



Annual Report  
**2025**

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

**Building  
a Shared  
Vision**



Emergency  
Medical Services

# MESSAGE FROM **CHIEF STROUD**

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Chief Jason Stroud

The past two years, I have had the honor of serving as chief of the Department of EMS. This journey has been rewarding and productive. The progress we've made — and the programs we've built — has been possible because of the dedication and collaboration of so many people within Virginia Beach EMS and across our City organization. The strength of this industry rests on the professionals who work it every single day.

Our vision and values are not just the standard we set, but the commitment we demonstrate. Together, we will continue building on this momentum to advance our mission and serve our community with excellence.

Jason E. Stroud

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jason E. Stroud", is overlaid on a faded background image. The background image shows an ambulance with "BEACH VOLUNTEER EMS" written on its side, and two EMS personnel in light blue uniforms attending to a patient on a stretcher.

# VIRGINIA BEACH EMS VISION & VALUES

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## OUR MISSION

To preserve life, improve health and promote safety.



## OUR VISION

Provide exceptional prehospital care through seamless teamwork, empowering a diverse system that provides innovative and compassionate service.



## VALUES

### **System Sustainability**

Maintain a combined career and volunteer third-service agency  
Honor our past, attend the present and prepare for the future

### **Community**

Care for all with compassion, respect and kindness  
Remain service-oriented and community-focused

### **Collaboration**

We can accomplish great things together.  
Strive for consensus and unity

### **Clinical Excellence**

Be patient-centered and outcome-focused  
Remain at the forefront of prehospital medicine

### **Professionalism**

Hold ourselves to high standards  
Maintain integrity in all aspects

# COMMUNITY

We are here to serve and provide exceptional care with compassion, respect and kindness.

## COLT KIT INITIATIVE HELPS NEURODIVERGENT COMMUNITY



Inspired by her 4-year-old son's autism journey, Capt. Bailey Hartley created the COLT Kit Initiative to help first responders recognize and support patients of all ages with sensory issues, developmental delays or communication needs during emergencies. All EMS ambulances carry sensory kits for patients with autism and sensory challenges.

Since August 2025:

- 31 times the kits have been used by providers caring for patients
- Most used items:
  - ◇ Noise-canceling headphones
  - ◇ Fidget toys
  - ◇ Sunglasses

## CLOSING CARE GAPS

EMS IMPACTS — or EMS Management for Patient Advocacy, Collaboration, Teaching, and Support comprises — comprises all mobile integrated healthcare (MIH) programs that are community based and address healthcare gaps through preventive services, home visits, reducing unnecessary emergency department visits and improving access to care. Programs include Aging in Place (facilitated by the Virginia Beach Public Health Foundation), opioid abatement and crisis response.



**57,907**

Total calls for service  
A 1.9% increase (or 1,104 calls)  
from the 56,803 calls in 2024.



**40,389**

Ambulance transports to hospitals  
A 2.0% increase from the 39,614  
transports in 2024.



**12,548**

Advanced Life Support  
(ALS) Transports



**27,841**

Basic Life Support  
(BLS) Transports

# COLLABORATION

We're a system of many parts and agree to strive for unity, because we can accomplish great things together.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOSTER PUBLIC SAFETY SUCCESS

Whether its Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training with public safety partners, EMS K9 Therapy dogs comforting EMS and Fire providers at stations or joint training — VBEMS believes public safety collaboration is important to ensure community safety and enhance trust with residents. We value our close partnerships with Virginia Beach Fire, Police and Emergency Communications and Citizen Services (ECCS) departments.

## STANDARDIZED EMS AMBULANCE FLEET

VB Rescue Council's unanimous consensus to commission a third-party ambulance fleet assessment is paving the way for a standardized citywide fleet. EMS

collaborated with Fitch & Associates to develop a report outlining a coordinated strategy that aligns standards across the entire system.

## COLLABORATION IN ACTION

VBEMS exemplifies its core value of collaboration through senior leadership roles such as Chief Jason Stroud's appointment to the Governor's EMS Advisory Board and Deputy Chief Amy Ward's presidency of the Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators. Engagement in regional, state, and national forums — including the Hampton Roads EMS Executive & Hospital Leaders Forum, Tidewater EMS Council and the National Association of EMTs — strengthens partnerships that advance excellence in emergency medical services.



# CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

Our efforts and programs are patient-centered and outcome focused.

## LEADING THE WAY IN PREHOSPITAL CARE

In August 2025, Dr. Stewart Martin became the department's first full-time medical director. His full-time role allows for daily clinical care guidance and essential medical oversight. Dr. Martin has served in this position part time since 1998.

## STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Our strong partnership with the Virginia Beach Fire Department includes joint training, shared protocols, seamless on-scene coordination and new initiatives. The ALS Firefighter Clinical Shift Program allows ALS-certified firefighters to participate in a scheduled ambulance shift with an EMS crew. This program enhances our partnership, provides firefighters with additional patient care opportunities and strengthens clinical skills.



## CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL IN VIRGINIA BEACH

30.8%

2025 VBEMS out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) survival to discharge rate\*

\*Based on Utstein Criteria

50

Number of survivors from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in 2025

26  
(52%)

Patients who survived with assistance of bystander/family providing CPR before arrival of EMS

## WHOLE BLOOD INITIATIVE

86

Total units of blood transfused by VBEMS  
35 trauma related | 51 medical related

5

Total blood drives in 2025  
75 units donated to Whole Blood Initiative  
(Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad and VBEMS blood drives)

## ULTRASOUND IN THE FIELD

This lifesaving program allows providers to use ultrasound in an ambulance and help patients during critical incidents and cardiac arrest events.

124

Times ultrasound used in an ambulance

# PROFESSIONALISM

Whether career or volunteer, we agree to hold ourselves to high standards.

Our organization takes an innovative approach to professionalism, pioneering pre-hospital lifesaving care, offering state-of-the-art training and spearheading new programs that allow our providers to deliver exceptional clinical care in and out of the field.

## EMT ACADEMIES IN 2024

**6**  
EMT  
ACADEMIES

**95**  
NEW  
VOLUNTEER  
AICS

## ADVANCED EMT ACADEMIES IN 2025

**3**  
ACADEMIES

**54**  
NEW AEMT  
GRADUATES

## FOREFRONT OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS

In November, VBEMS implemented a policy change that limits the use of lights and sirens to critical responses or calls designated under Priority 1. This change improves safety and reduces accidents. Virginia Beach joins other major cities at the forefront of adopting this EMS industry standard supported by outcome data.

## FIELD TRAINING AND EVALUATION PROGRAM (FTEP)

In 2025, the department continued to grow its EMT and AEMT infrastructure by spearheading new programs and improving its Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP), which gives providers VBEMS-tailored trainings and protocols (for certified and non-certified students).

## VBEMS PREHOSPITAL PHARMACY PROGRAM

The department hit a milestone on April 13, 2025, when it finalized its in-house pharmacy program. VBEMS staff, members and other City departments worked thousands of hours to get the program's infrastructure, formulary and procedures running on time before the federal deadline.



**68**

Interns released  
as Advanced Life  
Support (ALS)  
providers

**22**

Emergency  
Vehicle Operator  
Courses in 2025

**135**

Interns released  
as Basic Life  
Support (BLS)  
providers

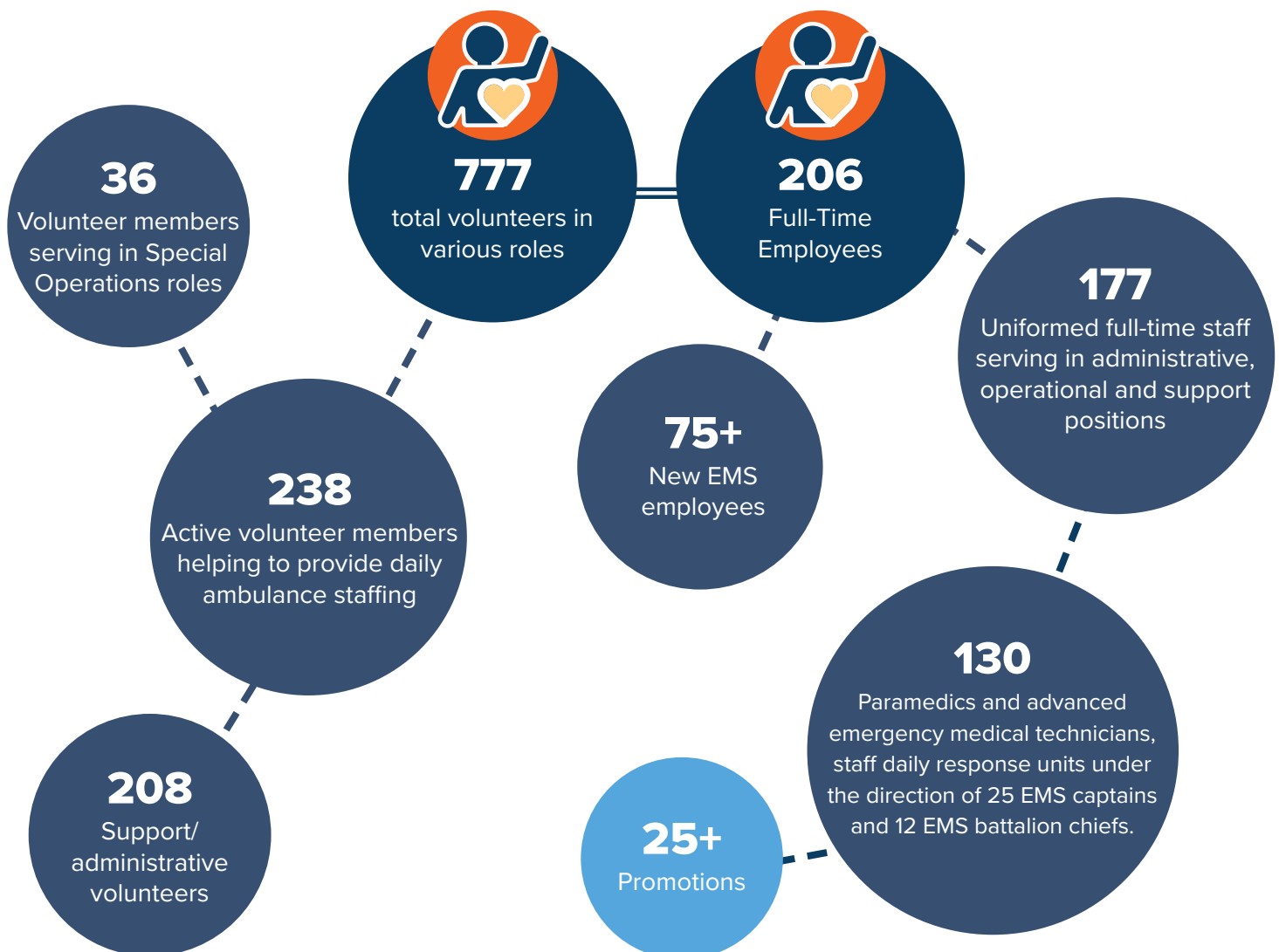
# SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY

We're proud of our system's history and continue to honor our past, attend to the present and commit to preparing for our future.

## ENSURING LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

On July 1, 2025, VBEMS established an EMS Compassionate Billing program unanimously supported by Virginia Beach Rescue Council and City Council. Revenue generated from EMS billing ensures our unique system continues to thrive and meets the critical needs of our community.

## EMS SYSTEM IN 2025



# WE ARE ONE

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The 10 volunteer rescue squads have a long tradition of volunteers providing pre-hospital lifesaving care to those in need. The value our volunteer providers bring to the community is a critical part of our system. Together, these agencies contribute a savings of \$5 million for the City of Virginia Beach.



# 2025 SNAPSHOTS



Tidewater EMS Council

