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Strategies to Improve Public Safety in Hinesburg: A Path Forward for the Next Decade

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Outline

- Project Background
- Key Findings
 - Community
 - Fire/EMS
 - Law Enforcement
- Future Actions
 - General
 - Fire and EMS
 - Law Enforcement

Project Background

CGR began in
December 2022

First site visit in
March 2023

EMS Changes in
2020 and 2021

Fire Chief
controversy in
2021

Police budget
rejected in
March 2022

Sharing of police
service with
Richmond began
in April 2023

Continuing
financial
demands in
community

Steady Growth in
Community

Community Findings

Community has grown and will continue to grow

- Population may grow up to 15% in the next decade
- Also 13,000 sq. feet of commercial is planned

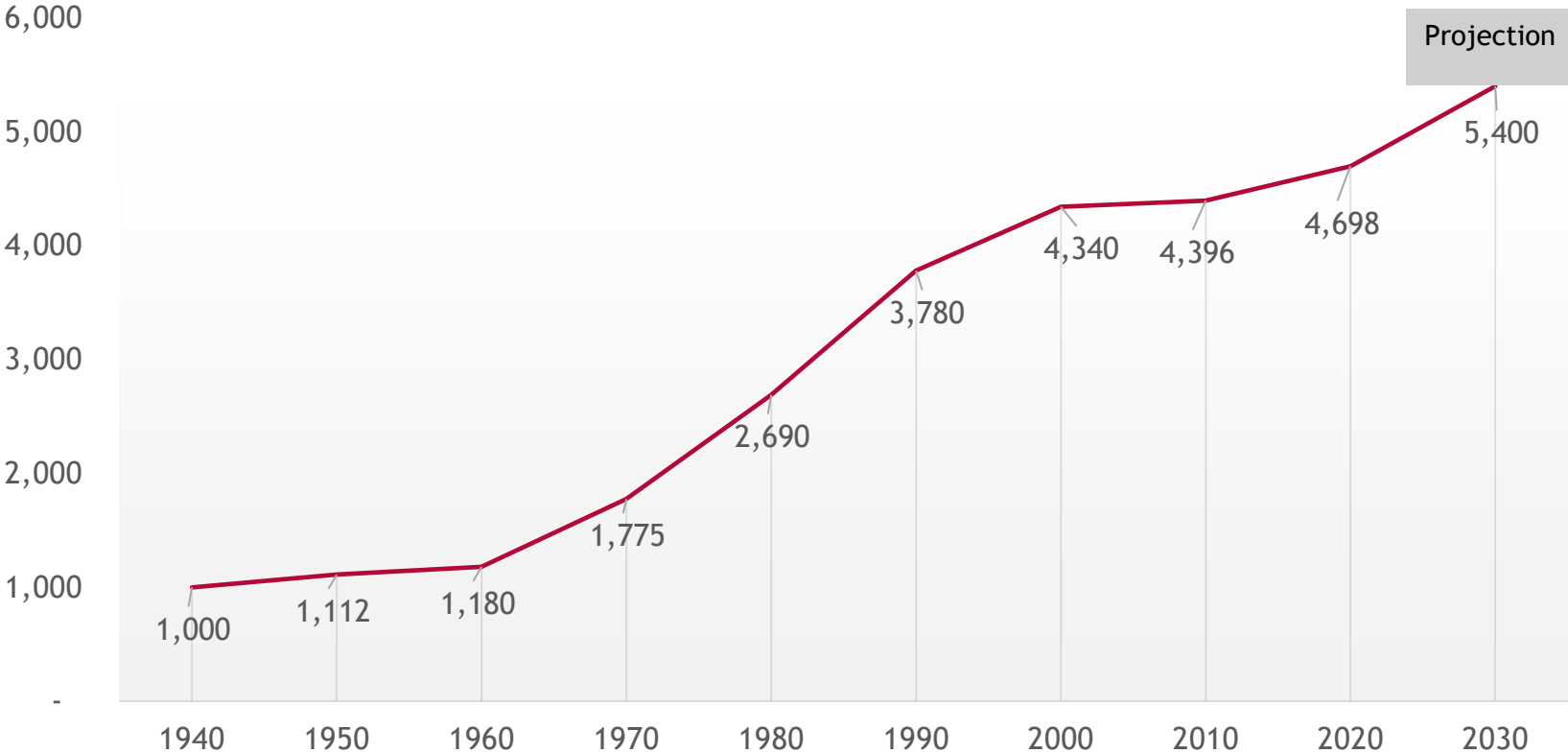
91% of 326 survey respondents feel very safe or safe

- 70% of non-white respondents felt very safe or safe
- No drop off in other categories

Satisfaction with police and fire interactions was very high- 77% and 81%

- Lower for some groups including non-white & LGBTQI respondents with police (64% and 64%)
- No drop off with fire department

Hinesburg, VT, Population by Census Year



Community Priorities

Law Enforcement

- Patrol 24 hours a day
- Focus on traffic enforcement
- Conduct regular community relationship building
- Consider regionalization

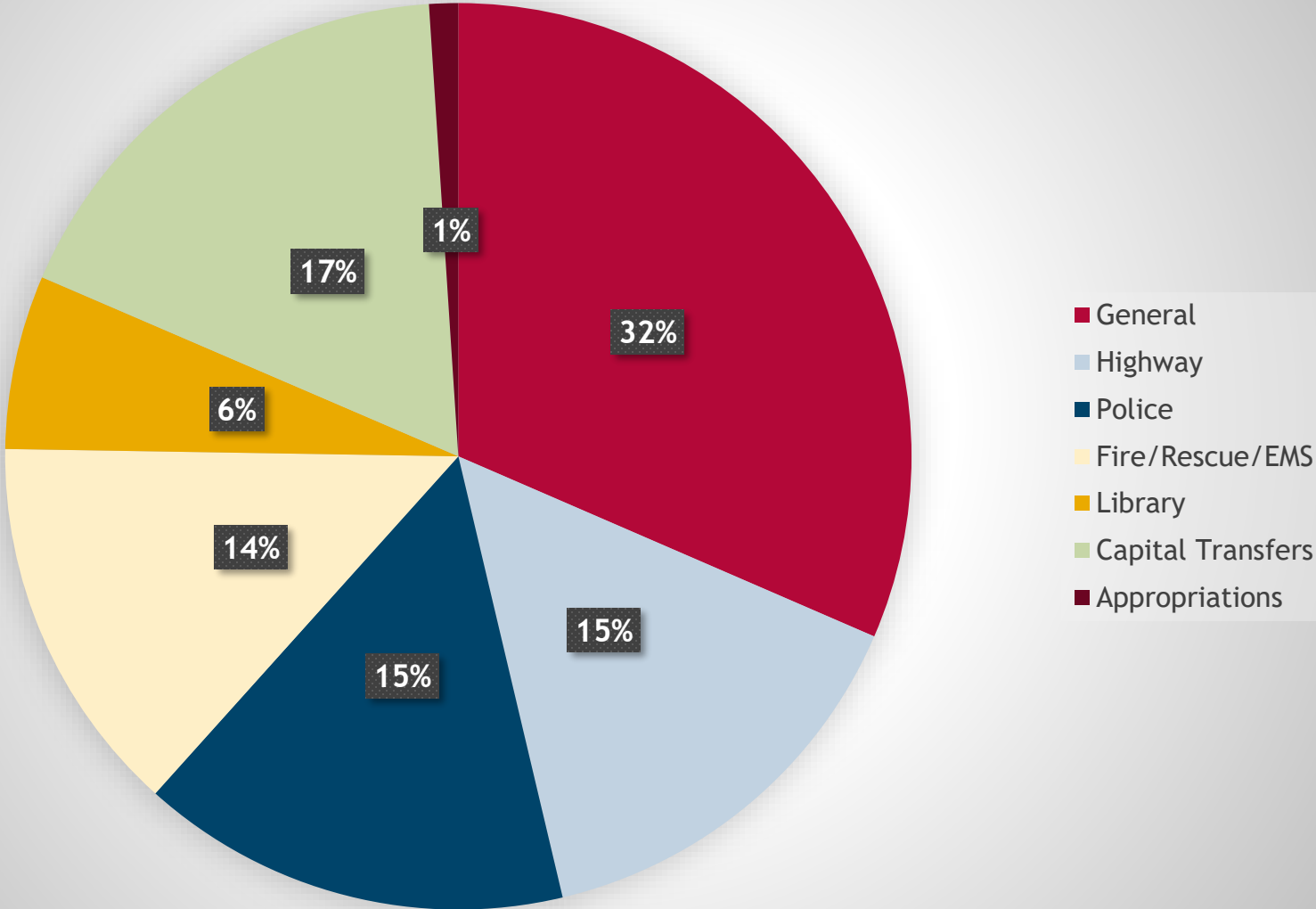
Fire Department

- Recruitment and Retention of Firefighters/EMTs
- Having an ambulance in the community during busy times
- Hiring additional staff to have 24 hour coverage at station
- Build a fire station that meets needs of community

Financial Picture

- Law enforcement operations is about 15% of Town Budget
 - This has grown about 40% in last 4 fiscal years
 - Now has revenue from agreement with Richmond
- Fire and EMS operations are about 14% of Town Budget
 - This has grown about 33% in last 4 fiscal years
- Capital Improvement Plan has continued investment for both over the next five years

Share of FY 2025 Budget

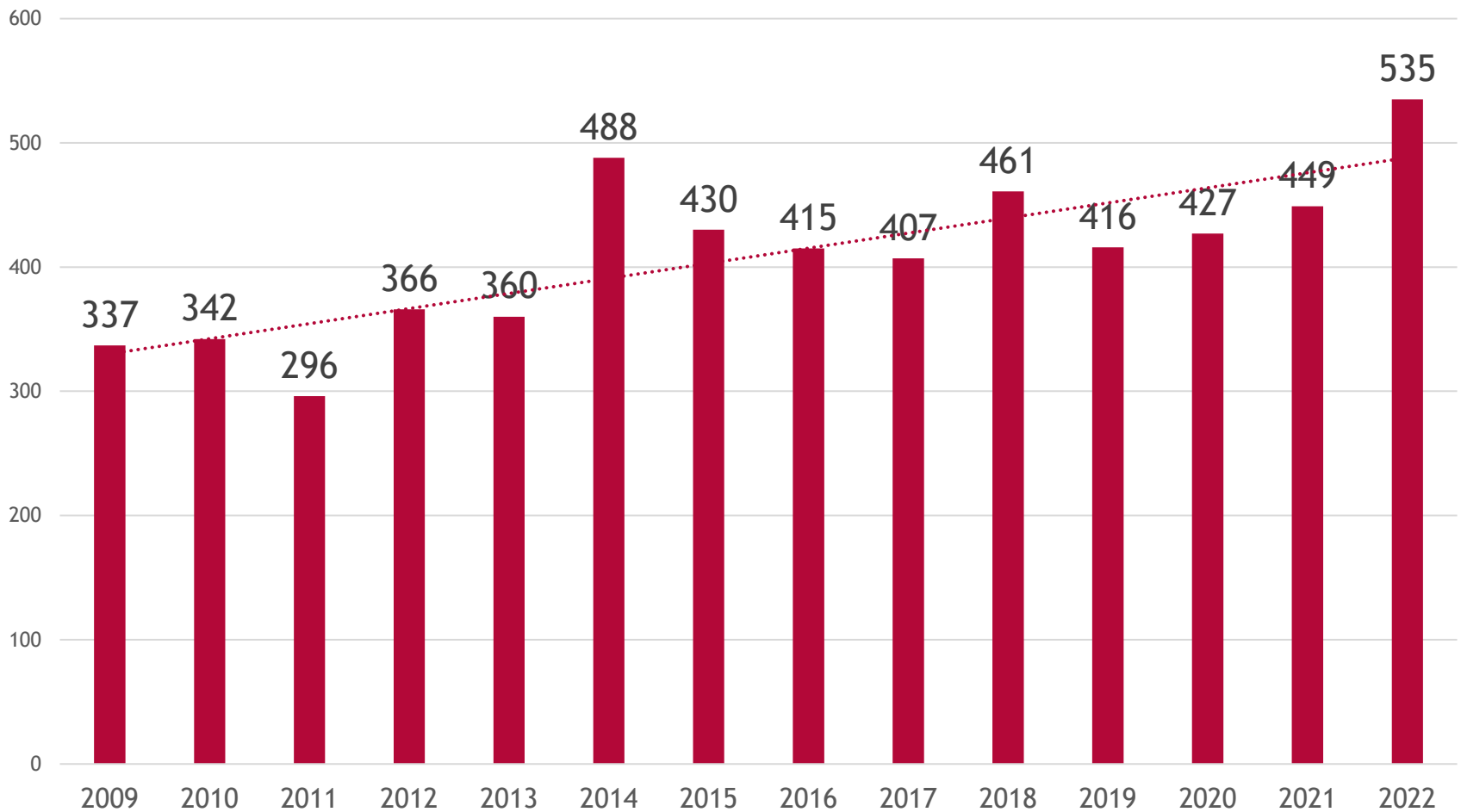


Fire/EMS Key Findings

- Rated in top quarter of departments in Vermont
 - Insurance Services Organization Class 5/5Y
- Full Time staff cover 40 hours a week
 - Gaps in staffing had about 1 in 6 EMS calls not have a first response
- Apparatus, with current planned investments, meet the needs of the community
- Station is functional, but cramped and dated
- Minimal space and props for technical training
- Richmond EMS and Sherburne Dispatch both provide good value
- Response times generally meet community needs

Fire Service Findings

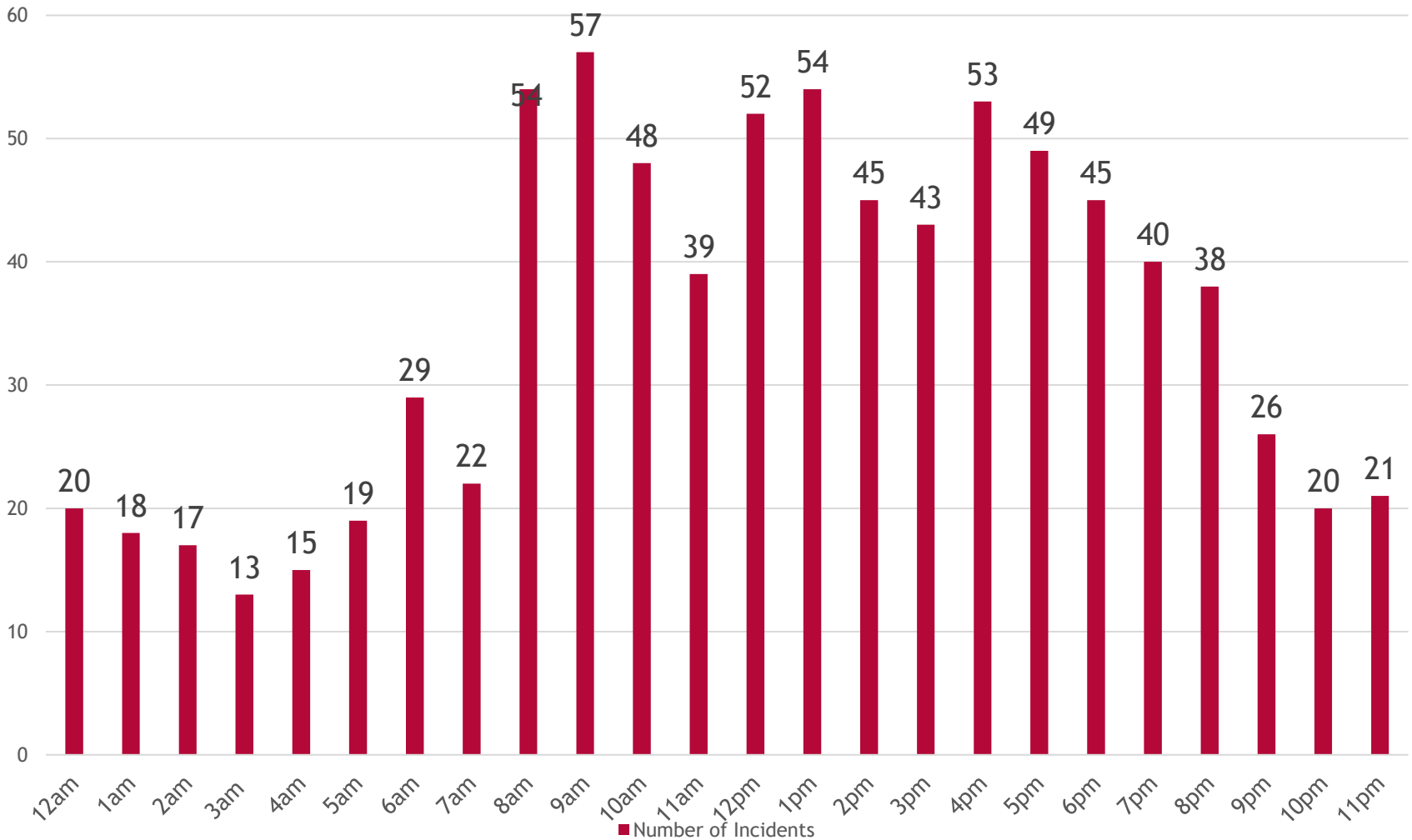
HFD Calls for Service



Response Times in 2022

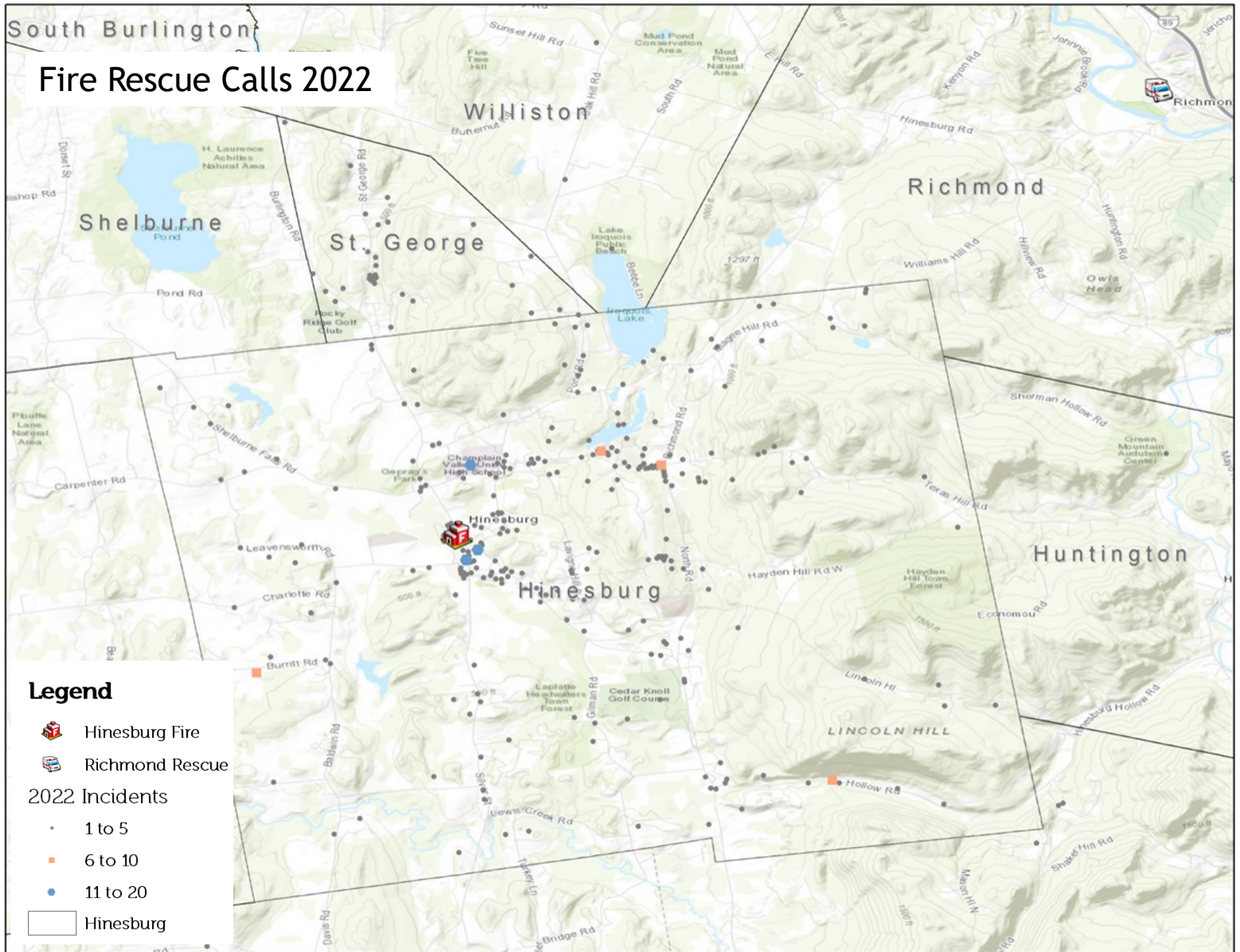
Summary Incident Type	Number of Incidents in 2022	Avg Responders	% 8 minutes or less	%10 min or less	%12 min or less	%14 min or less
1 = Fire	28	7	46%	54%	61%	61%
2 = Explosion/Overpressure	0	0				
321 = EMS	300	5	56%	65%	72%	79%
3-Other Rescue & EMS Incident (Not 321)	54	2	48%	63%	80%	87%
4-Hazardous Condition	34	6	38%	59%	68%	74%
5-Service Call	46	4	63%	74%	80%	87%
6-Good Intent Call	29	5	52%	66%	83%	86%
7-False Alarm & False Call	36	4	41%	53%	67%	75%
8-Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	8	5	50%	88%	100%	100%
9-Special/Other	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Fire/EMS Incidents by Hour of Day (2021 & 2022)

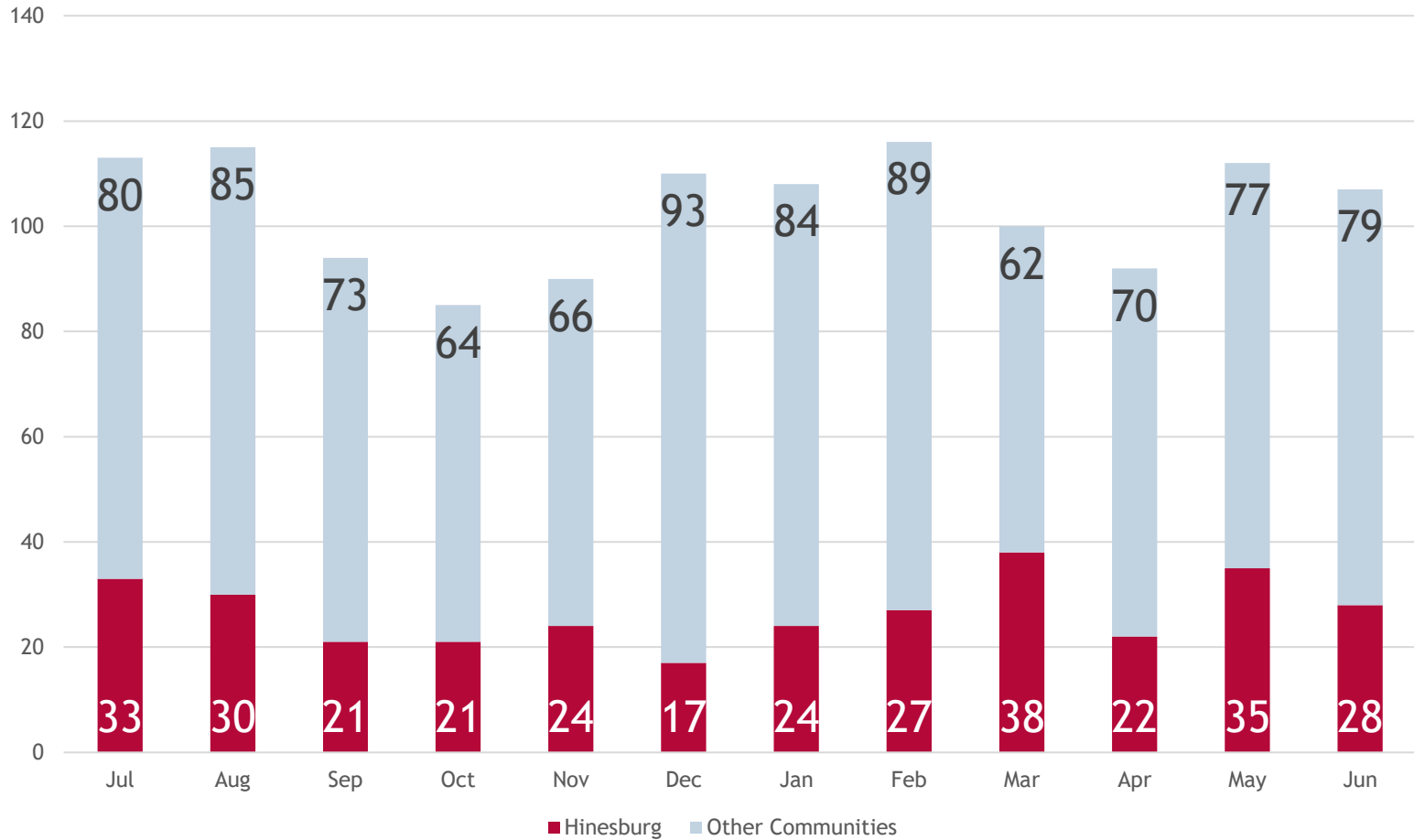


South Burlington

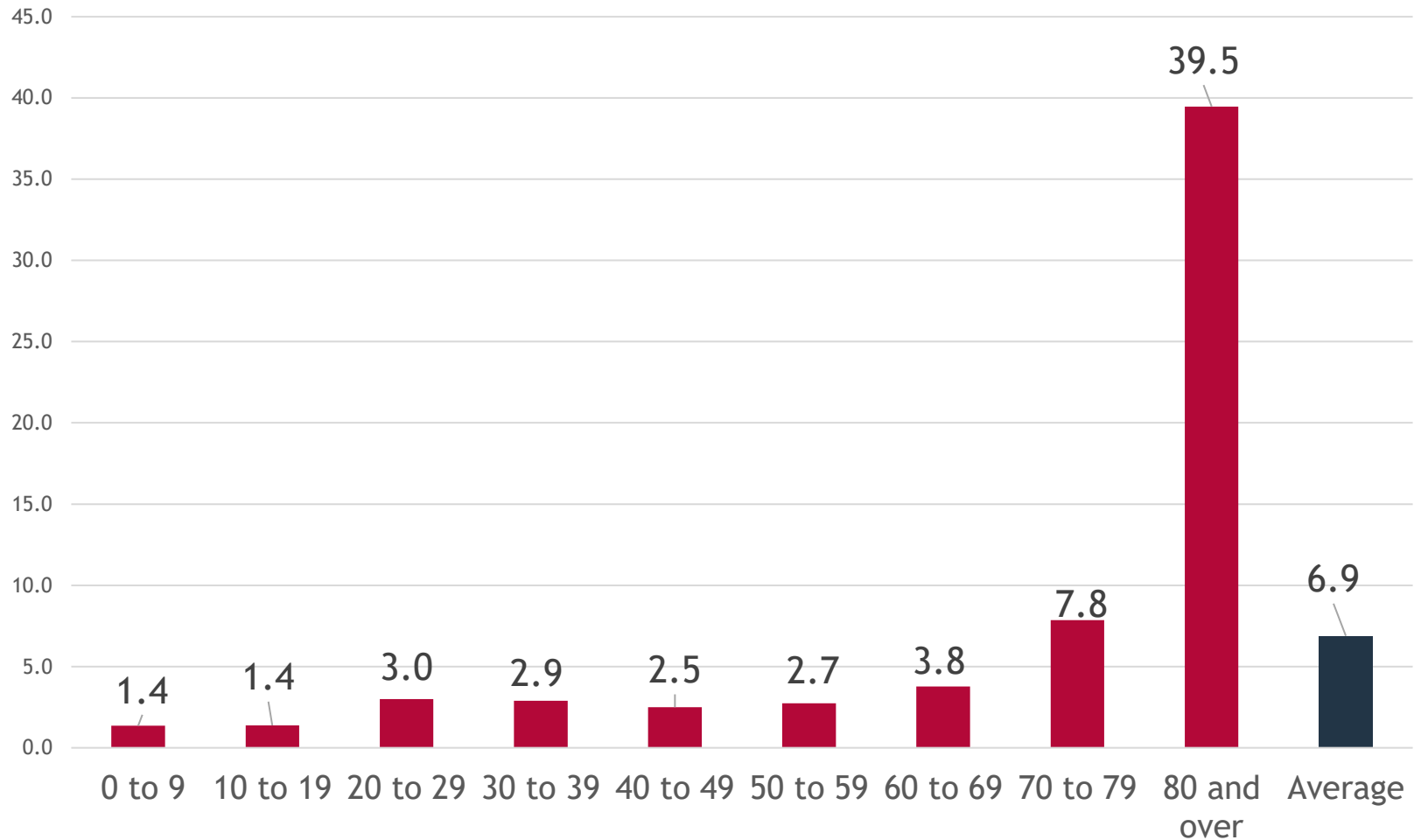
Fire Rescue Calls 2022



Richmond Rescue Call Volume 2021-2022



Estimated Annual Calls per 100 residents by age



Police Key Findings

Returned to full staffing as of September, but still only have patrol 2/3 of time

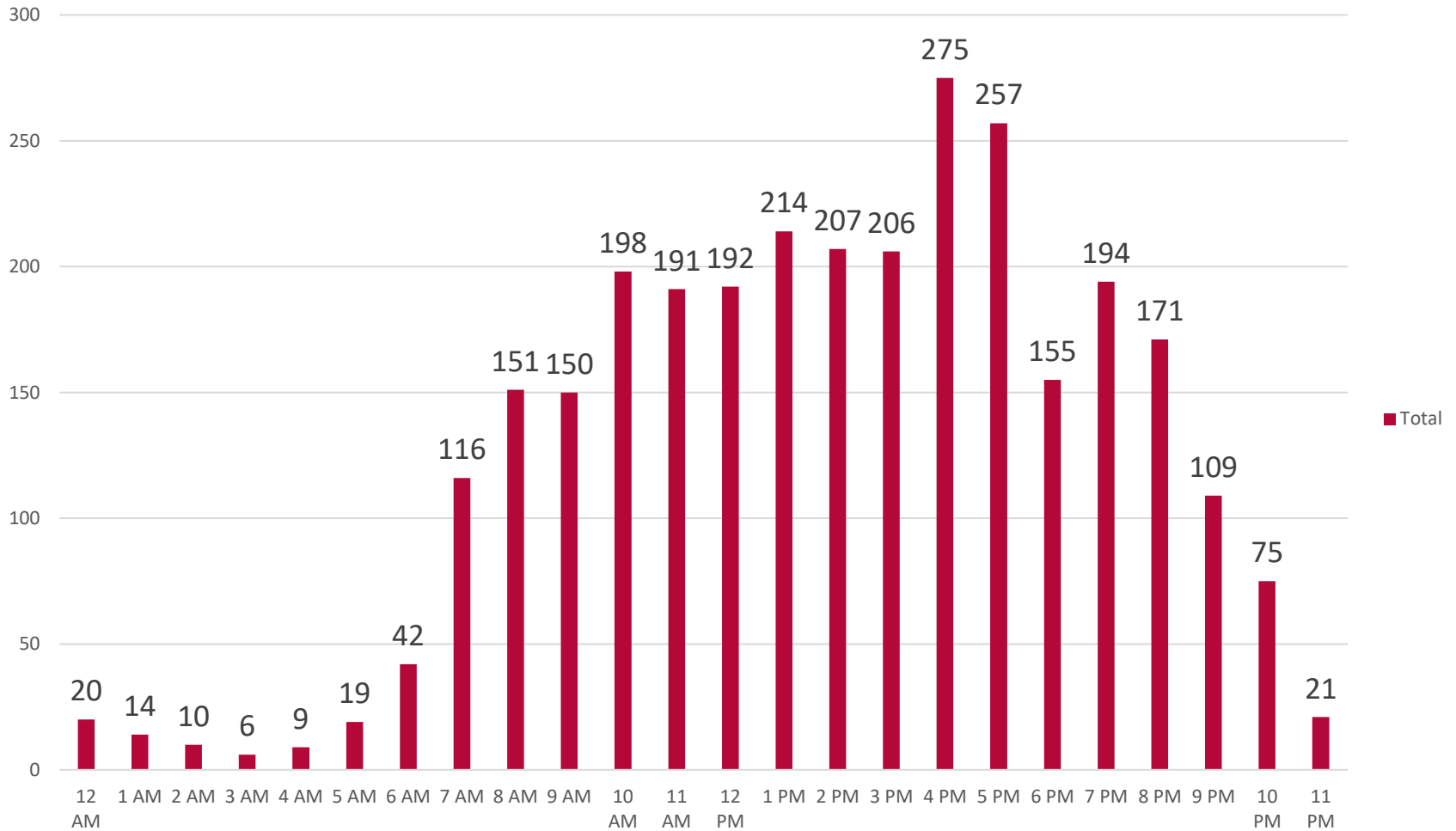
Station, vehicles and equipment meet the needs of the department

Policies for department meet standards and best practices, but should have a review periodically

Department is in need of administrative support

Substantial burden on the Chief with being on call and needing to respond when off duty

Calls by Hour



Police Incident Count per Month in Hinesburg 1/1/22 to 10/31/23

Month	2022	2023	Total	Daily Avg. Incidents
Jan	142	144	286	4.6
Feb	115	147	262	4.7
Mar	175	140	315	5.1
Apr	123	128	251	4.2
May	103	131	234	3.8
Jun	104	151	255	4.3
Jul	129	120	249	4.0
Aug	89	159	248	4.0
Sep	135	129	264	4.4
Oct	139	128	267	4.3
Nov	172	n/a	172	5.7
Dec	139	n/a	139	4.5
Grand Total	1565	1437	3002	4.5

Incidents by Call Type (1/1/2021 to 11/3/2023)

Incident Type	Count of Incident Type
Motor Vehicle Complaint	597
Traffic Stop	376
Patrol	198
Suspicious Person/Circumstance	131
Assist	117
Quality of Life	111
Alarm	103
Citizen Assist	102
Directed Patrol	85
Crash, Motor Vehicle	64
Agency Assist	57
Welfare/Suicide Check	47
Crash - Property Only	45
Animal Problem	42
Medical	38
Total of Top 15	2,133 of 2,777

Future Actions: General



**COMMUNITY
CONVERSATION ON
RECONCILIATION**



**SUPPORT LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND
FIREFIGHTER/EMS (AND
OTHER MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES) LIVING IN
HINESBURG**



**HIRE A JOINT PUBLIC
SAFETY CLERK TO
ASSIST FIRE/EMS AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT**



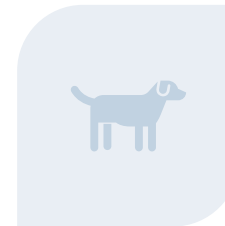
**CONSIDER INSTALLING
TRAFFIC SAFETY
FEATURES ON ROUTE
116 AND OTHER
PRIMARY ROADS**



**DEVELOP A PUBLIC
SAFETY DASHBOARD**



**EXPLORE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
POSITION**



**CONSIDER AN
ALTERNATIVE FOR
ANIMAL CONTROL**

Future Actions: Fire and EMS Focus

- Expand Full Time Staffing and Support Weekend Coverage
- Create a community risk reduction program
- Enhance the youth firefighter program
- Hinesburg Ambulance program would require subsidy
- Consider Regionalization of Fire Service
- New Fire station in 5 to 10 years

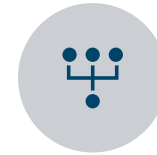
Future Actions: Law Enforcement Focus



Continue working with Richmond on Regionalization



Consider Expanding to 20 Hour a Day Coverage



“On-Call” process to reduce strain on Chief



Alternate uniforms for low threat situations



Continue focus on community events for all officers



Process for reviewing policies



An improved mental health response model

Next Steps

- Recognize the successes already in the community
- Prioritize among the future actions
- Assign a responsible person for each action
- Provide the resources to implement
- Set a schedule for reevaluation