

## Lake Kabetogama Area Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report 2022

The Fire Department is doing well, we have now increased to 15 members with the recruitment of 3 new members in 2022. Thanks to Deanna Callais, Tim Tomczak, and Beau Squires for their commitment and dedication to this Department. The department responded to 3 fire calls, 5 vehicle accidents, and 19 medical assists. We continue to ask for more volunteers. For those who have thought about joining but don't want to be in the "Hot Zone" or drive the big trucks, you don't have to, there are many other things you can do to help out from administrative work, gathering scene information, directing traffic, or being there to comfort folks who may have lost someone, something, or everything in a fire or accident. There is something for everyone to do on the department. Volunteer Fire Fighters are eligible for a retirement benefit after being vested for 5 years. If interested in joining contact me at 875-3037 or any other member for more information.

We have continued with our in-person business meetings and hands on training. We did take advantage of the free training through MN Firefighter Initiative. We also resumed the Hunters Supper and Raffle. We continue to apply for available Grants, Operation Round-up through North Star Electric, as well as other incentives which have made some of our equipment purchases possible.

In 2022 the Fire Department was called upon and responded to the devastating flooding in our area. Several members volunteered countless hours sandbagging, building barriers, running pumps, and other equipment for area residents and businesses. Some of us worked our full-time jobs and volunteered our evenings and days off to help, sometimes until 11 at night. Our side by side was used to access areas that couldn't be reached by road vehicles. We were also involved in helping with the clean-up efforts.

### Projects completed in 2022:

Purchased 5 full sets of turnout gear including boots and helmets for \$15,875.

Purchased the new boiler, pumps and controls for \$10,525

Purchased new FAA approved de-icer for Heli-port \$4902

Purchased a used electric air compressor for \$6000 plus the trade in of the old one we couldn't use.

Purchased a chainsaw for the side by side \$179

Purchased a 2023 Skidoo Expedition for medical/rescue.

Ordered a Fire/Medical transport skid for the side by side for \$11,275 which we only had to pay \$1,275 thanks to winning a \$10,000 certificate to MacQueen Emergency through the MN Fire Initiative training program.

Sold our 2 older snowmobiles through a sealed bid process

### Future projects for 2023:

We will be having another Hunter's Supper in November.

Looking at a possible Open House at the Fire Department in July.

We are looking into purchasing a new or used 4-wheeler for snow removal as well as being able to access some of the narrow trails in our area as our 27-year-old 6x6 is continually breaking down.

We are also preparing ourselves for additional ATV accidents once the new trail is completed.  
A new building or partial reconstruction of the original building is still in consideration.

Due to the increase in operating expenses, medical supplies, and the added cost of the Heli-port maintenance, the Fire Department's annual budget shall increase by \$10,000 for 2024. The Fire Department is asking the Township for an increase of \$5,000.

I would like to thank the Kabetogama Township and the community for their continued support of our department on behalf of all the Fire Fighters and EMS personnel.

Respectfully,

Bryan Wichner  
Chief LKAVFD