

# CIMARRON HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



2025 ANNUAL REVIEW





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## **Mission**

The **MISSION** of the Cimarron Hills Fire Department is to honorably serve our community by providing professional and aggressive fire and emergency medical services.

## **Vision**

The **VISION** of the Cimarron Hills Fire Department is to lead by example through community-focused preparedness and an unparalleled commitment to training excellence.

## **Values**

### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

We will serve every customer with the utmost care, compassion, and commitment. Our community is our top priority, and **THEY** are the reason we do what we do.

### **PEOPLE**

We value people by being an aggressive minded and aggressively trained organization to ensure we are the best at what we do when it matters most.

### **TACTICAL SUPERIORITY**

Quick Water, Quick Search, and Quick Care will be our priority on every fire and EMS call, and will be accomplished with extreme pride and ownership.

## **Slogan**

**“A Community Centered Family Department”**



## **Introduction**

The men and women who professionally serve the residents and visitors of the Cimarron Hills Fire Protection District are proud to present our 2025 Annual Review. The purpose of this document is to outline annual accomplishments, awards, statistics, and other pertinent information. Cimarron Hills Fire Department is an exceptional fire and emergency services organization with much to be proud of and celebrate.

## **Board of Directors**

Erika Gass – President

Mark Gass – Vice President

Paul Graham – Treasurer

Alissa McCartney – Secretary

Britt Kruse – Director

## **Management Staff**

Andrew York – Fire Chief

Thomas Joyce – Division Chief of Fire & Life Safety

Matthew Gortner – Division Chief of Operations

Virpi Mattson – Chief of Staff

Nikki Frailey – Executive Assistant

Heath Bichel – Financial Planning Assistant

## **Acknowledgement**

We must take this time to acknowledge our amazing, caring, professional, and dedicated line staff. The men and women of our line staff are the best firefighters and emergency medical personnel you will find. They lay their lives on the line daily for our community, knowing full well they may be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice. This organization and community would not be what it is today without the efforts of these tremendous people.

The CHFD staff would like to acknowledge our dedicated Board of Directors. These elected officials care deeply about their community and ensure our district continues to set the standard for fire districts throughout El Paso County. Thank you for your guidance and commitment to public service.



## Message from the Fire Chief

As the CHFD Fire Chief, it is my pleasure to present the 2025 Annual Review. 2025 flew by in a flash, and it was a very fast-paced and productive year for CHFD. The last six years for our organization have been fast moving, amazing, and extremely progressive. We have made great strides, and we are looking forward to our next year. The accomplishments presented in this review are a direct reflection of our organization's commitment to excellence. We will continually ensure we are doing the right things for the right reasons, while providing top-notch emergency services to our community.

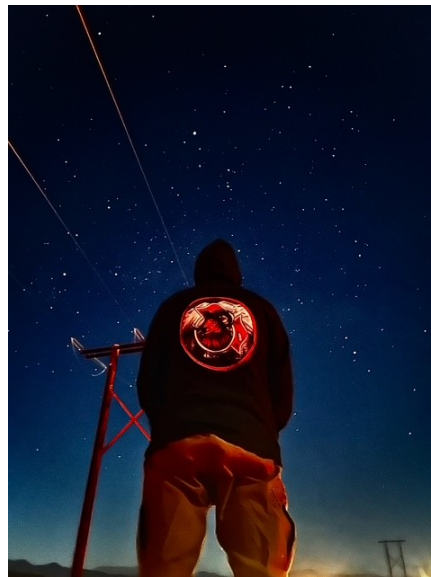
2025 was another great year with many accomplishments:

- The passage of Ballot Issue 6A providing our fire district with a 1% sales tax. This is a tremendous milestone for our organization and community. We cannot thank our citizens enough for their trust and support.
- We have begun the renovation/construction project at 1015 Valley Street. This building will serve as our Station 2 and our Headquarters. The project is anticipated to be completed in Summer 2026.

2026 is off to a great start. I want to thank our firefighters for their tireless efforts, dedication to duty, and commitment to our community. I am impressed daily, and I look forward to serving alongside our wonderful personnel for many years. I want to thank our Board of Directors for their support, service, and unwavering commitment to bettering the lives and workplace of our greatest asset, our People.

Thank you,

Andrew York  
Fire Chief





## 2025 Accomplishments

The accomplishments listed below offer a glimpse of what we completed in 2025, reflective of our dedication to excellence:

### Administration and Budget

1. Sales Tax with ballot issue 6A. These funds will help address \$12 million in capital needs over the next 5 years, including the creation of an additional 15 positions which will help improve response times and the services we provide to our community.
2. Continued legislative efforts to protect special districts.
3. Two new directors were elected to the district Board.

### Apparatus

1. Purchased reserve ambulance 1382, which is serving as frontline until the new 1381 arrives in Spring 2026.
2. Finalized specifications and processed orders for a new Type 3 Engine and custom ambulance for delivery in 2026.
3. Placed a new Tahoe in service for the EMS Supervisor.

### Community

1. 4 sets of body armor were donated by Shield 616
2. Instructed CPR classes to community members
3. Presented a 911 Hero Award to an 11-year-old for helping save his mother's life
4. Partnered with El Paso County Sheriff's Office for the Blue Envelope Program



### Facilities

1. Finalized the design and bid process for Station 2
2. Started construction of Station 2

### Fire and Life Safety

1. Conducted 68 plan reviews
2. Conducted 33 facility final inspections
3. Conducted 31 business fire inspections
4. Conducted 26 facility fire drills
5. 140+ hours of community events with over 25,000 people contacted
6. Streamlined inspections and plan review processes
7. Updated fee schedule



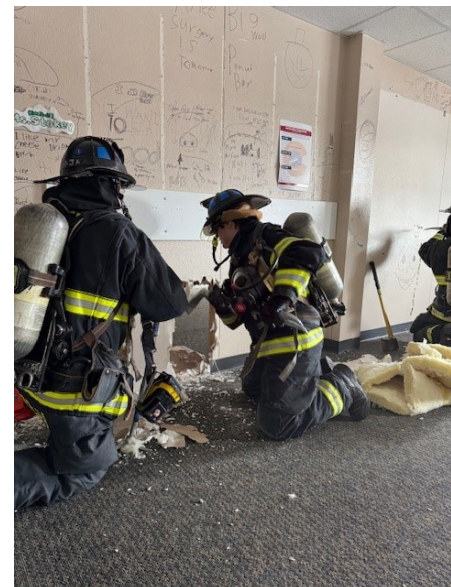


## Hiring

1. Hired new Executive Assistant Nikki Frailey

## Training

1. Personnel certifications:
  - a. Firefighter 1: 2 personnel
  - b. Firefighter 2: 1 person
  - c. HazMat Ops: 3 personnel
  - d. Driver Pumper: 1 person
  - e. Driver Aerial: 2 personnel
  - f. Fire Officer 2: 1 person
  - g. Fire Inspector 1: 1 person
  - h. Fire Inspector 2: 1 person
  - i. Fire Instructor 2: 1 person
  - j. EMT Basic: 1 person
  - k. Qualified Relief Officer: 2 personnel
  - l. Qualified Relief Driver: 2 personnel
2. Attended the following wildland classes:
  - a. L-180
  - b. L-280
  - c. S-131
  - d. S-200
  - e. S-211
  - f. S-219
  - g. S-230
  - h. S-231
  - i. S-270
  - j. S-290
3. Conferences Attended:
  - a. EMS World
  - b. EMS Conference in Keystone, CO
  - c. Fire Rescue International
  - d. Colorado State Fire Chiefs Conference
  - e. Special Districts Association Conference
  - f. Science to Station
4. Additional Trainings:
  - a. Fire Department Training Network
  - b. Chief Officer Training Course
  - c. Executive Fire Officer
  - d. Extrication Chop Shop
  - e. Certified Peer Supporter
  - f. Car Seat Technician
5. Wildland Qualifications:
  - a. Qualified 1 to Taskforce Leader





- b. Qualified 2 to Engine Boss
6. Other:
  - a. Chief York was redesignated as Chief Fire Officer (CFO) through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE)
  - b. Chief York completed the distinguished Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program through the National Fire Academy.
  - c. Through coordination and partnership with our general contractor for the Valley Street project, CHFD was able to conduct training in the building before and during the demo process. This training included unannounced structure fire drills for our personnel, search training, and training on cutting garage doors. We cannot overstate the value in this opportunity and the confidence gained by our personnel to conduct quality training drills.
  - d. In partnership with Horizon Middle School and School District 49, CHFD was able to conduct valuable training in a building slated for demolition. CHFD conducted hoseline, search, and vertical ventilation training. Firefighters gained valuable experience conducting wall breaches for downed firefighter drills and firefighter rescue scenarios. CHFD was able to extend training invitations to Falcon Fire Department and Fort Carson Fire Department to participate in this great training opportunity.

### Wildland Deployments

1. Colorado – 70 days
2. California – 157 days
3. Texas – 32 days
4. Minnesota – 7 days
5. TOTAL: 266 days





## 2025 Incident Statistics

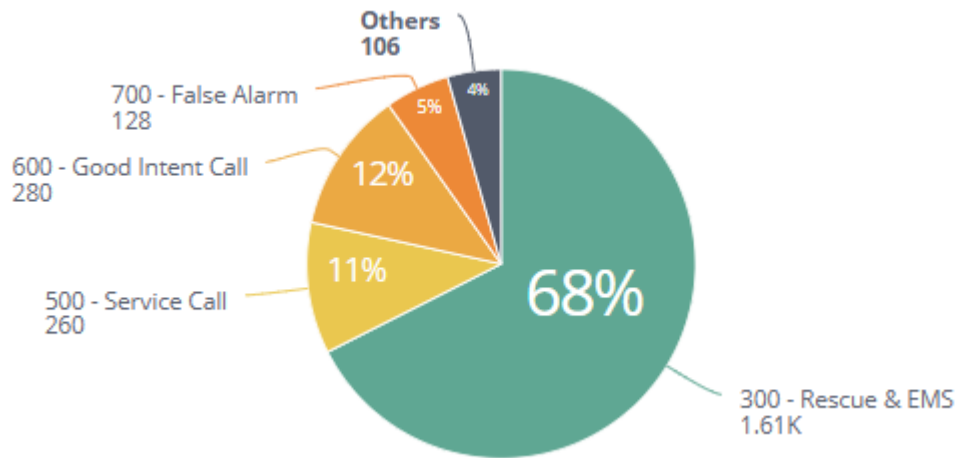
2025 was a record-breaking year in the history of Cimarron Hills FPD with regards to incident volume. The below statistics provide an overview of 2025 incident responses.

### TOTAL INCIDENTS

**2385**

- 1611 EMS
- 774 Fire/Other

### INCIDENT TYPE



### INCIDENTS BY SHIFT

SHIFT	# INCIDENTS
A-Shift	793
B-Shift	806
C-Shift	786

**TOTAL: 2385**

### RESPONSE TIME

6:17 – The average response time is under 7 minutes for all incidents located within Cimarron Hills boundaries. This is the amount of time between the first unit dispatched to a call and the first CHFD unit arriving at the incident.

### MUTUAL AID

CHFD provided aid to other agencies on 220 incidents.

CHFD received aid from other agencies on 401 incidents.



### HISTORICAL INCIDENT DATA

TOTAL INCIDENTS	
YEAR	# INCIDENTS
2025	2385
2024	2182
2023	2206
2022	2326
2021	2171

EMS INCIDENTS	
YEAR	# INCIDENTS
2025	1611
2024	1542
2023	1434
2022	1539
2021	1413

Ambulance Transports	
YEAR	# INCIDENTS
2025	800
2024	772
2023	712
2022	438* 816**
2021	865*

\*AMR only (no mutual aid)  
 \*\*Includes AMR and CHFD

INCIDENTS PER MONTH BY YEAR						
MONTH	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	Average
January	210	178	198	217	150	191
February	180	172	155	198	156	172
March	224	192	147	183	167	183
April	165	197	181	178	186	181
May	200	185	162	198	184	186
June	193	178	179	189	184	185
July	201	192	186	189	187	191
August	188	158	201	209	184	188
September	218	191	202	198	186	199
October	229	191	211	161	207	200
November	177	161	204	199	181	184
December	200	188	180	207	199	195
<b>Average</b>	199	182	184	194	181	188
<b>TOTAL</b>	2385	2183	2206	2326	2171	2254





## 2026 and Beyond

We are a forward-thinking and progressive fire department. We are looking to the future through a constant evaluation of goals and priorities.

- 2026 Goals and Priorities
  - Implementation of 6A Sales Tax Initiatives
  - New Ambulance arriving Spring 2026
  - New Type 3 Wildland Engine arriving Spring 2026
  - Complete construction and occupy Station 2 / Headquarters
  - Sell Tuskegee Place properties and building
  - Finalize specification process on next Engine to replace 2004 Engine 1311
  - Update Strategic Plan, Community Risk Assessment, and Standards of Cover
  - Program and department administration improvements
  
- 2027-2029
  - Begin building specifications and purchase Type 6 Engine replacement
  - Begin building specifications and purchase Ladder 1331 replacement

## 2026 Budget

The information below consists of only highlights. The entire budget may be provided upon request. CHFD is excited to have our 2026 Budget approved by the Board of Directors. We are working to accomplish a lot in 2026 and are making some great improvements to district apparatus, facilities, and services.

### 2026 BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

As the Fire Chief, it is my pleasure to present the 2026 budget to our community. This budget reflects several months of careful planning and an in-depth analysis of how we do business. Our goal is to create a transparent, fiscally responsible, and goal-oriented budget. We have done this with our 2026 budget. There is no fluff and most assuredly no hidden agenda. The goal is, and always will be, to treat the district's money better than we would treat our own. My goal is to ensure we are doing the right things for the right reasons, and do this while providing top-notch emergency services to our community. This is how we plan and conduct ourselves in all areas of organizational planning.

2025 was another busy year for your fire district. We did make a few significant purchases and investments in what it takes to provide high quality fire and EMS service. The primary focus has been the design, bidding process, and demo/construction for our Station 2 / HQ project at 1015 Valley Street. We are excited to see this project get off the ground, and it will be a phenomenal facility to serve the Cimarron Hills community for many years. We purchased Ambulance 1382, a refurbished apparatus with a new chassis and a refurbished patient compartment. It is currently serving as the primary ambulance. A new command vehicle for the EMS Supervisor was placed in service, supplementing advanced life support response and supervision to our already great service. We added new technology to our ambulance service with the purchase of a power load cot and loading system. This makes patient transport safer for the citizens and reduces lifting injuries for department personnel.



We continued our nationally deployable wildland program, sending resources to fires and assignments in Colorado, Texas, California, and Minnesota. The program continues to greatly contribute to the professional development of our personnel and has given them opportunities to gain valuable experience seeing different fuel types, fire conditions, and command systems they would otherwise not receive.

We are looking forward to another great year in 2026. We are excited to take delivery of our new custom-built ambulance in mid-2026. We will take delivery of a new Type-3 wildland engine in late Spring 2026. In 2026, we are looking at quite a few capital projects including EMS equipment, public education materials, Station 1 kitchen remodel, laptops for administrative staff, radio replacement, a new command vehicle to accommodate our new battalion chief positions, trailers for equipment, and a motor replacement for our ladder truck.

Our most significant accomplishment in 2025, and what is changing the landscape for our organization in 2026, was the passage of the 1% sales tax by the citizens on the November 2025 ballot. Our organization cannot thank the community enough for their support, trust, and continued faith in our staff. This sales tax will provide the necessary funding to address significant capital needs and hire the additional staff necessary to provide the fast responses times our community deserves in 2026 and beyond. We are humbled by this support, and we will work daily to prove our citizens made the right decision and a sound financial investment.

#### 2026 BUDGET DETAILS

- Projected Beginning Balance: \$5,560,368 (includes all checking and savings accounts)
- Total Revenue: \$9,289,726 (includes projected revenue from the wildland deployment and ambulance transport)
- Capital Improvements: \$2,403,000
  - Lease Purchase Payment for Valley Street and Renovations – \$480,000
  - Architect/Engineers/Plans/Permits for Valley Street – \$100,000
  - Station 1 Kitchen Remodel – \$119,000
  - Thermal Imager – \$10,000
  - Digital Fire Extinguisher Trainer – \$45,000
  - Laptops and Copiers – \$55,000
  - Radio Replacement – \$54,000
  - New Ambulance and Equipment – \$450,000
  - Equipment and Public Education Trailers – \$15,000
  - ATV with Plow for Station 2 – \$15,000
  - Motor Replacement for Ladder 1331 – \$65,000
  - Command Vehicle for Battalion Chiefs – \$130,000
  - Structural Firefighter Gear – \$100,000
  - Type Wildland Engine – \$675,000
  - Wildland PPE and Equipment – \$25,000
  - Cardiac Monitor and EMS Equipment – \$50,000
- Projected Ending Balance: \$3,662,387



Line #	Line Item/Category	2024 Audited	2025 Projected	2026 Approved
1	<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	4,199,550	5,378,470	5,560,368
	<b>3 Month O&amp;M Reserve &amp; Tabor Included in Beginning Balance</b>			
	<b>Operating Revenue</b>			
2	Fees	19,048	19,997	10,000
3	Donations	634	1,161	-
4	Reimbursements	1,239	7,040	-
5	Grants	5,176	-	-
6	Wildland Disaster Billing	1,450,598	900,000	900,000
7	Ambulance Billing	762,605	1,098,092	586,000
8	<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>2,239,300</b>	<b>2,026,290</b>	<b>\$ 1,496,000</b>
	<b>Non-Operating Revenue</b>			
9	Assessed Valuation	168,329,110	245,164,490	286,528,810
10	Mil Levy	16,200	16,621	17,000
	Operations General Fund (94%)	4,262,434	3,843,216	4,476,652
	Capital Fund (6%)	272,070	245,312	285,744
11	Property Taxes	4,534,504	4,088,527	4,762,395
12	Special Ownership Taxes	376,593	359,825	235,000
13	Sales Tax	N/A	N/A	2,640,331
14	Deposit Interest	245,484	204,874	156,000
15	Insurance Recovery	-	-	-
16	<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>5,156,581</b>	<b>\$ 4,653,226</b>	<b>\$ 7,793,726</b>
17	<b>TOTAL OPERATING &amp; NON-OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>7,395,881</b>	<b>6,679,516</b>	<b>\$ 9,289,726</b>
18	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 11,595,431</b>	<b>\$ 12,057,986</b>	<b>\$ 14,850,094</b>
	<b>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>			
	<b>Administrative</b>			
19	Audit & Consulting	15,400	18,080	18,000
20	Awards, Incentives & Events	11,466	15,300	20,900
21	Bank Service Charges	355	-	-
22	Payroll Service Charges	6,356	7,760	9,950
23	Tax Processing Fees (old name County Treasurers Fees)	68,018	61,328	158,567
24	Data Automation Support	25,027	39,289	48,218
25	Election	9,099	45,000	13,000
26	Legal Fees & Notices	20,017	20,000	30,000
27	Office Supplies and Equipment	8,278	8,000	11,796
		-	-	-
28	Tax Refunds	18,680	5,000	20,000
29	<b>Total Administrative</b>	<b>\$ 182,696</b>	<b>\$ 219,757</b>	<b>\$ 330,431</b>
	<b>Operations</b>			
30	Utilities	23,691	28,000	39,000
31	Fire Rescue Operations	9,609	7,500	11,200
32	Wildland Fire Operations	225,053	200,000	311,500
33	Insurance	27,365	38,000	41,600
34	EMS/Medical Operations	45,860	70,000	91,500
35	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Operations	20,033	32,300	41,800
36	Structures, Roads and Grounds Operations	14,387	13,000	23,000
37	Communication Operations	40,686	42,518	57,638
38	Vehicle & Apparatus Fuel	23,292	28,000	40,000
39	Salary	3,407,271	3,704,554	5,645,847
40	Benefits	832,089	894,268	1,488,469
41	Unemployment Insurance	-	-	250
42	Workers Compensation Insurance	72,177	107,000	207,173
43	Health and Wellness Program	27,539	28,500	76,550
44	Director Stipend	8,900	6,600	12,000
45	Uniforms	15,052	28,250	82,050
46	<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$ 4,793,004</b>	<b>\$ 5,228,490</b>	<b>\$ 8,169,576</b>



Maintenance				
47	Structures, Roads & Grounds Maintenance	11,240	23,000	28,900
48	Vehicle & Apparatus Maintenance	81,982	86,300	96,300
		-	-	-
49	<b>Total Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 93,222</b>	<b>\$ 109,300</b>	<b>\$ 125,200</b>
Training & Association				
50	Training	80,424	81,000	120,500
51	Recruiting, Testing, and Hiring	320	1,500	5,440
52	Association/Subscription Services, Fees, and Dues	3,733	3,500	4,310
		-	-	-
53	<b>Total Training &amp; Association</b>	<b>\$ 84,477</b>	<b>\$ 86,000</b>	<b>\$ 130,250</b>
Prevention, Safety & Community Services				
54	Plans, Permits & Code Compliance Inspections	-	-	250
55	Fire Investigations	-	-	1,000
56	Fire Prevention Education	5,187	5,553	10,500
57	Community Outreach	7,491	9,000	17,500
58	<b>Total Fire Prevention &amp; Community Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 12,678</b>	<b>\$ 14,553</b>	<b>\$ 29,250</b>
59	<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$ 5,166,077</b>	<b>\$ 5,658,100</b>	<b>\$ 8,784,707</b>
60	<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Capital Purchases				
61	Structures, Roads & Grounds	755,082	350,000	714,000
62	General Operations	-	10,000	55,000
63	Administrative Operations	-	-	55,000
64	Communications Operations	5,817	-	54,000
65	Vehicles & Apparatus	13,570	324,518	675,000
66	Personal Protective Equipment	30,206	-	100,000
67	Wildland/Disaster Operations	190,899	25,000	700,000
68	EMS Operations	8,700	130,000	50,000
69	<b>Total Capital Outlay</b>	<b>\$ 1,004,274</b>	<b>\$ 839,518</b>	<b>\$ 2,403,000</b>
70	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES/EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 6,170,351</b>	<b>\$ 6,497,618</b>	<b>\$ 11,187,707</b>
71	<b>ENDING FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 5,378,470</b>	<b>\$ 5,560,368</b>	<b>\$ 3,662,387</b>
	<b>3-Month O&amp;M Reserve (Included in Beginning Balance)</b>	<b>682,187</b>	<b>1,270,728</b>	<b>2,196,177</b>
	<b>TABOR Reserves (Included in Beginning Balance)</b>	<b>98,062</b>	<b>144,755</b>	<b>335,631</b>

**Blue Font** New or Renamed Line for FY 2026

