

# BAKERSFIELD FIREFIGHTERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2024 IMPACT REPORT



HONORING THE PAST. PROTECTING THE FUTURE.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Bakersfield Firefighters Historical Society (BFHS) has been diligently working to secure funding for Phase 2 of the future Bakersfield Fire Department Museum, Safety Center, and 9/11 Education Center.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we successfully hosted a Crab Fest fundraiser, raising over \$100,000, and partnered with a local pumpkin patch (The Patch) to sell beverages in support of our cause. Additionally, we proudly organized another impactful 9/11 ceremony, honoring the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

We've been working tirelessly to build key partnerships and secure the necessary resources to turn this dream into a reality. From engaging with local businesses and organizations to forming collaborations that will help bring our vision to life, each step has brought us closer to realizing the museum's full potential. Our ongoing efforts are critical in ensuring we achieve the support needed for this project to flourish.

While we have made significant progress toward our financial goal, we still need to bridge the remaining funding gap before breaking ground. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our donors and sponsors for their unwavering support. Your contributions bring us closer to realizing our vision of a Museum, Safety Center, and 9/11 Education Center—a lasting tribute that will educate and inspire the residents and visitors of Bakersfield and Kern County for generations to come.

**JASON JOHNSON**  
**PRESIDENT OF BAKERSFIELD**  
**FIREFIGHTERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**





# BAKERSFIELD FIREFIGHTERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bakersfield Fire Department was formally established in 1877 and is one of the oldest professional fire departments on the west coast. The Bakersfield Fire Firefighters Historical Society 501(c)3 was formally established in 2015 as an organization dedicated to preserving the rich history of the Bakersfield Fire Department that spans over 140 years. The mission of the Bakersfield Firefighters Historical Society is to:

## RESTORE

The Bakersfield Firefighters Historical Society currently has five historical apparatus that are being restored to museum quality. These apparatuses include:

- 1905 American La France horse drawn ladder truck
- 1927 American La France Fire Engine
- 1932 Chevy Water Tender
- 1949 Mack Fire Engine
- 1976 American La France Fire Engine

## PRESERVE

Once these apparatuses are restored to museum quality, we plan on preserving them in a museum setting. The museum will serve as an area to maintain the historical artifacts in a safe and secure manner that will be open to the public.

## SHARE

We would like to establish a museum to help us preserve and share all these historic pieces of the Bakersfield Fire Department. We would like to share the unique rich history with our community.

## EDUCATE

Education is a crucial element of the Bakersfield Fire Department. We believe that we can teach our past to protect our future. We would like to show the community our history and ways to be fire safe through a museum and fire safety center.

## THE VISION

### THE MUSEUM

The vision of the BFD Museum is to house and display historical BFD artifacts and equipment. Our plan is to set the museum up as a “walk through time”. We would like to set up different zones according to the eras of equipment and apparatus. For example, the 1905 horse drawn ladder will be housed in an area that represents how a firehouse looked back in 1905. This will allow visitors to step back in time and see how the fire service has changed over the years.

The new facility will honor 140+ years of the Bakersfield Fire Department through the Bakersfield Fire Museum, offering a “walk through time” with restored historic apparatus. But this project goes beyond preservation.

### DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY CENTER

It will also serve as a disaster relief emergency center, improving Bakersfield’s crisis response capabilities with:

- Proximity to Station 1 for quick deployment
- A backup generator for uninterrupted operations
- A first-of-its-kind Fire Safety Center with interactive exhibits for all ages

### WHY IT MATTERS

The Bakersfield Fire Museum isn’t just about preserving history—it’s about preparing for the future. With over 181,000 students in Kern County, this facility creates powerful opportunities to educate, inspire, and protect the next generation through immersive learning and real-world safety preparedness.

### 9-11 EDUCATION CENTER

In partnership with the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum, a 9/11 Education Center will provide curriculum-based learning for Kern County students—promoting preparedness, resilience, and remembrance.

### THE FIRE SAFETY CENTER – FUN, INTERACTIVE LEARNING

The Bakersfield Firefighters Historical would like to share the rich history of the Bakersfield Fire Department with the community in a fun and safe environment. Along with sharing, we would like to open a first of its kind “interactive” fire safety center. This center will teach children and adults about how to stay fire safe and how to be prepared for certain emergency situations. The BFHS believes that education is a vital key to help keep our community safe.





# THE POWER OF PREVENTION

## EDUCATION SAVES LIVES—AND REDUCES EMERGENCY CALLS

Investing in fire prevention education has been shown to significantly decrease fire-related incidents and emergency calls. Studies indicate that comprehensive community risk reduction programs, which include smoke alarm installations, home safety visits, and public education initiatives, can lead to substantial reductions in residential fires and associated injuries. Such proactive measures not only save lives but also alleviate the strain on emergency services, allowing departments to allocate resources more effectively. By fostering a culture of safety and awareness, communities become more resilient, and the demand for emergency responses diminishes.

## 2024 CALLS FOR SERVICE

### REAL NUMBERS. REAL IMPACT.

Every call represents a moment of urgency, trust, and impact.

This snapshot of 2024 shows the critical role the Bakersfield Fire Department plays—and how the Historical Museum can help reduce future calls through education, prevention, and community awareness.

### A YEAR OF RESPONSE

**48,493**  
CALLS MADE

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE CALLS

**26,259**  
EMS/RESCUE

**4,383**  
FIRE-RELATED INCIDENTS

**342**  
RUPTURE OR EXPLOSION

### SUPPORT & SAFETY CALLS

**12,929**  
GOOD INTENT

**2,643**  
SERVICE

**605**  
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

### FALSE & UNPLANNED CALLS

**1,277**  
FALSE ALARMS

**49**  
OTHER

**6**  
SEVERE WEATHER

### INVESTIGATIVE OUTCOMES

**718**  
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS

**354**  
CONFIRMED INCENDIARY

**46**  
ARSON-RELATED ARRESTS

[WWW.BAKERSFIELDFIREMUSEUM.COM](http://WWW.BAKERSFIELDFIREMUSEUM.COM)

to keep up to date on information pertaining to the  
progress or to sign up to receive updates via email.

All donations (in-kind or monetary) are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

**Bakersfield Firefighters Historical Society**

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation | EIN 47-3099227

[WWW.BFDHISTORY.COM](http://WWW.BFDHISTORY.COM)

