



**2024 ANNUAL REPORT**



# **2024 Annual Report**

## **Table of Contents**

- ◆ **Page 5- Message from the Chief**
- ◆ **Page 6—Mission and Vision Statements; Core Values**
- ◆ **Page 7- Personnel, Retirements**
- ◆ **Page 8- Promotions and Hiring**
- ◆ **Page 11- Firefighter of the Year**
- ◆ **Page 13- CFAI Accreditation**
- ◆ **Page 16—Legislative Grant**
- ◆ **Page 17- Revenue Report**
- ◆ **Page 18- Inspections**
- ◆ **Page 19- Fire Company Inspections and Pre-Plans**
- ◆ **Page 20- Hydrants**
- ◆ **Page 21- Fleet Operations**
- ◆ **Page 22- Equipment Upgrades**
- ◆ **Page 23- Emergency Response**
- ◆ **Page 24- Health and Wellness**
- ◆ **Page 27- Training**
- ◆ **Page 31- Certifications**
- ◆ **Page 36- Policies and Procedures**
- ◆ **Page 37- Facilities**
- ◆ **Page 40- Community Outreach**
- ◆ **Page 41- Car Seat Safety Program**
- ◆ **Page 42- Community CPR Course**
- ◆ **Page 43- Open House**
- ◆ **Page 45- Girls on Fire Youth Camp**
- ◆ **Page 46 - Partnering with our Schools**
- ◆ **Page 47- Senior Class**
- ◆ **Page 48- Collector Cards**



**2024 Grand Marshal**  
Bloomfield, New Jersey



## Message from the Chief

The Bloomfield Fire Department remains unwavering in our mission to protect and serve the community. Every day, our dedicated team showcases unparalleled professionalism and bravery, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.

We are proud to present the 2024 Annual Report, a comprehensive overview of our relentless efforts to enhance our capabilities through rigorous training, equipment, apparatus and facilities. This year, we made significant strides, highlighted by our achievement of CFAI Accreditation status. This prestigious recognition underscores our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement.

In 2024, our department's members have gone above and beyond, reaching new heights of service and dedication. Their hard work and determination have resulted in numerous accomplishments that fortify our ability to address the ever-evolving challenges we face.

For over 141 years, the Bloomfield Fire Department has epitomized "service above self." We are deeply grateful for the community's trust and support, which drives us to maintain our high standards and pursue ongoing improvement.

As we look back on this year's achievements, we remain focused on our future goals and our unwavering dedication to the community. Your support and partnership are crucial as we continue our mission with pride and determination.

Thank you for taking the time to review our 2024 Annual Report. Together, we can ensure the safety and well-being of the Township of Bloomfield.

Sincerely,

*Louis Venezia*

Louis Venezia; Fire Chief



## **Mission Statement**

The Bloomfield Fire Department exists to provide the highest level of public safety and emergency services to the community that we serve. Our members are committed to excellence, treating everyone with respect, regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, lifestyle, national origin, or economic status.

## **Vision Statement**

The vision of the Bloomfield Fire Department is to be a leading and trusted fire department committed to serving our community with unwavering dedication, expertise, and compassionate care.

We envision a future where all stakeholders feel safe and secure, where fire prevention, fire safety education and response are paramount and where our department is recognized for professionalism, innovation, and commitment to saving lives and property.

## **Core Values**

The core values of the Bloomfield Fire Department establish a foundation of expectations for its members. Members of the Bloomfield Fire Department react instantly, unselfishly, compassionately and professionally in mitigating a wide array of emergency calls.

**Integrity-** Maintain the highest level of ethical standards. Instill community trust by demonstrating honesty and fairness in all our actions and decisions.

**Citizenship-** We advocate collaborative relationships with other governmental agencies. We maintain community through professional behaviors and open communication.

**Respect-** We honor the rights, beliefs, and differences of all our members and those within the community we serve. We value diversity in our department and within the township.

**Teamwork-** A team of dedicated and hard-working individuals that believe in professional development and working together toward common goals in public service.

## **Personnel**

The Bloomfield Fire Department comprises a dedicated team of 78 career firefighters, supported by 10 volunteer firefighters and eight civilian administrative employees. Our career personnel are divided into two main functions: Operations and Administration.

The Operations team is structured into four shifts, each with up to 19 members, ensuring 24/7 coverage and rapid response to emergencies. The Administrative team includes three uniformed members and eight civilians, working Monday through Friday during regular business hours. This team is responsible for fire prevention, inspections, fire cause investigations, and logistics functions. Additionally, our Department is bolstered by the on-call Volunteers, who operate within the Rescue Company. These dedicated volunteers are paged out as needed for emergency incidents and provide vital support during planned community events.



## **Retirements**

This year, the Bloomfield Fire Department bids farewell to four members of our Department, whose dedication and service have left a mark on the community. We honor their commitment and celebrate their distinguished careers. We extend our gratitude to them and for their remarkable contributions to the Bloomfield Fire Department. Their service and dedication have greatly strengthened our team. We wish them all the best in their well-deserved retirements and thank them for service.

Captain Frank Durantino

Captain Anthony Minervino

Captain Martin Kaczmarczyk

Firefighter Thomas Laiacona

## Promotions and Hiring

In 2024, the Bloomfield Fire Department proudly held two promotional ceremonies, marking significant milestones in our team's growth and development. These promotions and new hires will enable us to continue striving for excellence and upholding our core values.

On February 12, we celebrated the promotion of three dedicated members:

Battalion Chief David Parsons

Battalion Chief Steven Zurlo

Ronald Fusaro to Fire Official

Their leadership and commitment have been instrumental in the department's success, and these promotions reflect their unwavering dedication and exemplary service.

On December 2, we recognized the advancement of four outstanding firefighters to the rank of Captain:

Captain Kevin Hilaire

Captain Eric Stone

Captain Derek Hernandez

Captain Michael Elias

These individuals have demonstrated exceptional skills, leadership, and dedication to the department and the community. Their promotions are a testament to their hard work and the trust placed in them by their peers and superiors.



Additionally, we welcomed five new firefighters to our team in 2024:

Addison Valencia

Charles Pierce

Nicholas Conforti

Kevin Negrón

John Algieri

These new hires bring fresh energy, perspectives, and a strong commitment to serving and protecting the residents of Bloomfield. We are excited to see them grow and thrive in their new roles. The dedication and achievements of our promoted members and new hires exemplify the values and mission of the Bloomfield Fire Department. We look forward to their continued contributions and leadership as we move forward together.





## Firefighter of the Year



The Firefighter of the Year award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional performance across key areas, including valor, customer service, dedication to duty, loyalty, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence. Deputy Chief Joseph Coletta has exemplified all these qualities, making him an invaluable asset to our department.

Throughout his career, Deputy Chief Coletta has displayed unwavering dedication, consistently embodying the values we hold in the highest regard. His exceptional work ethic and relentless drive make him a role model for all members of the department. What truly sets him apart is his ability to lead by example, inspiring and uplifting his colleagues through his actions.

Deputy Chief Coletta consistently takes on additional responsibilities, ensuring their successful completion with remarkable efficiency. His dedication to the well-being of the department is evident in his willingness to assist with all duties. His commitment to continuous improvement shines through in every shift, as he prioritizes providing his crews with proper training and education, fostering the development of future leaders. His focus on enhancing departmental processes reflects his dedication to operational excellence, contributing to a safer workplace and benefiting our community as a whole.

Among Deputy Chief Coletta's many contributions are organizing the Bloomfield High School drunk driving simulation, leading the fire department's involvement in OEM active shooter drills at Bloomfield College, coordinating the Fire Prevention Week open house, and serving as the master of ceremonies for numerous fire department promotional and award ceremonies.

The Bloomfield Fire Department extends its deepest gratitude to Deputy Chief Joseph Coletta for his unparalleled commitment, dedication, and outstanding contributions to our department and the community.

I would like this time to also recognize the recipients of prior years:

Captain Frank Durantino- 2023

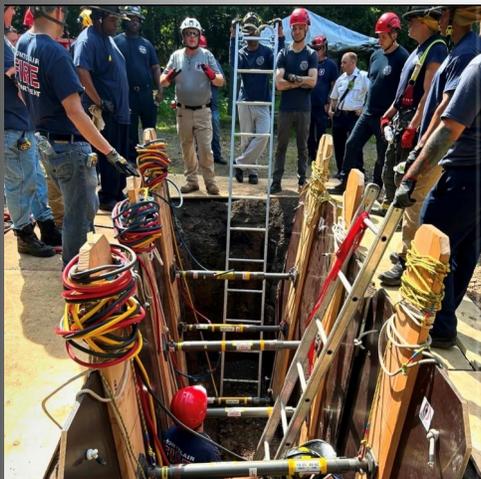
Captain Robert Griffin- 2022

Captain Jeffrey Roberts -2021

Firefighter Brian Griffin- 2020

Captain Richard Rannou- 2019

Firefighter Gennaro Ilaria-2018



## **CFAI Accreditation**

In August 2024, the Bloomfield Fire Department proudly achieved accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). This prestigious recognition is a testament to the years of diligent work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence demonstrated by our entire team.

Attaining CFAI accreditation involved a rigorous evaluation process that required comprehensive self-assessment, meticulous documentation, and continuous improvement in all aspects of our operations. This accomplishment reflects our commitment to providing the highest standards of fire and emergency services to our community.

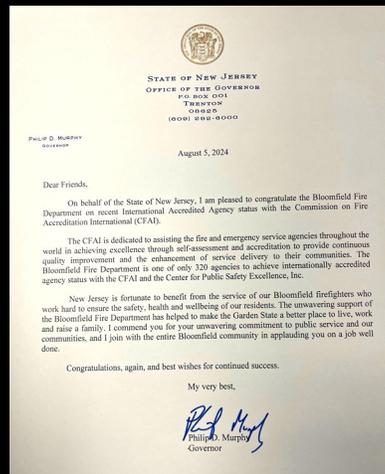
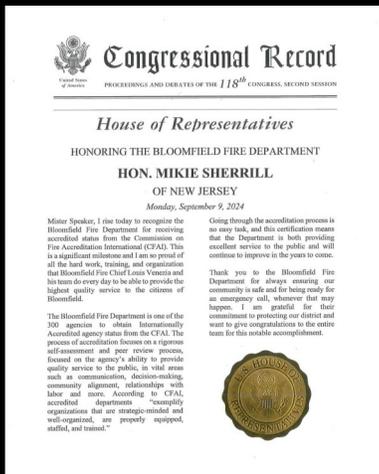
We extend our deepest gratitude to the accreditation committee members for their invaluable contributions and support throughout this process. Special thanks go to Accreditation Manager Captain Carl Mercado, whose leadership and dedication were instrumental in achieving this milestone.

Since receiving this accreditation, the Bloomfield Fire Department has garnered accolades from numerous elected officials, including State Assemblywoman Carmen Morales, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, and U.S. Senator George Hemly. These commendations underscore the importance of our efforts and the positive impact of our work on the safety and well-being of our community.

We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and remain dedicated to maintaining and exceeding these standards as we continue to serve the residents of Bloomfield with integrity, professionalism, and excellence.



**State, County and Township level officials recognized and celebrated the Department's achievement of becoming accredited.**



# New Jersey General Assembly



STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

## ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION By Assemblyman VENEZIA and Assemblywoman MORALES

WHEREAS, The Bloomfield Fire Department, highly esteemed in the Garden State, has distinguished itself by earning the Accredited Agency Award from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International; and,

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey is pleased to honor the Bloomfield Fire Department upon this auspicious occasion and commend its members' steadfast determination and heroic efforts, which have secured this prestigious accolade; and,

WHEREAS, Exhibiting a remarkable dedication to excellence, the Bloomfield Fire Department met the criteria set forth by the CFA's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program and received the sought-after designation on August 4, 2024, becoming only the second department in New Jersey and one of only three hundred twenty agencies throughout the United States and Canada to achieve this recognition; and,

WHEREAS, The selfless men and women of the Bloomfield Fire Department, under the expert guidance of Fire Chief Leo Venezia, have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to their community, and throughout many years, they have always remained ready to save lives, lessen injuries, ease pain, and provide comfort without regard to the hour, weather, or personal inconvenience; and,

WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting for this House to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge the Bloomfield Fire Department's outstanding accomplishments and to affirm its importance to the people of Essex County and the State; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this House hereby salutes the Bloomfield Fire Department, pays tribute to its meritorious record of service and leadership, and extends sincere best wishes for its continued success and vigor in all the years to come; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker and attested by the Clerk, be transmitted to Bloomfield Fire Department.



*Chris J. Goughlin*  
Chris J. Goughlin  
Speaker of the General Assembly

Attest:  
*Diana M. Barbery*  
Diana M. Barbery  
Clerk of the General Assembly



BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY, FIRE DEPARTMENT.

LT. G. SEN. GEORGE HELMY  
of New Jersey  
SENATE

C-SPAN2

Recognizing the Bloomfield Fire Department

Mr. President, second, I want to honor the Bloomfield, NJ, Fire Department. Chief Louis Venezia's crew is just 1 of 300 departments in the entire world that has received the accredited status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, which is no small feat. The Bloomfield Fire Department's top-class training, staff,

communication, decision making, community outreach, and public relationships have made this certification possible. They are well deserving of this status, and I am proud to have such a fire department in New Jersey.

I want to thank the department for its tireless efforts to keep their community safe, and it is because of them that the people of Bloomfield can sleep soundly knowing that they are protected in the case of emergency. It is my honor to stand here in this body, in front of my mentor and senior Senator, Mr. Booker, to give these organizations and individuals the recognition they deserve for all their efforts to improve the lives of New Jerseyans. I wish to thank them for their tireless service to our communities and wish them much success in the years ahead.



# Proclamation



## Office of the County Executive

WHEREAS, The BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT was formed in 1983 after a series of devastating fires destroyed homes, threatened the Township's downtown district and endangered lives. It became a full-time department in 1938; and

WHEREAS, The BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT has a legacy of protecting the township and its residents by aggressively fighting fires, responding to emergencies and natural disasters, and promoting safety through education programs and comprehensive property inspections; and

WHEREAS, The BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT became the first fire agency in New Jersey and the first municipal agency in the Northeastern United States to earn International Accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence when it received this distinction in 2009; and

WHEREAS, The BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT reached another milestone on August 5, 2024, when it became just the second department in New Jersey and one of just 320 agencies from around the world to earn Internationally Accredited agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. and the Government of Essex County that the BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT be commended on their commitment to excellence and their legacy of providing exemplary service and duty to Bloomfield.



Presented this 18<sup>th</sup> day  
of October 2024

*Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.*  
JOSEPH N. DIVINCENZO, JR.  
ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE



## Legislative Grant

In 2024, the Bloomfield, Belleville, and Nutley fire departments were awarded a significant budget resolution grant of \$500,000 from the state of New Jersey. This funding will be utilized to enhance our training capabilities and overall readiness.

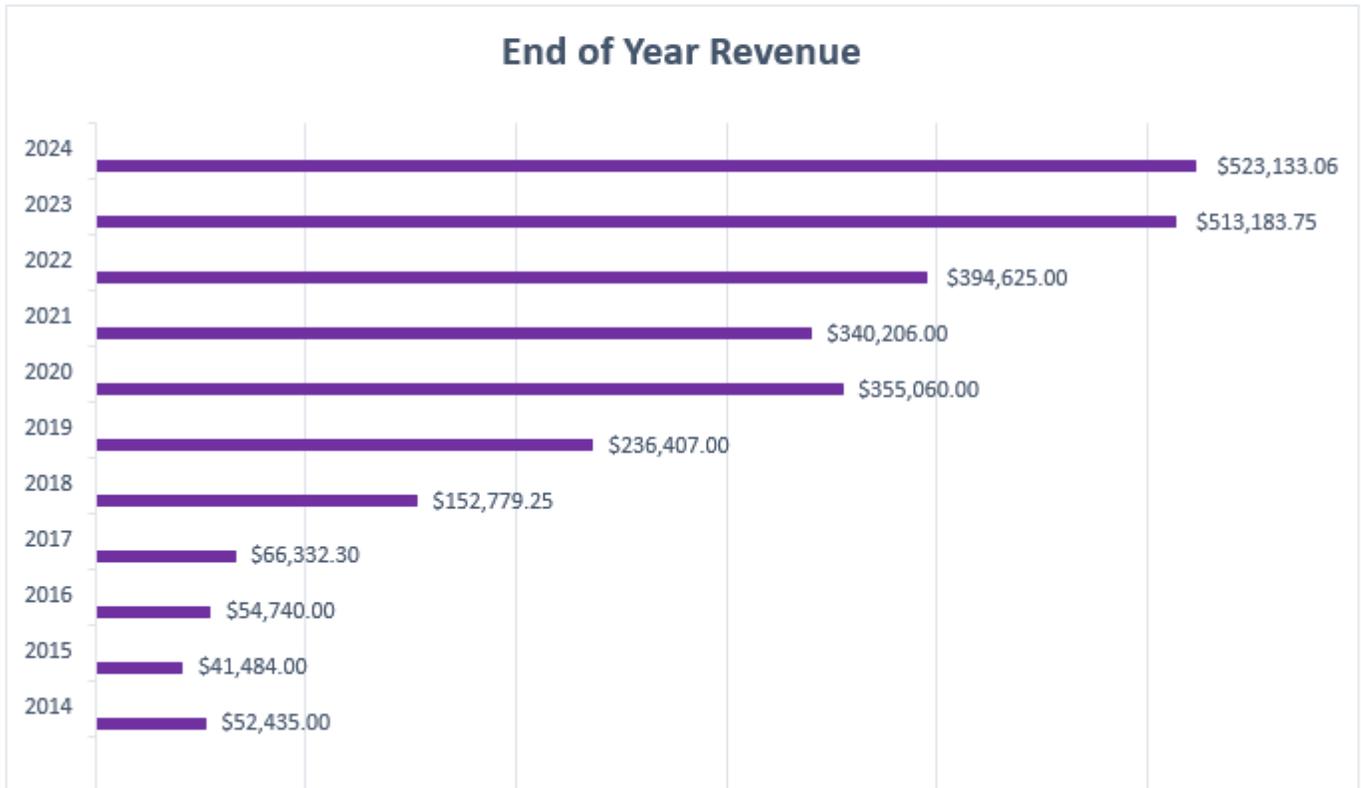
### Allocation of Funds:

A portion of the grant will be dedicated to constructing a fire training tower in Belleville. This facility will provide a realistic training environment where our firefighters can practice essential skills, conduct drills, and simulate various emergency scenarios. The remaining funds will be allocated for additional training and certification classes across the departments. This investment in professional development will ensure that our firefighters remain at the forefront of fire service techniques, safety protocols, and emergency response strategies. This grant not only represents a financial boost but also underscores the commitment of our Assembly representatives supporting the continuous improvement and preparedness of our fire departments. We are grateful for this opportunity to further enhance our capabilities and better serve our communities.



# REVENUE REPORT

## Bloomfield Fire Department Revenue Report



In 2024, our fire department celebrated a remarkable financial milestone, bringing in a record-breaking revenue of \$523,000. This achievement represents a significant increase since 2017, when the average revenue for the department was \$55,000 per year. The substantial growth in revenue year over year to date is attributed to a rigorous operationalization of various types of inspections conducted by our dedicated team. This financial success not only reflects the department's commitment to ensuring safety and compliance within the community but also highlights the effectiveness of our expanded services, operational excellence, and focus on fiscal stewardship.

## Inspections

The Fire Prevention Bureau, led by the Fire Official, oversees most inspections conducted by the Bloomfield Fire Department. In recent years, we have significantly increased both the number and types of inspections to better serve our community and enhance public safety. Currently, the Department is responsible for all Township Transfer of Property Title (TOP) Inspections, Rental Property Registration (RPR) Inspections, Bureau of Housing Inspections, Visual Lead Paint Inspections, Vacant/Foreclosed Property Inspections, and Life Hazard/Non-Life Hazard Inspections.

In 2023, the department expanded our inspections, The State of New Jersey began requiring all rental properties built prior to 1978 to be inspected for lead paint. Bloomfield Fire Department was proactive, training our inspectors to be able to perform visual lead paint inspections for our residents. These inspections ensure the safety of our residents from harmful exposure of lead paint. The department also contracted the expertise of VPR Solutions to inspect and register all vacant and foreclosed properties in the Township. These inspections have ensured that Vacant/Foreclosed properties are maintained and we have a current contact information incase of emergencies.

In 2024, our responsibilities expanded further as we began handling Transfer of Property Title, Visual Lead Paint Inspections, and Rental Property Registrations for the borough of Glen Ridge through a shared services agreement. This collaboration has strengthened our commitment to comprehensive safety and regulatory compliance.

<b>Fire Prevention Inspections</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Bureau of Housing Inspections	642	209	175
Life Hazard Use Inspections	699	799	206
Company Inspections Non -LHU	909	1729	1713
TOP Inspections	436	548	594
RPR Inspections	1216	2580	2785
Lead Paint Inspections	736	613	N/A
Vacant/ Foreclosed Property Ins.	1395	790	N/A
Glen Ridge Shared Service Ins.	118	N/A	N/A

## Fire Company Inspections and Pre-Plans

The Bloomfield Fire Department conducts thorough inspections and pre-plans for all commercial, industrial, school, church, and residential buildings with four or more families. These inspections are crucial for ensuring the safety of occupants and the effective response of emergency personnel.

During these inspections our members ensure compliance with codes, making sure evacuation routes are clear and visibly marked, that fire alarms are properly working, and that sprinkler systems are in ready status.

The pre-plans help our emergency responders manage incidents effectively by identifying site-specific risks, occupancy types, fire protection systems, and available resources. Regular updates to these plans ensure that responders have accurate information, enhancing their ability to protect life and property during emergencies.



## Hydrants

Hydrant flushing is a requirement set by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which mandates that every hydrant in the system must be flushed annually. This process helps remove sediment and rust that can accumulate in the water system pipes over time. Additionally, it ensures that the Fire Department remains compliant with NFPA 291 and that all hydrants are operational for firefighting purposes. Reliable water supply is critical for extinguishing fires, and proper inspection, testing, maintenance, and documentation of the hydrant system are essential for ensuring access to water during emergencies.

As part of the 2024 flushing schedule, we have initiated the important process of flow testing our hydrants, as required by NFPA every five years. This testing is crucial because it allows us to assess how changes in the piping and system can impact the hydrants' water delivery capabilities during emergencies.

This annual process helps us identify necessary repairs in a timely manner. During this year's flushing cycle, we successfully identified several out-of-service and broken or outdated hydrants. As a result, the Township is investing \$400,000 to replace these hydrants. The Engineering Department has secured a contract with Garcia Contracting to repair or replace all broken and obsolete hydrants within the Township.



## Fleet Operations

In 2024, the Bloomfield Fire Department took delivery of two new vehicles: a new E1 custom pumper and a Chevy Tahoe for the tour commander. These additions help modernize our fleet and enhance our capability to serve the needs of our community and our department members effectively. The Bloomfield Fire Department adheres to a comprehensive maintenance schedule, which aligns with industry best practices. This proactive preventive maintenance regimen ensures that every vehicle and apparatus in our fleet operates reliably and efficiently. We are committed to maintaining the readiness and reliability of our equipment to safeguard the safety of the community we serve. Our fleet comprises: seven Engines, two Trucks, one Rescue Vehicle, seven SUVs, and one Boat.

Additionally, we follow and update the department's 15-year apparatus plan in accordance with NFPA standards. A special thank you to Deputy Chief Masiak for originally developing the plan. This plan ensures that our fleet remains up-to-date, functional, and capable of meeting the evolving demands of fire and emergency services. By regularly reviewing and updating this plan, we ensure that our apparatus are replaced and maintained on a schedule that promotes optimal performance and safety. These vehicles are integral to our operations and enable us to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies.



## **Equipment Upgrades**

The Bloomfield Fire Department is dedicated to the health and safety of both our members and the community, which drives our ongoing efforts to maintain and upgrade equipment. These initiatives ensure our team is well-equipped and trained to the highest standards.

- All Department vehicles and apparatus have been upgraded with new dash cams. These cameras help monitor member driving and provide valuable video footage in case of accidents, enhancing safety and transparency.
- Bailout harness kits have been provided for all members' turnout gear. These harnesses allow firefighters to escape out a window if cut off by fire. In December 2024, all members received training on how to effectively use these harnesses.
- The Department is prioritizing flow testing for as many hydrants as possible. To streamline this process, we purchased a new hydrant flow test kit.
- We upgraded the Department's fire suppression equipment by purchasing 900 feet of new hose, allowing us to remove older hoses from frontline service.
- All members of the Department received training in Rope Rescue Operations. We purchased the additional rope rescue supplies to increase our response capabilities.
- With the increasing concern over electrical vehicle fires, which can be particularly challenging to extinguish, we have equipped Truck 1 with a car fire blanket. This is a proven method for effectively handling such incidents.
- Additionally, the Department has purchased four pairs of high-water boots to enhance our dewatering operations.

## Emergency Response



	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Emergency Incidents	3916	3660	3670	4174
Vehicle/ House Lock Outs	402	398	376	458
Natural Gas Emergencies	168	146	153	156
Fires in Structures	16	24	129	130
EMS Assists	726	747	949	554
Motor Vehicle Extrications	19	23	3	5
Motor Vehicle Fires	17	19	21	18
Elevator Rescues	26	42	10	19

In 2024, the Bloomfield Fire Department provided mutual and automatic aid to neighboring communities on 157 occasions. These communities included Belleville, Clifton, East Orange, Glen Ridge, Irvington, Maplewood, Millburn, Montclair, Newark, Nutley, Orange, Paterson, and West Orange. The requests for assistance involved major fires, vehicle fires, and fire station cover assignments while the departments addressed their own fire incidents.

## Health and Wellness

### Cancer Screening

In November of 2024, the Bloomfield Fire Department participated in the NDS NJ Firefighter Cancer Screening program. This program is designed to provide early detection and preventative health screenings for firefighters, helping to identify potential health issues before they become serious. The screenings focus on early detection of various types of cancer, which is crucial for firefighters due to their increased risk of exposure to carcinogens. The Department is grateful of Captain Michael Elias for spearheading this initiative for our members. NDS Wellness provides mobile clinics that come directly to the fire stations, making it convenient for firefighters to get screened without having to travel.

The screenings include a range of medical and diagnostic tests, such as echocardiograms, abdominal ultrasounds, and other relevant tests. All health results are kept confidential between the firefighter and the NDS case management team, ensuring privacy and trust. The program helps firefighters maintain their health and wellness, both on-duty and off-duty. Regular screenings provide peace of mind, knowing that any potential health issues are being monitored and addressed promptly. The program reflects the department's commitment to supporting the health and safety of its members, ensuring they can continue to serve the community effectively.



## **Annual Physicals**

The Bloomfield Fire Department is committed to the health and well-being of its firefighters, in line with NFPA 1500 standards. We promote the use of annual occupational medical evaluations to ensure that all members maintain their health and fitness for duty. All employees are afforded time off from work to participate in their physicals. Alternatively, they can choose to go on their own time and be compensated with four hours of overtime. The physicals provide a full medical evaluation, including bloodwork, cardiovascular stress tests, and screenings. This comprehensive approach helps in early detection and management of potential health issues.

While participation in these evaluations is voluntary, it is strongly encouraged for all members to undergo these physicals at least biannually to ensure their ongoing health and readiness. In 2024, 18 members took advantage of this benefit offered by the department. Their proactive approach to health and wellness not only ensures their personal safety but also contributes to the overall operational readiness of the department. The Bloomfield Fire Department remains dedicated to supporting the health of its firefighters through these essential medical evaluations, ensuring they can continue to serve our community effectively.

## **Fitness**

The Bloomfield Fire Department actively promotes maintaining physical fitness through a holistic and balanced fitness program. This program emphasizes muscle strength training, cardiovascular training, flexibility, and proper nutrition, ensuring that all members are in optimal condition to perform their duties effectively. Our program includes a variety of exercises aimed at building and maintaining muscle strength, essential for the physical demands of firefighting. We encourage regular cardio workouts to enhance cardiovascular health and endurance, which are critical for emergency response. Flexibility exercises are integrated into the program to improve range of motion and reduce the risk of injury.

Proper nutrition is emphasized to support overall health, energy levels, and physical performance. All our firehouses are equipped with an assortment of exercise equipment designed for strength, cardio, and flexibility training. This ensures that our members have access to the necessary tools to maintain their fitness while on shift.

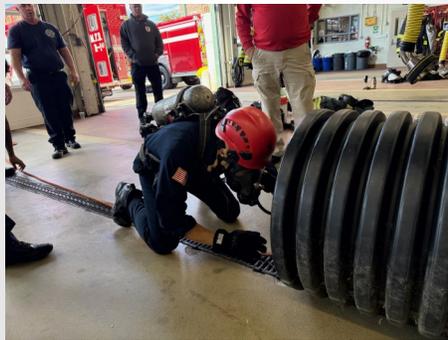
We encourage all members to utilize this equipment during their shifts to stay fit and ready for duty. The department's commitment to physical fitness is part of our broader goal of ensuring the health and well-being of our firefighters, enabling them to serve the community at their best.

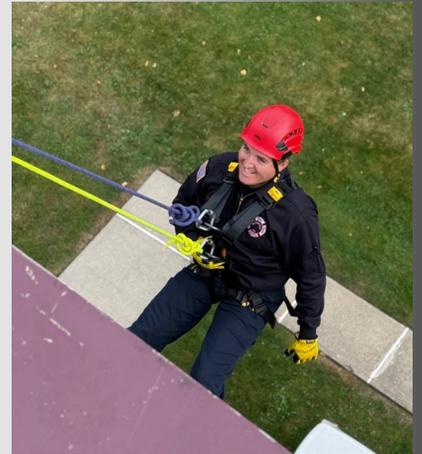


## **Training**

The Bloomfield Fire Department strives to constantly train and educate its members to ensure the safety of the residents as well as themselves. Some of the department trainings that were held and offered to its members in 2024 are:

- Fire Escape Training by Maximum Fire Escapes
- NJ Transit Rail Training by NJ Transit
- Dangers of Smoke , Fire and Gasses by Captain Adam Brenner
- Live Burn Drills at Union Fire Academy
- Trench Rescue Awareness
- Confined Space Rescue Awareness
- Elevator Rescue Training
- Flawed Situational Awareness by Ret. Chief Dr. Richard Gassaway
- Rope Rescue Operations by All Hands Training
- Firefighter Down CPR Course by Battalion 1 Consultants
- Leadership Management Training by Ret. Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose
- Bail Out System Training by Fireground Technologies







## **Certifications**

In 2024, many members of the Bloomfield Fire Department earned new certifications, demonstrating their commitment to professional development and excellence. These certifications enhance our team's expertise and readiness, ensuring we continue to provide the highest standards of service to our community. Our ongoing investment in training and certification reflects our dedication to maintaining a highly skilled and capable team, ready to meet any challenge and safeguard the well-being of our members and the Bloomfield community.

### **Fire Official**

Firefighter Pete Carrara  
Firefighter Daniel Treacy  
Firefighter William Todaro

### **Incident Safety Officer**

Captain Patrick Fazzini  
Captain Derek Hernandez  
Captain Michael Elias,  
Firefighter Michael Searls  
Firefighter Stephanie Orgueria-Aponte

### **Fire Officer 1**

Captain Michael Elias

### **Fire Inspector**

Firefighter Daniel Treacy

### **Hotel and Multiple Housing Inspector**

Firefighter Pete Carrara  
Firefighter William Todaro

### **Swiftwater Rescue Operations**

Firefighter Charles Pierce  
Firefighter Nicholas Conforti

### **Trench Rescue Technician**

Captain Richard Rannou  
Captain Joseph Critchley  
Firefighter Oscar Morales  
Firefighter Robert Froysland  
Firefighter Ronald Briceno  
Firefighter Erick Stone  
Firefighter Michael Volpe

### **Confined Space Rescue Technician**

Firefighter Michael Elias  
Firefighter Oscar Morales  
Firefighter Leo Medrano

### **Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)/ Safety and Survival**

Firefighter Erik Arquiza  
Firefighter Charles Pierce  
Firefighter Nicholas Conforti

### **AHA Basic Life Support Instructor**

Firefighter Claudia Astudillo

### **AHA Heart Saver Instructor**

Deputy Chief Brian McDade  
Firefighter Albin Okuniewicz







## **Policies and Procedures**

In August 2022, the Department launched a new Policy and Procedure platform called KMS through Lexipol. Every policy and procedure was reviewed and updated to align with the Department's standards. By 2024, the system was fully implemented, with all members having reviewed and acknowledged all released department policies and procedures.

Lexipol continually ensures that our policies and procedures comply with state and national laws and standards. The system also includes Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs), which are released each month. These DTBs are carefully crafted to align with current events, recent court decisions, and valuable input from the department. This dynamic approach to training is designed to keep our members well-informed, enabling them to understand and effectively apply our policies in their daily responsibilities. By consistently providing this level of training, we enhance safety measures, reduce risks, and improve the quality of services we offer to our community.

In June 2024, Lexipol recognized the Department with Silver Level Recognition for excellence in policy management. The Lexipol Connect Recognition Program evaluates agencies based on five metrics: Policy Updates Pending, Policies Issued, Policies Acknowledged, Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs) Issued, and DTBs Completed. Maintaining high-quality and up-to-date policies is a priority for our department, and we are honored to receive recognition for our ongoing commitment to serving the Township of Bloomfield. We attribute this recognition to the dedication of our personnel in staying current with their KMS acknowledgments and DTB training.



## Facilities Update

In 2024, the Bloomfield Fire Department contracted Brightview Engineering to develop a long-term plan for repairs and upgrades to our four firehouses. We are proud to steward buildings of historical significances: Fire Headquarters is 94 years old, Station 3 is 87 years old, Station 4 is 73 years old, and Station 2 is 49 years old.

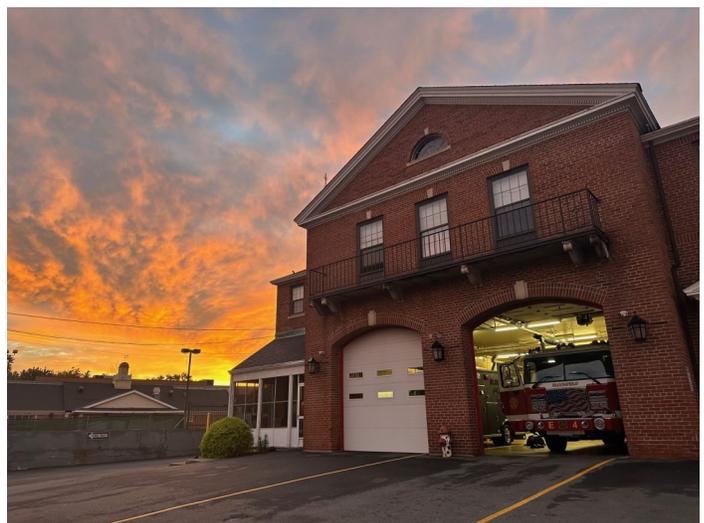
Brightview Engineering has provided each firehouse with a detailed inventory and budget for the next 2, 5, 10 and 20 years. These comprehensive plans identify any issues and outline procedures for ongoing maintenance. This strategic approach enables us to plan for future repairs and upgrades, ensuring the longevity and functionality of our facilities.

Our members have a long-standing culture of helping to maintain our facilities, and it shows in the exceptional condition of our firehouses compared to neighboring departments. This dedication to upkeep not only preserves the historical value of our buildings but also ensures that our facilities remain safe and functional for our personnel and the community.

With these plans in place, we are well-positioned to continue serving Bloomfield effectively while preserving the operational integrity of our firehouses.

In 2024, the following projects were completed for our stations:

- Headquarters: The building was waterproofed, and the dormitory was upgraded and received a new floor. A new boiler was installed, and the building was repainted.
- Station Three: The building was waterproofed and repainted.
- Station Four: The roof was repaired, the building was repainted, and new flooring was installed in the storage room.







## Community Outreach

The Bloomfield Fire Department participated in many community events this year. These type of events are a pinnacle part in the department's daily objective to meet the core values of Citizenship, Integrity and Respect.

Throughout the year you often saw members at block parties, Bloomfield Community Farmer's Market, Town-wide Community Clean-up, Girl Scout/ Boy Scout events, and other township sponsored events. Attending these events are an excellent opportunity for the department to connect with the public and offer fire safety education.

Members participate in events at the Bloomfield Children's Library throughout the year. During the summer months, Firefighter Friday allows them to read, play and educate the children about fire safety. Firehouse visits by the public are encouraged, visits can be requested online. Members use the visits as a time to allow the public to look at the apparatus, equipment and answer any questions they may have.



## Car Seat Safety Program

The Bloomfield Fire Department offers comprehensive car seat safety checks and installations to ensure the safety of our youngest community members. Our program is supported by 21 members who are certified through the National Certification Program of Safe Kids Worldwide. This 32-hour course includes both classroom instruction and hands-on training, equipping our department with the skills necessary to properly inspect and install car seats.

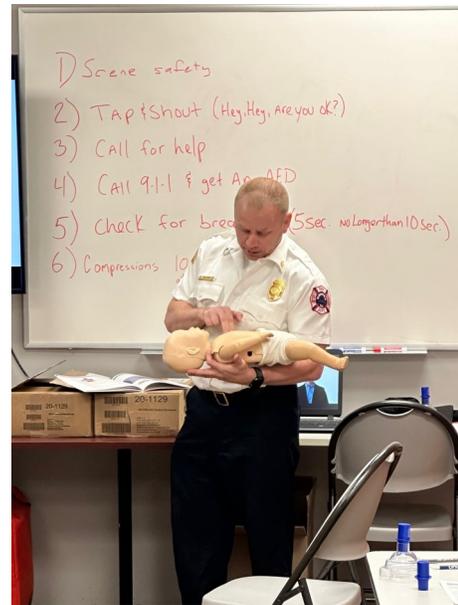
In 2024, our department installed 215 car seats, providing parents and caregivers with peace of mind and contributing to the safety of our community's children. We host community events on the first Saturday of each month, where members of the public are invited to bring their car seats for inspection or installation by our certified team. These events are a valuable resource for parents and caregivers to ensure their car seats are installed correctly and meet safety standards. The Bloomfield Fire Department is committed to promoting child passenger safety and providing essential services to our community through this program.



## Community CPR Courses

In 2024, the Bloomfield Fire Department launched a new initiative to host CPR courses for members of the public. This program is designed to enhance community resilience and preparedness in the face of emergencies. We are proud to have three certified instructors leading these courses: Deputy Chief Brian McDade, Firefighter Albin Okuniewicz, and Firefighter Claudia Astudillo. Their dedication ensures that participants receive high-quality training, equipping them with the essential skills needed to respond effectively in emergency situations.

By offering these CPR courses, the Bloomfield Fire Department aims to empower community members with the knowledge and confidence to perform life-saving techniques. This initiative not only strengthens individual preparedness but also contributes to the overall safety and well-being of our community. We are committed to continuing this program and encouraging widespread participation to build a more resilient and prepared community.



## Open House

On October 27, 2024 during Fire Presentation Month the Bloomfield Fire Department held an open house, inviting the community to meet our members and learn more about the important work we do for Bloomfield. This event was a wonderful opportunity for residents to engage with our team, gain insights into our services, and enjoy a fun-filled day.

We provided informative demonstrations that educated attendees about the various services offered by the fire department, including fire safety tips, first aid, and emergency preparedness.

The event featured a range of activities designed for children, including a bounce house and crafts, ensuring that our youngest attendees had a great time.

Attendees had the chance to interact with our firefighters, explore the fire apparatus, and learn about the equipment we use in our daily operations.

This open house was more than just an event, it was a celebration of community spirit and a testament to our commitment to serving and protecting the residents of Bloomfield. We are grateful to everyone who attended and made the day a memorable success.





## Girls on Fire Youth Camp

The Bloomfield Fire Department hosted its second annual Girls on Fire Youth Camp in August 2024. The camp was designed for girls in the fifth and sixth grades, providing them with a unique opportunity to experience what it takes to become a firefighter.

The two-day camp was filled with various exercises and drills, including navigating a maze, trying on firefighter gear, and observing a car extrication demonstration.

Participants engaged in hands-on activities that simulated real firefighting scenarios, allowing them to gain practical insights into the profession.

Firefighters Claudia Astudillo and Stephanie Orgueira-Aponte developed and organized the original program, emphasizing mentorship and teamwork. This year we invited neighboring Department's female firefighters to help out. Through their guidance, the girls learned about the values of firefighters and the important role they play in our community.

This initiative aims to inspire young girls to explore firefighting as a potential career path. By providing hands-on experience, mentorship, and fostering teamwork, the camp helps participants understand the significance of the firefighting profession.

The Girls on Fire Youth Camp reflects the department's commitment to fostering diversity within the fire service. Encouraging girls to consider firefighting as a future profession is essential for building a stronger and more inclusive department.

The Bloomfield Fire Department is proud to support and empower the next generation of firefighters through this valuable program.



## Partnering with our Schools

During 2024 the Bloomfield Fire Department actively participated in several educational events within the township, fostering a positive relationship with local children to ensure they are familiar with our presence and procedures in the event of an emergency. Our efforts included visits to local schools, daycares, and preschools, where department members taught the importance of fire safety. These visits allowed children to become acquainted with our apparatus, sirens, and firefighter gear, reducing fear and promoting familiarity during emergencies.

This year's fire safety poster contest theme was "Smoke Alarms Work for You: Pay Attention to Fire Prevention." The contest highlighted the crucial role of smoke alarms in fire safety and encouraged students to engage creatively with the topic.

The Bloomfield Fire Department was active and present for all school fire drills, enabling our members to build relationships with school stakeholders. These drills provided an opportunity for our personnel to ensure the drills were efficient and effective while interacting with teachers and students to impart valuable fire safety tips.

Additionally, in 2024, we continued our participation in the summer internship program with the youth of Bloomfield. Two students had the opportunity to work with our department, gaining firsthand experience and learning what it takes to become a member of the fire department. Our department remains committed to making Bloomfield and its residents, visitors, and workers as safe as possible through ongoing education and community engagement.



## Senior Class

Each year, the Bloomfield Fire Department provides two impactful risk reduction programs for seniors at Bloomfield High School. These programs aim to educate and instill a sense of responsibility among young adults as they transition to new stages in their lives.

The department also hosts the "After The Fire" presentation, which addresses dormitory fire safety with high school seniors. This program highlights the tragic events of the Seton Hall fire and features a moving presentation by two survivors who were critically burned in the incident. Their firsthand accounts and powerful messages emphasize the critical importance of fire safety awareness in dormitory settings.

Before prom and Memorial Day weekend, the department conducts a powerful drunk driving presentation combined with an auto extrication event. This dramatic demonstration allows students to witness firsthand the response and rescue of trapped occupants in a simulated drunk driving accident. The realistic presentation serves as a sobering reminder of the dangers of drunk driving and imparts a lasting lesson on the importance of making safe choices.

These programs are designed not only to educate but also to leave a profound impact on the students, helping them make informed decisions and understand the serious consequences of risky behaviors. The Bloomfield Fire Department is committed to continuing these efforts to promote safety and awareness among the youth in our community.



## Firefighter Collector Cards

In October 2024, the Bloomfield Fire Department launched the third edition of our collector cards, continuing a tradition from 2000 and 2015. These cards featured photographs of each department member and a bio about them. Special thanks to Firefighter Mark Rosetti for organizing this project.

To engage the community, we held a contest for Bloomfield school students in grades one through eight. Participants collected all 91 cards for a chance to win prizes such as a bicycle, a Bluetooth speaker, and gift cards. Winners were selected through a random drawing.

The contest promoted interaction between firefighters and the community, creating a fun and educational activity that strengthened local bonds. The winners were thrilled with their prizes, and the initiative received positive feedback.

Through this project, we highlighted our dedicated members and fostered community pride. We look forward to continuing this tradition and finding new ways to serve the Bloomfield community.

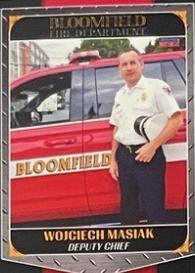




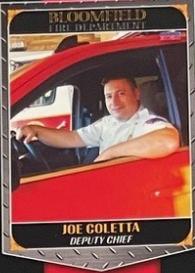
**LOUIS VENEZIA**  
FIRE CHIEF



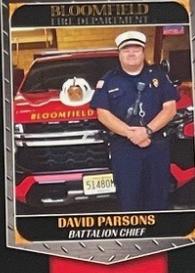
**BRIAN McDADE**  
DEPUTY CHIEF



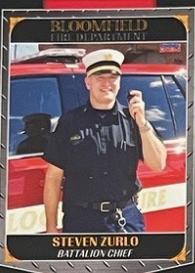
**WOJCIECH MASIAK**  
DEPUTY CHIEF



**JOE GOLETTA**  
DEPUTY CHIEF



**DAVID PARSONS**  
BATTALION CHIEF



**STEVEN ZURLO**  
BATTALION CHIEF



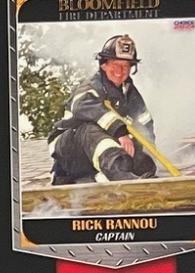
**RONALD FUSARO**  
FIRE OFFICIAL



**DAVID DUDA**  
CAPTAIN



**FRANK DURANTINO**  
CAPTAIN



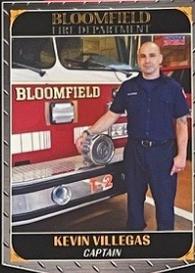
**RICK BANNOU**  
CAPTAIN



**ROBERT GRIFFIN**  
CAPTAIN



**JOSEPH CRITCHLEY**  
CAPTAIN



**KEVIN VILLEGAS**  
CAPTAIN



**DAREN MCCOY**  
CAPTAIN



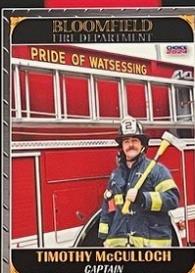
**JEFFREY ROBERTS**  
CAPTAIN



**JOSEPH CALLEROS**  
CAPTAIN



**BRIAN GRIFFIN**  
CAPTAIN



**TIMOTHY McCULLOCH**  
CAPTAIN



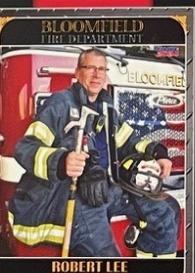
**PATRICK FAZZINI**  
CAPTAIN



**CARL MERCADO**  
CAPTAIN



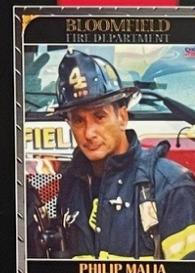
**ADAM MUCK**  
CAPTAIN



**ROBERT LEE**  
CAPTAIN



**MICHAEL NICOSIA**  
CAPTAIN



**PHILIP MALIA**  
FIREFIGHTER



**BOBBY BAKER**  
FIREFIGHTER



**ERIK ARQUIZA**  
FIREFIGHTER



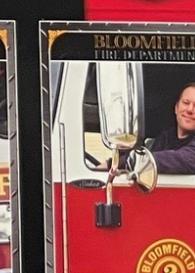
**JARRETT FRANCISCO**  
FIREFIGHTER



**THOMAS HEMMER**  
FIREFIGHTER



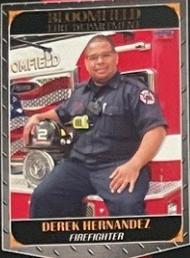
**ERICK STONE**  
FIREFIGHTER



**ROBERT POWELL**  
FIREFIGHTER



**BRIAN SHAW**  
FIREFIGHTER



**DEREK HERNANDEZ**  
FIREFIGHTER



**KENNY HALL**  
FIREFIGHTER



**GALVIN UREY**  
FIREFIGHTER



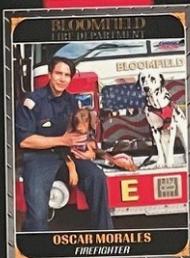
**MICHAEL SEARS**  
FIREFIGHTER



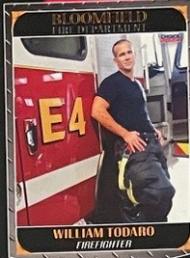
**DONALD GIBBS**  
FIREFIGHTER



**STEPHEN COWEN**  
FIREFIGHTER



**OSCAR MORALES**  
FIREFIGHTER



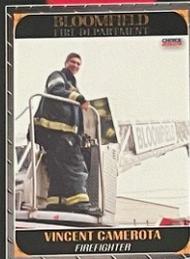
**WILLIAM TODARO**  
FIREFIGHTER



**JOSE ROMAN**  
FIREFIGHTER



**ALEXANDER MAVES**  
FIREFIGHTER



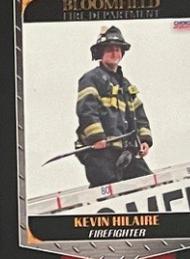
**VINCENT CAMEROTA**  
FIREFIGHTER



**RONALD BRIGENO**  
FIREFIGHTER



**MICHAEL ELIAS**  
FIREFIGHTER



**KEVIN HILAIRE**  
FIREFIGHTER



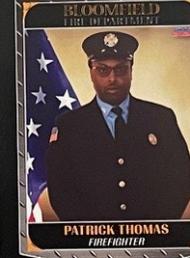
**DUNCAN ARLETTI**  
FIREFIGHTER



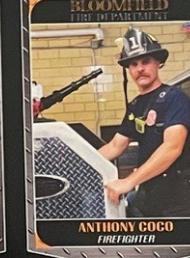
**CLAUDIO CARCHIA**  
FIREFIGHTER



**CHRISTOPHER CALDARELLA**  
FIREFIGHTER



**PATRICK THOMAS**  
FIREFIGHTER



**ANTHONY COGO**  
FIREFIGHTER



**SEAN LIND**  
FIREFIGHTER



**BOBBY TROYSLAND**  
FIREFIGHTER



**WILLIAM GAONA**  
FIREFIGHTER



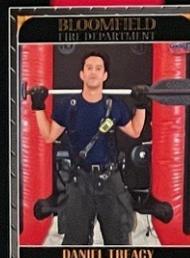
**STEVE TODARO**  
FIREFIGHTER



**JACOB NICOLAOU**  
FIREFIGHTER



**PIETRE CARRARA**  
FIREFIGHTER



**DANA TRACY**  
FIREFIGHTER



**MARK ROSETTI**  
FIREFIGHTER



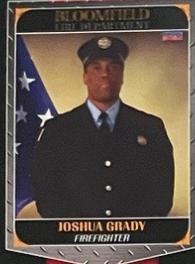
**ALBIN OKUNIEWICZ**  
FIREFIGHTER



**STEPHANIE ORGERIA-APONTE**  
FIREFIGHTER



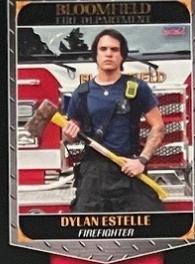
**MATTHEW DOHERTY**  
FIREFIGHTER



**JOSHUA GRADY**  
FIREFIGHTER



**CLAUDIA ASTUDILLO**  
FIREFIGHTER



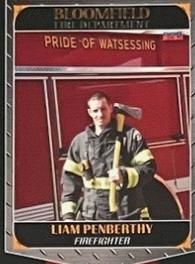
**DYLAN ESTELLE**  
FIREFIGHTER



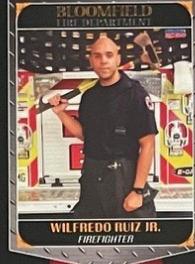
**LEO MEDRANO**  
FIREFIGHTER



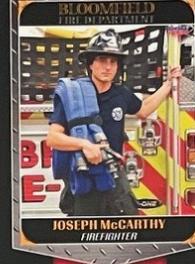
**BRIAN LIND**  
FIREFIGHTER



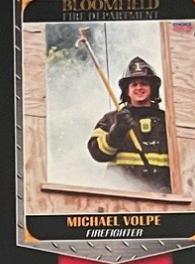
**LIAM PENDERTHY**  
FIREFIGHTER



**WILFREDO RUIZ JR.**  
FIREFIGHTER



**JOSEPH MCCARTHY**  
FIREFIGHTER



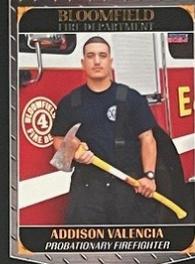
**MICHAEL VOLPE**  
FIREFIGHTER



**JOSHUA FELICIANO**  
FIREFIGHTER



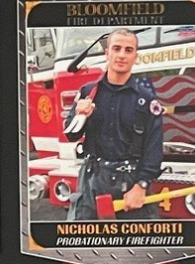
**JONATHAN GARCIA**  
FIREFIGHTER



**ADDISON VALENCIA**  
PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER



**CHARLIE PIERCE**  
PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER



**NICHOLAS CONFORTI**  
PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER



**KEVIN NEGRON**  
PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER



**VINCENT COLAVITTI JR.**  
SUB-CAPTAIN OF FIRE



**JOSEPH MESUK**  
VOLUNTEER CAPTAIN



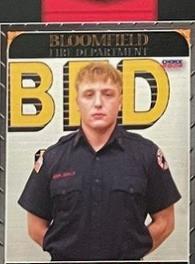
**HARRY PARSONS**  
VOLUNTEER CAPTAIN



**PAUL MESUK**  
VOLUNTEER CAPTAIN



**JAKE SKORUPSKI**  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER



**CHARLES ADLANALP**  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER



**KIM DEISE**  
SECRETARY OF THE FIRE CHIEF



**FIRE PREVENTION**



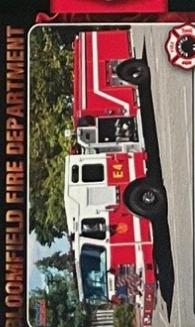
**BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Engine 1



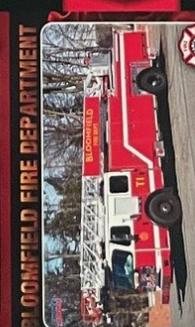
**BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Engine 2



**BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Engine 3



**BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Engine 4



**BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Truck 1



**BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Rescue 1





## **Special Thanks**

The Bloomfield Fire Department expresses gratitude to the Bloomfield Township Administration, Mayor, and Council members for their ongoing support and dedication as we strive to improve service to the community at the highest standard.

### **Township of Bloomfield Town Council**

**Jenny Mundell**, Mayor

**Rosalee Gonzalez**, First Ward Councilwoman

**Nicholas Joanow**, Second Ward Councilman

**Sarah Cruz**, Third Ward Councilwoman

**Dr. Wartyna Davis, Ph. D.**, Councilwoman at-Large

**Windey Polynice**, Councilman at-Large

**Monica Charris Tabares**, Councilwoman at-Large

### **Administration**

**Anthony G. DeZenzo**, Acting Town Administrator

**Kimberly Duva**, Assistant Town Administrator

**Jean-guy Lauture Sr.**, Assistant Town Administrator



**Bloomfield Fire Department**  
**Fire Chief's Office**  
**375 Franklin Street**  
**Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003**  
**973-259-3097**