District Profile

Beecher Fire Protection District

Location:
Fire Station 44
711 Penfield Street
Beecher, IL 60401

Training Facility Location:
30236 S. Town Center Rd

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 759 Beecher, IL 60401

Trustees:
District President: Margie Cook
District Treasurer: David Kolosh
District Secretary: Michael Waterman
District Trustee: Bruce Becker
District Trustee: Lyle Siefker

Fire Chief:
Joseph Falaschetti

DISTRICT BACKGROUND:

The Beecher Fire Protection District has provided fire and emergency services to the Beecher community for more than 140 years. Its roots date to 1884, with the first formal fire company organized in 1887 with 24 volunteer firefighters. The Beecher Volunteer Fire Department was formally organized in 1911, and in 1973 the Beecher Fire Protection District was established as an independent special taxing district to provide sustainable fire protection throughout the community. Since that time, the District has evolved from an all-volunteer fire department into a modern combination fire and EMS organization providing 24-hour emergency response. Today, the District provides fire suppression, advanced emergency medical services, rescue, fire prevention, public education, and community risk reduction services to the Village of Beecher and surrounding rural areas. Despite significant changes in population, development, emergency call volume, and the complexity of the services required by the community, the District continues the tradition of community service that began over a century ago.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Achieving an ISO Class 2 rating:

One of the District's most significant accomplishments was improving the Village of Beecher's ISO Public Protection Classification from Class 4 to Class 2, effective in 2023. The evaluation considers areas such as staffing, training, emergency communications, water supply, equipment, and response capabilities. At the time of the announcement, only 126 Illinois departments had achieved Class 2.

Establishing career Lieutenant/ Paramedic positions:

In 2025, the District completed a competitive testing process and swore in three career Lieutenant/Paramedics, described in the District's annual report as a historic milestone in strengthening its career staffing model and long-term service delivery.

Handling substantial growth in emergency demand:

The District has maintained service as annual responses have risen considerably. It handled 1,165 incidents in 2025, compared with 887 in 2020 and 1,049 in 2019. This becomes even more significant when compared with the 698 calls handled in 2010—an increase of 467 calls, or about 67%, by 2025.

Development of the Community Support/ Mental Health Program:

The District created an innovative program to connect residents experiencing

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behavioral-health needs with longer-term services instead of relying solely on repeated emergency department visits. The program works with community and healthcare partners and represents an expansion of the traditional role of a fire district into community risk reduction.

Major success obtaining outside funding:

The District has aggressively pursued grants, donations, and partnerships to obtain equipment without placing the entire cost on local taxpayers. Recent successes include the FY2025 FEMA AFG award for cardiac monitors, the $80,000 Will County Community Mental Health Board grant award, the $26,000 OSFM Small Equipment Grant for power cot/loading equipment, and substantial outside funding toward Brush 44. Combined with earlier AFG, OSFM, Firehouse Subs, corporate, and community awards, this represents hundreds of thousands of dollars brought back into the community.

Expansion of Community Risk Reduction:

Programs such as Be Alarmed! smoke-alarm installation, residential Knox Box assistance, CPR education, senior safety, fall prevention, barn safety, Junior Fire Academy, and public fire education demonstrate a shift toward preventing emergencies rather than simply responding after they occur.

Investment in leadership and organizational development:

The District has made a strong commitment to developing the next generation of fire service leaders by implementing formal leadership development opportunities for both chief and line officers, including participation in the John Maxwell High Road Leadership Program through Bonilla Coaching.

The District has also established a formal Cadet Program designed to introduce young adults to careers in the fire and emergency services. Through partnerships with Beecher High School and the Kankakee Area Career Center, the District is working to create opportunities for local students to gain firsthand exposure to the fire service while helping build a pipeline of future firefighters, paramedics, and community leaders.

Regional cooperation and specialized capabilities:

The District is an active member of MABAS Division 27 and participates in regional specialty capabilities involving hazardous materials, technical rescue, water rescue, fire investigation, and other mutual-aid operations.

Community involvement in long-term planning:

The Pathway to Preparedness initiative is another notable accomplishment. Rather than developing the District's future plans internally, the process brings residents and stakeholders into discussions concerning staffing, EMS, equipment, finances, service expectations, and the future of emergency services. The District describes the initiative as a way to identify community priorities and plan responsibly for future service.

PERSONNEL:

The District operates with a combination staffing model consisting of one full-time fire chief, a part-time deputy chief, a part-time assistant chief, three full-time lieutenant/paramedics, three contracted firefighter/paramedics, and 41 part-time firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs. The District maintains a minimum daily staffing level of four personnel, with staffing increasing to a maximum of five personnel per day when available. This combination model allows the District to provide fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue, and other emergency response services to the community around the clock.

DISPATCH:

Laraway Communications Center

NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Be Alarmed! Smoke Alarm Installation program, Child Safety Seat Installations & Inspections, Barn Fire Safety Inspections, Steps to Safety Program, Junior Fire Academy, Community Mental Health Program, Senior Check In Program, and Residential Knox Box Rental Program.

FACILITY & APPARATUS:

- Engine 44: 2012 Pierce Arrow Rescue Engine
- Truck 44: 2006 Pierce Enforcer 75ft aerial
- Pumper Tender 44: 2009 Pierce Arrow
- Ambulance 44: 2024 Ford F550 Osage Super Warrior (ALS)
- Ambulance 45: 2019 Ford 550 Osage Super Warrior (ALS)
- Brush 44: 2024 Ford F550 Danko Brush Truck
- Utility 44: 2024 Chevy Silverado 2500
- Reserve Ambulance: 2014 E450 Road Rescue
- (Fire Chief) Chief 44: 2025 Chevy Tahoe
- (Deputy Chief) Chief 45: 2019 Chevy Tahoe
- (Assistant Chief) Chief 46: 2017 Ford F150

DISTRICT FACTS:

Size: 56 square miles

Population: 7,900

Property Value: EAV $343,261,986

Annual Calls: Approximately 1200 although in 2026 our call volume has increased approximately 24% over 2025

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

ALS Ambulances: 2

Non Transport: 1 Engine 44 is ALS Engine (Non-Transport)

MABAS Division: 27