the living room smoke detector electrical circuit.
- Probable cause was the overheating of the electrical circuit to the smoke detector.
- Occupants for the adjacent apartment reported smelling smoke earlier in the evening.
- No injuries reported.

May Fire Investigations; 1

X23-00015; 5/3/2023, 821 South Main Street, Nichols, NY – Nichols FD

- Structure Fire / Single Story Manufactured Home – Minor Damage
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered and reported by the passer-by operator.
- Passer-by notified occupant of fire.
- Fire originated in clothes dryer vent that exited the house on the “C” side of structure.
- Probable cause the ignition of organic materials inside the dryer vent.
- Clothes dryer was in use prior to fire.
- No injuries reported.

June Fire Investigations; 4

X23-00016; 6/3/2023, 284 Owego Road, Candor, NY – Candor FD

- Structure Fire / Two Story w/ additions – Total Loss
- Under Investigation in conjunction with the TCSD Investigation Unit.
- Fire was discovered by occupant and reported by the passer-by (2).
- Passer-by was flagged down by occupant.
- Fire originated in a plastic garbage can located in the kitchen at the rear of the structure.
- No ignition sources could be identified at the origin.
- Samples were collected by TCSD.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0017; 6/24/2023, 2033 State Rt 17C, Tioga Center, NY – Tioga Center FD

- Structure Fire / Two Story – Minor Damage to Exterior
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered and reported by owner.
- Fire originated at the LPG Grill that was located on the C side of structure that was in use prior to the fire.
- Probable cause the continued burning of combustible material after use that caused the LPG Hose and Regulator to fail allowing the fire to spread to the outside of structure.
- Owner sustained minor cuts while attempting to extinguish fire prior to FD arrival.
- No FD injuries reported.

X23-0018; 6/27/2023, 988 South Apalachin Road, Apalachin, NY – Apalachin FD

- Structure Fire / Large Two Story Residence w/ Additions – Total Loss
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered by owner and reported by occupant.
- Heavy Fire involvement at the B/C corner upon FD arrival.
- Fire originated in the pool pump utility room located in the lower level of the B/C corner.
- Probable cause was a Cloud to Ground Lightning strike directly on the property prior to fire.
- Per NOAA in Binghamton, NY the 31.1KA hit at 23:26 that disabled the video security system.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0019; 6/29/2023, 115 Ayers Road, Lot 7, Tioga Center, NY – Tioga Center FD

- Structure Fire / Mobile Home (Unoccupied) – Total Loss
- Under Investigation in conjunction with the TCSD Investigation Unit.
- Fire was discovered and reported by neighbor.
- Mobile home had been unoccupied since mid-May.
- Fire originated in the living room area in the center of the mobile home.
- No ignition sources could be identified at the origin.
- No injuries reported.

July Fire Investigations; 3

X23-0020; 7/22/2023, 2532 State Rt 38B, Newark Valley, NY – Newark Valley FD

- Structure Fire / Two Story Balloon Construction w/ additions – Total Loss
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered and reported by owner / occupants.
- Fire originated in a second-floor bedroom located at the A/D in the area of where a mini fridge was in use.
- Probable cause an electrical event involving the electrical power strip / outlet that was used to supply power to mini fridge.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0021; 7/25/2023, 983 Ridge Road, Barton, NY – Lockwood FD

- Structure Fire / Two Story Residence (Unoccupied) – Total Loss

- Structure was in the process of being demolished at time of fire.
- Incendiary (Original debris pile fire was started by property owner)
- Fire was discovered and reported by passer-by.
- Fire originated in a debris pile next to the structure.
- Owned suffered minor burns to hand while attempting to control fire prior to FD arrival.
- No FD injuries reported.

X23-0022; 7/29/2023, Corner of Blodgett Rd and West Creek Rd, Owego, NY – Campville FD

- Cancelled by Campville FD Command.

August Fire Investigations; 2

X23-0023; 8/15/2023; 1 Rebecca Drive, Apalachin, NY – Apalachin FD

- Structure Fire / Single Story Ranch Home – Room and Contents Fire
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered and reported by resident.
- Fire originated in the basement in a room floor at the A/D corner on the A wall.
- Probable cause was an electrical event involving the PS-4 in at the origin.
- No injuries reported.

X23-0024; 8/30/2023; 1019 Dr. Knapp Rd, Newark Valley, NY – Newark Valley FD / Tioga County SD

- Structure Fire / Single Story Shed – Total Loss
- Fire was discovered by neighbor.
- Requested by TCSD Investigation Unit to assist at scene.
- NYS OFPC Assisted at scene.
- Under Investigation, no further details are available for release.
- No FD injuries reported.

September Fire Investigations; 1

X23-0025; 1113 Lillie Hill Rd, Apalachin, NY – Apalachin FD

- Structure Fire / Two Story Storage Building – Total Loss
- Accidental
- Fire was discovered and reported by neighbor across street.
- Fire was well involved upon discovery.
- Neighbor alerted owners of fire.
- Fire originated on the first floor at the A/B corner in that area of the electrical panel.
- Probable cause was an electrical event at the panel that may have been related to issues with the utility power due to storms that passed through the area prior to fire.
- No injuries reported.

October Fire Investigations; 2

X23-0026; 10/19/2023; 5758 West Creek Road, Newark Valley, NY – Newark Valley FD

- Structure Fire / Single Story Double wide Manufactured w/ Exposures – Total Loss
- Undetermined
- TCFIT Investigators; 5
- Fire was reported by neighbor across street.
- One Occupant home at time of fire, escaped through bedroom window.
- Heavy Fire involvement upon arrival at A/B corner of main structure.
- 6 Dogs lost in fire.
- 5 Adult occupants
- No insurance on structure.
- No FD injuries reported.

X23-0027; 10/23/2023; Rt 17 West at Exit 66, Apalachin, NY – Apalachin FD

- Vehicle Fire / RH Shoulder – Total Loss
- Accidental
- 2020 Subaru Forrester
- TCFIT Investigators; 4
- Fire was reported by passer-by on Rt 17
- Passer-by reported that front tire was on fire and vehicle was traveling west on Rt17.
- Fire originated at driver side front wheel opening.
- Probable cause was ignition of combustible material due to heat and sparks from traveling on flat tire for extended distance prior to operator noticing fire.
- NYSP on scene.
- No FD injuries reported.

November Fire Investigations; 3

X23-0028; 11/1/2023; Rt 17 East at Nichols Rest Area, Nichols, NY – Nichols FD

- Vehicle Fire / Semi Tractor - Total Loss
- Accidental
- 2015 Peterbilt
- TCFIT Investigators; 4
- Fire was reported by passer-by on Rt 17
- Fire originated at driver side dashboard.
- Operator reported having on-going electrical issues with truck prior to fire.
- Probable cause was electrical event at the fire wall on the driver's side.
- NYSP on scene.
- No FD injuries reported.

X23-0029; 11/2/2023; 80 Schumacher Road, Candor, NY – Candor FD

- Structure Fire / 18 x 18 Barn / Shed w/ 2 Shed Exposures – Total Loss
- **Accidental**
- TCFIT Investigators; 4

- Fire was reported by homeowner.
- Homeowner reported barn fire with exposures.
- 3 small structures on the ground upon FD arrival.
- Fire originated in the 18 x 18 structure in the area of the wood stove that was in use at time of fire.
- Probable cause was a failure of the chimney connected to the wood stove.
- 3 Pigs, 1 Dogs and 2 Cats lost in fire.
- No FD injuries reported.

X23-0030; 11/9/2023; 2384 West River Road, Nichols (Tioga Downs), Nichols, NY – Nichols FD

- Structure Fire / Horse Barn F w/ Exposures – Total Loss of Barn F
- **Under Investigation;** NYSP, OFPC, TCFIT (NYSP has made an Arrest in connection with the fire.)
- TCFIT Investigators; 8
- Fire initially reported by Fire Alarm System in Barn F.
- Additional calls confirmed well involved fire with exposures.
- MA was provided by Tioga County and Bradford County.
- Fire was contained to Barn F.
- One person transported to RPH for 2nd Degree Burns and evaluation.
- 30 Horses in fire.
- No FD injuries reported.

December Fire Investigations; 5

X23-0031; 12/12/2023; 533 Glenmary Drive, Owego, NY – Owego FD

- Structure Fire / Small Smoldering fire in Bedroom of Apt E – Minor Damage
- **Under Investigation;** TCSD CID
- TCFIT Investigators; 1
- Fire reported by TCSD, Deputy Brown per occupant of Apartment E
- Fire was discovered by occupant of Apartment E and flagged down Deputy Brown as he passed by the Apartment Building while on Patrol.
- Small smoldering fire found in unoccupied bedroom contained to one location.
- OPD dumped one Fire Extinguisher to prevent any fire spread.
- OFD Responded and requested TCFIT assistance.
- Occupants were in the process of moving out due to Eviction Notice.
- No ignition source was found, TCSD CID was requested by TCFIT.
- TCSD CID interviewed the 2 occupants stating they believed the fire may have been accidental and ignition source was from a “blunt” dropped into a box while one of the occupants was looking for an item.
- No FD injuries reported.

X23-0032; 12/13/2023; 2784 West Creek Road, Newark Valley, NY – Weltonville FC

- Structure Fire / B&B Automotive Body Shop (Old WVFC Fire Station) – Total Loss
- **Accidental,**

- **Probable Cause;** Electrical Event in Office Area related to extension cord feeding Spacer Heater and Power Strip in the owners office.
- TCFIT Investigators; 5
- TCFIT Continues to work w/ owner and Insurance carrier.
- Fire discovered and reported by Cassella (Taylor) Garbage Driver during scheduled pick-ups in the area.
- Cassella Driver took several photos of the fire in early stages of the that aided in the investigation.
- Structure was unoccupied at the time of the fire.
- Structure was well involved upon FD arrival.
- No FD injuries reported.

X23-0033; 12/14/2023; 437 Broad Street, Waverly, NY – Waverly Barton Fire Department

- Structure Fire / Storage Facility – Significant Damage to Structure
- **Incendiary,**
- No ignition source could be found / identified in the aera of origin.
- TCFIT Investigators; 7
- Fire discovered and reported by multiple callers in the area.
- No Utilities connected to the structure at the time of fire.
- Structure was well involved upon FD arrival.
- Origin was in Unit #11 which was not rented out and was unsecured at the time of fire.
- LE Investigation is on going by Waverly PD, led by Sargent DeKay.
- No FD injuries reported.

X23-0034; 12/16/2023; 722 Blewer Street, Newark Valley, NY – Newark Valley FD

- Vehicle Fire / Semi Tractor - Total Loss
- **Accidental**
- Probable Cause; Electrical event related to the vehicle batteries.
- 2016 Freightliner
- TCFIT Investigators; 1 (TCFIT Cancelled by NVFD Command)
- Fire was reported by owner.
- Owner stated fire originated in the area of the battery box.
- Owner replaced all 4 batteries just prior to the fire.
- Truck had been sitting for an extended period prior to fire.
- No FD injuries reported.

X23-0035; 12/25/2023; 464 Cayuta Ave, Waverly, NY – Waverly Barton FD

- Structure Fire / Two Story Ballon Construction – Significant Damage
- **Accidental**
- Probable Cause; Electrical event in the area of origin.
- TCFIT Investigators; 5
- Fire was reported by neighbor across street.

- Home was unoccupied at time of fire and in process of renovations by owner.
- Heavy Fire involvement upon FD arrival.
- No insurance on structure.
- No FD injuries reported.

Tioga County Emergency Services
2023 Annual Report

Work continued throughout 2023 on the new P25 trunked radio system. Leases were signed and Motorola was out a few times to do site surveys at Tower locations. All radio equipment has been received. Anticipated completion of the project appears to be early 2025.

The Spillman CAD system has been operational for a year. All Sheriff's cars have the CAD system screens within the patrol car, and NYSP is being added. Local Fire and EMS are being added as well.

The Tioga County Threat Assessment team has continued to be formed in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order #18. Initial stakeholders have met, and discussions have begun on how the county will receive tips, and will monitor individuals who may be in need of intervention and assistance. An initial training was also completed for those who will be on the team.

Fire and EMS agencies were busy throughout 2023, responding to many emergencies, including some large scale incidents. Various fire training sessions were conducted throughout the year within the county for local responders. EMS courses, held twice a year, continue to increase in enrollment. The county also passed the property tax reduction incentive for volunteer firefighters.

The Office of Emergency Services added a full-time Deputy Director, which helped to ensure that Tioga was represented at conference and trainings for emergency management, threat assessment trainings, statewide committees and Fire Coordinators meetings.

Financial:

Budget: Within Budget - See attached spreadsheets

Old Business:**Radio Project:**

On February 10th, the Fire/EMS side of the radio system went down for several hours. Capital Area Communications responded and worked to get the system back online. During that time, dispatch could not hear or transmit to any Fire/EMS unit. Incidents like this highlight the urgency for the new radio system.

The Spencer lease has now been signed. This means all tower locations have signed leases. Motorola has provided lease exhibits for the landowners to review with specific drawings.

Motorola had an on-site meeting to confirm the status of the project, and ensure that we are on track to begin moving forward on the project as the weather allows. They will be moving forward with site samples shortly.

CAD Project:

The State Police IT and our County IT have moved closer to resolving the mapping issue with the NYSP cars. They have been working with Spillman to further troubleshoot – as the cars appear on the map, however, do not move as the cars move. NYSP can log into the CAD and view calls they are dispatched to.

EMS:

No significant changes in county EMS coverage. The same issues continue to exist in regards to manpower shortages.

Spring EMT classes have begun.

Emergency Management:

The office is continuing to transition since Mike Simmons has left, and I (Corinne Cornelius) have taken over as Director. An all-Staff meeting was held with deputy fire coordinators to ensure that the priorities of the office were identified.

2023 year-end report is also attached.

Fire: Fire departments have continued to be very busy. The county's Fire Investigation team year-end report is attached. They had a very busy 2023 and are already having a busy 2024 with over 200 investigation hours to date.

Fire departments within the county have been submitting their response plans to have them entered into the dispatch system. This will allow them to call for a second or third alarm and have dispatch automatically be able to dispatch a pre-designated list of apparatus.

New Business:

None

Personnel:

The Deputy Director position is posted. There have been some applicants, but the office is continuing to publicize the opening in an attempt to find a good, qualified candidate.

Resolutions:

C12 EXECUTE ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT (APALACHIN)

C13 EXECUTE ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT (NICHOLS)

C14 EXECUTE ADDEMDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT (SPENCER)

C15 EXECUTE ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT (RICHFORD)