

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Plain Township Fire Department, I am proud to present the 2025 annual report. Within these pages, you will find a reflection of our progress, key accomplishments, and our continued commitment to providing exceptional service to our community.

Our mission remains steadfast: to protect lives, property, and the overall well-being of those we serve. Over the past year, we have taken meaningful steps to ensure our department is prepared to meet the increasing demands of a growing community, both now and in the years ahead.

Maintaining appropriate staffing levels continues to be a top priority, as it directly impacts our ability to respond safely and effectively to emergencies. The replacement of two full-time firefighters this year underscores the Board of Trustees' ongoing commitment to the safety and security of our residents.

We have also made significant progress toward the development of a new fire substation, strategically planned near the intersection of State Route 605 and New Albany Road East. This project represents a critical investment in our community's future and is a cornerstone of the department's strategic plan. We extend our sincere appreciation to The New Albany Company for their generous land donation and valued partnership, as well as to the City of New Albany for their continued collaboration. Together, these partnerships have been instrumental in advancing this initiative, with the substation anticipated to open in the summer of 2027.

Additionally, we are honored to have been awarded the federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. This highly competitive award will partially fund the addition of six firefighters in 2026, resulting in a savings of \$1,628,441.80 for our community. These new positions will be vital as we work toward meeting national staffing recommendations and preparing to effectively staff the new substation in alignment with NFPA standards.

As we reflect on the past year, we recognize that these achievements are only possible because of the unwavering dedication of our firefighters, the support of their families, and the trust placed in us by the community we are privileged to serve.

We remain committed to excellence, readiness, and continuous improvement as we look toward the future.

**RESPECTFULLY,**



PATRICK T. CONNOR,  
FIRE CHIEF



# A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

In 2025, the Plain Township Fire Department continued to make meaningful progress toward achieving the goals and objectives outlined in our strategic plan.

We remain committed to strong collaboration with our community partners and neighboring fire departments to ensure the delivery of the highest quality fire and emergency medical services to those we serve.

The men and women of the Plain Township Fire Department demonstrate unwavering dedication and professionalism. Our firefighters and paramedics train daily to ensure they are fully prepared to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Throughout 2025, our firefighter-paramedics participated in a variety of advanced training programs, including technical rope rescue, hazardous materials technician certification, and numerous firefighting and emergency medical courses.

In December 2025, we took delivery of a new rescue truck that had been in development for three years. This apparatus was thoughtfully designed by a committee of our firefighters and built in Ohio by Sutphen Corporation. In conjunction with this addition, we acquired a wide range of specialized rescue tools and equipment, further enhancing our capability to respond effectively to complex technical rescue incidents.

We also made significant advancements in leveraging technology to improve response times. By utilizing our Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL), we ensure that the closest available units are dispatched to emergency calls. Additionally, we entered into a contract with the Licking County Regional Communications Center, allowing us to benefit from state-of-the-art dispatch technology while reducing annual operating costs.

Recruitment remains a top priority as we strive to attract highly qualified individuals and equip them with the tools and resources necessary for success. We also take great pride in recognizing the accomplishments of our personnel through our annual awards ceremony, honoring their dedication and service throughout the year.

As we move into 2026, our firefighters will continue to serve the community guided by our mission: **to save lives through education, engagement, and emergency services.**

**RESPECTFULLY,**



GREGORY ECLEBERRY,  
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF





# STAFFING

All full-time firefighters at PTFD are required to be certified paramedics, ensuring every member is equipped to respond to fire and rescue incidents while also providing the highest level of care during medical emergencies. Personnel participate in extensive, practical training, including advanced EMS simulations using virtual reality, skills labs with anatomical models, and collaborative exercises with local medical partners. This approach fosters shared experience and strengthens clinical and operational expertise across the team.

Training also encompasses fire operations, water rescue, ice rescue, and vehicle extrication, equipping firefighter/paramedics with the skills and confidence needed to respond effectively to a wide range of emergency situations. This comprehensive and integrated training model enhances the department's ability to deliver coordinated, high-quality emergency services.

The department operates on a 24-hour on/48-hour off schedule for all operational firefighter/paramedics, with three shifts providing continuous coverage. On average, 11 firefighter/paramedics are on duty each day. Administrative and leadership personnel work standard 40-hour weeks. Currently, PTFD employs 45 full-time and 12 part-time personnel.



## TRAINING

During the year, the department advanced its training program with a strong focus on operational readiness, firefighter safety, and collaboration.

Members completed a wide range of training, including water and ice rescue, auto extrication, hose advancement, building construction, and critical MAYDAY and Rapid Intervention Team operations, while several firefighters and officers also achieved Hazardous Materials Technician-level certification and participated in joint Northwest Area Strike Team training.

The department hosted a Hazardous Materials Technician course to support both internal and regional partners and utilized the Discover Building—through a partnership with Feazel Roofing—for high-value, realistic training evolutions and mutual-aid coordination.

Additional specialized instruction for rope rescue, fire inspectors, and arson investigators further strengthened the department's emergency response, prevention, and investigative capabilities.

# TRAINING



EMS AIRWAY TRAINING



ROPE RESCUE TRAINING



VIRTUAL REALITY  
MASS CASUALTY TRAINING

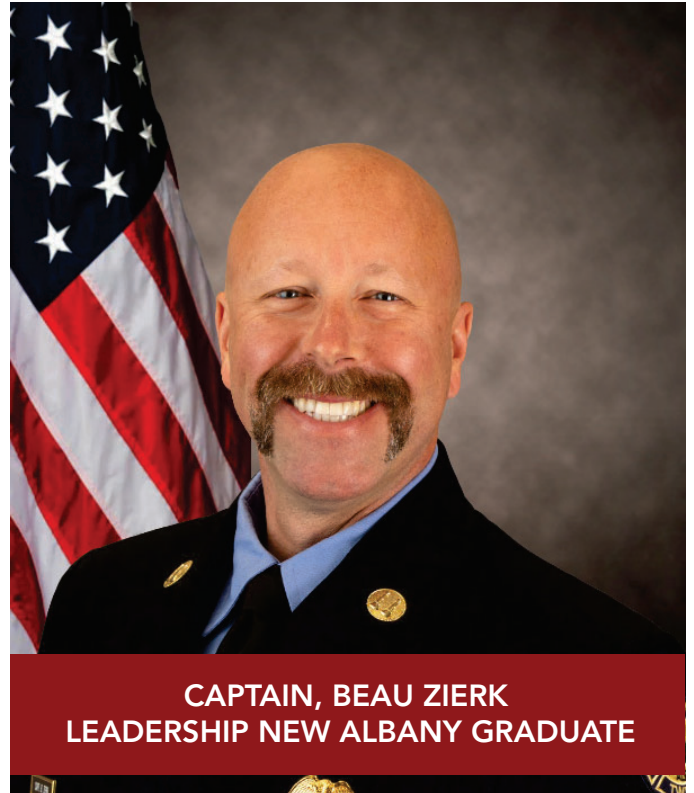


ICE RESCUE TRAINING

# PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION



**BATTALION CHIEF, BRIAN REASONER  
LEADERSHIP NEW ALBANY GRADUATE**



**CAPTAIN, BEAU ZIERK  
LEADERSHIP NEW ALBANY GRADUATE**



**FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC, BRODY BOOHER  
NEW HIRE 2025**



**FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC, DANIEL LOGAN  
NEW HIRE 2025**

# PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION



**OHIO FIRE EXECUTIVE GRADUATION  
BATTALION CHIEF CHRIS PABST  
CHIEF CONNOR, BC PABST, AC ECLEBERRY  
(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)**



**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD  
CONCORD TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC  
JACK GUYTON  
PRESENTED BY BC CHRIS PABST**



**CHIEF'S AWARD  
ASSISTANT CHIEF GREG ECLEBERRY  
CHIEF PATRICK CONNOR, TRUSTEE BECKETT-HILL,  
TRUSTEE MOLLARD,  
ASSISTANT CHIEF GREG ECLEBERRY, TRUSTEE HANS SCHELL  
(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)**



**RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS!  
FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC SCOTT DOZIER  
40 YEARS IN THE FIRE SERVICE  
AC ECLEBERRY, BC DUDLEY, FF HOUSEBERG, FF DOZIER,  
FM SPONAUGLE, CHIEF HOOVLER, RETIRED  
(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)**

# 2025 Plain Township Awards Ceremony Recognition

On February 6, 2026, the Plain Township Awards Ceremony celebrated the outstanding contributions of our personnel and the meaningful difference they have made within the community. These individuals were acknowledged for their resolute commitment, professionalism, and bravery in handling emergency situations.

## Chief's Award

EMS Provider of the Year

Part-time Firefighter of the Year

Full-time Firefighter of the Year

Distinguished Service Award

Jim Carney Award

Assistant Chief Greg Ecleberry

Firefighter Grant Reader

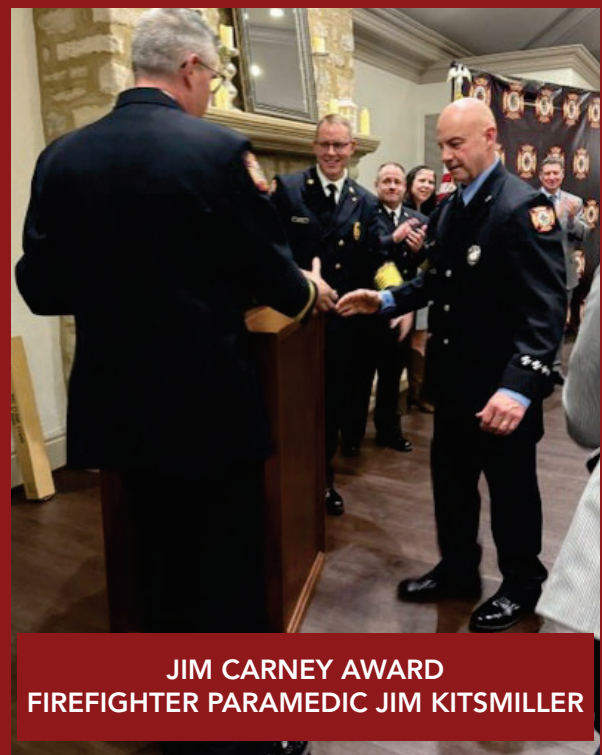
Firefighter Garrett Meyers

Firefighter Chris Durst

CTFD Firefighter Jack Guyton

Firefighter Jim Kitsmiller

Guided by integrity, service, sacrifice, and honor, they continually exceed expectations in protecting and serving others. **Through education, engagement, and emergency services**, they save lives, and their dedication to demanding training and their enduring commitment to preserving life make them genuine heroes in our community. We offer our heartfelt appreciation to these courageous men and women for their outstanding contributions.



JIM CARNEY AWARD  
FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC JIM KITSMILLER

# 2025 Awards Ceremony

Battalion Chief Commendations embody the mission, vision, and values of the department and an unwavering commitment to the greater good. This commendation serves as a formal recognition of exceptional dedication and service, bestowed upon an individual or team for their exemplary performance. This honor highlights either their heroic actions during a critical incident or their significant contributions that enhance the overall effectiveness and progress of the department.

## Exceptional Performance

**2 Unit Run:** Firefighter Brody Booher, Firefighter Derek Caplinger, Captain Joe Herren, Firefighter Madison Hufford, Firefighter Darrin Knicely, Firefighter Garrett Meyers, Firefighter William Newton, Firefighter Adam Noble, Firefighter Philip Reger, Lieutenant Colby Reynolds

**3 Unit Run:** Firefighter Isaac Ackers, Firefighter Adam Brandt, Lieutenant Bryan Cantrell, Firefighter Chad Marohl, Firefighter Joe Petticrew, Firefighter Kevin Snyder, Captain Beau Zierk

**Fire Prevention:** Fire Marshal Kevin Sponaugle, Fire Inspector Dan Gilmore

## Exceptional Performance & Technical Proficiency

**3 Unit Run:** Lieutenant Bryan Cantrell, Firefighter Fred Houseberg, Firefighter Joe Petticrew

## Exceptional Service

**1 Unit Run:** Firefighter Austin Gootee, Firefighter Matthew Temple

## Life Saving

**3 Unit Run:** Lieutenant Bryan Cantrell, Firefighter Erick Fisher, Firefighter Fred Houseberg, Firefighter Grant Reader, Firefighter Mattison Saling, Firefighter Kevin Snyder

## Professionalism & Teamwork Under Critical Incident

**1 Unit Run:** Firefighter Brody Booher, Firefighter Chris Durst, Firefighter Austin Gootee, Firefighter Zach Justice, Firefighter Jim Kitsmiller, Firefighter Clinton Lainge, Lieutenant Joe Pershing, Firefighter Matthew Temple

## Exceptional EMS Work

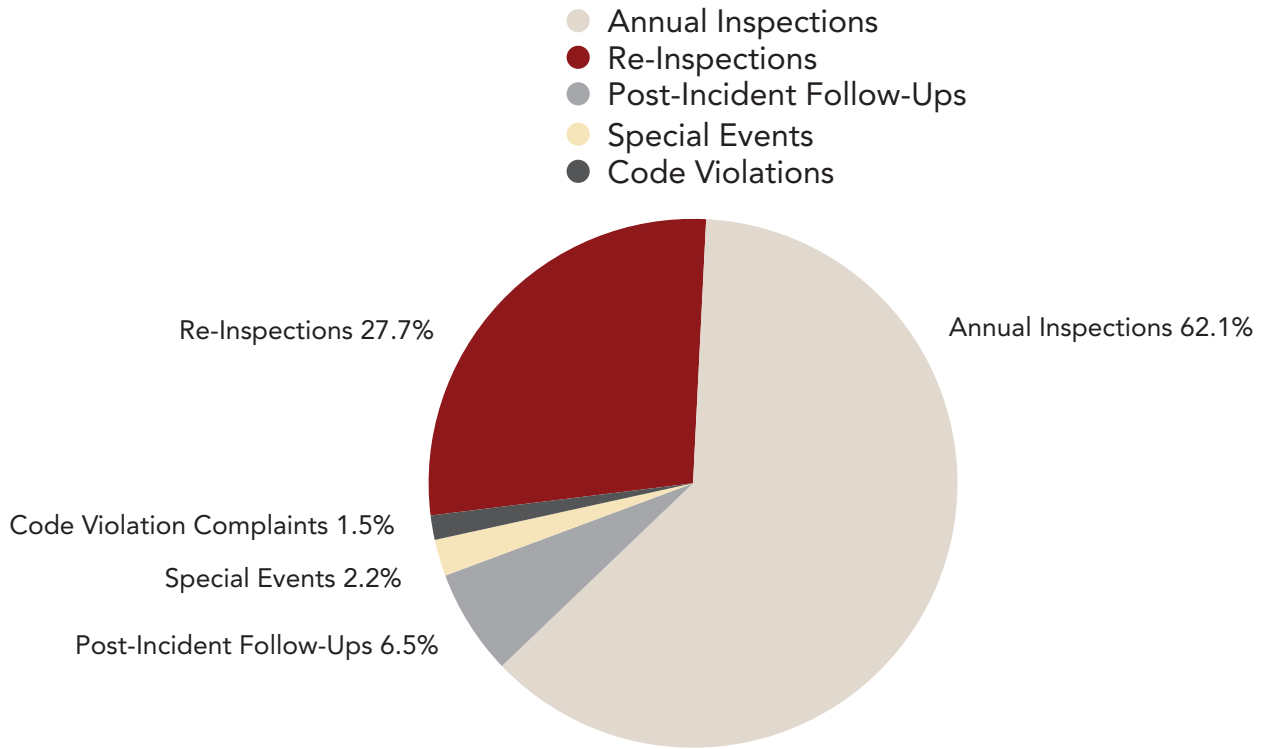
Firefighter Zach Justice  
Firefighter William Newton

## Rescue Committee Recognition

Firefighter Derek Caplinger, Firefighter Chris Durst, Firefighter Clinton Lainge, Firefighter Adam Noble, Firefighter Joe Petticrew, Lieutenant Colby Reynolds

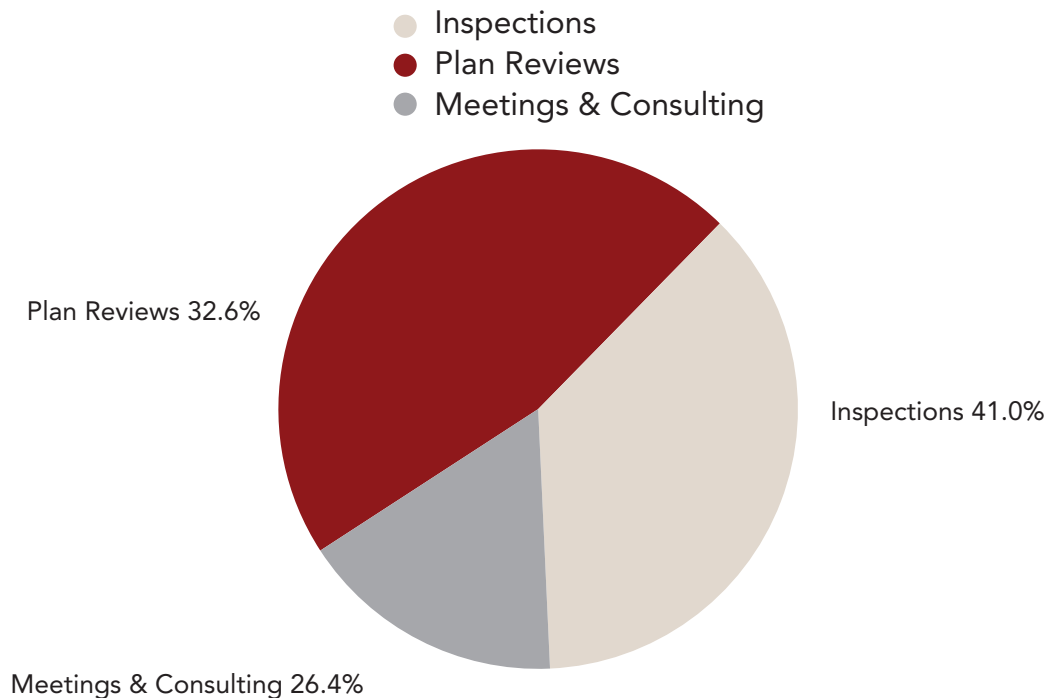
# Existing Commercial Buildings

---



# New Commercial Buildings

---



# FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

**The Plain Township Fire Prevention Bureau** is dedicated to safeguarding commercial properties throughout New Albany and Plain Township by reducing fire risk and ensuring compliance with the Ohio Fire Code and applicable national safety standards.

With a team of two full-time professionals, the bureau plays a vital role in advancing fire prevention efforts and supporting overall community safety. The Fire Marshal oversees plan reviews and inspects all new commercial construction projects, ensuring fire protection requirements are incorporated from the outset. The Fire Inspector focuses on existing structures, conducting annual inspections of commercial occupancies to promote ongoing compliance and maintain safe conditions year-round.



**FIRE MARSHAL, KEVIN SPONAUGLE**

The bureau also manages the investigation of all fires occurring within New Albany and Plain Township. Each incident is carefully analyzed to determine origin and cause, providing valuable insight that strengthens prevention strategies and helps reduce the likelihood of future incidents.



**2025 HONOR RIDE**  
Photo: City of New Albany



## 2025 EMS RUN STATISTICS

**2024**

*2168 EMS runs*

**2023 to 2024 increase  
in EMS runs is 11%**

**2025**

*1762 EMS runs*

**2024 to 2025 decrease  
in EMS runs is 18.7%**

## 2025 FIRE RUN STATISTICS

**2024**

*950 Fire runs*

**2023 to 2024 increase  
in Fire runs is 3%**

**2025**

*861 Fire runs*

**2024 to 2025 decrease  
in Fire runs is 9%**



# Open House

The 28th Annual Open House was held on Sunday, October 12, 2025, welcoming community members of all ages to the fire station. Visitors explored fire trucks, met firefighters, and practiced essential safety skills such as hands-only CPR and proper fire extinguisher use. Guests also enjoyed firehouse chili in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere. Interactive demonstrations, including vehicle rescue techniques and fire safety education, provided attendees with a closer look at the critical services our firefighters perform each day.

We are grateful to the many partners who helped make this event possible, including AEP, Columbia Gas, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, New Albany Police Department, MedFlight, Marburn Academy, SWACO, the Central Ohio Antique Fire Apparatus Association, and Firefighters' Local 3850. Their generous support, continued collaboration, and active involvement help ensure the Open House remains a safe, engaging, and educational experience while strengthening connections between firefighters and the community.

In alignment with National Fire Prevention Week, the 2025 campaign, "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," emphasized safe purchasing, proper charging practices, and responsible recycling of lithium-ion batteries. The Open House provided an opportunity for residents to connect with neighbors, recognize the dedication of our firefighters, and gain practical safety knowledge that helps protect families, homes, and the broader community throughout the year.

## Charge into Fire Safety: 3 Steps

- Buy only listed products. When buying a product with a lithium-ion battery, look for a safety certification such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets safety standards.
- Charge devices safely. Always use the cords that came with the product. Follow manufacturer instructions. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or an approved one. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge. Unplug or remove the battery when fully charged.
- Recycle batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins—they could start a fire. Recycle your device or battery at a safe recycling location.



# MESSAGE FROM THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

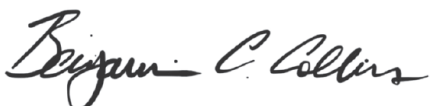
The Plain Township Board of Trustees continues to work toward our strategic plan goals, most notably with the planning for a second fire station. The trustees aim to deliver transparent, responsive, effective, and efficient services to our residents. While building an excellent culture of service and working to be an employer of choice, we recognize that the support of our community is essential to all we do. The Plain Township Fire Department continues its success in hiring outstanding firefighters and celebrated the retirement of Scott Dozier after 31 years of service to Plain Township.

In 2025, fire-related receipts totaled \$13,369,126 – reflecting additional receipts from the community supported fire levy that will fund a new fire station, an additional fire engine and medic, and additional firefighters. The new substation is planned to open in 2027 to coincide with the delivery of an additional fire engine and medic to increase emergency response capacity. 2025 fire-related operating expenses were steady at \$9,417,494 – and excluding capital transfers, were slightly less than 2024. In November 2025, we received our first new fire engine in nearly 15 years, which was ordered in April of 2022, at a cost of \$935,538.

In anticipation of building a second station, Plain Township is seeking its first-ever bond rating to obtain preferential interest rates on funding the new fire station. In 2025, the Board of Trustees updated the township's financial investment policy and obtained the Ohio Auditor of State's highest achievement in open and transparent government. This second fire station is made possible by the generous donation of land by The New Albany Company.

The Assistant Fire Chief's letter recognized our partnership with Licking County to provide emergency dispatching services. This was a strategic move for 2025 to align our dispatching with the two other fire departments that serve the City of New Albany and to reduce our dispatching costs by \$400,000 over four years.

**RESPECTFULLY,**



BENJAMIN C. COLLINS,  
TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR



# 2025 Combined Fire & EMS Financial Report

## 2025 PTFD

### Receipts – Fire & EMS Operations

Property Taxes: \$10,311,109

TIF - City of New Albany: \$2,261,107

EMS Fees: \$508,146

Inspection Fees: \$174,059

Grants: \$1,000

Donations: \$20

Rent: \$36,758

Sale of Assets: \$34,124

Other: \$42,803

---

**Total Receipts Operations: \$13,369,126**

### Expenditures - Operations

Salaries & Benefits: \$8,113,195

Supplies: \$135,143

Tools & Equipment: \$190,478

Repairs & Maintenance: \$85,536

Buildings & Additions: \$160,930

Insurance: \$61,786

Utilities & IT: \$144,437

Dispatching: \$54,171

Grant Expense: \$0

Training & Dues: \$26,159

Audit: \$141,751

EMS Billing: \$21,701

Transfers: \$0

Other: \$282,207

---

**Total Expense Operations: \$9,417,494**

---

**Net Difference: \$3,951,632**

---

**Receipts - Capital: \$1,319,000**

**Expenditures - Capital: \$1,226,878**

**Net Difference: \$92,122**



# Our Mission & Vision

## MISSION STATEMENT

Together, we save lives through education, engagement, and emergency services.

## VISION STATEMENT

A community that is informed, connected, and safe.



# Our Values

## Courage

We do not hesitate in our response, and we fulfill our oath with passion and pride.

## Integrity

We operate with honesty and transparency.

## Compassion

We care for those in distress as we respond to their emergency needs.

## Equity

We ensure every employee has access to learning and development, and that everyone receives the same level of service.

## Professionalism

We adhere to the highest standards in the industry, train diligently, and work effectively to achieve the best outcomes.

## Connectedness

We celebrate and engage our community at events, in the schools, and throughout neighborhoods.

# YOUR SUPPORT

---

If you would like to support the safety and strength of our community's fire department, consider giving to the Plain Township Fire Department Fund through The New Albany Community Foundation. Your philanthropy directly enhances the ability of the Plain Township Fire Department to protect lives, respond to emergencies, and maintain the highest level of service for our residents.

Contributions to this fund help provide critical resources, advanced training, and essential equipment that ensure our firefighters are always prepared for today and into the future. By investing in this mission, you are not only supporting first responders, but also reinforcing the well-being and resilience of the entire community.



**To learn more or make a donation, please call 614-939-8150. Join us in making a lasting impact and helping keep Plain Township a safe place to live, work, and grow.**

# Contact Information

Photo: City of New Albany

## Plain Township Office

45 Second Street  
P.O. Box 273  
New Albany, OH 43054  
Phone: (614) 855-2085  
[www.plaintownship.org](http://www.plaintownship.org)

## Township Administrator

Benjamin C. Collins  
[bcollins@plaintownship.org](mailto:bcollins@plaintownship.org)

## Fire Chief

Patrick T. Connor  
[pconnor@plaintownship.org](mailto:pconnor@plaintownship.org)

## Plain Township Fire Department

9500 Johnstown Road  
New Albany, OH 43054  
Non-Emergency: (614) 855-7370  
Emergency: Call 911  
[firedept@plaintownship.org](mailto:firedept@plaintownship.org)

## Elected Officials

### Board of Trustees

Kerri Mollard, Chair  
[kerrimollard@plaintownship.org](mailto:kerrimollard@plaintownship.org)

Jill Beckett-Hill, Vice Chair  
[jillbecketthill@plaintownship.org](mailto:jillbecketthill@plaintownship.org)

Hans Schell, Trustee  
[hansschell@plaintownship.org](mailto:hansschell@plaintownship.org)

## Fiscal Officer

Bud Zappitelli  
[PTFO@plaintownship.org](mailto:PTFO@plaintownship.org)

