

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

November 5th, 2025

Buchanan City Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 19:11 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

Officers present: President Gerry Kabelman, 1st Vice President Craig Brent, 2nd Vice President Donnie Johnson, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Graham.

Roll call of departments show 10 departments represented with 26 members present
Donations collected during the meal totaled \$98.

Minutes for OCTOBER were presented . A motion made by Doug deBest with support from Sam Badreddine to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The OCTOBER treasurer's report was presented. The checking balance is \$715.71, the money market balance is \$35,887.57, and the car show balance is \$1,062.41, totaling \$37,665.69. A motion was made by Tom Wicker with support from Doug deBest to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief's Association:

- Next Meeting November 19th.

Training Committee:

- Make sure you check SMOKE for any updates and trainings. (Hoarder Fires Dec.6th and Chimney fires Dec.14th)
- Adult class sign up (Dec 1st deadline) Orientation on Dec. 10th with classes starting Dec. 13th. 14 have preregistered. Still room for more.
- Some High school Career Pathways students have visited their sponsored fire departments and had the opportunity to train with Niles Cities Tower Ladder truck during their ladder course.
- Requests for extra hands to help with practical trainings from departments in support of students representing their departments.

MITRT5:

- Attending trench rescue training. Applicants welcome to join the team. Membership is low for the local team.

H.A.R.T. : Helping Area Response Teams

- Contacts with the Salvation Army have shown a lot of interest in placing a truck in the Benton Harbor – Niles area. This truck would serve Berrien, parts of Van Buren and Cass counties.
- The truck has been delivered to the Benton Harbor Salvation Army location and the storage location for the truck for the truck will be at the Safety Building at the fairgrounds. Applications are available for helping with need assistance getting the Rehab truck to the call requests. Training provided.

Resource Directory/Website:

- Still short on department directory updates. View your listings for changes.
- Make sure to check web site for the extensive list of upcoming trainings and events

New Business:

- 2026 Meeting calendar in preparation, host requests have been sent out and waiting for official confirmation.
- Evaluate how to boost up attendance to monthly meetings, this is for fire fighters to have an open opportunity to get familiarized with local departments, what they have and what you can offer when needed.
- Annual Auction after December meeting. Start gathering your items.
- An anonymous donation in the amount of \$1,000 was received. The donation is shared with the Berrien County Firefighters Training Committee. A check was presented to the BCFTC in the amount of \$500.

Thank you to Chief Adams and crew for hosting the meeting at Buchanan City.

Program for the evening: K-9 review/discussion of how to deal with the K-9 unit when Fire, Police, and K-9 are on the scene together.

Doug Wise with support from Matt Johnson made a motion to close the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 19.42

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Graham

Sec / Treas

The next meeting December 3rd, 2025

Buchanan Township Fire Department

18:30 meal

19:00 meeting

Annual Auction Following